



HOLTON HOME

N · E · W · S · L · E · T · T · E · R

158 Western Avenue, Brattleboro, Vermont 05301 • (802) 254-4155 • fax: (802) 254-1349 • e-mail: holton@sover.net • www.holtonhome.org

RESIDENT PROFILE

GEORGE BECKER was born in Germany in 1906. Yes – that is not a typo – George turns 106-years-old this month. He grew up in Berlin and earned a degree in mechanical and electrical engineering. While in college, he was elected President of the K.C. fraternity, known for their dedication to fighting anti-Semitism at universities.

By 1939, George had settled

into a career as a design engineer at Schaub Radio and proposed to Marianne Reiss. During their Austrian honeymoon, the Nazis arrested and imprisoned George. Marianne returned home to find her father had been arrested too, and their home destroyed during Kristallnacht. Two months later, Marianne returned to Austria and persuaded the authorities to let George go.

The newlyweds applied for United States visas and, many months later, arrived in New York harbor. Penniless, they made their first home in a refugee shelter. George found work as a laborer at the local navy yard, and then worked his way up to chief engineer of industrial precision instruments. The shock-resistant pressure gauges and thermometers designed under his guidance became the standard for the U.S. Navy.

After twenty years as chief engineer he retired and started his own consulting business, working around the country. George is a skilled machinist and an inventor, holding a number of patents. Attached to the arm of his glasses is a finely finished

magnifying glass. It swings into place in front of his eyeglass lens when he needs it.

George and Marianne had visited close friends in Brattleboro over the years and fell in love with the area. They bought a vacation home here and eventually moved to the area full-time.

The yin to George’s engineering yang was his love of the arts. In 1987, while serving as President of the Arts Council of Windham County, he founded the non-profit and cooperative Windham Art Gallery on Main Street in Brattleboro. Grateful for his support of the arts community, the Arts Council of Vermont honored George with a Friend of the Arts Award in 1993. All the Beckers are artists; Marianne was a fabric designer

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CHUCKLE CORNER

Great Truths from Little Children

- ❖ No matter how hard you try, you can’t baptize a cat.
- ❖ When your Mom is mad at your Dad, don’t let her brush your hair.
- ❖ Never ask your 3-year-old brother to hold a tomato.
- ❖ You can’t trust a dog to watch your food.
- ❖ Don’t sneeze when someone is cutting your hair.
- ❖ You can’t hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk.
- ❖ The best place to be when you’re sad is on your Grandpa’s lap.

BIRTHDAYS

Residents celebrating birthdays in February include:

- ◆ **Sally Dee** on the 11th
- ◆ **Andy LeClair** on the 19th
- ◆ **Dora Ferrante** on the 21st
- ◆ **Arabelle Dix** on the 23rd
- ◆ **George Becker** on the 28th

RESIDENT PROFILE

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and painted, as does George and their daughter Karen. Daughter Jackie is an art consultant.

After Marianne passed away, about eight years ago, George continued to live independently. He had people come in to take care of the house and prepare his meals. "But I was alone," he recalls. "I had come [to Holton Home] once to visit and looked the place over and I remembered it. 'Why don't I do this,' I thought. It has worked out very well. What could be better? I really like everything very much. I expressed that in my Christmas greeting to the helpers." George refers to a card he designed on his computer and printed out for each of the aids. He gives his permission to reprint it here.

CHALLENGE GRANT

HAS IT BEEN a while since you've contributed to Holton Home's annual fund? Give a gift by the end of this month and it will be matched, dollar-for-dollar, by the Thomas Thompson Trust. Your donation will be doubled! Please send your gift today.



MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR

To all my friendly and skilled caregivers at
HOLTON HOME.

Warm thanks to Carol, Ashley, Wendy,
Jessica, Rose, Robin, Lisa, Lynn,
Nancy, Shirley, Chelsea, Tammy,
Cheryl, Karen and Kelly.

Your kindness and helpfulness
have given me a new lease on life.

And I feel so much more safe:
Let it be day or the middle of the night,
all I do is push a button and there
you are, smiling and ready to help me.
I am looking forward to enjoying your
kindness as long as God will let me.

Thanks again,
George Becker

We are honored to serve
George and wish him the very
best in his 107th year!

Look elsewhere in this issue
for a limerick by George.

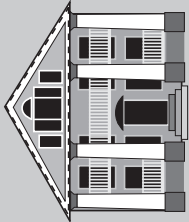
WHAT'S HAPPENING

WEDNESDAY MORNINGS are joyfully anticipated by the residents who are part of Holton Home's Chorus. Started more than a year ago at the residents' request, the Chorus now boasts about 15 members. Under the direction of Susan Dedell, they sing songs of yesteryear and old favorites that we all know.

Susan, who is a professional musician and director, understands the voice range most comfortable for the Chorus and has the skill to adjust a song's key up or down to accommodate them. Well-known as the Director of the Brattleboro Concert Choir, Susan volunteers her time each week to lead our Chorus in song. Thank you, Susan!

The physical and psychological benefits of singing are well documented. Deep breathing is good for the lungs and heart and music lifts the spirits. Come visit us some Wednesday morning and you'll see what we mean!

