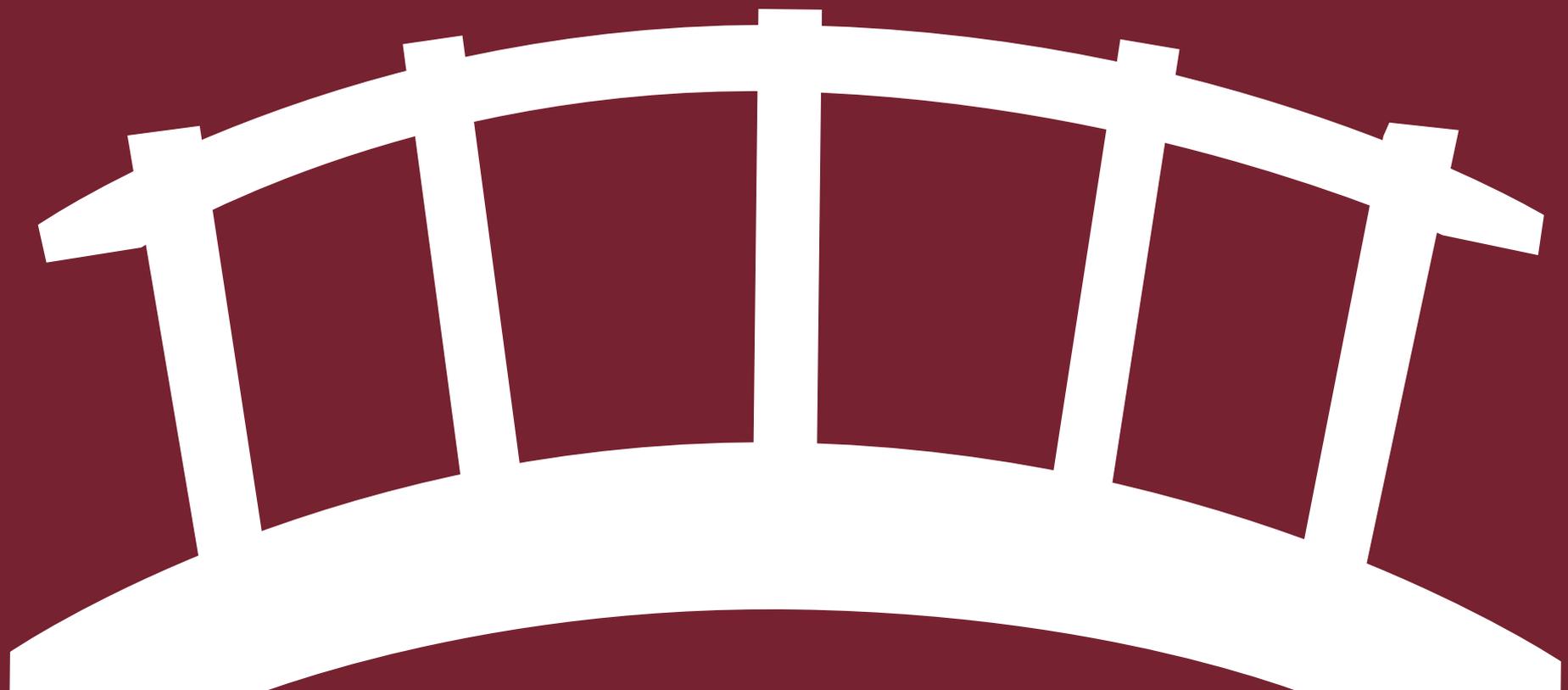


Storytelling through
Mementos





Storytelling through
Mementos

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We are so grateful for the strong relationships we have built with the staff and administrators at care facilities throughout Central New York. Without these partnerships we would not have been able to work with and record the stories of the diverse mix of older adults that fill the exhibition and this catalog. In particular, this project wouldn't have been possible without the residents and staff of The Hearth at Greenpoint (Liverpool, NY), The Loretto Health and Rehabilitation Center (Syracuse, NY), The Manor at Seneca Hill (Oswego, NY), Morningstar Residential Care Center (Oswego, NY), and St. Luke Health Services (Oswego, NY).

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began, but we are thrilled that they stuck with it. They each went the extra mile in their own way and made this exhibition what it is.

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Most importantly, though, this project was only possible because of the storytellers highlighted in these pages. Each one opened their hearts, shared their personal objects, and provided all of us with perspectives we hadn't considered before.

With Gratitude,
Michael Flanagan and Rebecca Mushtare (Project Co-Directors)

Introduction

Recollections: Storytelling Through Mementos is a project that connects generations through personal objects that individual owners hold close. Project participants used objects to share their individual histories but also to open up conversations about time, place, experience and meaning. We discovered that even objects that seem somewhat innocuous (like a cup, a pile of Play-Doh, or a photo) can hold deep meaning.

