



Crest Lines

December 2019

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Christmas Thoughts from Senior Services

by Rachel Clemens, Senior Services Director

Share your story...a memorable Christmas, a surprise gift, or special celebration. As I began to think back over the years nothing truly specific or memorable came to me. Kate and Megan gave this assignment to me almost four weeks ago and still nothing was coming to me until I started singing Barbra Streisand's rendition of "Jingle Bells" in my head and then Mahalia Jackson's "Go Tell It on the Mountain." At that moment vivid holiday memories came flooding back. Our holiday was centered around music, cookies, and tradition.

My mom had a red Currier & Ives tin filled with cassette tapes. Every Christmas she would add to the collection – John Denver and the Muppets, Rocky Mountain Holiday, Alvin and the Chipmunks' Christmas, The Chieftain's, The Bells of Dublin, the White Christmas soundtrack and A Charlie Brown Christmas. As we got older there were popular artists like George Strait, Mariah Carey and Bing Crosby. I can remember rummaging through the tin to pick out Christmas music as we made holiday cookies, the same every year – spritz cookies, "snowball cookies," more commonly known as Russian tea cakes, and chocolate chip cookies with and without walnuts, which were always a staple in our house.

Music and cookies were a main part of Christmas for us. We made cookies for Santa Lucia – a tradition that my family had growing up and that I have introduced to my children. On the night of December 12th children put a shoe outside their bedroom door for Santa Lucia to fill. Instead of reindeer, she rides a donkey. We would put out cookies and milk for her and carrot sticks for her donkey. Santa Lucia would leave an ornament, chocolates and mints, and an orange. Over the many years of Santa Lucia coming, my siblings and I were able to create a vast collection of ornaments to take with us when we moved out and started decorating trees of our own.

Cookies were made for our annual Christmas parties. We hosted two parties; one for our farming community neighbors and one for my dad's students from Indiana University who were away from home. Both parties were pot luck dinners but my mom's lasagna and Christmas cookies were always part of the festivities.

We also made the obligatory cookies for Santa Claus and left them out with milk, not forgetting carrot sticks for his reindeer. Christmas morning most of the cookies were eaten, milk was drank, bites were taken from the carrots, and cookie crumbs scattered. Santa Claus always left a long letter acknowledging the things my siblings and I accomplished or how proud he was of how we'd matured over the last year.

These are the memories that I cherish and thank my parents for, the small things that end up filling your heart for a lifetime.

Wishing You All Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year!

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Coming Soon

January

- Fitness Center Open House
- Stefan Stern
- Annual Tea Party
- Mock Auction

February

- Art Walk
- Valentine's Dinner
- Bozeman Hot Springs



~Sharing our Christmas Memories~

Stafford Hall

Christmas Day 1944. I was in the Army Construction Engineers. On Christmas Eve we had moved from Verdun, France to join in the Battle of the Bulge. On Christmas day it was snowing while I dug my first fox hole. The snow would fall on my olive drab covered uniform and melt. The temperature was about 28 degrees. We were now in General Patton's 3rd Army. I wonder what lay ahead for me. We had replaced the 4th cavalry unit the day before. Now we were on the banks of the Moselle river and on our own. The nearest town was Grevenmacher, Luxumbourg.

Katie Schabarker

Every year on Christmas, my Grandpa George would give my sisters and me an envelope labeled "From Santa" containing \$100. He continued this tradition all of our lives. He passed away in February of 2017. That Christmas my family was gathered in the living room and my mom handed each of us an envelope labeled "From Santa" and told us it was our present from Grandpa George. My parents had decided to continue the tradition with us as well as their grandbabies in order to keep Grandpa's memory alive.

Gene Quenemoen

One of my most memorable Christmas seasons was in Ethiopia, 1966. My family included my wife, Marie, and four children, Julie 15, Kane 12, Jonie 10, and Lori 9. Upon our August arrival in Addis, Ababa, I went to a hospital with a severe intestinal infection; Julie moved to a missionary boarding school; and Marie and the younger children flew to Diredawa to enroll in school and set up our new home. I followed a week later in time to meet my classes at Haile Salassie University.

After a rough start, we all got together; Julie flew in from boarding school and we had a very memorable Christmas. We cut a tree, not a pine, and decorated it, exchanged gifts and were very thankful for our time together.

Kay Reilly

We lived in a house in a valley with mountains behind. We always cut our own tree and looked forward to doing so. This pre-Christmas my husband and I saddled our horses and one each for our two boys and our daughter (maybe 5 to 9 years old) and rode up the mountain on our quest. It had snowed the night before and there were no tracks in the snow other than ours. It was beautiful with a crust of ice on top of the snow. We cut down the tree of our choice and started down the mountain with the tree on the end of a lariat rope fastened to my husband's saddle horn. We could see our house with smoke coming out of the chimney and the snow undisturbed other than our tracks.

