



# The Bible Students Retirement Center

Fairview, OR • SPRING 2020

## Chairman's Message

Warm Christian greetings to our Residents and Members from your Board of Directors in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We are happy to produce another issue of the Newsletter, although it is done in the face of a world-wide pandemic. Because of our trust in our heavenly Father, we move forward in our personal and business affairs with His blessing that "There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling, for he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways." (Ps 91:10-11)

Your Board recently met together through the medium of ZOOM, a telephone video conferencing method, that enabled an effective business meeting. Each Board member could see the others at the same time on their computer monitor. However, a missing element was the fellowship that makes the Center's business a special joy.

We are all saddened in the loss of our dear Br. Bob Wilson who recently passed away. His energetic and congenial spirit was felt by all as he and Sr. Jinny frequented the Center.

In June we will lose the assistance of Br. Joe Megacz who volunteered to fill a 1-year term upon Br. Tim Thomassen's passing in 2019. Joe provided an abundance of wisdom and energy in his service. Elections for upcoming Board members whose terms expire will be held soon.



We continue to be in awe of our Father's overruling providences in the operation of the BSRC and always seek His blessing in the work we do and the relationships that exist. May He continue to bless the decisions that are made to His honor and glory.

*Br Michael Costelli*  
*Chairman of the Board*

## *What, No Fellowship Meeting?*

Many of you are aware, but for those that aren't, your Board of Directors meets three times a year at the Center. Twice a year, it is followed by our Fellowship Gathering/Mini Convention the next day. Our March meeting this year was to be no different. Then entered what is unaffectionately called the Coronavirus or Covid-19. As our meeting approached, we found more and more restrictions placed on travel and realized how serious this issue was becoming. Our main concern was not to risk bringing the virus to the BSRC.

We found it necessary to cancel our face-to-face contact but not our board meeting. In the Lord's providence and with the help of our Br. Kome Ajise, through the use of "Zoom", we managed to conduct business as usual. That

was the first for some of us but we learned quickly and what a blessing it was. In the two days we were able to cover everything on our agenda.

We missed being able to spend valuable fellowship time with our residents and missed the spiritual blessing at our Fellowship Gathering. We want to publicly thank both Br. Byron Keith and Br. Russ Martin (our speakers for that day) for their willingness and preparedness to serve us.

Our next board meeting is scheduled for June 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> however with conditions as they are we'll have to wait and see. "We don't know what tomorrow holds but we do know who holds tomorrow" because "Faith can firmly trust him come what may."

# What Is the BSRC?

“How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity!”

Psa. 133:1 (NIV)

**M**any of us are aware of the Bible Students Retirement Center (BSRC), most do not have a good understanding of the true nature of the BSRC. The BSRC is a unique Bible Student asset and resource that is available to our senior brethren. It provides life for brethren (55 years and older) in a nurturing consecrated environment with rich fellowship and Bible study opportunities. It does make it good and pleasant for the friends to live together in harmony.

If you are blessed to live at the BSRC or the Center, you are truly separate from the world and share what is likely one of the most unique physical spaces customized for consecrated Bible Students anywhere in the world. Chances are in the course of each day, 100 percent of your interactions are with brethren, such as during meals and for studies. The Center also provides the brethren opportunities to recreate together and work on witness work. Over the years, the brethren have invested time and energy in creating a beautiful physical environment as well with greenery, flowers and a vegetable garden that augment the spiritual environment. It is truly a nurturing and fulfilling atmosphere that the friends have created by the grace of our Heavenly Father.

The opportunity to live at the Center is about as good now as anytime with just a few vacant units available. Brethren thinking about the opportunity to live in this consecrated environment should move quickly to let staff or board members know of this interest as soon as possible.

But the BSRC is not just about its residents, it is also a tremendous opportunity for service for all brethren who



choose to be members of the BSRC. Membership does not require residency at the BSRC nor does it mean you plan to live there. It is an opportunity to serve in support of some of our senior brethren. And it is easy to be members of the BSRC! You only need to be a consecrated Bible Student with the hope of the High Calling and pay annual (Jan-Dec) membership dues of \$25 (single) or \$35 (couple).

The BSRC truly welcomes more brethren participating in its affairs. As a member, you will receive reports of activities at the Center, including minutes of the Board of Directors meetings. Members also help elect members of the board who help direct the affairs of the BSRC.

Brethren, whether you are thinking about joining as a resident or want to become a member, it is our hope that you will reach out to one of the Board members to pursue that interest. It is a hope and prayer that you will be a blessed addition to this work. Lord bless!

*Br. Kome Ajise*  
*Marketing Chair*

## Life Goes On At The BSRC

The BSRC continues to enjoy a variety of gatherings and events. We went into the holiday season with a wonderful candlelight dinner in early December, which included an inspirational presentation of Scriptures and Hymns, as well as a scrumptious Christmas feast. Both events included not just residents, but brethren from the local area. We enjoyed several lunch outings, some to familiar places and others to new ones. Monthly Hymn singing continues to be a big blessing and well attended.