The stories included in these pages were gathered through facilitated storytelling workshops. Participants were asked to bring an object that has meaning for them and to share its history and meaning with a small group—often with acquaintances and community members that they see regularly, but may never have had a personal conversation with.

Through these objects we witnessed communities learning more about each other and through these objects we learned more about ourselves. We hope that looking at these objects and hearing these stories will spark memories and your own storytelling. Better yet, ask someone about an object they have, when and how they obtained it, why they keep it—you might be surprised at what you learn.

Hobbies & Collections

What we do in our leisure time is often what brings us, or those close to us, joy. Sometimes these are little things like getting lost in a novel, and other times it might mean hard work to practice and master a new skill. The objects in this collection store a great deal of smiles, laughs, and delight.



Accordion

Sister Myra

The Hearth at Greenpoint



Sister Myra grew up in Auburn with a family that enjoyed music. She remembers wanting an accordion that she saw in a shop window while dropping off her laundry one day. Unfortunately, her mother declined when she asked for it because \$80 was too expensive. She begged her father, “Oh Pop please!” Weeks later, Sister Myra went by the store window again, but she noticed the accordion was gone! When she asked the store keeper to describe the person that bought the accordion, it sounded like it was her father. Excitedly, she waited for Christmas morning. She checked under the tree and there it was—the accordion from the store window. She was so happy!

Years later after Sister Myra returned from the convent, she noticed her accordion had fallen apart. Her mother bought her a new one and after getting her permission to play, Sister Myra played at various nursing homes. Her current accordion is 60 years old.



A Picture of Peg with Her Father (1939-40)

Margaret Williams

Morningstar Residential Care Center

This is a photo of Margaret (Peg for short) and her father posing by a train in 1939-40. Peg was the oldest child and grew up near Syracuse. Her father loved trains and would frequently take her on day trips while her mother stayed home with her siblings. Going on these trips and spending time with her father are some of Peg's most special memories.



Kindle

Roxanne

The Manor at Seneca Hill

Roxanne is a retired elementary school teacher. She loves having a kindle. She uses it for a number of activities including video chatting with her four and six-year-old grandkids, playing games, and lobbying. She has also used her kindle to write three articles for a local history publication.



Muu Muu

Sister Michaelen Cabral

The Hearth at Greenpoint

When Sister Michaelen visited Hawaii she was fascinated by the hula dancing. She learned how to hula dance and now owns three hula dresses.

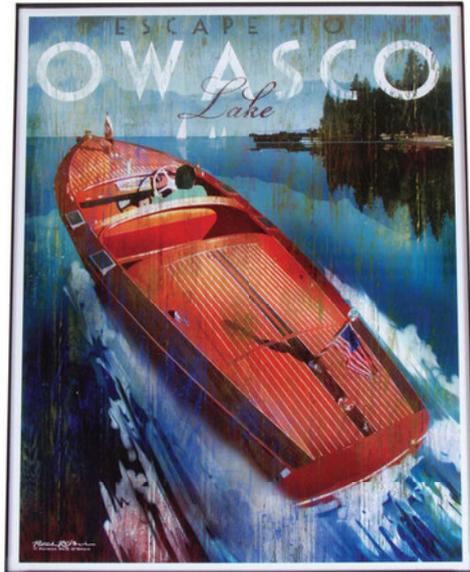


Photo of Dragster

Corrine Cannellos

The Hearth at Greenpoint

Corrine brought in two photos— one of her husband, and another of him with his drag racing car. He raced in the Central New York area including Fulton and Utica. Decades later, the car is still in the family even though no one races anymore. Her husband also served on an “escort” plane and crossed the Atlantic Ocean during WWII. At home, her husband worked as an auto mechanic. He later opened the popular pizzeria, Cosmos, near Syracuse University.

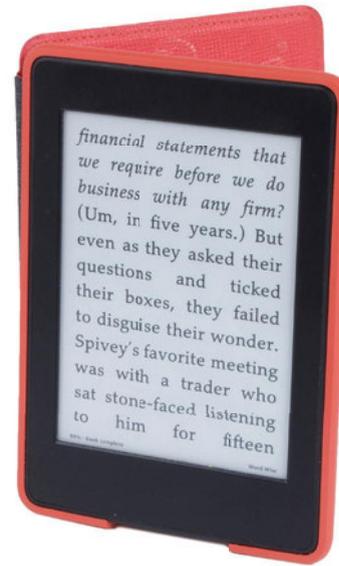


Lake Owasco Poster

Cynthia

The Loretto Health and Rehabilitation Center

This poster was a gift for Cynthia and her husband from their son one year for Christmas. In the 1950s, Cynthia and her husband bought a red boat similar to the one in the poster. They often took the boat to the in-law's house, or to a camp on Owasco Lake. While boating, Cynthia and her husband didn't do much fishing because neither of them liked to put worms on the hook. However, they were able to coax their children to bait the hooks, so they turned out to be good fishers!



