

# On the HORIZONS

Special 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition Summer 2022



#### It's Time to Celebrate!

It doesn't seem possible that we are over halfway through our 50th anniversary year! I want to thank everyone who has been a part of Noble Horizons over the last half-century - the founding benefactors, Noble's unparalleled medical team and devoted staff members, residents and their families,

volunteers, donors, community friends and so many others, for their leadership, dedication and support. It is an honor to lead Noble into its second half-century of innovative senior living and with your continued support, Noble Horizons will flourish for generations to come.

We are enormously proud of our past accomplishments and of our deep partnership with this vibrant community. Noble Horizons was born out of a growing recognition that meeting the needs of the area's older adult population would require new housing, additional health and wellness opportunities, and a host of social, recreational, educational and therapeutic services. Noble continues to fill that role as a natural extension of the local community - in fact, it's almost seamless.

A committee of outstanding community volunteers is chronicling Noble's first fifty years, compiling stories, photographs and interviews to create a video series entitled "The Art of Aging" - Celebrating 50 years of Noble Horizons." We expect to premier it at 50th Jubilee Community Picnic on July 12th.

Please bring your family, friends, and a healthy appetite! I am grateful to Sharon Hospital/Nuvance for its generous sponsorship of the picnic and to The Noble Horizons Auxiliary for their extensive support during our anniversary year. You'll find event details, including how to register on the back page. Lastly, we welcome your personal stories or Noble recollections; you are a part of Noble's history and your memories will help preserve the stories for the next generation. I look forward to welcoming you on July 12<sup>th</sup>!

Warm regards,

Bill Pond, Administrator

#### When Community and Vision Meet

One of the highlights of celebrating Noble's first half-century has been the opportunity to talk with Noble staff, volunteers, residents and their families as well as local community members, each of whose contributions over the last 50 years has left an indelible mark on Noble Horizons.

The interviews capture the significance of Noble's pioneering vision and how it has created a senior living community where residents thrive, and find fulfillment and security throughout every step of the aging process.



From the Noble archives:

Eileen Mulligan (center),

Noble Horizons' first Administrator

with guests at an event

This unique continuum of care ensures that if health and/ or financial situations change, residents can count on Noble to meet their needs sensitively, compassionately, and professionally. The stories so kindly contributed by over 30 community members document the enduring impact of Noble Living.

### From the beginning, it was decided that Noble's vision will be carried out by:

Promoting and implementing systems that maintain and support every individual's optimal independence and life wishes in a safe, dignified atmosphere conducive to quality retirement.

Assuring knowledgeable and consistent leadership in retirement living, long-term care, home care and supportive services.

## With Gratitude... Capturing Noble's History

Noble Horizons has always been about community - so what better way to tell our story than through the voices of people who have been impacted by the magic of what we call "Noble Living." The following people graciously gave of their time to be a part of our 50<sup>th</sup> Annivesary video series, we hope to unveil at our Community Picnic July 12<sup>th</sup>.



Dr. Michael Tesoro First Medical Director at Noble Horizons

Barbara Wiggins

First Nurse at Noble Horizons



**Kathy Bartles** Former Noble Horizons Nurse and Director of Education



**Emily Soell** Sister of Noble resident



Julie Reed Wagner Nursing Supervisor



Mary Barton Longtime Noble Volunteer



Keith Moon Hotchkiss faculty member & volunteer teacher at Noble Horizons



**Bruce Kraus** Son of former Noble resident



Carita Gardiner Hotchkiss faculty member & volunteer teacher at Noble Horizons

daughter of former Noble residents



Patrick Gilland CEO of Noble's parent, Church Homes, Inc.



Judy McKearnon President of the Noble Horizons Auxiliary and daughter of former Noble residents



Don Mayland Salisbury Selectman and son of two former Noble residents



Jill Sheffield Mary Ellen Baldwin Former Nurse at Noble Horizons and Former Noble rehab resident



Ruth Adotte Volunteer and daughter of former Noble resident



Michael Brown Former Noble Recreation Department member and musical entertainer



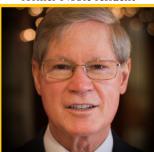
Maria Horne State Representative and daughter of former resident



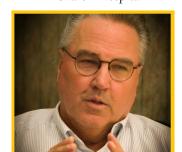
Roberta Willis Former State Representative and daughter of former resident



Tina Chandler Resident and daughter of former Noble resident



Jim Huchinson Sharon Hospital



John Lannen Events coordinator, town of N. Canaan





Sarah Polhemus Resident and daughter of former Noble resident



Nina Mathus Resident and daughter of former Noble residents



**Peter Fitting** 

Rotary Member and Former

Noble Dining Staff

Josh Brennan Volunteer and family of Noble resident



Josie Marks Volunteer



Elyse Harney Community leader, founder of Elyse Harney Real Estate



**Rusty Chandler** Resident



Marge Wheaton Noble Horizons' Staff and daughter of former Noble residents





**Janet Manko** Publisher, The Lakeville Journal



**Bob Bates** Noble Horizons' Staff



Rosemary Farnsworth Resident and wife of former Noble resident



**Betty Scribner** Resident and wife of former Noble resident



Administrator Noble Horizons

#### Stories - a Community Connected



Roberta Willis

Former State Representative

"Most nursing homes are run as a business. Those are not the roots at Noble Horizons. This is a community entity that was created by and for the community who cared about

the community and people who lived here," says Salisbury resident and former State Representative Roberta Willis.

