

Words of Worth

Worth Hartman, Chaplain

“Love Came Down at Christmas”

I send my greetings in this season of Advent as we prepare for the coming of Christmas. The village is decorated with many doors and shelves bright and dressed up, gifts are being bought and cards sent. More important than these outward preparations and celebrations is the preparation that goes on within, preparing ourselves inwardly and spiritually to receive the Christ child, anew, in our hearts. As the Christmas hymn says, “*O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray. Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.*” How are we preparing spiritually for Christ’s coming?

This Sunday we light the fourth candle of Advent, the “Love” candle. We hear these words of scripture, “*God’s love was revealed among us in this way. God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son...*” *I John 4:9, 10* It is my hope and prayer that each one of you be filled with God’s wonderful, healing love this season. God’s love is shown to us in the gift of Jesus. This gift is too big for our stockings, too small for our garages, but just right for our needs. God’s love came down at Christmas. This Christmas season let’s offer our prayers, sing our carols, give our gifts and celebrate in God’s love. Christina Rossetti captures the Christmas theme of love in this poem:

*Love came down at Christmas, love all lovely, love divine,
Love was born at Christmas—star and angels gave the sign....
Love shall be our token, love be yours and love be mine,
Love to God and neighbor, love for prayer and gift and sign.*

Vespers links—part 1 and part 2:

<https://youtu.be/EZRKtGFoL7M>
<https://youtu.be/5N7MYuw7Q9Y>

Winter Season Safety Precautions

Wilda Duncan



As we enter the winter season and Mother Nature challenges, it is imperative that ALL residents use caution when going outside. Look down and see what the surface looks like before taking a step. If it is questionable and does not appear to be treated, please step back inside and contact customer service to explain the problem location and ask that grounds, maintenance or security be notified. Our grounds and maintenance staff work very hard to treat the entrances, sidewalks, driveways and streets. At times, an area may need to be treated again and we appreciate your help in letting us know.

Snow & Ice Removal Process

Westminster Village is no different than other communities when it comes to actions being taken during the winter season for clearing roads and sidewalks. As a general rule, this is the process:

- ◆ When snow starts to fall during the night, staff arrives very early and begins removal process.
- ◆ All of the emergency entrances/exits take priority and must be cleared first and must remain cleared. This includes all of the main streets and driveways up to buildings to allow safe access for emergency vehicles.
- ◆ Parking lots and sidewalks are cleared and treated after the main streets and driveways.
- ◆ Private home driveways and side-

walks are cleared and treated next if the snow has stopped.

- ◆ Please remember that with heavy ice, it is impossible to completely remove all of the ice from roads and sidewalks. Residents, staff and visitors must use extra care when moving about the campus.
- ◆ Independent cottage residents are advised to keep ice melting products at your home to spread if you must go out prior to our arrival.
- ◆ If you live in a cottage home and have an appointment you cannot reschedule and your driveway needs cleared by a certain time, please call Sharon at ext. 2200. If no answer, call customer service and ask to notify grounds/maintenance. They will do everything possible to get your driveway cleared.
- ◆ Secondary sidewalks including those that are along the interior streets and courtyards between buildings are not a priority. For that reason, look out first to see if they are clear before going out. If they are not clear, you must take a different route. They will be shoveled and ice melting products will be put down when time allows, but not a priority.
- ◆ When pulling up to the sidewalk to park, you are asked not to pull across the sidewalk. Leaving the sidewalk open allows the staff to clear the entire sidewalk instead of having to go around the nose of vehicles.

Social Hall Construction

Wilda Duncan

Turner Construction advises us that on Tuesday and Wednesday next week, the large trusses for the Social Hall will be installed. This means there will be a large crane in the parking lot at the site. We will block the parking lot and for safety those who normally walk through it will not be allowed to cross into the area. However, it should be quite a site to see at a distance.

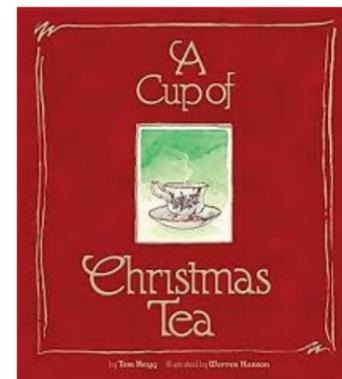


Westminster
Village North

Around the Village

A Publication of Westminster Village North

December 18, 2020



Every year, Shelley Rauch has read this story to residents in Independent Living. This year, we share it with you through the newsletter. We hope you enjoy.

