

# Evergreen News

Evergreen Terrace Assisted Living 801 Fuller Ave., Big Rapids, MI 49307 Phone 1-231-527-1050



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## *Home (a meditation)*

**“The eternal God is my home and underneath are the everlasting arms.” Deuteronomy 33: 27 (Message/NIV)**

This is one of the most formative verses about *home* in my life; I recite it almost daily. Yet, as I try to express the importance of this visual, it feels impossibly big. The arms of God throughout the Bible welcome, rescue, uphold and bless us with their stronghold.

However, this verse contains the whole of who God is; it is the “undergird” of His whole story and therefore our stories that weave inseparably into His, our Author.

These words come from a blessing of Moses right before He dies. In the broader text Moses’ blessing expresses praise to God for His Almighty Power and His Love and Faithful Care. Moses also gives praise and thanks for the incomprehensible blessing of being the people of *this* God, the One God. Finally, so many years without a concrete place to call home, Moses has learned what true abundance and security means in the saving, sheltering, upholding, everlasting arms of God.

Moses acknowledges our true dwelling in his song and prayer of Psalm 91, “Lord you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth, from everlasting to everlasting you are God” ...and this is where we belong.

We are created to live in God’s presence *from Eden to New Creation* with Christ’s return; this is true flourishing as God intended it to be. Deuteronomy 33:27 names the rock solid foundation of God’s arms that upholds and protectively shelters *all* the earth and *all* God’s people from eternity to eternity. On this broad, everlasting foundation rest all the intimate stories of the Bible and we are invited *in* ...so that our living God can continue His story throughout the generations.

A beautiful, smaller visual of wide-open arms is Jesus welcoming little children into the comfort of His lap for blessing. In doing so He reminds us we are all children longing for this “home” where we are fully known and made whole in the engulfing circle of His arms. All transforming power and hope come with the visual of Jesus’ outstretched arms on the cross. Because of these arms we are free to surrender our cleansing, shaping, and eternal security to Him. Come *Home* all who are weary and burdened to the arms of God. Rest on the stronghold of everlasting arms, the “*rock of ages against which the gates of hell shall not prevail.*” (Matthew Henry’s Commentary)

“The eternal God is my home, and underneath are the everlasting arms.”

Chaplain Sheri

## A Shakespearean Mystery

For a week in March each year, the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust in Stratford-upon-Avon, England, celebrates the life of William Shakespeare. From March 18 to 24, fans of the bard are invited to visit the Shakespeare family home and view his many famous works. However, there are some who believe that William Shakespeare did not write the many plays and sonnets that he is credited for. These doubters assert the existence of an alternate writer.



Toward the end of the 19th century, some scholars began to doubt the identity of William Shakespeare. At first, these doubters were thought to be crackpots. Over the years, the conspiracy gained traction. In 2007, a group of Shakespeare skeptics, consisting of performers and scholars, made an official "Declaration of Reasonable Doubt." Ample evidence exists to prove that Shakespeare was born in Stratford-upon-Avon and became a well-known actor and theater-owner in his time. But these skeptics believe that there is simply not enough evidence to prove that this Shakespeare was the same man who wrote so many famous works. They believe Shakespeare's modest upbringing could not have afforded him the quality education that such a talented writer would have needed. The true author, they argue, must have been a traveler, writer, or aristocrat such as philosopher Francis Bacon, poet Christopher Marlowe, or Edward de Vere, the 17th Earl of Oxford.

Of course, Shakespeare has a wealth of defenders, too. They argue that Shakespeare's elementary education would have been adequate for his talents. Paper evidence may not exist because paper was a scarce resource back then and no one would have kept scraps of notes or letters. It instead would have been reused. Regardless of your belief in Shakespeare's identity, Shakespeare Week may be a time to enjoy the bard's words rather than question his good name.

### Chase Away the Winter Blues Raffle Fundraiser



A big thank you to all that purchased raffle tickets for our Chase Away The Winter Blues Raffle Fundraiser. All proceeds will support the Resident Based income Program which allows qualifying residents to remain at Evergreen Terrace after their funds have diminished. We invite you to read the Baruch Difference at <http://baruchsls.org/living-at-baruch>

## Girls Guiding Girls

The Girl Scouts is one of the largest and most successful organizations for girls in the world. Juliette Gordon Low, finding inspiration from the Girl Guide movement in England, established the first Girl Guide Troop in America on March 12, 1912. For this reason, the week of March 10–16 is celebrated as Girl Scout Week.



