



FALL 2019 VOLUME 19, NUMBER 4

Through their eyes

Longtime residents talk about Mayflower over the years

Talk to longtime Mayflower residents about what has changed over the years, and you'll get a variety of opinions. But without exception, each of them will be quick to mention what has stayed the same.

Despite the new and renovated buildings, a changing population, and differences in the social life, the core of Mayflower is still present, they say.

"My overall impression is that not much essential has changed," said Beryl Clotfelter, who moved to Mayflower in 1994. "The changes I have observed have not affected the essence of Mayflower."

Beryl is one of six residents who have lived at Mayflower for 25



25+ Years at Mayflower

Front row: Art Heimann, Beryl Clotfelter, Marie Eisenman; Back row: Netia Worley, Nancy Hendrickson, Joan Baker Photo by Selva Lehman

years or more. The others are Art Heimann, Joan Baker, Marie Eisenman, Nancy Hendrickson and Netia Worley.

Art has lived here the longest – 33 years. (Interestingly, his record is topped by Jack Morrison, director of facilities, who has worked at Mayflower for 35 years.)

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Residents

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Marie Eisenman echoed Beryl's observation about the last 25 years: "A lot is the same, only tweaked."

At the heart of Mayflower—then and now—is the quality and compassion of the staff. In interviews with the six longtime residents, the common thread in all the conversations was the helpfulness and willingness of the staff. Most of the resi-

'Longest' list

25+ years

Art Heimann (1988)
Joan Baker (1993)
Beryl Clotfelter (1994)
Marie Eisenman (1994)
Nancy Hendrickson (1994)
Netia Worley (1994)

20+ years

Dorothy Christianson (1995)
Orlan and Verlene Mitchell (1996)
Pat Yungclus (1995, 2016)
Elaine Noe (1996)
Gloria Clay (1997)
Alicemary Borthwick (1998)

large number of longtime staff members as proof of the level of service. "Longevity tells you something."

Beryl called it "the culture" of the Mayflower staff.

dents gave an example of a time when the Mayflower maintenance crew saved the day with a prompt, capable response to a household emergency or routine repair.

"Concern for the residents has always been at the forefront," Art said. He pointed to the

Record holder

Agnes Wood currently holds the record for living at Mayflower the longest. She was a Mayflower resident from 1965 until her death in 1998 at age 102. Prior to coming to Mayflower she served for 33 years as a Congregational missionary, teaching home economics at a girls school in South Africa.

Netia Worley and others mentioned that most staff members know and call residents by name. "I know they are watching out for us," Netia said. "It's a very good feeling."

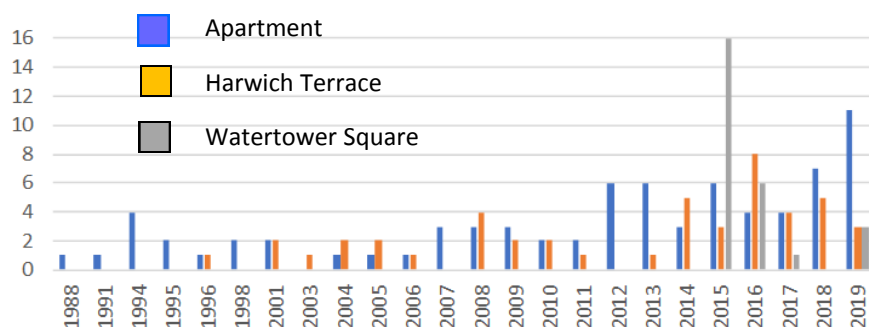
Marie said she hopes that residents are equally friendly to the staff. "I feel we are a true community, a family. We all work together. I think that's really special."

Changes, of course

When it comes to changes, the expansion and beautification of the campus are at the top of everyone's list. In 1988, there were 122 independent-living residences—115 units in the five apartment buildings, three units in the triplex north of the Health Center (Harwich Terrace East), and four units recently constructed between Park and Broad south of First Avenue (Harwich Terrace South). Art was the first occupant of one of the Harwich Terrace South homes.

