

WoodlandLife

Vol. 17, No 12

December 2025

Woodland Pond Welcomes the Holidays

December has arrived, and with it comes a season of joy, music, and community spirits here at Woodland Pond. Our calendar is brimming with concerts, programs, and celebrations designed to bring neighbors and friends together. Keep this newsletter close at hand— you won't want to miss a single moment of the festivities!

Highlights of the Season

- * **Jazz Pioneers Holiday Concert –Monday, Dec. 1 at 6:30pm** in the Health Center Great Room. A lively kickoff to the month.
- * **Tree of Faith Program –Tuesday, Dec. 2 at 2pm** in the PAC. Co-sponsored with the LGBTQIA+ and Allies of Woodland Pond, featuring Rev. Aaron Schulte's inspiring discussion on faith and authenticity.
- * **Annual Tree Lighting –Wednesday, Dec. 3 at 2:30pm** in the Lobby. Join President/CEO Michelle Gramoglia, the Interfaith Committee, pianist Libby Ross and the Dulcimer Players for carols, greetings, and hot chocolate.
- * **Molly Mason & Jay Unger Performance –Thursday, Dec. 4 at 4pm in the PAC.** Sign up early at the concierge for this special musical treat. CD's will be available for purchase after the program.
- * **Arts & Crafts Show & Sale – Friday, Dec. 5 from 2–4pm, PAC (residents & staff only) and Saturday, Dec. 6 ,10–4pm, PAC, (open to all).** A perfect place to find hand-crafted holiday gifts!
- * **Redhot & Blue Yale's Oldest Co-Ed Acapella Group–Saturday, Dec. 6 at 1:30pm** in the HC Great Room. CD's will be available for purchase after the performance.
- * **IBM Chorus & Pondaliers –Monday, Dec. 8** the Pondaliers will perform the first of three Holiday concerts at **3:00pm** in the Health Center Great Room followed by The IBM Chorus at 7pm for a holiday performance in the PAC.
- * **Joe & Fred's Theatre Night –Tuesday, Dec. 9 at 7:15pm in the PAC.** Their 12th performance here at Woodland Pond!
- * **TNT Tappers & Pondaliers Holiday Concert –Wednesday, Dec. 10.** Tappers at **2pm** in the PAC, Pondaliers at 7pm.
- * **Encore Pondaliers Concert –Friday, Dec. 12 at 3pm** in the PAC.
- * **Dulcimers & Handbells Holiday Concerts –Monday, Dec. 15 at 2pm** in the PAC, and **Thursday, Dec. 18 at 3pm** in the Health Center Great Room.
- * **Hudson Valley Flute Ensemble –Wednesday, Dec. 17 at 7pm** in the PAC. A beloved annual tradition featuring guest flutists and the ballerina sisters Grace, Fiona, and Eve!
- * **Bill Tuel & Brass Ensemble – Tuesday, Dec. 23 at 4pm** in the PAC.
- * **Starlight Trio – Friday, Dec. 26 at 2:45pm** in the Health Center Great Room.

From jazz and dulcimers to flutes and theatre, December at Woodland Pond is filled with many opportunities to celebrate the season together. I for one, am looking forward to welcoming in the holidays with all of you!

Council Corner



Residents' Council meetings will be held on the first and third Thursday, **Dec. 4 and Dec. 18 in the Classroom at 10 a.m.** They are also accessible via Zoom and are open to all residents. Agendas are posted in the Mail Room and the Library starting on the Monday preceding the meeting. Communications to the Council should be in writing, signed, and placed in the Council Cubby next to cubby #635 in the Mailroom.

Woodland Pond's Guest Lecture Series Begins!

On **Tuesday, Dec. 2 at 4pm in the PAC**, Professor Laura Dull will be here to lecture on "Sojourner Truth: Did She Really Say That?" Dr. Dull is a Professor in the Department of Adolescence Education and TESOL at SUNY New Paltz. She has published extensively on education in Africa, particularly Ghana, as well as Serbia and the US.

Community Connections

Let's hear it for the Pastors!

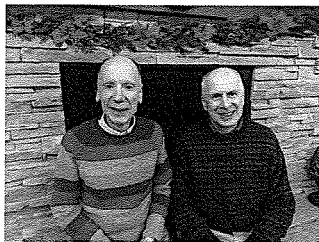
On **Thursday, Dec. 11 at 2pm, in the PAC**, a panel of Woodland Pond ministers (Tyler Jones, Lyn Mehl, Dawn Sangrey, Paul Walley) will be interviewed for Community Connections about their lives as ministers at Woodland Pond during the December holidays.



Theatre Night with Joe and Fred

Joe and Fred's 12th Theatre Night at Woodland Pond is a special December

holiday show featuring their theatrical renditions of two famous and much-loved O. Henry holiday stories: The Gift of the Magi and The Cop and the Anthem, on **Tuesday, Dec 9 at 7:15pm in the PAC**. This is a popular event, so sign up at Concierge. Happy Holidays!



Ring in the New Year with your Neighbors!

Ring in and groove into the New Year with your neighbors during the afternoon on **Dec. 31st in the HCGR**. The fun and festivities will begin at **2:30pm** with a DJ, dancing, and light refreshments.

