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Community



# WoodlandLife

Vol. 15, No.12

December 2023



## Happy Holidays!



The holidays are upon us once again and Woodland Pond residents and staff are gearing up for a busy season, filled with numerous opportunities to celebrate, contemplate, share our creative talents and a generous spirit of giving as we spread the joy of the season to others. Please keep your newsletter handy to refer to often throughout the month so that you don't miss any of these special opportunities! And in the midst of all of the holiday busyness, may the peace of the season be present for you and your loved ones.

To officially kick off the holidays, residents are invited to gather in the Lobby for our Annual Tree Lighting on **Monday, Dec. 4 at 3 p.m.** We'll light the tree, receive official greetings for the holidays from our President/CEO Michelle Gramoglia, and enjoy Yuletide carols with music provided by the Dulcimer Players and Jeffrey Seitz on keyboard. Members of the Interfaith Committee will be assisting with the program. Come join your neighbors for hot chocolate and cookies in the Pub as we welcome the holiday season!

The Dulcimer Players will continue the musical sounds of the season with two opportunities to hear their holiday concert: **Friday, Dec. 1 at 3 p.m.** in the Health Center Great Room and on **Friday, Dec. 8 at 3 p.m.** in the PAC.



Hanukkah's eight-day festival of lights begins **Thursday, Dec. 7 at 4 p.m.** with a special program in the PAC to include the lighting of the menorah and special music by the Dulcimer Players. On each night of the holiday come gather in the Lobby at **4 p.m.** for the menorah lighting. On the last night, **Thursday, Dec. 14,** there will be a special program at **4 p.m.** in the Classroom.

We'll hear from two groups that bring us musical enjoyment through the year - The Mid-Hudson IBM Chorus returns on **Monday, Dec. 11 at 7 p.m.** in the PAC to share their holiday repertoire and on **Monday, Dec. 18 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Health Center Great Room, the Jazz Pioneers will perform their seasonal tunes.

The Pondaliers are finalizing preparations for their upcoming holiday concert with three performances: **Monday, Dec. 11 at 3 p.m.** in the Great Room for Health Center residents, then two performances in the Performing Arts Center on **Wednesday, Dec. 13 at 7 p.m.** and **Friday, Dec. 15 at 3 p.m.** Please sign up at the Concierge desk for the performance you plan to attend in the PAC.

The Hudson Valley Flute Ensemble brings a delightful holiday concert to Woodland Pond on **Wednesday, Dec. 20 at 7 p.m.** in the PAC. According to ensemble member Marcia Gates, "The charming ballerina sisters will join the flute quintet again this year ... this time with all three sisters dancing! Please join the HVFE to celebrate the joyful music of the holiday season with us." (Snow date is Thursday, Dec. 21 at 7 p.m.) Please sign up at Concierge to attend.



On **Friday, December 22 at 3 p.m.** in the PAC, the "Harmony Tuba Quartet" and "Horns from the Gunks" will perform quartets, carols, and arrangements to please you and start the celebration of the Christmas holiday weekend. John Ortner and Bill Tuel will emcee.

Please see pg. 12 for information about New Year's Eve!

*Enjoy the Season's Festivities!*





December meetings of your Residents' Council are **Thursdays, Dec. 7 and Dec. 21 at 10 a.m.** in the Classroom and on Zoom, and are open to all residents. The first 15 minutes (EARS) are devoted to your input. If time permits there will be a second EARS at the end of the meeting. Agendas are posted in the Mail Room and Library on the Mondays preceding each meeting. You may be in touch with your Council by putting signed, written comments in the Council Cubby in the Mail Room, at the bottom right of the bank of cubbies by the window, or you may also send an e-mail to [junefiner@yahoo.com](mailto:junefiner@yahoo.com).

There will be no *Council Connections* sessions this month.

*June Finer, Corresponding Secretary*

### From Woodland Pond's Board of Directors



Toward the end of each calendar year, your Board, in a continual effort to improve our functioning efficiency, submits a Satisfaction Survey to all its members. This instrument allows each member to share anonymously his/her personal appraisal of how the Board is currently operating and her/his individual comfort level in meeting personal standards for collegiality, mutual respect, working methods, productivity, equal sharing of responsibilities and agreeable workloads. The survey also invites members to make suggestions for improving our operations and attracting new Board members. We find these yearly surveys helpful in addressing concerns, considering new approaches and fine-tuning our overall effectiveness.

*Dick Barry, Secretary*

### Remembering Friends and Neighbors



The recent losses of a number of people here at Woodland Pond has prompted enquiries about making memorial donations to the Woodland Pond Benefit Fund.

The Fund was created as a 501(C)(3) charitable benefit fund to provide enrichment to the lives of our residents, and scholarship opportunities for our staff.

It's easy to make a donation - pick up a special envelope addressed to the Community Foundations from the Concierge. Inside, you will find a form for listing your name and address, the amount of your contribution. In the bottom right corner, if you wish to honor someone, is the place to write their name. Payment can be made by check or credit card. Leave the envelope at the desk, and it will be sent to the Community Foundations. A letter acknowledging your gift will be sent to the family of the honoree. You will also receive a letter crediting you with the gift for your tax files.

This is a perfect way to create a memorial to your friends and neighbors, or simply to support the work we are doing.