Kindle

Pat

St. Luke Health Services

Pat was an only child growing up so reading was very important to her since a young age. After she had a stroke, it became difficult for Pat to turn the pages and hold a book with one hand. Now, she uses a kindle and already has 500 books on it. Although Pat doesn't have a favorite book, she recommends the authors: Terry Pratchett, Stephanie Plum, and Janet Evanovich.



Grandpa Pete, Grandma, and Papa

Nancy Bregard

Morningstar Residential Care Center

Nancy won these figurines playing bingo and each of them remind her of a special person in her life. Nancy was raised by her aunt and uncle, John and Helen. They had four biological children and treated Nancy as their own daughter. She remembers everyone piling into the station wagon and traveling to different states. When Nancy got married, her husband Pete was another addition to the family and would travel with them! Shortly after she came to Morningstar, she won two of the figurines and they immediately reminded her of her aunt and uncle. Not too long ago, she won her third figurine, which reminds her of her late husband, Pete. She keeps these figurines in her room and every time she looks at them she thinks of her husband, aunt, and uncle.



Seahorse (pen)

Karen

The Loretto Health and Rehabilitation Center

Karen has collected seahorses after finding a dried-out seahorse at her father's house.



Magazines

Steve

St. Luke Health Services

Steve loves reading about science and learning new things.



Photo of Husband in Holland

Bev

St. Luke Health Services

This photo was taken when Bev and her husband, Dale, were on trip in Holland. Dale was an avid gardener and had won a trip to Europe after entering his essay titled, "How to Grow Things" in a contest. Not only did they get to visit Holland, but they also went to Switzerland, Germany, Brussels, and Amsterdam!



Tomato

Equillar Love

The Loretto Health and Rehabilitation Center

Equillar's daughter Betty and two of her grandkids brought in a ripe tomato to represent Equillar's love for gardening. Equillar had a flower garden in her front yard and a vegetable garden in her backyard that consisted of red and green tomatoes, cucumbers, and collard greens. Although her interest for gardening didn't begin until 1974 after she raised her children, it brought back memories of her own upbringing. Equillar grew up in Alabama, where she was surrounded by a vegetable garden, chickens, and pigs. Equillar was very involved in helping raise Betty's four older children and her grandsons even spent time with her in the garden. She always protected the grandkids against bees while also battling rabbits and bugs in her garden.

Friendship & Support

New places, transitions, and tough circumstances are often overcome with the help and support of a good friend. A small gift or gesture of kindness from a good friend can warm our hearts in a way that nothing else can. These stories inspire us all to take the time to be that good friend.



Photo of Annie

Mabel

Morningstar Residential Care Center

“A yellow and white kitty was brought to us by my grand-daughter in a cardboard box. She was six months old and we fell in love with her. She liked Leo. When she was bigger, we let her out, but she always came back to the door. When we went outside, she always followed Leo wherever he went. When he sat in a lawn chair, she'd lay on the ground near him. When we had to move, we couldn't have our kitty and gave it to a nice family. Later, we had a birthday party for Leo and the people brought the kitty to see us.”

Mabel and her husband were given a cat they named Annie, eight or nine years ago and although Annie doesn't live with them anymore, they still get to see her occasionally. The last time they saw Annie was in April for her husband, Leo's, 100th birthday party.



Jack Brahman Bull Statue

Randy Bowling

The Loretto Health and Rehabilitation Center

Randy grew up on a farm in East Texas where his family raised beef cattle, including a Brahman bull named Jack. Randy bottle fed Jack and raised him until he was big enough to ride. Unfortunately, as the bull got older, he began to throw Randy whenever he rode him. Due to Jack becoming dangerous, Randy's dad advised that he should be sold before he hurt someone. Although Randy was sad to see Jack auctioned off, he is glad to be left with a Brahman Bull Statue that is branded with his initials.



Pair of Decorated Chopsticks

Kimberly Grunden

State University of New York at Oswego

Kim considers these chopsticks a token of friendship with her Korean friend, Whimin. Whimin was one of Kim's first friends in college after initially feeling isolated in Oswego. He brought these chopsticks back from Korea, and although Kim has never used the them, she carries them with her everywhere. Whimin often travels back and forth between Oswego and Korea and he even tutors Kim in Korean language.



