

## MARCH ROUNDUP

*Maggie, one of our house mascots!*



While the calendar said spring, no one had informed the daffodils or crocuses. No matter, Decatur House residents have been busy getting ready for warmer days: starting seeds for the flower boxes, discussing an herb garden, and sharing memories.

March is a month of contrasts, most notably the weather, but also the festivities. For the start of Lent, ever faithful Bro Mike from Corpus Christi performed the distribution of the Holy Ashes. In what has become somewhat of a tradition at Decatur House, owner Colleen Dow, brought a troupe of students from the Kanaley School of Irish Dance to entertain (*see photo above*). Residents were delighted and energized.

Green beer and cupcakes were served to celebrate St. Paddy's at the social hour (*see photos of Jess and Anita and Fran above*). Thumbs down on the beer, but the *Name That Tune* sing-along was a unanimous hit (*see photo of Lourana playing the piano and Connie, Mary Clare, Alice and Chuck singing above*). Lunch out at Seafood Sams was another tried and true favorite. Fried lobster, onion rings, and shrimp scampi were popular choices and had everyone agreeing they would need to come back soon.

Leonie Little-Lex returned to lead her popular painting event and Mary Shea (the artist responsible for the activity room mural) agreed to lead a highly requested watercolor class. One Decatur House artist (Clare L.) enjoyed the classes so much, she set up a miniature "studio" in her apartment! Jewelry lovers created beautiful necklaces and bracelets with our generous volunteer, Joyce Frye (*see photos of Francine, Fran and Maggie with Joyce below*). And fitness lovers exercised their chai with volunteer Tai Chi instructor, Donna Klucsevsek of Feisty Lion Martial Arts (*see photo below of Maggie, Nancy and Addie*). Thank you, Joyce and Donna. You are both part of what makes Decatur House so special.

Some highlights last month are: Foodie Fun with Cynthia; the empanada making was fun and delicious. Susan Nolan brought healing energies with Reiki. Of course, music brings its own kind of healing; Matt York brought it "Johnny Cash style." And birthdays are always a highlight; this month, we celebrated Tom G., Lourana T., and Jeff C. (*see photo below*). Additionally, Wii Bowling made a challenging, new, and surprisingly fun introduction.

Whether gardening, painting, or even playing video games, at Decatur House living, means learning, growing, and having fun.

*Mo looking stylish as always!*







One of the family's favorite trips, was to Hartz Mountain in Germany. No matter where they spent time though, The Arzuaga family could best be self-described as loving.

His daughter, Bonnie fondly recalls, "One of my favorite childhood memories is my brother and I watching Sunday morning cartoons with my dad every week. He was always the first one awake and would already be watching the cartoons in the living room - waiting for us to get up and join him," she said.

Later when the children had grown up and moved out, Armando returned to the guitar that he had loved in his youth.

He also returned to cars. He built an entire Corvette; talk about multi- talented! See photo on page 1. Once Armando retired, and seeing that his daughter would not be returning to New York, he purchased a house in Mashpee to be close to his grandchildren.

Until recently, Armando has been dividing his time between his grandchildren and resuming his music endeavors; playing occasionally at local venues.

Even though his many accomplishments are known, especially with the guitar, some people might be surprised to learn he is equally adept with the drums. See photo below!

They would not be surprised to know that he is a loyal friend, a loving grandfather and he counts raising his children and being a good husband as his proudest accomplishments of all.

Please welcome Armando to Decatur House.



### Decatur House News

- Wednesday, April 2 at 1:30 p.m.: Blood Pressure Clinic - The VNA will be hosting a blood pressure clinic. DH families are welcome to attend for a free check up!
- Do you love crafting? playing cards? storytelling? leading sing-a-longs? Whatever you have in mind, we would love to hear about it. We are always looking for kind, patient volunteers who would like to spend time with our residents. If this is interesting to you, please contact our activities manager, Thalia at [activities@decaturhouse.com](mailto:activities@decaturhouse.com)
- Would you consider leaving a Google review on Decatur House to help people find us? It would be very much appreciated! Please contact our marketing director, Margot at [margot@decaturhouse.com](mailto:margot@decaturhouse.com) with any questions.

APRIL 2025



# DECATUR HOUSE

*Assisted Living in Sandwich Village*

## Around the House

### Community SPOTlight

#### ARMANDO ARZUAGA



When asked about himself, Armando Arzuaga took a deep breath and then took some time to reflect carefully on his memories before responding. His replies, when they came, were thoughtful and brief.

Armando grew up alongside three brothers and three sisters in Brooklyn, New York. Counting himself, that made seven, a lot for his parents, but not too much. Armando's serious demeanor softened while remembering the loving mother that had raised him.

Like many young people, Armando was attracted to music and excelled beyond his academic achievements. Nevertheless, he graduated from John J. Highschool in Brooklyn and was enrolled in a college program for heating and air-conditioning when he had the opportunity to tour. *See photo on page 4.* He played guitar with a band during this adventure- even once performing at Madison Square Garden.

Armando says he should not have quit school, but later, during this time, he met Anette, his former wife of forty-two years, at a performance. Working full-time as a sanitation worker and prioritizing the raising of three children: Bonnie, Fabian, and Chloe, left little time for music- or regrets.

The family spent many joyful years on their property in the Poconos, swimming, fishing, sharing life and sharing laughs. Armando is rumored to be a pretty funny guy once you have gotten to know him. They also traveled together.

*continued on page 4*