

A VIEW FROM *the* PORCH

THE DIXON HOUSE INDEPENDENT AND ASSISTED LIVING

DIXONHOUSE.ORG • 410-822-6661 • 108 NORTH HIGGINS STREET

SPRING

2019

100th Birthday Celebration

Ellen Walbridge of Easton turned 100 at The Dixon House on February 26, 2019. On her birthday she stated, "I never dreamed I would be 100! It is a blessing to celebrate it." Ellen had several celebrations: a celebration at her church, the Church of the Brethren, the Dixon House Celebration, and dinner with family. She added, "Dixon House has kept me active. I walk around the block every morning with my son which gets things going for me."



Pictured is the Walbridge family. In the photo seated left to right: Ellen with daughter Lois Schall. Standing left to right son Gene Walbridge, daughter Carol Goss, her husband Jeffrey Goss, daughter Barbara McCann, and her husband Larry McCann

Ellen was born in West Virginia but had ties to the Eastern Shore. At age 15, she came to work at Fike Orchard in Skipton at the suggestion of her brother who knew the Fikes through church. While living here, she met Alvin Walbridge at a church social and the rest is history. Over the years, she supported her husband who started Walbridge Bros. with two of his brothers. Family is very important to her. She and her husband had five children, one boy, and four girls. She now has 10 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Walbridge moved to The Dixon House in 2017 after living independently. When asked about the reason for longevity, she states that her brother lived until age 96 and she never drank or smoked. She was active in 4-H, loved to garden (she tends the flowers at The Dixon House), and enjoyed knitting, crocheting, and sewing. She also loves to bake, helping with the baking activities at The Dixon House, and lemon meringue pie is her specialty.

At her celebration at The Dixon House, Ellen received salutations from Governor Hogan and from the Eastern Shore Delegates. Pastor Bill Glass played her favorite hymns on the accordion. Mayor Robert Willey gave her a free parking card for the town of Easton. Sheriff Joe Gamble gave her a "Get Out of Jail Free" card, which gave her a laugh. She stated, "I will try and be good!"



Pictured is Ellen Walbridge with Director Linda Elben as she blows out the candles of her cake at her 100th Birthday Celebration at Dixon House.

In 2018, the following individuals and organizations made contributions to Dixon House.

American Legion Post 70	Stephanie Sokso	Charles & Caroline Sproule
Brookletts Place	JoAnn & William Staples	Mrs. Nelson Trujillo
Judy Caswell Allen	Eric & Amelia Steward	Townebank Richmond Foundation
Della Andrew	Harriet McConnell	T.H. & Patricia Reynolds
Skip & Sandy Anthony	Nanny Trippe	Jefferson Haynes
Carol Armstrong	Samuel & Rosemary Trippe	David & Mary Ann Hazen
Christopher & Sandra Atwood	Eugene & Diane Walbridge	Mary Ann Hensinger
Craig & Vicki Atwood	John & Jennifer Waters	Doug & Melissa Honabach
Easton Volunteer Fire Department	Nancy Whitten	Francis & Jane Hopkinson
Robert Agreen	Lois Wimbrow	Mr & Mrs Richard Hynson Jr
David & Barbara Brown	Anonymous	Linda King
Jessie Browne	Edward & Mary Wyatt	Anne & William Kirby
Shore United Bank	Joseph & Donna Nizolek	Robert & Charlotte Krebs
Lawrence & Katherine Callahan	Edwin & Ruth Decker	Deborah Kudner
Ernest & Lynne Chadderton	Renee North	William Lane
Phyllis & J. Lee Bailey	Robert Dryden	Evelyn Leszczynski
Anonymous	H. Wade & Janice Dudrow	Mary Long
David and Pamela Baker	Evelyn Pierce	Greg Bailey
J.D. Balderson	Sandra Engel	John Atwood
Nancy Clem	Jon & Gloria Files	Dorothy Fenwick
Darryl & Ann McCaslin	Thomas Fountain	Dorothy Samonisky
Darlene McNeal	Greg Gannon	Craig & Monica Siebert
Roger & Heather Crow	Mary W. Ridgeway	Anonymous
P Dianne Dulin	Frances Seymour	Christ Church St. Michaels Episcopal Church Women
Philip Foster	John & Faye Shannahan	E.E. Streets Memorial Post 5118
Mark & Rhonda Higginbottom	Janice Miller	Easton Hardware
A.E. Kagan	Lynn Sharp	Livingston Septic Service
Phyllis Kuntz	Barry Shenton	Llandaff Family Trust
Carolyn Lane	Granville Fund	Oxford United Methodist Women
Deborah Luthy	Roberta Gribbon	Pixel, Print & Post
Gustav & Donna Schlag	Paul & Juanita Haddaway	Ruth and Robert St. John Foundation
Salila Shen	Dickie & Carol Messick	St. Marks United Methodist Church
Eva Smorzaniuk	Norma Lee Richardson	
Philip E. L. Dietz, Jr.	Faye Nave	
	John & Ethel North II	
	Harriett Downes-Slaughter	
	Suzanne Pittenger-Slear	

