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 Bethany Methodist

Autumn 2025

CONNECTIONS

PARTNERS IN HEALTHCARE



- Teacher and Former Student Reunite After 20 Years
- The Manzellas' Heartfelt Journey to Chestnut Square
- Someone You Should Know: Ernie Ejanda
- Message from CEO Vera Lampe
- Catching Up on Community Life at Chestnut Square



**Jack and Doris on their wedding day,
and now as Chestnut Square residents.**

The Manzellas' Heartfelt Journey to Chestnut Square

Jack and Doris Manzella first met as teenagers at the Chicago Belmont Corps of The Salvation Army, when Jack was invited to vacation Bible school by a friend. Doris was a third-generation Salvationist and a Girl Guard, and the two formed a close bond that strengthened in high school. Wishing to date, Doris' parents strongly disapproved, prompting them to meet secretly at social gatherings.

In 1952, Jack joined the Navy and was stationed in Guam. Determined to stay in touch, they exchanged letters throughout his deployment and when Jack returned after 18 months, the couple decided to marry—despite her parents' continued objections.

"Taking a leap of faith, and with only a month before Jack's next assignment in California, I chose to go with him, and

we eloped in San Diego," Doris explains. "After he was honorably discharged from the Navy a few years later, we settled on Chicago's north side."

Though warned their relationship wouldn't last, Jack and Doris built a loving family which today includes four children, 17 grandchildren, and 25 great-grandchildren. The couple also enjoyed successful careers. Jack worked for the City of Chicago for 32 years as a plumber and district foreman, while Doris served in the business office of The Salvation Army's Norridge office, eventually becoming business administrator.

"In our free time, I discovered a passion for creating stained-glass artwork, and Doris played in a popular gadget band featuring an array of homemade instruments," says Jack. "She's also a very tal-

ented embroiderer and makes beautiful pillowcases for our grandchildren."

Recently, when the Manzellas decided to look at retirement communities, one of their closest friends, Joan G., suggested Chestnut Square at The Glen. "Joan was already a resident and spoke glowingly of the community, and her sister had lived there as well," says Doris. "It didn't take us long to realize that Chestnut was the perfect place for us, too. In February, we moved into our new 2-BR apartment...and we love being here."

Now celebrating their 71st anniversary, Jack reflected on the journey that he and Doris have shared. "A happy wife is a happy life," he jokes. "Faith and family have always been at the heart of everything—and our love is just as strong now as the day we got married."



Catching Up on Community Life

The past few months have been filled with excitement here with our outdoor concert series, Hawaiian pig roast, resident art exhibit, back-to-school drive, educational lectures, an outing to the Chicago Botanic Garden, and so much more! **Ready to be part of the fun? Call us at (847) 904-5102 to book your personal tour.**



A SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY

Teacher and Former Student Reunite After 20 Years



When Simon Dymanus joined the maintenance team at Chestnut Square at The Glen, he never imagined he'd be reunited with someone who played a pivotal role in his life two decades earlier. But fate has a way of working its magic—and in this case, it brought him face-to-face with Karen Newman, his former ESL teacher from Maine East High School.

Simon arrived in the United States from Poland in 2004, just as he was beginning high school. With limited English skills and a new culture to navigate, he found a great mentor in Karen, known then as “Ms. Newman,” who taught ESL and math at Maine East for 15 years. “Simon was friendly and polite to everyone he encountered,” Karen recalls. “He was also a very respectful student and made an impression on me as a quick learner.”

After graduating, Simon spent many years self-employed in the maintenance and construction industries before joining the Chestnut Square team in 2025. One day, while walking down

a hallway in the community, he spotted a familiar face and exclaimed, “Ms. Newman!”

Karen turned around, surprised and delighted. “It was such a joyful moment,” she says. “Simon is the same pleasant and thoughtful man he was when I first met him, and he does a wonderful job at Chestnut Square. It makes me proud to see a former student being such a good person who enjoys helping people.”

