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Council celebrates centenarians

Residents 100 and older are feted at May luncheon

The oldest birthday guest will turn 107 in August, and two other guests relived their days as field hockey players back in 1929 at Upper Darby High School, when Delaware County Council hosted the annual Centenarian Luncheon, May 11 at the Drexelbrook Events Center.

This year marks the eighth anniversary of the Centenarian Luncheon, hosted by Council and the County Office of Services for the Aging (COSA) as part of Older Americans Month.

COSA Director Louis Colbert said his office has identified 120 Delaware County residents who are 100 and older; 47 attended the luncheon and the others will be visited at their homes and presented citations by COSA staff.

The numbers represent a sizable increase over 2009 when 90 centenarians were identified and 30 attended the luncheon.

“It always gives us great pleasure to recognize these wonderful citizens who have so much wisdom and history to share with us,” said Council Chairman Jack Whelan, who attended the luncheon with all members of County Council and Executive Director Marianne Grace.

The eldest resident at the luncheon was Marguerite Woodbury, who will turn 107 in August. A resident of the Broomall Presbyterian Village, she enjoys classical music, crafts, reading and gardening.

Two other guests, Alva Mullikin and Katherine Rann, poured over photos from their 1929 yearbook from Upper Darby High School, where the two women played on the girls’ field hockey team.

“She was Kitty Bleyler then and we were two little shorties on the field. I played left wing and she was right wing,” said Alva Mullikin, who turns 100 in November. “We’re getting shorter,” she laughed.

“I did graduate, but my picture is not in the yearbook because I couldn’t pass history. They made me take history three times,” she said. “I just couldn’t remember all those dates.”

(more)

(Centenarians continued)

Mrs. Mullikin grew up in Drexel Hill, worked at Boeing Co. for many years and was a Girl Scout leader in Springfield. She has two children and now lives at Lima Estates in Middletown. She said she doesn't let things get her down and "I am glad I am still living."

Mrs. Rann is a 1929 graduate of Upper Darby High and also ran in the Penn Relays. She has one son and three grandchildren. She attended the luncheon with her daughter-in-law, Barbara, and her granddaughter, Jackie. She will turn 100 in October.

In addition to the luncheon, centenarians also received a commemorative photograph from the day along with a special citation from Delaware County Council.

Colbert introduced Ray Prushnok, Deputy Secretary of Aging in Pennsylvania, who was a guest at the luncheon. Prushnock praised Delaware County for hosting such an excellent celebration and said it's the only one he knows of that is thrown for centenarians across the Commonwealth.

The Centenarians were also treated to a choral concert by students from Worrall Elementary School who ended their presentation with a rousing rendition of "Happy Birthday."