

Transition Times

A publication of the Friends House Seniors Association to chronicle our progress towards expansion and a new and improved Friends House!

Volume 4
No 1
March 2020

Our new common areas are spectacular! We eagerly await the completion of all the new buildings. In the meantime, the worker bees are drawing to a close. Soon we will have new residents and some current residents will move to new apartments. See Pg 2 for more info



Often seen at lunch time on campus, Pupuseria Vicky. Here it is on a recent Saturday with Vicky (?) providing hot food for workers on a cold day. We have much gratitude for all these workers and their accomplishments through all kinds of weather conditions over the last 1.5 years!



We have had several opportunities to meet incoming residents. See inside for a walk through our new kitchen, an update on the library, upcoming events and news of recent events and lots more!!

Construction Update



First of the duplexes ready for March move in. Projections: lodges in May and apartments on Quaker Lane in June.



Right—Homes on Quaker Lane as of 2/29/20. Lots of progress; workers busy with the interior. Below—artist rendering is what we will hopefully see by June, with green in summer !



Our New Kitchen

A conversation and picture tour with Bill Bannon, Director of Food Services

From Bill to Residents.....

“Thank you residents for your patience while the kitchen was closed, even when the meals didn’t meet my standards. You all had a good attitude, and I appreciate that.”



More work areas and equipment

Same square footage as before

More separate areas

Will be able to do more a la carte



Open for breakfast, lunch and snacks **SOON**—for residents & staff— drop in @ Bistro!

Ice Cream!!!!



Come and enjoy the new Friends House Restaurant!!

The Community Garden by Wallace Watson

On this spring-like, sunny day (February 23), yellow crocuses and white snow-drops are popping out of the damp ground and buds are bulging on trees and shrubs all around our campus—including the large old peach tree and berry bushes in the Community Garden.



Friends House gardeners are getting ready for the coming season of weeding, composting, planting,

nurturing, and harvesting a wide range of vegetables, fruits, and flowers.

Under the leadership of Alan DeSilva and Lucille Ridlon, members of the Gardening Committee, with help from a dozen or so Master Gardeners living nearby, have cleaned out most of the remains of last year's in-ground plots and raised beds, added leaf mold, and coordinated the significant growth of our large compost pile. Committee members have been meeting regularly over the winter, making plans for the new growing season—arranging for clean water to be connected to the garden hoses as well as ordering seeds, three new peach trees for the garden and landscape plants for other locations.



Lucille, Depali Sinha, and others have been hard at work all winter in the greenhouse adjacent to the garden. They have arranged for the replacement of some cracked glass, transplanted and maintained many potted plants in preparation for the restoration of Flower Alley (between the dining hall and Miller Center) after building repairs are completed.



Flower Alley restored with plants tended in the greenhouse during construction.

All residents, including those already here and the new arrivers, are encouraged to join the fun in 2020, whether experienced or not.

You can take on as much or as little work as you like. If you wish, you can choose a raised bed instead of an in-ground plot and/or work in the greenhouse. There are also many other administrative and coordinating tasks to be done—without getting your hands dirty.



The garden leaders are reviewing responses to a survey sent out last week and will assign plots or beds soon. Some community work can start immediately, such as moving asparagus plants and weeding pathways. Even if you don't want to join this committee (of which there are of course many others doing important work here at Friends House), do plan to visit the garden and admire the flowers and butterflies (in our registered Butterfly Garden) and a plethora of tomatoes, peppers, and other veggies—and plan to pick up some of those goodies on the Free Bench in A-Wing.



Wallace Watson, resident gardener. Showing last summer's bounty!

Administrative Staff

Maintenance Department



In January, we said goodbye to **Bob Hill** as our Director of Maintenance. Bob supported Friends House for many years in many roles. We all wished him well in his future endeavors!

Eric Kay, Assistant Director

Eric served as Interim Director of Maintenance from January to mid February. At that time Eric was promoted to Assistant Maintenance Director. Congratulations Eric!!



Stephen Beyer, Director



Welcome Stephen as Director of Maintenance!! Stephen has over ten years of experience in Maintenance, most recently as the Director of Maintenance at Springvale Terrace, a senior living community in Silver Spring. Stephen's

experience and commitment to "Residents come first" will make him an asset to Friends House.



