

A VIEW FROM *the* PORCH

THE DIXON HOUSE INDEPENDENT AND ASSISTED LIVING

SUMMER

DIXONHOUSE.ORG • 410-822-6661 • 108 NORTH HIGGINS STREET

2022

Meet Jeanne Smith

Jeanne Smith, age 94, came to Dixon House in August 2019 to be close to her daughter who lives in Easton.



Resident Jeanne Smith with her first quilt, made in 1993

She was born in St. Michaels on Thanksgiving Day in 1927 and quips that her mother never got the Thanksgiving dinner she cooked that day because Jeanne decided to be born. She had one sister Charlotte and her family lived with her grandmother in St. Michaels. Jeanne loved sailing and sailboat racing as a younger woman. Early on, she wanted to be a nurse but her mother discouraged her and she became a secretary instead. She married Russell Smith after meeting him on a blind date.

Russell was a marine who served in World War II and later was a Deputy Sheriff. The couple had three children while living in Easton — Susan, Butch, and Sylvia.

Jeanne is talented both musically and as a quilter. Just stop by her room on the second floor of Dixon House and you will see the fruits of her labor — beautiful quilts adorn her walls and her bed. She even has a book of all the quilts she made, telling their stories and who she made them for. As a member of Bayside Quilters, Jeanne exhibited a number of her quilts. One of her quilts is made from one-of-a-kind embroidered tea towels.

“I started sewing aprons first. I made my first quilt in 1993 and it’s the one on my bed. I made quilts mainly for my family — for all of my children and my nieces,” she shares.

Jeanne learned how to play music from her mother who was a piano teacher. She learned to play the accordion and even had a music partner who played the mouth organ. When she came to Dixon House, she brought her accordion with her to play.

She started her career in secretarial work, first with Gulf Oil Corporation, then with Campbell Ensor Advertising, before working as an administrative assistant in Nursing Administration at Memorial Hospital in Easton (now the University of Maryland Shore Regional Health) — the position from which she retired. She and her husband enjoyed their travel camper and going to Florida. Jeanne later took trips to Iceland and the Hawaiian Islands.

Jeanne likes to read and enjoys the exercise classes and other activities offered at Dixon House. She also appreciates her church providing a bus to pick her up weekly to attend church.

“Dixon House offers affordable housing for seniors like me — they provide our room, meals, entertainment, and activities. Plus, it’s convenient for my family and I really like the people who work here,” she adds.

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It is so nice that spring has arrived and our front porch is full again.

We have several new things happening at Dixon House. Fortunately, we have been able to resume our Pre-COVID visitation. It's so nice to see people visiting our residents again. The house feels alive once more. Several new faces have also joined us since the fall, both residents and staff.

Everyone is enjoying our newly painted walls and flooring. We have finally reached the second floor with these renovations and the interior is looking great. Of course, as with any old house, the work is never done. This spring we will begin renovations of our screened porches on the first and second floors. These



Pictured is the second-floor hallway with its new paint and flooring.

are common areas used heavily by a number of our residents and they certainly need a lift.

You won't want to miss our "Backyard Bash" for residents and their families on May 18 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. We look forward to having everyone together to celebrate and enjoy entertainment by Shelly and Anita Abbott, as well as enjoy some traditional backyard eats!

Linda Elben
Executive Director

Catherine Seeley Joins Dixon House Board

Catherine R. Seeley M.A. of Easton recently joined the Board of Directors of Dixon House.

Catherine has an extensive professional background in health care administration; medical ethics; crisis, grief, and transition. She also has been an educator/consultant for hospices, home health care agencies, long-term care facilities, hospitals, and health care systems around the country.



Catherine R. Seeley, new board member at Dixon House

adjunct faculties at colleges and universities in New York. She is a graduate of Marywood University in Pennsylvania and Fordham University in New York.

"The three most important jobs of a board member are foresight, oversight and insight. Our job is not to steer the ship, but rather to be in the crow's nest to look toward the horizon and

chart the course," Catherine shares.

"While I have served on boards of larger facilities, I have really been impressed at the enormous dedication of the board and staff at Dixon House to keep this smaller facility humming along at its best," she comments.

"I am especially impressed with the origins of Dixon House and its mission. It's very important to preserve the historical aspects of the organization in its place in Talbot County's history. It's not just the families who have entrusted Dixon House with their precious loved ones, we've also been entrusted with preserving and enhancing a living, historical legacy within our community."

Prior to coming to Easton, Catherine was a hospital vice president for ethics and mission in Massachusetts, as well as director at a fully accredited 200-bed palliative care specialty cancer hospital in New York, and served on

"I think Dixon House is doing an excellent job addressing its infrastructure and its physical plant. Staffing is the most important resource we have. People know our staff by the quality of care given to our residents. I don't doubt that their dedication to such a standard of care for the elderly is the same as that which motivated the five founding women of Dixon House in the 1800s."

Executive Director Linda Elben states, "We are thrilled to have Catherine on the board. Her experience and knowledge in this field are extensive. She will help guide us as we continue to meet the standards of care that our founders wanted for Dixon House."

In her free time, she writes poetry and has been published by Salt Water Media and Eastern Shore Writer's Association.