*Anne Gordon, Woodland Pond Benefit Fund Chair*



### Holiday Events For Dining Services



Hanukkah begins Thursday, Dec. 7 and ends Friday, Dec. 15. We will be offering Hanukkah menu items at sit-down dinner and for to-go meals on **Thursday, Dec. 7, Friday, Dec. 8 and Friday, Dec. 15**. A full menu for both those dates, as well as what items we will be offering for the full 8 days, will be posted at the Hostess Desk and on Connected Living by Friday, Dec 1.

A special Christmas Eve Brunch will be served on **Sunday, Dec. 24**, and there will be a special dinner on **Christmas Day, Dec. 25**. Christmas Day Dinner seatings will be at 2 p.m., 3:30 p.m. and 5 p.m.

A special New Year's Eve Brunch will be served **Sunday, Dec. 31**, and we will have our regular dinner service on New Year' Day, Monday, Jan. 1.

Our monthly kitchen tours will resume **Friday, Jan. 12**.

*Ashley France, for the Dining Team*

### 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* is 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 **Friday, Dec. 16**. *Thank you!*





## Interest Groups



- Beginner's Mah Jongg: Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. [GR]  
Book Club: 1st Tuesdays at 7 p.m. [CR]  
Bingo: 1st Wednesdays at 1 p.m. [PAC]  
Brainteasers: Wednesdays at 10 a.m. [AS]  
Canasta: Wednesdays & Saturdays at 1 p.m. [GR]  
Chess: Thursdays at 7 p.m. [GR]  
Current Events Group: Wednesdays at 4 p.m. [ClS]  
Dulcimer Players: Mondays at 1 p.m./ Thursdays at 3:30 p.m. [PAC]  
Duplicate Bridge: 2nd & 3rd Wednesdays, 1 p.m. [4th Central Lounge]  
Handbell Ringers: Tuesdays at 1 p.m. [AS]  
Hearts Players: Mondays at 1 p.m./Saturdays at 12:30 p.m. [GR]  
Hookers Craft Group: 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 3 p.m. [AS]  
iPhone Camera Club: No Meeting this month. [ClS]  
Loss in Literature Group: Tuesday, Dec. 19, 4 p.m. [CR]  
Mah Jongg: Mondays and Fridays at 1 p.m. [AS]  
Memoir Class: Monday, Dec. 11 at 3 pm. [CR]  
Men's Coffee – Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. [PAC]  
Opera/Ballet Night: Dec. 15 & 29, 7p.m. [PAC]  
Philosophy Circle: 2nd & 4th Weds. at 11 a.m. [CR]  
Pinochle: Fridays at 1 p.m. [GR]  
Playreaders Group I: Thursdays at 2:30 p.m. [AS]  
Playreaders Group II: Thursdays at 4:15 p.m. [AS]  
Poetry Group: Friday, Dec. 29 at 2 p.m. [CR]  
Pondaliers: Mondays at 3:30 p.m. [PAC]  
Rummi-Kub: Daily at 7 p.m., Sundays, 2 p.m. [GR]  
Scrabble: Fridays at 10:30 a.m. [GR]  
Shalom Space: Fridays at 4 p.m. [ClS]  
Short Story Group I: 1st & 3rd Tues., 3:30p.m. [ClS]  
Short Story Group II: 2nd & 4th Tues., 3:30p.m. [ClS]  
Social Bridge: Tuesdays & Thursdays 12:30p.m. [GR]

## Interest Groups continued:

- Spanish Chat: on hiatus until January  
Square Dance: Wednesdays, Dec. 13 & 27 at 3 p.m. [AS]  
Table Games: Mondays at 7 p.m. [ClS] Saturdays at 2 p.m. [AS]  
Watercolor Class: Mondays, Dec. 4 & 18, 10 a.m. [AS]  
Women's Tea: Mondays at 2 p.m. [ClS]  
 (2nd Monday Tea Talk in the PAC).

## Committee Meetings for December

- Library Committee - Monday, Dec. 4 at 12 p.m. [ClS]  
 Contact: Virginia Cannon, Chair  
Finance Review - Monday, Dec. 4 at 1 p.m. [AS]  
 Contact: Dave DeWilde, Chair  
Dining - Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 10 a.m. [GR]  
 Contact: Joan Kleinegris, Chair  
Physical Plant - Wednesday, Dec. 6 at 10 a.m. [ClS]  
 Contact: Deborah Moore, Chair  
Décor/Design - Thursday, Dec. 7 at 1 p.m. [CR]  
 Contact: John Ortner, Chair  
Landscape - On hiatus until March  
 Contact: Deborah Moore, Chair  
R.O.V.E. - Monday, Dec. 11 at 11 a.m. [Game Room]  
 Contact: Suzanne Orchowski, Chair  
Welcome - Tuesday, Dec. 12 at 11 a.m. [GR]  
 Contact: Alice Cross, Chair  
WP Benefit Fund - Wednesday, Dec. 20, 10 a.m. [CR]  
 Contact: Anne Gordon, Chair  
Land Conservation - No meeting This month  
 Contact: Dave Smith, Acting Chair  
Sustainability - No meeting this month  
 Joy Dryer, for the Steering Committee  
Interfaith - No meeting this month  
 Contact: Ina Pottorff, Chair or Billie Stevens, Secretary  
Health Center - Tuesday, Dec. 26 at 1 p.m. [ClS]  
 Contact: Margaret Nijhuis, Chair

## Attention Bingo Fans ...

Join Vivian Stoner for Bingo on **Wednesday, Dec. 6 at 1 p.m. in the PAC**. \$2.00/card and jackpot prizes in store! We play on the first Wednesday of each month!







