

Foxdale Highlights

A newsletter for friends of Foxdale Village



Vi McLane

Volume 12, Issue 1

Summer / Fall 2010

Interview Project Crosses International Borders

by Mary Ann Curren, Therapeutic Recreation

This spring, students from the Penn State Intensive English Communication Program (IECP) visited residents at Foxdale Village to find out more about residents' lives and experiences. The students, from countries all over the world, are here in State College to improve their language skills so that they can enter American universities, enhance their careers, or achieve other life goals. Since one important facet of language learning is connecting to the community, this trip was arranged to allow students to meet older adults who are well-versed in both State College and the world.

■ *Left: Foxdale resident Emilie Jansma with her two interviewers, Stephanie Aerouelie, from the Ivory Coast and Taha Alabbad, from Saudi Arabia, along with project coordinator Ruth Parrish Sauder, from Penn State.*



With about 20 of their own questions in hand, student pairs met with individual Foxdale residents in the hopes of learning more about their elders' life experiences, travels, interests, and advice. These conversations were so fascinating to all involved that when the interviewing had finished, everyone was surprised to realize that their time together was nearly over. Several student-resident pairs seemed destined for future reunions, including the nurse who talked with the experienced pediatrician, and the aspiring aerospace engineer who had a conversation with the former math professor and pilot. Building these connections helps us all see the world more clearly, as we glimpse it through the eyes of new friends. ■



■ *Above: Foxdale resident Louise Harris is interviewed by Chia Fang Huang, from Taiwan and Ahmed Brahman, from Kuwait.*



Twenty Years: Reflections on the Past and Hopes for the Future

With Foxdale's official 20th Anniversary this September, we asked a few long-time Foxdale residents and staff to reflect on the early years.

TWO DECADES AT FOXDALE VILLAGE

Paul Bixby, Foxdale resident since 1988

On July 1, 1988 I moved to #125—on a muddy hilltop rapidly being covered with concrete foundations for 147 other apartments designed for independent living. For the next 24 months I lived on the high edge of the busy hillside construction project.

My 50 year career had specialized in personnel management for non-profit and governmental institutions, but Foxdale was my first experience of being present at the birth of a new institution. Although I had not come in time to be involved in planning the physical campus, the only employee of the new CCRC, a member of the Founding Corporate Board serving as temporary managing secretary, was housed in a nearby unfinished apartment. Offering help came naturally as she met potential residents seeking information. (For example, I spent many hours cleaning her shoes after she showed potential customers around the muddy construction.)

Organizing the people—Board, residents, staff—into a functioning community was about to begin. Noise and confusion surrounded my lone finished apartment—alternately muddy and dusty, but perpetually fascinating as decisions by and about people challenged the temporary management team. The intentional community grew slowly as more residents arrived and staff were hired.

The founding Board members were very clear about their intentions for the new CCRC. Other Quaker-inspired communities served as models but were many miles away in city and suburban settings. No one knew what special problems might emerge in the shadow of a large university like Penn State in the center of rural Penn's Woods. Every day was filled with questions about how to achieve the promised goals with the hundreds of residents and staff coming to live and work on the 19 acre hillside.

The Community Center, including the dining and health care areas, officially opened in September 1990. By 1995 the 148 apartments were occupied and the health care staff was building a reputation for high quality service. Residents and Board members knew we were succeeding and were proud of our Village.

Foxdale has given me a rewarding twenty-year adventure in institution building. I thank the Corporate Board, staff and fellow residents for the opportunity to play a small role in writing and producing the pioneering Foxdale drama based on the inspired dreams of the Quaker founders. ■



■ *A neighborhood in 1990 (above) and 2010 (below)*



BUILDING FOXDALE

Darlene Kensinger

Director of Environmental Services
Foxdale employee since 1988

I began my career at Foxdale on April 1, 1988 as part of the crew that built the facility. I worked alongside the construction crew, painting the interiors, staining the T-111 siding and cleaning up after the workers. As each apartment was completed, I cleaned and made it ready for-move in. By the time the health care center was complete, there were six of us working together to get the building ready to open. This allowed me to really get to know the facility – literally every nook and cranny!

It was a memorable and exciting time to be a part of the Foxdale opening in September of 1990. I especially recall when the first resident moved in. It was fantastic to see it all come together and to know that Foxdale was going to be an

amazing place for retired people to live and enjoy their retirement.

