

May 2024 Volume 40 #5



Take a big, deep breath



May is Mental Health month this spring and we know that mental health is beyond important to our seniors. Whether you're doing something like Tai Chi meditation, seeking help in a support group or from a close friend: everything we do for our brains is beyond vital to bloom and thrive. Photo by Deborah Maier.

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3 ways to reduce social isolation for seniors

Andrew McCutcheon Unison News

Unison, for Generations 50+, knows the seniors isolation statistics. That's why we have so many Calgary seniors' programs, to help our seniors connect in Calgary. Because we know that people need people.

We need each other. We're a social species. We were not meant to be alone.

Isolation is hard on everyone, but especially our seniors. COVID-19 may have put seniors isolation in the spotlight and made the problem more immediate, but we've known for a long time how bad it is.

We know Canada's

in the community!

Volunteers Needed!

Cafe Cashier or Kitchen Helper

will be the face of the cafe, welcoming guests, taking their

orders, handling payments, and serving food directly to tables. This role offers a fantastic opportunity to develop

for maintaining the smooth operation of our kitchen. It

environment and to contribute to a community cause.

out tasks as assigned by the chef. This position is ideal for

that our society needs to adapt and grow to the increasing number in seniors. According to the federal government, Canadian seniors made up around 15 per cent of the total population. But by 2036, this number is expected to increase to four people.

Statistics tell us seof becoming socially isolated — with 30 per cent in danger of losing the chance to be socially connected and active.

mean loneliness. There are serious costs associated with physical health and quality of life.

This includes an in-

population is aging and creased risk of dementia, poor mental health and depression, increased use of health and support services, worsening of chronic conditions and diseases and a greater risk for falls.

Loneliness is so danour seniors, that one 25 per cent — one in study found evidence that being socially isolated is equivalent to niors are also at risk smoking 15 cigarettes a day — in terms of increasing one's chances for an early death.

This is nothing to say of the mental health Isolation doesn't just effects. We want our seniors to feel valued, needed and desired because they are. If there aren't opportunities and places where seniors can

like-minded people, volunteer or connect meanour society.

Which is why Unison, for Generations 50+, is here to help.

gerous to the health of organizations, seniors and individuals can help address isolation, all with examples that we here at Unison offer our community.

Active Aging Opportunities

We all know it's much easier to socialize when it's centered around an activity.

It doesn't matter what the activity is: it could be painting, card games or a

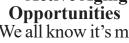
social clubs or groups that offer different events, but we've got everything

Unison has incredible Active Aging programs with a variety of opportunities for seniors to get out and socialize, and maybe even try something new!

accessible

issues.

Those with chron-



match of pickleball!

you could possibly want!

Making socializing

It's one thing to recommend going out and making connections. It's another to actually figure out logistics, especially if someone has mobility





focused environment.

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enjoy themselves, meet ic pain, or who need a wheelchair or aid to walk, might have a lot ingfully, it's a failure of more trouble getting out and about. This is a huge contributor to social isolation.

How do we help our Here are five ways isolated seniors when there are so many barriers? One thing we can do is bring the programming to them.

> Our Active Aging team also offers a variety of online programming. There's a chance to do physical activities, attend interesting presentations or watch relevant interviews, and so much

It might seem silly, but getting online can be just as helpful when it comes to keeping and There are plenty of maintaining our social connections.

Providing resources and community

It's one thing to have an activity for seniors to give them an opportunity to socialize.

It's another to give people a place to talk about what's going on in their lives.

You might make a lot of friends playing pickleball or enjoying an art class, but it's difficult to transfer that into a place where you can talk about heavier topics: life and death, grief and pain.

We need to provide places and opportunities where seniors can talk about the difficult things going on in their lives: whether that be support groups, meet-ups or chances to talk with a professional.

The Unison Wellness Connection Centre is one of these places. Anything from taking in a yoga class to de-stress, to hosting grief groups, to support groups for grandparents who are raising children: it's an important place so people can feel like they aren't alone.

Because they aren't. No one is alone. It's just our responsibility to make sure they never forget that.

Our mental health is vital

According World Organization:

- will be aged 60 years or tal disorder.
- conditions in later life.
 - One in six older group. (2023)

to adults experience abuse. Health often by their carers.

- Approximately 14 • By 2030, one in per cent of adults aged 60 six people in the world and over live with a men-
- Mental disorders • Loneliness and so- among older adults ac- many ways demonstrated cial isolation are key risk count for 10.6 per cent of factors for mental health the total years lived with disability for this age

For over 50 years staff have tried to combat loneliness indirectly by building a supportive community of older people.

pandemic The to our team that directly responding to mental health both diagnosed and un-diagnosed in the aging population was crucial. We knew we needed more direct responses both in person and online to support wellness and healthy mind will set up mental health.

First, let me be clear, the efforts our staff and our volunteers engage in the build community are critically important and by no means will we be reducing our efforts in these areas. If anything, we have plans to double down on them.

My friend and colleague, John works for ity. Sometimes a charity a community-based seniors serving organization. At times during the pandemic our members and our users were shut in and isolated. When we met as a group of agencies John would proudly

knew the impacts of lone- of the first purpose-built liness and isolation on a elder abuse shelter in senior's health or mental North America. health.

He knew that we a need, but it took until needed to be creative and innovative in figuring out ing government support ways to keep our community vital and thriving even if our buildings were locked down.

It was during these and volunteers at Unison times that our team started conceptualizing groups, programs and initiatives that would support wellness and mental health.

> Our Wellness Connection Centre was born out of this planning. Unison's Wellness Connection Centre aims to support the mental, emotional, and spiritual health of older adults. Mental health is vital to full body health and a an individual for success in their daily life. The types and ranges of support both online and in-person, offered have continued to grow over the last two years.

I think one of the things I am most proud of our team did in this process is how we made the Connection Centre a realaware of a need like this, and we may submit some type of proposal to the government and ask for funding to meet the need. Sometimes you can wait a long time to receive this proclaim "we're saving type of support- if you lives, every day." type of support- if you receive it at all. In 1999 John was right, he we finished construction

> We knew there was 2005 to receive ongoto operate the program. Fortunately, our members and our donors helped us fund the operation of how you can support it.



Larry Mathieson, CEO and President

the shelter for the first 6 years.

Over the last few years, it has become obvious to our board and our staff that more support is needed for older adults in the communities we operate in. This time we went looking directly for corporations or foundations that had the same passion for addressing wellness both physical and mental in an aging population.

The Auxilium like Unison may become Foundation, Bell Let's Talk and the Hunter Family Foundation have been the primary financial supporters of our Wellness Connection Centre. If we didn't have supporters like these organizations who had the vision for continuing to build that supportive embracing community, we would not be able to bring this vital support to more and more older adults in southern Alberta.

If you would like to know how you can support these efforts please go to our website for details on the program and

May 2024

THE MISSION OF UNISON, FOR GENERATIONS 50+:

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e-mail: andrewm@unisonalberta.com

Publisher: Larry Mathieson Editor: Andrew McCutcheon

andrewm@unisonalberta.com

Sales

Rob Locke (403) 705-3235 robl@unisonalberta.com

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Predicting premature menopause

Will Gibson University of Alberta

Researchers have developed a statistical model that predicts the likelihood of female childhood cancer survivors developing premature menopause as they grow up, which could help doctors personalize treatment and counselling options for patients.

"We aimed to develop and validate models to predict age-specific risk among long-term survivors of childhood cancer, and our model showed robust prediction

Yuan, a professor in the University of Alberta's School of Public Health that developed the tool, including an online calculator to help patients assess their risk.

Primary ovarian insufpremature menopause, is the term used to describe when a woman's ovaries stop working normal-Yuan and her co-authors vivors develop the con- menstrual history infor-

performance," says Yan dition within five years mation and free of subof their cancer diagnosis, and it is estimated that another 12 per cent dewho led the research team velop it more than five ed in the study. years after diagnosis, compared with just one to strong signal in the two per cent of the general population.

ficiency, also known as group of cancer patients under the age of 21 treated at more than 30 hospitals across North America between 1970 and 1999. ly before the age of 40. Female survivors aged 18 years or older at their note that seven per cent latest followup examinaof childhood cancer surtion, with self-reported

sequent malignant neoplasms within five years of diagnosis, were includ-

"We found a very life-saving treatments used by oncologists," The study involved a says Yuan. "Different treatments, such as radiation or various chemotherapy drugs, can have very different effects. We evaluated 20 chemotherapy drugs, and some cause more damage to the ovary than others. The dosage and age of the patient are also important factors.

"This is important because it helps inform clinicians of treatment options as well as counselling prior to and after treatment."

The study is the culmination of more than seven years of research and is the second of two papers published on the work. The previous paper described a predictive model for acute ovarian failure, a subtype of primary ovarian insufficiency that some patients develop within five years of their diagnosis.