Letter from the Director

Linda Elben

Spring is here and Dixon House is ready for the change of seasons. Residents are enjoying having temperature control of their rooms with the third of four installments of new individual heating and cooling units in each resident's room. This project has been long-standing and we are excited to say that we are nearing the finish line!

One of our next projects is to fund a new bus for Dixon House. Most of our residents are still active, taking regular outings with our Activities Director Shelly LaRoque to local restaurants, concerts, museums and events and even afternoon outings to get ice cream. Unfortunately, our minivan is no longer able to handle the number of residents interested in our outings, is not handicapped accessible for those residents who need extra help, and its electric door no longer works. After a recent donation by a community member to take our residents out for a meal, we had to rent a bus to accommodate our residents. A new 14-passanger bus will cost \$69,000. While this vehicle would meet the needs of The Dixon House, it is not affordable for us at this time. We are seeking donors to help with this or a similar purchase. Call me if you are interested in donating to this worthwhile project.

Also, new this spring, we will be working on increasing our licensure to accommodate 20 residents, which would enable us to use one of our available rooms for a couple. We often have requests for couples to move into Dixon House, so this would give us this additional option.

Finally, this is the year of 100! We have had two 100th Birthday celebrations. Ellen Walbridge celebrated her 100th birthday on February 26 and Helen Crow will turn 100 years old on April 30th. We so enjoy these milestone celebrations and have been fortunate to have family, friends and dignitaries gather to share in our most recent resident birthdays.

Stop by for a visit and enjoy our porch this spring – it really is the best place in town to relax and enjoy nature bursting forth with our flowers blooming and birds singing.

Linda Elben
Executive Director

New Resident

Nancy Clem

Nancy Clem of Easton joined The Dixon House in July after living independently. Nancy grew up in Silver Spring, MD and received a Home Economics degree from the University of Maryland. She moved to Easton and initially worked as a Home Economics teacher at Easton High School before starting her family. She was married to Richard Clem and the two had three boys, JD, Darrin, and Warren. While raising her children, she worked as a substitute teacher for Talbot County Public Schools and for Wright's Fabrics. In 1983, Nancy was asked to be the executive director of Channel Marker, where she worked until 1998. During this time, she also served three terms on the Talbot County Council, between 1982 and 1994, as one of the first women on the Council. Among her other civic activities were working with the Homemaker's Club in Talbot County and the Talbot County 4-H. She left an indelible mark on the community with her service.

Nancy remembers that her dad asked each of her siblings at dinner each night what they had done for someone else that day. She reflects, "I grew up thinking of other people."

When asked about her role in business and politics, she states, "We had a beautiful community. Women had very good thoughts and were putting forth the efforts to get things done. Women care about issues like mental health and education – issues I care about."

Nancy always wanted to go to The Dixon House when the time was right. She comments, "This is a place I knew. I wanted to be here as I aged and retired. It feels like home to me. We are a community that takes care of its people – Dixon House is part of that."



Pictured is Nancy Clem

Around Our House



Country School students visit with Valentine crafts



Residents make shamrock pretzels



Another resident craft was to make handmade "no-sew" handwarmers.

Around Town



Residents enjoy a trip to the Academy Art Museum in Easton



Crazy 8's Card Game was a favorite among residents this winter



Snowman craft was a hit among residents

Dixon House Remembrances

The Dixon House mourns the passing of the following residents this fall and winter.



