

# NEWBRIDGE ON THE CHARLES



Dr. Miriam and Sheldon G. Adelson Campus

June 17, 2022

Hello everyone,

To start, I wish to thank everyone who contributed to the success of the *Coming of Age* event on Wednesday. It was great to see everyone gather to celebrate the wonderful community we have created. The *Coming of Age* book is amazing. What a great community!

At the celebration, Tara Fleming-Caruso introduced the NewBridge shared values project. Your participation in the attached survey gives you the opportunity to share your voice with this important community endeavor. The survey is also available online by clicking the link.

The volunteer Outreach Committee is collecting umbrellas, rain ponchos, tote bags, and rolling suitcases for the Women's Lunch Place on June 27-30. I am enclosing a flyer from Betty Shapiro for more details.

The cats, the cats, good Lord, how could I ever forget about the cats in my last letter? I didn't report on their new news...because there isn't any. They still fight like cats and dogs, even though neither one can claim to be the latter.

This is it—my final letter to you. I confess I've been thinking about this for a very long time, struggling with the tone, sentiment, and the degree of detail. Much of what could be said has already been spoken. I also feel a little foolish thinking I might have something of interest to say to one of the smartest and most accomplished groups of people I know. Since you've indulged me in the past, I courageously trek onward anyway.

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When we first opened, the greatest compliments I received were about the team members. Over the years, I've received hundreds of notes of appreciation for so many of our team members, often describing how they went well above and beyond your expectations. We have the very best staff I've ever had the pleasure to work with. They have created a culture of service and generosity at NewBridge that is unmatched to any other venue where I have worked.

For those of you who may *not* be in the pioneer category, you may never truly appreciate how bumpy the ride was for all of us in the beginning. Despite my many flaws, I appreciate how you stuck with me. Perhaps it's because we shared a mutual vision to create community where every person could live the very best life possible enveloped with care and love. And even we went through many tribulations, we never wavered from our goal to create a magnificent community. I am honored and humbled to have been a small part of this process over the years.

While the bricks and mortar are beautiful, they do not create our sense of being home. I imagine each new resident goes through the same fear of wondering if they'll be accepted. Will they find friends? Have they made the right decision? I can assure you I receive many thanks from new residents at how warmly welcomed they feel. I hope that remains the most important part of NewBridge's legacy forever.

Here are some of the things I will miss the most:

- The magnificent photos taken by residents of the NewBridge campus
- Reading the Bridge each time it comes out
- Watching the political conversations go south on the resident Forum
- Receiving the many thank you notes I get each week about staff
- Seeing the thankfulness from staff after the appreciation and scholarship distributions

- Every single President and Committee Chair throughout the years. Their dedication, determination, and selfless spirit made contributions that defined who we are today. I am profoundly grateful for their love of NewBridge.
- And most importantly, each of you. I firmly believe that we all contribute to the patchwork quilt that creates our community. Every person contributed a patch. I will deeply miss seeing how new residents help contribute to an ever-improving community.

For my final words, I will leave you with this Irish blessing.

*May the road rise to meet you.*

*May the wind be always at your back.*

*May the sun shine warm upon your face;*

*the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again,*

*may God hold you in the palm of His hand.*

With the deepest appreciation and thanks,

Steve Colwell

Ex-Executive Director