—Ellenka Wasung-Lott



FEBRUARY 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1:00 Annie Hall 3:00 Rummikub 3:15 Brattleboro Music Center's Piano Four Hands 6:00 Silk Stockings	10:00 Current Events 10:45 Exercises 1:00 Resident Council 1:00 Yahtzee 2:00 Bingo	10:00 Reading Circle 11:15 Catholic Communion Service 1:00 Bible Study 2:30 Light Yoga & Meditation 4:00 Zumba Gold 6:00 Documentary: Broken Rainbow	9:00-11:00 Painting Class 11:00 Holton Home Chorus 1:30 Exercises 3:30 Brain Exercises 6:00 Make Valentines ERRAND DAY	8:00 Hairdresser Is In 10:00 Plant Plants for Volunteers 1:15 Scrabble 2:30 Wine & Cheese Tasting	10:45 Exercises 1:00 Baking with Julie 3:00 Crochet with Jane 6:00 Reading Group: Orphan Train	10:00 Scrabble 1:00 Robinson Crusoe 3:00 Cards with Andy
1:00 Breakfast at Tiffany's 3:00 Rummikub 6:00 Dr. Zhivago	10:00 Current Events 10:45 Exercises 1:15 Bingo 2:30 Make Valentine's Treats	10:00 Reading Circle 11:15 Bingo 1:00 Bible Study 3:00 Ayla on Kanun (Turkish Harp) 4:00 Zumba Gold 6:00 Casablanca HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!	9:00-11:00 Painting Class 11:00 Holton Home Chorus 1:30 Exercises 3:00 Valentine's Tea 6:15 BMAC's Staged Reading of Northern Borders	8:00 Hairdresser Is In 9:45 Yoga 1:15 Jackie in China 3:30 Brattleboro Union High Schools Chicago	10:45 Exercises 11:30 Lunch at the Marina 1:00 Crochet with Jane 2:30 Get to Know You 6:00 Reading Group: Orphan Train	10:00 Scrabble 1:00 Jane Eyre 3:00 Cards with Andy
10:00 Gentlemen Prefer Blondes 3:00 Skip Bo 6:00 North by Northwest	10:00 Current Events 10:45 Exercises 1:15 Bingo 2:30 Dominos	10:00 Reading Circle 11:15 Catholic Communion Service 1:00 Bible Study 3:00 Presidents Day Jeopardy 6:00 Mardi Gras Party	9:00-11:00 Painting Class 11:00 Holton Home Chorus 1:30 Exercises 3:00 Birthday Party 6:00 Mardi Gras: Made in China	8:00 Hairdresser Is In 10:00 Yoga DVD 1:00 Force Flowering Branches 2:15 Milk & Cookies 3:00 Church Service	10:45 Exercises 1:00 Crochet with Jane 2:30 Popcorn & Going MyWay 6:00 Reading Group: Orphan Train	10:00 Scrabble 1:00 The Maltese Falcon 3:00 Cards with Andy 6:00 Storytelling with Linda Puzan
1:00 Woman of the Year 1:15 NEY's Robin Hood 3:00 Dominos 6:00 Academy Awards	10:00 Current Events 10:45 Exercises 1:15 Bingo 2:30 Skip Bo 6:00 The Taming of the Shrew	10:00 Reading Circle 11:15 Bingo 1:00 Bible Study 3:00 Ayla on Kanun and a Champagne Toast 6:00 Nanook of the North	9:00-11:00 Painting Class 11:00 Holton Home Chorus 1:00 Trip to Magic Wings 1:30 Exercises 3:30 Brain Exercises 6:00 Leap Year Party ERRAND DAY			

GEORGE'S LIMERICK

AT ONE OF OUR Brain Training meetings we were asked to create a limerick. This is what I came up with:

*No other place can compare
to Holton Home's excellent
care.*

*The residents find
their body and mind
getting stronger and far
more aware.*

—George Becker



Staff

Julie Ball, *Activities Assistant*
Nancy Bonneau, *Licensed Nursing Assistant*
Pam Boyd, *Cook*
Chris Clark, *Maintenance Director*
Cindy Downs, *Licensed Nursing Assistant*
Else Devoid, *Art Instructor*
Tammy Eliers, *Resident Assistant*
Rose Gerry, *Licensed Nursing Assistant*
Joshua Hart, *Chef/Manager*
Jessica Harvey, *Licensed Nursing Assistant*
Linda Hastings, RN, *Resident Care Administrator*
Cindy Jerome, M.A., *Administrator*
Carol Killay, *Resident Assistant*
Robin Lindsell, *Licensed Nursing Assistant*
Lynn Miner, *Licensed Nursing Assistant*
Shirley Morrill, *Housekeeper*
Kelly Morse, *Resident Assistant*
Wendy Parent, *Senior Licensed Nursing Assistant*
Karen Penson, *Licensed Nursing Assistant*
Cheryl Richards, M.A., *Social Worker*
Kree Rinfret, *Executive Assistant*
Ashley Rose, *Housekeeper*
Lisa Everett Vose, *Licensed Nursing Assistant*
Ellenka Wasung-Lott, *Activities Director*

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