From Woodland Pond's Board of Directors



The members of the Woodland Pond Board of Directors are pleased to acknowledge and extend heartfelt appreciation to the late Dr. Richard (Dick) Barry for his consistently exceptional service and contributions to the Board and larger Woodland Pond community. Dr. Barry served as one of two Resident Directors (the other being Raymond Smith) on the Woodland Pond Board of Directors, Inc., for nine years. An exemplary educator and prolific writer, Dick served as Board secretary, corresponding secretary, and on the Board's Executive Committee, Governance Committee, Strategic Planning Committee, and for innumerable other Board activities and events. While these committee affiliations exemplify the scope of Dick's involvement on the Board, they do not adequately capture the magnitude of his contributions to the Board. For that, one would have had to witness him in action – as we were fortunate to have experienced as fellow Board members.

The impact of Dr. Barry's distinctive record of service to the Board and broader Woodland Pond community cannot be overstated and will be felt for many years to come. Few have put as much sustained time, attention, and energy into supporting the life and work of the Board and, by extension, the Woodland Pond community than Dick. Our earnest respect and heartfelt thanks to Dick for his superb service as a member of the Woodland Board, Inc., Board of Directors. His passing leave a huge void. We are sad that he is no longer with us.

WP Benefit Fund Update



Working hand in hand, the Benefit Fund and the Activities Committee have arranged for an exciting program of Guest speakers, beginning in Jan. of 2026. Look for announcements in upcoming Newsletters!

And, of course, join us in enjoying the concert by Jay Unger and Molly Mason on **Thursday, Dec 4, at 4pm in the PAC**. Please sign up at Concierge.

Note: Envelopes for your donations to our fund are available at the concierge desk. Your gifts make all of these projects possible. Many thanks!

-Anne Gordon, Chair



Interest Groups



Ann's Hands Crafters: **1st & 3rd Tues. 3pm** [CR]
Book Club: **1st Tuesday at 7 p.m.** [ClS]
Brain Health Team: **2nd Thursday at 9am** [CR]
Brainteasers: **Wednesdays at 10am** [GR]
Wednesday, Dec. 17 and 24 [ClS]
Canasta: **Weds., Thurs., & Sats. at 1pm** [GR]
Current Events Group: **Wednesdays at 4pm** [ClS]
Dulcimer Players: **Mondays at 1 p.m./ Thursdays at 3:30pm** [PAC]
Duplicate Bridge: **Wednesday, Dec. 17 at 1pm**
 [4th Central Lounge]
English Country Dance: **Wednesday, Dec. 10 at 2:30pm** [AS]
Handbells: **Tuesdays at 1 pm** [ClS]
Hearts Players: **Mondays at 1 pm /Saturdays at 12:30 pm** [GR]
iPhone Photography Group: **3rd Tues. at 7pm** [ClS]
LGBTQIA+ & Allies: **4th Tuesday at 2pm** [PAC]
Loss in Literature: **First Tuesday at 4pm** [CR]
Mah Jongg: **Mondays and Fridays at 1pm**
 [4th Central Lounge]
Mah Jongg II: **Wednesdays at 1pm** [GR]
Mah Jongg II: **Saturdays at 9:30am** [GR]
Meditation Group: **Tuesdays at 11am** [AS]
Memoir Group: **2nd & 4th Mondays at 3pm** CR]
Men's Coffee: **Saturdays at 9:30am** [PAC]
Movement/Music & You: **Tuesdays at 11am** [PAC]
Opera/Ballet Night: **Friday, Dec. 12 at 7:15pm**
 [PAC]
Pet Ponders: **4th Wednesday at 7pm** [ClS]
Philosophy Circle: **2nd Wednesday at 11am** [ClS]
Pinochle: **Fridays at 1pm** [GR]
Playreaders Group I: **Canceled for December**
Playreaders Group II: **Canceled for December**
Poetry Group: **Friday, Dec. 19 at 2pm** [CR]
Pondaliers: **Mondays at 3:30pm** [PAC]
Rummi-Kub: **Daily at 7pm / Sundays, 2pm** [GR]
Scrabble: **Fridays at 10:30am** [GR]
Shalom Space: **Fridays at 4pm** [See calendar]

Interest Groups continued:

Short Story Group I: **1st & 3rd Tues., 3:30pm** [ClS]
Short Story Group II: **2nd & 4th Tues., 3:30pm** [ClS]
Social Bridge: **Tues. & Thurs. at 12:30pm** [GR]
Spanish Chat: **On Hiatus**
Square Dance: **Wednesday, Dec. 3 at 2:30pm** [AS]
Sunday Chat: **Sundays at 2:30pm** [CR]
Table Games: **Mondays at 7:15 p.m.** [ClS] and
Saturdays at 2 p.m. [ClS]
Watercolor Class: **Mondays, Dec. 1 & 15 at 10am** [ClS]
Women Connect: **Mondays at 2 p.m.** [ClS]

Committee Meetings for December

Library Committee - **Monday, Dec. 1 at 12pm** [ClS]
 Contact: Jean Hyatt, Chair
Finance Review - **Monday, Dec. 1 at 1pm** [ClS]
 Contact: Fred Wolinsky, Chair
Dining - **Tuesday, Dec. 2 at 10am** [ClS]
 Contact: Joan Kleinegris, Chair
Physical Plant - **Wednesday, Dec. 3 at 10am** [ClS]
 Contact: Fred Wolinsky, Chair
Art & Décor - **Thursday, Dec. 4 at 1pm** [ClS]
 Contact: Kitty Mitchell, Chair
R.O.V.E. - **Monday, Dec. 8 at 11am** [GR]
 Contact: Suzanne Orchowski, Chair
Welcome - **Tuesday, Dec. 9 at 11am** [GR]
 Contact: Sue Gilder, Chair
Activities - **Wednesday, Dec. 10 at 12pm** [GR]
 Contact: Joe Cosentino, Chair
Landscape - **On Hiatus until the Spring**
 Contact: Deborah Moore, Chair
Mental Health & Wellness - **Friday, Dec. 11 at 10am** [ClS]
 Contact: Ronnie Sue Jaffe, Chair
WP Benefit Fund - **Wednesday, Dec. 17 at 10am** [CR]
 Contact: Anne Gordon, Chair
Land Conservation - **Friday, Dec. 19 at 3pm** [CR]
 Contact: Larry Randall, Chair
Interfaith - **No Meeting in December**
 Contact: Ina Pottorff, Chair/ Marie Steipp, Secretary
Health Center - **Tuesday, Dec. 23 at 2pm** [ClS]
 Contact: Jill Ortner, Chair
Sustainability - **No Meeting in December**
 Contact: Joy Dryer, for the Steering Committee