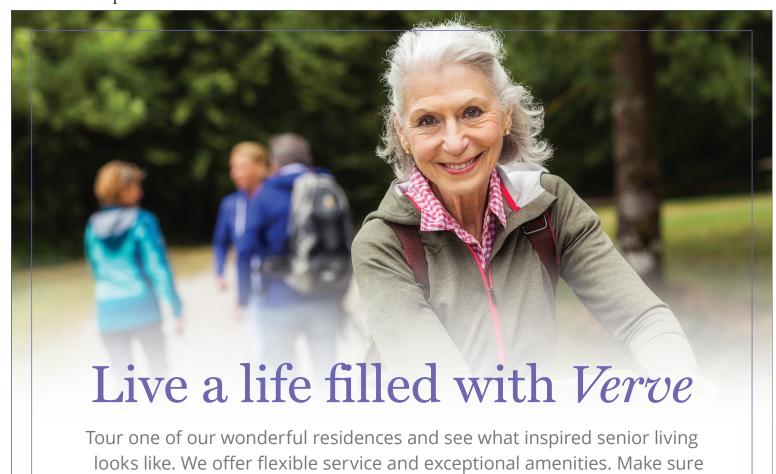
For Yuan, it also helps validate the power of biostatistics in public health, which applies mathematical or statistical modelling to help improve patient care.

"Risk prediction is an evolving process, but there is real value in using statistical models or algorithms to predict health outcomes if you collaborate with clinicians and patients to understand the context and learn the nuances of the data, in order to build a robust and trustworthy model that benefits patients," she says.

"It's very rewarding in terms of scientific discovery. I remember sharing the results with our clinical collaborators, and they didn't really realize their bias toward certain treatments and the risk factors they carry for children. It made me feel like our research is making a difference, and that's what you want to do."

Yuan's co-authors on the study include Cindy Im, a U of A doctoral graduate who is now a professor at the University of Minnesota. "We also had students working on this research — Zhe Lu, Lin Yu and Yutong Han — who contributed enormously to this work," says Yuan.

The research was supported by funding from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and the U.S. National Cancer Institute, and a scholarship for Lin Yu from the Canadian Centre for Applied Research in Cancer Control. Yan Yuan is a member of the Women and Children's Health Research Institute.



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A sad end for Stumpy the Tree

Barbara Ellis Unison News Columnist

There is a program that I watch every week called Sunday Morning. This program originates on CBS and on average it brings three or four interesting stories to its viewers. This past Sunday, they did a story about a little tree called Stumpy. The anchor called it a diminutive cherry tree that is nearing the end of its life.

In 1912 the people of Japan gifted the United States with over 3,000 cherry trees as a sign of friendship between the two countries.

There were about 12 varieties of cherry trees and the majority of them were plated around the Tidal Basin and the West Potomac Park.

I was in Washington in 2009 and witnessed the Cherry Blossom Festival for myself. The trees were breathtaking and the perfume that wafted through the air was a treat to my senses.

After taking part in

the annual festival which sunshine that caressed me. featured many marching bands on Constitutional Avenue, I was free to wander around and take in still lingering on back in the sights on my own.

In the gardens of the National Museum of Natural History, there was a particularly beautiful cherry tree. Its branches were fully engulfed by thousands of blossoms and the shape of this tree reminded me of a Bonsai, only on a much larger unseemly hollowed-out scale.

wondered if its branches had been manipulated to grow in such a pleasing shape. There were several men and women under the tree taking photographs so I could not get as close to it as I wanted, but it did not matter, this tree was magnificent from any vantage

rammy blings I walked down Pennsylvania Avenue, stopping now and then to try and press into my memory the beauty of this city, its buildings, its wonderful trees and the warm

The sunshine was particularly pleasing as it was much cooler with snow Calgary.

My journey did not take me as far as the Tidal Basin, so I did not see the tree they now call Little Stumpy.

Sunday As the Morning program showed this image, the little tree is nothing more than an

has produced three spindly branches and each year, these three branches are completely covered with beautiful pink blossoms. I am always amazed by the tenacity and the unwavering will of plants to survive.

out the Potomac River experiences tidal events. Due in part to climate change and because the water levels are rising in our oceans, the sea wall can no longer control the incoming tide.

The surging tide push-

which in turn raises the water levels in the Tidal Basin. This increase in water has already killed many trees and so there is a multi-million-dollar project on the way to raise the sea walls and fix the problem. Unfortunately, this also means that 158 trees will have to be removed, and Stumpy, is one of them. When the public heard of the eventual demise of this little tree, their action was im-Amazingly, this trunk mediate and filled with a great deal of emotion.

People began leaving bouquets and other small mementos at Stumpy's feet. There was even a man who serenaded the tree by playing his trumpet. Many people stood in line just to have their pho-From what I can make tograph taken in front of the tree, probably for their scrapbooks in remembrance of Stumpy.

There was even a delegation from the Japanese embassy who came to pay tribute and bowed in front of the little tree.

A commercial pho-

es more water up the river tographer who took many photos of Stumpy during the different seasons and in all kinds of weather conditions produced a 2014 calendar of them. He even decorated the tree with two little globes at Christmas time.

> In my mind, I understand that it must be done. But I cannot help feeling remorse for this little tree stump. It has survived for many years, through good times and bad, and even in its deteriorating condition, it is still doing its utmost to bring life and beauty into our world. It is tenacious and does not know how to go quietly into the sunset.

> They are taking clippings from Stumpy which means that in a way it will live on, and its trunk will be made into mulch so that it can enrich the soil for the new trees that will be planted.

It is the circle of life I suppose but even so, I am so sad that after trying so hard, this little tree is going to lose the battle.





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Managing chronic pain for seniors

Andrew McCutcheon Unison News

One thing we firmly believe at Unison, for Generations 50+, is that not all parts of aging are negative — even with how complicated it is learning just how natural part of growing to retire!

There's plenty to enjoy, whether it's enjoying long-ignored hobbies, the wisdom of having spent more time on this earth, or making lots of quality memories with friends and family.

However, there's something we all can agree is completely getting older: pain.

Aches, pains, musa fact as one ages, the chances of experiencing chronic pain increases.

It's not that pain is a old — far from it.

more common in seniors because the diseases, injuries or conditions which cause pain are more common, according to the Canadian Psychological Association.

These conditions can system. include arthritis, shingles, emphysema, os- joke.

awful when it comes to teoporosis, or a host of others.

It goes without saycles and bones: it's just ing that pain isn't fun. But the effects go beyond just the physical and activity. discomfort.

leads to many other negative health outcomes But pain is actually for seniors, beyond just the physical.

> Fatigue, frustration, activities one enjoys and a weakened immune ventative measure.

age chronic pain, however, is one that chronic pain makes more difficult: regular movement can't lead you wrong.

Chronic pain also 22; the pain makes ing or taking the stairs movement and activity difficult, but staying sed-

depression and other just starting to experimood changes, along- ence chronic pain — or side poor sleep sched- have yet to — starting ules, a withdrawal from movement and regular activity may be a pre-

It's important to Chronic pain is no speak to a health care professional before you

The best way to man-begin any exercise program, but if you choose to, Unison's Active Aging programming

Sure, walking the It feels like a Catch- dog, doing your gardenare all great ways to improve your mobility entary will only make it and activity! But when things are fun and excit-That's why if you're ing? It sure makes it a lot easier.

> That's why we have Active Aging programming for all levels of fitness and all interests. Whether it's dropping in to play pickleball, signing up for Tai Chi or Yoga, or doing a fitness class online through Zoom: we've got everything you might need to stay fit and keep the effects of chronic pain at bay.

> There are other ways to help alleviate chronic pain, too! Maintaining a healthy sleep schedule will go a long way.

> This means avoiding large meals or large quantities of fluid a few hours before bedtime; making sure your sleep space is quiet, dark and cool; and going to bed at roughly the same time with the same routine as often as you can.

But even with all of these changes, chronic pain is chronic pain. It has the potential to be unpleasant, even aggravating regardless.

That's why it's important for seniors to reach out, speak to others and develop healthy coping strategies.

Our minds and hearts are just as important as our bodies, and talking to a friend, a therapist or a psychiatrist about your daily experience with pain can improve your quality of life.

Chronic pain doesn't have to be an inevitability, and even if you experience it, it doesn't mean you can't take steps to improve your lot in life.

There's always hope, and at Unison, for Generations 50+, we want to help you find what that looks like.



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The story of the Richard's family

Amanda Borys Historical Columnist

Little can be found about the Richards family which consisted of John Tygwydd, Christina Gertrude, and their five sons and a daughter. They originally lived in Sheffield, England, where the eldest children were born, before immigrating to Canada.

Upon their arrival, they first resided in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan before moving to Calgary sometime between 1916 and 1919. In Calgary, patriarch John T. Richards worked at the C.P.R. Ogden shops as a machinist.

It can be assumed that John Griffith Richards, known as Griffith, was the eldest son of the family, given that he was his father's namesake. Griffith was born in Sheffield on Nov. 20, 1896, and would have immigrated with his parents.

In Moose Jaw he was a member of the First Moose Jaw Zion Troop Boy Scouts. This was the city's original Boy Scout troop, made up of boys from the various denominations that attended the Zion Methodist Church.

Griffith volunteered for the Canadian Expeditionary Force (C.E.F.) to fight in the Great War on Feb. 7, 1916, at the age of 19. According to his attestation papers, he had three years of prior militia service with the 60th Rifles and one year with the 16th Light Horse.