## From the Library



Book Review: *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks

Prize winner author Geraldine Brooks' novel *Horse* is historical fiction at its finest! She connects the past (1850) with the present (2019) as she writes not only about a horse, but racism, art, and freedom. It is a well-researched novel of horse racing with a compelling plot and characters.

The novel is based on a real-life racehorse named Lexington, one of the most famous thoroughbreds in American history. Brooks admires the intelligence and humanity of the horses. The emotional bonds between the horse and the black groom inspired the horse to major victories across the South in the 1850's. The amazing discovery of a portrait of Lexington painted by artists Thomas Scott is part of the novel's plot.

*Horse* is not just an animal story. Brooks reveals an American legacy of slavery and animal cruelty. The novel is a thrilling read and social commentary spanning over a century.

Anita Kantor

## Book Club



The Book Club will discuss *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus at our **Tuesday, Dec. 5** meeting at **7 p.m.** in the Conference Room. During this month we will be reading *The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah for discussion at the January meeting.

Michele Caccavano

## PAC Movies



Thursday @ the Movies: **Thursdays at 7 p.m.**

First Friday Classic Movie: **Friday, Dec. 1, 7 p.m.**  
*Christmas in Connecticut* (1945) starring Dennis Morgan and Barbara Stanwyck.

**Friday, Dec. 22 at 7 p.m.** - Special musical DVD presentation *One Winter Evening at Weymouth - with the Raleigh Ringers*.

Opera Night: This month's features: *L'Elisir d'Amore* on **Friday, Dec. 15 at 7 p.m.** and *Amahl and the Night Visitors* on **Friday, Dec. 29 at 7 p.m.**

**Christmas Day Special Feature at 7 p.m.** - *White Christmas*, starring Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Rosemary Clooney and Judy Haynes.

## Bus Trips for December



**Friday, Dec. 1 at 11 am.** – Holiday shopping trip to the Poughkeepsie Galleria

**Friday, Dec. 1 at 7 p.m.** – Kairos Consort and others present a Family of Woodstock benefit at Redeemer Lutheran Church, New Paltz. Depart at 6:30 p.m.

**Saturday, Dec 2 at 2 p.m.** – A live radio play rendition of *A Christmas Carol* at Rosendale Theatre. Depart 1 p.m.

**Sunday, Dec. 3 at 7 p.m.** – Service of Lessons & Carols in Vassar Chapel with Vassar College Choir, Chamber Singers, and Capella Festiva. Depart at 5:45 p.m.

**Wednesday Dec. 6 at 2 p.m.** – Woodland Walkers outing.

**Thursday, Dec. 7 at 7:30 p.m.** – SUNY New Paltz Choral Concert with the College Chorale, Concert Choir, and Chamber Singers. Depart at 6:45 p.m.

**Friday, Dec. 8 at 11 am.** – Holiday shopping trip to the Middletown Galleria.

**Friday, Dec. 8 at 8 p.m.** – The Mendelssohn Club Concert with guest artists, Kingston High School Band and Chorus. Depart at 6:45 p.m.

**Saturday, Dec. 9 at 5 pm.** – *Error Code: Bolts, Bytes and Betrayal – a Sci-Fi Puppet Noir Mystery!* At Unison Arts Center in New Paltz. Depart at 4:30 p.m.

**Sunday, Dec. 10, 4 p.m.** – Ars Choralis concert at Overlook Methodist Church, Woodstock. Depart 2:45 p.m.

**Wednesday, Dec. 13** – Newcomers Bus Tour in the New Paltz area. Depart at 1 p.m.

**Monday, Dec. 18** – Lunch Adventure to Saugerties. Depart at 10:30 a.m.

**Wednesday, Dec. 27** – Holiday mansion tour at the Staatsburgh State Historic Site. Depart at 9:15 a.m.

**Friday, Dec. 29 at 7 p.m.** - Marx Brothers double feature at Rosendale Theatre. Depart at 6:15 p.m.

## Winter Weather and Bus Transportation

As we prepare for winter please note that it may be necessary to cancel transportation services during bad weather. Residents 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 a rescheduled date or refund, it remains the resident's responsibility to cover the cost if it cannot be rescheduled/refunded.



## Wellness Notes



It has been a pleasure to host the Mount St. Mary Nursing College students this semester. Much appreciation to Loraine and Alexia for your projects and your time. Last month they gave a presentation to members of one of the Fitness classes as part of their class requirements. Below are brief articles they have written to share with residents.

To Loraine and Alexia, we all extend the very best wishes for your success in nursing careers.

Wellness Wishes,

*Sarah, Gracie, Angel and Mary Jo*

Many adults in the US are not getting enough sleep. Not getting the adequate number of sleep puts adults at risk for chronic disease such as heart disease, cancer, diabetes, and dementia. 72% of adults get sufficient sleep according to healthy people 2030.

