

# Foxdale Highlights

*A newsletter for friends of Foxdale Village*



Vi McLane

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## *Foxdale Miscellany* allows creative literary outlet

by Lindsay Chew

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For some, retirement might mean long afternoons knitting and evenings of “Murder She Wrote” reruns. But for the writers of the *Foxdale Miscellany* life is full of exciting new literary exploration.

The *Foxdale Miscellany* is an all-volunteer publication produced and distributed at Foxdale Village.

Ranging from retired English teachers to retired lieutenants of the U.S. Navy, the writing staff of the *Miscellany* brings to life this quarterly publication with short essays, short personal narratives and poetry. The publication also includes children’s stories as well as pet profiles, creating a surprise for the reader every issue.

“Miscellany really means miscellany,” said Charlotte de Lissovoy, a writer, copy editor, and typist for the *Miscellany*.

The staff builds an atmosphere of community between all the residents at Foxdale by abiding by a mission statement that facilitates the sharing of thoughts, ideas, and feelings in creative works, as well as inspiring every resident to take up a pen and let their creative writing skills come to life.

The staff meets the fourth Monday of every month to read their pieces aloud and help one another improve.

“When we started out, there was no editing,” said Bunny Moon, a writer. “And now we proofread again and again.”

Such a thorough editing process would not have been set in place without the guidance of de Lissovoy. Acting as



Members of the *Foxdale Miscellany* writing staff collaborate on stories. Left to right: Bunny Moon, Amy Weber, Paul Bixby, Charlotte de Lissovoy and William Toombs.

a backbone for the *Miscellany*, de Lissovoy, a retired English teacher, has taken a leadership role. Not only does she write for every issue but also proofreads, types and edits the publication.

“She takes a story, prunes it, changes it, develops it,” said Toombs.

Not all the writers for the *Miscellany* intended to become writers when they joined the Foxdale community.

Paul Bixby, Foxdale resident, familiar to most *Miscellany* readers, had no intentions of writing. Others on the staff, however, came with a resume filled with previous experience.

See *Foxdale Miscellany* on page 2

### In This Issue:

<b>Foxdale Miscellany</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Early spring</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>In the Foxdale Art Gallery</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Foxdale website gets a face lift</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>My new world here at Foxdale</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Upcoming programs</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>New Foxdale residents</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Ireland in winter? Yes!</b>	<b>4</b>

*Foxdale Miscellany* from page 1

Amy Weber, a retired secretary and writer, fell into place as a regular writer for the *Miscellany* when she moved into Foxdale. Weber, who wrote for her hometown paper in her youth, has applied those skills and painted the pages of the *Miscellany* with colorful detail and witty phrases.

Many of the pieces found in the *Miscellany* come from the writers' personal lives and experiences. Recalling a loved one's greatest attributes with a poem or remembering a personal hardship through a short narrative, the writers allow themselves to share these memories with other residents.

"There is a lot of reminiscing," said Toombs, who explained that it is easy to say an event happened, but harder to explain what happened. It is how you saw the event that makes the difference, he said.

The memories of the residents bring the past to life in the *Miscellany*. The heart of the publication lies within each of these writers and their willingness to forgo their fear of sharing and to embrace their words.

"Your memories, as you get older, get very sharp," said Bixby. "You may not remember the exact words but you remember the images. It is my memory... It may not be the same as the person next to me but it is what I remember." ■



Karen Deutsch

Landscape I

## In the Foxdale Gallery

May 7 - June 22, 2009

Foxdale Artists Various Media

June 25 - August 17, 2009

Artists of the Art Alliance

August 20 - October 12, 2009

State College Photo Club

*The Foxdale Art Gallery is located on the second floor of the Community Building. The exhibits are coordinated and produced by the Arts and Acquisitions Committee.*

**Mark your calendar for the Foxdale Village**

## OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, June 7th

2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Tour the community building, enjoy refreshments and visit apartments of various sizes.



Reprinted from the Spring/Summer 2005 *Foxdale Miscellany*

## Early Spring *By Charlotte de Lissovoy* (April 9, 2001; March visit to Black Moshannon)



The Sun has pushed the snow aside,  
The ice from edge recedes  
Above the dark but warming pool  
That wakes and lives and breathes.

The pitcher plant asserts itself,  
The lily pierces green,  
And lichen softly shapes a log,  
Deceptively serene.

The milkweed husks hang full of seeds  
In beds of silken thread,  
Awaiting winds to spread themselves  
Where Monarchs will be fed.

In rolls and folds the mountains move  
As cloudy shadows flee  
And valleys catch the melting snows  
To guide them to the sea.

## www.foxdalevillage.org

### Foxdale website gets a facelift

If you visit the Foxdale website you will see that we have a new look. The Residency Planning department has been working with website up to date, both in content and appearance.

