

A VIEW FROM *the* PORCH

THE DIXON HOUSE INDEPENDENT AND ASSISTED LIVING

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

SPRING

2018

New Resident: Irene Taylor



Pictured is resident Irene Taylor with her daughter Ellen Benjamin.

Irene Taylor, age 96, of Cambridge joined the Dixon House family in November after living independently on her family's farm. Irene got pneumonia and was rehabilitating at Baleigh Chase when the family realized she wouldn't be able to return to her daughter Ann's house, where she had been living since suffering a stroke, and needed more of an assisted-living facility.

Daughter Ellen Benjamin comments, "What impressed us about Dixon House was the house itself and how similar it was to the farm house we grew up in with our mom. We knew she would be comfortable here. It just looked like home."

Since arriving at Dixon House, the family has taken part in Thanksgiving Dinner and the Dixon House Christmas Party. When this interview was being done, Irene was getting ready to have her birthday celebration at Dixon House and her daughter had come to celebrate with her.

Ellen adds, "She liked it a lot when she arrived and settled in right away. Since then, her health and outlook has actually really improved. She used to stay in her room all the time. Now, she enjoys coming to the living room with the other residents and is able to participate in activities and entertainment. We even took a field trip together to watch a play at the Country School one day."

Irene is enjoying the cooking at Dixon House as it reminds her of her own cooking she did on the farm. She was a stay-at-home mom for much of her life, raising daughters Ellen, Ann, Darlene, and Evelyn, and son, David. In her late 60s, she decided to become a CNA and provided private duty and home care nursing well into her 80s, specializing in Alzheimer patients. She has eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

In 2017, the following individuals and organizations made contributions to Dixon House.

Judy Caswell Allen	Mr & Mrs Robert Denise	Diane Lusby
Della Andrew	Robert Dryden	John Atwood
Sandy Anthony	H. Wade & Janice Dudrow	Gregory Bailey
Carol Armstrong	Debbie Eil	Dorothy Fenwick
Christopher & Sandra Atwood	Sandra Engel	Joan Muzillo
Craig & Vicki Atwood	Jon & Gloria Files	Dorothy Samonisky
Forest & Isabel Bedel	Thomas Fountain	Craig & Monica Siebert
David & Barbara Brown	Greg Gannon	Anonymous
Jessie Browne	Gary & Kathy Gannon	Christ Church St. Michaels
Drew & Cynthia Buniski	Richard & Susan Granville	Episcopal Church Women
Lawrence & Katherine Callahan	Roberta Gribbon	Cutts & Case
Ernest & Lynne Chadderton	Paul & Juanita Haddaway	E.E. Streets Memorial Post 5118
John & Judith Coyne	Dickie & Carol Messick	Eastern Shore Charitable Foundation
Anonymous	Faye Nave	Easton Hardware
Gustav & Donna Schlag	John & Ethel North II	Easton B.O.P Elks Lodge No. 1622
Salila Shen	Paul & Lou Ann Parson	Easton Utilities Commission
Eva Smorzaniuk	William Reybold	Livingston Septic Service
Stephanie Sokso	T.H. & Patricia Reynolds	Llandaff Family Trust
JoAnn & William Staples	Laurence & Lynda Haley	Michelle Pellegrino
Eric & Amelia Steward	Jefferson Haynes	Morgan Stanley
Rudolph & Nancy Strickland	David & Mary Ann Hazen	Oxford United Methodist Women
Nancy Trippe	Mary Ann Hensinger	Parker Counts Melton & Goodman
Samuel & Rosemary Trippe	Thomas & Laura Hollingshead	Pixel, Print & Post
Eugene & Diane Walbridge	Doug & Melissa Honabach	Ruth and Robert St. John Foundation
John & Jennifer Waters	Francis & Jane Hopkinson	St. Marks United Methodist Church
Nancy Whitten	Mr & Mrs Richard Hynson Jr	Robert Agreen
Lois Wimbrow	Linda King	
Anonymous	Anne & William Kirby	
Edward & Mary Wyant	Robert & Charlotte Krebs	
Henry and Wanda Cumberland	Deborah Kudner	
Edwin & Ruth Decker	William Lane	
	Evelyn Leszczynski	
	Paul & Mary Long	

Around the House: Our Recent Renovations



Photo #1: Our beautifully redone Dining Room reflects an elegant yet comfortable atmosphere.

Photo #2: Our bright Salon has a pop of color, making it an inviting place to come.

Photo #3: New wallpaper and upholstery make a welcoming foyer.

Letter from the Director

Linda Elben



Linda Elben, Director, in front of windows that will need replacing in the coming year at Dixon House.

Warmer weather is right around the corner and residents are anxious to get out on the porch and enjoy the new spring blooms in our revitalized front garden and the arrival of the birds. We have finalized our interior renovations and the interior of the house is looking amazing. Everyone who visits comments about the light and airy feeling we have created. This year, we hope to raise enough funds to wallpaper and carpet the second floor of Dixon House. It takes the community's help to maintain this grand old Victorian home.

