

## Connecting Staff, Residents, Families, and Friends

### Organizational Updates

#### Family Fun Day Brings Smiles Across Generations

Saturday, June 7th was our much-anticipated Family Fun Day, a joyful, campus-wide cookout and celebration planned and managed by Daffney Guey. Daffney, our Assistant Program Director and Activities Director for Edelweiss Village, does a phenomenal job keeping residents and their families active and engaged. She is not only an exceptional event planner and organizer, but also a true social butterfly who brings joy to everyone around her.

More than one hundred residents, patients, family members, community friends, volunteers, and staff from across the campus came together and had a wonderful time. Attendees ranged in age from under one year to over one hundred!

The day featured all sorts of festive activities, including pony rides, face painting, a moon bounce, a clown, and a balloon artist. Live music was provided by Tom Madden, a familiar favorite who frequently performs at German Centre. The menu was classic cookout fare, lovingly prepared by staff and served by a dedicated group of volunteers and team members. For the kids, there were plenty of treats, snow cones, cotton candy, ice cream, and popcorn.



Despite a few rain showers, spirits stayed high. Many found cover indoors or under the pop-up tents thoughtfully set up by our maintenance crew.

Heartfelt thanks and congratulations to all the volunteers, staff, and teams who made the day such a great success. What a wonderful show of community spirit! Your hard work, energy, and care helped create beautiful memories.

#### An Artful Outing: Residents Visit the MFA

Our residents recently enjoyed a wonderful day trip to the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. They were treated to a private tour led by Sandra Fine, who brought the artwork to life with her thoughtful insights and stories. The visit offered our residents a chance to experience beauty, culture, and connection in a meaningful way. The day was filled with smiles, conversation, and inspiration, and many are already looking forward to the next outing!



### Employee of the Month



This month, we are recognizing Christopher Narcisse, our Front Desk Supervisor at German Centre. Christopher leads the Front Desk staff at both Edelweiss Village and German Centre Home.

Chris is attentive to all staff, residents, patients, family members, Senior Place participants, and providers. He is welcoming, helpful, and professional. He is courteous, and his actions show he believes in good customer service. He makes his schedule flexible to cover our Front Desk needs. Thank you!

### Welcome to German Centre!

**Rod-Naicha Alexis**

CNA

**Michelle Anne Bracci**

Occupational Therapist

**Brenna Elizabeth Corey**

Physical Therapist

**Kathleen M. Dugan**

LPN

**Karla Jasnill Gomez Gonzalez**

Medical Records Clerk

**Julia Amelie Heise**

CNA

**Bervely Paul**

CNA

**Edrine Saintilma**

Dietary Aide

**Catherine Wu**

RN

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### Deutsches Altenheim Foundation

#### Senior Place Receives Music Therapy Grant

German Centre is thrilled to announce it has been awarded a \$117,221 grant from the Alzheimer's Association Center for Dementia Respite Innovation (CDRI). One of only 41 recipients selected from over 200 applicants nationwide, German Centre will use the funding to launch a dedicated Music Therapy Program at its long-standing Adult Day Health Program, Senior Place.

This innovative program will offer participants living with dementia structured, evidence-based music therapy designed to align with their individual care plans. These sessions will promote self-expression, connection, and cognitive stimulation.

"Caring for someone with dementia can be both emotionally and physically overwhelming," said Mary Beth Caruso, Executive Director of Senior Place. "This grant allows us to enhance our services in a deeply human way—through music. It's a powerful tool that evokes memory, strengthens bonds, and brings joy, even in the face of cognitive decline."

To explore the full list of CDRI grant recipients and learn more about this national effort, visit [alz.org/cdri](https://alz.org/cdri).

#### Funding Disclosure:

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#### Ways to Give

- **Online:** [dafboston.org/donate](https://dafboston.org/donate)
- **Mobile:** Scan the QR Code
- **Phone:** Call us at 617-390-3217



**Thank You for Your Support!**

### Resident Spotlight

#### A Life of Purpose: Meet Florence Slepian

At 96, Florence Slepian has lived a life marked by intellect, service, and reinvention. Born just a mile from Edelweiss Village at the New England Hospital for Women and Children, Florence's journey has taken her across the country and back again, but she has always called Boston home.

A clinically trained social worker, Florence rose through the ranks of some of the nation's most esteemed medical institutions. She led social work and case management departments, taught at Catholic University, and served as Head of Renal Social Workers at Georgetown University Hospital. It was the encouragement of high-ranking physician colleagues that ultimately led her back to Boston, joining the Peter Bent Brigham/Robert Breck Brigham/Boston Lying-In Hospital system (now Brigham and Women's Hospital) at the time of its merger. Recruited by six physicians, she accepted a lower salary to be closer to her father in Brookline and went on to lead utilization review and continuing care, as well as many other departments, as a Vice President for 15 years. After retiring, Florence launched a second career in real estate, where she worked alongside her dear friend Stephen—still her best friend today.

Florence has two daughters, one nearby in Jamaica Plain and one in New Hampshire. She was married for 26 years to a brilliant mathematician. She is a lover of art and music and a devoted gardener who now tends a vegetable plot at Edelweiss Village.

After several hospitalizations and increasing falls at home, Florence knew it was time for a change. She moved into rehab at German Centre in June 2023, where she especially appreciated the care of her physical therapist, Olga. Days later, she made Edelweiss Village her new home.

Today, Florence continues to live with grace and independence, cooking for herself, managing her finances, attending art and current events classes, and dining with friends in the Edelweiss Village dining room each evening. Her apartment is a reflection of her life: filled with beautiful treasures and memories. She loves to visit with the Roxbury Latin School boys and enjoys birdwatching, shopping, and thoughtful conversation.

"I hated not working," Florence says. At Edelweiss Village, her days remain full—with purpose, connection, and joy.

#### In Loving Memory

**Maryann Brown**, *Schrafft Pavilion*  
**David Cedrone**, *TCU- Carl Ludwig Wing*  
**Eleanor Colarossi**, *TCU- Carl Ludwig Wing*  
**Michael Elisseou**, *Senior Place ADH*  
**Liana Kaplan**, *Schrafft Pavilion*  
**Shirley Thoms**, *TCU- Carl Ludwig Wing*