Ron Jennette, Interim Chief Executive Officer, grew up in Louisville, Kentucky where his parents still live. He lived in Missouri, Kansas and Tennessee before

moving to Texas where he currently lives. His experience in senior housing started when he began working as a management consultant in Nashville, Tennessee. He left after six years to work for Air Force Villages in San Antonio, Texas, first as a CFO and then CEO overseeing two large communities of six to seven hundred residents each plus a seventy-two unit specialty dementia building and research center. Prior to Friends House, Ron was CEO of the Methodist Retirement Communities. He describes that time as one of redeveloping and reinventing the organization to become a thriving system of 14 retirement communities. He also held positions with both the Texas and National **Leading Age** organizations.

Ron views this work as his mission. His time here at Friends House is an opportunity to serve a need. He is greatly enjoying the more hands-on experience and new friendships. His challenge is to strengthen the leadership team as a cohesive group and to help Friends House clarify a path going forward into the future. And then return to Texas to spend time with his family. Until the next opportunity to make a difference.

Kendall Anthony

New Resident



Marly Davidson, D4

Marly started her life in San Jose, California, in 1950. With her father in the Navy, she and her younger brother and parents moved every two or three years, usually to the

East Coast or the Pacific. Her mother held the family together while her father was at sea, so Marly learned to be responsible early and adapt to new situations quickly, as she clearly has at Friends House.

While on a naval base in the Philippines, she was a Rotary exchange student to Australia for 1.5 years. There she was a “daughter” in five different families and, in one, even made her debut into society! It was her first experience of living in a normal family. “Australia saved my life,” she says.

After returning to the States and attending U. of MD, her heart was still in Australia, so she returned for seven years where she had many adventures and travels.

Marly married in 1982 and has two sons, 34 & 38, two grandchildren 11 and 14, all living in Baltimore. A friendly person who smiles easily, her face really lights up when she speaks of her family.

Until recently, she worked as an editor for the Department of Justice and plans on finding other part-time work soon. In the meantime, D-wing has recruited her for voter registration, volunteer driver, and an elephant shop helper. Welcome to our community!

Ann Gerike

Around Campus



A sick raccoon captured and removed by animal control. Thank you everyone who helped!!



Goose patrol. Don't tell the geese that the dogs are not real!

On trail to the Spring and meeting these folks sharing the trail while enjoying the Underground Railroad experience, the woods and the Sandy Spring!



Party Time!!



Valentine's Day Tea February 14

is a long tradition at Friends House. Hat, gloves, pearls and other finery are on display. Staff serve the residents tea while sandwiches, cookies, fruit, and chocolate are enjoyed along with good conversation and fun!



Raffle tickets are given out for a drawing to win the traveling teapot. All the ingredients for a tea party are included with the teapot so the winner can invite a friend (or friends) for tea.



Left, Elizabeth Nicely, Director of Human Resources displays the prize. Below, Priscilla Sabino, was the winner!



See You Next Year!!!

Friends House Seniors Association

Welcoming New Residents



Friends House has been preparing to greet, orient and welcome our new residents. Many have volunteered to fill the role of greeters, those who will make a first introduction to a new resident. They will provide the resident (s) with the name and contact information of the host for their group.



New residents have been randomly assigned to three groups to facilitate mixing lodgers, duplexers, and current cottagers. We are hoping that will help everyone meet each other and facilitate becoming part of our community. At that time we will review how the host program works here at Friends House.

Each group is planning a social gathering of their group on **April 2**. The group's convener will be in touch with all new residents with details for where your group will meet.

See you soon!!

Message from the President and Board

March 2020

Things are slowly returning to the new normal. We are pleased to have the redone commons back and look forward to the blending of new and present residents while enjoying the newly enhanced spaces.

We appreciate receiving more information from our administrative staff about progress on the campus.

All residents meet, in what we now call wings, on the first Thursday of the month and we gather as a full resident body on the second Thursday evening. Committees meet at various times, announced by the convenors. New FHSA officers will be nominated and elected later in the spring for next fiscal year starting July 1.

All are welcome

Thursday, March 12

7:30 pm

The new Miller Center!!

Rich Liversidge

Aging Well with Friends



Jean Ward and Eleanore Harker moved into Friends House (FH) in 1990. They have lived in various cottages and apartments, and have many memories of how FH has changed over time.

Both have a long connections to FH. Jean's Uncle was one of the original proponents, and Jean was on the FH Board of Directors. Eleanor's mother lived at Friends House in Apartment B-13, where daughter Ann and her husband Martin Whitaker lived.

