



Assisted living & memory support

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Set on 12 beautifully landscaped acres with over 68,000 square feet of living and common spaces, Bell Tower is a friendly assisted living community where residents feel at home and live life well with purpose and dignity. We offer private apartments, religious services, activities, outings, delicious home-cooked meals and our caring and compassionate staff are always nearby to help.

For more information or to schedule a tour, please reach out to our Admissions Coordinator, Mikaela Meier.

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Lorraine poses with her great-granddaughter from our Square 'Em Up Square dancers visit this past month!



Allison, Ruth and Alli pose for a photo during our lunch outing to Los Mezcales!



Our resident, Totsy was wiggling in her seat during the Square 'Em Up's performance as she used to square dance back in her day. "You never forget the steps," she said.



A NEWSLETTER FOR RESIDENTS AND FRIENDS
DECEMBER 2022

Life

at BELL TOWER RESIDENCE

Celebrating
December

Give a Gift

7th

Pearl Harbor
Day

16th

National Ugly
Christmas
Sweater Day

24th

Christmas Eve

25th

Christmas Day

31st

New Years Eve

As the beginning of December ushers in the last month of the year, 2022 comes to a close with a tentative sigh of relief. Schools, stores, and churches stay open, families get together, and hugs and warm embraces warm our hearts.

As we look forward to the holidays, take some time to consider the very best gifts you can give:

- ◆ The gift of time. Spend time with your children, your elders or dear friends. Never take for granted the hours you can spend with those you love.
- ◆ The gift of serving. Volunteer, serve meals, ring bells, or help where you can. What you receive will be so much greater than what you have given.
- ◆ The gift of forgiveness. End the year by letting go of grudges and hardened hearts. Free yourself from anger that eats away at you. Forgive yourself as well and look forward.
- ◆ The gift of joy. Bring joy to someone's life. Watch their face light up. Give for the pure and simple reason of making someone's day better.
- ◆ The gift of hope. A world with hope is a brighter world. People who act on hope make the world a brighter place, for themselves and others.
- ◆ The gift of love. Love your family, your friends, your neighbors, and your enemies. Show them kindness and warm their souls. When you are loved, let it spill over to others.

Bell Tower Residence wishes you and your loved ones the very happiest of holidays. For those who celebrate Christmas and the birth of the Savior, let the greatest gift that you have received lead you to give generously to others.

Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

Kris McGarigle
Administrator



Staff Birthdays

- 1st—Grace L.
- 2nd—Destinee R.
- 12th—Ashley C.
- 15th—Mayleen D.
- 17th—Adeline H.
- 18th—Madison E.
- 20th—Tina L.
- 28th—Brittany A.P.
- 29th—Grace E.
- 30th—Amanda F.



Staff Anniversaries

- 10 years—Mayleen D.
- 13 years—Melissa K.

Welcome New Employees!



Vanessa Natzke
CNA



Lori Amelse
Culinary Aide

Upcoming Caroling at Bell Tower

- Monday, December 5th at 10:00 —St. John Lutheran's 2nd and 3rd grade children will be caroling in the neighborhoods of Bell Tower.
- Wednesday, December 7th at 2:00—Employees of Church Mutual will be caroling in the Chapel
- Thursday, December 8th at 2:00—Children of Highland Community Church will be having a sing-a-long in the Chapel.
- Friday, December 9th at 10:30—St. Francis 4th and 5th grade students will be caroling in the Chapel.
- Sunday, December 11th at 3:00—The Busy Bee's 4H Group will be caroling in Assisi Hall.
- Tuesday, December 20th at 6:15—The Trinity Lutheran Firm Foundations Bell Ringers will be performing in Assisi Hall.

In Loving Memory of Nancy Wilde

Nancy Lea Wilde passed away on Tuesday, October 25, 2022 at Bell Tower in Merrill.

Nancy was born to Michael and Helen (Langhoff) Ringwelski, the first of eight children.

Nancy graduated from Wausau Senior High in 1956. She was employed at Anson-Gilkey Door and Lincoln Wood in Merrill until retirement. She was a proud member of Local Union 1488 for 20 years.

Nancy and Jerome (Porkie) Wilde were married at Grace United Church of Christ in Wausau, October 26 1957. After retirement, Nancy enjoyed feeding and watching the birds and wildlife, doing jigsaw puzzles, writing cards to family and to veterans.

Nancy is survived by her 4 children, Gary Wilde of Weston, Brenda (Bob) McNeil of Fence, George (Vicki) Wilde of Merrill, and Michael Wilde of Merrill. She is further survived by brothers Richard (Delores) Ringwelski, Florian (Barbara) Ringwelski, Dennis (Evelyn) Ringwelski, Michael Ringwelski and Floyd Ringwelski III; sisters MaryAnn Schmidt and Betty Jane Kimps; 11 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren and another on the way. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, daughter-in-law Dara and grandson Nolan.

The family would like to thank the staff members at Bell Tower for their kindness and care.



In Loving Memory of Lillian Janzam

Our beloved mother/grandmother/great-grandmother/friend Lillian Janzam went to heaven on October 29, 2022 at the age of 100. She was a wonderful woman who will be deeply missed. She was born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa in a house on Cottage Grove Avenue on October 21, 1922. Lillian married John Janzam Jr. on November 30, 1947. She worked at Woolworths 5 and 10, Schafer's Jewelry and later owned and operated J & L Time Co. with her husband, John.

Lillian is remembered as being a kind and patient woman who loved her family and her greatest wish was to see them happy. She loved the book of Ruth, polka dots, the color red, word search puzzles, Scrabble, and reading. Her most treasured times were those spent with the family playing games on the back porch.