Griffith would have undertaken the standard military training for all Canadian soldiers before being sent to Europe, though he did spend just under 3 weeks in hospital at Camp Hughes in Winnipeg with a slight case of mumps.

Griffith sailed on the S.S. Grampian with the 128th Battalion on August 15, 1916. He was struck on strength with the 16th battalion (Canadian Scottish) and later promoted to corporal on Oct. 23, 1916.

Granted permission to marry, Griffith wed Lily Maud Drury in Greenwich, England on June 20, 1918.

On Oct. 26 of the same year, he was hospitalized in Cardiff, Wales with influenza, which was identified as trench fever rather than the Spanish Flu, and remained there until he was discharged from the C.E.F. on to Canada with his battalion from Liverpool on March 5, 1919, and arrived in St. John, New Brunswick on March 17, 1919.

Lily joined him in Canada and the couple settled first in Calgary with Griffith's family until he found work at the Midland Mines in the 1920s.

The young family, which now included two young sons aged 3 and 4, moved to Midlandvale, a hamlet developed to support Midland No. 1, Midland No. 2, Western Gem, and Brilliant Mines. It was located approximately 3 km from Drumheller, which annexed it in 1972. Griffith joined the Drumheller Orange Lodge and the family settled in.

On August 2, 1924, Griffith was one of three men working a shaft at the

Jan. 20. 1919. He returned Midland mine when a buildup of gas in the tunnel ignited and exploded, killing them all.

> A later inquest determined that the men had not been properly monitoring the fan meant to vent the mine and it stopped, allowing the flammable gas to build up. It was believed an electric battery may have provided the fatal spark, though this was not confirmed.

> Griffith was survived by his wife, two sons, his parents, three brothers, and his sister. He was laid to rest in plot 105-3-F of Burnsland Cemetery in Calgary. If the tragedy of losing a young man who had survived so much already wasn't enough, Griffith was buried next to the plot of his younger brother, Morien Lloyd Richards.

> > Morien was born in

1914, 18 years after his older a competition held by Royal brother, and would have been about 2 years old when Griffith left for war and 5 years old when he returned.

Like his older brother, Morien also survived an early brush with death. On Nov. 21, 1920, he was playing with his friends, Walter and Reginald Johnston, in front of the Burns Block when he was struck by a car and knocked to the pavement. Morien lost several teeth, had a cut upper lip, and was badly shaken.

The driver of the vehicle stopped approximately 75 feet away, walked back to see how badly Morien was hurt, and then returned to his vehicle, driving away without ever identifying himself.

Morien appeared in Calgary Herald articles twice more, once on July 13, 1922, when he came fifth in

Household Flour to guess the weight of a sack of flour. All winners came within 3 ounces of guessing the correct weight of 348 pounds, 13 ounces.

The second story came out a year later about a children's festival held by the St. David's Society. Morien was mentioned as having competed in a junior recitation competition but was not a prize winner.

Morien contracted meningitis and died on March 23, 1924. Six years after Griffith survived the most destructive human conflict at that time, four years after Morien came close to being run down on the streets of Calgary, and less than five months apart, the two brothers would share their final resting place.



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New study shows drought drives overnight burning of wildfires

Michael Brown University of Alberta

welcomed The slowing of a wildfire's destruction that comes with the humidity cool and of nightfall shrinks and even disappears during drought conditions, according to a University of Alberta researcher whose new study challenges conventional fire management practices.

"I think it is important to bring this emerging phenomenon to the public to let them know that the night might not save us," says Kaiwei Luo, a PhD student in the Faculty of Agricultural, Life Environmental Sciences.

Conventional derstanding of the "active day, quiet night" naturally slow the pro- between 2017 of wildfires.

vironmental change events. is enabling wildfires powerfully at night.

nights are warming overnight burns tive humidity at night led famed wildfire expert weeks. Mike Flannigan, U of Thompson University.

temperatures and high- that examined 23,557 hectares, with 20 per management. er humidity at night fires in North America cent of large fires havgression and intensity 2020, using a combininght burn. nation of satellite and

to surpass this natural although warming is consecutive "Originally, I had nighttime fires, the leads to a second. thought that since main driver of recent faster than days, high- large fires was an in- no difference between firefighting resources er temperatures and the crease in accumulated an associated lower rela- fuel dryness, which event and daytime fire management agenwould lead to more overnight burns that overnight fires," says in some cases lasted overnight burning lim-

A professor emeritus identified 1,095 "over- already thin resources also increases the likeand researcher with night burning events" Rivers in 340 individual fires. understanding this new Nearly all of these wildfire reality could

Moreover, But in recent years, terrestrial data to ana- fires burned through burning events the folstudies and first-hand lyze the burn cycle of the night, it often oc- lowing night," he says. accounts have shown these fires and identi- curred within two days that an unknown en- fy overnight burning of ignition, and in 67 has long been over-They found that were detected on two er and drier world, nights, barrier and burn more weakening the clima- suggesting that one drought indicators to tological barrier to night of burning often predict the night."

> in cases, there would be events also means more overnight to consecutive burning," says Luo.

And while its containment oppor-All told, the authors tunities and stretches even further, Luo says To test this hypoth- events were found in facilitate early detec-

fire cycle is that lower esis, Luo led a team fires larger than 1,000 tion and improved fire

"The presence of and ing at least one over- daytime drought conditions could act as a when predictor of overnight

"Nighttime burning per cent of cases they looked. In a warmwe can use daytime

> Flannigan the extreme more overnight burn burn will be needed, and if cies want to fight fires this at night, they need additional training and equipment.

"More of these fires lihood of a catastrophic fire."

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What is a personal directive?

Jenna Bever DD West LLP

Have you made a Will? An Enduring Power of Attorney (EPA) or Personal Directive (PD)? If the answer is no you're not alone.

These three legal documents make up your Estate Plan. It is important to have an Estate Plan to ensure that your loved ones are taken care of and that the friends, family and charitable organizations most important to you are considered.

The goal of this series is to provide valuable information to the community about the importance of Estate Planning. While most people have heard of a Will, not everyone is familiar with the **Enduring Power of Attorney** and Personal Directive.

The Personal Directive is a legal document that appoints someone who will look after your personal and health care needs if you ever find yourself in a position where you're no longer able to make reasonable decisions about your care.

This article will discuss the importance of the Personal Directive. In a lot of instances this document, along with the Enduring Power of Attorney, can be almost more important than a Will as there is no presumption in law as to who would be your Agent (the name of the person appointed in your Directive) should you need one, not even your

A Personal Directive is a legal document that you create when you are of sound mind, where you appoint someone to be your Agent.

An Agent's role is to assist you by making all personal and health care decisions on your behalf should you become incapacitated. I'm often asked, "can't I just appoint an Agent if I need one?".

The answer is no. The Personal Directive must be created when you are of sound mind, therefore an Agent cannot be appointed if you have suffered a stroke or have a serious dementia diagnosis that would impact your mental capacity to the point that you are incapable of understanding the significance of creating a legal document.

can only be created by someone capable of understanding the document at the time of signing. This document is very important as it sets out who will take care of your health and wellness decisions should you ever suffer an event that impacts your ability to make reasonable decisions for yourself.

The Personal Directive document will also lay out your preferences for health care decisions so that your Agent can best make decisions that reflect your wishes.

For example, your Personal Directive can lay out your wishes regarding care if you're ever in a comatose state, thus easing the burden on your loved ones for having to make such difficult and emotional decisions.

There are certain steps that must be taken to ensure a Personal Directive is an effective legal document. It is important to discuss these measures with a lawyer to ensure that your PD is effective and valid.

A Personal Directive is important because if you you cannot make reasonable, informed decisions for yourself you need someone to make those healthcare decisions for you.

Decisions like, giving doctors instructions or hiring health care aids to care for you, your appointed Agent will be able to step in and assist. If you do not have a signed Personal Directive, there is no assurance of who that Agent would be.