Sustainability Committee News

Make Your Holiday Giving Sustainable!
As the holidays approach, think of creative and sustainable ideas about giving. No need to buy new stuff or add to the earth's landfills. Plan ahead: here are some ideas.

1) *Make your own gift.* Charlie, Vivian, Yakov and Lea show handmade toys created from common objects (toothpicks, corks, ribbon, etc).



2) *Donate to Non-profits.* Some examples: Heifer International, Shriners Children's Hospital, St. Jude Children's Hospital, Red Cross, etc. Beware of gift cards: some cards depreciate in value each month.



3) *Offer your time and energy.* Marilyn, Dawn, and Bill hold gift certificates that promise to take the receiver out to dinner, take on a hike, babysit, and shovel winter snow off the driveway.

way.

4) *Send digital holiday cards, not paper ones.* Email greetings can reconnect with old friends and catch up with family doings over the past year.

5) *RE-gift with hand made wrap.* For every gift you give, re-home something in your house (not into garbage). Go to WP free store. Wrap it in your own handmade gift wrap: June, Michelle, Fran and Eileen hold potatoes cut into stencils that design newspaper "wrapping" paper.



6) *Save your boxes.* Whenever you receive a shipment of anything drop empty boxes at Concierge (or call to pick up). And have yourself a wonderful sustainable holiday!

Joy Dryer, for SusComm's Steering Committee

SusComm Presents:

Let's Talk Dining: Making eating & food more sustainable in our Dining Room. Bring your gripes!
Join them on **Tuesday, Dec. 16 at 2pm in the PAC**

Bus Trips for December



Friday, Dec. 5– Poughkeepsie Galleria Shopping
Depart at 10am

Friday, Dec. 5 at 7:30pm– SUNY NP presents *Mozart Requiem* at the Studley Theatre. Depart at 6:45pm

Saturday, Dec. 6 at 1:30pm– 250 years of America's Voices, Stories, and Histories Exhibition at City Hall in Kingston. Depart at 12:45pm

Saturday, Dec. 6 at 5pm– Holiday on Huguenot Street & Christmas Fair Market. Handmade wreaths, jams, baked goods, ornaments with live music and Christmas Tree Lighting. Depart at 4:45pm.

Sunday, Dec. 7 at 4pm– Holiday Sampler with Ars Choralis at the Overlook United Methodist Church of Woodstock. Featured WP Resident singers. Depart at 2:45pm.

Friday, Dec. 12 at 7pm. - Shadowlands in Ellenville presents *Georgiana & Kitty Christmas at Pemberly*. Depart at 5:45pm

Saturday, Dec. 13 at 8pm– Mendelssohn Club of Kingston Christmas Concert. Departs at 7pm

Tuesday, Dec. 16 at 5pm– Dinner at Vigneto Italian Café in Highland. Depart at 4:30pm

Saturday, Dec. 20 at 3pm– Handel's Messiah with Capella Festiva at Vassar College Chapel. Depart at 1:45pm

Sunday, Dec. 21– *Wonderland of Lights* at Dutchess County Fairgrounds. Depart at 4:30pm

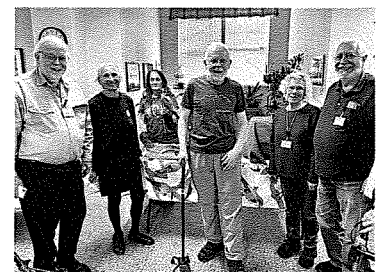
Wednesday, Dec. 24 at 5pm– St. Joseph's Church, presents Christmas Eve Mass featuring the Children's Choir. Depart at 4:30pm.

Tuesday, Dec. 30 at 12pm. – Lunch at Ipho in New Paltz. Depart at 11:45pm.

Land Conservation Committee

A special thank you to our newly-coined "Raptor Response Team" who helped to make the November Land Conservation Program a success! The Great Room was a packed house with many residents and staff eager to hear from Annie Mardiney of Wild Mountain Raptors.

-Pictured from left to right:
George Brown, June Finer, Annie Mardiney, Larry Randall, Evelyn Rosenthal, Tom Natoli.





Things I Want You to Know If We Were Having a Conversation Pt.1

If we were sitting together over a cup of coffee, here are a few things I'd like to share.