Letter from a Friend

Jackie

The Manor at Seneca Hill

Since Jackie moved to Seneca Hill two years ago, she and her friend had been writing letters back and forth. This letter was written the day before her friend passed away. Her friend's son found the letter and mailed it to Jackie with a note of the outside of the envelope indicating how much his mother loved Jackie.



Bouquet of Yellow Flowers

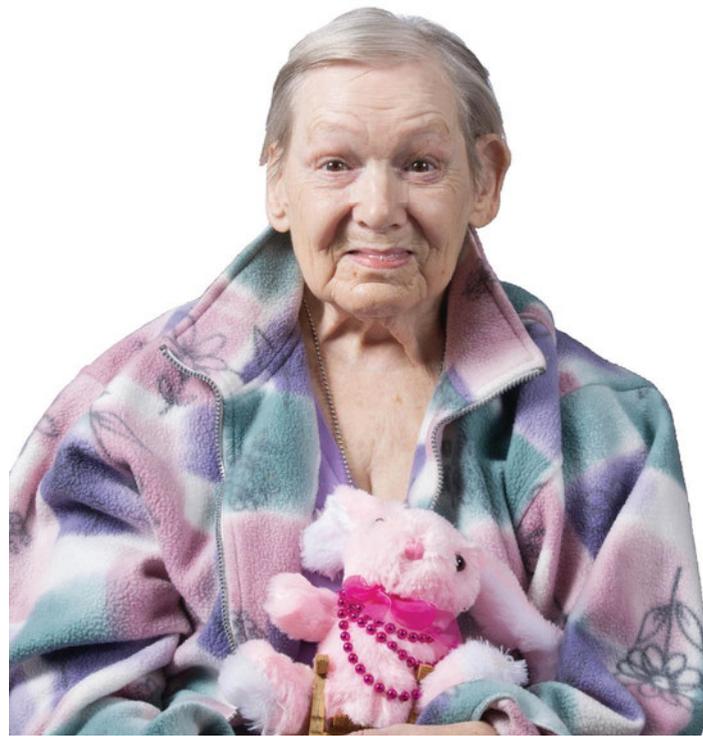
June

The Manor at Seneca Hill

This artificial bouquet of yellow flowers is from June's best friend, Kaye. Kaye gave them to her when she moved to Seneca Hill. They have been best friends for 68 years and every couple of weeks, Kaye's daughter brings her to visit June. Kaye is like a sister to June as they've raised their families together and been through the good and the bad times.

Joy

An unexpected surprise, the energy and shenanigans of small children, a humorous poem—all of these things can bring us immense joy that we desperately want to bottle up and keep for later. This collection of objects is the embodiment of “bottling up joy” because engaging with these objects helps us relive that original moment of joy, whether big or small.



"Annie Pink" Stuffed Bunny Jane

The Loretto Health and Rehabilitation Center

Annie Pink is the name of a stuffed bunny that was given to Jane by her daughter, Karen, around Easter time. The bunny's name came from a cat they used to own that was also named Annie Pink and Jane always liked that name. The stuffed bunny brings her joy and puts a smile on her face every time she sees it sitting on top of her dresser.



Photos of Grandchildren

Sheila

The Manor at Seneca Hill

This photo of Sheila's grandkids hangs on her wall so she can see them every day.



Photo Album of My Missionary Endeavor

Mary Harold

The Hearth at Greenpoint

This album documents the "extraordinary experiences" she had during her missionary trip.



Cup and Saucer

Mary Berry

The Hearth at Greenpoint

“It’s always fun when you go on a trip to bring someone a gift. That’s what my sister did for me. She brought me a unique bone china cup and saucer, and told me to hold it up and look inside. I saw a beautiful Japanese girl’s face. It has always been special to me, as I lost my sister shortly after. It was a very lovely gift that I will always treasure.” Mary keeps this cup and saucer on her bookcase.



Photo of Glenn Dancing

Glenn

St. Luke Health Services

This photo shows Glenn dancing with Louella (Lou) at an afternoon dance last year. Lou is “a good friend of mine,” says Glenn. Glenn played the guitar in a family country band with his brothers in the ‘50s and ‘60s called the Thomas Ray Hillbillies. They played around the area including Oswego, Pulaski, and Mexico. Although they didn’t make much money when they played, they always had a good time. Some of the music they played was by Johnny Cash, Hank Williams, and Ernest Tubb.



Collection of Earrings

Kayla

State University of New York at Oswego

Kayla has been collecting earrings since she was in high school and keeps them on her desk. Her ears have been pierced since she was a baby. One of her favorite pairs are Eiffel Tower earrings that she got from her sister. Her earrings bring her joy and selecting a pair to wear each day is a fun aspect of getting ready for her!



