

# View from the Porch

News from Friends Home in Kennett

Fall/Winter  
2007



## Planning for the Future Honoring the Past

*Strategic Planning Sees Bright Future for FHK*



*The Home's historic building will remain a Kennett Square landmark and home of high quality care for older adults.*

In October the Board of Directors began the process of identifying directions for the future – a forward-looking process known as Strategic Planning. The purpose of the Plan is to create a roadmap for the future for Friends Home in Kennett.

The process began with the Board's desire to improve the efficiency of the dietary functions and to link the two parts of the Home: the nursing home, Linden Hall, and the Assisted Living side. Initial meetings with professionals helped create a master concept for strategic planning which addressed the Board's key concerns.

"The strategic planning process is fairly rigorous and thorough," said David Carter, Executive Director of the

Home, "but in the end we will have a strategic direction for the next five years and more. This kind of forward planning is essential to ensure that our growth and direction for the future reflect the core values contained in our mission and vision."

During this planning process the Board of Directors will address issues that impact the services, facilities and financial resources of Friends Home. One board member recalled a time when building Linden Hall was a challenging prospect, but was successful. Since its construction, Linden Hall has provided quality care for hundreds of seniors who require skilled nursing care in a homelike environment.

***"This kind of forward planning is essential to ensure that our growth and direction for the future reflect the core values contained in our mission and vision."***

The strategic plan is expected to be completed by March 2008. Look for future issues of "View from the Porch" which will contain excerpted goals and objectives from the plan. Here's to a bright 2008!

*Preliminary plans for kitchen and main entrance renovations have been developed by a local architectural firm.*



# Life at the Home

## *A resident tells his story*

*The below article has been used in the Home's recent advertising. You may have seen it in the Daily Local News and The Kennett Paper.*



The little baseball next to his name on the plaque outside his apartment tells a lot of the story. Baseball has been a passion for George Aiken for most of his 92 years. He easily remembers his record as starting pitcher four years in a row at Kennett High School. "I won 26 and only lost

two," he recalls with a smile. But George's baseball career didn't end in high school. The 87-year resident of Kennett Square pitched a year for Beacom Business School in Wilmington where his record was 10-0. Following his first year at Beacom, a family acquaintance who knew the baseball coach at Fordham University in New York City got him a try-out with the team. "For my try-out I pitched three innings against Fordham's varsity team and shut them out," George explains. The coach handed me an application for a scholarship and said "see you in September." George got the scholarship and did show up in September, pitching for Fordham from 1934 until he graduated in 1938. George, who says his best pitch was a curve

ball, had generated interest from the Boston Red Sox farm organization as early as his freshman year reached the pinnacle of his professional career as a relief pitcher in the New York Yankees Minor League system. "A serious rotator cuff injury ended my pro career," he says.

George reminisces about his days in baseball from a recliner in a television alcove in his Assisted Living apartment at Friends Home in Kennett. After living with his wife of 49 years in the home the built in Kennett, George's health began failing after his wife passed away. He began suffering from arthritis, had a heart attack and underwent by-pass surgery and then three total hip replacements.

"I was in the hospital and about to be discharged but I could not live by myself anymore," he explains. "My niece who helps me with all my personal matters helped me find this apartment. She saw it first and then brought me to visit," he explains. "I liked it right away. It was so cozy and everyone was so very nice and friendly." George goes on to note that his first impression was correct. "It is great living here. I have made friends and the staff is always here for you but they also encourage you to be as independent as you can.

So after professional baseball was over, what did George Aiken do for a living? "A friend of mine was a chauffeur for Mrs. Philip DuPont," he concludes. "Through her I got an interview at DuPont and long story short I was an accountant there for 37 years."



## Telephone Directory

*Those calling Friends Home in Kennett recently may have noticed updates to our telephone system. To assist you in reaching the person or department you are calling, a list of telephone extensions is displayed here.*

### *Friends Home in Kennett*

Secretary/Switchboard	Marge Harley	201
Executive Director	David Carter, NHA	202
Admissions & Marketing Director	Helene Quiñones	217
Business Manager	Larry Coppock	210
Fundraising Director	Brenda Riehl	219
Dining Services Director	Peter Dziembowski	207
Maintenance Director	Ric Gober	215
Assisted Living Coordinator	June Scheffler, RN	216
Friends Home Charge Nurse	Cathy Wetheril, RN	218
Friends Home Health Center	Personal Care Assistants	209
Friends Home Activities Director	Patrice Bradour, ADC	212
Linden Hall Administrator	Terry O'Connell, NHA	205
Linden Hall Director of Nursing	Cherrie Di Matteo, RN, C	214
Linden Hall Nurse's Station		206
Linden Hall Activities Director	Betsy Bryant, ADC	211
Linden Hall Social Services	Kim Rowe	203

# Welcome

*Linden Hall's New Activities Director*



Terry O'Connell, NHA, Linden Hall Administrator, is pleased to announce the addition of Betsy

Bryant, ADC to her staff. Betsy started her position of Activities Director in October. "Betsy is such a good fit for Linden Hall. Her experience in activities and her outgoing nature are helping our residents to remain active," said Terry.