In such a case, your loved ones would have to make a costly, time-consuming, and stressful application to the Courts, to be appointed as your guardian and have the legal authority to take care of you. This could create significant and costly delays to the care you need. In addition, the person who applies to the court to be appointed as your guardian may not be the person you would choose to take on that

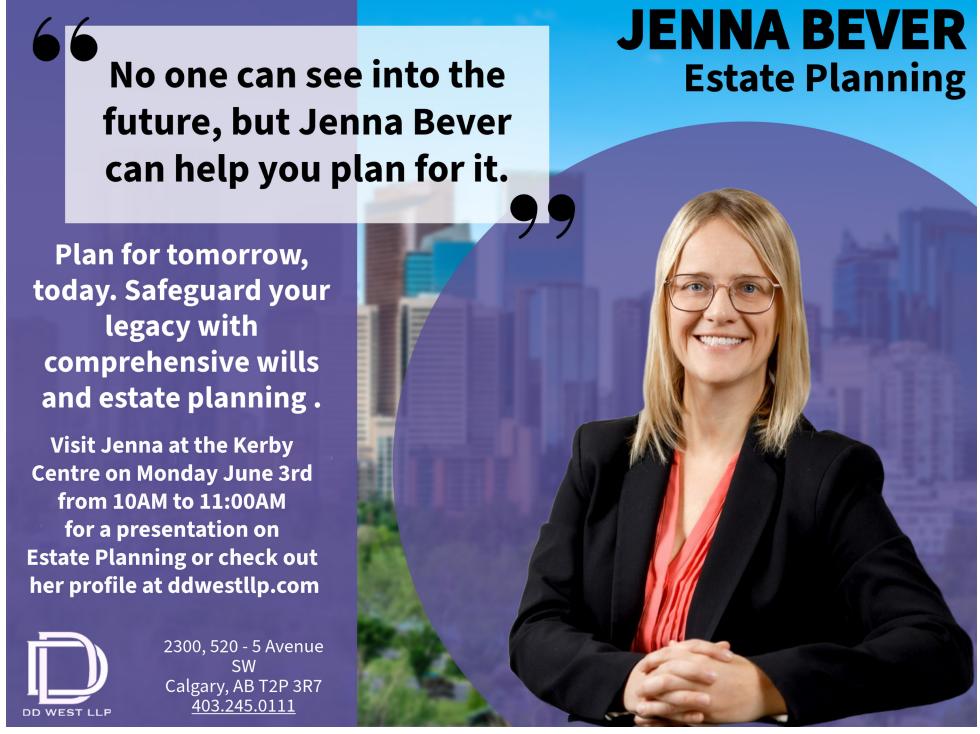
You could end up having a guardian who does not make decisions you would prefer. Your Agent has a lot of responsibility and there are unfortunately many instances in which people, es-

The Personal Directive are ever in a situation where pecially senior citizens, are taken advantage of by bad actors.

> The Personal Directive is an important part of the Estate Planning toolbelt. It allows you to control who will take care of your health care and personal decisions if you are ever in a position where you are unable to do

> It saves your loved ones from the grief and expense of costly court applications, and it provides a valuable piece of mind that should something happen to diminish your capacity that your interests are looked after.

Jenna Bever is a Wills and Estates lawyer with DD West LLP. She has a plethora of experience in preparing Estate Plans for clients from all walks and stages of life. She also has many years of experience in Estate Administration and Estate Litigation. Jenna is always happy to speak with the members of her community about the importance of Estate Planning. You can reach her directly at 587-324-2034 or by email at jbever@ ddwestllpcom.







Livingston Terrace Apartments Opening Spring 2024 Pet-friendly (small dog or cat), independent living apartments (accessible layouts available), 65+ community with in-suite laundry.





PH 403-567-5301 | communityliving@silvera.ca silvera.ca/livingston

Spring flower

Photos and story by Leanne James

Contributing writer

Looking forward to spring? Me too! Leaving behind the white and browns of winter with glorious thoughts of living in full color.

Yellows, pinks, blues and greens—beautiful arrays that lift the spirits. I usually purchase live flowering plants for spring but this year I'm thinking I'd like to try something new.

I'm so impatient to get out in my garden this year so I decided to research different floral arranging ideas, that even a not so crafty person, like me, could make to add a splash of spring color to my home.

I spoke with a few florists about how much time, effort and money it would take to design and create a lovely centrepiece for my table using fresh flowers.

Turns out you need a few specialized tools and materials to create a balanced arrangement.

I have to admit, I initially felt that I could easily build a bountiful bouquet.

My enthusiasm waned once I learned about some of the technical aspects of floral design. Maybe I'll leave real flower arranging to the pros.

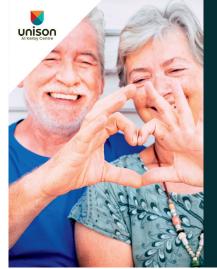
Next, I spoke with another florist who not only designs flower arrangements but also designs outdoor garden spaces.

I asked her about using faux (fake) flowers along with some real flowers to fill out a colorful look while saving a few bucks.

I was amazed when she said that people walking through parks and gardens don't realize that there is often a mixture of fake and real plants.

After speaking with a few crafters about my floral adventures I felt like I was getting closer to a flower project that I could do but still I kept looking in case an even better, easier, more financially doable project could be found.

I like crafts that I can complete easily and quickly while achieving an aesthetically pleasing final project I can be proud of.



Will Power

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Contact Rob Locke RobL@UnisonAlberta.com 403-705-3235

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arrangements

I thought about what (Optional step) things are important and plants in general. I have some potted flowering plants that, when Approximately in bloom make me very inches deep. happy.

I don't like about potrepotting, the watering and the occasional wet ring marks on my good furniture.

Fresh flowers vases are really nice but again there is some upkeep and their beauty is short-lived. The supbewildered.

I kept Googling for easy, simple long-lastprojects.

my answer, staring at me – a lovely simple clean looking composition of beauty. I watched ly made-by-you flower a YouTube video about arrangement. how to make the project.

series of photos and instructions so you to can make a lovely spring/ summer arrangement of arrangements. your own to bring forth some colorful beauty in I'm a bit phobic about your home.

Supplies: glass or plastic vase, Ashland Acrylic Water (Michael's Craft Wire cutters, Scissors. Disposable container, Optional – hot glue gun, Masking tape, Plastic tablecloth to protect your work area.

listed supplies be purchased at dollar stores, second hand stores or you might even in your home already.

Project Instructions:

- flower vase.
- 2) Trim faux flower acrylic water. stems to correct length. Trim unwanted leaves. You can use masking tape to mark the length before cutting.
- 3) Coat the cut tips with hot glue to protect rust from wire leaking into acrylic water.

- 4) Use masking to me for home décor tape to mark the vase where you will want the acrylic water to fill to. 1.5-2
- 5) Follow the direc-There are things that tions in the package for mixing the acrylic water ted plants; the mess of in a disposable container. The mixing process is easy and takes 8 minutes.
 - 6) Pour the acrylic solution into the vase to in fill to the masking tape fill line. Be careful to pour slowly so you do not create bubbles.
- 7) Arrange the flowplies and knowledge of ers in the vase. You flower arranging balance have a half hour to genand design just left me tly move the flowers around.
- 8) The finished project will take forty-eight ing flower arrangement hours to cure. Try not to move the vase before Suddenly, there was the forty-eight hours so that you get a nice clean water line look.
 - 9) Enjoy your love-

I had the most won-I am excited to share derful afternoon creatwhat I learned through a ing my bountiful bouquets. I just couldn't decide on one color palette, so I made three

> I have to admit that chemicals so I enlisted Clear the help of my husband and son to do the mixing of the acrylic water.

If there are any steps Store), Faux flowers, in this project that make you feel uneasy feel free to have your husbands, grandkids or neighbors help you out.

I initially found this project online in Many of the above a YouTube video. I can Googled acrylic water floral arrangements how to and that brought up a whole list of great have many of the items tutorials. I also spoke with Francesca at the Silk Plant Warehouse to 1) Wash and dry the get her views and ideas about faux flowers and

> She loves creating them and referred to them as, "liquid illusions."

What a beautiful way to describe the look.









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Making every drop count this season





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Photos and Story by Deborah Maier Calgary Horticulture Society

"Make every drop count" is a slogan that you'll likely read a lot this year. It's from The City of Calgary's campaign to encourage Calgarians to be water-wise. While April brought wet snow, this winter did not bring the expected snowpack to the mountains, and we may be heading into a dry summer.

Did you know that lawn watering can be responsible for a 30-40 per cent increase in water usage?

Wanting to keep a Kentucky blue grassbased lawn green all summer long requires a lot of water. This is the least beneficial use of this valuable resource.

Green lawns look lovely, but they don't provide habitat or forage for our native

wildlife or pollinators.

Some lawn owners are concerned that if they don't water the lawn it will die. However, this type of lawn is a cool season crop that becomes brown and dormant in dry hot weather.

According University Wisconsin, survive 60 days of drought. It greens up again when the season cools, and moisture

returns.

Many garden plants use less water than classic lawns because they have deeper roots systems, so consider converting part of your lawn into a garden.

Unless you have a naturally wet area in your yard, choose drought-tolerant plants.

These plants come in a variety of colours, textures, and bloom periods.



Also choose plants of different heights to give the bed structure, and ones with stiff and others with flexible stems to add a dynamic element.

Plants that I enjoy in my yard are bluebird clematis, blue flax, blazing star, bearded iris, lamb's ear, sea holly, sedum, maiden pinks, prairie coneflower, salvia, golden rod, and veronica, to name a

Information about these plants can be found in the YardSmart guides on the Society website calhort.org or on calgary.ca.

Before creating garden beds or lawn-like areas using grass or lawn alternatives, ensure that there is at least 20 cm of quality topsoil overlying the subsoil.

Unlike the few cenapplied to yards in new developments that dry out quickly and contribute to runoff, this depth of topsoil retains good rooting substrate.

A key means to reduce the amount of tap water needed for the yard is to capture and water count. retain rainwater. Collect rain in rain barrels. They come in many sizes and ing tips? Come to shapes. Our rain events cause them to fill quickly, so have a plan for the Richmond Green Park overflow.

Direct downspouts and overflow hoses towards trees, shrubs, and garden beds. Swales, berms, French drains, and weeping tile can be used to manage rainwater in your yard and direct it to where it will do the most good.

