




Extend *your* Family

We cherish the privilege of caring for Elders & knowing the *stories of their lives.*



ROCHESTER PRESBYTERIAN HOME
Assisted Living & Memory Care Residences



An unquenchable faith in *our mission...*

As our founders intended, Rochester Presbyterian Home is guided by a reverence for Elders and a devotion to a ministry that nurtures their mind, body and spirit. Our unquenchable faith in this mission has inspired us to grow and pursue continuous change within the culture of Elder Care. In 2016, we proudly extended our mission to the eastside, in Fairport, New York, with the opening of the Memory Care Residences at Creekstone. Today, all three of our Eden Alternative communities are committed to assuring a life worth living for each Elder entrusted to our care.

Thank you to all of our “determined spirits” who share our values and beliefs and continue to support this wonderful mission of caring. It is your faith, support and prayers that assure the continued success of Rochester Presbyterian Home.

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Ethel Nagy Gabriel

The RPH residences are well-tended homes comprised of our aging parents, aunts and uncles – the keepers of family memories and historical encounters.

The three Nagy sisters lived at Rochester Presbyterian Home-the Homestead. They were incredibly talented women of their times.

Elizabeth Barbara Nagy Saxman, born in 1917, earned a degree from Philadelphia Art Institute and became an accomplished ceramic artist and clothing designer who, along with her younger sister Ethel, ran Nagy Ceramic Design Studio in NY City. She came to Rochester to be near her family and lived at the Homestead before her death in 2006.

Margaret Teresa Nagy Mauro, born in 1919, had a long and successful career as manager of communications for Scott Paper Company in Philadelphia, PA, while living in Ridley Park for 65 years. She was active in real estate and hotel management in Mt. Pocono, PA before moving to Rochester in 2000. Margaret also lived at the Homestead and she passed away in 2008.

That leaves Ethel Mary Nagy Gabriel, born in 1921. Ethel was a trombone player in the 1930's and she headed her own dance band. Ethel studied music and graduated from Temple University and Columbia University. Ethel is best

known as the first female Artist & Repertoire Producer for RCA Records. Under Ethel's direction, RCA issued recordings by Dolly Parton, Jim Reeves, Henry Mancini, Perry Como, Arthur Fiedler and the Boston Pops Orchestra, Peter Niero, Neil Sedaka and Frank Sinatra with the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra. Ethel even went to Memphis to help sign Elvis Presley to RCA Records. In the 1950's, she was instrumental in kicking off the mambo craze in the United States when she traveled to Mexico to record Perez Prado's number-one hit "Cherry Pink and Apple Blossom White."

Ethel notes that she worked for RCA Records for more than 40 years and traveled most corners of the world. During her music career Ethel produced six Grammy-winning albums and achieved 15 gold records out of the 2,500 she produced.

Ethel Nagy Gabriel won the 1982 Best Historical Recording Grammy for producing The Tommy Dorsey/Frank Sinatra Sessions. In 1984 she left RCA when a friend,

former Secretary of the Treasury under Eisenhower, convinced her to invest her entire retirement into a new music company. Sadly, this proved to be a fraud and Ethel lost her entire life savings. In 2007 her home in the Pocono's and most of her career memorabilia were put up for auction.

Like her sisters, Ethel came to live at the Rochester Presbyterian Home in 2011 to be close to family. Ethel proudly displays a few of the Gold Records her family had reproduced



which adorn the hallway by her room. She's often found playing card games on the computer or assembling puzzles to

"keep my mind active." Ethel says "I had a wonderful life and I have a few nice things to remember it by."



Professor George McDade

Born in Scotland in 1938, George Campbell McDade was a gifted educator and artist, inveterate storyteller, talented actor, and devoted father and grandfather.

George earned a BS in Education from Oswego State College and a MA in English from Bowling Green University. While at Oswego he met and married the love of his life, Jean Hernon Perrotti, and together they grew their family of six.

The family moved to Rochester in 1964 where George began a

Ward. George initially taught in the English Department before transitioning to the Art Department in 1970. He served as Art Department Chair for more than twenty years, proudly establishing the Mercer Gallery, and aiding in the establishment of the MCC teacher's union.