- 1) **ALWAYS, ALWAYS, ALWAYS WEAR YOUR PERS**– It is essential for your safety, and there are serious risks when it's not worn. Trust me, you don't want to hear my horror stories relating to people not wearing theirs.
- 2) **Nothing beats good old-fashioned handwashing**– Living within the WP community is wonderful, but germs love it here too. Soap and water is still the best defense– and if you can't get to a sink, use the hand sanitizer that is placed strategically around the building. Especially after touching shared surfaces.
- 3) **If you're sick, stay home**– Your mother was right; rest and fluids really do help you bounce back faster. Keep your germs to yourself by avoiding common areas. And if symptoms linger, or you develop a fever, breathing trouble, chest discomfort, or green mucus, it's time to check in with your doctor.
- 4) **The FirstCare Walk-in Clinic can be reached at 845-691-3627** and they are a good option if your doctor doesn't have availability. If you don't feel well enough to drive, reach out to Concierge or a friend for a safe ride.
- 5) **Keep your emergency information up to date**– If your doctor changes a medication, update your emergency pack right away. Same goes for the MOLST forms– give us a copy and put the new one in your pack. Accurate information helps staff, EMS, and hospital teams respond quickly when it matters most. Please let me know about any changes so I can update your records in our system as well. **THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT!**
- 6) **Pause before standing**– When getting out of bed or rising from a chair, take a moment to let your blood pressure catch up. It lowers your risk of dizziness and falls– especially during those midnight bathroom trips. And if you do fall, I know you'll be safe because you will be wearing your PERS.
- 7) **Embrace your yearly cleaning**– Housekeeping's deep clean is one of the perks of living here. Think of it as a treat, not a chore. Don't cancel or reschedule– enjoy it! Honestly, those of us (okay, me) who don't have it are jealous!
- 8) **Label your mobility device**– please put your name on your walker or mobility aid. We've gotten pretty good at recognizing whose is whose, but a name tag makes it much easier– especially at big gatherings and large programs. Concierge can assist by preparing a label for you– just ask!

-Liz Elliot RN– Ext. 5901

Starting **Friday, Jan. 2nd**, Anneke Eppley, the IL Social Worker, will be offering another 8 week Grief Support Group for a total of 10 people. There will be a waitlist for anyone who is unable to participate in this round. The group will be held **every Friday from 1pm to 2:15pm in the Health Center Conference Room.**

What is a grief support group?

A grief support group provides a safe and confidential space for anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one, whether a loss of a spouse, a life partner, a child or a close family member. It provides a place to come together to share experiences of grief without judgement.

If you would like to participate, please reach out to Anneke in person, by phone *ext. 5964*, or via email aeppley@wpatnp.org

Technology Support Classes come to
Woodland Pond!

On **Wednesday, Dec. 17 at 11am** in the Classroom, SUNY NP student, Rachell De Lamar Sime will be joining us to lead an Online Safety Course. This one-hour program will go over some basics of internet safety including making strong passwords, avoiding scams, good online practices and more. Rachell is very excited to join Woodland Pond for this event to help make our residents feel more confident online!

On **Monday, Dec. 22nd at 10am** in the Classroom, please join our very own Camron Vidas as he presents on “*All of the Essentials to Confidently Use Bravenet*”. Camron will show residents a range of helpful tips including how to access the site, make posts, and reply to posts.

Please refer to Connected Living for listings of weekly activities and special events, watch for any updates or changes on *Connected Living* screens.



Be sure to frequently check out the bulletin boards in the Cart Room for listings and fliers of upcoming events in the area. You may want to attend in car pools with some of your neighbors.

Life at Woo

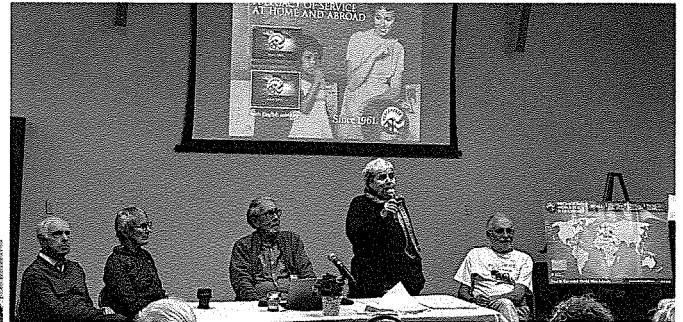
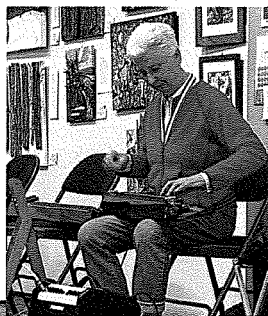
November was filled with whimsy, murder mystery, lectures, programs and salutes to our Veterans. It was a busy month full of laughter, joy, and great memories had by all!



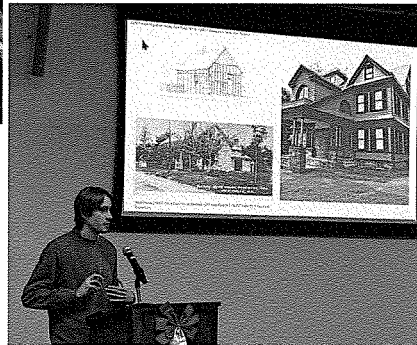
Above: the WP Handbell Ringers perform at our Veteran's Day program on 11/11

Right: Mary Evans performs a solo song on her Dulcimer at our USO Show

Below: Residents enjoyed meeting & sharing ideas at our first Coffee with Kamryn



Above: Peter Roberts, Linda Roberts, Sam Busselle, Spencer Smith, and Artie Raphael presented at our first Resident Lecture Series.



Left: Ulster County Historian, Eddie Moran presented on the first Black residents of New Paltz, Jack & Betty.

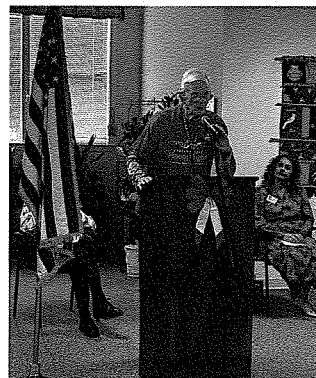


Left: Vivian Stoner interrogating one of the actors at the Murder Mystery Dinner on 11/16.