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Year and number current residents moved to Mayflower



Residents

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Today there are 81 units in the five original apartment buildings, 26 units in Watertower Square, and 47 Harwich Terrace homes.

Combining studio and one-bedroom apartments into two-bedroom apartments largely explains the fewer number of units in the older buildings in 2019 compared to 1988 (81 today compared to 115 in 1988). In Buckley, for example, there were 50 apartments in 1988 and only 33 apartments in 2019.

It's not possible to compare the total population in 1988 and 2019 because Mayflower apparently did not keep census records in earlier years. Currently there are 207 independent-living residents.

Along with new buildings came more extensive landscaping. Everyone interviewed spoke with pride about the patio and terraced garden outside Buckley. Until the mid-1990s, the area was a grassy slope and a concrete slab with a shuffleboard court and redwood picnic tables un-



Before the Buckley garden was created, the area had a shuffleboard court, enjoyed here by Bertha Vandenburg and Jean Beaver.

(Undated photo from the Mayflower archives)

der a pergola. The addition of ponds, decorative rocks, and interesting plantings has transformed the site.

Other new garden spaces and a generous sprinkling of flowerpots around the campus have led to the staff taking on responsibility for the greenery instead of a volunteer Garden Committee. While some residents lamented the loss of an outdoor activity, others said the staff clearly has a green thumb and that the campus has never looked as beautiful as it does today.

Demographics

Another change has been a shift in the composition of the Mayflower population. Up until the early 1990s, Mayflower still had strong ties with the founding United Church of Christ. The UCC mission of providing a home for its retired clergy was still evident.

Art remembers that when he moved to Mayflower in 1988, a large number of residents were retired UCC ministers and spouses.

Joan Baker describes the early 1990s as a time of transition at Mayflower. "When I arrived in 1993, Mayflower was on the cusp of change. The UCC had been a big influence. The retired rural ministers here had lived modestly and unpretentiously." In retirement, Joan said, they didn't expect anything fancy in their surroundings.

But as society at large was changing, so was Mayflower. The retired ministers were gradually replaced by non-clergy who had the means and the desire for bigger living spaces with more amenities. Harwich Terrace homes became larger and individualized. Watertower Square, built almost 30 years after Art arrived in 1988, is

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Residents

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regarded as a luxury apartment building.

The number of residents with farming backgrounds has also dwindled. Nancy Hendrickson remembers that she and her husband Wayne were among five farmers who moved to town and built homes in Harwich Terrace North in 1994. Now Mayflower has only a handful of farmers, she noted.

In the last few years, Mayflower has attracted a sizable number of retired Grinnell College faculty. "The place is loaded with college people," said Joan, herself a 1951 Grinnell graduate who moved to Mayflower in 1993 after a career in Rochester, N.Y.

Beryl, a professor emeritus of physics at the college, said that when he and his wife, Mary Lou, moved to Mayflower in 1994, the only faculty-affiliated residents were Ken and Phyllis Christiansen.

Beryl called the influx of college faculty the biggest change in the resident population in the last 25 years. He noted that Mayflower has always been home to parents of faculty and to wives of deceased faculty, and that the college and Mayflower have always had interaction.

"But there was nothing like the number of actual faculty and spouses that are residents now." The construction of Water-tower Square in 2015 was a definite draw, he added.

The recent mix of residents with a range of income levels, aspirations and lifestyles has created differing opinions on what Mayflower should be. Joan was open in her

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Art Heimann in his basement workshop, 1999.

(Photo in Mayflower archives at Drake Community Library)

Art Heimann, as the senior member of the "Mayflower 25+ Club," has a unique perspective on the changing way of life at Mayflower. In his early years in his duplex, he hammered and sawed inside and outside, building extensive cabinets in the basement and a deck on the exterior.