Good sleep requires 7-9 hours of sleep, being active and having a good bedtime routine. Make sure to go to bed and wake up at the same time. Also make sure we decrease alcohol consumption and avoid large meals before bed. Have a great sleep!

*Loraine Cruz*



What is the average recommended time of physical activity that an older adult should participate in? Older adults need at least 150 minutes (2.5 hrs) a week of moderate-intensity aerobic activity or 75 minutes a week of vigorous-intensity aerobic activity. It is very important to exercise for extensive health benefits.

Some may say that it is hard to find time for exercise, but it could be very simple.

Some ways to manage your time in favor of activity could be taking a walk with your peers, doing an at-home workout, and finding a workout buddy to keep you motivated! Most importantly, you must have fun with it to keep yourself engaged!

*Alexia D'Anna*

### Fitness Center Workshops

This month's Fitness Center Workshops with Grace will be  
**Thursday, Dec. 7 at 1 p.m. and  
Friday, Dec. 15 at 11:15 a.m.**

Please sign up at Concierge if you are interested in attending.



### Support Group Meetings



- \* *Caregiver's Support Group* – first **Tuesdays at 1 p.m.** in Conference Room.
- \* *The Parkinson's Support Group* – **Wednesday, Dec. 27 at 1 pm.** In the Classroom

### Monthly Reminder

Your Emergency Packet should have the **most current** items:

- ◆ Emergency contacts listed with phone numbers
- ◆ Medication list – hospital preference, primary doctor /address / phone#
- ◆ Copy of all your insurance cards - front and back
- ◆ Copy of Healthcare Proxy, Living Will, Advance Directives.
- ◆ The MOLST form

Forms are available outside the Wellness Nurse's office.

### A Fitness Note from Grace

We have gotten such a great response about the Tai Chi class taught by guest teacher Martha Cheo last month that we've decided that starting this month, I am doing "pop up" Thai Chi classes.



*Fitness Instructor Grace Juhren and Nancy Tischler demonstrate their flexibility!*

Make sure to look at your fitness calendar and join me!

*Grace Juhren, Fitness Instructor*



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



There is much to do in the Hudson Valley! 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 Wood

We are delighted that several new residents will be calling Woodland Pond their home between now and the end of the year. They are looking forward to meeting their new neighbors, so please invite them to lunch, dinner or an activity. Their full bios can be found in the directories in the Lobby and lounges in each wing.

Compiled/Edited by Halema Hassan

## Sherman and Paula Raskin ~ Apt. 527



After 53 years, Paula and Sherman Raskin are moving from their home in Lynbrook, NY to Woodland Pond to be closer to their children and grandchildren.

Paula was an elementary school teacher for 32 years at P.S. 38 in Brooklyn and P.S 138 in Queens respectively. She was exceptionally skilled at teaching math and art to her students. She taught the exceptionally gifted students as well as the students who needed more support and assistance. She loved her work and loved taking her students to theater and museums giving them every opportunity to introduce them to new ideas. Paula earned a bachelor's and master's degree at Brooklyn College.

Sherman Raskin was born in the Bronx on January 27, 1937. He earned his BFA in acting and MA in English from Columbia University. During his acting career, he appeared in *Take a Giant Step* (1959), *Ride with Terror* (1963) and *Tiger Makes Out* (1967).

Raskin was a professor of English at Pace University for over 50 years, retiring in 2018. During his tenure at Pace, Raskin was Chair of the English Department for 24 years. In addition, he founded and served as long time director of Pace's MS in Publishing Program. He was also instrumental in the creation of Pace University Press.

Paula and Sherman will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary in June 2024.

## Molly and Tyler Jones ~ Apt. 415

Molly and Tyler had been living in Poughkeepsie since 2006. The Joneses came to Poughkeepsie for Tyler to serve as the rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. He retired from St. Paul's in 2020 and is now working part time. Molly and Tyler came from Germany where Tyler served as a beginning priest for two years. He served as curate in Munich and as Vicar of churches in Augsburg and Nuremberg. In Germany they were able to travel quite a bit (France, Italy, Switzerland, Czech Republic) and to enjoy the international membership at their church. Previous to their time in Germany Molly and Tyler lived in New York City where Tyler attended The General Theological Seminary in the Chelsea neighborhood 2001-2004. The Sept. 11 attacks took place during Tyler's early weeks at the seminary.



The couple met in Alaska where they both worked as journalists. Molly had come from New York where she worked for TIME Magazine in its music section. Tyler came to Alaska from Seattle. They resided in the 49<sup>th</sup> state for 25 years, and had two children.

Molly transitioned from journalism to work in the arts and spent her final 14 years in Alaska as the curator of Public Art at the Anchorage Museum. Tyler left journalism to work for one of Alaska's US senators, then transitioned to work in the field of public seaports, holding positions at ports in Anchorage, Seward and Dutch Harbor, Alaska, and the ports of Pensacola and Miami in Florida. It was in Miami in 1999 that Tyler discerned a call to the ministry and was approved to attend seminary and become ordained.

Molly and Tyler are delighted to remain in the mid-Hudson Valley and are delighted with the view of the Shawangunk Mountains from their apartment and the tower at Mohonk in the distance.