Missy LeCompte Hired as Activities Assistant



Missy LeCompte has been hired as Activities Assistant at Dixon House. She works on Saturdays and weekdays helping

with resident activities and driving the bus. She recently took the residents to

Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge. She is planning to expand trips this summer, including a trip to Ocean City for Boardwalk fries! We welcome Missy to our team!

Edna Parks Counts Down to 108th Birthday



Resident Edna Parks of Trappe will be celebrating her 108th birthday at Dixon House on September 21. Edna who

lived her life in Talbot County entered Dixon House in May 2019. Before that, she lived independently until age 102, when she went to live with her son Roger Parks and his wife for two years. She has three children: Roger Parks, Kenny Parks, and Eunice Roe. She also has seven grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and eight great-great-grandchildren.

Dixon House Remembrances

Richard Sturmer (2/10/1930 - 11/29/2021)

Richard was born in 1930 in Chicago, Illinois. He attended Lehigh University, getting a B.S. degree in Industrial Engineering. He learned computers in the Navy and then had a career with Dixie Cup, followed by work with veteran hospitals before retiring to upstate New York. In his later years, he taught English in China and was a substitute teacher. His volunteer work included serving on town boards, the Lions Club, and the Republican Club. He was married to Jeanette and has three children, four step-children, 10 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Patty Brohawn (1/30/1931 - 12/17/2021)

Patty was born in Baltimore, Maryland, and moved to Cambridge as a young child. She graduated from Cambridge High School and married James W. Brohawn and had two children. She worked at Western Publishing for many years and then became a caregiver for an elderly Cambridge resident. She was later Program Director at the YMCA in Cambridge until she retired. She was an avid bridge player for most of her life and played in many groups. Her favorite place to spend time was at the beach in Fenwick Island, Delaware.

She loved to cook, loved decorating her home, and especially loved spending time with her children and grandchildren. Patty is survived by her daughter, Kathryn B. Clagett, and her husband Hal, her son James Brohawn and his wife Lori, and granddaughters Grace Clagett and Emily Brohawn.

Frances H. Stewart (9/26/1921 - 1/18/2022)

Frances met her husband in 1940 and married that year. They made their home in Reids Grove and raised their five daughters there. They were married 61 years when Jimmy passed away in 2001. She was a homemaker most of her life. She worked briefly with her daughter Pat in a medical office in Salisbury. She was also secretary of her husband's construction business until he retired. Frances was of the Methodist faith and attended church regularly. She celebrated her 100th birthday in September 2021 with family and friends and Reids Grove Methodist Church. She is survived by her five daughters: Pam Collison (Clifford), Pat Poole (Ronnie), Sharon Hughes (Mark), Judy Biskach, and Penny Wheatley (Bobby), and seven grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, and nine great-great-grandchildren. She is pre-deceased by her son-in-law Louis Biskach, Sr.

Andrea Heinlein (5/18/1923 - 2/12/2022)

Andrea was born in Delaware, Ohio, and graduated from East Liverpool High School and Central Secretarial School. She was married to the late Robert E. Heinlein, a Major in the Medical Corps in the U.S. Army and CEO and President of Overlook Hospital in Summit, New Jersey for 27 years. She worked as a secretary and was present the first day the Pentagon opened. In Summit, she was active in community service in her church. She was an active member of P.E.O., an International Educational Organization, since 1968 and was the last living Charter Member of Chapter K in New London. She is pre-deceased by her husband, her son Stephen R. Heinlein, and her son-in-law William Malsch. She is survived by two daughters Karen D. Malsch and Debra Frost (John), a daughter-in-law Julia Heinlein and three grandchildren, five great-granddaughters, and four great-great-grandchildren.

Elizabeth Eckhardt (9/23/1932 - 4/5/2022)

Survived by two friends, Henry and Sharon Pennell.

Out and About



Dixon House Residents recently made a trip to Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge and stopped by the Market in Church Creek where they learned from Morgan and Will about the art of making candy.



Lois Larrimore with DIY Wooden Sunflower Painting Décor.



Ann Kuntz with DIY Woodland Coaster



Dixon House honored its veterans: (from left to right) Albert (Bud) Tardiff, Ivan Ogle & Beatrice (Bea) Larkin.

Mary Lu McBurney with a coloring project for Easter.





THE DIXON HOUSE

Independent and Assisted Living

108 N. Higgins Street
Easton, MD 21601

Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage
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Easton, MD
Permit No 94

Backyard Bash!

WITH SHELLY AND ANITA

Dixon House Courtyard

Wednesday, May 18, 10 a.m. - 12 noon

Residents and their families are invited to the
"Best Backyard Bash Ever," featuring:

Musical entertainment by Shelly and Anita Abbott

Grilled hot dogs and other traditional backyard treats

Games, guests, and more

**Bring your own chair (B.Y.O.C.) and
join your loved one for the day.**

RSVP by Monday, May 16 at 410-822-6661.

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The mission of The Dixon House, a non-profit independent and assisted-living facility, is to provide high quality and affordable residential care to seniors in an enriching home-like environment.

The DIXON HOUSE, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations are deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. Financial report available upon request.

410.822.6661