If you need supplemental water, apply it to the root zone.

Drip irrigation is the most efficient, especially if drip emitters are only placed to service plants.

During watering restrictions, hand watering is often required, using either a watering can or watering wand with a shutoff. Water the root area not the leaves.

Water in the evening or early morning so the



water can soak into the soil and any exposed soil should be mulched timetres that are often to reduce water loss to evaporation.

Watering priorities should be given to food crops and newly planted (in the ground for moisture and provides a less than three years) trees and shrubs. This season, focus your yard watering efforts making every drop of

> Want more YardSmart gardenthe Society's free Be YardSmart event in on May 11.





We're open for breakfast & lunch!

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

Wednesday

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May 2024 Weekly Specials

April 29th to May 3rd Meatball Subs

May 6th to May 10th

Fried Mushroom and Swiss Beef Burger

May 13th to May 17th Chicken Enchiladas

May 20th to May 24th Grilled Chicken Caesar Salad with Garlic Toast

May 27th to May 31st Greek Lemon Kabobs with Greek Salad, Herb Potatoes and Tzatziki

MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATION

Join us for a memorable Mother's Day filled with music, special meal with wine, engaging workshops, and capture beautiful moments at our photo area. Plus, get a chance to win

value prizes!

Friday, May 10th 11am - 2pm **Kerby Café Unison at Kerby Centre**

1133-7 Avenue S.W. Calgary, AB

Workshop: **Acrylic Spring Painting**

1pm - 3pm | \$20

Workshop Registration: 403-705-3177 Marinai@unisonalberta.com













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Visit UnisonAlberta.com/Seniors-Expo for more information about the sponsors!

Medicine Hat

A reminder to embrace compassion

Erin Reeder Manager of Programs

In Compassion, the act of recognizing and alleviating suffering, is a powerful force that connects us all.

As we approach Mental Health Week from May 6 to 12, 2024, let's explore how compassion can enhance our well-being and foster a sense of community.

Compassion isn't just a feeling; it's a call to action. It involves empathizing with others' struggles and actively working to make a positive difference.

Imagine seeing a friend in need and offering them a helping hand—that's compassion in action.

Volunteering is all compassion, about showing kindness and helping others. At Unison at Veiner Centre & Kerby Centre, our volunteers are the heart of our senior centers in Medicine Hat

much—whether it's assisting at the front desk, leading activities, delivrides to appointments, times—it's or organizing events.

Without their gendo. Their dedication to just how powerful compassion can be. It makes a real difference in the accepting mistakes as Mental Health Week, lives of everyone who part of growth. comes to our centers.

Self-compassion. practice of treating ourequally important, esthe challenges of aging.

passion as extending relaxation. the same care to your-

& Calgary. They do so try offering yourself overwhelmed. words of comfort and encouragement.

part being human.

To help self-talk and replackindness. Challenge life. unhelpful thoughts by

Engage in self-comcompassion passion exercises like isn't limited to our in- writing encouraging letteractions with others. It ters to yourself or pracstarts within ourselves. ticing a loving-kindness the meditation. Simply search for "loving-kindselves with kindness ness meditation" online and understanding, is and choose a guided session that resonates pecially as we navigate with you. Prioritize self-care through activ-Think of self-com- ities that bring joy and

Stay mindful of self that you would to your thoughts and feela dear friend. When ings, allowing yourself faced with difficulties to step back and obor setbacks, instead of serve them with clarbeing overly critical, ity without feeling

Self-compassion compassion isn't just a feel-good with each one of us. By Remember, every- concept; it's a vital tool ering meals, providing one experiences tough for maintaining posiof tive mental health and building stronger confoster nections with others. erosity, we wouldn't self-compassion, start By treating ourselves be able to do what we by monitoring your with kindness, we pave the way for a more fulhelping others shows ing self-criticism with filling and meaningful difference in the lives

As we celebrate

let's remember that begins extending kindness to ourselves and others, we create a ripple effect of positivity and support in our community.

Embrace the power of compassion, and together, we can make a of seniors everywhere.

			1				2	5
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	4 6				6	9		
1	6						7	4
		8	4				1	
				5	4		6	
	9	5	7					
8	2				1			



Our volunteers down in Medicine Hat are so vital to our services. We're bevond thankful and that's why we adore giving back to them. This is why we held our amazing Volunteer Appreciation event in April, showing off all the love and gratitude we have for them.

Volunteer spotlight

Welcoming May in with our volunteers of the month Irene & Dale. Irene and Dale have been volunteers for nine months with our Meals Wheels program. They decided to become volunteers for our program, because they had a family member who used the service and they know how important Meals on Wheels can be for seniors aging in place. They also enjoy getting to know the clients and being active in the community. Though they like living in Medicine Hat, if they could they would live by the ocean where they could gaze out on the waves and go fishing everyday. A dream come true! Their most treasured



possession are all their photos. Irene and Dale enjoy listening to music from the 60s and 70s and reading books written by David Baldacci and James Patterson. Their motto is "Stay Strong -Move Forward."

Thank you, Irene and Dale, for all that you do and your commitment to Meal on Wheels!

Medicine Hat Veiner Activities

What's Happening in May

Hours of Operation: Monday & Friday 9am - 4pm | Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 9am - 9pm

Mondays

Quilting

Craft Room | 9am

Tech Support

Boardroom | 9am

Board Games

South MP | 9:30am

Men's Shed

Boardroom | 11am

Canasta

South MP | 12:30pm

Euchre

North MP | 1pm

Shuffleboard

Games Room | 1pm

Tuesdays

Strathcona Arts Studio

Craft Room | 9am

Chess

Dining Room | 9am

Ukulele Group

North MP | 10am-12pm

Duplicate Bridge

North MP | 12:45pm

Crib

South MP | 1pm & 6:30pm

Bridge

North MP | 6pm

Board Games

Dining Room | 6:30pm

Wednesdays

Mahjong

South MP I 9am

Bocce Ball

North MP | 9:30am

Canasta Lessons

Dining Room | 10am

Duplicate Bridge

South MP | 12:30pm

Hearts

Dining Room | 1pm

Scrabble

North MP | 1pm

Pinochle

North MP | 1pm

Bridge Lessons

South MP | 3:30pm

Thursdays

Strathcona Arts Studio

Craft Room | 9am

Jam Session

South MP | 9:30am

Canasta

South MP | 12:30pm

Euchre

North MP | 1pm

Shuffleboard

Games Room | 1pm

BINGO

Boardroom | 2pm

Duplicate Bridge

North MP | 6pm

Norwegian Whist South MP | 6:30pm

Fridays

Quilting

Craft Room | 9am

Mahjong

South MP I 9am

Kaiser Club Dining Room | 1pm

Duplicate Bridge

North MP | 12:45pm

Mexican Train

Dominoes

South MP | 1pm

Stitch & Laugh

Boardroom | 1pm

Presentations & Events

Visit the Courses & Events section of our website for more info!

May 3 - 5

Scrápbooking Fanatics Starting at 4:30pm on the 3rd | Registration Required

May 7

Ask'a Financial Advisor–Craig Elder, RBC Dominion

10am - 12pm | Registration Required | Boardroom

May 7 Book Review Crew 1pm - 2pm | Dining Room

May 7

Card Makers lpm - 4pm | Registration Required | bring your own supplies

Counselling Services with Ben Feere 9am-12pm | Registration Required

Alzheimer Society Care Partner Support Group 1:30pm - 3pm | Cŕaft Room | Register with Krisťel (403) 528-2700

May 15
Parkinson Association Support Group
12:00pm - 2:00pm | Boardroom | Register with Brienne at
403-317-7710

May 21 First Link Connections lpm - 3pm | Boardroom | Register by calling 403-528-2700

May 24 Book Club 10am - 11am | Dining Room

May 29 Kitchen For Support 1pm - 3:30pm | Strathcona Kitchen | Intake with Nicole Required 587-770-1420

Wellness Wednesdays

May 1 | Movie Matinee with popcorn "Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back" | South MP | 2pm - 4:15pm

May 8 | BrokerLink: Personal Insurance 101 | Boardroom | 2pm -4pm | Registration Required

May 8 | Pet Therapy with Kenzy Games Room | Craft Room | 10:30am

May 15 | Optima Rocks with Jodi Craft Room | 2:15pm - 4pm

May 22 | Life Long Learning Presents: "Conflict" | Boardroom 10am - 12pm | Registration Required