# Woodland Pond

## Joe Cosentino and Fred Wolinsky ~ Cottage 10

Joe Cosentino and Fred Wolinsky met in 1977 in a NYC apartment complex for professional performing artists, where they lived for 13 years. They moved to Wappingers Falls in 1990, were legally married in 2009, and built their dream house in 2013. They have enjoyed vacationing in numerous countries.



Fred was a professional actor, magician, and puppeteer who founded Pegasus Productions, a national touring puppet theatre company. He was then Executive Director of Encore Performing Arts, a non-profit agency with a roster of professional touring performing arts groups in all fields, presenting shows for children and family audiences. He retired from Encore in 2006 and became a nationally certified American Sign Language Interpreter. He has a BA in Theatre Arts and an AS in Interpreting. Fred has also acted, directed and choreographed for professional, amateur, and college productions in the Hudson Valley, taught speech and theatre part-time at Dutchess Community College, and narrated over 100 audiobooks for Audible. FredWolinsky.weebly.com

Joe appeared in principal acting roles in film, television, and theatre, opposite stars like Bruce Willis, Rosie O'Donnell, Nathan Lane, Holland Taylor, Charles Keating, and Jason Robards. He has written many plays and 34 novels. His novel, *Drama Queen*, was voted Favorite LGBT Mystery Novel of the Year by the readers of *Divine Magazine*. Joe received a BA in Speech and Theatre Education, an MFA in Creative Writing, and an MA in Humanistic Multicultural Education. Joe is an Emeritus Professor at Dutchess Community College, where he taught Speech and Theatre for thirty-three years, was Arts Department Chair for eighteen years, created many programs and courses, directed numerous plays, chaired various committees, and was a recipient of the Orcutt Faculty Endowed Chair. JoeCosentino.weebly.com

They have enjoyed visiting Woodland Pond while watching their cottage being constructed and look forward to their next adventure as part of the community.



## Peter Brown and Carol Rietsma Cottage 99 Woodland Pond Circle

Peter Brown and Carol Rietsma lived right around the corner from us on Ferris Lane and sold their home last month. Carol and Peter both retired a dozen years ago, after teaching at SUNY New Paltz since the early 70's. They have been together as domestic partners for over thirty years. For most of that time they lived in Gardiner. Their only grandchild is a sophomore at Carleton College in Minnesota. Peter's middle-aged children live in Chicago and California.



Carol grew up in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and earned her doctorate from Rutgers. In 1972, she joined the SUNY New Paltz Biology Department, where she taught courses in ecology, general biology, and endangered species. Her research includes salt marsh ecology on Cape Cod, and the effects of deer browsing on forest regeneration in the Shawangunks.


She has served on the Mohonk Preserve board of directors for over thirty years, focusing on education, research, and photography for Mohonk publications. She produces the Phenology Newsletter for the Preserve and coordinates the volunteers who gather local data on cyclic natural phenomena for the national database. Carol joined the College Community Chorale in the 1980s, where she has sung as an alto in numerous concerts at the College and on tours overseas.

The son of a US Foreign Service diplomat, Peter spent most of his childhood overseas in the Netherlands, Germany, and France. After completing his studies in Germanic Languages & Literatures at Columbia, he joined the Foreign Language Department at SUNY New Paltz in 1971.

Peter taught a variety of courses in German language, literature, history, Jewish studies, women's studies, and film studies. For twenty years, he directed a SUNY overseas program every summer, where he taught American students living in Germany with host families for "total immersion."



## Applauds Program Salutes Employee Service

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

Ryan Pomeroy	John Schmidt	Kelly Beemer
Tonya Reidinger	Jason Irish	Patty Michetti
Connie Rzeszewicz	Karina Hernandez	Juniper Grillo
Alyssa DeLessio	Emily Alexander	Rob Stahli
Tyler Vermilyea	Joseph Fannelli	Noel Parry
Eva Goldschein	Mirna Hernandez	Raven James
Marissa O'Brien	Mary Jo Murray	Connor Ginn
Paul Grossman	Ruth Fialkow	Carrie Burns
Gretchen Daum	Jean at Dedricks	Angel Murphy
Matt Perconti	Monique Lawrence	Lisa Cea
Eulogia Saldivar	Olga Mirabal	Orres James
Brittany Minard	Brett Herman	Jane Basso
Theresa Fiscaletti	Julia Brooker	Justin Evans
Anthony Izak	Lindsay Marquis	Alexa Mirabal
Melissa Stallings	Michael Perricone	
Ana Hervias Olivias	Huguette Pierre-Noel	

All who worked in Dining on Thanksgiving in IL

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

## Monthly Birthday Party is Tuesday, Dec. 12



We will recognize our December birthday celebrants on **Tuesday, Dec. 12 at 2 p.m.** in the Classroom. Celebrants will receive an invitation to attend.