Right: Annie Mardiney of Wild Mountain Birds waits to present to residents in the HC Great Room at her talk on 11/18

Left: Tom Gider shares his Honor Flight experience with residents and fellow veterans at our Veteran's Day Program in the HC Great Room

Right: The Woodlanders Perform at our USO Show



PAC Movies

Thursday @ the Movies: Has moved to the HCGR

Classic Movie: Thursday, Dec. 4 at 7pm PAC-*Christmas in Connecticut*

Ballet Night Friday, Dec. 12 at 7pm- *Choreography by Balanchine*. This video includes performances of Chaconne, Prodigal Son, Ballo Della Regina, The Steadfast Tin Soldier, Elegie, and the Tchaikovsky Pas De Deux. Dancers include Mikhail Baryshnikov, Suzanne Farrell, and Patricia McBride.

**Please Note:* Saturday Matinees will be hosted in the HC Great Room until further notice.

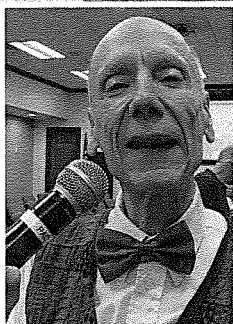
Woodland Pond



Above:
Residents
await the
start of our
Murder
Mystery
Dinner



Right:
Halema
Hassan,
Joe Cosen-
tino and
Susie
Deane-
Miller
Perform at
our USO
Show on
11/13.



Support Group Meetings



- * *Caregiver's Support Group* – meets the **first Tuesday at 1 p.m.** in the Conference Room, (facilitated by the Alzheimer's Association).
- * *Friends of Bill W.* -meets **Saturday, Dec. 27 at 7 p.m.** in the Classroom. Explore and share the power of the twelve Steps in daily life.
- * *Parkinson's Support Group* - meets the **4th Wednesdays at 1 p.m** Classroom.
- * *Grief Support Group*: If interested in joining the next 8 week session in January, please reach out to Anneke Eppley in person or at *ext. 5964*

From the Dining Team

Christmas Eve & New Years Eve

There will be Complimentary Breakfast on **Thursday, Dec. 25 and Thursday, Jan. 1 from 9-11am in the PUB.**

There will be Christmas Eve Dinner seatings and New Years Eve seatings available at 4:45pm, 5:30pm and 6:15pm.

To reserve, contact the host desk at dseVICES@wpatnp.org or 845-256-5963.



Brain Health Team Update

The last 2025 program by the Brain Health Team is **Thursday, Dec. 11 at 11am in the PAC.** Peter Roberts will share "*Even a physician's family can't escape an Alzheimer's diagnosis.*"

Many residents heard Peter share some of his wife's history being a Peace Corps Volunteer. Linda, was in the Peace Corps, in the military, was a strong member of her family and was active in their Kingston Community. Linda is now a resident in Garden View, the memory unit. Thanks to Peter we see Linda daily and can understand that Alzheimer/Dementia Disease is felt by all those connected to the diagnosed patient. It is a long-difficult journey. Don't forget to attend.

And don't forget the importance of supporting the Dutchess/Ulster Alzheimer's Association. Research must continue to find clues to prevention and a cure. For the ALZ's Assoc. ongoing assistance, the BHT is proud to have contributed **\$7901.35 in 2025.**


Special appreciation to Marilyn Mallue and Tom Gilder for their November Parkinson's Disease program, which can be found on YouTube under Woodland Pond.

Happy and Healthy Holidays- The Brain Health Team

- Ina Pottorff, chr., Tom Gilder, Pat Houk, Marilyn Mallue and Susan Smith

Applauds Program Salutes Employee Service

The following employees received commendations from residents last month for their exceptional service:

Liz Elliott	Nicole Klein	Sue Klein 
Chris Shea	Ken Larson	Eric Jones
Orres James	Tim Lynk	Vicky Baker
Dave Ostrow	Matt Wiltzie	Johnny Farris
Jason Irish	Mark Pampinella	Scot Hasbrouck
Chauncey Cook	Sherry Hauschild	Lisa Cea
Maureen MacGowan	Camron Vidas	Olga Mirabal
Ruth Fialcow	Monique Lawrence	Cecilia Garcia
Maya Brendli	Kell Keefe	Hena Saldivar
Bill Schiller	Nora Pietrafesa	Leyne Boyle
Yesinia Nava	Carrie Leach	Todd Siedel
Kathrine Rennie	Gloria Kielor	Anissa O'Dell
Mariah Halpin	Julis DeLos Reyes	Patty Coyle-Kane
Luwayna Williams-Sprague		

Applauds forms are available at the Concierge Desk. They are given to the HR If your nomination is received after the deadline, it will be included in the following month's issue.

Monthly Birthday Party is Tuesday, Dec. 9

We will recognize our birthday celebrants on **Tuesday, Dec.9 at 2:30 pm** in the Classroom. Celebrants will receive an invitation to attend.



Celebrating this month are:

Jack Hudak– Dec 1	Lucy Muller– Dec. 17
Yakov Pipman– Dec. 2	Fran Bonk– Dec. 18
Joan Mandy– Dec. 5	Susan Shaw– Dec.18
Margot Elkin– Dec. 7	Karl Rodman– Dec.18
Kathy Moslander– Dec.5	Len Rothman– Dec. 19
Eileen Francesconi– Dec.10	Ronnie Sue Jaffee– Dec.22
Elizabeth Spiegler– Dec.10	Joyce White– Dec.22
Lorraine Trast– Dec.13	Michael Doyle– Dec. 23
Roger Hanson– Dec.16	Michele Caccavano– Dec. 23
	Cynthia Fisher– Dec. 28
	Laurel Masse– Dec. 29

Welcome New Residents!