Betsy's career in activities began by chance. She was applying for a foodservice position at Jenner's Pond when the Activities Director convinced

her to try activities. From that Assistant position she was promoted to Activities Coordinator, and then attained her certification. For the past three years, Betsy worked for Quarryville Presbyterian Retirement Community as Activities Director, first in assisted living then in skilled nursing.

When asked what her favorite part of the job is, Betsy answers, "Getting to know the residents, and being with them." As for a favorite activity to facilitate, she said, "Each one is fun. Each day is different, which keeps my job very interesting!"

Commenting on her new position, Betsy shared, "I like being here. I like the people I work with, and the residents. It really is a blessing."

# Activities

*Bringing Residents Together*

Friends Home in Kennett residents enjoy a wide variety of activities, from crafts and music to outings and entertainment. Adding to the variety are the combined activities – those that bring our assisted living and skilled nursing residents together.

Our two Activities Directors, Patrice Bradour, ADC and Betsy Bryant, ADC, work together to determine what kind of activity will best serve their two groups of residents. Both Directors agree that choosing an intellectually-stimulating activity is the most important consideration. Often, the activity involves music, children or pets, all of which are resident favorites. Some joint activities bring community groups into Friends Home or Linden Hall. For example, a group of elementary school students visits several times each year to share their latest musical program.

"We always ask residents for suggestions, and we try to make those activities happen. The suggestions give us even more variety," said Patrice. "And there's always a way to take an activity and modify it so all of our residents can participate, regardless of their limitations," added Betsy.

The Activities Directors send out invitations for special programs, making sure residents' families and others are included whenever possible. "We want to always have our doors open. We're a family here, and it's always good to welcome new people into that family," said Patrice.



*Assisted living & skilled nursing residents enjoy a variety of activities.*

## Memorial and Honor Gifts

This is a list of memorial and honor gifts made to Friends Home in Kennett from August 1 and November 30, 2007. Names of honorees are in bold type with names of donors listed under them. 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](mailto:briehl@kennett.net).

### *Memorials*

#### **Mary Battin**

Barbara Durnall  
Ron and Barbara Gehret  
Robert and Elizabeth Hawkes  
Barbara and Geoffrey Meadows  
Walter H. Pogue, Jr.

#### **Patricia Devereaux**

Jane Goslin  
Michelle and William Schmidt

#### **Harriet Eastburn**

Eleanor and Wayne Hammond

#### **Lucille Ellis**

Betty Buckley  
C. Daniel and Kathleen Cordrey  
Gary and Dee Ellis  
Edith and Ralph Eskridge  
Laura and Maude Eskridge  
Ann Ewasko  
John and Christine Fiorelli  
Herbert and Gurine Grubb  
Doris and Kenneth Miller  
Karen and Mark Muller  
Jim and Elna Mundy  
Paul and Sandra Newhart  
Rebecca Noetzel  
Rosalie Peel and Family  
Bobbie Scott and Randy Schurbon  
Deloris and George Thompson  
Leonora A. Wallace

### *Memorials, continued*

#### **Verna Larkin**

Mary L. Dugan

#### **Estell Leaf**

Philip and Jane Saienni

#### **Ruth Marshall**

Henry W. Marshall, II

#### **Mary Regina McCaffrey**

Joan O'Mara

#### **Edna Paradise**

Gary and Virginia Burns

Jill Gaumer

Ronald M. Orr

Charles and Jane Reed

#### **Hazel Springer**

Debra and William Akerman

#### **Ana Szekely**

James and Elizabeth Kauer

### *Honoraria*

#### **Joseph Cloud**

Margaret R. Cloud  
Charles and Louise Wallner

*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.*

### **Correction** We inadvertently omitted the names

of the following donors on the 2006 Donors list published in the Summer 2007 issue of *View From the Porch*.

Mary Anna, Wayne and Sasha Reimann  
Chip and Julia Smedley

# 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

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

*Many thanks to the following businesses and individuals for their donations to our Holiday Auction*

Shirley Annand

Belak Flower Shop

Bove Jewelers

Patrice Bradour

Marsha Caldwell

David Carter

Colledge Tire and Automotive

Currie Hair Skin and Nails

Equinox Jewelry and Gifts

Rita Fulton

Half Moon Saloon

Karen Halstead

Marge Harley

Deb Hart

Rosa Hart

Kennett Square Inn

Orpha and Dave Longnecker

Larry Parrish

Carol Pratt

Helene Quiñones

Brenda Riehl

Trish Scott

Pat Shinn

Chip Smedley

Stationery on State

Talula's Table

Torelli's Men's Shop

*Best Wishes for a peaceful holiday season and a healthy New Year*

## ***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.