Soon the tree slide down in front of the colt he was riding. When the colt saw it passing him on its way down the hill, it scared him and he jumped about 20 feet in between jumps. When we got home our tree looked like Charlie Brown's Christmas Tree. We went inside and had some hot chocolate and then went back up after another. On the way up the snow showed a big hole every 20 feet where the horse jumped and indentations in various placed where the tree hit. I think of this every Christmas with fondness.

Corrine Fohrer

My most memorable Christmas was when I was 7 years old. My parents were British and the family we spent Christmas with each year was also British. Unbeknown to me, Mr. Schofield arranged a big surprise for me. They had purchased a piano, which I dearly loved for years and years. It still exists in the home of my daughter in the Florida Keys. Mr. Schofield was an organist at our church. He spent many hours teaching me how to play.



Leslie Egloff

Wow—am hard put to remember any one Christmas that was special. Each was special in its own way.

I do miss the HUGE family gatherings with grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins. Later my husband Werner and I created our own extended family. We had 10 grandkids, starting with the three kids we jointly created. Our first Christmas without family happened in lower Baja California/Mexico. We had our first RV in which we camped out of on Tecolote Beach. Our kids were adults starting their own families. It seemed strange but it was such fun to dig clams and go fishing. On Christmas mind you, that was special.

Lorraine Deming

We spent a 3 week Christmas Holiday in Poipu, Kauai, Hawaii. My husband, son Greg, his wife Jen and their 10 year old daughter Kali. Much to my son's dismay, I insisted on a live Christmas tree, which we found at a K-mart parking lot sale. To save room, Greg hung the tree from the rafters. Kali and I decorated it with candy canes, which had melted during the night. That night we had a gigantic thunder and lightning storm visible from 3 sides of the room. What a sight.

What a glorious time we had touring botanical gardens where Jurassic Park was filmed. In lieu of gifts we shopped the local craft shows and found lovely reminders of our fabulous Christmas in Hawaii.

Barbara Mall

My most memorable Christmas was in 1990 when our son was born on Christmas Eve. We were a new family here in Bozeman and when I went into labor six weeks early it was a surprise. My water broke and my husband was Christmas shopping while I was at home with our almost three year old. I had my husband paged at JCPenney's and we heard his name over the loud speaker. He was confused but gave up shopping and got us to the hospital.

I had chosen my doctor because I knew he would be in town, but six weeks early meant



he was out of town. There were two of us going into labor six weeks early so the hospital was prepared. The other woman in labor was my age and we met in the waiting room. I had one friend in town who wanted to be at the birth, but she had left town that day. One other person we knew took care of our older son.

Things progressed and my new doctor said he was just going home for dinner and would be back. In his absence, our baby made his way into the world! The nurse scattered everything out of the way and another on-call doctor came in and caught him.

He weighed 4lbs 8oz. The other mom had her daughter an hour later and she weighed the same as our son. We didn't bring him home for a week because he had jaundice and Bozeman had temps far below zero for two weeks. It was -45 the night he was born, Christmas Eve, and we named him Nicholas. Best Christmas gift ever!

Natalie Keim

My love for Christmas began 12/25/1990, the day I was born. Since then, every Christmas season has been memorable. I can think of something amazing that happened every year, but I'd have to say the most memorable thing for me is the time spent with family. The traditions and crazy fun times we have together are what I love most and I'm very excited to pass these shenanigans down to my daughter, Harper. My favorites include decorating the house like a mad man the day after Thanksgiving (I have four trees); my aunts and uncles taking me snowboarding, opening presents with my cousins; cooking stew with my grandpa, my grandma's very festive hat dance (it gets wild fast); and my mom's mission of making Christmas and my birthday two separate occasions on the same day. That's why Christmas isn't just a season, it's a feeling of love and happiness with the ones I care about the most. It's my favorite time of year.

Hillcrest Neighbors By Kate Evans

The hissing sound of falling Communist bombs could be heard in the distance as Sue Knox Benson, then just a baby, and her parents, Elizabeth and Lester Knox, were leaving China in 1948 for the Philippines to continue their work as missionaries and teachers. She would live 16 years on the Island of Panay while her father, an electrical engineer, was on the faculty at Philippines Christian University. He also helped with the construction of new campus buildings. Her mother, a parasitologist, taught biology classes. “I had an interesting youth among brown skinned children. “I wanted to be just like my friends, not like the American kids whose parents also worked at the university. On my way to school I would hide my shoes in the bushes so I would be barefoot in class as they were.”

The family, which later included two more daughters and a son, moved to Bozeman in 1964 when Lester accepted a position in teaching and research at Montana State University. Following her graduation from Bozeman High School in 1967, Sue married Bill Benson, a sophomore at MSU, who later served 36 years in the Montana National Guard and worked for Avis Car Rental in retirement.

During a routine checkup at 31 years of age the doctor found Sue’s aorta was three times its normal size. She was rushed off to Houston, TX for a replacement. Always athletic and never one to let the therapist get her down, she made a comeback and became an inspiration to her family and many others.

