

Centennial Celebration honors residents over 100

Austin Hall
Staff Reporter

The Deutsches Altenheim (DA) turns 100 this year, and they couldn't help but celebrate the wonderful residents who have also hit (and surpassed) the century mark.

Last Friday at 2 p.m., the DA held their Centennial Celebration by bringing residents into the auditorium for tea, cookies and live music.

But of course, no celebration is complete without recognizing some of the residents who continue to lead a long and happy life.

Currently, the DA has five residents who are 100, including: Ida Myslik, Eleanor Manning, Helen Knarr, Francis Atkins and Veronica Hopkins, and two residents over 100: Anita Allen, 104, and Mary Teresa Harrison, 101.

Gregory Karr, the CEO of

the DA, got things going by not just celebrating the centre, but, more importantly, the residents.

"We're celebrating a centennial and we have two centennials to talk about," Karr said. "One is the Altenheim, the Deutsches Altenheim is 100 years old, but what's more special is the 100 year olds who are with us today."

From there, State Senator Mike Rush gave each of the 100 year olds a special cita-

tion from the Massachusetts Senate congratulating them on their continued health.

"I'm thrilled to be here today to celebrate this very special day with each and every one of you," Rush said. "The German home is synonymous with excellence and I know you all feel that way and this is really an outstanding landmark."

For the ladies, this was just the beginning of the honoring ceremony. City Councilor Matt O'Malley continued the trend by giving each and every one of them a resolution of congratulations.

"I just wanted to say happy birthday, thank you for your careers as teachers, as mothers, as

homemakers, as grandmothers, as friends, as leaders in the community," O'Malley said. "You've made this city a better place to live, work and raise a family and we're so glad that we're honoring you today."

State Representative Ed Copping was unable to make it but sent along a citation from the Massachusetts House of Representatives to congratulate the women as well. Even President Barack Obama sent a letter over to the DA in congratulations.

As the party ended, most of the residents were beside themselves with joy.

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(Above, left to right): Eleanor Manning, 100, Gregory Karr and Carol Kelly of the German Centre. (Below, l to r): Ida Myslik and Helen Knarr, 100, Anita Allen, 104 and Frances Atkins, 100.

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"I'm overwhelmed," Allen said, while Manning was more than happy to praise the center.

"It's wonderful," Manning said. "They're very kind here."

Of course, when all was said and done, Karr was as happy as anyone.

"(The event was) outstanding," Karr said. "Wasn't it nice to sit with 100 year olds who could talk about most everything and were happy to be

there?"

Now, Karr is already looking forward to the future. "We're looking forward to the next 100 year olds," Karr said.

This wasn't the only event they hosted last week. On Thursday, residents got a chance to meet with Mayor Marty Walsh as part of Ethos' annual SeniorPalooza Celebration of National Older Americans Month.