

# A VIEW FROM *the* PORCH

THE DIXON HOUSE INDEPENDENT AND ASSISTED LIVING

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

SUMMER 2017

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## Dixon House Renovations: Inside and Outside

Dixon House is due for some updates both inside and out. As we continue to create a “Boutique Style” residential facility, we have decided to make some necessary upgrades to our décor on the first floor. Linda Elben, Director at Dixon House, comments, “Recently I toured someone through Dixon House and she commented “this is like a home.” Maintaining the ‘just like home’ feeling is important to our organization's mission. We want family members to feel like their loved ones are in a homelike environment as opposed to an institutional setting.”

We are excited to be working with Don Wooters, ASID, co-owner with Fiona Weeks of Dwelling and Design in Easton, to create the interior design changes for our foyer, hallways, and main stairwell, as well as our Day Room, Dining Room, Wellness Center, Beauty Salon and Business Office. The changes include painting, crown molding, new lighting, new wallpaper, new flooring and new window treatments. The color scheme, porcelain blue, creams beiges, aquas, rose, and a soft green, will provide a much brighter environment. Additions will include new chandeliers and sconces in the dining room and living room, as well as new re-upholstery, which will incorporate attractive heavy commercial fabrics which are soil resistant, stain resistant, and water repellent. All the renovations will be made keeping in mind comfort and ease for our aging population, clients ranging in age from 86 to 99.

We are grateful to board member Mike Thielke and his partner Eric Horst for their support and interest in this project and their generous donation towards our exterior landscaping improvements. Eric's mother, Natalie Horst has been a resident at Dixon House since October 2013. The exterior garden improvements are being

done by Joe Weems with Eastern Shore Partners. Plans include filling garden beds with colorful blooming perennials, such as phlox, black eyed susans, and salvia, and fall blooming hydrangeas, asters and chrysanthemums. The planter boxes near the pergola at Dixon House will have vining perennials such as wisteria or jasmine. Annual flowers such as zinnias, vinca, marigolds will supplement the plantings to provide plenty of color throughout the summer season and can be used as cut flowers inside for the dining room tables and foyer, brightening up the interior of the house.



*Pictured left to right are Dixon House board member Mike Thielke; Linda Elben, Executive Director; Joe Weems, owner of Eastern Shore Partners; and Eric Horst whose mother, Natalie Horst, has been a resident at Dixon House since October 2013. Mike and Eric have donated to have the gardens at The Dixon House refurbished by Joe Weems.*



## Dixon House Historic Clock

The tall clock in the lobby at Dixon House is once again chiming away. Scott McCash of McCash Clock Company of Easton recently refurbished the clock, an antique English tall case clock (c. 1850) to get it in running order. McCash states that the clock is a “time and strike” model with a “seconds bit,” very typical of the time period. Because the US didn't have enough foundries during that time period, most clocks and clock works were imported from England. He also said that often the way to tell whether it is an English or American clock is to look at the clock back. Backs that are one inch or thicker are usually American made because wood was more plentiful here than in England. English clock backs tend to be 3/8 inches in thickness. Next time you stop by, linger a few minutes in the lobby to hear the beautiful bell strike on the clock! The clock repairs were made in memory of Milton Agreen by his son and daughter-in-law, Linda and Russell Agreen. Mr. Agreen was a resident of the Dixon House for ten years and passed away on June 1, 2016 at the age of 106.

*Pictured is the English tall clock in The Dixon House lobby with Linda and Russell Agreen.*

The dog days of summer are upon us and the 90 degree days have prohibited some from sitting on the porch at Dixon House. Even though things may have slowed down for residents at Dixon House, the staff and board are busy with a number of new initiatives. We are excited about the upcoming interior renovations to the first floor of Dixon House which will enable Dixon House to showcase the industry-standard furnishings and interior design that is expected of leading independent and assisted-living facilities while maintaining our signature home-like environment. Our exterior gardens are also receiving a facelift by the fall with the help of local landscaper Joe Weems. This project has been funded through a generous donation from board member Mike Thielke and his partner Eric Horst. We welcome additional donations in support of both of these exciting initiatives.

We are also creating two new organizational bodies to support Dixon House in providing the highest level of personalized care 24 hours a day. The new Dixon House Family Council is a self-led group of individuals, consisting of residents' family members or their representative, who work together with the Assisted Living Care Team to protect the rights and improve the quality of life of the residents residing at Dixon House. The Council communicates ideas and concerns of residents and family to staff; helps communicate the challenges faced by staff and board members; provides feedback to staff and board from residents; and facilitate solutions, ideas, and programs to increase the satisfaction of residents. The other

new organization is the Dixon House Pillar Society, a group of family members and friends who are committed to raising funds to support the ongoing needs of Dixon House. We are thrilled to have the support of both of these committees.

Finally, our newly updated security cameras and monitors and emergency nurse call system at Dixon House are working well. Thank you for the donors who stepped up in support of these upgrades. We couldn't continue to improve our facilities without the generous support of residents' family members, our board members, and our friends in the community. Dixon House continues to grow and flourish because of your commitment to helping us provide excellent care every day.