Her life drastically changed when she suffered a massive stroke just before her 50th birthday. “I had good health until that sunny Mother’s Day morning when I actually was planning my day. Then I experienced a pounding headache; my left leg gave out; and my face started to

droop,” she recalls vividly. Until Bill found her three hours later, she laid on the floor unable to move, but faithfully surrounded by their two dogs and two cats.

Since then she has undergone hours with different therapists and has performed various exercises. “My best therapy sessions, I believe, were provided by my three young grandchildren who came to visit me often. They inspired me; I had to get better for them,” she strongly emphasizes. From the beginning, Sue was determined to remain positive about life and has tried to live it the best way she can. “It has been a very slow process, taking one baby step at a time. When my left leg came back, I became more independent, however it took a year for me to walk again.” Through it all, Bill was at her side. He retired to be her main caregiver and supporter and died October 27, 2017 at age 71.

Sue says her life, the good years and those that were not as good and difficult, have influenced her thinking about people. “I have enjoyed learning about others through my many travels all over the world.” Everyone Sue meets is a friend and she leaves to them her amusing sense of humor and warm personality.

At Hillcrest, she has found friends, especially those early risers who come to the Fireside room at 7am for coffee. “This group has welcomed me and given me all kinds of help and information for which I am most grateful.”

Sue has two children, Lisa Benson Martin, who recently retired after 30 years in the Army National Guard and lives in Bozeman. She served in the Desert Storm operation of the Gulf War. Her son, Heath, owns and operates the only store in Nye, MT. Her four grandchildren are Ashley, Madi, Royce and Gracie.



December 2019

Remove and keep as daily reference.

Spiritual Offerings

Chaplains delivering October services at 10:00am in the AP chapel are as follows:

December 1	Chaplain Allen Jones
December 8	Chaplain Timothy Spring
December 15	Chaplain Katie Michael
December 22	Chaplain Sandy Osborne
December 29	Chaplain Amy Strader

Catholic Mass & Communion at 2pm the 1st Wednesday of each month in the AP Chapel led by Father Leo Proxell of Holy Rosary. The following Wednesday's are prayer and communion.

Lutheran Communion at 3pm the 3rd Wednesday of each month in the AP Chapel.

Bible Circle at 9:30am on Thursdays in the ARC Room.

Spiritual Care 1st and 3rd Wednesdays from 11:30am-1:30pm and 2nd and 4th Wednesdays from 2-4pm.



December Birthdays

Jo Schwaller	12/1
Jan Peace	12/7
Gene Quenemoen	12/7
Newt Michaelsen	12/8
Barbara Taylor	12/10
Doris Atchison	12/12
Claire Driscoll	12/12
Clara Hodges	12/20
Sherry Entwistle	12/21
Jan Wood	12/23
Lillian Kessler	12/25
Shirley Dealy	12/28



Announcements

- **Meal Schedule for December 22—25:** The main meal will be served during two mid-day seatings. There will be a light meal in the evening. In place of an evening meal at Aspen Pointe on December 25, sack lunches will be available for pick up at 5pm outside the dining room. Birchwood's evening meal will continue as normal.
- **Meal Schedule for December 29-January 1:** The main meal will be served during two mid-day seatings and champagne will be available to toast the new year. In place of an evening meal at Aspen Pointe, sack lunches will be available for pick up at 5pm outside the dining room. Birchwood's evening meal will continue as normal.
- **Meal Schedule on New Year's Day:** The main meal will be served during two mid-day seatings. There will be a light meal in the evening.
- **Food Bank Donations:** It has been a Hillcrest tradition to give donations to the Gallatin Valley Food Bank each December. A sleigh will be placed in the AP Commons for your convenience. Thank you for helping our community.

