



the Grapevine

THE CAMBRIDGE HOMES

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December 2009/January 2010

Newsletter Editor: Lisa Lambert, Program Director



Upcoming Events
at
The Cambridge Homes

Please join us!

Wednesday, December 9
Annual Holiday Party
from 6:30 to 8:30
with music by the
Squirrel Hill Olde Time Band

Friday, December 11
A trip to donate gifts to
the Home for Little Wanderers

Sunday, December 13
A Lecture from
History Professor
Gary Hylander

Thursday, December 17
Music Historian
Jack Craig brings us
"Songs of the Season"

Thursday, December 31
Welcome in the
New Year with
The New, New Orleans Jazz Band

Friday, January 1
Derek Mann
Presents
"Great Palaces of France and Italy"

Monday, January 18
Richard Clark performs a
one man play "Clarence Darrow"

Tuesday, January 16
Italian Festival with
Edie Marando

Famous Photos of Baseball Legend Ted Williams on Display First Exhibit in Year-Long Series with Local Museum



**Resident Don Wetmore
at the opening of the
Ted Williams exhibit**

In a unique collaboration between The Cambridge Homes and a local art museum, some of the most famous images of the late baseball great Ted Williams are on exhibit in our first floor hallway now through January 18, 2010. The tribute exhibition includes both color and black-and-white photographs of Williams taken by local photographer Arthur Griffin, founder of the Griffin Museum of Photography located in Winchester, MA.

There are a total of 17 photos of Ted Williams on display at The Homes. Our ongoing collaboration with the Griffin Museum, which was founded in 1992 to showcase both historic and contemporary photography, will allow us to exhibit a larger variety of collections. In addition to works by local artists,

which we will continue to exhibit, we also now have the opportunity to select and show works by photographers from many different locations and backgrounds.

"We are very excited about our relationship with the Griffin Museum and look forward to presenting three to four exciting exhibits in 2010 featuring the works of world-renowned photographers," said Helene Quinn, executive director of The Homes.

At the recent opening of the Ted Williams exhibit, with the executive director of the Griffin Museum on hand for the festivities, many people enjoyed refreshments while viewing the collection. Residents shared their memories of the "Splendid Splinter", many of whom had seen him play at Fenway Park, while some of the younger folks who didn't know about him, listened intently to stories of his athletic talents and legendary skill.

"I didn't know he was so cute," said a Cambridge Homes associate. "Oh, he was a heartthrob," responded a resident. "All the girls loved him!"

Background of the Ted Williams Photographs

"The images represent not only baseball history, but also photographic history," said Paula Tognarelli, executive director of the Griffin Museum. "It's a great story."

In 1939, Eastman Kodak had just created a new color film that it was eager to test. The company contacted Griffin, who happened to be working on a story for the Boston Globe about soon-to-be-named Rookie of the Year, Ted Williams. Griffin headed to Fenway Park with his usual 35mm black and white Contax camera, but he also had his 4" x 5" view camera and Kodak's new color film.

At this point in his career, Williams had not soured on the press and for two hours he eagerly posed for Griffin. With use of color photography in the Globe still a few years away, Griffin worked mainly with his black-and-white camera but experimented (for himself and Kodak) with the color film. The color film was slow and not good for action shots. But Williams, exhibiting his batting stance and swing, was so engaging that Griffin was determined to capture him on film.

Since the Globe wanted only black and white photos, Griffin put aside the color films of Williams and forgot about them for half a century. By the time color photography was being used in the press, Williams' amiability had diminished and he had no time to pose for news photographers. Griffin's photos represent the first color shots ever taken of Williams and comprise one of the largest collections of images of Williams early in his career.

For more information about the Griffin Museum visit www.griffinmuseum.org.

A Very Special Visitor at The Homes!



If you are at The Cambridge Homes on a Monday evening, you may hear something you don't expect to hear. The sound of a cat meowing has become a familiar and welcome sound at The Homes. Laura Evonne Steinman and her cat Krowka have become regular visitors. They are members of an organization called Match-Up Interfaith Volunteers.

Match-Up is a network of trained volunteers who provide support and companionship to elders in the Boston area. Their mission is to decrease isolation and enhance the quality of life for seniors. PetPals is their very popular and successful pet visitation program which coordinates visits by dogs and cats and their owners to residents of assisted living residences as well as long term care facilities. The program began in 2003 and has brought joy to many different people.

Laura first heard about the PetPals program at her local church. She contacted them and went through their screening and testing process. The pets must go through an evaluation to insure they are of sound temperament and are up to date on all vaccines. The volunteers must also have a background check completed before they can begin.

Krowka came to PetPals with a unique history behind her. Laura adopted the small cat while living in Poland. While hiking she stopped at a small café on the edge of the woods where the shy cat had been hanging around for some time. Clearly homeless, Laura was instantly drawn to the little feline and wanted to find her a safe place to live. After one person agreed to keep her, Laura was heartbroken to learn they had changed their mind. Determined not to abandon her to forage in the wild, Laura took her home to her apartment and eventually back to America with her. The black and white kitty was micro-chipped, given a pet passport and is now considered a member of the European Union.

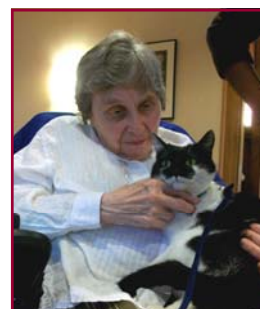
Krowka is a kind of sweet candy found in Poland and also means cow, in Polish.

Laura and Krowka began coming to The Homes about a year ago. They visit with several folks each week and residents really look forward to seeing both of them. Krowka sits patiently on some laps, curls up and falls asleep with others and purrs contentedly with someone else. She is a topic of conversation and often sparks memories both warm and bittersweet. One resident recently spoke nostalgically of her two cats and how they comforted her when she lost her husband of many years. "The loneliness was terrible", she said. "If I hadn't had those two cats, I don't know how I could have made it through". "They would sleep with me at night and greet me when I came home." Another resident talked about the stray cat she rescued, and lived with her for 14 years.

In addition to volunteering with PetPals, Laura teaches art at Gifford School. She recently exhibited a collage of fabric photos, of residents of The Cambridge Homes with Krowka. This same exhibit will be on display here at TCH starting in January 2010.

Laura says she "loves the exchange between residents, cat and me. When everything in life is so hurried, it's nice to relax and enjoy one another. I feel like I am sitting in their living room, visiting with friends."

And that is exactly what PetPals is all about; bringing people together in a way that might not otherwise happen. It has been a wonderful program and we are glad to have both Laura and Krowka as part of The Homes.



Residents share some quality time with our friend Krowka!

The Cambridge Homes is not-for-profit assisted living residence that has been serving the elderly community for over 100 years. Along with our wellness programs we also offer a wide variety of cultural, educational and social activities for our diverse population of seniors. The Homes is conveniently located next to Mt. Auburn Hospital at 360 Mt. Auburn Street. For more information go to:

www.TheCambridgeHomes.org
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