

# Park House Annual Fund Drive

October 2005

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George Goding  
  
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Dear Friend of Park House,

We are writing to ask you to consider a gift to the Park House Annual Fund Drive.

As we begin our 15<sup>th</sup> year of providing outstanding housing to the elders in our society, we continue to have a greater and more important presence in the valley community. Over eighty men and women have called Park House home since our doors opened in August 1991.

Our achievements have been positive and steady with increased financial security an important goal. Our reputation for providing the finest in elder care has expanded throughout the local area and beyond. Park House, with its homey atmosphere in a big old inn, its convenient location on the park in the center of town, and a caring staff that is personally interested in the folks who live here, is known and highly respected in the housing market.

Our success during the past 14 years has been enhanced by the continued support of our loyal friends who appear to truly take pleasure in being part of the Park House story. Gifts of many kinds, in many forms come to Park House. Always appreciative of what we receive, we are also conscious of our need to return gifts to the community. Our effort to be a good neighbor, to be welcoming to the greater community with our open doors, is rewarded by a community that is most generous to Park House.

Maintaining a positive financial position, while meeting the ongoing maintenance needs of a large, old house and continuing to provide the best we can in fine, affordable housing is an expensive venture. Your financial support, a gift to our 2005 Annual Fund Drive, will help Park House continue to be a strong, contributing member of our community.

Please consider a gift of \$100 to our respected, Hundred Dollar Club, endorsing our important work at Park House.

Sincerely,

Ann Hunt  
Board President

Judith G. Pierce  
Executive Director

## Delia Kimball — "I See Her Everywhere..."

### Reflections

As I was walking to work this morning, my mind was overflowing with a multitude of thoughts, both sad and happy thoughts, the remembrances of our beloved resident, ninety-eight year old Delia Kimball, who had died at Park House the previous evening, peacefully in her own room, in her own bed with her friend and caregiver, Jakey by her side.

I was reflecting on the delightful Delia who had stolen our hearts, so positively impacting our little community, becoming known for her quick wit, flashing eyes and spunky, independent nature. What is most remarkable, perhaps, is that she died the way most people hope to die - that is, living right until the end, cognizant, conversant, still actively involved in the business of living. It was almost as if someone said, "You're dying today..." - and she did.

### The Important Roll of The Principal's Wife

Delia was born on a farm in Randolph Center, attended the Randolph schools, and received her teaching certificate from the University of Vermont in 1929. Her first connection with Rochester began in 1939 when her husband, Chandler Kimball became principal of Rochester High School. The young couple lived in town for several years until Mr. Kimball, an Officer in the U.S. Army, was called to serve in World War II.

As the principal's wife, a position highly respected by community members in its own right, the stylish, intelligent, Delia, actively contributed to the life of the school and community, teaching in the elementary school, chaperoning basketball trips and class trips, and as a confidante of the women students in the high school who viewed her as a kindred spirit.

Following their years in Rochester, the Kimball's continued their respective careers in education while making their home in Greensboro, Vermont. After a lifetime of adventures together, Chandler died in 1989, and Delia eventually moved to

Braintree to live near her niece and nephew, Nancy and Ray Gray.

### A Private But Involved Person

Delia moved to Park House in March 2003 and proceeded to make her mark. She was familiar with Park House knowing that her old friend, Lillian Marsh lived here, and she had always kept up with news of the Rochester community through The Herald

of Randolph.

Delia spent her days reading, writing notes, enjoying the company of new friends - just making life at Park House a whole lot nicer with her loving, appreciative manner. "You made my day," she'd quip in thanks for any helpful gesture. A very private person, she was careful not to "make a spectacle" of herself, but totally enjoyed getting a big laugh out of everyone with her witty comments. And those eyes, her flashing, expressive eyes that quickly and quietly relayed her unspoken feelings.

Those who knew her best recognized that an important part of Delia's persona was her need to feel confident that she was an independent person, able to care for herself, capable of making personal decisions, and continuing to make a contribution. Our job was to let her know that we believed in her, always building up her confidence.