Sun	Mon	Tue	
<p>1 10:00am Worship Service in AP Chapel</p> <p><u>3:30pm Piano Recital in Commons</u></p> <p>2:30pm AP Movie in ARC</p>	<p>2 10:00am Chair Ex. in AP Commons 1-3:00pm Art Group BW Act Rm 1:30pm Timely Topics 3:00pm Bingo & Cocktails in BW Act Rm</p>	<p>3 9:30am Yoga in LC <u>10:30-11:30am Trip to Hospital Gift Shop</u> 10-11:30am Open Wii Bowling Commons 10:30am Tai Chi in ARC 1:30pm Bus to Walmart 2:30pm Stretching in BW Act Rm 3:30pm Great Courses in Commons 6:30pm Bridge in FSR</p>	<p>4 9:30am Shopping 10:00am Chair <u>11:30am-1:30pm</u> 1-2:30pm AP A 1:30pm Book C Lounge <u>2:30-3:30pm Bo</u> <u>4:30-5pm Suzul</u> <u>Commons</u> 6:30pm Bingo i</p>
<p>8 10:00am Worship Service in AP Chapel</p> <p><u>3:30pm Piano Recital in Commons</u></p> <p>2:30pm AP Movie in ARC</p>	<p>9 10:00am Chair Ex. in AP Commons 1-3:00pm Art Group BW Act Rm 1:30pm Timely Topics 3:00pm Bingo & Cocktails in BW Act Rm <u>3-4:00pm Pup Play Date in ARC</u></p>	<p>10 <u>8:45am Gift Wrapping at Dahl Chapel</u> 9:30am Yoga in LC 10-11:30am Open Wii Bowling Commons 10:30am Tai Chi in ARC 1:30pm Bus to Walmart 2:30pm Stretching in BW Act Rm 3:30pm Great Courses in Commons 6:30pm Bridge in FSR</p>	<p>11 9:30am Shopping 10:00am Chair <u>NO SPIRITUAL</u> <u>12-4:00pm Holi</u> <u>NO ART CLASS</u> <u>NO CATHOLIC</u> <u>3:00pm Annual</u> 6:30pm Bingo i</p>
<p>15 10:00am Worship Service in AP Chapel</p> <p><u>1:45pm Bozeman Sym-phony at Wilson</u></p> <p>2:30pm AP Movie in ARC</p> <p><u>4-5:00pm Piano Recital in Commons</u></p>	<p>16 10:00am Chair Ex. in AP Commons 1-3:00pm Art Group BW Act Rm 1:30pm Timely Topics <u>NO BINGO & COCKTAILS TODAY</u> <u>3:30pm Resident Christmas Party in Commons</u> <u>7:45pm Pilgrim Church Carolers in Commons</u></p>	<p>17 9-10am First Security Bank 9:30am Yoga in LC 10-11:30am Open Wii Bowling Commons 10:30am Tai Chi in ARC 1:30pm Bus to Walmart 2:30pm Stretching in BW Act Rm <u>3:30pm Geriactors in Commons</u> <u>NO GREAT COURSES</u> 6:30pm Bridge in FSR</p>	<p>18 9:30am S Country 10:00am Chair <u>1-2:30pm Sculp</u> <u>ARC</u> 2:00pm Cathol Chapel <u>2:30-3:30pm Bo</u> 3:00pm Luther <u>2-4pm Spiritual</u> 6:30pm Bingo i</p>
<p>22 10:00am Worship Service in AP Chapel</p> <p><u>NO AP MOVIE</u></p> <p><u>3:30pm Piano Recital in Commons</u></p> <p><u>7:45pm Concert & Menorah Lighting in Commons</u></p>	<p>23 10:00am Chair Ex. in AP Commons 1-3:00pm Art Group BW Act Rm 1:30pm Timely Topics 3:00pm Bingo & Cocktails in BW Act Rm <u>3-4:00pm Pup Play Date in ARC</u></p>	<p>24 <u>NO YOGA</u> 10-11:30am Open Wii Bowling Commons <u>NO TAI CHI</u> 1:30pm Bus to Walmart 2:30pm Stretching in BW Act Rm <u>NO GREAT COURSES</u> <u>4:00pm Christmas Eve Service in Commons</u> <u>6:00pm Christmas Movie in Commons</u> 6:30pm Bridge in FSR</p>	 <p><u>3:30pm Wine &</u></p> <p><u>NO BUS SERVICE</u></p>
<p>29 10:00am Worship Service in AP Chapel</p> <p>2:30pm AP Movie in Commons</p>	<p>30 10:00am Chair Ex. in AP Commons 1-3:00pm Art Group BW Act Rm 1:30pm Timely Topics 3:00pm Bingo & Cocktails in BW Act Rm</p>	<p>31 9:30am Yoga in LC 10-11:30am Open Wii Bowling Commons 10:30am Tai Chi in ARC 1:30pm Bus to Walmart 2:30pm Stretching in BW Act Rm 3:30pm Great Courses in Commons 6:30pm Bridge in FSR</p>	<p>25 ~Merr</p> 

