

Untitled

Linda Josheff

HONORABLE MENTION

Forty-one years ago I met Linda Farley at Americana Nursing Home where I was working as an LPN. Her sense of compassion and her patience were immediately obvious to me. She was never hurried, she talked with anyone who wanted a word with her. She took an employee under her wing, a woman who needed some TLC. She was gentle and had the most-kind face.

Years later when I was working for HospiceCare, the staff went to a retreat near Verona and it turned out to be the house of Linda and Gene Farley. They had opened their house for the day for us to have some time to share our work experiences. We went there several different years for our retreats. What a quiet and restful place it was for us to relax and de-stress. We would take breaks from our conversations and go outside to walk the grounds.

Over the years I would see Linda and Gene at Bobfest and we would have a short visit.

I felt a deep sadness when I learned that Linda had died. I can still see her smiling face and sense her kindness. Some people leave lasting impressions, they leave strength and inspiration behind; she is one.

I saw Gene several times at the house when I went there for various events. I was able to attend his funeral which was moving, thought provoking and lovely. I remember seeing Grace snuggling with Shedd. I did not know any of the family at the time but later when I learned who was who I knew that it had been Shedd and Grace.

I have volunteered a few times for the Center and have attended gatherings. Always such good food! Holidays parties where there were White Elephant "gifts," meetings, get togethers so that purses could be filled with necessities for women, a collection that was called "Purses for a Purpose."

This past winter we twice visited the labyrinth. How fun was that! Much work went into creating this fun yet temporary attraction.

We have enjoyed two concerts under the bur oak and look forward to more. We have been to the Fall Festival (is that the event with the delicious pies?) Great cider!

How generous of the four Farley brothers to have the property used as it is: the gardens where people learn to farm and then sell the most beautiful produce, the Natural Path Sanctuary, the house open for use, the philosophy of the Center which serves as an inspiration to all.

Every experience I have had with the Farley family and with the Center has been positive.