Moving forward to March much has changed. Due to the Covid-19 virus, we had to make some adjustments.

We had to suspend Scrabble, our monthly witness activity and lunch outings due to the 6-foot of separation requirements and restaurants being closed. We continue to raise our voices heavenward, with the monthly Hymn fest and still study the Manna at Harmony Hour each week. Lunch is now served similar to your local restaurant. Meals are plated and seating follows the 6-foot guideline. Fellowship continues to be a highlight and a tonic to the brethren. We are looking forward to the Lord’s Providences, now more than ever, and thankful for our Lord’s guiding hand. The Center may be going through some challenges but the brethren trust the Lord and are strong in their faith. The Son is shining in our hearts.

*Sr. Janet Wojcik*



# Planning and Construction Report

In December, 2019 the BSRC received 3 bids for a new elevator and steel stairs for C and F buildings. The bids ranged from \$600,000 to 800,000 which far exceeded available funds. The low bidder was contacted in an effort to “value engineer” the project to more closely approximate funds. The low bidder was presented with a reduced scope that consisted of a single elevator shaft attached to Bldg F and the deletion of new steel stairs. The result was a reduced price of \$265,000. No further efforts were made to pursue the bidder at this level of cost.

The Committee then set out to investigate other means of accomplishing the task of getting an elevator within the budget. Br. Ed Heidelberg pursued this effort until he reached a contact who actually

installed the original lift at the BSRC twenty years ago. His company, Elite Lift & Elevator, after several visits to the BSRC and conversations with Br Ed, provided a price of approximately \$130,000 for a LULA (limited use limited application) elevator connected to the north side of Bldg F. Elite will be provided with a contract to proceed at the negotiated price. Elite will provide new drawings and specifications for construction and obtain the required building permits.

It was necessary to delete the new steel stairs from the project so the elevator could go forward. This work will be postponed until a later date and the existing stairs will be reinforced and maintained as needed for safety.

During the elevator discussions it became obvious that an additional means of mechanical egress (vertical transport) was needed if the existing lift was to be taken out of service. This gave rise to the consideration of a chair lift mounted to a rail fastened to the stairs on the south side of C Bldg. However, the chair lift will not be needed in the latest elevator proposal.

Reports of damage to fascia boards, the lack of proper drip edge on the Main House and deteriorated roofing shingles on Buildings A & B were provided to the Board. New roofs for Buildings A & B and new gutters and flashing for the Main House will be provided. Our Operations Manager, Sr. Arleen Battaglia secured bids from 4 roofing contractors and are under advisement to the Board.

*Br. Michael Costelli*  
Planning and Construction Chair

## *Br. Bob Wilson Remembered*

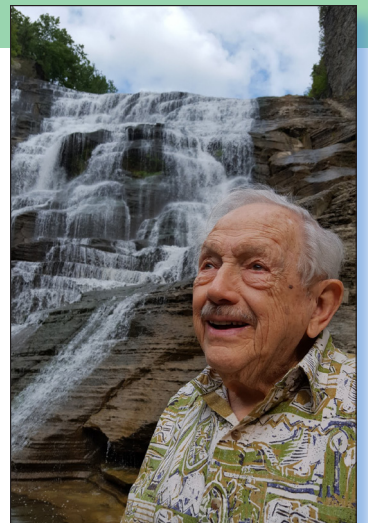
Our dear Br. Bob Wilson was born in Ithaca, NY June 30, 1926. He attended high school in California and college in Allentown, PA before serving in the Army Air Corps at the end of World War II. He came back to work as a Park Ranger in Yosemite National Park where he met and married Virginia in 1948. They lived in a forest rangers cabin in the Yosemite back country until their son Kirk came along when they moved down to Fresno where they lived for 60 years. There he worked as a life insurance salesman for 15 years then as a public affairs officer at the Naval Air Station for another 15 years. Br. Bob and Sr. Virginia, or “Jinny” as she is affectionately called, were avid backpackers and would spend weeks backpacking in the Sierra Nevada Mountains and of course, Yosemite National Park.

Br. Bob learned the Truth from his mother and made it his own in 1955. He was an active member of the Fresno, CA class for 55 years and for 45 of those years served as a deacon and an elder. Br. Bob and Sr. Jinny manned the Bible Students booth at the Kings County Fairgrounds in Hanford, CA and worked in the summers at the Dawn in New Jersey for many years. They traveled to many conventions around the country and Europe. Br. Bob served in many locations worldwide including in Africa as part of the Bible Students African Committee.

In 2010 Br. Bob and Sr. Jinny moved to the BSRC where Br. Bob previously served as a Board member for 12 years. He later served as the Resident Director from 2011 to 2014. Br. Bob’s last words of advice were “God is faithful as promised... so keep the faith.”

