



SARAH CORSON CHILD CARE & LEARNING CENTER

July 2018 Newsletter

Reminder – Summer Closure Dates

The Center will be **CLOSED on the following days:**

- Wednesday, **July 4**, for Independence Day.
- Thursday and Friday, **August 16 and 17**, for our annual Staff In-Service Days.
- Monday, **September 3rd**, for Labor Day.

Please mark your calendars. Thank you!

Train Park Fun

Thank you to all staff and families who came to our annual Family Day at the Medford Railroad Park.

Welcome to Julia

We extend a warm welcome to Julia Johnson. Julia is the Aide in our Pre-K classroom, working alongside Katy. Julia is teacher-qualified in all of our classrooms. Julia has a bachelor's degree in psychology from Southern Oregon University. Before joining us, she completed an internship and worked for the Family Nurturing Center. Julia is originally from the Bay Area.

Welcome back, Lisa

Lisa Fowler, a former Toddler 2 Aide, has re-joined our staff. Lisa's three children and grandchildren live locally, which was a big draw for her and her husband, Guy, to return to the Rogue Valley. In her new position, Lisa is our Floater Teacher on the Infant/Toddler side of the Center. Lisa gives breaks to staff and is the primary substitute in any of the Infant/Toddler classrooms. We are very excited to have Lisa back with us.

Thank you, Steve Niemela

Steve Niemela, father of two of our boys, came in to read to his sons' classrooms in early June. We LOVE it when parents come in and read to our children. Please see Jaime if you are interested in doing this.

Invitation to Join the Better Business Bureau

We are honored to announce that the Sarah Corson Center has been invited to join the Better Business Bureau, a national organization recognizing outstanding ethical and trustworthy businesses. Membership in the BBB is by invitation only and a workplace must go through a qualification process in order to obtain membership.



This picture needs no caption



—Jaime Snider, director

Around the world with Helen McKee

By **PATTY HERKERT**

A linguist and a prayer warrior, Helen McKee is a native of Medford. She's the leader of the congregation's morning prayer group.

Helen's association with First Presbyterian dates to the late Agnes Flanagan, who donated our immense and beautiful pipe organ, and its cousin at the Lewis and Clark College Chapel in Portland. Agnes encouraged Helen to attend Lewis and Clark. Helen graduated with a bachelor's degree in French and a minor in German.

A professor at Lewis and Clark College invited her to be part of a six-month exchange program in Strasbourg, Austria. Helen then spent a month in France and the next five months living with families in Austria as an exchange teaching assistant, chaperone, and negotiator for language and cultural programs.

Teaching and studying

The following year, she met another professor from Lewis and Clark who invited her to teach in Germany. Pursuing her love of the language and a growing desire to see the world, Helen became an *au pair*, teaching and caring for two young children. She lived in Munich with this family for two years.

When she returned to the United States, Helen earned a master's degree in French language from Pella College in Iowa. She moved to Paris, teaching English as a second language.

While speaking of her time living in France, Helen's face lights up with delight. As a cultural attaché and instructor, she frequented the district with the great houses of fashion designers—Hermes, Lavine and Dior.

USIA, a career

After seven years in Paris, Helen joined the U.S. Information Agency. She passed tests in French, German, Italian, and Spanish. The Agency sent her to Japan!

"Your tax dollars at work," quipped Helen.

She lived in Yokohama for a year, studying cultural etiquette and language, learning to speak Japanese and write in the Katakana and Kanji alphabets. Her work with Japanese officials took her to Tokyo for another two years.

While working for USIA, Helen traveled with Ambassador David Abshire as special events assistant to NATO countries. Her fluency in many languages let Helen arrange conferences. When the ambassador retired, Helen took a temporary post in the Czechoslovakian Republic, working in Slovakia.

Helen retired in 1977 after more than 30 years of government international service. She moved to Portland to work on another master's degree, this time in the German language. She found a job at the downtown Nordstrom's department store, where she enjoyed giving her personal service to shoppers (based on her knowledge of French fashions). A year later, she returned to her hometown of Medford and looked after her late mother, Janet.

Helen's interests include membership in the Sun Oaks Book Club and the American Association of University Women. She also is an avid doll collector

GA boosts mission effort



The 223rd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) last week gave the denomi-

nation's mission effort a shot in the arm. A near \$71.6 million mission budget was adopted as the assembly closed June 23 in St. Louis.

Commissioners again turned aside attempts to pass a denomination policy boycotting businesses that trade in fossil fuels. But they censured RE/MAX LLC, a U.S.-based Realtor, for doing business in Israeli enclaves within traditional Palestinian Holy Land territories.

Several initiatives to streamline the denomination's action agencies passed, and a 16 percent increase in per capita supports the new structure. GA per capita goes up to \$8.95 in 2019, from \$7.73 this year.

Painting project

Have you noticed the cracks in the exterior of our building, or the flaking or graying of the paint? We are getting bids on the repair and painting of the exterior of the church building. To date we have received one bid that is \$20,000.00 more than we currently have in the Capital Improvement Fund.

This is the final year of the current capital campaign. If we receive the remaining pledged donations to this fund we will be able to complete this project.

If you pledged but do not remember the amount of the pledge, or where you stand on completing your pledge, you can call Elizabeth and she can give you that information.