### Celebrating this month are:

Jack Hudak - Dec. 1	Fran Bonk - Dec. 18
Sandra Smiley - Dec. 1	Karl Rodman - Dec. 19
Pat Houk - Dec. 2	Joyce Geracos - Dec. 20
Yakov Pipman - Dec. 2	Henry Oakes - Dec. 21
Joan Mandy - Dec. 5	Ronnie Sue Jaffe - Dec. 22
Kathy Moslander - Dec. 5	Michele Caccavano - Dec. 23
Margot Elkin - Dec. 7	John Ross - Dec. 24
Eileen Francesconi - Dec. 10	Cynthia Fisher - Dec. 28
Elizabeth Spiegler - Dec. 10	Laurel Masse - Dec. 29
Lucy Muller - Dec. 17	



## Welcome New Residents!



**Fred Wolinsky & Joe Cosentino - 10 Danskin Way**  
**Joyce Zonana and Michael Piecuch - 12 Danskin Way**  
**Peter Brown and Carol Rietsma - 99 WP Circle**  
**Sherman and Paula Raskin - Apt 527 Central Wing**  
**Marcia Witfield - Apt 339 North Wing**

The Welcome Committee's New Resident Social and Orientation is **Friday, Dec. 15 at 2 p.m.** in the Classroom. New residents will receive an invitation to attend.

## From the ROVE Committee

Thanks to the generosity of the Woodland Pond residents, we have been able to distribute \$238,372.70 to our 243 hourly employees. This monetary thank you gift was distributed at the end of November. The ROVE Committee thanks every one of you, and the staff thanks you. Some heartfelt comments, selected out of many thank you notes from grateful employees, follow:

*"We are grateful every year for this gift of appreciation. It supports our Christmas budget."*

*"Knowing you care so much brings tears to my eyes."*

*"Thank you so much for your generous gift! We are overwhelmed by your kindness."*

*"I am using the money to offset monthly bills."*

*"This gift or act of generosity surpasses one's wildest expectations. The money came from a very deep well of generosity on the part of residents and friends of Woodland Pond."*

ROVE's campaign for this year has ended, but as always, an enrollment form will be included with your January statement. **Please read the form carefully as our enrollment procedure will be changing for 2024, making it easier for you to enroll.** All donations are voluntary and confidential.

*Suzanne Orchowski, for the ROVE Committee*




## Holiday Décor Tour at Woodland Pond

Do you decorate your home for Christmas? Would you like to show your decorations to WP residents?

If yes, sign up at the Concierge desk by Tuesday, Dec. 14 for a date and time slot to open your home.

The tour dates are **Thursday, Dec. 16, Saturday, Dec. 18 and Sunday, Dec. 24.** See the Concierge for available time slots.

To visit decorated homes, stop by the Concierge for a list of homes and when they will be open for visits. Then, enjoy the tour! 



## Next Woodland Walkers Outing

On **Wednesday, Dec. 6 at 2 p.m.** we will hike to Split Rock on the Mohonk Preserve. Wear sturdy shoes and bring a hiking pole and water. Sign up with the Concierge bus.

*June Finer*





## Interfaith Committee News

The next meeting of the Interfaith Committee will not be until January 22 at 10:30 a.m. in the Game Room. If you are interested in the mission of this committee, "To foster an atmosphere of tolerance for spiritual understandings", whatever your faith may be, we invite you to join us and become a member.

The Annual Tree Lighting program will take place on **Monday, Dec. 4 at 3 p.m.** in the Lobby with members of the IFC participating. We thank Gretchen Daum for her assistance with these programs and all the others that we do during the year. We could not do them without her, from suggestions, to piano playing, programs and all of the other things that need doing. She is a treasure!

Hanukkah will be celebrated starting **December 7** with a program in the PAC at **4 p.m.** The following 7 nights will be just the lighting of the menorah candles in the lobby. The final night will be in the Classroom with Rabbi Rena Blumenthal leading the service at 4 p.m.

Upcoming religious holidays in December: 7-15th Hanukkah; 21st -January 1, Yule; 22nd Guru Gobind Singh's birthday (Sikh); 25th Christmas; 26-January 1 Kwanzaa.

January: 1st, Feast of Mary, Mother of God (Catholic); 6th Epiphany; 7th Eastern Orthodox Christmas; 18th Bodhi Day (Buddhist).

Happy Holidays to all!

*Billie Stevens, Secretary*

### Second Saturday with Pastor Lyn



Pastor Lyn's Second Saturday Worship will be a *Carols and Lessons Service*.

This Advent service of preparation for Christmas began in the 1880s in Great

Britain and is now a highlight of the Advent/Christmas season around the world.

Nine lessons tell the story of the prophesy of the Messiah, the birth of Jesus and the visit of the Magi. Interspersed will be our singing of traditional carols, accompanied by Jean Aldwell and Jane Basso. The service will be in the Health Center Great Room **Saturday, Dec. 9 at 10:45 a.m.** All are welcome to come celebrate and sing!

*Pastor Lyn Mehl*



### Upcoming *Shalom Space Programs*

Fridays at 4 p.m. in the Classroom



- \* Dec 1 - From Spinoza to post-Holocaust: Jews in Holland - led by Kappa Waugh
- \* Dec. 8 - Reading from her novel, *The Book of Israela*. Rabbi Rena Blumenthal (guest)
- \* Dec. 15. How American Jews do or don't relate to Israel, led by Karl Rodman
- \* Dec. 22 - How Jews spend Christmas Day, led by Jo Sanders
- \* Dec. 29 - The shofar, led by Sam Slotnick (guest)

### Guest Lecture

*Background to the current crisis in the Middle East: Gaza, Hamas and Israel*

**Wednesday, December 20, 1:00 – 2:15 p.m.  
in the PAC**

This lecture will be presented by Lewis Brownstein, historian, author, and professor and the former Chair of the Political Science and International Relations Dept. at SUNY New Paltz. His main area of expertise is the Middle East, especially but not limited to the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. Lew Brownstein earned his Ph.D. from the School for Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University in 1969. He has given many lectures on a wide range of topics involving international affairs around the world.