He said residents then felt the freedom to do what they wished with their homes. "When we wanted to do something, we just went ahead and did it. If you wanted something in particular, you just built it."

Art is, of course, speaking for himself! His basement workshop and woodworking skills are legendary. Few other residents would have tackled such ambitious projects—and done them so well.

Residents

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concern that Mayflower may someday lose its affordability and egalitarian ideals of its founders.

She is quick to point out, however, that as a single woman who tries herself to live as simply as possible, she sees the world differently than many people. She doesn't want her observations to seem judgmental. "I guess I'm just an outlier," she said.

Mayflower adapts

In general, life at Mayflower reflects changing times. Activities have always been plentiful, but they have increased in number and variety in the last 25 years. The burgeoning interest led to hiring a part-time activities director in the 1990s. The first activities director, Bette Kersey, was followed by Netia Worley. The position is held now by Anne Sunday.

Several longtime residents described activities today as more inclusive than before. The Men's Club, for example, evolved into the Forum, a monthly presentation on a topic of interest that is open to everyone.

At one time, the special dinners were almost entirely set up in tables of eight organized by groups of friends and neighbors. Now, group reservations are accepted—but individuals feel free to sign up and be seated wherever.

As activities director, Netia said she encouraged more activities on campus and fewer excursions out of town because not all residents were able to travel comfortably and safely, and she wanted equal opportunities for everyone.

More informality has also come to Mayflower. Art remembers that in his early years at Mayflower, men wore coats and ties to the special dinners. Today, you might see men wearing sandals at themed dinners in the summer!

Marie attributes some of the sociability of Mayflower to the food—and Scott Gruhn, director of dining services. She calls Scott the BMOG at Mayflower. "He knows that food is important to retirees."

Serving wine at the special dinners and at the monthly Wine and Cheese gatherings has also been a change. Scott said alcohol was never forbidden but was simply never considered until the early 2000s. "I began to get requests for wine about then, and it went from there."

There have been other changes, of course. More home health services allow residents to stay living independently almost as long as they wish. The administrative staff has increased as Mayflower has grown. Financial support is now solicited through professional fundraising rather than counting on donations from UCC congregations and members across Iowa, who viewed Mayflower as providing for their beloved pastors in retirement.

Yet, despite all that has happened over the last 25+ years, the six longtime residents say the spirit that drew them to Mayflower is very much alive today.

"I always say," Art said, "I couldn't be at a better place."

*Written by Mary Schuchmann
Assisted by Char Ewan*

CNA program benefits Mayflower, college students

The word “collaboration” may sound like academic jargon, but collaboration between Mayflower and Grinnell College is commonplace—and increasing.

The partnership was extended this summer to include college students working as CNAs (Certified Nurse Aides) in the Mayflower Health Center.

The program also included five Grinnell High School graduates who are attending other colleges and universities. Iowa Valley Community College uses Mayflower as a clinical site for its students.

The summer college students received the required 75 hours of CNA training from Mayflower’s Vickie Wieck, who is also an adjunct instructor at IVCC. After successfully passing the CNA certification exam, they worked 16 hours a week at Mayflower. Six of the college students lived at Mayflower during their training.

The idea for the program came from Kellie McGriff, Mayflower’s associate director. She says the CNA training fulfills two purposes. The first is to offer a way for college students aiming for healthcare careers to get experience in an actual healthcare setting. Many graduate schools require or expect that applicants will come with skills

learned on the job

At Mayflower, the students perform the CNA tasks of assisting residents with dressing, personal hygiene, eating and mobility. “It is a true-to-life experience,” Kellie said. “They are seeing that it is hard work, that it is hard on your body.”

The second purpose is to give Mayflower another way to meet its staffing needs. “Staffing is always a problem,” Kellie noted, adding that college students “bring an interest and energy that inspires all of us.”