The past 22 years working with Foxdale staff and interacting with residents has been incredibly rewarding to

me. I just love listening to the residents and learning from their experiences. I am excited to once again be a part of “building” Foxdale! Although I know the hard work that goes into it, I also know it will again be a rewarding experience. It is wonderful knowing we will be able to serve more residents. ■

MOVING INTO FOXDALE VILLAGE

Jane Jenks Small, Foxdale resident since 1989

The excitement of anticipation of...*a birthday...a wedding...a graduation...a Presidential election!*

I could easily add “*helping to create Foxdale Village*” to this list! The pioneers, already bonded by years of friendship and seeing the need for a CCRC in Centre County, decided to build one.

- Ralph and Kamilla Way led the way with land and construction.
- Raymond and Christine Ayoub, retired PSU mathematics faculty, gave untiring effort to planning and to early groundwork.
- Bart and Jane Jenks, also retired, provided necessary research and conducted interviews.
- Elton Atwater, with Alice’s support, reviewed state laws, rules, and regulations to be complied with.

Many others gave of their time and expertise to this exciting new enterprise.

Husband Bart Jenks and I moved into our apartment on June 3, 1989 and were surrounded by a sea of mud! Boards provided a “sidewalk” over which we carried our household belongings from the station wagon.

We felt that the location of our apartment (cottage) was perfect. It faced south, looking over Mr. Meyer’s farm and beyond to the Tussey mountain range.

One incident which occurred inside our new home related to my parents and great-grandparents. We had a large mirror, beautiful and heavy, from my great-grandparents’ home in nearby Philipsburg. Ralph Way agreed to be responsible for its hanging, and I’ve always been grateful to Ralph because that mirror’s presence provides beauty, comfort, and continuity. To me, it meant “this is home!” And indeed, this is my home. My recollections consist mainly of feelings and impressions, and they have given me happiness and a sense of security, along with the initial excitement of moving into newly-created Foxdale, a Quaker-directed, continuing-care retirement community. ■



Bright neighborhood in 1990 (left) and in 2010 (right)

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, FOXDALE!

Donna Reich Woolley, Director of Nursing, Foxdale employee since 1991

The pulse of Foxdale is the same as 19 years ago when I first came as a CNA and Penn State nursing student. I remember thinking it was a wonderful place for people to live, a beautiful and stimulating environment, with good friends. Emphasis on living every day with quality continues.

It is an exciting time at Foxdale. The building project will allow us to rejuvenate, but still maintain what is important. The changes will give residents many more choices. It will make us even better than we are today. ■

SAVE THE DATE

October 25, 2 pm

Learn about our upcoming expansion

Meet the Builder and Architect: Part 2
Attend this informative session to learn about reserving and customizing your new apartment. Call 272-2145 to reserve space.

Upcoming Programs

Following is a sampling of the special biweekly events that the Residents’ Association Program Committee has planned for the current season:

SEPTEMBER

14th *Harp Demonstration and Concert*
Elizabeth Etters-Asmus

28th *The Supreme Court*
Greg Farro

OCTOBER

12th *Arietta*
Gail Richey

26th *Keystone Society of Swing Concert*

New Foxdalers

Welcome to the following new Foxdale Village residents:

Anita Altman
Agnes and George Cavigelli
Jane Linsky
Shirley Marchalonis
Priscilla Meserole
Jean Newton
Tom Ryan
Robert Scott
Wallace Snipes
Don and Irmi Snowden
Sandra G. Thomas



*A Quaker-Directed Continuing
Care Retirement Community*

500 East Marylyn Avenue
State College, PA 16801

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Foxdale Highlights is produced by the
Foxdale Marketing Advisory Committee
and is published spring and fall.

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It is the policy of Foxdale Village to be fully inclusive and not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, familial status, ancestry, gender, sexual orientation, religion, handicap, or disability. This policy applies to residents, physicians, and all employees and service providers.



In the Foxdale Village Art Gallery



Artificial Fruit

Nancy Brassington

July 1 - Aug. 23
A collection of still life
oil paintings by
Nancy Brassington

Aug. 26 - Oct. 12
Prints by Cazia Bradley,
Robin Gibson, and
Susan Parsonage

Oct. 14 - Nov. 30
Art Alliance displays
paintings by Karl,
Warren and Rebekah
Leitzel

*The Foxdale Art Gallery
is located on the second
floor of the Community
Building. The exhibits are
coordinated and produced
by the Arts and Acquisitions
Committee.*