Another financial goal for this year is raise enough funds to paint the house's exterior window trim and wooden shutters for all 49 windows. We need to meet the guidelines of the historic district in this project, so funds are appreciated to help us meet this goal. We are also hoping to attain a grant

or donation to help purchase a handicapped vehicle that will seat 12 to 14 people to transport Dixon House residents on the many outings we take during the year. This service is something our residents especially enjoy.

On the resident side, we are enjoying some very significant celebrations. Two residents are turning 99 years of age: Ms. Ellen Walbridge turned 99 in February and Ms. Helen Crow will turn 99 in April. In August, resident Ms. Hazel Newnam will turn 100 years old. She is young at heart and always sharing a smile.

Finally, I would be remiss if I didn't thank everyone who donated to the 2017 Dixon House Annual Appeal. It was one of our most successful appeals and your donations have helped us to move our plans forward in improving both the interior and exterior of the house. We hope you will continue to think of Dixon House in your estate planning. The support of our friends continues to enable us to make Dixon House just like home.

Happy Spring!

Linda Elben
Executive Director

Staff Profile: Brittany Jarboe



She always has a smile on her face. Brittany Jarboe, Activities Director at Dixon House likes to have fun! She entered the healthcare field in 2011 when she became an aide at Candlelight Cove in Easton. She then joined Dixon House as an aide in July 2014. She is a certified Medicine Technician. She then became Activities Director – a job she adores.

Brittany comments, "I love the creativity of my job and seeing the smile on the residents' faces when they enjoy something I have planned."

Among the inhouse activities that Brittany organizes are visits by animals, a variety of crafts, exercise, dance, entertainment, and baking. Outside outings include walks, scenic drives, participation in the Brookletts Senior Center programs, and trips to the Oxford Ferry and the Creamery, the Academy Art Museum, and lunches out. She also organizes all the residents' birthday parties at Dixon House.

She adds, "It's like a family here and a home – it's a very comfortable environment for residents. I try and get to know the residents' interests and hobbies and incorporate them into the activities I plan."

Around Our House



Creative Corner Day Care stopped by for an Easter Egg Hunt.



The residents enjoyed baking Valentine's Day cookies.



Bay Country Quartet serenaded the residents for Valentine's Day.

Dixon House Remembrances

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



Julia Anne "Judy" Hickman (1927-2017)

Julia "Judy" Hickman died on November 14, 2017 after a brief battle with cancer at Talbot Hospice House in Easton. Judy was born in Princess Anne, MD, graduating from Washington High School and the Memorial Hospital School of Nursing in Wilmington, DE. She worked as a registered nurse at Memorial Hospital until retiring in 1989. She then volunteered at Talbot Hospice. She was predeceased by her husband, H. Glen Hickman, and is survived by one son Bradd S. Hickman of Easton.

Judy had been a resident at Dixon House for over a year and was called the "Hall Mother" for the second floor because she would look after other residents' needs, remind them when it was meal time, and direct them to their rooms if they could not find them. She also arranged for a group of ladies to come and play cards at The Dixon House monthly.



Margaret "Peggy" Barnes Shenton (1926-2018)

Margaret "Peggy" Shenton died peacefully on February 24, 2018 at Dixon House. She was born in Taylor's Island, MD. After graduating from Cambridge High School, she married Milton M. Shenton and raised her family on Taylor's Island before moving to Cambridge in 1985. She worked at Western Publishing in Cambridge. She is predeceased by her husband and survived by three of their children, Barry Shenton, Darlene Spangler and her husband, Reed, and Margaret Ann Shenton, and four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Peggy had been a resident of Dixon House for over two and one-half years. She could be seen frequently on the front porch, both enjoying the sights and sounds of nature and walking back and forth on the porch daily to get her exercise. She always had a smile and a kind word for everyone.

Planned Giving

A **bequest** is the most common type of planned gift and one way to ensure that Dixon House will continue to grow and thrive. Recent surveys have shown that more than half of Americans die without a will, which means that the State decides how a person's property is distributed. When a will is prepared, it is important to indicate how property is to be distributed. If you already have a will, a simple codicil, prepared by an attorney, is all that is required to provide a bequest to your favorite charity.

Around Town



Busy Beavers 4H Club stopped by to sing over the holidays.



Residents attended The Country School play "Shrek."



Residents lunched at House of Hunan for the Chinese New Year.



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THE DIXON HOUSE

Independent and Assisted Living

108 N. Higgins Street
Easton, MD 21601

WISH LIST

Volunteers

New & Used greeting cards

Gift cards for residents' outings
/purchase of bingo prizes
/restaurants

Stickers (any kind)

Washable Markers

Clear tubs (any size)

Puzzles 300 pc. & under

Board / Card Games

Craft Kits

Board of Directors

John Atwood *President*

Gregory Bailey

Dorothy Fenwick

Joan Muzzillo

Craig Siebert

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.



Hello Family Members and Friends of The Dixon House!

The Activities Department is looking for donations of items for our annual Yard Sale!

The sale of these items will ensure that the department will be able to enhance the programs it provides.

Please drop off your donations to Brittany
Monday June 11th through Thursday June 14th.
The sale will be held on Saturday June 16th at 6:30am.

Thank you for your consideration ☺

Brittany

The DIXON HOUSE, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations are deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. Financial report available upon request.

410.822.6661