



the Grapevine

THE CAMBRIDGE HOMES

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WINTER 2011

Newsletter Editor: Somita Ray, Program Director



T i d b i t s

Upcoming Events at The Cambridge Homes

Sunday, January 2

Winter Wonderland presented by
Guitarist Marti Sawyer
2:30 pm

Tuesday, January 4

Art Matters presents
the works of Henri Matisse
2:00 pm

Sunday, January 16

Jazz Music by
Larry Zuk and his troupe
2:30 pm

Thursday, January 20

Music Historian Jack Craig presents
"The Best of Broadway"
2:00 pm

Sunday, January 23

A Piano Concert with
Khaditja Karmi and her troupe
2:30 pm

Tuesday, January 25

American Songs presented by
Guitarist Tony Rarus
2:00 pm

Sunday, January 30

Classical Pianist Ethan Stone
7:15 pm

Tuesday, February 1

Art Matters presents a lecture
on Animals - part 1
2:00 pm

Sunday, February 6

Show tunes and sing-a-long with
Pianist John Dombrosio

Monday, February 14

"A Sailor-Made Man"
Starring Harold Lloyd.
Music and Silent Movie
Presentation by Richard Hughes
2:00 pm

Thursday, February 17

"Academy Awards"
A presentation by Music Historian
Jack Craig
2:00 pm

Sunday, February 27

"A Dinner at the White House"
A One-Act Show
presented by Judy Bernstein
2:30 pm

New Faces at The Homes

The Cambridge Homes welcomes many new faces to our Community...

Scott Sullivan

Scott Sullivan joined The Cambridge Homes as Director of Environmental Services in October 2009, shortly before the annual Halloween party, and he still laughs, remembering the residents in their costumes. "As long as they're having fun, I'm having fun," Scott said. He credits his ability to get along with people to being "a happy-go-lucky Irish guy" who grew up in a big family.

Scott has a long history in facilities management, and combines this expertise with his happy-go-lucky style to create a safe and pleasant environment for our residents.

Amy Hsu

The Cambridge Homes' resident Russell Peck was delighted to see Business Manager Amy Hsu volunteering at the Lexington Avenue polling station when he went to vote in the September primaries. Originally from Taiwan, Amy has lived in the U.S. for twenty years now, in California, New Haven, and Cambridge. Politics and civic duty are important to her, so she has staffed the polls at every election, including primaries and special elections, for the past three years.

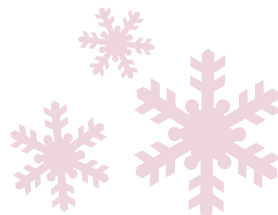
Amy joined The Cambridge Homes in February 2010, drawn by the opportunity to put her business skills at work in a community of older people. "I like hearing their stories," she explained, recalling her experiences volunteering in a convalescent home in California. Prior to The Cambridge Homes, Amy worked at Harvard Medical School's Immune Disease Institute.

In her free time, Amy likes to cook, watch Chinese language movies, and listen to music. Her favorite kinds of music are country and classic pop. Amy is also an avid traveler, having visited Mexico, Canada, the Caribbean, China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Korea. She would like to continue traveling the world.

Derrick Peterson

Sous Chef Derrick Peterson, is taking pride in his new position as the Executive Chef at The Cambridge Homes. At least twice a week, he takes time to talk to residents' on every table in the dining room, allowing the residents to critique their meals. "He lets us tell him what we like and don't like," resident Barbara Donahoe said. "And he listens. We appreciate that."

Derrick came to The Cambridge Homes from Country Club Heights, in August 2010, where he worked for eight years. He never specifically planned to cook for Independent and Assisted Living Residences, but discovered that it suited him. He said that his favorite part of the job is the overall care and satisfaction of the residents



Somita Ray

In Indian language, “Somita” means one who can make friends easily, and Social Program Director Somita Ray lives up to her name. Somita started at The Cambridge Homes in November, with eleven years of experience in senior living as her foundation. “It’s my passion,” she said. Somita has worked for Benchmark, Commonwealth Communities, and Brookdale Senior Living, which had Independent Living, Assisted living and Special Care Units.

Somita hesitated to list her most memorable moments, because there are so many, and she wanted to be fair to each community that she’s been a part of. However, when pressed, she burst out laughing, thinking about a Hawaiian-themed party at one residence, where she filled a small pool and offered a prize for everyone who put on a swimsuit and got into the pool. She didn’t think that anyone would take her up on the challenge, but within half an hour three women were standing in the pool in their swimsuits. Somita also recalls going back to visit the residents of a Special Care Unit after she had left for another job. It had been two months, but one of the resident remembered her, saying, “I thought you were on vacation.”

At the other end of the age spectrum, Somita was a teacher when she lived in India, working in early childhood education through the eighth grade. But she enjoyed teaching the Montessori students the most. This comes as no wonder, given Somita’s hands-on approach and interactive style.

Elaine Mar

“The first thing I saw when you walked into the room were your bright turquoise shoes,” resident Peggy Coltrera told Elaine. “You looked like you were dressed for a party, so I thought that something good must be about to happen.” That was on Elaine Mar’s second day at The Cambridge Homes, and she has been trying to live up to the shoes’ promise ever since. Elaine came to TCH as Social Program Coordinator in August 2010 with a diverse background. She has a long history in social services, both professionally and as a volunteer. She has also worked in public policy and taught creative nonfiction across a spectrum of age ranges, from grade school to the Master of Fine Arts level.

Elaine is an avid fan of crossword puzzles and an obsessive knitter. She looks forward to starting a Knitting circle with the residents.



The Cambridge Homes is a non-profit assisted living residence that has been serving the elderly community for over 100 years. Along with our wellness programs we offer a wide variety of cultural, spiritual, educational and social activities for our diverse population of seniors. The Homes is conveniently located next to Mt. Auburn Hospital. For more information please contact:

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