*Important Note:* This lecture is open to WP residents and staff only.

This program is sponsored by Shalom Space

### Meditation Group

The *Mindfulness of Life ~ The Way of Meditation* group led by Barbara Bash meets the **3rd Tuesday** each month at **11 a.m.** in Art Studio (**Dec. 19**). Newcomers are always welcome.



### Handbell Ringers Share Their Music



Our Handbell Ringers are spreading their talents outside our community walls this month to participate in the Candlelight Concert at the Reformed Church of New Paltz on **Sunday, Dec. 10 at 5 p.m.** This is a free concert and they invite their Woodland Pond neighbors to come enjoy the variety of choral and handbell music to be offered!





## Sustainability Committee News

### Close & Lock your Windows !



“Seal the envelope first,” David Shepler said emphatically, referencing Zero Place’s outer shell. Residents packed into PAC to listen last month as Zero’s co-owner

and developer explained how their state-of-the-art geothermal system produced heating, cooling, and hot water with net-zero energy and NO utility bills. We listened for how this technology might apply to us at Woodland Pond.

This new brick retail and 46 apartment complex at 87-91 N. Chestnut Street in New Paltz won NYSERDA (New York State Energy Research and Development Authority)’s Building of Excellence Award in 2019, along with 750K and a mission to educate others. David was doing just that, educating us.

**Zero Place’s lesson for WP:** Close and lock our windows! Opening windows lets out the A/C in summer, and heat in the winter. This increases our utility bills enormously. That is, when cool air escapes, hot air replaces it. This tricks our air conditioner into thinking it has to work harder and wastes electricity. Same with our heating system. About 30% of a home’s heating energy is lost through windows.

Some of us may like a breath of fresh air by following the German tradition of “luften,” the act or art of ventilating homes — with a slightly opened window— even in frigid cold of winter. This reduces energy efficiency and raises utility costs. Instead, bundle up and take a walk outside !

So as the temperature drops in December, do your small part to lower WP’s energy costs: tightly seal all your windows!

*Joy Dryer, for the Sustainability Committee*



*Saturday Morning  
Beginners Mah Jongg  
Take a step up!!*



*Sock-it-to-Me*

*Photos by Tom Gilder*

## SusComm Presentation

The Sustainability Committee invites residents to attend an informative webinar: *Endocrine Disruptors in Plastics* on **Tuesday, Dec. 19 at 2 p.m.** in the PAC. This is presented by the committee as one of their regular bimonthly talks.

*June Finer, for the SusComm Committee*



## Women’s Holiday Tea



On **Monday, Dec. 11 at 2 p.m.** in the PAC, Women’s Tea participants will celebrate the holidays with a special event. Each of us is invited to bring a favorite item relevant to the holidays, which we will show, describe and then recount the memories it provokes. All women are welcome to join us!



## ArtScope Exhibit Continues



Our current ArtScope exhibit features paintings by David Munford, whose work deals with landscapes, and Michael Piotrowski, who is both a painter and printmaker.

Looking ahead to next month, on **Monday Jan. 8 at 7 p.m.** we will have the opening reception for the next exhibit, featuring two photographers from the Roost Art Gallery: Paul Bracey and Carl Cox.

*Creativity flourishes at Woodland Pond*

## Additional Special Friday Musical Treats



On **Friday, Dec. 1** the Starlight Trio returns at **3 p.m.** in the PAC with their signature sounds, along with their special guest, Deborah Martin, to sing a few numbers with them.

On **Friday, Dec. 29 at 3 p.m.** in the PAC we will enjoy a classical voice recital performed by classically trained soprano Alyssa DeLessio, a member of the Health Center staff for three years. A college graduate with a bachelors degree in classical voice, Alyssa’s program includes works by Donizetti, Brahms, Purcell, and other composers.

## Square Dancers Invite You!



Our professional caller, Sandy Corey, will be back to lead us in the fun of square dancing on **Wednesday, Dec. 13 and Wednesday, Dec. 27 at 3 p.m.** in the Art Studio. Mark your calendar!

It’s a great way to meet new people while getting some exercise and having fun. Questions? Call Deborah Moore at 845-419-3355.





Last month's Council Connections guest Bernice Hummel, a member of the Memoir Group, shared her life story to a jam packed PAC. Bernice's next door neighbor Diane Tepper shares her photo of Bernice with Tom and Carol Natoli and these impressions:

"Even though I know her so well as my next door neighbor, there were so many surprises about her family, her husband and her career. When she finished she was surrounded by many friends who so appreciate 100 year-young Bernice."

If you missed this interview it's on our Woodland Pond YouTube channel!"