Active Aging Spotlight

Senior Safety Series: Aging Matters -**Community Connections**

May 16 | 10am - 12pm North MP | Everyone Welcomed

Bridges Grandparents Group

May 21 | 10:30am - 12pm Boardroom | Register by calling Kayla 403-526-7473

Cooking for Connection

May 22 | 1pm - 3:30pm Strathcona Kitchen | \$20/pp | Registration Required

Medicine Hat Strathcona Activities

What's Happening in May

Hours of Operation: Monday to Friday 9am - 4pm | Saturday 9am - 1pm

Mondays

High Beginner Line Dancing | 9am

Table Tennis | 10am

Chair Yoga & More | 12pm

Pickleball Intermediate

Pickleball Advance 2:30pm

Chair Yoga & More | 4pm

Yang Short Form | 7pm

Yang Long Form | 8pm

Tuesdays

Fun & Fitness | 9am & 10am

Solid Gold Fitness | 11:45am

Pickleball -Skills & Drills | 11am

Pickleball -Beginner |

12:35pm

Floor Curling | 2pm Yang Short Form | 7pm

Chen Style Short Form 7:30pm

Fan Form | 8:15pm

Wednesdays

Absolute Beginner Line Dancing | 8:30 am

Beginner Line Dancing

Table Tennis | 10am

Qigong & Chair Yoga

Pickleball Intermediate

lpm

Pickleball Advance 3pm

Weapons Form | 7pm

Thursdays Fride

Fun & Fitness 9am & 10am

Beginner Pickleball | 11am

Silver Steppers lpm

Floor Curling

2pm

Fridays

Pickleball Beginner 9am

Table Tennis | 10am

Hatha Yoga | 12pm

Pickleball Intermediate | 1pm

Pickleball Advance

3pm

Pickleball Open Session | 6pm

Fitness Class Spotlight

All fitness classes require registration

High Beginner/Improver Line Dancing

April 1 - June 24 | Mondays | 9am-9:45am | FREE

Chair Yoga & More

May 13 - June 24 | Mondays | No Class May 20

12pm - 12:45pm & 4pm - 4:45pm Members: \$42 | Non-Member: \$60

Fun & Fitness

May 7 - June 13 | Tuesdays & Thursdays

9am - 9:55am & 10am - 10:55am Members: \$60 | Non-Member: \$84

Solid Gold Fitness

May 14 - June 25 | Tuesdays

11:45am - 12:30pm

Members: \$49 | Non-Member: \$70

Absolute Beginner Line Dancing

April 3 - June 26 | Wednesdays | 8:30am - 9am | FREE

Beginner Line Dancing

April 3 - June 26 | Wednesdays 9am - 9:45am | FREE

Qigong & Chair Yoga

May 15 - June 26 | Wednesdays | 12pm - 1pm

Members: \$49 | Non-Member: \$70

Silver Steppers

May 16 - June 13 | Thursdays | 1pm - 2pm

Members: \$35 | Non-Member: \$50

Yin Yoga

May 2 - May 30 | Thursdays | 6:30pm - 7:30pm

Members: \$25 | Non-Members: \$50

Tai Chi Fitness Classes

Yang Short Form

Apr 8 - Jun 25 | Mondays & Tuesdays | 7pm - 8pm & 7pm - 7:30pm

Yang Long Form

Apr 8 - Jun 24 | Mondays | 8pm - 9pm

Chen Style Short Form

Apr 9 - Jun 25 | Tuesdays | 7:30pm - 8:15pm

Fan Form

Apr 9 - Jun 25 | Tuesdays | 8:15pm - 9pm

Weapons Form

Apr 10 - Jun 26 | Wednesdays | 7pm - 9pm Must have completed Yang or Chen form before registering for this class. No exceptions

Avalon Fitness Centre Orientation

Are you new to working out or trying out new equipment? Don't worry – Avalon has you covered!

Join her monthly fitness orientation on the first Thursday of each month at 4 PM. Drop in only.

Free Event for Members and Non-Members

Grasslands Naturalist Walking Tour of Strathcona Trails
May 29 | 9am - 10am | Registration Required

Weekend Activities at Strathcona

Table Tennis - Single Play Only

Saturdays | 11am - 1pm

Pickleball - Open Session

Saturdays & Sundays | 1pm -4pm

To Register for Events, Classes & Programs, please call (403) 529-8307 or visit us at Veiner Center

Unison for Generations 50+

Calgary In-Person Activities

Register in person at Unison at Kerby Centre in Room 306 or by phone at 403-705-3233 Online registration and full details at KerbyCentre23.WildApricot.org

Weekly In-person Activities at Unison at Kerby Centre					
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
Badminton & Ping Pong (\$3) Gym 10am - 12pm Mahjong (\$2) Room 312 10:30am - 12:30pm Live Well Be Well Conversations (FREE) Room 317 11am - 12pm Pickleball Beginner Lessons (\$20 for 4 weeks) Gym 10am - 12pm Pickleball (\$3) Gym 2:30pm - 4pm	Recorder Group (\$2) Room 108 10am - 12pm Bridge (\$2) Room 312 10am - 12pm Pickleball (\$3) Gym 2:30pm - 4pm	General Craft Group & Knitting for a Cause (FREE) Room 311 9am - 12pm English Language Literacy (FREE) Room 312 10am - 12pm Men's Shed (FREE) Room 317 11am - 12:30pm Wednesday Dance (FREE) Café 1pm - 3pm Cribbage (\$2) Room 312 1pm - 3:30pm Walking Soccer (\$3) Gym 2:30pm - 4pm (Registration Required)	Artists Group (\$1.50 per half day) Room 313 10am - 3pm Kerby Centre Tours (FREE) Meet at Kerby Café 10:30am Pickleball (\$3) Gym 2:30pm - 4pm	Spanish Conversation Group (\$2) Room 311 10am - 12pm Krazy Karvers Woodcarving Club (\$1.50 per half day) Room 102 10am - 3pm Tech Help (\$5) 11am - 1pm (Registration required) Badminton & Ping-Pong (\$3) Gym 1:30pm - 3:30pm Beginner English as a Second Language (FREE) Room 305 1:30pm - 3:30pm Intermediate English as a Second Language (FREE) Room 311 1:30pm - 3:30pm	

Active Aging Spotlight

Intro to German Longsword at Kerby Centre

Wednesdays | May 8th - June 19th 1pm - 2:30pm Member/Super Member. \$70 Non-Member. \$100

Discover a new adventure in weapon-based martial arts! No experience needed. Learn foundational practices of Historical European Martial Arts, including breathing, balance, footwork, and attack angles. Improve fitness, challenge your mind, and find your footing! **LIMITED SPOTS!**

Register NOW!

KerbyCentre23.WildApricot.org 403-705-3233 or HenriettaF@UnisonAlberta.com



Colour Pencil Painting Active Aging Spotlight at Kerby Centre

Tuesday, May 21st 10am - 12pm Member/Super Member: \$35 Non-Member. \$65

With a deep understanding of colour theory and technique, our instructor can guide students in creating stunning artwork using colour pencils. Her approach emphasizes both technical skill and creative expression. Supplies are not included.

Register NOW!

Spotlight

Unison Travel

Shopping Spotlight

KerbyCentre23.WildApricot.org 403-705-3233 or HenriettaF@UnisonAlberta.com



Active Aging Spotlight

Safety on Transit at Kerby Centre

Tuesday, May 28th 10am - 12pm Member/Super Member. \$30

Non-Member. \$60 In this workshop, you will identify potentially harmful

situation in the bus stop, train station and in the

Register NOW! KerbyCentre23.WildApricot.org

403-705-3233 or HenriettaF@UnisonAlberta.com



Glenmore Park Walk & Buffet **Lunch with Unison Travel**

Wednesday, May 22nd 9:30am - 2:45pm Member/Super Member. \$60 Non-Member, \$90

Price includes transportation and buffet lunch at Grey Eagle Casino.

Cut-off date: Wednesday, May 8th (Non-refundable. Travel credit may be requested up to 1 week before the cut-off date.)

For more details: KerbyCentre23.WildApricot.org 403-705-3237



Unison Travel Spotlight

Silver Springs Botanical Gardens with Unison Travel

Tuesday, June 18th 9:30am - 2:30pm Member/Super Member. \$57 Non-Member. \$87

Experience the beauty of Silver Springs Botanical Gardens followed by a delicious meal at New Dynasty Restaurant.

Cut-off date: Tuesday, June 4th (Non-refundable. Travel credit may be requested up to I week before the cut-off date.)

For more details: KerbyCentre23.WildApricot.org



Wise Owl Boutique at Kerby Centre

Half Price Sale on red tag items

Week of May 27th - 31st 10am - 3pm



Unison for Generations 50+ Calgary In-Person Activities

Register in person at **Unison at Kerby Centre in Room 306** or by phone at **403-705-3233**Online registration and full details at **KerbyCentre23.WildApricot.org**



Mental Health Week

May 6th - May 12th, 2024

ALL Wellness programs will be FREE during Mental Health Week + a special workshop on Wednesday May 8th!



Wellness Spotlight

Self Care Using Therapeutic Touch at Kerby Centre

Thursdays | May 2nd - May 30th 10am - 11:30am FREE

Join our free sessions to learn how you can heal yourself using Therapeutic Touch

Therapeutic Touch is a safe, gentle, holistic healing practice that focuses on restoring balance in all aspects of the human energy field, body, mind, emotions, and spirit. It supports the body's ability to heal itself.

Register NOW!