The goal is to make navigation easier and to reflect both the sense of community and the engaging lifestyle here at Foxdale. Be sure to check the website's homepage regularly for upcoming events at [www.foxdalevillage.org](http://www.foxdalevillage.org). ■

*A reflection by Donald Davis, one of Foxdale Village's newest residents*

## My new world here at Foxdale

It is impossible for me to write about why I moved to Foxdale Village and what that means to me without first telling you about my wife of 55 years. Nelda died on January 2, 2008—the day my world ended. Gone was the one with whom I had shared the experiences of most of my life; my best friend who knew, understood and laughed and cried with me, and who made our home a loving haven of healing, trust and renewal. Gone was the one I lived for, the one I cherished.

I moved to Foxdale in November, 2008, for two major reasons: loneliness and health care. Our “perfect house” was filled with constant reminders of our life together, and while they sometimes made me laugh out loud, more often they made me very sad. My feelings of loneliness were intense at first, gradually became more manageable, but were always there. I felt that a community where members cared for one another would help heal what was left of my deep wound of loneliness. It did!

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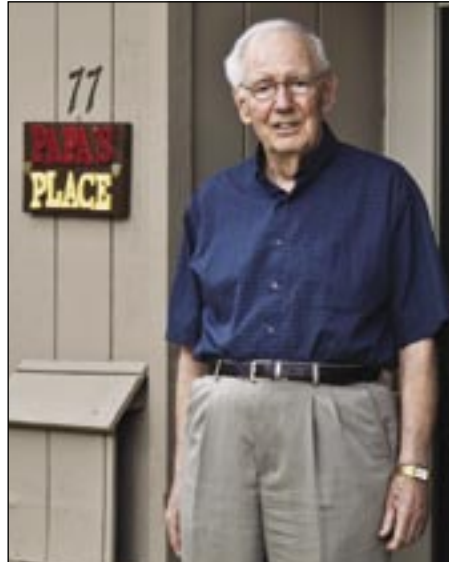
*I believe that Foxdale Village is the best possible community for me to discover what now, in this new world, will make my life worth living. It is a peaceful, accepting environment—just right for me to try to learn how to savor each moment.*

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what is helpful for someone who has lost a cherished loved one because many of them have, too. They encouraged me to tell them about my loss, but didn't let me dwell on it. I was invited to join them in activities they enjoy and programs they thought I would find interesting. Hands of welcome were extended to be part of life at Foxdale, when I was ready. The unspoken message I heard was, “Don't sit around and feel sorry for yourself; get on with your life.” There was empathy without pity, and understanding without giving me answers. In other words, “You can work it out.” What a fantastic gift!

For me, home here at Foxdale Village is not a haven from the world, although it could be that. Rather, it is a safe place where I can make life choices. The residents, who know what life is all about for them, give me the freedom to decide what will make my life worth living. As a result, I have decided to try to focus more on the present because I believe that's where life is lived. As someone wrote, “The past is gone and the future hasn't happened yet. The only time that is real is right now.”

I believe that Foxdale Village is the best possible community for me to discover what now, in this new world, will make my life worth living. It is a peaceful, accepting environment—just right for me to try to learn how to savor each moment. ■



Don Davis Photo taken by Harry Holder

The other reason for moving to Foxdale was to have health care more accessible in case of illness or accident. I felt it was better to live where that was provided than to take my chances for care after an accident.

My world ended last year, but a new world has begun here at Foxdale Village- a world amazingly different from what I expected.

It's a world of people who know

## Upcoming Programs

*Following is a sampling of the special biweekly events that the Residents' Association Program Committee has planned for the coming months:*

### MAY

12th *A Mathematical Odyssey*  
Professor Raymond Ayoub  
Penn State

26th *The History and Future of Climate Change*  
Professor Russell Graham  
Penn State

### JUNE

9th The Arietta Women's Chorus

26th *The Beijing Olympics*  
Professor John Lucas  
Olympic Historian

### JULY

7th Ragtime Music  
Tex Wyndham

28th The Little German Band

### AUGUST

13th The Fred Waring  
Elderhostel Chorus

25th *A Woman Spy in the Civil War*  
Jeanne Nixon

*Call for more details and times*

## New Foxdalers

*Welcome to the following new Foxdale Village residents:*

Sophia Carney  
Donald Davis  
Robert Gruver  
Donald Joyce



*A Quaker-Directed Continuing  
Care Retirement Community*

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State College, PA 16801

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## Foxdale Highlights

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## Ireland in winter? Yes! *By Renée Crauder, Foxdale resident*

Six of us plus Ray Stiefel, our leader and driver, had a great time on our winter excursion—few other tourists, weather around 50°, great pub food (no smoking in pubs anymore), comfortable B & B's with amazing Irish breakfasts, good companionship and friendly natives. What more could one want? Highlights included the Aran Islands, a visit to Anam Cara—an artist's hideaway, and the starkly beautiful byways of the Dingle, Iveragh and Beara Peninsulas. ■



■ *Foxdale resident Renée Crauder (second from left) with fellow travelers Pat Meehan and Berti Gatski and group leader Ray Stiefel (far right, son of residents Henry and Helen Stiefel), who regularly offers domestic and international excursions.*