

FEBRUARY ROUNDUP



February 14th is the day for love! At Decatur House, our celebrations are not limited to just one day though. We started the month by indulging our artistic inclinations: creating sparkly valentine themed paintings, and beautiful heart shaped décor; we used many to decorate Decatur House and the residents' own private apartments. *See photo of Francine above left, and Anita and her daughter above middle.*

Residents challenged their Valentine knowledge with J-I-N-G-O, a fun, themed bingo where players matched up the answers to historical questions with illustrations on their game cards. Of course, the prizes were very sweet. Tea with Chef Cynthia coincided with our first big snow of the season. Still, it was a warm and wonderful time with friends. We sipped the hot brew from pretty China cups and sampled dainty cucumber and radish sandwiches. scones were offered with several delicious jams. We enjoyed the camaraderie and lovely snow from inside!

The threat of a second snowstorm had us leaning into the cozy comfort of baking fun and we decorated cookies that Chef Cynthia had prepared. *See photos of Alex, Lourana, Fran and Chuck above right.* On the 14th, we let our hair down with a karaoke dance party. We danced and sang out hearts out. *See photo of Chuck and Shirelle dancing below left!* Once again, Chef Cynthia was the unseen heroine at this event with her delicious, chocolate covered strawberries and fruit punch. It was so much fun! Thanks to our care staff: Shirelle, Alex, Elaine, and Jess for planning and hosting this spectacular party! Thank you also to the Girl Scouts in Troop 826 for dropping off treats. *See photo of Addie and Judy below left.*

The love did not end when Valentines Day did. Residents were treated to lively performances by Julie Charland and Gary Landgren. Their programs included show tunes, classical favorites, even reinterpreted Rock & Roll legends like the Beatles and Elvis. Movie Mondays were an old and new mix of comedy, romance, and history, and sparked great conversation! We stayed active with bowling - *see photo of Judy bottom middle* and Drum Fit, and had visits from some of our favorite pups. *See photo of Ed with his dog, Marnie!*

During social time, Truth or Dare, Trivia and Pictionary generated a lot of laughs. Several residents said they couldn't wait to play again! *See photo of Claire and Nancy D. - bottom middle.* Brother Mike Haley provided Catholic Holy Communion for the devout. Our good friend Joyce came over to create beaded treasures. And Chuck's good friend, Cynthia, threw a surprise yoga party to celebrate his birthday. What a thoughtful and unique way to celebrate! We also celebrated Clara's birthday - *see photo of her with her cake below right!*

Moving into March, we are reminded what a treasure our friendships are, and how a little thoughtfulness can equal a lot of love at Decatur House.



By the age of 23, she was leading a team as a Residential Care Director at a large assisted living.

Her passion has always been working with older adults, and she loves the environment of assisted living communities. “I’ve always believed that assisted living helps people maintain a good quality of life and independence while receiving the support they need,” she shares.

At Decatur House, Jennifer found a close-knit, family-owned community that truly prioritizes personalized care. Unlike larger corporate facilities, Decatur House’s smaller size allows for a more individualized approach. “There’s a big difference between managing care for 120 apartments versus 38,” she explains.

“Here, we can really get to know each resident personally, understand their needs, and make them feel at home.”

Jennifer describes Decatur House as warm and inviting, a place where residents aren’t just part of a system. With her years of experience, dedication to caregiving, and heart for seniors, she’s proud to be part of a team that values connection, comfort, and exceptional care.

We are grateful to have Jennifer as part of the Decatur House family, bringing her expertise, compassion, and warmth to our community.



Decatur House Joins Winter Soup Lunch

For the first time since the pandemic, Decatur House proudly joined the Winter Soup Lunch at First United Church in Sandwich, contributing two gallons of homemade kale soup to the community meal.

This beloved weekly event, which ran every Wednesday from January 8 through February 28, is all about sharing warmth, good food, and community spirit - values that align perfectly with Decatur House’s commitment to giving back.

But this wasn’t just any kale soup - this was Chef Cynthia’s special recipe, crafted with care and a little mystery (she insists she “doesn’t cook that way” when asked for the recipe!). Along with this hearty dish, she also prepared home-baked treats to add a little extra sweetness to the meal.

Being part of this cherished tradition was a meaningful experience, and while this was our last contribution for the season, we’re already looking forward to next year. Who knows? Maybe we’ll draw from our own residents’ treasured family recipes!

The Winter Soup Lunch at First United Church brings people together, whether they stop by for a meal in person or pick up a cup to go. With a rotating selection of delicious soups—like Portuguese kale, lentil, split pea, squash bisque, and chili—there’s something for everyone. And the best part? Lunch is FREE for all!

We are grateful for the opportunity to be part of this wonderful initiative and look forward to future collaborations.

MARCH 2025



DECATUR HOUSE

Assisted Living in Sandwich Village

Around the House

Community SPOTlight

JENNIFER BARTOLOMEI



For Jennifer Bartolomei, caring for others has always been a calling. As the Resident Care Director at Decatur House, she brings more than two decades of experience in nursing and assisted living.

Jennifer grew up in Falmouth on Cape Cod, where she still lives today with her husband and their two children. With an 18-year-old daughter away at college and a 16-year-old son attending high school, life has been filled with sports, travel, and family fun.

Whether cheering from the sidelines or driving to games and tournaments, she and her husband have always supported their kids’ athletic pursuits.

Beyond her professional and family life, Jennifer enjoys spending time outdoors. She runs the Falmouth Road Race every year and recently discovered a new passion for gardening. Last year, she planted her first vegetable garden and was amazed by her success, growing tomatoes, cucumbers, green beans and herbs.

Jennifer's journey into nursing began at a young age when a close friend was in a car accident. Seeing the impact that compassionate care could have on someone’s life, she knew she wanted to pursue a career in healthcare. She started as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) and later earned her Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) certification through Upper Cape Tech.

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