Simon shares that sentiment. “I’ve always loved fixing things, and being able to brighten the day of our residents makes me happy,” he says. “Reconnecting with Ms. Newman after 20 years was totally unexpected, and I’m pleased to see that she’s doing so well in the community.”

Karen’s journey to Chestnut Square began in Seoul, South Korea, where she was born into a family that valued education—her father a musician and orchestra conductor, her mother a physician turned high school principal.

Karen herself worked in various roles in the education field in South Korea before moving to the United States. She lived in Buffalo Grove, Palatine, and Prospect Heights before deciding it was time for a new chapter.

After hearing positive feedback from a friend, Karen toured Chestnut Square and immediately felt at ease. In March 2024, she moved into a 1-BR floor plan with a lovely view of the community’s planter garden. “I was quickly accepted and felt right at home,” she says. “I’ve made many new friends, and I’m honored to be a resident here.”

Karen has rekindled her enthusiasm for art at the community’s watercolor classes, which she attends regularly. “Watercolor painting is very rewarding,” she says. “It’s a peaceful and expressive outlet that I look forward to.” She also enjoys the on-site concerts, discussion groups, and camaraderie of shared meals. “The dining program is a perfect balance,” she says. “I have everything I need in my apartment, but I love the convenience and social aspect of dining with my neighbors.”

Karen and Simon’s story is a beautiful reminder of how life can come full circle—and how Chestnut Square continues to be a place where meaningful connections flourish.



A SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY

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Someone You Should Know: Ernie Ejanda

At Partners in Healthcare, our mission is clear: to create supportive relationships that enhance the lives of older adults. Ernie Ejanda, one of our exceptional caregivers, embodies this commitment with every client that he serves.

“My mom was a nurse, and I could always see how much she loved her job. She inspired me to care for people and that’s something I’m extremely grateful for,” Ernie explains. “Being able to develop positive experiences for my clients means everything to me. The seniors I serve look forward to seeing me, and I look forward to seeing them, too!”

Ernie instantly makes people feel at ease, and his calming personality provides clients and their families with genuine peace of mind. No matter the circumstances, his presence makes any situation better.

Last year, Ernie experienced one of the most bittersweet moments of his life when a client on hospice care, who never had any children, shared how much Ernie had meant to him. “He told me that I was the son he never had,” Ernie recalls. “It was an



emotional moment for both of us, and I’ll cherish that memory for the rest of my life.”

Your trusted partner in compassionate care, Partners in Healthcare offers private duty caregiver services to residents of Chestnut Square and clients throughout Cook and Lake County, IL. We are members of the Home Care Association of America and have been awarded a “Best of Home Care Leader in Training” by Home Care Pulse, which is recognized by the Alzheimer’s Association for high quality, person-centered training. Contact us today to learn more and request a complimentary client consultation:



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Making a Difference with a Charitable Gift

Donations to Bethany Methodist provide our residents, clients, and their families with a meaningful way to express their appreciation for quality service and care. If you are interested in supporting our mission with a tax-deductible donation, please visit our “Ways to Give” page at: www.bethanymethodist.org

CEO’s Corner

At Bethany Methodist, we believe that belonging is more than just being part of a place—it’s about being part of each other’s lives. Every day, I witness the natural kindness of residents and clients exchanging stories over coffee, offering encouragement during a program, or simply sharing a warm smile in the hallway. These moments, though small, build something profound: connection.

Belonging gives us purpose. It reminds us that we matter, that our experiences are valued, and that we’re not alone. Whether it’s attending one of our fitness classes in the Great Room, enjoying live music in the gazebo courtyard, or delighting in an elegant dinner in The Chestnut Room, these shared moments build lasting bonds.

It’s a culture where friendships flourish and everyone is encouraged to be their authentic self. As we continue to grow together, let’s celebrate the relationships that make Chestnut Square and Partners in Healthcare so special. Because here, belonging isn’t just a feeling—it’s at the center of everything we do. Wishing you a happy and healthy autumn filled with new shared experiences!

Vera Lampe
Chief Executive Officer