Chipmunk

"Chipmunk" (Virginia Trousdale)

The Loretto Health and Rehabilitation Center

Virginia has such a love for chipmunks, that her nickname is chipmunk! This chipmunk is a special gift from a friend of Virginia's that knew how much she cherished them. The chipmunk sits on top of a yellow chipmunk box underneath a chipmunk banner, all which honor Virginia's 88th birthday.

Comfort & Protection

This collection of stories reveals how objects can help us to feel comforted in times of distress because they remind us of important people and places. Objects like this help capture the cozy and loving feelings of “home” when we can’t be there or when the physical place no longer feels the same.



Tommy

Rasheda McLean

State University of New York at Oswego

Rasheda got her stuffed animal named Tommy for Christmas when she was ten. She has a large collection of stuffed animals, but Tommy is her favorite. Tommy usually stays in her room but whenever she goes on an extended trip, he tags along. Every once in awhile, Rasheda will buy Tommy a new outfit to wear. He is well loved besides a couple holes from Rasheda trying to give him a haircut when she was younger.



Photo of "Blue"

Fran

St. Luke Health Services

Fran's cat, Blue, is about 15 years old now and was brought home by Fran's son when he was just a kitten. One day while he was sleeping on the couch he woke up to Blue scratching his face! He woke up bleeding and angry but quickly realized Blue was chasing a bat that got in the house and was merely trying to get Fran's attention. Fran hasn't seen Blue in a few years but he misses him and talks about how well-trained he was.



Rick Clinton

Anne

St. Luke Health Services

After her husband passed away, Anne's grandson found her crying in her bedroom because she was lonely. Her grandson gave her a Rick Clinton Cabbage Patch Kid to lie on her husband, Bill's, side of the bed. Anne has had this doll since 1993 and promised she would give it back to him. Now, her grandson has two daughters of his own, and Anne keeps the cabbage patch kid sitting on a shelf in her room.



Aeromic Balm

Ngan Nguyen

State University of New York at Oswego

Ngan is from Vietnam and didn't bring much with her when she came to SUNY Oswego. She got the balm on a trip to Hoi An with her friends five years ago. The balm is about the size of a quarter and is in a red tin with a star shape on it. Ngan says that the balm reminds her of home and the trip she went on with her friends.



Box Cutter

Kelsi

State University of New York at Oswego

Kelsi's dad always had a box cutter on him no matter where they went, even to her grandma's for dinner. When Kelsi moved away, her dad gave the box cutter to her in order to protect herself. However, the box cutter was used so much when it belonged to her dad that the blade is rounded now and it's questionable how useful it actually is. Kelsi keeps the box cutter in her car because it makes her feel safe.



Giggles

Agnes Rowlee

Morningstar Residential Care Center

Agnes bought this doll about three or four years ago and named her Giggles. The doll sits on her bed during the day and sleeps in it every night. Giggles is heavy and resembles the realistic weight of a six month old baby. When you squeeze her belly, the doll kicks her legs and giggles. Giggles brings comfort to Agnes, especially when she holds her.

Hand-Crafted

One-of-a-kind objects, like those that are handmade, capture something important about our humanity that a manufactured or mass-produced item never can. Often made by someone close to us, they are created to meet a particular need or reflect a particular quirk that only a few could fully understand. Although these particular objects speak directly to their owners, they represent the feeling we get when someone takes the time and attention just for us.



Paper Dress

Ruth

The Hearth at Greenpoint

This linen and crepe paper dress was hand-made for Ruth by her aunt over 80 years ago to wear in a parade. In the contest, her costume won first place! The dress is now kept safe sandwiched between extra bedding (so safe that Ruth almost couldn't find it to bring it).



Hand-Drawn License

Jackie

The Manor at Seneca Hill

“You need a license to drive one of these,” Jackie stated as she talked about her powered wheelchair. She showed her license, which was signed by staff. She is allowed 30 warnings, although she is down to 24. She also added that she may need a mechanic because the powered chairs run on batteries, so if you drive too fast or too far, you could end up stranded!



Oak Side Table

Pat

The Hearth at Greenpoint

This oak table was just one of the many items Pat’s father built for her when she was 25 years old. She keeps the side table next to her chair and uses it every day. She likes that it’s a functional object that also has so many memories attached to it. Pat’s father is still alive today at 90 years old.



Flaptail Fly Fishing Lure

Leo

Morningstar Residential Care Center

Leo was introduced to flaptail fishing lures when he had his friends over for a Muskie dinner one night. This kind of lure was eventually outlawed because it made it too easy to catch Muskies and Bass. Leo received an original flaptail lure back in 1960 that was worth \$750, but then he started making his own. He whittles them out of wood, paints them red and white and then draws a line from top to bottom while adding the tail to the bottom of the white side. The tail is the part that flaps in the water. He has made a total of 40 or 50 of these lures and has given each of them away.