KerbyCentre23.WildApricot.org 403-234-6566 | Lolaf@UnisonAlberta.com



Indigenous Drumming & Storytelling at Kerby Centre

Tuesdays | May 7th - June 11th 1pm - 2:30pm Member/Super Member: \$15 Non-Member: \$25 FREE during May 6th - May 12th

Join to learn about the Indigenous way of drumming. "Traditional Hand Drum teachings and sacred songs. The varying beats that represent the Heartbeat of Mother Earth. Healing vibrations with understanding the spirit through this Good Medicine"

Register NOW!

eliness Spotlight

KerbyCentre23.WildApricot.org 403-234-6566 | Lolaf@UnisonAlberta.com



Wellness Spotlight

Grief 101 "An Introduction to Grief and Loss" at Kerby Centre

Wednesday, May 8th 1pm - 2:30pm FREE during May 6th - May 12th

Discussions about the Myths and Facts of grief, difference between grief and mourning, coping strategies, etc.

This will be a workshop by Kevin Shea, a Master's of Counseling intern from City University of Seattle.

Register NOW!

KerbyCentre23.WildApricot.org 403-234-6566 | Lolaf@UnisonAlberta.com



Laughter Yoga at Kerby Centre

Fridays | June 7th -June 28th 10:30m - 11:15am Member/Super Member: \$5 Non-Member: \$15

Laughter Yoga combines yoga breathing techniques with laughter exercises to bring more oxygen to the body and the mind. Breathing exercises and yoga have a variety of health benefits, which may be a bonus and an additional reason to try them.

Register NOW!KerbyCentre23.WildApricot.org
403-234-6566 | Lolaf@UnisonAlberta.com





Weekly Wednesday Dance

Join us and our volunteer house band, The Kerby Sensations every Wednesday afternoon from 1pm - 3pm for a little groovin' and good tunes!

Serving breakfast and lunch!

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday:
8am - 2pm
Wednesday: 8am - 3pm
Located in the lower level of
Unison at Kerby Centre



Drop-in at our monthly Community Food Market at Kerby Centre!

Offering **older adults 50+** food donated by partnered retailers and generous Calgarians, on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Every Tuesdays and Fridays from 11am - 12pm at Unison at Kerby Centre!

Register in person at Unison at Kerby Centre in Room 306 or by email at HeatherD@UnisonAlberta.com or call 403-462-5080. Online registration and full details at KerbyCentre23. WildApricot.org

Explore. Engage. Enjoy. Subscribe! YouTube.com/@Unison50Plus

Online Class Spotligh

Online Class Spotlight

FREE! English as an Alternative Language (ESL/EAL)

Mondays | May 6th - June 24th 1pm - 2pm **FREE**

No Matter your level - beginner, intermediate or advanced, your language skills can improve as you enjoy a warm welcome, new friendships and fun activities with an encouraging, trained and experienced EAL teacher.



KerbyCentre23.WildApricot.org



FREE with Membership!

Yoga & You

Thursdays | May 2nd - June 27th 9am - 10am FREE with Membership!

In this class you will learn kind and beneficial poses while increasing strength and balance, both physically and mentally. You must be able to get up and down off of the floor, but a chair can be used for additional confidence in the class. Join us each week for an enjoyable hour of exercise from any location with internet!

Register NOW!

KerbyCentre23.WildApricot.org 403-462-5080 or HeatherD@UnisonAlberta.com



403-462-5080 or HeatherD@UnisonAlberta.com

NEW! Creative Mandala

Friday, May 17th 10am - 12pm Member/Super Member. \$40 Non-Member. \$60

Creating mandala art, with its intricate patterns and colours has the power to evoke a sense of peace and calm. In this class, you will learn how to create concentric patterns and designs on paper. Then take your design to the next level by adding watercolour and ink. *Supplies not included

Register NOW!

KerbyCentre23.WildApricot.org 403-462-5080 or HeatherD@UnisonAlberta.com



FREE! Spring Cleaning for Future Downsizing

Wednesday, May 23rd 10:30am - 11:30am FREE

Spring cleaning is a great way to kick start the downsizing process. Whether you are just hoping to declutter and reset for your annual spring-cleaning event or are looking to downsize and relocate in the future, Soft Landings can help provide you with some timely tricks and tips that will leave you motivate and inspire you along your way.

Register NOW!

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Presentation Spotlight

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Online Workshop Spotlight

Online Workshop Spotlight

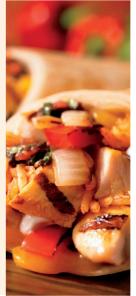
Food for thought... and Energy

Tuesday, June 4th 10am - 12pm Member/Super Member. \$45 Non-Member. \$75

Join Dan Leung for an introduction to the essential food groups, common sources for each, nutritional requirements for the Older Adult, and how food can help us maintain or facilitate our mental and physical health.

Register NOW!

Centre23.WildApricot.org 403-462-5080 or HeatherD@UnisonAlberta.com



FREE! Did someone mention... Hypertension?

Tuesday, July 16th 11am - 12pm

Many of us have heard this word from our doctors, family, or our friends. What does it mean?

Join Dan Leung for an exploration into Hypertension (high blood pressure): What is it? What causes it? Who is at risk, and how can you help prevent or manage it?

Register NOW!

MildApricat ara 403-462-5080 or HeatherD@UnisonAlberta.com



Online Workshop Spotligh



NEW! Mixed Media Cards Workshop

Friday, June 7th 10am - 12pm Member/Super Member. \$40 Non-Member. \$60

Create a set of unique mixed media cards to inspire and nurture your art practice! Learn how to mix various media together to create interesting backgrounds for inspirational words. Keep the cards on your art studio desk to inspire and motivate your

Register NOW!

KerbyCentre23.WildApricot.ora 403-462-5080 or HeatherD@UnisonAlberta.com



FREE! What are Assets? What can I do with them?

Thursday, June 6th 10am - 12pm FREE

A Momentum workshop - "Assets: build your future."

This workshop will help you discover all the valuable qualities and things you have in life. Learn how to use all your different types of assets to overcome the challenges you face.



KerbyCentre23.WildApricot.org 403-462-5080 or HeatherD@UnisonAlberta.com



How do you ask for help?

Andrew McCutcheon Unison News

We're told when we're young that it's okay to ask for help.

Whether it's to cross the street, to use the bathroom. when our feelings get hurt: we're taught early on to look for the helpers.

Over time, as we grow up, we lose a big part of that.

We want to feel mature and capable, and something about asking for help feels wrong. Asking for help feels like giving up, admitting defeat — or worst of all — embracing the weakest parts of ourselves.

Instead, we strive for other virtues: we want to be self-reliant, we want to be independent, we want to be enough on our own.

These are all noble traits. I don't mean to knock them.

But no person is an island unto themselves. Not a one. No one gets where they are without a community around them: whether it's colleagues, family, or friends.

Plus! We love helping each other!

You have to be honest: there's no better feeling than when you get to help someone out. Whether it's a small good deed or a big favour — it feels good to help other people.

Then why is it so hard, for ourselves, to ask for help when we need it most? Why is it hard to be honest with our feelings?

What are we afraid of? Well, first and foremost, we're afraid of rejection.

Rejection is terrifying. To be vulnerable and open up to someone, to sincerely ask them for help is a lot.

Remember this though: how would you feel if the roles were reversed? If someone who you care about came to you for help?

You'd probably welcome them and how they're feeling with open arms.

Know that the same kindness you extend to others is the kindness they will extend to you.

Moreover: you wouldn't think less of them, would you? You wouldn't mistake their vulnerability for weakness?

So make sure you also extend the same kindness you would to others to yourself.

It feels good to help someone out. Let your friends and loved ones feel good by getting the chance

to help you!

not be enough.

It might be difficult just putting your thoughts and feelings into words.

Sit down and write how you're feeling. Find words for what you're going through so you can communicate as best you can what you're experiencing.

Heck, you can even read right from what you wrote when you eventually open up. That way you don't have to worry about fumbling what you're going to say.

And if you think that you have no one to open up to: look again.

We as a species are designed for community and weak and you deserve to designed to help one another. have your feelings heard.

You might feel alone But those thoughts might in what you're feeling, but know that you're absolutely wrong. We are surrounded by others who have gone through the same thing.

All you need to do is

At the Unison Wellness Connection Centre Calgary, we've designed a whole space where you can find people going through similar things and reach out.

Beyond that, there are plenty of support groups for various issues available, that are only a search away.