The log was in the fireplace, all spiced and set to burn. At last, the yearly Christmas race was in the clubhouse turn. The cards were in the mail, all the gifts beneath the tree, And 30 days reprieve ‘till VISA could catch up with me.

And though smug satisfaction seemed the order of the day, something was still nagging me, and would not go away. A week before, I got a letter from my old Great Aunt. It read: “Of course, I’ll understand completely if you can’t, but if you find you have some time, how wonderful if we could have a little chat and share a cup of Christmas tea.”

She’s had a mild stroke that year which crippled her left side. Though housebound now, my folks had said it hadn’t hurt her pride. They said: “She’d love to see you. What a nice thing it would be for you to go and maybe have a cup of Christmas tea.”

But boy! I didn’t want to go! Oh, what a bitter pill to see an old relation and how far she’d gone downhill. I remembered her as vigorous as funny and as bright. I remembered Christmas Eves when she regaled us half the night. I didn’t want to risk all that. I didn’t want the pain. I didn’t need to be depressed. I didn’t need the strain. And what about my

brother. Why not him? She’s his Aunt, too! I thought I had it justified, but then before I knew, the reasons not to go I so painstakingly had built were cracking wide and crumbling in an acid rain of guilt.

I put on boots and gloves and cap, shame stinging every pore, and armed with squeegee, sand and map, I went out my front door.

I drove in from the suburbs to the older part of town. The pastels of the newer homes gave way to gray and brown. I had that disembodied feeling as the car pulled up and stopped beside the wooden house that held the Christmas cup. How I got up to the door, I really couldn’t tell...

I watched my hand rise up and press the button of the bell. I waited, aided by my nervous rocking to and fro, and just as I was thinking I should turn around and go, I heard the rattle of the china in the hutch against the wall. The triple beat of two feet and a crutch came down the hall.

The clicking of the door latch and the sliding of the bolt, and a little swollen struggle popped it open with a jolt. She stood there, pale and tiny, looking fragile as an egg ... I forced myself from staring at the brace that held her leg. And though her thick bifocals seemed to crack and spread her eyes, Their milky and refracted depths lit up with young surprise.

“Come in! Come in!” She laughed the words. She took me by the hand, and all my fears dissolved away, as if by her command. We went inside and then, before I knew how to react, before my eyes and ears and nose was Christmas past ... alive ... intact: the scent of candied oranges of cinnamon and pine, the antique wooden soldiers in their military line; The porcelain Nativity I’d always loved so much ... The Dresden and the crystal I’d been told I mustn’t touch ...

My spirit fairly bolted, like a child out of class and danced among the ornaments of calico and glass. Like magic, I was six again, deep in a Christmas spell, steeped in the million memories the boy inside I knew well.

And here, among old Christmas cards, so lovingly displayed, a special place of honor for the ones we kids had made. And there, beside her rocking chair, the center of it all... My Great Aunt stood and said how nice it was I’d come to call. I sat ... and rattled on about ... the weather and the flu. She listened very patiently, then smiled and said, “What’s new?” Thoughts and words began to flow, I started making sense. I lost the phony breeziness I use when I get tense. She was still passionately interested in everything I did. She was positive. Encouraging. Like when I was a kid. Simple generalities still sent her into fits. She demanded the specifics. The particulars. The bits. We talked about the limitations that she’d had to face. She spoke with utter candor and with humor and good grace. Then, defying the reality of crutch and straightened knee, on wings of hospitality, she flew to brew the tea. I saw along with feelings that I hadn’t felt in year. I looked around at Christmas through a thick, not blur or tears. And the candles and the holly she’d arranged on every shelf ... The impossibly good cookies she still somehow baked herself.

But these rich, tactile memories became quire pale and thin when measured by the Christmas my Great Aunt had kept deep within. Her body halved and nearly spent, but my Great Aunt was hole. I saw a Christmas miracle ... the triumph of a soul.