Leo remembers one night when he was out in his night clothes and slippers fishing on the river. The lure fell out of the muskies' mouth, so he had to wrestle the fish. The fish was 31 lbs. and over four feet long!

Survival

The objects in this collection capture the spectrum of survival, from the ways we make our day to day lives a little less stressful to the symbols of triumph over what could have been. They symbolize our ability, as humans, to endure daily struggles to battles for our lives.



Pop Tops

Helen

The Manor at Seneca Hill

Helen remembers when she was 12 years old making donuts in the kitchen. She was on the last batch of donuts when she spilled hot donut oil down the front of her. Her sister screamed bloody murder and panicked. One neighbor ran over to help the girls while other neighbors called the ambulance and police. Helen was taken to the hospital where they had to fly in supplies from a hospital in Canada. Afterwards, Helen ended up being okay besides having a scar on her thigh that was the size of an orange. Helen was inspired by the help she received from the Shriners and now collects pop tops in support of hospitals. She has collaborated with the Shriners, the Daughters of the Nile, and local stores collecting pop tops to fund hospitals across the U.S. and build a new hospital in Mexico.

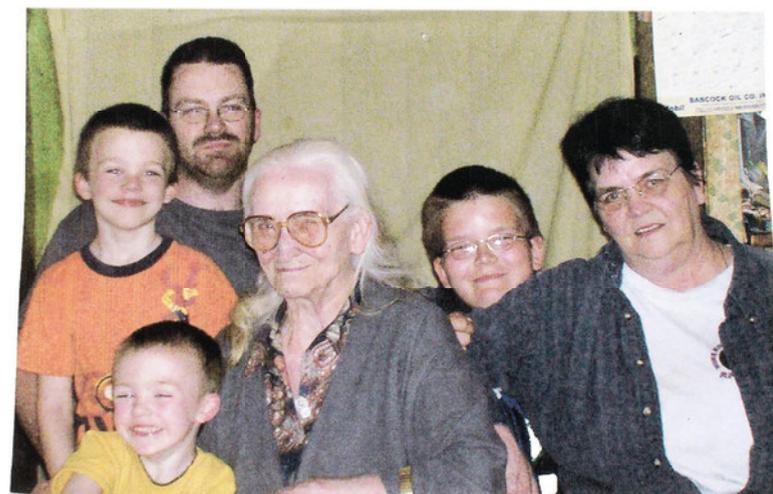


American Flag with Eagle

Dave

St. Luke Health Services

Dave grew up in Oswego and has two sons and one daughter. This flag brings him back to the 1950s, when he was stationed in Korea for 16 months during and after the Korean War. Dave was a Communications Officer in the Army which made him in charge of all communications for his company. He had this throughout his time in Korea and still holds it close to him today. Dave has a lot of good memories and great experiences when thinks of the flag and his time in the army.



Family Photo

Sandra Hollenbeck

Morningstar Residential Care Center

Sandy grew up on a farm in Minnetto. This family photo includes Sandy, her sons, her grandchildren, and her mother. Sandy was diagnosed with breast cancer around the time this photo was taken but has beat it since! Sandy is now a great-grandmother.



Photograph of Me & Grandma

Liliya

State University of New York at Oswego

Liliya keeps this photo of her and her grandma in her room. This photo is important because it documents the first time she really felt bonded with her grandma. Liliya found out that decades ago, her grandmother helped hide and shelter young Ukrainian men from Russians trying to force them to fight in Afghanistan. She is very proud and has a lot of respect for her grandmother because of this.



Planner

Carly

State University of New York at Oswego

“My planner comes with me everywhere, it is like my ‘baby.’ I write down everything: tan, mail gift, do laundry. I might have OCD. I always highlight when things are due.” Carly’s planner became important to her in her junior year of high school when her schedule got heavier. She uses sticky notes to augment the planner with checklists. Choosing the right planner is key.

Heritage

The objects highlighted in this collection reveal stories about the people, experiences, and circumstances that make us who we are. Sometimes these stories are grounded in early childhood, but sometimes the defining moments in our lives happen later and are not necessarily rooted in how we were brought up.