During the school year the students work a minimum of 16 hours a month. Those attending out-of-town colleges will work during their school breaks. Many of the Grinnell College students work from 5 to 9 p.m., which is an especially busy and sometimes stressful time in the Health Center. Their focus is on helping with

residents who have cognitive decline. Several students are working on Living Portraits—brief biographies posted outside resident rooms that help the staff get to know the whole of the person, not just their needs

Another CNA class for college students is planned for January.



Linda Peng, a second-year Grinnell College student from Cedar Falls, enjoys a moment with Jeanette Tisdale..

(Photo by Bill Pollak)

Mary Schuchmann

Welcome Loren and Peggy Kolpin

Peggy and Loren Kolpin moved into the South Harwich patio home at 612 State Street in early August. Accommodation of their grand piano was one of the attractive features of the house. They did not have far to move, having been residents of Grinnell for nearly 40 years. Among their many activities in Grinnell, Peggy taught piano for about 30 years, and Loren organized and oversaw the offices of the Edward Jones Investment firm in Grinnell and throughout Iowa.



Loren Kolpin

The Kolpins were both born and raised on farms near Aurelia, Iowa; they were classmates from K through 12 in Aurelia schools and also through college. They felt that Aurelia High School had unusually good teachers in music and coaches in athletics. Both entered Morningside College in 1963 where Peggy had a music scholarship and Loren a football scholarship. Both transferred later to Augustana College in Sioux Falls, SD, where they graduated with degrees in elementary education and business administration, respectively. They married in 1966. Loren graduated with a masters degree in finance from the University of Wyoming in 1969. The Kolpins found Laramie, WY, to be a unique and interesting place to live.

Their lives were busy the next several years with financial or banking jobs for Loren, teaching jobs for Peggy, and starting a family (children: Paul, Mark and

Laura). These activities took them to Worthington and St. Paul, MN; Des Moines and Ottumwa, IA; and DeKalb, IL. Loren joined the Edward Jones Investment firm in 1977, and he and Peggy moved to Grinnell in 1980 where Loren opened the Grinnell office. Loren was instrumental in the growth of the Edward Jones firm in Iowa, and he became a General Partner of Edward Jones for the state of Iowa. He retired in 2008. Their sons, Paul and Mark, have joined Edward Jones as financial advisors, and their daughter, Laura, is a compliance attorney in Ken-



Peggy Kolpin

tucky. The Kolpins have four grandchildren, two of whom live in Grinnell.

Peggy and Loren have many interests. They belong to St. John's Lutheran Church, love music, have had Iowa Hawkeye football tickets since 1981, and have traveled extensively in Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas. They have a winter home in Sarasota, FL, that claims them when the snow flies up North. The Kolpins have been participants and organizers in civic affairs in Grinnell including the Chamber of Commerce, service clubs, Tiger Boosters, coaching, and volunteering on community development projects and in advocacy work. Please join me in welcoming this active and spirited couple to the Mayflower Community.

Gene Wubbels

Welcome Donna Miller

When I asked Donna Miller if I could interview her for the *Log*, she said, "I am the dullest person."

Not so.

First, she has the most beautiful dog called "Bean," a Shiba Inu ("small dog" in Japanese).

And then:



Donna Miller

Donna was born and raised in Brooklyn, N.Y. She chose the University of Chicago for college, and when she sent post cards to friends back home, they were astonished to learn that the Midwest was not all pigs and cows. She was a

pre-med student until Organic Chemistry.

After college, she went to law school at Northwestern University, and then for six years, worked as a child abuse prosecutor. She served as co-chair of the Illinois Child Death Review Team, which reviewed all child deaths and reduced crib deaths and deaths caused by the small buckets that fit so perfectly and disastrously on children's heads.

Donna then took a job with a law firm—and *hated* it. When a friend at the University of Chicago told her about a possible opening in Career Services, she took the job and loved it.

