

# View from the Porch

News from Friends Home in Kennett

Spring 2008



## Planning for New Kitchen, New Entrance



*The architect's rendering of the possible final result of our renovations.*

As was noted in the Fall/Winter issue of *View from the Porch*, renovations are in the Home's future. The impetus for these renovations is the Home's need for a new, more efficient kitchen. Currently, the kitchen serves our 54 assisted living residents 162 meals per day, and our 20 nursing home residents 60 meals per day. That adds up to more than 81,000 meals served per year – a daunting task for any kitchen.

"We often try to make do with the facilities and equipment we have, but the kitchen is clearly in need of a complete renovation. We need to make sure it is well equipped to serve our residents every day, and well into the future," said David Carter, Executive Director.

The new design includes an indoor atrium, which will connect Friends Home and Linden Hall, creating a more welcoming entrance. The architect continues to work on this part of the plan to include more renovated space for resident use.

Improvements have been made to the kitchen over the years, including the replacement of

equipment, some of which has been made possible by grant funding. However, upgrading equipment can only go so far in enhancing efficiency. Commercial kitchen designers have visited the Home to meet with our staff and to make suggestions for the new kitchen. Considerations include moving a storage area from the basement to the first floor, improving the work flow of the kitchen, and providing a private office space for the Dining Services Director.

As we enter the renovation process, we put the needs of our residents first. Just as we have in the past, this project will be planned and implemented in such a way that residents will experience the least disruption possible.

We look forward to improved facilities which will ensure quality care for our residents for many years to come. Please look for future articles on our progress.



*A look at the current kitchen.*

## Local WWII Veteran counts his blessings

By Maggie Horgan

For Dan Gill, being a lifelong positive thinker means naturally looking forward to each day to which he awakens, no matter what challenges are thrown his way.

That optimistic outlook has gotten Gill, who turned 83 in February, through many an uphill battle.

Sitting comfortably in the Linden Hall dining room, Gill recently recalled his life—not a moment of which does he regret.

In the early 1940s, before finishing high school, Gill served his country in the United States Air Corps in World War II. Gill would go on to be stationed in various locations. He vividly remembers flying over the city of Hiroshima the day after it had been bombed in 1945. By 1946, he was back home in southern Virginia, and had resumed working at Thalhimer's Department Store.

It wasn't long before Gill was introduced to the woman of his dreams. "I promptly met this young lady who was selling stationery," at Thalhimer's, recalls Gill. Winifred had been attending law school but Gill proved to be a strong distraction. Winifred insisted that Gill have a college degree if she were to marry him. Gill was able to earn a degree in engineering from Virginia Tech. Gill and Winifred were wed on December 28, 1947.

Gill and his wife went on to have two children, and today are blessed with five grandchildren.

Physical ailments became a concern in 1970, when Gill began having trouble walking. A biopsy of his spinal cord revealed no abnormalities, but a laminectomy procedure seemed to remedy the problem, and Gill was able to walk without undue effort once again. "I got my golf handicap



back down to the low teens," smiled Gill. He was able to carry out a highly productive work role at Lukens Steel for 26 years. What's more, Gill served a

congressional appointment for four years in the mid 1970s, a position which meant traveling, since his area of expertise was in foreign trade negotiations.

His debilitating symptoms began to resume in the mid-1980s. Gill would receive expert consultations, until at last, a doctor at the Leahy Clinic confirmed that Gill had a non-malignant, but inoperable, cyst encircling his cervical spinal cord. As a result, walking became more difficult over time.

Gill is very thankful to the Coatesville VA Hospital, whose staff provided him with a special wheelchair operated by head controls. Today, Gill, who is paralyzed from the neck down, is still able to move around as he wishes, by using specific nods of his head.

When speaking with Gill, one first notices his optimism and his thankfulness at being able to enjoy each and every day. He describes himself as a man of faith. Although he has not always been a regular churchgoer, "I've always enjoyed the outdoors. To me, that's the church. That's the time I communicate with God."

Gill is proud of his own accomplishments, and those of his wife and children. He looks forward to his days at Linden Hall. "It's very nice here. They give you good food, and plenty of it," he noted. He recalled the delightful birthday party the staff had helped to throw for him right after he came to Linden Hall last February. "Linden Hall does a great job of making you feel good," affirmed Gill.

*The above article was published by the Chester County Press on January 30, 2008 and is shared here by permission.*

## Welcome



*Donna Hammond and Cathy Wetherill pose on the Porch on a beautiful Spring day.*

Cathy Wetherill, RN joined Friends Home in Kennett as Personal Care Director in November.

Born and raised in Delaware County, Cathy graduated from Miseracordia Nursing School in 1973 as an LPN, then from Regents College in New York City in 2000. She has worked in geriatrics since 1980 and received her Personal Care license in 2001.