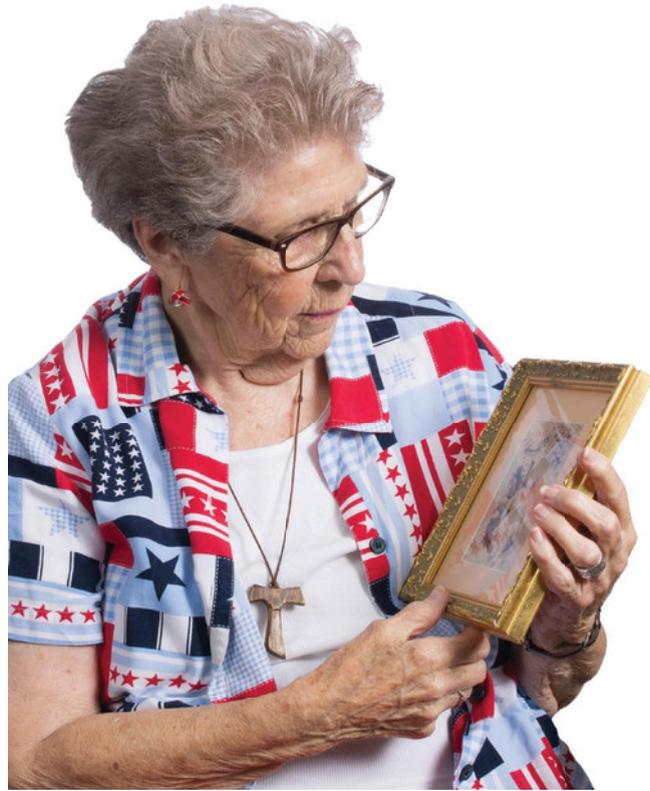


Photo of Irish Grandfather

Francis Fidelis Bonvouloir

The Hearth at Greenpoint

Fran brought in a photo of her and her grandfather from about 1924—one year after she was born. While both of her grandparents were born in Ireland, Fran grew up in West Hartford, Connecticut, where her childhood house is still in the family today. She has memories of going to the “sulky” races (harness racing) when she was a young girl. Although Fran had an Irish Catholic upbringing, her husband was of French and German extraction. After they got married, they moved to Rochester, NY. Fran has a number of original artworks including carvings by her husband and says that she misses seeing the art at the Hearth.



Doll with Yellow Dress and Cow Pattern

Grace

The Manor at Seneca Hill

Grace's sister gave her this doll about a month ago. Grace has always loved dolls and she even grew up owning many dolls. This doll is special to her because it reminds her of her mother, who grew up in the country.



Nightlight

Robert

St. Luke Health Services

This nightlight was a gift that brings back memories of the animal park Robert opened in 1962, called "Grandpa Bob's Animal Park." The animal park was in Mexico, NY and held over 200 animals in which were mostly acquired from auctions in Ohio. Robert's favorite animals were the camel and zebra. Sadly, he closed the park years later when his wife passed away.



G Fuel Stick Pack

Tyler Morgan

State University of New York at Oswego

“Ever since I can remember my father invested his blood, sweat and tears into his company: G Fuel. This company is a huge part of my life and fuels my compassion for video games and makes me want to strive like my father.” Tyler is inspired by his father’s hard work and dedication. His father started the company when Tyler was about five years old, so he has seen the entire process throughout his life on Long Island. Tyler has worked for the company on and off in multiple capacities including warehouse and graphic design. Although Tyler would prefer to be independent from his father, working for his father is always a good backup. G Fuel is an energy formula you mix with water and it is marketed mainly to video gamers.

Love & Strength

Love is powerful and can give us strength when we need it most. We often receive strength from photographs of the people and pets that have brought us the most joy in our lives and through gifts that those loved ones have given us a symbol of their affection.



Necklace with Wedding Rings

Kaye

The Manor at Seneca Hill

Kaye was married for 53 years before her husband, Dean, passed away. Now, she wears her engagement ring, wedding ring, and 50th anniversary ring on a necklace around her neck. Her husband surprised her with the ring for her 50th anniversary. She often thinks of Dean and even slips them on her pinky finger sometimes. She believes Dean is still with her and considers him her soulmate. Kaye says Dean was a good husband and took care of her and she misses him every day.



Photo of Heidi Ho

Ursula Miller Wolcik

Morningstar Residential Care Center

Ursula got her dog, Heidi Ho, while she was at a pig roast one summer in Fulton, NY. A dog was dropped off with her litter of puppies and Heidi Ho was the runt. She raised and trained Heidi Ho so if she said “bye bye,” the dog would get in the car, and if she said “come chase,” Heidi Ho would run out of the house to the nearby hill and watch for squirrels. Heidi Ho lived a long, loving life and died when she was 14 years old while staying at a kennel.



Mike

Nicole

State University of New York at Oswego

Nicole bought Mike for her dad when he was in the hospital at Upstate following a surgery. Her dad was “that guy” chosen in the audience for a comedy show that was related to Monsters, Inc. at Disney World. Since then, they have always had a connection with the movie and the character, Mike. Later, when Nicole was in the hospital, her dad gave Mike to her. Now it is just routine that they pass Mike back and forth to each other when one is in the hospital or otherwise away.