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>ng at Co-Op Ex. in AP Commons Spiritual Care rt Class in ARC lub 3rd Flr A-Wing</p> <p>Public Bookmobile Violin Recital in</p> <p>n ARC</p>	<p>5 Podiatry Clinic 9:30am AP Nail Care 3rd Flr A-Wing Lounge 9:30am Yoga in LC 9:30m Bible Circle in ARC Room 10:30-11:30am Bank of Bozeman 1:30pm Shopping Bus to Mall 2:00pm Tree Decorating in Commons 3:15pm Yoga 2 in LC 3:00pm Knit & Stitch AP Commons NO BEER:30 7:45pm Bridger Mountain Harmony in Commons</p>	<p>6 9:00am Yoga 2 in LC 10:00am Chair Ex. in AP Commons 11am-2:30pm Resident Council Election in the Library 1:30pm Cribbage in FSR 1:30pm Catholic Prayer & Comm in Chapel 6:30pm Pinochle in FSR</p>	<p>7 1-3:00pm Station Rotations in FSR 2:00pm BW Movie in Act Rm</p>
<p>ng at Heeb's Ex. in AP Commons CARE Day Boutique in FSR</p> <p>COMMUNION Christmas Stroll</p> <p>n ARC</p>	<p>12 9:30am AP Nail Care 3rd Flr A-Wing Lounge 9:30am Yoga in LC 9:30am Bible Circle in ARC Room 10:30am AP Resident Council in ARC 10:30-11:30am Bank of Bozeman 1:30pm Shopping Bus to 19th 3:15pm Yoga 2 in LC 3:00pm Knit & Stitch AP Fireside 3:30-4:30pm Beer:30 in FSR 7:45pm Betsy & Johnny in Commons</p>	<p>13 9:00am Yoga 2 in LC 10:00am Chair Ex. in AP Commons 11:30am Friday Forum at Library 1:30pm Cribbage in FSR 1:30pm Catholic Prayer & Comm in Chapel 6:30pm Pinochle in FSR 7:30pm Nutcracker in a Nutshell in Commons</p>	<p>14 1-3:00pm Station Rotations in FSR 2:00pm BW Movie in Act Rm 6:30pm Bridge in FSR</p>
<p>hopping at Town & Ex. in AP Commons ting with Amanda in</p> <p>ic Prayer & Comm in</p> <p>Public Bookmobile an Comm in Chapel Care n ARC</p>	<p>19 9:30am AP Nail Care 3rd Flr A-Wing Lounge 9:30am Yoga in LC 9:30am Bible Circle in ARC Room 10:30-11:30am Bank of Bozeman 1:30pm Shopping Bus to the Mall 3:15pm Yoga 2 in LC 3:00pm Knit & Stitch AP Fireside 3:30-4:30pm Beer:30 in FSR 6:30pm Christmas Lights Drive</p>	<p>20 9:00am Yoga 2 in LC 10:00am Chair Ex. in AP Commons 1:30pm Cribbage in FSR 1:30pm Catholic Prayer & Comm in Chapel 2:00pm Christmas Party with Staff in Commons 4:00pm Blue Christmas Service in Commons 6:30pm Pinochle in FSR</p>	<p>21 10:00am News & Notes Reading in BW NS1 1-3:00pm Station Rotations in FSR NO BW MOVIE 2:00pm Sally & Steve O'Neill in Commons</p>
 <p>Cheese in Commons</p> <p>CE</p> <p>y Christmas~</p>	<p>26 NO AP NAIL CARE NO YOGA 1 OR 2 9:30am Bible Circle in ARC Room 10:30-11:30am Bank of Bozeman 1:30pm Shopping Bus to 19th 3:15pm Yoga 2 in LC 3:00pm Knit & Stitch AP Fireside 3:30-4:30pm Beer:30 in FSR</p> <p>Birthday Night</p>	<p>27 NO YOGA 10:00am Chair Ex. in AP Commons 1:30pm Cribbage in FSR 1:30pm Catholic Prayer & Comm in Chapel 6:30pm Pinochle in FSR</p>	<p>28 1-3:00pm Station Rotations in FSR 2:00pm BW Movie in Act Rm 6:30pm Bridge in FSR</p>

Abbreviations:

BW: Birchwood
AP: Aspen Pointe
FSR: Fireside Room
LC: Learning Center
ARC: Act/Rec/Crafts Center
BW Act: BW Activity Room
BW DR: BW Dining Room
BW NS 1 or 2: Nurses Station

December 2019

*Remove
and keep
as daily
reference.*



Aspen Pointe

12/1, 12/8, 12/15, 12/22 Piano Recitals: Children of all ages will be here to play for residents and their families in the AP Commons.

12/3 Hospital Gift Shop Trip: Let's head down to the gift shop to do some holiday shopping. The bus will leave AP at 10:30am and return at 11:30am. Please sign up at the front desk.

12/4 Suzuki Violin Recital: Children will be in the Commons to perform their winter recital.

12/5 Podiatry Clinic: Dr. Clark will be in the A-Wing Clinic (basement floor). Please sign up at the front desk.

12/5 Tree Decorating: Staff and residents will decorate the Christmas tree in the Commons. Treats and eggnog will be served.

12/5 Bridger Mountain Harmony: This a cappella chorus is a chapter of the Sweet Adelines International and brings joy to all of Gallatin Valley. You won't want to miss it!

12/6 Resident Council Election: The election will be held on December 6th from 11-2:30pm in the library. Early voting will be available at 8am the morning of the 6th at the front desk. More information will be provided in your cubby.

12/10 Gift Wrapping at Dahl Chapel: Join Megan and help "Be a Santa to a Senior." Every year Home Instead Senior Care receives donations for senior citizens in need in our community and has a huge wrapping party before the gifts can be distributed. The bus will leave AP at 8:45am and return around 11:30am. Please sign up at the front desk.

