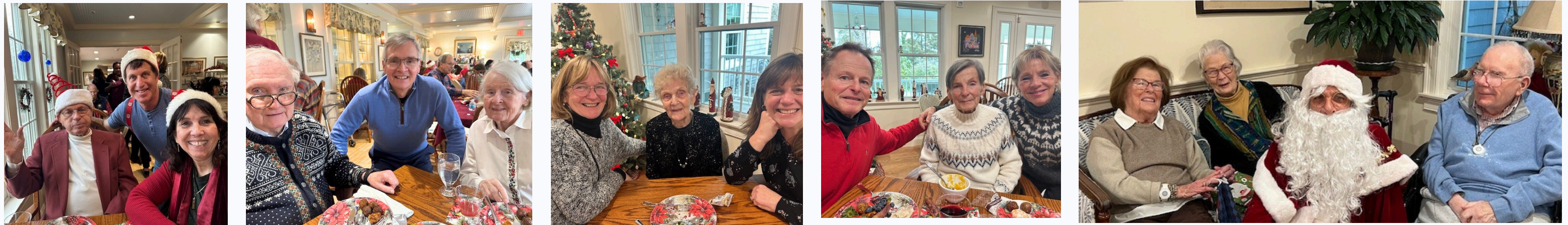


DECEMBER ROUNDUP



We're still dreaming of a white Christmas—just like the one we experienced this year. What a December! With an early Christmas party this year, it was truly all hands-on deck. Our residents and their guests turned out in their festive best and enjoyed the beautiful décor and delicious treats. Friends and family gathered close, lingering and savoring each other's unhurried company. *See photos above!* A visit from the Glass Town Carolers was the icing on the cake.

We were delighted to welcome multiple caroling groups this month. Students from Project Forward sang a rousing rendition of *The Twelve Days of Christmas*, complete with several solos. The Singing Sailors, the Council on Aging, and the Netherwood family also contributed to the holiday magic. The Sandwich Middle High School Jazz Band performed (*see photo below*), as did Julie Charland. As if all this revelry weren't enough, we hired a van and toured the Sandwich Giants. Residents were pleasantly surprised when artist Michael Magyar himself hopped aboard and spent time sharing behind-the-scenes details about his giant creations. *See photo bottom left.*

Residents decorated gingerbread houses and sugar cookies (*see Jon enjoying his work below!*), just a couple of the many crafts available throughout the season. There was certainly no shortage of Christmas cheer. We enjoyed classic holiday movies and also watched *Gran Torino*, *The French Connection*, *Jane: The Jane Goodall Story*, and *Back from Bataan*. Special thanks to Joe P. for so many great movie suggestions.

Beyond the seasonal festivities, there was plenty of fun to be had. We celebrated Jean M. with a special 100th birthday social hour. State Representative Steven Xiarhos was on hand to recognize Jean and present a proclamation from the town as well as a personal, meaningful memento to commemorate the occasion. *See photos on page 4.* Additionally, residents met with children from the Sandwich Montessori Elementary School. *See photo of Chuck with the children below.* In-house pianist, Lourana and her daughter-in-law Melissa led a joyful sing-along. And an outing to Asti - the modern Greek restaurant, proved exceptional, especially the baklava cheesecake! *See photo of Lourana and Connie below.*





DECATUR HOUSE

Assisted Living in Sandwich Village

Spotlight: Jean Macklin continued -

Jean lived on her own until 2018, when a fall and a broken shoulder led her to Decatur House. Since then, she has embraced it as her second home. According to David, Jean has lost none of what makes her who she is — her sharp mind, strong opinions, quiet sense of humor, and practical outlook shaped by growing up during the Great Depression. She is positive and fun, outgoing yet modest, and not one for a lot of fanfare. “Be careful,” David says with a laugh, noting Jean still has plenty to say and plenty of wit to deliver it.

As a younger generation remembers, Jean and Mac were the fun aunt and uncle at every holiday, arriving with treats, candy, and toys, and later continuing that tradition with their great nieces and nephews on the Cape. Those memories, full of generosity and joy, still define how Jean is cherished today.

We are proud to celebrate Jean Macklin, a woman of resilience, partnership, family, and quiet strength, on her 100th birthday, and grateful to share this milestone with her here at Decatur House.



Decatur House is Seeking Activities Volunteers!

Do you enjoy spending time with older adults? We are looking for reliable, patient, kind volunteers to share their time, talents and passions with our wonderful residents!

Would you like to play cards or games, read, do arts and crafts projects, talk about a trip you took or history, or join us for community outings a few hours a week or month?

If so, please contact Thalia our Activities Manager at activities@decaturhouse.com



Around the House

Community SPOTlight

JEAN MACKLIN CELEBRATES 100 YEARS!



Decatur House is honored to celebrate a remarkable milestone, the 100th birthday of resident Jean Macklin, who has been part of the Decatur House community since 2018.

Jean was born and raised in Leominster, Massachusetts, the youngest in a close-knit family that meant everything to her. She shared a particularly special bond with her older sister Christine, her lifelong best friend, who herself lived well into her 90s herself. Jean was also deeply connected to her brother Raymond, the father of her nephew David Bourque, who recently shared stories of Jean’s life and legacy.

As a teenager, Jean met the love of her life, Gordon, known affectionately as “Mac.” They were married for an extraordinary 61 years and built a life together in Clinton, Massachusetts. Jean spent 40 years working as an executive assistant at a cereal manufacturing company, while Mac worked in construction. Though they did not have children of their own, they were surrounded by a large, loving extended family and played an outsized role in the lives of their nieces and nephews.

Jean and Mac were true partners. They did everything together, especially traveling. Cruises were a favorite, taking them throughout the Caribbean, Mexico, and across Europe. After retiring in the late 1950s, they purchased a home in Yarmouth, bringing them closer to David and his wife Linda, who live on the Cape. When Mac passed away, Jean remained fiercely independent, though David and Linda were always nearby when support was needed.

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