

View from the Porch

News from Friends Home in Kennett

Spring 2009



Serving the Home Making a Difference

A Board Member and a Volunteer share their experiences



*Charles Jackson
Board Clerk*

I was born in a Wilmington, Delaware hospital, but my birth certificate says that my parents' address was on North Union Street in Kennett. Presumably they took me home with them, but I only remember growing up in the Hockessin/Yorklyn area. I graduated from Swarthmore College; did graduate study in history as a Woodrow Wilson Fellow at the

University of California/Berkeley. Later I earned a law degree at age 55 from Suffolk University Law School in Boston, where I lived for 33 years. My principal endeavor was publishing and editing various business-related magazines and directories.

I have a passion for horse racing and have served as a state steward (judge) and state racing commissioner for Massachusetts under Gov. Michael Dukakis. My only claim to uniqueness in life is that I am the only Quaker racing commissioner in world history.

My mother was a Friend, and my parents were married in the old Kennett Quaker Meeting in 1929. I have been attending and a member of Hockessin Friends Meeting for 65 years. After selling my business interests and home in Boston, I returned to Delaware and now have a home in Newark, near the University of Delaware.

When Tom Marshall asked me if I would serve on the board of the Friends Home six years ago, and I agreed, I did not realize how much I would come to love the Home. Our Friends Home is a very special place to live, with a staff that is dedicated to the care and comfort of our residents. It is a joy for me to be associated with our Friends Home.

Watch future issues of *View from the Porch* for stories on our many enthusiastic, dedicated Board Members and Volunteers

Volunteer Bette Dobbins regularly tests the knowledge of residents with her word games, riddles and crossword puzzles. "She came in and developed her own program. It's wonderful to have her here," said Patrice Bradour, ADC, Friends Home Activities Director. "We brainstormed ideas based on the television program 'Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grader?' and decided to try word games," said Bette. "Patrice is great to work with because she is so flexible and open to new ideas."

Bette first visited the Home many years ago with her friend, volunteer Vicki Pollert, who does manicures for our residents each Thursday morning. "I wanted to do something for the residents that could include my children, but they were too young at the time," said Bette. Now, she explains, at ages eight and ten, they are too old and occupied with school. "I hope to bring them this summer. I like to do things in the community and want my kids to be involved, too."

"It's fun to come here. I enjoy it, and the residents seem to enjoy it," said Bette. "It's rewarding to know that I'm doing something to benefit others."

Bette lives in West Chester with her husband Bill, son Val and daughter Kate. Friends Home in Kennett thanks Bette for her faithful service to our residents!

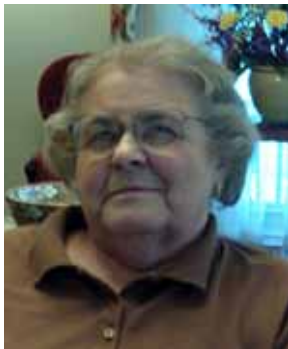
If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Patrice Bradour, Friends Home Activities Director at (610) 444-2577, ext. 212, or Betsy Bryant, Linden Hall Activities Director at (610) 444-0741, ext. 211.



Bette leading a crossword puzzle activity with residents.

Life at the Home

A resident tells her story



Sitting in Friends Home in Kennett's recently-renovated Victorian parlor, Betty Ilseman tells of her life.

"I've always lived around here. I was born in Chester County Hospital and grew up around Unionville out in the country. I went to the Unionville schools for all 12 grades."

"My father was in horticulture and had a big greenhouse. He grew cut flowers and was a supplier for florists. He and another botanist began the first year-round mum production in the world. He was written up in the Saturday Evening Post for it!"

Betty is a graduate of Syracuse University, where she majored in geography. "I never did work outside the home, but if I had I would've liked getting into cartography." But work, she did, raising twin children – a boy, Steven, and a girl, Nancy – gardening, canning and sewing. "Until recently, I made all of my own clothing." Betty is an accomplished seamstress, having made her husband's sport coats, her daughter's wedding dress, and

many house wares including drapes, table linens and slip covers. "My husband gave me a sewing machine as a wedding present. I remember that it came with a 30-year guarantee and I thought, 'Wow. That's forever,'" she laughs. "And before I knew it, those 30 years had passed."

"My husband was in horticulture, just like my dad. He got a job in my father's greenhouse – that's how we met." She smiles, "He married the boss's daughter!"

"I was very active in my church, Church of the Advent here in Kennett," says Betty. "I sang in the choir for 25 years, and I was a member of the Altar Guild, the group that prepares the altar before services, making sure the candles and linens are all in place."

"For 10 years, I led a Girl Scout Troop. We did a little bit of everything: camping, craft projects, singing, sewing. And, of course, there were the cookies," she smiles.

Following a stroke a few years ago, Betty and her family knew that she would no longer be able to live alone, so her daughter, Nancy, started looking for a place for Betty to go. "I've known about this place for years. Friends of mine have lived here, and I always knew it was a nice place." Nancy toured a few places, including Friends Home and then brought Betty for a tour and lunch. "I knew right away that this was the place for me."

When asked what her favorite thing about Friends Home is, Betty replies, "The family atmosphere. And the staff here is outstanding. Every part of it – from the executive part to the servers to the personal care assistants. Everyone is so nice." She smiles, "I am very fond of this place."