Hazel Porter Newnam (1918-2018)

She credited her long, healthy life (living to age 100!) to a good attitude, good friends and her Christian faith. Hazel had been at The Dixon House for the last three years, living alone before coming here. She was a native of Clairton, PA where she met William “Bill” Newnam. The two were married in 1940 and then Bill became a Marine and flew Corsairs in Japan as part of the U.S. peacekeeping efforts during World War II. The couple lived in Oxford in the late 1940s after the war ended. Bill purchased Maryland Airlines, a private charter business, where he continued his love of flying. He taught Hazel to fly when she was in her 50s. The couple ran Maryland Airlines until the 1990s and during this time Bill also managed Easton’s Airport. After her husband died in May 1991, the Airport name was changed to Easton Airport/Newnam Field. She was a faithful member of The Oxford Methodist Church and, not only sang in the choir but led the MYF (Methodist Youth Fellowship) and served as a member of the WSCS (Women’s Society of Christian Service). She also served a number of years as a volunteer for the Memorial Hospital Auxiliary. The couple had two daughters, Suzanne Towers (now deceased) and Debbie Kudner. Hazel also had four grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Her 100th Birthday Celebration at Dixon House in August was a testimony to her love of a good time.



George Jared Irwin (1924-2019)

George Jared Irwin lived at The Dixon House for the last four-and-one-half years where he enjoyed sitting on the front porch. George was a native of Hartford Township, Ohio. He served as a First Lieutenant in the Marine Corps during World War II. He was a graduate of Notre Dame with a B.S. degree in chemical engineering. He worked for the DuPont Company for 35 years during which he held technical and supervisory positions in New York, Indiana and Delaware. After his retirement, he worked full-time with Patterson Schwartz Realtors. He married Donna Wattengel, with whom he had three children. They eventually divorced, and she preceded him in death. George is survived by his three children: Robert Irwin, John Irwin, and Salila Shen and two grandsons. He loved playing badminton and tennis and skiing with his family. He is also survived by his devoted friend Nancy Whitten, her daughter Barbara Whitten Debnam, and two granddaughters. After retirement, George moved to Easton with Nancy and spent many happy years on the Chesapeake Bay and New England waters. He was a true gentleman and always had a smile and warm greeting for everyone.



James Franklin “Frankie” Milligan (1936-2019)

Frank Milligan had been at the Dixon House for eight months. He worked at the former Acme Cannery in Hurlock as a yard foreman for many years. He later worked as a school crossing guard in Hurlock. He was a proud member of the Hurlock Volunteer Fire Company for over 50 years and a member of Unity Washington United Methodist Church. He was preceded in death by three sisters: Eileen Jones, Virginia Stover, and Dortha McGuire, and a nephew, Richard “Dickie” Jones. He is survived by five nieces, three nephews, and several great-nieces and great-nephews. Mr. Frank enjoyed Dixon House outings, including going to get an iced coffee from McDonald’s.

Staff Profile

Deborah Stanford

Deborah Stanford of Cambridge has been working at The Dixon House for the last two years as a Housekeeper. She helps residents with their housekeeping and in the dining room or as she describes it, “I do whatever needs to be done.” It is a calling that she enjoys very much and according to Linda Elben, Executive Director, one that she does well, with residents really connecting with her.

She reflects on being a caregiver most of her life, providing private sitting and working in nursing homes, “I love working with the elderly and hearing about their lives – they are such lovable people. I never knew my own grandparents, so it is special working with them.” She adds, “There is a lot of joy here.”



Pictured is Dixon House Housekeeper Deborah Stanford



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THE DIXON HOUSE

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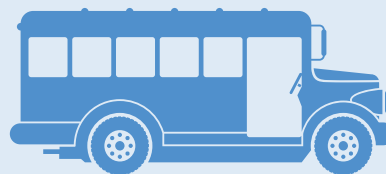
Mike Thielke

Phyllis Widerkehr

Dorothy Samonisky

The mission of The Dixon House, a non-profit independent and assisted-living facility, is to provide high quality and affordable residential care to seniors in an enriching home-like environment.

WISH LIST



A bus

Individual easels for residents

A large easel to display the residents' artwork

Canvas boards for painting

Paint brushes

Volunteers needed for calling Bingo, doing crafts, decorating the bulletin board, playing music, or singing.

Call Shelly LaRoque at 410-822-6661.