Sally Vasse– Apt. 318 [South Wing]

Martha Morrison—Apt. 321 [Central Wing]

The Welcome Committee's New Resident Social and Orientation is **Friday, Dec. 19 at 2 p.m.** in the Classroom. New residents will receive an invitation to attend.

Adopt-A-Highway Update

The next scheduled cleanup of our stretch of Rt. 299 is **Monday, Dec 15** departing from the Lobby at **11:15am** and returning to Woodland Pond at 1:15pm. If any resident is interested in assisting, please sign up with Concierge. This cleanup is weather permitting.

Thank you!



From The Reward Our Valued Employees (ROVE) Committee

ROVE says "THANK YOU" to all residents who have contributed to this year's campaign to reward our hourly employees. We've all been bombarded with pleas for donations. We've all felt the effects of inflation. Despite that, you have once again come through with a generosity our staff will appreciate. Once again you have proved that Woodland Pond residents are very caring people.

Our 2025 campaign has ended but we will be reaching out to you in January to start the 2026 campaign. Until then, have a wonderful rest of the year, and, once again, thank you.

- *Suzanne Orchowski, ROVE chair.*

WP Residents Show their Generosity

A heartfelt thank you to Margaret Nijhuis, Joyce Gartrell, Jill Ortner, Pat Houk [pictured below], and to all of our generous residents whose kindness made the 10-Day Food Drive an incredible success.

Together, we collected **20 boxes of food** and raised **\$8,065** for *Family of New Paltz*, helping to nourish and support members of the New Paltz community.



The Season of Giving



In the midst of seasonal celebrations, the Woodland Pond family is also mindful of those who find the holidays challenging. We will again participate in a special service project through Family of New Paltz's Adopt – a Family for the Holidays program.

A giving Tree will be set up outside the Mail Room with gift card suggestions for children ranging from toddlers to teenagers. If you would like to purchase a gift card stop by the Giving Tree and pick out a paper ornament that designates a child's special gift card wish. Bring your unwrapped gift to the concierge desk by **Wednesday, Dec. 17.**

Thank you!

Interfaith Committee News



Come join us in celebrating the holidays here at Woodland Pond!

- * **Monday, Dec. 1 in the IL Lobby**– Calling all volunteers to help decorate the lobby ahead of the Tree Lighting
- * **Tuesday, Dec. 2 at 2pm in the PAC:** Tree of Faith program
- * **Wednesday, Dec. 3 at 2:30pm in the IL Lobby:** WP's Annual Tree Lighting
- * **Saturday, Dec. 13 at 2pm in the CR**– Deborah Moore leads "Conversations with God"
- * **Sunday, Dec. 14 at Sundown:** The First Night of Hannukah
- * **Sunday, Dec. 21 at 2:30pm in the HC Great Room:** Carols and Lessons with Pastor Lynn Mehl

December's Tree of Faith Program will be cosponsored with the LGBTQIA+ and Allies of Woodland Pond. Rev. Aaron Schulte will discuss, "Coming out, being true to yourself, embracing your religious beliefs, and finding a religious home." All are welcome to attend!

A service of Lessons and Carols will be offered in the Health Center Great Room on **Sunday, Dec. 21 at 2:30pm**. Led by Pastor Lyn Mehl, residents will share Christmas readings from Scripture interspersed by group singing of beloved carols.

Philosophy Circle

Join us on **Wednesday, Dec. 10 at 11am in the Conference Room**. We will attempt to figure out the philosophical implications of this question "*Do people in wealthier countries have a moral obligation to help those in poorer countries?*"

If you are interested in being added to the mailing list, please contact Jo Sanders at josanders.com. All are welcome, and no formal philosophy experience is needed.

Jo Sanders and Tom Rocco, co-facilitators

Poetry Group

Friday, Dec. 19 at 2 p.m. in Conference Room

*December comes with ice and snow,
It has no other place to go,
Christmas, soon, will bring some light
And, so it is, and so, goodnight.
[Frieda Feldman]*

Come and bring a poem to share or just come to listen!



Upcoming *Shalom Space* Programs

Fridays at 4pm



- * Dec. 5- Discussion– Classroom
- * Dec. 12-My Faith: Kippa, Talit, Tfillen– Artie Raphael– Classroom
- * Dec. 19-TBD
- * Dec. 26 - Canceled
[Shalom Space welcomes all residents to join us]

The Meditation Group meets **weekly on Tuesdays at 11 a.m.** in the Conference Room. Facilitator Barbara Bash leads the 3rd Tuesday session. Newcomers always welcome.

Second Saturday Service

Mary, The Mother of Jesus.

What do we know about her? How do you view her in your life? Join Pastor Lyn and fellow residents for some pre-Christmas spirit and discussion on **Saturday, Dec. 13 at 11am** in the Health Center Great room.



WP's Annual Arts & Crafts Show and Sale

Saturday, Dec. 6, 10am-4pm (early bird shopping for Staff and HC residents only will be on **Friday, Dec. 5 from 2-4pm**)

Residents of Woodland Pond– plan to attend the Arts & Crafts show and sale to find interesting handmade items and delicious homemade baked goods. 13 vendors will be waiting for you in the PAC!

