

Allison Thompson promoted to Executive Director

Meals On Wheels CEO Kelly Heyn is thrilled to announce the promotion of Allison Thompson to Executive Director. During her four years at MOW, Allison has continually taken on new responsibilities. In the last year, she stepped up to ensure daily operations ran smoothly and represented Meals On Wheels at functions across the country.

"Allison has proven herself from coast to coast," Kelly said. "I look forward to continuing our partnership. We complement each other's strengths."

Prior to joining Meals On Wheels, Allison worked for the Sheboygan Area School District, Jacobson Rost and public relations agencies in Atlanta and New York.



Kelly Heyn and Allison Thompson

Making others smile was one of the things that made Gary Petrauski happy

Gary Petrauski loved to wiggle his glasses à la Groucho Marx whenever a new volunteer delivered his food.

"We would get so embarrassed," said Gary's sister, Sharon Dever, "but he said it made him happy to make people smile."

The face that Gary was around to spread sunshine was a miracle in itself.

During a trip to Alaska in 1970 to help a friend roof his house, Gary called his wife, Florence, and told her to pack up the kids because they were moving north.

By 1995, Gary was 48, divorced and living on his own in North Pole, Alaska, when he got a bad headache.

"He said he laid on the bed and it was like his head exploded. He couldn't see and couldn't move," Sharon said.

He was found three days later and flown to Anchorage where he underwent surgery for a brain aneurysm. Doctors were amazed that he survived the ordeal.

Gary lost the vision in one eye



Photo provided by Sharon Dever

Gary Petrauski (left) in 2007 with his father, Tony.

and could no longer use his left side, but he was determined to live on his own. Knowing that wouldn't be possible in such a remote location, Gary moved back to Sheboygan and into Sunny Ridge.

"To leave Sunny Ridge, he had to prove he could cook, do laundry and take care of himself," Sharon said. It took a year and a half, but he was finally able to move out.

"He used a cane and took the bus to do his grocery shopping, buying a little at a time because he had to carry everything home," Sharon said.

Over time, it got harder for Gary to get around and do things for himself. His father, Tony, who had been receiving Meals On Wheels for a number of years, suggested he give it a try.

"Gary was a picky eater. For years, he survived on peanut butter and TV dinners, but he loved Meals On Wheels," Sharon said.

Gary died Oct. 20 at Sharon Richardson Hospice surrounded by his family. He will be missed by many at Meals On Wheels.

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Subaru of America has again invited Meals on Wheels to participate in its Share the Love Event! Buy or lease a new Subaru by Jan. 2, 2019 and select Meals on Wheels as your charity, and Subaru will donate \$250 to Meals on Wheels America.

Locally, Fresh Meals On Wheels of Sheboygan County has partnered with International Subaru of Sheboygan to raise awareness for this popular year-end sales and giving event, and to drive support for Meals on Wheels.

Local authors generously donated copies of their books to MOW clients

Lisa Lehmann's book of photography, *Lake Michigan: The Wisconsin Shore*, showcases photographs of the lake taken throughout the year. Lisa asked members of her camera club for submissions, so in addition to her own contributions, the book includes photos by John Dankwardt, Sandy Kwas, Sandy Barnick, Ron Klunk, Steve Back, Matt Moeller, Aaron



C. Jors and Dan Armstrong.

A former Meals On Wheels employee, Lisa thought her book would bring back fond memories for our homebound clients.



"When I delivered

meals, I would see people who never left their homes and their shades would be closed in the hot summers. I thought I can bring a little bit of outside inside for them." Lisa said.

Jim Schultz's spent a decade doing research for his book, *Our German Heritage*, which looks at his ancestors and how they and other German immigrants influenced life not just in Sheboygan County, but throughout the United States.



Jim traveled to Germany three

times over the years to meet with relatives, locate grave markers and records, and to photograph the places where his ancestors lived.

A long-time Meals On Wheels volunteer, Jim has a goal to deliver all 23 Sheboygan area routes at least once each year. This gives him the opportunity to talk with many Meals On Wheels clients and find kindred spirits.



"I thought other people with an interest in genealogy or German heritage might find my book interesting," Jim said.

Many clients have called and written to thank these authors for their thoughtfulness and generosity.

The Scoop

Meals On Wheels of Sheboygan County, Inc.

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www.FreshMealsOnWheels.org



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Love Bowls is a delicious way to fight February cabin fever. The 19th annual soup extravaganza to benefit Meals On Wheels of Sheboygan County will be held 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 17 at Sheboygan South High School.

Join us and enjoy a variety of tasty soups from dozens of local restaurants and organizations as well as an assortment of breads, cookies and beverages.

The Squeezettes, a popular five-piece band from Milwaukee, will be sharing their quirky take on polka, waltz, pop and rock from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The cost is \$25 per

Love Bowls

An event to benefit Meals On Wheels

Sunday, February 17, 2019

South High School

10am - 3pm



person ages 2 and up, and includes a hand-made Talavera bowl or plate for each diner to take home. Tickets will be available at the door. Every dollar raised at Love Bowls stays in Sheboygan County and

is used to help provide wellness checks and fresh-from-the-garden, medically-tailored meals for our disabled, elderly, and homebound neighbors. For more information, call Meals On Wheels at 451-7011.