12/11 Annual Christmas Stroll and Boutique: Join in the hustle and bustle of this merry gathering of Christmas music, holiday shopping, and festive refreshments. Watch your cubby for more information.

12/12 Resident Council: All residents are welcome to join the council members in the ARC to hear what's going on at Hillcrest, voice issues, comments or concerns.

12/12 Betsy & Johnny: This duo is sure to entertain you with their guitars, rhythm and blues.

11/8 Friday Forum: This month's subject is *HRDC- Investing in our Community*. The bus leaves AP at 11:30am and returns at 1:45pm. Please sign up at the front desk.

12/13 Nutcracker in a Nutshell: The Dance Center will be here for their dress rehearsal of an abridged version of the beloved Nutcracker ballet.

12/15 Bozeman Symphony: This concert features special music fit for the season such as the magical scenes incorporated from the music of Gioacchino

Rossini and later transformed into *La boutique fantasque* (The Fantastic Toy Shop) by Ottorino Respighi. Elizabeth Croy, Melina Pyron and the Symphonic Choir join the orchestra presenting Antonio Vivaldi's Gloria. The bus will leave AP at 1:45pm. Please sign up at the front desk.

12/16 Resident Christmas Party: Enjoy a festive gathering with appetizers, hot buttered rum, and egg nog.

12/16 Pilgrim Church Carolers: Congregation members of Pilgrim church will be in the Commons to sing and bring us holiday cheer!

12/17 Geriactors: This Readers Theatre group comprised of senior citizens is the only one in Montana. They will be here to perform a comedic Christmas skit in the Commons.

12/18 Sculpting w/Amanda: Amanda Markel will be back for a second sculpting class. Meet her and Jessica in the ARC for more fun with clay.

12/19 Christmas Lights Drive: Let's take a trip around Bozeman to see all of the beautiful Christmas lights. The bus will leave AP at 6:30pm and return around 7:30pm. Please sign up at the front desk.

12/20 Holiday Party with Hillcrest Staff: This is a fun gathering for staff to thank residents for their generous gratuity gifts.

12/20 Blue Christmas Service: This service marks a day in Advent which is the longest day of the year and honors loved ones who have passed.

12/21 News & Notes: Chaplain Allen Jones will be in the BW Nurses Station 1 to read about current news, poetry and books.

12/21 Sally & Steve O'Neill: Sally and Steve O'Neill have enjoyed playing music together for over 30 years. From contra and square dance music to swing, Cajun and more. In addition, they welcome special guest harmonica player Wes Horner of Aspen Pointe (Sally's father) who plays a mean blues harp and sings some great old cowboy songs.

12/22 Menorah Lighting & Concert: Join us for a menorah lighting for the first night of Hanukkah led by Mark Kula of Congregation Beth Shalom and award-winning signer/songwriter and Cantorial Soloist Amber Ikeman. All faiths are welcome!

12/24 Christmas Eve Service: This special Christmas service will be led by Chaplain Allen Jones in the Commons.

12/24 Christmas Movie: We will watch *Miracle on 34th Street* in the Commons at 6pm. Popcorn and refreshments will be served.

12/25 Wine & Cheese: A Wine & Cheese social gathering will be served in the Commons.

Christmas Memories continued...

Shared Memory from Helen Tess and her son Mike

For as long as I can remember, we have always had aebleskivers for Christmas Eve. It is a Danish pastry fried in a special cast iron skillet. They are round and taste a little bit like pancakes filled with cooked fruit. Our family tradition was to fill them with sweetened prunes then dip them into powdered sugar. Grandma Tess, (Helen's mother in law) started our tradition. She would cook aebleskivers all day before the family gathered at her house in the evening. My mother, Helen, kept up the tradition and passed it on to her children. Now the grandchildren cook aebleskivers. Mom still helps cook them today.



Kathy, Helen and Mike Tess cooking aebleskivers Christmas Eve 2018.

Bill Bryant

The one holiday season that stands out and is most memorable to me came a few months before Christmas. When I returned home in 1945 from the Philippines and found my four other brothers also home and alive from serving in the military, I was elated. Edgar lost his leg in Guadalcanal; Ed was wounded in the Battle of the Bulge; Ralph served on a landing craft in the Pacific; and Gene flew B-51 planes in China. My mother and father at last had their five sons all home together again.

Lois Ringo

My most memorable Christmas Eve was in December 1960. I was in the hospital after giving birth to my youngest child on December 23rd. After visiting hours were over for the day, the hospital turned quiet. The lights were dimmed and Christmas hymns were played throughout the halls, creating a peaceful and serene Christmas Eve, something I will always remember.

However, my due date wasn't until January and Christmas at our house wasn't quite ready. My husband had to go home and deal with putting Christmas together for our other five children. I had hidden the presents around the house and to this day, I'm not sure how he found all of them. While I was enjoying a quiet Christmas Eve, he was experiencing just the opposite-chaos. That's just the way life is.

