

the wesleys

for people who love life™



Ellen Mar and Emi Somekawa Beckwith

A dark time plants the seeds of friendship

Emi Somekawa Beckwith and Ellen Mar “met” in 1944 at Tule Lake Segregation Center in California. The center was the largest of the 10 Japanese American internment camps in the U.S. created after the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

After being transferred from the Assembly Center in Portland, Oregon, Emi, a nurse, was assigned to work at the Tule Lake center’s hospital.

“I was told I’d work at the hospital at the camp, but the hospital was too far away,” said Emi. “The camp had over 72 blocks. My parents were also too far away, so they couldn’t take care of my children while I was at work. Eventually, we moved close enough to make everything work out.”

One night, Emi heard about a difficult labor at work. With no doctor available, Emi helped the woman.

“When I felt the foot, I knew the baby was breach,” said Emi. “Every time a labor pain came, I reached up and turned the baby. Thank golly the head came out first. The baby was crying, so I knew she was OK. That was the craziest thing!”

That baby was Ellen.

(continued)

SPRING 2017

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Come celebrate with us!

Wesley Homes is a faith-based organization providing retirement communities and a network of services for older adults.

With love and joy, we are called to meet the physical, social and spiritual needs of those we serve.

We affirm the worth of all those we serve and those who provide service.

Be the first to know what’s going on at Wesley Homes.

Sign up at wesleyhomes.org to receive eWesley, our monthly online newsletter.



A dark time plants the seeds of friendship (continued)

“Before Emi came in, someone told my mother that I wasn’t going to make it,” said Ellen. “She said I wasn’t right. They told my mother ‘breach,’ but my mother didn’t know what that meant. They didn’t have birth classes back then.”

With that forewarning, it was no wonder Ellen’s mother was shocked when the staff told her Ellen was okay.

“I’m so thankful for Emi to have been there to help my mother. If it wasn’t for her, I wouldn’t be alive,” said a grateful Ellen.

The last internment camp to end, Tule Lake center closed in 1946. Emi returned to nursing with some difficulty. “I got hives after Tule Lake, probably stress related. Even before Pearl Harbor, there was a lot of discrimination. It had been hard to get into nursing school. I’m glad I found a job when I got back,” said Emi.

Separately, both Emi’s and Ellen’s families settled in the Pacific Northwest. Years passed, and Emi moved to Wesley Home Des Moines. In 2016, Ellen attended a Wesley event where she met resident Anna Hasegawa. When Anna learned of Ellen’s time at Tule Lake, she immediately thought of her friend Emi. Because of Anna, Ellen was able to meet the woman who saved her life. Since then, Emi, Ellen and Ellen’s husband, Jim, see each other often.

Whatever it’s called – kismet, fate, divine providence – Emi and Ellen were meant to be friends.



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Celebrate your lasting legacy

Generosity comes in many forms, and a planned gift is often the best way to support important causes that matter most to you. When you give to Wesley Homes Foundation, you help make a difference in the lives of older adults.

Learn about the planned gift options available. The most common gift types are will bequests, charitable gift annuities, trusts, life insurance and retirement assets.

Start by going to the Foundation’s NEW website addition: wesleyplannedgiving.org.

Foundation staff will gladly work with you and your advisor to find a charitable plan that lets you support those Wesley Homes serves while providing for you and your family. You don’t have to be wealthy to make a significant impact! You just have to decide how to give.

To learn how you can make a difference,
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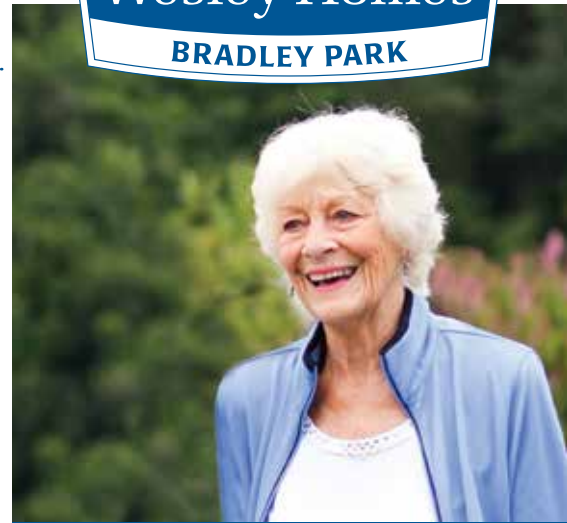
Counting down to moving day.....

Now that the ceremonial and genuine groundbreakings for Wesley Homes Bradley Park have occurred, Joyce Franich is happy to know her countdown to move-in day has begun.

"I hope the building progresses very quickly," said Joyce. "I'd heard wonderful things about Wesley from Carrie Boulet, who is part of my walking group. She knows what Wesley has done because her mother lives on the Des Moines campus. I'm eager to have that kind of community in Bradley Park."

The Puyallup campus was an easy choice for Joyce. Her children encouraged her to sign up, several members of her walking group had already chosen apartments and she can remain in the area she loves. She even brought a friend to the groundbreaking to meet her "sorority," the name she and her fellow female Pioneer Club members call themselves.

For Joyce's lifestyle, "I've chosen a one bedroom in The Lodge. I don't need anything bigger. Bigger means more stuff. I already know a lot of the first future residents, but I'm not going to entertain a lot since there are so many other things to do. I want to spend my time getting out and meeting new people."



Reserve your home today!

Contact Peggy Qualls for more information:

253.466.2720

pqualls@wesleyhomes.org



Wesley Homes Lea Hill in 2007



Guess who's turning 10!

After 10 successful years, what could possibly be next for Wesley Homes Lea Hill? More.

"We're in negotiations for a contract with UnitedHealthcare® for Medicare Advantage," said Lea Hill Executive Director Greg Byrge. "Now that we've received all of our licenses for the Rehabilitation & Care Center, we're working on accepting insurances so we can serve more people. UnitedHealthcare would be our first contract. We'll also look at Kaiser Permanente and other carriers."

An increase in services is a campus-wide effort. With the addition of the care center, residents have access to outpatient therapies as well as skilled nursing on campus. Culinary Services has expanded the menu to include additional healthy options. Wesley Homes Hospice services have been added. The campus continues to show its commitment to emergency preparedness with six residents and three staff completing the Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) program, including a 91-year-old resident. Recipient of the Executive's Award for

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WESLEY HOMES™

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Wesley Homes LEA HILL

Guess who's turning 10! (continued)

Community Preparedness, the campus continues to prepare for and respond to emergencies.

"We even have an Uber account," said Greg. "Residents just call the front desk, and we call Uber. We'll call Uber for their return trip, too. We're really listening to what our residents want so we can expand our services. We're growing to increase the value for residents."

Another change is that the staff has begun to incorporate a true case management style.

"Now that we have the care center, we are really emphasizing our full continuum of care. We collaborate on assessing and implementing different levels of support," said Greg. "Residents have put their faith in us to care for them should their needs change, and we continue to expand our services in anticipation of those needs."



**Come celebrate our 10th
anniversary with us!**

**Sunday, May 21
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

Wesley Homes Lea Hill
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RSVP to 253.876.6000