"I'm coming here as someone who feels part of that community. My mother was at Noble Horizons for a number of years.

The experience was all so comfortable. The staff not only took care of my mother, they took care of the whole family. It is amazing what the people here at Noble do. Roberta shared a sentiment heard over and over again:

"50 years later – we see what an incredible effort creating Noble Horizons was and is. It would be amazing if they (the founders) could see it today. Noble isn't siloed; it's part of the community."



Judge Andrew Roraback, former Administrator Eileen Mulligan & former State Representative Roberta Willis at Noble's 25th Anniversary Celebration



**Don Mayland**Salisbury Selectman

Don Mayland is another community leader with strong ties to Noble.

"Noble Horizons has played a huge role in my life - both as a son of parents who were

residents, and as a community leader. My parents moved into the cottages and then the Riga wing at Noble."

When his mother died, his father returned to his home in town, but quickly became isolated and moved back to Noble. "Because I live in town, I was still able to see him whenever I wanted and because Noble isn't like a hospital - not institutionalized, but more like a home I could come and go as I pleased. He lived out his days at Noble and we are forever grateful for the staff who took such great care of him and more importantly became his friends."

As a 50-year resident of Salisbury, a retired 40+ year teacher at The Hotchkiss School, current President of the Salisbury Volunteer Ambulance Association Board, a long-serving Director of Litchfield Bancrop and one of Salisbury's Selectman, Don understands the importance of giving back to the local community.

"Noble is incredibly supportive of the other organizations in the area - including the Ambulance Association. We have a symbiotic relationship that thrives.

Noble is also a community gathering place art shows, educational and wellness programs, or just a place to ride your bike. I often come to the lectures at Noble- including those offered by my fellow Hotchkiss colleagues."

#### The Power and Legacy of Volunteers

When ground was broken for Noble Horizons in the early 70s its founding benefactors sought to build a community where the area's aging population could live out their lives in comfort and dignity.



Fran Wagner and daughter Judy McKearnon

Fran Wagner implemented and stewarded that vision as a dedicated volunteer for over a decade. Noble was intentionally designed to feel like home; art is displayed throughout, cozy nooks and courtyards abound, newspapers are delivered daily, magazines arrive on schedule, friends and community members come for dinner, and the gardens are flush with flowers. Noble staff appreciates that they work in someone's home and with Eillen Mulligan, Noble's innovative administrator for 43-years, Fran Wagner created a culture of living and of care in which the "little things make a big difference."

To ensure that as a non-profit, Noble would have sufficient



Judy McKearnon

funding to carry out its mission, Fran founded the Noble Horizons Auxiliary in 1975 which has since donated over \$1,000,000 to enhance life at Noble.

Fran's commitment to Noble continues today through their daughter, Judy McKernon who now chairs the Auxiliary. "I think

my mother would be proud of all we have accomplished here at Noble Horizons and with the Auxiliary," says Judy. Since its inception, the Auxiliary has become absolutely integral to residential life.

Thanks to their very successful fundraising events, such as the Festival of Trees and the Holiday Fair, the Auxiliary has purchased a new resident van, updated campus WiFi, contributed to an Employee Scholarship Fund, and renovated the chapel and beauty salon. They fund and run the library, ensure fresh flowers are on the dining room

tables, and have paid for daily delivery of The New York Times since 1975.

Judy has been a stalwart 50th Anniversary Committee member, reviewing thousands upon thousands of photos, news clippings, and stories which have been shared on social media, in newsletters and will be in our 50th anniversary Art of Aging exhibit at the Salisbury Association this fall. (details will be at www.noblehorizons.org later this summer).



Mary Barton

Mary Barton has volunteered at Noble Horizons for 49 years! When asked how many hours she has given to Noble, Mary smiles and admits that she couldn't possibly calculate every hour but estimates approximately 250 hours annually.

She also disclosed that at the young age of 82, she has finally retired from private duty care but won't give up volunteering at Noble! In fact, it is Mary who organized the first Community Picnic and is the chair of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Community Picnic on July 12.

Mary's secret to youth and unbridled energy?

"Staying active, staying connected and enjoying each and every day!"



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#### Noble has Spirit

"Finding Noble Horizons was one of the best things I ever did for my mother. Before Noble, she was somewhere much fancier and more expensive. She never made any friends or left her room. It felt like an expensive hotel," shared Bruce Kraus, whose mother Pam lived at Noble for many years.

Bruce decided to move his mother and after one Noble visit, Bruce was sold.