In addition to having the PAC filled with a variety of creative crafts, there will be the ever-popular bake sale in the Art Studio– always an early sell-out! If you would like to help by baking or assisting, please contact Eileen Francesconi or Vivian Yettru.

Another event highlight– an array of gift baskets can be viewed in the hallway by the PAC to be raffled off at the end of the day. Winners need not be present to claim their prize! Proceeds from participating crafters' table reservations, bake sale, and gift basket raffles all go to support the Woodland Pond Benefit Fund.

The event is not just for residents to attend– please invite your family and friends in the wider community to come and enjoy the day with you!

Special thanks to this year's Planning Committee for all of their hard work to prepare for this annual event. To the many staff helping with their assistance– specifically Dave Ostrow, Concierge, Housekeeping, Facilities, and Resident Life departments.

Come join us!

From the Library ~ Book Review

Persuasion by Jane Austen

The Woodland Pond Library celebrates Jane Austen's 250th anniversary! She was one of the most notable literary figures of all time. A pioneer in the development of the modern novel, Austen depicts ordinary people in everyday situations. Despite being set in the early 19th century, her novels deal with timeless themes of love, marriage, family and social class.

Persuasion criticizes the social norms and conventions of her time. Austen address the constraints faced by women, social status in marriage and social life. The novel reflects her writing style as she creates realistic and complex characters. English gentry of the time is depicted with it and humor. Jane Austen's popularity remains today. Many of her novels have been adapted as films.

- Anita Kantor for the Library Committee

Book Club

We will meet **Tuesday, Dec. 2 at 7pm in the Classroom**. We will be discussing *With Giraffes*, written by Lynda Rutledge. In December, we will be reading *Behold the Dreamers* by Imbolo Mbue.

Newcomers are always welcome to join us!

~ Michele Caccavano

Health Center Committee Update

December at Woodland Pond offers plenty of opportunities to celebrate. Remember to check out the programs and activities in the Health Center this month.

Independent Living residents are always welcome and encouraged to attend programs in the Health Center. Do you have a friend or neighbor who has transitioned to Assisted Living, Skilled Nursing or Garden-View? They miss you as much as you miss them, and they will be delighted to have a visit from you.

Take a neighbor along and have a special holiday get-together with your former IL neighbor. Offer to bring your friend in the Health Center to an event in the PAC or to dinner in the IL Dining Room. The Neighbor Corps is a great way to help out or participate in Health Center programs.

If you would like more information about Neighbor Corps, contact Jill Ortner or any member of the Health Center Committee.

-Jill Ortner, Chair



ArtScope Opening Reception



Our next ArtScope exhibition opening reception will be on **Monday, Dec. 22 at 7pm in the PAC**. We will be featuring the photography of Beth Bishoff of the Roost Art Gallery.

The current ArtScope exhibit by Laura Phillips will continue in the PAC until Dec.4th. On Dec. 4 at 11am, anyone who placed a red sticker with the intent to purchase, can pick up their piece at this time. Payment by cash, check, or Venmo only. No credit cards will be accepted. If you can't come at this time or date, please make alternate plans with a friend or family member to pick up your painting.

Creativity flourishes at Woodland Pond!

English Country Dance (ECD)

ECD will only be meeting on **Wednesday, Dec. 10 at 2:30pm in the Art Studio**. There will be no class on Dec. 24 due to the holiday. New dancers are always welcomed, and no partner is needed.

- June Finer

Woodland Hikers

Woodland Hikers is canceled for the month of December. Wishing you all a happy holiday season.

Maintenance Office Hours

Have a maintenance question or concern? You can find Tom and Eric in the Conference Room at 10 a.m. for Open Office, **2nd & 4th Wednesdays**.



Winter Weather and Bus Transportation

As we prepare for winter please note that it may be necessary to cancel transportation services during bad weather. You may be asked to reschedule medical appointments. Routine trips such as grocery shopping will be rescheduled when possible.

It may be necessary to cancel a trip for which residents have purchased tickets. While a number of venues will accommodate the cancellation and offer rescheduled date or refund, it remains the resident's responsibility to cover the cost if it cannot be rescheduled/ refunded.

Thank you!

Meet Your New Neighbors!

Edited by Halema Hassan

Sally Vasse Apt. 318

Sarah, prefers to be called Sally, was born in Washington DC in 1939, lived in Georgia and Florida, but mostly in her family's home state of Michigan where she grew up in Plymouth. She earned a Bachelor's degree in Liberal Arts at Chatham College in Pittsburgh PA, worked at a school in Baltimore, then earned a Master's degree in Library Science at the University of Michigan, which began her 35-year career as a



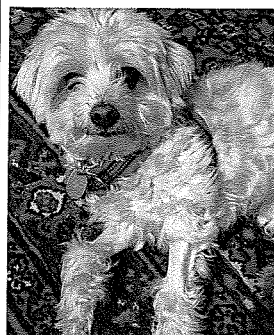
librarian in public, school, community college, hospital, and university libraries.

She married William "Bill" Vasse in 1965. Bill was a Professor of English at the Flint campus of the University of Michigan. Their daughter, Mary Vasse, was born in 1968. After moving to NY, Sally became a junior high school librarian in Kingston, NY (her most-fun job). The Vasse's New York life began in 1982 when Bill became Vice President for Academic Affairs/Provost for SUNY New Paltz. Bill and Sally loved college and university "academic life." Sally ended her career with being Reference Librarian while teaching information research skills at Orange County Community College. When Sally was asked why she chose a library career, she always said "because libraries serve the whole world of knowledge and help people to discover that world and what they want to know."