"We know she lived longer and happier because of Park House. It was wonderful to watch the tight little bud open into a flower as she began to take part in the happenings there," wrote her niece, Nancy Gray, who was pleased to see Delia blossom in her new home making friends and enjoying the activities available.

### Last Days At Park House

Although life had become more difficult for her, Delia continued to participate, adding her special charm to every activity. Not many ninety-eight year olds are lifting weights, but during that final week at Park House, there she was, participating both Monday and Thursday in the Bone Builders Weight Lifting workout, inspiring other much younger lifters with her determination and strength. Everyone admired her strong spirit. On Friday morning she joined the other residents for an hour singing show tunes with Dorothy Robson's Park House Singers. And much to Delia's pleasure, Jenny Moss found several opportunities to read her Judy B. Moon books to Delia while visiting her grandparents, George and Mary Goding.

### The Story of Park House

The story of Delia tells the story of Park House. Delia was not the first nor will she be the last person to

impact the life of Park House, but her life here was truly a blessing to us who cherished her so. Judith Bonn, one of her fellow Bone Building lifters said, "She had fun here." She did, living the good life, feeling loved, respected and valued.

"I see her everywhere," commented resident Harriet Paino after Delia's death. That's how we all feel. She was a small woman with a big presence, revered and cherished by her housemates, staff and others who knew her. To know her was to love her. Being in her presence was... a moment to

treasure.

Park House is just what Pastor John Pinder had in mind when he stood up at the 1985 Rochester Town Meeting and recommended that the town look into establishing a home within the community where our

older citizens could live when they could no longer live alone; a home where folks could continue to be involved in the activities of the community, where family and friends could visit often.

Reverend Pinder recognized the need for older people to maintain their identity, to continue to be part of their community history in order to experience healthy

aging. Six years later, in 1991, Park House became a reality. And fourteen years later, Park House is thriving with overwhelming community support and

enthusiasm for the wonderful home that has been created for our mature citizens.

All who are involved in Park House, whether as a resident, staff member, board member, volunteer, contributor of money, talent or tangible gift share in the ownership of this remarkable jewel in our community. We all

share in the glory of what we have created.

## MAYBELLE, BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR - IT MIGHT HAPPEN!

Who's always ready for a little fun and excitement in her life? That would be the happy-go-lucky Maybelle Locke, who joked with the "girls" at lunch one day about how much she'd love to ride on a motorcycle with a handsome man.

Much to Maybelle's surprise, the word got out, and one beautiful morning who should appear at her door but that handsome Brad Baker, helmet in hand, inviting Maybelle to a take ride on his Harley Davidson. Without missing a beat, Maybelle zipped down the stairs, out the door and was soon happily perched on the motorcycle, zooming around town, having the time of her life.

How's that for keeping a 94 year old woman young at heart.! What a sport ...

Maybelle Locke, age 94, living it up, riding a Harley around town with Brad Baker.

### MEMORIAL GIFTS (Received June 2004-Sept. 2005)

Thank you for the gifts received in memory of family and friends.

Tom Paino Sr.  
Ethel Dartt  
Earl Simpson  
Lena Simpson  
Ruth Anderson  
Lyman Anderson  
Edwin Harvey  
Alice Finney  
Yolanda Anderson  
Muriel Eaton  
Garland Andrews  
Ruth Severance  
Isabell Howard  
Ruth Gendron  
Dean Martin  
Anna Batchelder  
Lillian Marsh  
Katherine Spencer  
Frances Guilmette

Milton Kirby  
Jack Artz  
Harold Lary  
Warren Leonard  
Debby Roberts  
Delia Kimball

#### Honorary Gifts

Debby Roberts  
Bill Bonn  
Danny McIntyre  
Gail Osha  
Warren Leonard

It seems that everyone enjoys the beautiful creations in the planters at Park House starting with evergreens for winter, tulips and pansies in the spring, followed by an unusual collection of coleus during the summer, and now colorful chrysanthemums for the fall.

Designing, planting and caring for the plants is a labor of love for Judy Smith, a gift to her mother, Lucille Stockman, who really appreciates being able to see the flowers from her room and enjoys the day-to-day gardening work as well. Thank you, Judy and Lucille.