Glass and Metal Globe Clock

Miles Petersen

State University of New York at Oswego

Miles received this clock as a gift from his father at 8 years old. His parents work for non-profits overseas and his father regularly brings him unusual gifts from his travels. Some of these gifts have included parachute pants, seashells, and an umbrella. "My father was never good at understanding what to get me for gifts. After Christmas one year he came to my room and gave me this heavy glass and metal globe clock. He told me he was worried that I was not going to like it, which baffled me because I always accept his weird gifts. I never thought he cared, but I could tell he cared a lot. Every time I feel it's weight, I think of him." Miles' father is ill, so now the gifts are significantly more sentimental.



Wedding Band

Jean Falk

The Hearth at Greenpoint

Jean always wears her wedding band because it represents her fondest memories.



Ruby Red Souvenir Glass

Margaret Schneider

The Hearth at Greenpoint

This cup belonged to Margaret's grandmother. It is from the 1901 Pan American Exposition in Buffalo, where President McKinley was shot.



50th Anniversary Photo

Ruth Ann

The Hearth at Greenpoint

It was rare for the whole family to all be together but this was a family photo that was taken in 2002 at a surprise 50th anniversary celebration. Since then, Ruth's family has added three spouses and two great-grandchildren. When it came time to choose which treasures she wanted to bring with her when she moved, this photo was her first choice.

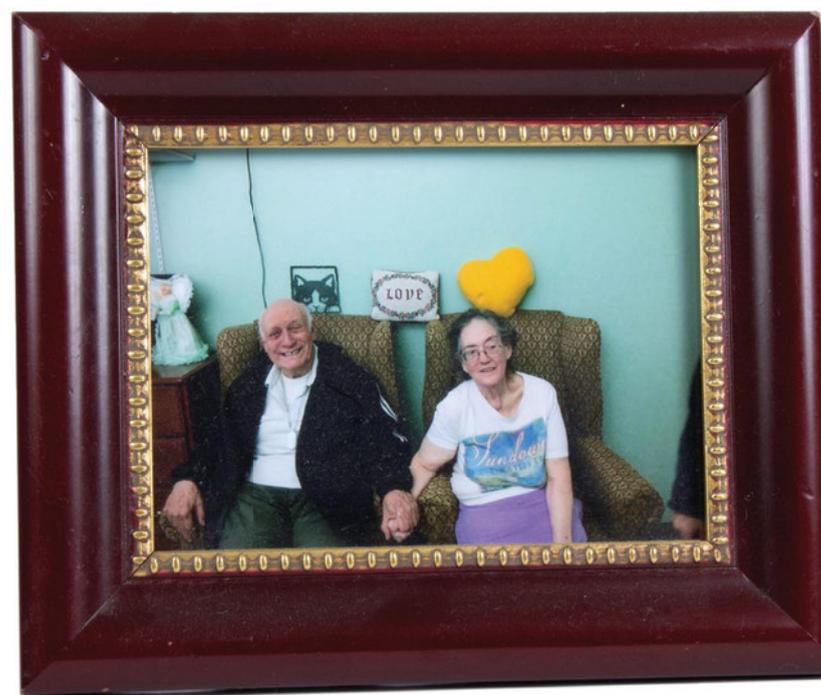


Photo of Thanksgiving 2015

Brian

St. Luke Health Services

Brian met his wife on September 1, 1967 at Mr. Mikes in Syracuse at 1:00 am. He saw three girls walk by the jukebox and asked his future wife to dance. Her friends teased her that night that they were going to get married. Then, not even a year later they were married on June 8, 1968. They moved to Oswego in 2013 after living in Phoenix, NY for 39 years. They used to say, “thanks for the laughter, thanks for the tears, thanks for the 39 years.” This photo was taken on Thanksgiving in 2015 when Brian’s wife was living at St. Luke’s and Brian was living in an apartment. Now, this photo is what keeps Brian going and renews his strength every time he looks at it on the shelf in his room at St. Luke’s.



Birth Moon Necklace

J.D.

The Loretto Health and Rehabilitation Center

“This necklace was given to me days before my husband passed away—he wanted to give me a last Christmas gift before he left our world. He left us 4 days after Christmas.” Her husband knew she admired a necklace that her sister-in-law wore, and he was determined to give it to her as one last Christmas gift. With the help of the sister-in-law, that’s exactly what he did. Her husband passed away 12 years ago, at age 53. Janice wears the necklace most days and it glows in the dark next to her bed every night.



Family Picture

Jean Z.

St. Luke Health Services

This photo was taken seven years ago at Jean’s daughter’s wedding. It includes Jean’s three brothers, sister, brother-in-law, and sister-in-law. Many of the people in the photo are gone now but she keeps the photo posted on her bulletin board. Jean said she had a great family and loves the memories that are associated with the picture.

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Storytelling through
Mementos