After running the career office of the University of Illinois and serving as Associate Dean at the University of New Hampshire Law School, she decided she wanted to work with students "who make stupid decisions about what they want to do before they really know enough to decide."

Next, she directed the Careers Service office at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, WA—until she realized she missed the Midwest. Her best friend in Madison saw an ad for a position at Grinnell College, and Donna said, "What the heck?" She moved into her South Harwich duplex this summer.

As Exploratory Advisor in the Center for Careers, Life, and Service, she loves the philosophy behind the program and she loves the students at Grinnell, who, she believes, come here because education and the world *mean* something to them.

She is delighted that Grinnell's program allows her to meet with every first-year student, and she would like to ask each of them, in the words of poet Mary Oliver, "Tell me what you will do with your one wild and precious life?"

Dull? Hardly! Please make it a point to meet Donna Miller and the very handsome Bean.

Betty Moffett

Welcome Iann Veldhuizen

Last June, when Iann Veldhuizen became a Watertown Square resident, she was moving to a place the farthest she'd ever lived from her birthplace in Black Hawk County, Iowa.

She grew up on a farm, attended school from grade school through high school at Orange Township Consolidated High School, and married right after graduation. She had two children during the time she worked for Northwestern Bell



Iann Veldhuizen Telephone as a long distance operator. She later rose to a job in management. During her third pregnancy, she experienced health concerns and quit her job to become a stay-at-home mom.

At age 45, she went back to school and earned a degree in Marketing/Accounting. She studied and obtained licensing to sell a full line of insurance and securities. She then worked for Prudential. Later a close friend purchased a flower shop and recruited her to work for the new business. She took training to become a floral designer and retired from the floral business 20 years later.

In her personal life, she remarried in 1990 to a man who had 4 children, and together they raised a family of 7. In the evenings, she would come home from her

work in the flower shop and do the books for her husband's commercial refrigeration business.

When her husband died last year, her children urged her to find a retirement community. Her children live in South Dakota; Alaska; South Carolina; Utah; Riverside, California; Los Angeles, California; and New Sharon Iowa, where her daughter Linda Porter owns Sadie Jane Sweets & Eats ice cream shop. After looking at options in several states, she found that the Mayflower best suited her. She found the people friendly and welcoming, and when she saw the Watertown apartment, she thought, "This is it."

She brings with her skills and experiences that will benefit this community. She is a Master Gardener. She served for six years on the board of the Cedar Valley Arboretum and Botanical Gardens. An avid reader, she participated in two book groups.

She has many other interests, including politics, and belongs to several fraternal groups. The Mayflower Community is lucky to welcome this warm and caring new member of the community.

Judy Hunter

Welcome Nancy Wolff

When Nancy moved to Mayflower in July, she became the third generation to do so. Her Great Aunt Mabel Kingdon was one of the first residents in Montgomery. Her mother, Clara Brown, moved into M8 in 1992. Nancy moved into M9 with a hutch and table that was her Aunt Mabel's, then her mother's, and is now hers.



Nancy Wolff

Nancy was raised on a farm outside of Grinnell and attended the same schools that her father attended before her—they even had some of the same teachers! She attended Iowa State University, graduating with a degree in Home Economics Education.

While at Iowa State, she met Philip Wolff, whom she married in 1964. While Phil pursued his PhD in Chemical Engineering, Nancy worked at the university library and had two children, Kevin in 1966 and Karen in 1967.

On the last day of 1969, the family moved to Bartlesville, Oklahoma, where Phil worked for Applied Automation, a subsidiary of Phillips Petroleum Company.

Nancy volunteered for several organizations such as Concern, League of Women Voters (for which she served two terms as President), church, school, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and even a stint as a soccer coach! None of the fathers would take the job, so she told the boys that they knew how to play and could coach themselves. (After practices started, some of the aforementioned fathers did show up to put in their two cents worth.) Nancy did the scheduling and made treats, the boys coached, and the result was a winning season!