Residents did many things back then: gardeners raised produce for the dining room and were "in and out of the kitchen, shelling peas and shucking corn." Front desk was staffed by residents and occasional evening programs and Resident Association meetings were held in the Dining Room, with no sound system and we moved the chairs back! The Country Store was started by the Vosses with items bought at local stores with no dedicated space.

The Elephant Shop shared space with the pool table and the ping pong table. Donated items were brought in Tuesday mornings and

it meant clearing off the tables so people could play pool and ping pong. The eventual Elephant Shop's back room housed a sewing machine, a trampoline and, eventually, a computer. Eleanore remembers organizing residents twice to empty out the cottage where Joan and Rich Liversidge now live. Most residents were in their 70s and 80s.

Thirty years ago meeting for worship was not a regular feature. It began in D lounge. Small memorial services were sometimes held in A Lounge and a wedding was held in the dining room.

Chuck Harker and Joan Liversidge's father worked in the shop where they repaired furniture for residents, enjoyed working together, and didn't agree on what kind of music to listen to in the workshop.

D Wing had marvelous Saturday tea parties. Dick Bichner would cook pancakes or hot dogs in the laundry room, and everyone on campus was invited.

Eleanore says she is looking forward to moving into the new building which she describes as "elegant, but it looks comfortable." But despite the changes one thing is still the same – the residents. They both enjoy having "special friends" here, especially as they don't get out as much as they used to.

Nancy Rea

Activities

The Lunch Bunch!

Third Tuesdays at a local restaurant with Nick and the Friends House Bus!



**Nancy McIntyre, Coordinator
301-467-2560**

**Sign up with Dimitra at the
Front Desk, Reception Area,
Commons**

Game Night every Tuesday

Through March 24th

Where: New C Lounge!

When: Tuesdays, 7:30 to 9:30

What: Board, card games, and tables.

(Note: Bring your own games or use those already in New C Lounge.)

Refreshments: Provided. You can also bring your own drink or snack.



**Everyone
Welcome for
Fun &
Games!!**



NEW LIBRARY

We are celebrating our newly renovated Friends House Library, with its new seating area and especially the easier-to-reach book shelves.



“Many hands make light work”

The library contains approximately 1,500 books – mainly fiction but also sciences, religion, biography, history. In the fiction section we have Large Print and regular print books. We experimented with having some books on CD from the public library but they were not as popular as we had thought. The system for checking out books is a manual one, using the card in the book pocket. The loan period is three weeks. We would like to encourage more members of the Friends House community to check out books and increase the number circulating. There is a small budget for buying new books and the selection committee meets periodically to discuss



popular books for purchase and to select a few from books donated by residents. Suggestions for purchase are always welcome.



Jacquie Greene cuts the ribbon on 2/29. A GRAND OPENING is planned for early April!

We subscribe to a few periodicals and many older ones are donated. You will find a table with special book displays; an area with Quaker newsletters; a collection of juvenile books; a display of publications by residents; an archival section with past histories and photos of Friends House and listings of residents; also a small Reference section. Two residents are listed who are pleased to answer reference questions.

The card catalog shows our holdings by author, title and subject. It doesn't occur as often as we would like, but if you happen to see a volunteer working at the desk, we welcome questions or suggestions!

Or give the coordinator a call:

Maris Corbin,
301-570-0647

Earth Day

Save the Date

Bees & Trees 50th Anniversary Earth Day Celebration

Monday, April 20th, 2020
1-3 PM - Miller Center

In the grand tradition of FH's
cherishing and stewardship of nature...

Katy Gaughan leads us in Drumming for
Wellness, Community, Connection and
Celebration

Local Beekeepers, Gardeners, Birders
will share their passion and knowledge.

**NATURE-LOVERS/TREE-LOVERS.....
ALL ARE WELCOME!**



NEWEST RESIDENTS

Paul and Annabel Kaufman
17303 Quaker Lane

MOVED

Claude and Betty Bennett from C -26

IN MEMORIAM

Robert Kove, 1934-2020

Laura "Peg" Gibian, 1917-2020



Kathleen
waiting for
Friends
House bus
by new en-
trance in
the com-
mons.

The Light is
wonderful
for our green
house
plants!

Transition Times **PRODUCTION**

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Transition Times

will replace Friends House Letter during our expansion and will be published every few months while our community undergoes transformation.

Please send requests for electronic copy to jrlivers@earthlink.net.

The Editorial Committee

Help Needed?



Yours and others' animals can be a source of comfort and joy. If it's resources and information needed, make an appointment with Paula Riddle in her new office right next to the front door in the commons lobby!