Gaylene Kerr

Cold December nights. I was always a little angel standing on the hill waiting for the Angel of the Lord to appear to the shepherds watching their flocks. But let's back up. My church always had an outdoor performance of the Christmas Story. Our pastor made a sound track with music and the reading of the Christmas Story. When he read, "So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, a spot light shone on a man leading a donkey upon which a young woman was sitting." With the reading about the shepherds keeping watch over their flocks by night there were people on the hillside next to our church who lit a bonfire and eyes were drawn to the shepherds. A spot light turned on the angels on the hillside. It made the Christmas story so real to me as a child. And so it was with the wisemen. They all ended up at the stable where the baby Jesus (a doll) was in the manger surrounded by sheep and cows. But, I suppose, it was the hot chocolate and pizza that we had after the performance that was the most fun.

About Our Hillcrest Staff

By Kate Evans

Meet Maddi and Katie

Here are the stories of two childhood friends who are graduates of the same high school, who played the same sports there, and who are soon to be housemates. They are now working together as servers in the Aspen Pointe dining room.

Maddison Hayes

Maddison Hayes, who we know as Maddi, could be described as “little but mighty.” Not even five foot in height, she lifts weights (squats 200 pounds) and at Ennis High School was on the volleyball team. “I was never up front at the nets; I was always in the back and the shortest player,” she says smiling.

Besides her job as an Aspen Pointe server, Maddi has been a CNA (certified nursing assistant) for several months at Madison Valley Manor; this experience, she believes, will help her achieve a career in nursing. In fall 2020 she will enter MSU, taking the general studies classes required for acceptance in the nursing program.

Presently she is excited about becoming a homeowner. Because of a gift from a grandfather, she was able to purchase a modular home in west Bozeman and in February will be sharing it with Katie Schabarker, a longtime friend and also a server in Aspen Pointe. “I know little about home maintenance, but I will figure it out,” she states with confidence. “I am very fortunate because buying is cheaper than renting.”

Maddi grew up in Salt Lake City with an older brother, Travis, and a younger sister, Eliese, until the eighth grade when she moved to Ennis, where she had spent many fun summers. At Ennis High School she also was on the cheerleading squad and a member of its 2014 graduation class. Even so, she is still asked if she is a high school student. “I was born on October 31, 1995 but because I am so short people assume I am a teen.”

Katie Schabarker

Not only did Katie Schabarker play volleyball and cheer lead while a student at Ennis High School, she was a manager for the Mustangs football team in her senior year.

“During the games I had to follow the various plays and record the statistics of each on an iPad,” she relates. “It was tricky at first, but I quickly started understanding the game and it became a breeze.”

In high school art classes she did pastel oils and pencil drawings, something she still enjoys doing. “I like creating animals; I recently completed an owl in pencil which I ended up getting transferred into a tattoo in honor of my grandfather. Upon graduation in 2015, she attended MSU for a semester in its fish and wildlife program. However, before continuing with these studies she felt she needed a break to be sure this was the path she wanted to pursue. Now after working for several years as a caregiver at Pathways, an assisted living facility in Three Forks, she is considering a return to college to study in a health related field.

Katie has experienced various health issues. When she was ten she ran into a tree and detached the retina of her left eye which was the start of some vision problems as she grew older, so much so that as a 13 year old teenager she had eye surgery performed in Seattle. This past June she had surgery in Salt Lake City to reposition her left hip socket.

Born in Ennis in 1997 to Helen and Gayle Schabarker, she grew up with four older siblings. “We were an outdoorsy family that loved fishing, hunting and beautiful Montana. Because I miss so much my only remaining grandparent, Carole Brown who lives in Federal Way, WA, I really enjoy interacting with residents of Aspen Pointe,” she stresses with enthusiasm.



Christmas Memories continued...

Maria Vazquez de Spitler

By the late 1940s and early 1950s, when I was old enough to believe in magic, Santa Claus had not yet arrived in Puerto Rico. Puerto Rican children did not receive gifts on Christmas Eve. Instead, their gift traditions brought to Puerto Rico were from Spain and a little different.

The Christmas season in Puerto Rico is the longest in existence, beginning in Advent (forty days before Christmas) celebrated by daily early Mass (“Misa de Gallo” or the Mass of the Cock who crows as soon as the sun rises) in the Catholic churches and followed by “Asaltos” where friends would arrive at your home playing Christmas music and expecting to be received with food and drinks. The season ends in late January.

The gifts for children arrived on the Epiphany (the 12th Day of Christmas) on January 6th. This is followed by the feast of the Three Marys and then by the “Octavitas.” Children were instructed to fill shoe boxes with fresh cut grass for the camels belonging to the Wise Men from the east who brought gifts to the Christ Child and would bring gifts to the good boys and girls on the island. In the box with the grass they were to include a letter to Gaspar, Melchor and Baltazar, extolling their good deeds and asking for specific gifts. The boxes were then placed under their beds. The Wise Men would feed the grass to the camels, read the letters and leave unwrapped gifts under the beds.

