

# Community Happenings

If one word could describe February at Decatur House, it might be “musical.” For starters, our Valentine’s Day social featured a sing-along led by Donna’s talented daughter, Jana. Between songs, enthusiastic singers munched on plates of tasty appetizers, including spanakopita, pigs-in-a-blanket and meatballs.

Toward month’s end, Lourana hosted another of her popular “Name That Tune” sessions which – as always – morphed into a rousing sing-along.

Another treat was the addition of a weekly pre-lunch musical interlude, courtesy of our talented interns from Riverview School.

Julie Charland returned with a Valentine’s Day-inspired show, and we also enjoyed the music of singer-guitarist Matt Browne.

When not singing, we socialized over old-fashioned root beer floats, and on another day were introduced to its citrusy cousin, the Creamsicle Dream float.

Kate led an array of craft projects that included personalized serving trays, ceramic mugs, seashell door hangings and Valentine wreaths.

We are looking forward to the arrival of spring ... and having something more to sing about!



2022 Riverview School Interns, continued

Hingham native **Sofia** would like to have a career as a teacher’s aide in a preschool.

**Dan**, from Westborough, says he’s not sure what he wants to do or where he wants to work yet.

We welcome the Riverview trio and hope their Decatur House experience will benefit them positively and provide skills and knowledge to help them pursue their future dream jobs!

Spotlight: Dottie O’Neil, continued

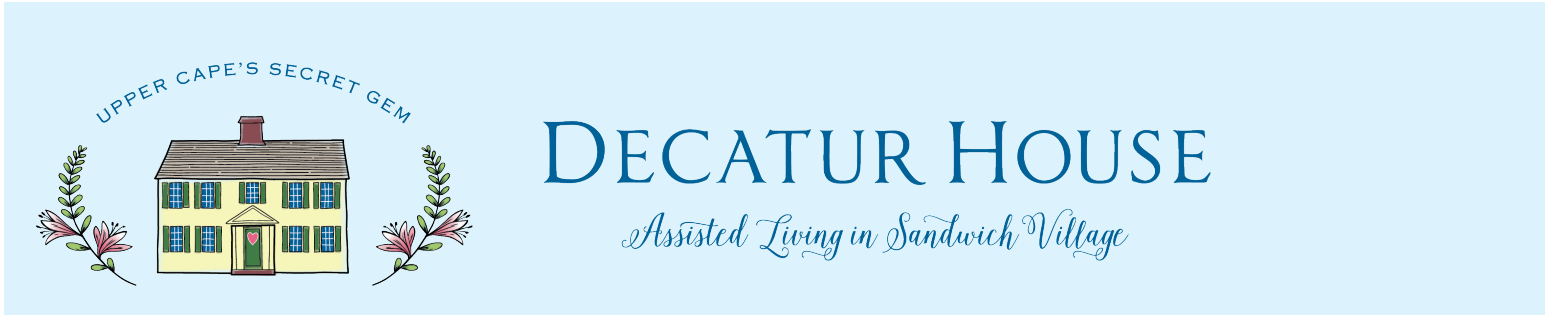
Those dinners often featured Dot’s homemade raviolis, the family’s favorite. The dish paid homage to her father, who emigrated to our country from Italy.

Dottie was also “very crafty” according to Doreen. “She loved to decorate, she did upholstery and ceramics, painting, antiquing, she made clothes and knitted,” Doreen said. “I was the best-dressed girl in high school!”

Dot is still stylish —her lipstick always meticulously applied, her nails beautifully shaped and polished, thanks to weekly manicures by daughters Diane and Doreen.

Dottie spent most of her life in Dedham, but enjoyed family vacations and several trips to Europe, where she visited Ireland and her father’s native Italy.

Dot enjoys participating in activities, attending musical events, and socializing — and joking — with her fellow residents.



## Around the House

MARCH 2022

### Decatur House Re-opens Partnership with Riverview School

Since 2018 Decatur House has invited students from Riverview’s Project Search to join the team for the second half of their school year. After a 2-year hiatus due to Covid, we have welcomed a cohort of students to the House.



(l to r): Chase, Sofia, and Dan

Chase, Sofia, and Dan are helping keep Decatur House clean and fresh while sharing their bright, young spirits, and musical talents with us until June. If you see them around the house, please say hello!

**Chase**, who is from Falmouth, would like to someday be employed as a mechanic at Falmouth Toyota.

COMMUNITY **SPOT** LIGHT

### Dorothy O’Neil



Dorothy O’Neil came to Decatur House from her native Dedham, after raising her five daughters and a son. Donald, her husband of 68 years, passed away in 2019.

Dottie’s pixie-like demeanor, the mischievous twinkle in her eye and her playful sense of humor have endeared her to fellow residents and staff alike. “She loves a good joke!” her daughter, Doreen, said.

Not surprisingly, one of Dottie’s favorite holidays is April Fool’s Day, when she loves to pull pranks on friends and family.

But there is one area of Dot’s life that she takes very seriously. “She is pretty much all about family,” Doreen, said. “We always had Sunday dinner together as a family and celebrated every holiday together.”

Continued on back page