No one should have to deal with the trials of life alone. So remember: you're not a burden, you're not



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PREMIER Crossword

REPTILIAN EMPIRE ACROSS

- 1 Soft drink giant
- 12 "Botch- -
- 15 Masticate
- instruments

- 25 Partially
- 27 Penta- plus one
- 30 Everything
- 31 Unusual 34 "Our Gang" novelist
- 37 Actress Peet of
- 39 Riddle, part 2
- "Titanic"
- 46 Given a permanent
- 47 Cereal grain
- 48 Computer menu option

- **60** Palatable
- option 62 Revise, as a
- manuscript
- 63 Yank's home
- 71 Mice, e.g.
- 73 House divs.
- 77 And higher, as in price
- 80 Perfect
- 81 Riddle, part 4

- **89** Big burden 90 Sports draw
- 91 Paper-folding craft

- 103 Allergy sufferer's device
- 104 White swan in "Swan Lake"
- 106 Spy's device
- "Hold on!"
- 109 Sneak attack
- 115 Akron's state

- face mask
- 125 Ultimate consumers of

By Frank A. Longo

43

21

28

51 52

78 | 79

102

110 111

125

109

62

26

54

60

103

106

123

126

86 87

- 9 Pappy
- (old hit song)
- 19 Oval wind
- 20 Took too far 22 Put concrete on
- 23 Start of a riddle
- 26 Heir, often
- 28 Spitting beast
- Roth
- "Trust Me"
- 44 Leonardo of
- 45 Curvy letter
- post
- 50 Prefix with chemistry
- 53 Curiosity's planet **54** Riddle, part 3
- 61 Computer menu
- 66 Try to be like
- 69 A couple of
- 74 Kinda
- 85 Dalai
- 88 Contaminate
- **94** Part of BTW or OTC
- 96 "Allow me to assist" 99 End of the riddle
- 105 Audit org.
- 107 With 112-Across,
- **112** See 107-Across
- 117 Riddle's answer 123 Painter Vincent van —
- **124** Fastening feature of many a
- products

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116

48

75

100 101

108

124

- 126 With 83-Down, Italian veal dish 127 'Zine staffers
- 128 Antis' votes
- 129 Occupied, as an inn

- 1 Female whales
- 2 Eight, in Peru 3 "Misery" actor James
- 4 Prado display
- **5** 102, to Nero
- **6** Walk- (small roles) 7 Plastering strip
- **8** Arthur of tennis
- 9 Troy of "A Summer Place'
- 10 Gardner or DuVernay of film
- 11 Biden's party: Abbr.
- 12 Basketball coach Rupp
- 13 Re-sol linkup 14 Boiled, salted soybeans
- **15** 1040 pro
- 16 Dance similar to
- the tango 17 Unsaintly soul

31 Fertilizable cells

- 18 Marshy habitats 21 Holy artifact
- 24 Trade show 29 "So true!"

- 32 Chip go-with
- 33 Actress Bo

128

- benefits"

- 41 Assistant
- 42 Idaho's capital
- 44 One searching for water
- 51 Sporty truck, in brief
- **52** Daiquiri base
- 55 "Cool" cash amount 56 Very little, as of salt
- 57 Tantrum
- 63 Like wasted food
- 64 In a theatrical manner 65 Snoozing
- **67** Shoe tip 68 Like Nin's writings
- 70 "Mind Train" singer Yoko 72 Baseball great Roush 75 Old Pan Am competitor

- 35 "The risks outweigh the

118 | 119

- 36 Intense beam
- **38** Some reunion-goers 39 U.S. women's soccer star at the Atlanta Olympics
- 40 Living ink squirter
- **43** Person doing penance
- with a divining rod 49 Tariff

- 58 Brian of electronica
- 59 Give as a bonus

79 Fail to keep one's cool 81 Return to base after a

112 113 114

fly ball **82** — nous

120 | 121 | 122

105

- 83 See 126-Across
- 84 "Likewise" 85 African capital on the Gulf of Guinea
- 86 Wyoming tribe members 87 Small swine breeds
- 92 Several 93 Plant-eating sea
- mammal
- 95 Catches in a snare 97 "Planet Money" airer
- 98 Includes 100 People lugging things 101 Politician Mo,
- Mark or Tom 102 Ship's rigging
- 108 "If only known!" — of March
- 111 Taboo thing 112 Litigated
- 113 Poet Pound 114 "- la vie!"
- 116 "Well well!" 118 Charged atom
- 119 Animal park 120 Rx watchdog
- **121** Dude

76 "Shy" singer DiFranco 122 Suffix of enzymes 78 ETs' craft ABC Moving

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Seniors scene; events about town

Bowness Seniors' Centre 6422 35 Avenue NW, Calgary | Phone 403-286-4488

Daily Activities:

Billiards Monday - Friday, 9 AM - 12 11:30 AM

Book Club 2nd Thursday of each month 3:00 PM at 1:00 PM

Bridge Thursdays 12:30 PM - 3:30 PM Crafts Mondays & Tuesdays 11 AM - 3 PM, Drop In - Bring your lunch & project. Coffee is on.

Crib & Euchre Tuesdays 12.45 PM -3:00 PM, Drop In

Darts Tuesdays 1:00 PM

AmumaCare23@gmail.com

Gwen Marcial

Director of Operations

825-734-2383

AmumaCare.com

Floor Curling Mondays 12:45 PM,

Drop-in

Lawn Bowling Saturdays 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM; Tuesday and Thursday 6:30 PM - 7:30

Shuffle Board Wednesdays 10:00 AM -

Sing-A-Long Wednesdays 1:00 PM -

Seeking cribbage players

Tuesday mornings, doors open @ 10:00 A.M, start at 10:15-10:30

\$3 drop in, .25 cents a skunk, 7 games, playing singles. Coffee is provided.

Bowness Legion. 138 Bowness Center NW, Calgary, AB T3B 5M5. 50/50 draws are sometimes available. Legion membership not required, 18+

Rainbow Elders Calgary

Rainbow Elders Calgary is a fun social group of enthusiastic 2SLGBTQ+ folks aged 50+. We are inclusive and welcome all people from diverse backgrounds who are part of this community, curious, questioning, or who might like to learn more about collaborating with us or suggesting our group for an older family member.

We meet at the Unison Kerby Centre monthly for Coffee, Cookies and Chat on the first Wednesday of the month in addition to other social events. We invite you to drop by for an afternoon of friendship and conversation.

Our next few Wednesday meetups will be from 1-3 p.m. on April 3, May 1, June 5, July 3, August 7.

Kerby Centre 1133 - 7 Avenue SW (Room 305)

Accessible by C-train: Kerby station

Free parking is available! Just check in at the main desk and leave your license plate number.

Find us online as well at rainbowelderscalgary.ca and on Facebook and Instagram for information about upcoming social events and membership!

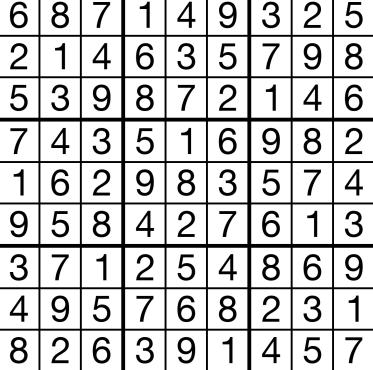
The Calgary Philatelic Society

Join Calgary Philatelic Society (Postage Stamp Collecting). The World's Largest Hobby! Art, Nature, Geneology, Travel, History, Sports, Nature, Professions and more. Meeting and auctions on the first and third wednesdays of the month, at the Unison Kerby Centre @ 7:00 P.M. No meeting in June and July.

5

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Jewish Family Service Calgary

At JFSC we have a host of complimentary programs and services for seniors, their families and friends. Below is some information on our Spring/Summer 2024 Monthly Caregiver Discussion Groups, and our upcoming session dates. Our Caring Together Group will resume in Fall 2024.

We also provide free counselling for caregivers of seniors. More information on our Caregiver Programs can be found here: https:// www.jfsc.org/programs--services/ caregiver-support-programs.html

Monthly Caregiver Discussions

Spring/Summer 2024 Monthly drop-in Caregiver Discussions Groups

Free sessions at 3 Calgary community locations

Facilitated by a registered social worker from JFSC's Caregiver Support Program, this is a space for caregivers of seniors and/or persons living with dementia to exchange caregiving and coping strategies and resources. For more information, dates and locations, click here (https://www.jfsc.org/news-events/events.html?eventID=409) There is no charge for these groups. Pre-Registration is required, we cannot talk walk-ins – please call 403-287-3510.

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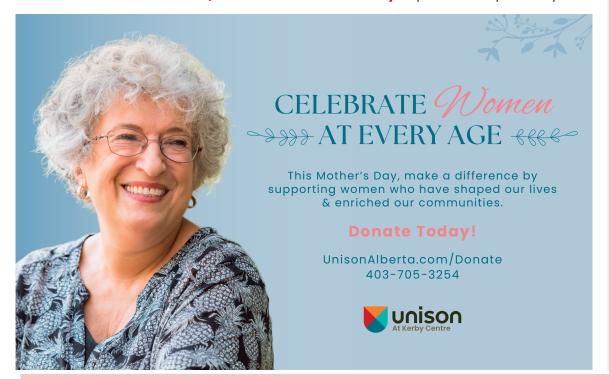


Join us in mission to welcome more seniors into our supportive community by purchasing a limited edition Unison pin!

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Unison is built on three pillars

donors and supporters, we wouldn't be able to help our senior community live their best





Our Tax Clinic helps low-income seniors

By getting their taxes done, low-income - for free! - we're able to ensure our seniors are able to access their vital governmental supports, like Canada Pension plan.

The impact is staggering

In 2023 we helped over 4,300 low-income seniors get their taxes filed, which resulted in over \$1,000,000 in returns! This year, we are helping around 100 seniors a day





Seniors Supports leads the way

The low-income Tax Clinic is managed by our Seniors Supports department. They assist our community with difficult-to-navigate

Every dollar helps

Every donations means we get to continue helping seniors navigate affordable housing, benefits and assistance. Your help means we keep seniors fed, housed



www.unisonalberta.com/donate

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