

Spotlight Continued

Alice loved to golf and Amy says that she was a very good golfer. They enjoyed cocktail hour and “Jeopardy” each evening and spending time with family – especially grandchildren: Molly and Decklan.

When asked to describe herself, Alice said, “I am religious, family-oriented, was married to Fred for over 50 years. I was a great supportive partner to him. I raised good kids, and I loved to make cookies. Cookies were my thing.”

Her daughter Amy agreed with all of those things and laughed about the cookies, saying they were “addictive and wonderful;” explaining that Alice gave them to everyone who came by the house from landscapers to pest control companies.

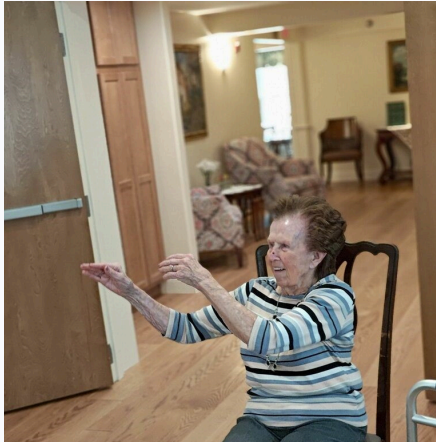
She added that her mom is kind, thoughtful, and quick-witted. She said that another thing that Alice is famous for is making life-sized Raggedy Ann and Andy dolls. She used to give them as baby gifts and has made nearly a hundred of them!”

Nowadays, Alice enjoys jigsaw puzzles, crossword puzzles, golf, movies, TV game shows and reading. She says that she’s enjoying being at Decatur House. “I’m comfortable and settling into the community. The food is good and I’m participating in the activities.”

As the interview was wrapping up, Alice had to leave to attend her monthly “Lobster Roll Luncheon,” a tradition she’s been relishing with 5 other local women for 20 years.

I’m definitely not going to keep you from that, Alice! It was a pleasure talking to you.

APRIL ROUNDUP



April was chilly but it didn’t keep us from getting outside and taking walks with our new outdoor walking group. It’s been fun taking strolls on beautiful Main Street, Sandwich Village, especially with all of the blooming trees and flowers. Those who aren’t up for walks have been signing up for scenic drives with Linda, which they relish.

We also enjoyed bundling up and getting outside for the solar eclipse that took place on April 8. It’s not every year that this fascinating natural phenomenon occurs, so of course we had to have a viewing party! On Cape Cod, we enjoyed views of nearly 80% coverage. Residents donned their safety glasses for the awe-inspiring event.

Other events that we’ve participated in this month included outings to Seafood Sams and Town Tavern and Movie Mondays. Residents loved “The Princess Diaries” and said it was a cute, feel-good movie. They so enjoyed “Richie Rich,” “Finding Nemo,” “The Perfect Game,” and “Babette’s Feast.”

The morning mingles, with coffee, tea and donuts have been a continuous hit, and we’ve been making lots of spring crafts, including the highly-requested “beading crafts.”

April musical performances included Julie Charland, Dawna Hammers, Candido Bretto and Gary Landgren. We always know it’s a hit when residents are gleefully dancing and singing along with the performers! *(Our own Lourana also took to the keys with her biggest fan Ted pictured above middle! See photo of Francine dancing above right.)*

Lastly, we have new friends who visit us on Fridays – Hank and his service dog Cotton, a sweet pug who loves pats and belly rubs from our residents! *(See photo above left).*

2024 Resident & Family Survey Results

We conducted the resident and family member survey to see how we are doing at Decatur House, and we are pleased to share key findings with you:

- 100% of you are satisfied or very satisfied with the Nursing team's response to your needs.
- You shared that you would like to see some changes to the food, especially regarding portion sizes, veggies and variety. As we enter the spring season, we will be making changes to the menus and focusing on some more “comfort foods.” If there is anything else you would like to suggest, please let Alana know.
- You shared that you are enjoying activities with Kerri, and suggested that you would like to see more weekend activities. We hope that you are taking advantage of the fun things that our new weekend activities coordinator, Heidi has been planning! Other activities that you suggested are more outings, card games and singing, and Kerri will be working on incorporating all of your suggestions.
- 93% of you are “very satisfied” with the maintenance team’s response to your needs.
- 93% of you feel that your apartments and the grounds are kept “very clean.”

We hope you like our new, more robust newsletter. It gives us more space to share important news

Following are house notes:

- This month we welcome two new residents: Barbara from East Sandwich and Donna from Westport, CT. Please stop by to say hello!
- We've hired a new cook. His name is Michael and he previously worked at Cafe Chew in Sandwich. He's primarily helping out at dinner time and on the weekends. He looks forward to meeting you.
- Our grounds are looking beautiful with all of the blooming flowers and trees, we encourage you to come visit.
- Just a reminder, if you plan on having a meal in our dining room with your loved one, please just let alana@decaturhouse.com know at least 24-hours ahead of time so she can plan for your visit.
- Family members and friends are always welcome to volunteer in leading activities. If you want to lead a sing-a-long, host a coffee hour, play cribbage with residents, lead trivial pursuit or anything fun you can think of, please contact Kerri at activities@decaturhouse.com

- 93% of you would refer someone who has a need for assisted living to Decatur House and we appreciate that vote of confidence very much!
- 87% of you say that you feel very safe at Decatur House and a few of you have asked us to "inform you" of the system." *We will write more about that in an upcoming newsletter.*

An anonymous family member said, *"Wonderful staff on all levels providing excellent care. Consistently exceed expectations, a very nurturing environment."*

Resident Marilyn Sheprow shared the following testimonial with us, *"I have found myself referring to Decatur House as home when talking to others." It amazed even me. It is my safe place."*

Thank you, Marilyn and thank you everyone for participating. Your feedback is very important to us. Please know that you can share your thoughts with us at any time. You don't have to wait for a survey.



Nancy D. and Karen had fun on the lunch outing.



Maggie wore solar eclipse safety glasses and a big smile!



Jeff enjoyed a donut at Morning Mingle!



DECATUR HOUSE

Assisted Living in Sandwich Village

MAY 2024

Around the House

Community SPOTlight

ALICE SMITH

Some people might mistake resident, Alice Smith as member of the Decatur House staff. She can often be found leading activities and helping staff and residents. In fact, she often runs the social hour trivia game on Wednesday afternoons, which she enjoys.



Alice was born in Holyoke, Massachusetts before moving to West Springfield. She was one of 5 girls in a close-knit family. She graduated from Sacred Heart High School in Springfield and went on to earn her teaching degree from the University of Massachusetts. That is where she met her husband, Fred. He was a "house boy" at her sorority and the two became very good friends.

However, the love bug bit and they fell in love and were married in 1967. In the beginning, they were both teachers, but back in those days as soon as women started "showing" they weren't able to teach any longer, so Alice had to give up her career. Meanwhile Fred went on to work for Digital Equipment Corporation (a computer company bought by Hewlett Packard) in sales and marketing.

She and Fred welcomed 3 children together: Jennifer, Amy and Brian, who they raised in Southborough. The family liked to play board games together and spend summers at the beach in South Dennis.

Alice's daughter, Amy described her mom as being available and involved. "She was a stay-at-home mom, driving us to all of our sports, serving as a member of the PTA."

After the kids were in school, Alice became the Director of Religious Education at her local parish. Once the kids were "grown and flown," as Alice says, Fred retired and the couple spent their winters in Florida and summers in Sandwich.

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