"Noble was so much more superior. Noble gave Mummy a second life – we had no expectation of her improvement. She was in her late 80s yet her mental acuity changed, there's something in the air here." Bruce was particularly grateful for the unexpected gift she found, "She had her first friend in 10 years-it really enriched her life."



**Bruce Kraus** 



Bruce Kraus with mother Pamela Kraus at a summer outing

Every time Bruce visited his mother they would discover something new – the koi fish pond, fantastic food and how the receptionist made every visit special.

"I think the true "Noble Difference" is it's people-focused. Staff is respected by leadership and that respect trickles down to the residents. Noble is just different than any other place."

"There is no other adult community in the country where you get the reaction – 'Boy when I get old, there's no other place I'd rather be.'

Noble has a spirit; it's in the DNA."



### Beautiful Things to Come

While in elementary school, Josie Marks' grandmother inspired her to spend Saturday mornings at Noble Horizons. "When I first started – I would visit one or two people. Then I expanded. Sometimes I played piano for an entire wing. I was taking piano lessons – and would share what I was learning and the residents loved it. I was like a surrogate granddaughter for them," shared Josie.

Josie Marks

Josie shared the deep connection she felt with the residents, "I feel lucky that I was a part of their final years and they shared their stories. I'm grateful that I was able to touch their lives and impact them. Impacting others is a mindset I carry with me daily," says Josie, this year's valedictorian at Housatonic Valley Regional High School. When asked about the Art of Aging - Noble's 50th Anniversary theme- Josie thoughtfully reflected, "The Art of Aging means realizing that no matter what point in your life you are — it's always going to be the peak of where you are and you should embrace it."

### Deep friendships and late night dinners



Elyse Harney Founder/Owner Elyse Harney Real Estate

Before founding Elyse Harney Real Estate and Harney & Sons Tea, Elyse and John Harney ran the White Hart Inn on the Salisbury green. Elyse remembers that it was not uncommon for her husband John to stay late to make dinner for then

Noble Administrator Eileen Mulligan. Eileen often worked far past the dining hours so John made sure Eileen had a hot meal before heading home. "Both Irish – John and Eileen would banter on for hours, sharing stories and teasing each other and always a deep, deep friendship," remembered Elyse.

As fellow female business leaders, Elyse and Eileen developed a very close relationship, "Eileen is kind, intuitive, and very, very thoughtful woman. She is very loving, very caring and accomplished what needed to be accomplished. She was very involved with the community, felt very strongly Noble should be part of the community and was very aware of the importance of Noble to this community."



John Harney
From the Lakeville Journal archives,
John Harney at a Noble Horizons

fashion show in 1975

"Noble is a tremendous asset to this community. People come from all over the country to be at Noble."



## 106 Years Young, and Counting!

Betty Scribner is the true definition of "The Art of Aging", at 106 years and 7 months young she shared with us her secret to beauty and longevity. "My great grandmother lived to be 102 and 3 months, so it's in the genealogy. My children ask me the same thing and then they say "The difference is I grew up on a farm" she said with a smile.

Betty, an avid geneologist, has an entire library of books in her cottage sorted by town - including one she wrote. She admitted her vast amounts of paperwork is why she and her husband needed a larger cottage when she moved to Noble back in 1995. "I have many files and notes, in fact I tracked my mother's side of the family back to Charlemagne," said Betty.

As Noble's longest living "Cottager" - 27 years, we asked what attracted her to Noble Horizons. "Noble Horizons was close to home (Sharon CT) and close to the hospital where I was born in 1915 plus we knew we would have everything we needed. After her husband passed away, Betty remained in her cottage until just a few weeks ago when she moved into the main building on campus. "Every body is so friendly, kind and thoughtful. Nurses are very hard workers. There are so many things about Noble that make it great. I'm so grateful for administrator Bill Pond taking us through the 2 years of the pandemic. We are very lucky to have him.

Betty takes full advantage of all the services Noble has to offer. "I drove until I was 97 - so I utilize the driving services. I appreciate the transportation and also the fitness center. I use that the most. That's why I'm still here! Drivers have a schedule with me, so I get picked up to go to the fitness center - I work with Leilia and she keeps us working, and that's how we all stay fit. The Fitness Center is also a great way to meet people."

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Senior Living • Rehabilitation • Skilled Nursing • Memory Care

#### Noble Horizons 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Community Picnic

July 12, 2022 (rain date July 13) 4:30 PM - 7:30 PM

**Food:** Prepared by the Lakeville Fire Company includes BBQ chicken, coleslaw, baked beans, potato salad, a roll, ice cream and birthday cake!

Beverages: A variety of wines, beer, iced tea and other fresh summer drinks

Music: By the Salisbury Band

#### \$15 per person or \$40 per family

Fees for the event will be collected upon arrival. Check or cash would be preferred. If you prefer to pay with a credit card you can contact Michele Burns at 860-435-9851 x 188 or email mburns@churchhomes.org.

Raffle Prizes & Special Guests!



#### Celebrate 50 Years!

For more information or to register, please scan the QR code below or visit www.noblehorizons.org/events.



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