George's forty-four year marriage ended with Jean's sudden death in 2004. About four years later, the family began to notice changes in his behavior and memory. What followed was probably typical for many families:

several years of watching and hoping, some denial, becoming educated about options, and taking on additional care responsibilities ranging from providing transportation to managing George's financial matters. Eventually, George

moved in with his daughter Elizabeth and her partner Mike. This solution worked well for about a year until he began to exhibit wandering behavior. Concerned for George's safety, arrangements were made to move him to the Rochester Presbyterian Home in late 2014.

George's daughters, Elizabeth and Maranne had done their homework. Given that this disease takes control away from the individual as well as the family, they did what they could

to gain control—they researched and became informed consumers. In anticipation of what they knew would probably happen at some point, they visited multiple facilities all over Monroe County to see the types of programs available, the costs involved, etc. Fortunately, their father's resources enabled them the freedom to choose where he would live. His daughters wanted to be proactive rather than reactive, to be advocates for their awesome and loving father, and to assure that their Dad received the best care possible.

Numerous family friends and neighbors recommended the Rochester Presbyterian Home at the Homestead. Once the family became better acquainted with RPH and the Eden Alternative Philosophy, it was the first and only choice for George. George's daughters were impressed with the friendly atmosphere, that RPH staff members knew the names of all residents, facility size, the private rooms, and the robust schedule of events. They felt lucky that their father's innate congeniality and interest in everything around him remained. George was a charmer and made friends with Elders and staff alike. He wasn't always the easiest resident to care for, but he was beloved by everyone who knew him.

Due to a sudden illness, George was hospitalized in early 2016. His mobility



thirty-year career on the faculty of Monroe Community College. He and Jean bought their first, and only, home on Genesee Street, across from Genesee Valley Park, in 1967. They were lifelong residents of the 19th



Left Inset: *George working in the Gallery*

Right Inset: *George and his wife Jean*



Ethel Braun

Professor George McDade cont.

decreased and he was referred to a rehab/ skilled nursing facility. Once again, his daughters advocated for him and chose the facility with two goals: a temporary location for rehab as well as a new permanent home if their Dad was unable to return to RPH. The observation of Elder care in a non-Eden Alternative facility provided a startling contrast to life at RPH. Within one week his daughters were determined to get him back to the Homestead. Nancy Smyth and RPH staff provided pragmatic and supportive counsel. The first time George was evaluated for return, Nancy had the unenviable task of telling his daughters their Dad was not ready. George, however, raised tenacious and determined children, so his daughters worked with the rehab facility, advocating for therapy that would enable George to return to RPH.

In April 2016, George returned to friends and caregivers at the Homestead. Welcomed with open arms and hugs, he moved to a floor that provided more care. George was doing very well—he had stopped taking insulin because his diabetes was being managed by nutrition and working with a physical therapist. Sadly, George passed away suddenly last November surrounded by his loving family. His daughters say that they will be forever grateful that their experience at Rochester Presbyterian Home was one of compassion, kindness, love, and respect.

Ethel Braun grew up surrounded by many cousins, aunts and uncles in the old Dutchtown neighborhood of Rochester's 20th ward. She married in 1943, and moved to Chili adjacent to St. Pius Tenth School and Church in 1959 after the birth of her fourth son.

Ethel was a stay-at-home mother to her five boys until the sudden death of her husband in 1970, at the age 50. She then became the bread winner for her family! She was offered a job by Father Murphy, the pastor of St. Pius Tenth Church, to work in the school's library. Ethel says she loved every minute working with the children at St. Pius. This passion was fueled by a message she and her husband heard at church, stressing a commitment to educating children. To this day, Ethel still includes this prayer as part of her mealtime blessing; "Dear Lord infuse young hearts with vocations..."

Ethel moved into Rochester Presbyterian Home's Cottage Grove residences in North Chili in 2015. The Braun family's involvement with RPH goes back nearly forty years when Bertha, Ethel's mother, required respite care. Bertha lived with Ethel's family, but when Ethel was asked to accompany her cousin Ann on a trip to Hawaii in 1978, Ethel was not comfortable leaving Bertha on her own, and RPH became the answer.

Fast forward to 2001 – Rita, another one of Ethel's cousins, (and Ann's younger sister), was no longer able to live alone upon Ann's passing. Ethel's family stepped in to help find care for Rita, and noted, when first entering the Presbyterian Home, that it seemed "like a perfect fit" since it wasn't very far from where Ethel and her cousins grew up so many years previously.



RPH has been providing answers to address the needs of families for decades. For the Brauns, RPH has become a tradition of respectful, dignified living for their loved ones.

Inset: Ethel with her grandmother, Bertha

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