She is survived by daughters, Kathy Jirovec of Merrill, Wisconsin (husband, Wayne) and Karen Middleswarth of Ely, Iowa (husband Brian); grandchildren David Jirovec (wife, Angie), Becky Galimoto (husband, Jamie), Amanda Halvorson and Nikki Halvorson; great-grandchildren Annie, Sophie, Josiah, and Fox. She is preceded in death by her parents, husband John, brothers Walt and Chuck and grandson John Erik.

Our family has a deep appreciation for the care provided to Lillian by Bell Tower and Aspirus Hospice staff.



In Loving Memory of Margaret Oestreich

Margaret Oestreich, age 80, died on November 2, 2022 surrounded by family and under the care of Aspirus Comfort Care and Hospice Services at Bell Tower Residence in Merrill. Margaret was born on December 2, 1941 in Merrill to C.L. "Bud" and Jean (Walsh) Caylor. She attended St. Francis Catholic School and Our Lady of the Holy Cross High School before transferring to Merrill High School in her junior year. She graduated from Merrill High School with the class of 1959 and attended Lincoln County Teachers College in Merrill. She began her teaching career in 1961 at age 19, teaching in her early years as an educator at St. Therese School in Rothschild and the Tomahawk School District. In the mid 1960's she was hired as a teacher at St. Robert's school in Merrill by the late Fr. Leo Krynski. During this time, she attended the University of Wisconsin – Marathon County and University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point where she earned a bachelor's degree in education. Margaret also loved playing softball during this time, and enjoyed the fun and friendships from those days. Also during this time, she met the love of her life, Myron H. Oestreich. They were married on June 1, 1968 at St. Francis Catholic Church in Merrill by Fr. Philip Stack. During the next 51 years, Margaret and Myron had countless adventures and misadventures, with some still having the statute of limitations in force so they can't be cited. Over the years, Margaret and Myron enjoyed many fishing trips to Canada and sharing those stories upon their return. In 1977, they welcomed their son, Myron J. Oestreich. In 1999 and 2009 they welcomed their grandchildren Myron J. Oestreich, Jr., and Isabella. Myron passed away on August 10, 2019, and Margaret buried Myron with his wedding ring on to "remind the ladies in heaven that he's spoken for." In 2012, Margaret retired from teaching for the third and final time. During her teaching career she taught in Tomahawk, Rothschild and Merrill, initially teaching elementary school and moving on to English and Language Arts at the middle school level – even earning Teacher of the Year through the Merrill Area Public School District. One of her favorite stories from her teaching career was talking about when she, Bob Gruling and Eldridge Curtis created the legend of Boom Decker Becker at the Merrill School Forest in an attempt to keep the kids staying in their bunks at night. That legend was spun in the 1970's and has withstood the test of time to become a part of local folklore. After her teaching career wound down, she spent her retirement caring for Myron and volunteering her time at the Merrill Food Pantry and the Blood Bank. Margaret's faith was always very important to her, and over the years she and Myron served as volunteers in various roles at St. Francis Church – in earlier years with the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) and then with the St. Francis Snack Shack at the Lincoln County Fair. Margaret always looked forward to her outings with the "lunch bunch" comprised of classmates of hers that would have lunch at various restaurants around the Merrill area at least once a month. Humor, Pepsi, trivia and crossword puzzles were big parts of Margaret's life and personality. She was always very quick with a pun or one-liner, and could write elaborate pieces of prose that would leave a person scratching their head and laughing at the same time.

Margaret is survived by her son Myron (Rhea) of Wautoma, grandchildren Myron Jr. of Merrill and Isabella of Rushville, IN, sister Mary (Eldred) Kufahl of Merrill and brother Peter (Colleen) Caylor of Fairfax Station, Virginia as well as many nieces, nephews and in-laws. Along with Myron and her parents, Margaret was preceded in death by her brothers and sisters T.W. "Bill" (Darlene) Caylor, Kathryn Sensenbrenner, Michael "Loopy" (Kathleen) Caylor, Tim Caylor and Dan "Hank" Caylor. Margaret's legacy also lives on through the countless lives she touched during her career as a teacher.

The family would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to the staff at Bell Tower Residence, Aspirus Comfort Care and Hospice Services, Marshfield Clinic and Aspirus Health for the care provided for Margaret through the years.



Dementia Education at Bell Tower



Thanks to a generous donation from the Knights of Columbus, our Dementia Committee has set out to change the culture of care at Bell Tower, starting by providing dementia education workshops for our caregivers. Sheri Fairman, trainer and consultant of Teepa Snow's Positive Approach to Care will provide quarterly Champion

courses and follow up with on the floor coaching to guide our staff into success. Teepa Snow is one of the world's leading advocates of dementia education and her positive approach to care method will allow our staff to establish the awareness, knowledge and skills to better support and care for our residents living with dementia. With a Masters of Social Work Degree and over 10 years of experience working with the elderly and their care partners, Sheri understands the challenges our caregivers experience and will support our staff with on the floor coaching. Sheri will also be joining us for quarterly family council meetings and provide insight to family members on the brain changes of dementia, how your relationship changes with a loved one during late stages of dementia and she will also take any questions family members might have. This is such a wonderful opportunity for our facility and we are so excited to be able to offer this resource to our staff, residents and their families.



Upcoming Meetings

Resident Council—Wednesday, December 7th at 11:00

Family Council—Thursday, December 15th at 1:30

Resident Birthdays

1st—Mary Lou M.

15th—Janet H.

20th—Harriet T.

21st—Carol H.

28th—Judy A.

Resident Anniversaries

1 year

Judy A.

Phil & Nancy C.

Arless K.

Lola P.

2 years

Allen K.

6 years

John S.