I came on the Board just 3 years ago and really got to know and appreciate Br. Bob while visiting. Br. Bob made me realize that everyone at the Center has a story. And, unless you take the time to get to know your brethren, by sitting down and visiting with them, you’ll miss out on hearing some of the most incredible stories and experiences, experiences that eventually led them, in the Lords providence, to the BSRC. When I heard of Br. Bob’s change on January 16, 2020 at the age of 93 I was saddened, not because of his change, but because I wouldn’t have the opportunity to sit down with him to hear another story. Brethren, don’t let an opportunity like that go by.

– Br. Ed Heidelberg



### MEMBERSHIP

**We currently have 201 BSRC Members. We would like to welcome our new members:**

**Ken Allison** (Cortez, CO)  
**Rick and Linda Hoy**  
(Keremeos, BC, Canada)

**Bruine and Robyn Hack**  
(Wilsonville, OR)  
**Bill and Donna Ostrander**  
(Vancouver, WA)  
**Sandy Hendrix** (Austin, TX)  
**Terry Meyer** (Georgetown, CA)

**We thank all our members for their support of the BSRC.**

# Available for Immediate Occupancy!

## One Bedroom plus Sitting Area with One Full & One Half-Bath



We wish to inform you of a unique opportunity to rent a unique unit. This one-of-a-kind style is full of light with three picture windows. The 1,000 sq. ft. unfurnished unit has one bedroom which is open to a Sitting Area – perfect for a study or multi-use area. Even though it is open to the bedroom, it has space to accommodate a fold-out couch, plus a desk and bookcases. This unit has the convenience of a full bath with a shower-over-tub, plus a half-bath with hook-ups for a full-sized washer & dryer. The spacious living room can be set up as a combination living room/ dining room or, if you prefer, there

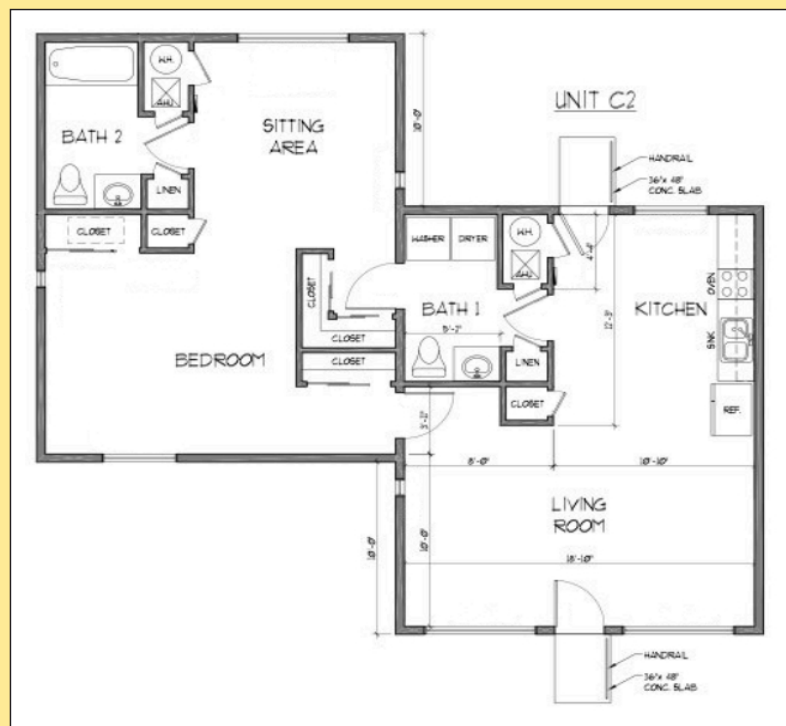
is room in the kitchen area for a small kitchen table. The compact kitchen is equipped with a sink, stove/oven and refrigerator. This unit has ample storage space with a coat closet, two linen closets and four additional closets for clothes and other items. It is on the first floor for easy access with a front door and a back door which opens to a small patio area. It is perfect for independent living. This newly carpeted unit rents for \$762/month.

The BSRC is a gated community, which includes a quarter-mile walking path. This unit is just a few steps from the Main House, which sits at the center of the property. The Main House is the center of activity with five studies per week, noontime meals, hymn singing, witness activity meetings, holiday gatherings, and many other opportunities for fellowship.

If you are considering making a move to the Center, either in the near or long term, we would like to invite you to come to the Center for a **FREE** one to two-week trial visit. The purpose of this visit is for you to get a good

feel of what life is like at the Center, to try out a unit, and decide if the Center is right for you. The lodging for the trial visit will be at no cost to you. We will also include a free noon meal Monday-Friday during your stay served in the Main House dining room.

**For more information  
or to schedule a visit,  
Contact the Admissions Chair  
at 908-756-4954**



### ALSO AVAILABLE

#### Two Bedroom/One Full Bath Upper Level/\$746 per month

- Open Concept Living/Dining Room with vaulted ceiling
- 1,090 sq. ft. unfurnished
- Private Balcony w/ great view
- Upper Level accessible via stairs or elevator
- Laundry room

For the floor plan & photos, see "Fall 2019 Newsletter" or go to our web site, [www.TheBSRC.org](http://www.TheBSRC.org)

**Call us with your questions & comments • BSRC • 503-661-7045**