

# Do You Believe in Miracles?

## SummerField Suites

Each year I travel from Florida to New York to visit the cemetery and say prayers at my Dad's grave. Last year I tried to think of something to bring that would last longer than a bouquet of flowers. Since it was October, I decided that pumpkins would be just perfect. I bought one small pumpkin that was painted with a smiling, happy face and lovingly called it "Mom" because it reminded me of her as she is always cheerful and lives life to its fullest. I carefully placed it on the ground in front of the headstone. I also bought four miniature pumpkins to represent my brother, our spouses, and me. These four pumpkins were placed on the stone's ledge and now our whole family was together again. I said my prayers and left with a promise that I would return next year.

When I arrived in New York this year, 2010, and once again visited my Dad's grave, I found a plant growing in front of the headstone. After careful investigation I was shocked to discover that it was a pumpkin vine with two small pumpkins on it! This was amazing, especially since my Dad always loved to garden. How this pumpkin seed managed to get in the ground, winter over, and grow was a mystery. Was it divine intervention? No one planted the seed, no one watered it or fertilized it, but somehow it managed to flourish.

There are two plots side by side in the cemetery under my parents' headstone. Since my Mom is alive and well her side of the plot is empty, so it was put to good use by the growth of the pumpkin plant that just happened to cover up her name on the headstone. The two pumpkins, I felt, seemed to be the spirit of Mom and Dad. One pumpkin had a gash in it that told of Dad's illness; therefore, I had to leave it behind. The other pumpkin however was just perfect so I very carefully picked it and brought it home to Mom. I told her that Dad was still gardening from heaven and that he sent her this pumpkin to show her that he is always with her and loves her very much.

My mom, Jennie, was very excited by all this and began to tell everyone about the mysterious pumpkin. She even brought it to lunch one day so she could show the beautiful pumpkin to all her friends at SummerField Suites Assisted Living. Mom wondered if the pumpkin was just mysterious or could it prove to be magical as well. So... she then brought the pumpkin to bingo with her that very day in hopes that it would bring her good luck. Wow! It certainly did! She proceeded to win the first game, then another, and another, and yet another and then finally she even won the full card game. It just happened to be marathon bingo day so the games went on all day long. Mom stopped after an hour since she had managed to win a record 5 times in that short timeframe! Was it the magical pumpkin that allowed her to keep winning, or was it the bingo card itself? She decided to put it to the test so she left the bingo table, took her pumpkin with her, and generously offered her winning Bingo card another woman. Later that evening at dinner Mom asked the woman how many times she won with the bingo card she had given her and the woman sadly said not even once!

That clinched it, the pumpkin was truly MAGICAL...and I do believe our loved ones are never very far away for they are in our hearts, watching over us, guiding us through life's journey, and YES *I truly do believe in Miracles.*