Born in Savannah, Georgia, just before the American Civil War, Gordon Low was raised with traditional Southern values emphasizing duty, loyalty, and respect. Gordon Low was also an American aristocrat born to successful parents. As such, she attended boarding schools, met many influential people, married well, and moved to England. Gordon Low's marriage was not a happy one, however, and she spent much time alone painting, learning metalworking and woodworking, and doing charity work. After her husband died, she met Sir Robert Baden-Powell, founder of the Boy Scouts, a guide movement for boys that taught the skills of military preparedness and outdoor adventuring. Scouting proved to be the perfect unity of values that she had enjoyed all her life: duty and respect combined with practical skills for survival. It was not long before Gordon Low met Agnes Baden-Powell, Sir Robert's sister and founder of the Girl Guides, and so Gordon Low organized Girl Guide troops in London herself.

Gordon Low returned to her beloved Savannah in March of 1912 with the mission to grow the girl scouting movement in America. On March 12, she registered 18 girls, establishing the very first Girl Guide troop. Thanks to her family's extensive social connections and the help of Sir Baden-Powell, Low was able to quickly grow her local troop into a nationwide movement. She faced one competitor, the Camp Fire Girls, but this organization believed that girls should not participate in strenuous outdoor activities meant for boys. Gordon Low held fast to her love of scouting, and for over 100 years, the Girl Scouts have given young girls the confidence, skills, and character to become the leaders of tomorrow.



## The Birth of Rock 'n' Roll



The very first rock 'n' roll concert was staged on March 21, 1952, in Cleveland, Ohio. It was called the Moondog Coronation Ball and featured guitarist Tiny Grimes and His Rocking Highlanders, saxophonist Paul Williams and His Hucklebuckers, Billy Ward and His Dominoes, singer Varetta Dillard, and Danny Cobb. The concert was the idea of local radio DJ Alan Freed, the same man who popularized the phrase *rock 'n' roll*. On the night of the show, 20,000 people showed up with tickets, but the venue held only half the number. Tickets had been counterfeited. Afraid of a riot, the fire department stopped the concert after only one performance.

## The Patterns of Life



The third Saturday in March has been designated Worldwide Quilting Day, a global celebration of quilters and their fabulous creations. Quilts began not as the intricately patterned blankets

we often use today, but as padded clothing. The first evidence we have of humans wearing quilted clothing comes from ancient Egypt. Quilted clothes were uncovered at the Temple of Osiris dating back 5,000 years. Modern quilting of clothes dates back to the Middle Ages in Europe when these soft garments were worn over and under chain mail armor. The first evidence we find of quilted blankets comes from 15th-century England, but all this evidence is merely written about; few, if any, blankets from that era have survived.

English immigrants brought their sewing and quilting skills with them to America, where quilting grew into more than a practical skill—it became an art form. Patterns grew into symbols and stories. When President Lincoln signed the Homestead Act of 1862, which opened up the West for settlement, families prepared for their westward journeys by sewing quilts. These quilts have become records of history.

One of the earliest patterns, known as the Nine Patch, was simply nine squares in a three-by-three pattern. This was the quickest quilt to sew and a great and thrifty use of leftover scraps of fabric. Often, girls as young as age three or four could be taught to sew the Nine Patch pattern. A more elaborate pattern was known as the Log Cabin. This pattern was symbolic of the home. The center square was always red, to symbolize the hearth at the heart of the home. Narrow strips of fabric, like logs used to build frontier cabins, radiated from the center square in stacks. Light fabrics representing the light of day were sewn on one side of the quilt. Dark fabrics representing night were sewn on the opposite side. This pattern was also known as the Sunshine and Shadow. Patterns depicting pinwheels, stars, flowers, animals, crops, biblical stories, and even schoolhouses followed. Women sewed as they lived, a tradition that continues to this day.

## March Birthdays

RESIDENTS

March 7<sup>th</sup> - Marilyn Pickle



Crabby Road

3-12-07

*I never bother turning my clock ahead. It's easier to just show up for everything an hour late.*



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