Family friends would ask me to place boxes of grass under their beds so I could receive even more gifts. I began collecting boxes early in the year so I would have enough to place under numerous beds in the neighborhood.

My family was poor, but my mom managed to send me to private Catholic schools. She was an accomplished seamstress and made me a new dress every week so I could attend Mass looking my best. I did not know we were poor until my eighth year. The year before, one of my classmates, with poor grades and conduct, received a

much desired piano. I wanted and deserved a piano because I was well behaved and straight A’s. Many of my school classmates were very wealthy. I was invited to their birthday parties and other gatherings, but I could not tell the difference between their station in life and mine. So with pain in her heart, my mom had to explain who actually provided the gifts and swore me to secrecy. I kept the secret and felt quite grown up for knowing something my friends did not.

Cathy Gurzi

It was Christmas Eve and we were all ready and waiting for Santa’s visit: my husband, our son, daughter-in-law and three young ones dressed in their jammies. They were so anxious about his arrival that they did not want to go to bed. Their dad sensed the problem and very suddenly left the room. Soon from up above we heard noises. A racket! Santa was finally here; he was on the roof! Quickly three little bodies were on their feet and off to bed.

Megan Reichert

Christmas for my family meant gathering at Great-Grandma Siegle’s house on Christmas Eve. Four generations under one roof, eating, laughing, playing cards and just enjoying each other. There were no cell phones, no TV, just the chatter of people happy to be together and celebrating the season. After meeting at my grandma’s house, we would load up in several vehicles and head to Zion Lutheran Church for the candle light service. During the service, my brother, cousins and I would join our Sunday school classes and perform a special Christmas program. I remember practicing for months and getting fitted for sparkly costumes that several of the church ladies would sew. Standing in front of the whole congregation with the church all decorated and candles glowing, singing “Oh Holy Night” is one of my fondest childhood memories of Christmas.



Christmas continued...

Bob Yaw

Christmas 1944 was most memorable, but not happy. I arrived at a B25 Squadron in southeast India that October. By mid December, I had flown about 15 of the 75 combat missions I would complete over the next seven months. The week before Christmas, mail for November caught up with me with much news from family and friends. A note from my fiancé was significant. "Bob, I spent the summer in Seattle and have met a fellow in the Navy and we are making plans for the future. Enclosed is a check for your share of the money we have spent on the sterling silver set we were buying for a future that can not now be."

Time changes things. When I returned to Colorado in March of 1946, old times and memories were renewed and Margaret and I were married in August. The marriage lasted 69 years.

Kay DeMeritt

When I was a little girl we lived on a farm and money was tight. Shopping trips to town were few and always exciting. On one trip I found a book I really really wanted and it was about a black cat. I'm sure I begged and begged, but shopping was for necessities, not toys and books, so I had to go home disappointed. The next Christmas morning, my sister and I ran downstairs and the first thing I saw was the book about the black cat. I've received many wonderful Christmas gifts since, but the black cat book will remain the most special.

Mary Doubek

When I was three years old I remember coming down the hall and entering the living room and finding it covered with many gifts all wrapped beautifully. I opened packages with my family and had 25 dresses. Wow! The tree was decorated with lots of beautiful lights and tinsel.

Originally in the 1600's the tinsel was made of strands of silver. Later, lead was discovered in the tinsel used in the early 1900's and it was banned in 1972.

Department Updates

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES—JOHN ODDEN

Please note, if you dial 911 for emergency services you have the right to refuse transport by the ambulance for a non-emergent need. A family member or friend could transport you and there is no cost to you. The ambulance company will only charge you if you actually ride the ambulance to the hospital.

ENGINEERING—RICH HAGSTROM

If you have a natural Christmas wreath, garland or tree in your apartment, please put in a work order at the front desk to have it sprayed with fire retardant.

MARKETING—LIINDA JO

Over the years when new residents have chosen to make Hillcrest their new home, many of our existing residents have volunteered to welcome them and help them feel more comfortable. This greatly enhances their experience. Beginning in 2020, we would like to start a formal committee to help facilitate these transitions. Kay Reilly has agreed to be the resident council representative for this "Welcoming Committee." If you are interested in being on this committee please contact Linda Jo in the Marketing office 414-2008.

ADMINISTRATION—RACHEL CLEMENS

If you would like to contribute, there are two Christmas gratuity boxes located at the Aspen Pointe front desk and in the Birchwood Main Lounge. This is a completely voluntary donation that is given to Hillcrest employees as a Christmas bonus. Please do so by the end of the day on December 13. The employees are incredibly grateful for your generous giving each year. Thank you!

CAN THE GRIZ!!

For the win, the Bobcats donated a total of 437, 265 in pounds and monetary donations compared to the Griz's 421,859. Thanks to Hillcrest staff and residents who donated.