She worked for 27 years at Harlee Manor Nursing Home and Rehab in Springfield, and then spent five years as Director of Springfield Senior Commons, their Assisted Living facility.

Cathy and her husband Bill have two sons, Jason and Brian. Jason is married and has a three-year-old daughter.

Charge Nurse Donna Hammond, LPN, came to Friends Home in January, having previously worked for Ware Presbyterian Village.

Donna graduated from Northern Chester County Technical School and worked as a secretary for several years before changing her vocation. She worked as a Personal Care aide for several years before attending nursing school.

Donna's husband, Richard, works as a civil engineer for West Chester University. They live in Oxford with their three daughters, Chelsea, Colleen and Morgan.

# Memorial and Honor Gifts

*Memorial and honor gifts may be made to Friends Home in Kennett at any time. An attractive card is sent to notify the honoree of your generosity. Names of honorees are in bold type with names of donors listed under them.*

This is a list of memorial and honor gifts made to Friends Home in Kennett from December 1, 2007 and April 18, 2008. We strive for accuracy, but sometimes make errors. If you notice a mistake or omission, please contact Brenda Riehl at (610) 444-2577 or briehl@kennett.net.

## **Memorials**

### **Opal Cassidy**

Anonymous

### **Elizabeth Starr Cummin**

Leila R. Bright  
Susan and Joe Handler  
and Family  
Martha F. Wells

### **Patricia Devereaux**

June E. Scheffler

### **Lucille Ellis**

Cleon and Grace Arnold  
Diane B. Cashour  
Ellis and Frances Eskridge  
Annie L. Hammond  
Lori Powers, Sande Weinstein  
and families

### **Phil Fredericks**

Anonymous  
Phil and Joan Fredricks  
Ann Lytle

### **Theresa Gallo**

Mary T. Kuzo

### **Janet W. Heist**

William S. and Eleanor S.  
Thompson

### **Estel Leaf**

Anthony and Ann Caruso

### **Martha Lomax**

Alice R. Beltz  
Rich and Janet Graham  
Kenneth and Nancy Lomax  
Kathryne S. Mitchell

## **Memorials, continued**

### **Elizabeth Rittenhouse**

Ann Lytle  
Anne Lutz

### **Paul Turner**

Tom and Carolyn Comitta

### **Charles Wollaston**

The Bradley Family  
Judi Farkas  
The Lewis Family  
Ann Lytle  
Rebecca McIlvain  
Robert M. Menges, PhD  
Larry and Hannah Parrish  
Donald and Bertha Pratt  
Southeastern Chester County  
Historical Society  
Joe and Mary Lou Wollaston  
Ruth Wollaston

## **Honoraria**

### **Edna Jackson's 95<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Birthday**

Gary Walton

### **Margaret B. Jones**

William and Ellen Marsden

### **Ann Lytle**

Harry F. Brown

### **William P. Powell**

Anonymous

### **David T. Smith**

Karen and George Klaus

### **Robert Wylie**

William and Abigail Wylie

# Grants Spotlight

In 2007 the Home continued to seek funding from local foundations and trusts. Fundraising Director Brenda Riehl is pleased to report that the following grants were received between January 1 and December 31, 2007:

January 2007	\$17,440 from the Anna T. and Joseph Jeanes Fund for assistance to individual residents and for fire alert system upgrades
March 2007	\$14,000 from the Bequests Granting Group for replacement of bathtubs with accessible showers
May 2007	\$2,000 from the Mushroom Festival for installation of water coolers as part of an overall Hydration Program
	\$500 from the Outreach Commission of the Episcopal Church of the Advent for supplies and equipment for the Activities Program
	\$8,900 from the Sara Bowers Committee of Kennett Monthly Meeting for a new resident wandering system
July 2007	\$19,080 from the Anna T. and Joseph Jeanes Fund for assistance to individual residents and for snow removal, security and elevator equipment
December 2007	\$15,000 from the Crystal Trust for overall refurbishment of Linden Hall
	\$ 5,000 from the Hoxie Harrison Smith Foundation for purchase and installation of a new commercial-grade dryer
	\$20,240 from the Anna T. and Joseph Jeanes Fund for assistance to individual residents and for a new resident wandering system

# Friends Home in Kennett

*Friends Boarding Home of Western Quarterly Meeting*

147 West State Street

Kennett Square, PA 19348

[www.friendshomeinkennett.org](http://www.friendshomeinkennett.org)

address correction requested

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## Mark your calendar for our second annual Photography Show

Friends Home in Kennett residents will be presenting their original photography during the First Friday Art Stroll on August 1<sup>st</sup>

We hope you will join us



### ***Mission Statement***

The Friends Home in Kennett is dedicated to providing quality care for the aging in a homelike atmosphere at a reasonable cost.

We encourage independence and respect the individuality and dignity of all in keeping with the concerns of the Society of Friends.