Sally has been a lifelong musician, singing in choirs, playing the piano long ago and most especially playing her flute (and sometimes piccolo) in schools, community orchestras and chamber music ensembles. Alas, she had to put the instruments to rest due to arthritic fingers. Sally's interests and hobbies include being outdoors, gardening, baking bread, cooking good food, reading, writing, being an editor, and going to the theater for excellent plays and musicals.

With Bill's passing in June of 2025, Sally decided to move to Woodland Pond, to meet new friends and enjoy a simpler life. Please welcome Sally!

Pond Pets Bogie



Hi, I'm Bogie, a 7-year-old, 8-pound white bundle of energy. I'm 50% Maltese, 30% poodle and 20% Bichon Frise. Dave and Evelyn adopted me from C.A.R.E. of Dutchess County shelter on August 9th. They are teaching me my basic commands and how to walk politely in the

halls. I am making friends with many of the other dogs at WP and enjoy taking walks and having play dates with them. My 19-pound "brother cat" JJ and I are working on our relationship. I like saying hello to people in wheel chairs and am working on my skills to make visits in the Health Center.

Story by *Lucy Muller and the Rosenthals*
If you'd like your pet to be featured in *Woodland Life*, contact Lucy Muller.

A new Committee is at WP!



The Activities Committee, chaired by Joe Cosentino, and composed of committee members Claudia Carville, Barbara Chase, Alice Cross, Taylor Eskew, Sue Gilder, Johanna Hudak, Martin Lavanhar, Eileen McClatchy, Kitty Mitchell, Marie Rosa, Dave Smith, and staff members Cynthia Carangelo, Jason Irish, and Carrie Koller.

The committee collaborates with management to plan, coordinate, and enhance social, recreational, educational, and wellness activities for residents!

Some newly sponsored activities that you may have attended include S'mores Nights, the Murder Mystery Dinner, the Guest Lecture Series, Community Connections (previously Council Connections) the USO Show, upcoming art classes, the monthly bus trips, and other activities not sponsored by other committees and interest groups at Woodland Pond.

So come onboard the activities train at Woodland Pond. It's going to be a wild and fun ride! If you have any ideas or want to give program feedback, please feel free to attend our next meeting on **Wednesday, Dec. 10 at 12pm in the Gameroom** or reach out to any of the above members.

-Joe Cosentino Chair,



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December Highlights at a Glance

- Monday, Dec 1 at 6:30pm**– Jazz Pioneers Holiday Concert [HCGR]
- Tuesday, Dec. 2 at 2pm**-Tree of Faith Program [PAC]
- Tuesday, Dec. 2 at 4pm**-Guest Lecture Series: Prof. Laura Dull [PAC]
- Wednesday, Dec. 3 at 2:30pm**–Annual Tree Lighting [Lobby]
- Thursday, Dec. 4 at 4pm**–Molly Mason & Jay Unger Concert [PAC]
- Friday, Dec. 5 from 2-4pm**–Staff & HC Resident Early Bird Shopping at the Annual Arts & Crafts Show & Sale [PAC]
- Saturday, Dec. 6 from 10am-4pm**– Annual Arts & Crafts Show & Sale [PAC]
- Saturday, Dec. 6 at 1:30pm**– RehHot and Blue Acapella Performance [HCGR]
- Monday, Dec. 8 at 3pm**–Pondaliers Concert [HCGR]
- Monday, Dec.8 at 7pm**–IBM Chorus Holiday Concert [PAC]
- Tuesday, Dec. 9 at 7:15pm**– Theatre Night w/ Joe & Fred [PAC]
- Wednesday, Dec. 10 at 2pm**– TNT Tappers Dance Performance [PAC]
- Wednesday, Dec. 10 at 7pm**– Pondaliers Concert [PAC]
- Thursday, Dec. 11 at 11am**– Brain Health Team Program [PAC]
- Thursday, Dec. 11 at 2pm**– Community Connections [PAC]
- Friday, Dec. 12 at 3pm**– Pondaliers Concert [PAC]
- Saturday, Dec. 13 at 2pm**– Conversations with God led by Deborah Moore [CR]
- Sunday, Dec. 14 at Sundown**– Hannukah Begins
- Monday, Dec. 15 at 2pm**– Dulcimer Concert [PAC]
- Monday, Dec. 15 at 11:15am**– Highway Cleanup [Lobby]
- Tuesday, Dec. 16 at 2pm**– SusComm Program [PAC]
- Wednesday, Dec. 17 at 11am**– Online Safety Training [Cls]
- Wednesday, Dec. 17 at 1pm**– Management Q&A [PAC]
- Wednesday, Dec. 17 at 7pm**– HVFE Concert [PAC]
- Thursday, Dec. 18 at 3pm**– Dulcimer & Handbells Holiday Concert [HCGR]
- Sunday, Dec. 21 at 2:30pm**– Carols & Lessons [HCGR]
- Monday, Dec. 22 at 10am**– Bravenet Training [Cls]
- Monday, Dec. 22 at Sundown**– Hannukah Ends
- Monday, Dec. 22 at 7pm**– Artscope Opening Reception [PAC]
- Tuesday, Dec. 23 at 4pm**– B.Tuel's Brass Group Holiday Concert [PAC]
- Thursday, Dec. 25**– Christmas Day
- Friday, Dec. 26 at 2:45pm**– Starlight Trio [HCGR]
- Wednesday, Dec. 31 at 2:30pm**– New Year's Eve Celebration [HCGR]

Want to share the newsletter with your family and friends? They can read it online at www.wpatnp.org