After a divorce, Nancy pursued a Master of Science degree in Family Financial Counseling. In 1990, she became the Financial Aid Director at Graceland College. Then years later she moved back to the family farm to a modular home she designed herself.

Nancy likes to spend time with her five grandchildren, bake, and volunteer at church, Meals on Wheels, and Take Away Hunger. She is pleased that she could bring her cat, Mr. Snuggles, with her. We are delighted to welcome such a multi-talented person, as well as one who has such extensive roots here, at the Mayflower.

Marge and John Graves

Parents' Weekend, 1964

It was my sophomore year, and I was going to the "Military Ball" at Dickinson College with the young man whom I had decided I wanted to be more than my biology lab partner. The big dance was early in the fall, and that same weekend was also "Parents' Weekend." Mom and Dad were driving in from Michigan, a full day's drive. I had written them that I had a date for the big dance with a man I was really excited to be dating. My understanding with my parents was that they would drive to the area, spend the night with my grandfather who lived in a nearby town, and then find me in the morning for breakfast together before we began the activities organized for families coming for the weekend events. I never gave it another thought; all my psychic energy was focused on my date and how I was going to look in my pale blue evening dress.

I don't have many memories of the dance itself. What I will never forget, however, is a break in the dance while the band took some time off. Ed and I wandered out of the ballroom, and into the brightly lit lobby to get some fresh air and to talk. I was assessing the evening so far, thinking about how it was going, if Ed liked me, how we were doing as a dancing couple, and all sorts of other thoughts that would help me understand if this was actually going anywhere with this man. While we chatted, my back was to the entrance to the student union and Ed was facing me, so he could see everyone coming in. It was about 9:30 p.m., and the dance was still far from over. Ed got a strange expression on his face as he seemed to be staring at something over my shoulder. Then he said, "You are not

going to believe this pair that just walked in the building!" He seemed amused. I turned around slowly in order to see what was causing him to smile. Walking quickly toward me were my parents, dressed in matching plaid Pendleton wool jackets. They were smiling at me and obviously so happy to see me. I wanted to die on the spot.

My mother often would buy matching outfits because she thought they were so classic. The plaid was blue, grey, and off-white, and each jacket was made from the same identical wool material. My father's jacket was styled for a man, with lapels and long sleeves. My mother's jacket was more like a woman's shirt, also buttoning down the front, but with buttons at the cuffs. They actually did look rather cute in these matching jackets, but that impression was quickly dashed by Ed's assessment that was obvious in his words, "Get a load of these two!" I wondered if there might be an escape hatch somewhere that would have a button I could press and Ed and I would disappear. But they were upon us by then. Of course I quickly remembered my manners and said, "Mom, Dad, I want to introduce you to my date, Ed Phillips!" My father reached out his hand, protruding from his Pendleton jacket, and said, "I am pleased to meet you!" I watched as Ed recovered enough to say, "The pleasure is mine!"

Believe it or not, Ed and I inherited those jackets, and have them in our closets! Now I finally can agree that they are pretty cute!

Karen Phillips wrote this memoir in 2019 in the Wine and Writing class coordinated by Betty Moffett and Anne Sunday.



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From a Pool Side Bench

They never seem to tire,
those fish in the Mayflower water garden.
A big one with glistening red gold body,
sinuous and wiggling
from head to floating diaphanous tail,
leads the procession, but not for long.
It is soon displaced by pied and multicolored neighbors
of all sizes and ages,
darting in and out, crossing and recrossing
each other's paths in the dance for place.
In their society they often touch,
seldom nudge, and never come to blows.
A handful of crumbs thrown
from a pool side stirs utter confusion
such a whirling and splashing till
every morsel consumed,
the stately procession resumes
in dignity unassumed.

*Alex Moffett 2005
Mayflower resident 1990-2009*