Several residents and President/CEO Michelle Gramoglia attended the Ulster County Chamber of Commerce Breakfast, sponsored by Woodland Pond and held at the Wiltwyck Golf Club. Guest speaker SUNY NP President Darrell P. Wheeler invited Chamber members to speak to business students in their classrooms about making a difference upon graduation. Dr. Wheeler's message and creative ideas were well received. Thank you Michelle, for including WP residents to this great event.

Article and Photo by Diane Tepper]

## Woodland Life Travels To ...

At right: Lea and Yakov Pipman sent this photo and message from their home country of Argentina where they are traveling: "We visited the "Parque de la Memoria" at the shore of Buenos Aires, a monumental display of the names of those killed and 'disappeared' during the darkest years of state terror in Argentina in the 1970's. We feel that this is in the league of things that we and many of our relatives and friends cannot forget."



\*\*\*\*\*



At left: from Marilyn Mallue comes this interesting tidbit from her recent trip: "I was in Williamsburg, Virginia last month and found Thomas Jefferson reading the Woodland Pondnewsletter!"

\*\*\*\*\*

Wayne Lavender brought a copy of Woodland Life along on his recent trip to Scottsdale, Arizona.



If you are planning a trip to an interesting location (preferably out of the immediate local area), tuck a copy of Woodland Life in your suitcase, send a photo of yourself with the newsletter, and it may be shared in a future issue. Let's see to where in the world our newsletter next travels!

## This Month's Crafting Workshops

June Finer will lead a Holiday Wrapping Paper workshop on **Tuesday Dec. 5 at 2:15 p.m.** in the Art Studio to create decorative wrapping paper out of any old paper using the simple technique of potato cuts.



Terry Voightlaender returns for two more free holiday card-making sessions on **Dec. 7** and **Dec. 21 at 10:30 a.m.** in the Art Studio that will feature Christmas and New Year's holiday cards.

On **Sunday, Dec. 10 at 3 p.m.** in the Art Studio, Kitty Mitchell will offer a free class offered on the construction of brooches similar to those pictured. Participants will chose from an assortment of fabrics, lace and embellishments. The only requirement is that you are able to hand sew straight stitches. Class is limited to 8 participants. Sign up at Concierge to attend.



Kitty will offer an additional craft workshop **Wednesday, Dec. 13 at 1 p.m** in the Art Studio, where you can learn to make a charming angel from an egg crate and 2 circles of fabric! All supplies included, participant must be able to hand sew a simple gathering stitch. Class is limited to 8.



Michele Caccavano shares these photos she took on our campus, edited to look like watercolor paintings.

At right: Steady progress continues on the new cottages under construction across from parking lot 1.

[Photo by Barbara Hallam]







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Want to share the  
newsletter with your  
family and friends?

They can read it  
online at  
[www.wpatnp.org](http://www.wpatnp.org)

## Celebrate New Year's Eve With Your Neighbors!

Ring in the New Year with your neighbors during an evening of fun and fellowship as we usher in 2024 on **Sunday, Dec. 31**. The festivities begin at **7 p.m.** in the PAC with a concert film presentation of *The Nutcracker Ballet*, then the festivities move to the Pub and Game Room for a party beginning at **9 p.m.**



You are invited to bring your favorite hot or cold hors d'oeuvres, drinks and sweets to share. Champagne, glasses, napkins, plates and utensils will be provided.

### *December Highlights at a Glance*

- Friday, Dec. 1 at 3 p.m.** - Live Music with *Starlight Trio* [PAC]
- Monday, Dec. 4 at 3 p.m.** - Annual Tree Lighting - Lobby
- Thursday, Dec. 7 at 4 p.m.** - 1st Night Hanukkah Program w/ Dulcimers - [PAC]
- Friday, Dec. 8 at 3 p.m.** - Dulcimer Players Holiday Concert [PAC]
- Monday, Dec. 11 at 2 p.m.** - Women's Holiday Tea [PAC]
- Monday, Dec. 11 at 3 p.m.** - Pondalier Concert (Health Center Great Room)
- Monday, Dec. 11 at 7 p.m.** - IBM Chorus Holiday Concert [PAC]
- Wednesday, Dec. 13 at 7 p.m.** - Pondalier Concert [PAC]
- Thursday, Dec. 14 at 4 p.m.** - Last Night Hanukkah Program - [Classroom]
- Friday, Dec. 15 at 3 p.m.** - Pondalier Concert [PAC]
- Monday, Dec. 18 at 6:30 p.m.** - Jazz Pioneers Holiday Concert [HC Great Room]
- Tuesday, Dec. 19 at 2 p.m.** - SusComm Program: Webinar: *Endocrine Disruptors in Plastics* [PAC]
- Wednesday, Dec. 20 at 1 p.m.** - Shalom Space Guest Lecture [PAC]
- Wednesday, Dec. 20 at 7 p.m.** - HV Flute Ensemble Holiday Concert [PAC]
- Friday, Dec. 22 at 3 p.m.** - Harmony Tuba Quartet & Horns From the Gunks Holiday Concert [PAC]
- Friday, Dec. 29 at 3 p.m.** - Classical Vocal Recital: Alyssa DeLessio [PAC]
- Sunday, Dec. 31 at 7 p.m.** - New Year's Eve Concert DVD in PAC, followed by Party at 9 p.m. in the Pub/Game Room