**Linda Elben**  
Executive Director

## Staff Profile: John Callahan



*Paul Haddaway and John Callahan celebrating Paul's retirement.*

John Callahan has been The Dixon House's Maintenance Supervisor since November 2016, replacing Paul Haddaway who was the supervisor for four years. Paul and his wife Juanita who answered the phones at The Dixon House retired in February 2017. John grew up in Easton. His maternal grandfather was a professional boxer and sparred with boxer, Joe Lewis. At one time, John was an amateur boxer. He graduated from Salisbury University in 2003 with a degree in Graphic Design and owns Callahan Signs where he does vinyl lettering, vehicle lettering, yard signs, banners, signs for storefronts and much more.

He likes working at The Dixon House because of the freedom and flexibility with his hours, which allows him to also run his own business. The residents call him the "Handy Man." He states, "My great aunt was a resident here many years ago. Everyone at The Dixon House is really nice."

He lives in Easton with his wife Heather and their two children Axel and Athena. His daughter Athena was born on his birthday, something he says was the best birthday present he ever received.

## Around Our House



*Ms. Newnam, Ms. Hickman & Ms. Krabill playing 500 card game.*



*Family members and staff at Dixon House Family Council meeting.*



*Ms. Shenton, Ms. Krabill and Ms. Favinger visit w/ Nancy Matthews and Her Corgi Cora. (Pets on Wheels)*

# Dixon House Remembrances

The Dixon House mourns the passing of the following residents this spring and summer.



## Oneita E. McCall (1910 - 2017)

Oneita E. McCall of Cambridge, age 106, passed away on July 8, 2017 at The Dixon House. She was born and raised in Cambridge, MD. She attended schools in Cambridge and married John M. Bramble, Sr. and together they operated Johnny's Drive-In from 1938 to 1961, when he died. In 1964 she married Harry Mike McCall. She was a member of St. Paul's United Methodist Church, past president of the United Methodist Women and Mizpah Bible Class. Mrs. McCall was also a member of AARP and the Dorchester Hospital Auxiliary. She is survived by her son, John M. Bramble, Jr. (Peggy), a step-daughter, Betty M. Malik (Kenneth), a grandson, two step-grandsons and a step-granddaughter, two great granddaughters and four step great grandchildren, and several great-great grandchildren. She resided at The Dixon House for 10 years, enjoying musical activities especially hymns-could be seen singing along and tapping her foot. She also loved animals and enjoyed Pets on Wheels.



## Sarah Grace Gardner Nechay McWilliams (1938-2017)

Sarah Grace Gardner Nechay McWilliams of Cambridge, age 79, passed away on June 20, 2017 at The Dixon House. She was born near Georgetown, DE. She graduated from Felton High School and became a Special Education teacher's assistant for Sussex County and Wicomico County School Districts. She enjoyed music, plays, reading, as well as directing many church choirs over a 40-year period. Mrs. McWilliams was a member of Zion United Methodist Church and a member of the Peninsula Delaware Conference. She was predeceased by two husbands, Noel Nechay and Samuel McWilliams. She is survived by daughters, Cindy Buniski (Drew) of Easton, MD and Pamela Walton (Fred) of Falcon, CO; two sons, Mark Nechay (Jackie) of Wyoming, DE and Greg Nechay of Stuart, FL, as well as six grandchildren, three great grandchildren, a sister, a brother, and many beloved nieces and nephews. Mrs. McWilliams had many colorful and fancy hats that she wore to meals and loved to decorate a white tree for every holiday that was donated by her family. It will continue to remind us of her very positive outlook on life.



## Madalene Selby (1918-2017)

Madalene Selby of Easton, age 99, died on her birthday on March 15, 2017 at The Dixon House. She was born in Kennebunkport, ME. She attended Simmons College in Boston, MA. She worked as assistant to the director of Baltimore County Schools Food Service, retiring in the 1980s. Prior to moving to Dixon House, she lived in Towson, MD where she was active in the Church of the Holy Comforter singing in the choir and teaching Bible classes. She loved basketball in her youth. As an adult, she loved reading, singing, music and the arts, enjoying the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. While at the Dixon House, she enjoyed the musical activities birdwatching. She is survived by her son Charles (Janet) Selby of St. Michaels, MD, and a son Christopher Selby of Ninilchik, AK. She was preceded in death by a son David Selby.

## 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.



Residents enjoy a beautiful ride on the Oxford Ferry.



Ms. Krabill, Mr. Irwin and Ms. Pittenger enjoying lunch at Sonny's of New York.



Mr. Irwin and Mr. Marshall enjoying father's day lunch at the BBQ Joint.

## Around Town



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## THE DIXON HOUSE

*Independent and Assisted Living*

108 N. Higgins Street  
Easton, MD 21601

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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.*



## THE DIXON HOUSE

*Independent and Assisted Living in Historic Easton*

*just like home*

**ROOMS AVAILABLE**

For further information contact  
Linda Elben at 410-822-6661

*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