Nursing Home Week is May 11 - 15

Each year, Linden Hall recognizes staff with programs and activities that cover a variety of topics including wellness, self-care for caregivers, and relaxation. At a special luncheon at the end of the week, staff members enjoy a fun time complete with door prizes such as gift bags and gift certificates donated by local merchants. We are grateful to our past donors, who also recognize the value of our dedicated, caring staff:

Cappriotti's	Kim's Nails
Challie's Family Grille	McDonald's
Currie Hair Skin Nails	Pat's Pizzeria
Enzo's	Starbucks
Kennett Square Inn	Wendy's

So far, this year's donors include Cappriotti's and the Kennett Square Inn.

Thank you!

Courtyard Beautification

Friends Home in Kennett Admissions and Marketing Director Helene Quinones has organized a project to "spruce up" the courtyard – an area visible from the dining room and many resident rooms. "For the past few years we've talked about how to improve the appearance of the courtyard," said Helene. "We got bids from landscapers a few years ago, but we've put off doing this because of the cost."

Now, Helene is recruiting volunteers and donors to complete the project at a much lower cost. Bill Dempsey of Chester County Landscaping is making all of the selected plants available to the Home at wholesale cost, and donors are coming forward to contribute toward the plants. On Saturday, May 9th at 9:30am volunteers will gather to plant varieties appropriate for the shaded area and to spread mulch where needed.

At this printing, donations totaling \$685 have been received toward the project's \$1,400 goal. To learn more about how you can help, please call Helene at (610) 444-8785.



The courtyard as viewed from Linden Street.

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, 2008 and March 31, 2009. 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

Mary W. Battin

Elizabeth & Raymond
Monasterski

Lucille Ellis

Annie L. Hammond

Norma Hood

Charles & Joanne Patton

Estel Leaf

Anthony & Ann Caruso

Margaret C. Lockhart

Patricia K.
Lockhart Culbertson

Mary Lofland

Alan & Heather Lauder

Martha Lomax

Alice R. Beltz
Richard & Janet Graham

Ruth Marshall

Henry & Paula Marshall

Jean McCaffrey

Joan O'Mara

Ann Merryman

Alan & Heather Lauder

Elizabeth Moore Mitchell

Esther L. Cooperman

Naomi Moore

Ruth Vaurio

Sara Phillips

Donald & Suzanne Phillips

Mildred Poist

Elaine & George Amoss

John V. Postles

John P. Hutton

Helen Profita

Janet & David Moore

Memorials, continued

Betty Rittenhouse

Robert & Janet DeVry

Marion Y. Steele

Mary Anna & Wayne Reimann
Sasha Reimann-Spiess

Joseph Vogel

Landa & Ron Palmer

Elsie M. Walton

Gary Walton

Ida M. Walton

Gary Walton

Walter M. & Mildred E. Walton

Gary Walton

Katharine B. Way

Donald & Bertha Pratt

Laura H. Wren

Margaret W. Michener

Honoraria

Helen Kling

Larry and Eleanor Kling

Joseph A. Giaquinto

Jennifer and Aron Gawne

E. Joel Strawn

Charles and Jane Brosius

David Teesdale

Kenneth J. Melchiorre

The Staff of Linden Hall

Carol Jeanne Gaumer

Beatrice E. Dodson

Tom and Carolyn Comitta

Robert Wylie

William and Abigail Wylie

Margaret B. Jones

William and Ellen Marsden

Ann Lytle

Harry F. Brown

Grants Spotlight

Grants provide for capital improvements and program supplies for Friends Home and Linden Hall. Between January 1 and December 31, 2008, the following grants were received:

March 2008	\$15,000 from the Sara Bowers Committee of Kennett Monthly Meeting for refurbishment of Linden Hall's resident rooms
	\$3,000 from the Mushroom Festival for refurbishment of the Friends Home Sun Room
May 2008	\$1,000 from the Outreach Commission of the Episcopal Church of the Advent for supplies and equipment for the Activities Program
June 2008	\$2,000 from the HeLP Fund of the Chester County Community Foundation for general operating support
July 2008	\$13,860 from the Anna T. and Joseph Jeanes Fund for refurbishment of Linden Hall's resident rooms
November 2008	\$300 from Kennett Run Charities for general operating support
December 2008	\$4,000 from the Hoxie Harrison Smith Foundation for security system
	\$24,000 from the Crystal Trust for energy-saving heating upgrades to the Home's two apartment buildings
	\$15,000 from the Anna T. and Joseph Jeanes Fund for re-pointing sections of Friends Home's historic brick building

Friends Home in Kennett

Friends Boarding Home of Western Quarterly Meeting

147 West State Street

Kennett Square, PA 19348

www.friendshomeinkennett.org

address correction requested

Presorted
First Class Mail
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 147
Kennett Square, PA

Mark your calendar for our third annual Photography Show

Friday, July 3, 2009

during Kennett Square's First Friday Art Stroll

*Friends Home in Kennett residents will
present their original photography*

Mission Statement



The Friends Home in Kennett is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing quality care in a homelike atmosphere for older men and women of modest means.

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