The triple beat of two feet and a crutch came down the hall. The rattle of the china in the hutch against the wall. She poured two cups. She smiled, and then she handed one to me, And then, we settled back and had a cup of Christmas tea.

A Week at a Glance... Health Center

Debbi Johnson

Please check with your activities staff daily activities at this time.

The Westminster Family From the Resident Council

More than ever the residents of WVN are needing the comfort and sharing feeling that the Christmas season bestows. Sadly, the virus has stripped that from us. Being forced to distance ourselves from our friends and acquaintances is a painful reminder of this sad situation.

The Resident Council also feels the hardship of not being able to mingle with our friends. But rest assured we have you in our thoughts and look forward to the upcoming year when this pest has been subdued and we all can resume being unified again.

All of the Council members wish our residents and their extended families a healthy, love filled holiday season and a return to normalcy in 2021!

Holiday Visitation

As you have probably seen in the news, coronavirus cases continue to rise, and it is believed that small group gatherings are a major contributor. For this reason, the ISDH recommends against families taking residents to their homes for holiday events. Any resident who elects to participate in holiday gatherings away from the community will need to isolate for 14 days upon their return.

We regret that we have to impose these regulations, but we are charged with keeping each and every resident and staff safe. It has been a volatile time!

Please speak to your nurse if you plan to leave assisted living. In Independent Living, please contact the receptionist so she can log residents away from the community. If you have questions, please contact Shannon Poole at ext. 3570

A Week at a Glance... Assisted Living

Jill Armantrout

Saturday, December 19

Happy Birthday-Jean Smith

1:00 (1-3) Door to door: Daily chronicles, Mail, Roll & stroll (prescheduled)

2:45 (2:45-4:45) Door to door: Daily chronicles/trivia, Mail, Art pack

Sunday, December 20

1:00 (1-3) You Tube Vespers available

Devotions

Distributed Popcorn to your door

1:00 Rolling Christmas trivia, Music, Games & Prizes (1-4)

Monday, December 21

1:00 (1-4) Daily chronicles/mail delivery, bingo #'s distributed, Grocery delivery

Tuesday, December 22

1:00 Ugly Sweater Contest (1-4)

1:00 (1-4) Door to door: Daily chronicles, hot cocoa or hot cider, mail & bingo #'s distributed
5:30 (5:30-6:30) Well check calls

Wednesday, December 23

Happy Birthday-Anne Zukel

1:00 (1-4) Door to door: Daily chronicles, crafts /art project, mail & bingo #'s distributed
1:00 Door Decorating Contest Judging

Thursday, December 24

Christmas Eve

1:00 (1-4) Door to door: Daily chronicles, cook's corner: holiday treat, reminisce, mail & bingo #'s distributed

1:00 Visits from Santa and his crew!
5:30 (5:30-6:30) Well check calls

Friday, December 25

Christmas Day

10:00 *Grocery Orders due

1:00 (1-3) Door to door: Daily chronicles, printed devotions, travel club, bingo prizes
1:00 25 days of Christmas Scavenger Hunt Prizes
3:00 (3-4) Door to door Mocktails/cocktails & strolling Christmas Music

In Memoriam

Jim Coyle

Bud Dantic

Celia Katz

Joyce Voelpel

Don Wissman

Please keep their families and loved ones in your thoughts and prayers.

Supporting the Foundation

Marty Krug

If you are looking for a charitable organization to support before the end of the year, please consider The Westminster Foundation. Giving to the Foundation is easier than ever. You can go the WVN website, click on the "About" tab then scroll down and choose Westminster Foundation. Using your credit card, you can make a contribution to the Social Hall or to the general Foundation fund – which can be in honor of memory of someone. Donations of cash or check can be placed in the Foundation's box at the reception desk in Tamarack. If you have any questions, please call Marty at extension 3460.

COVID-19 Vaccine

We have learned that residents who live in Independent Living will not be considered within the scope for the first round of vaccine, as identified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). We are working with Leading Age to understand the new regulations and will let you know as soon as we have more information.

Residents in Assisted Living and our Health Center should expect to receive the vaccine in the first round. We will have more information to come.

Bargain Auction

Items 51-60

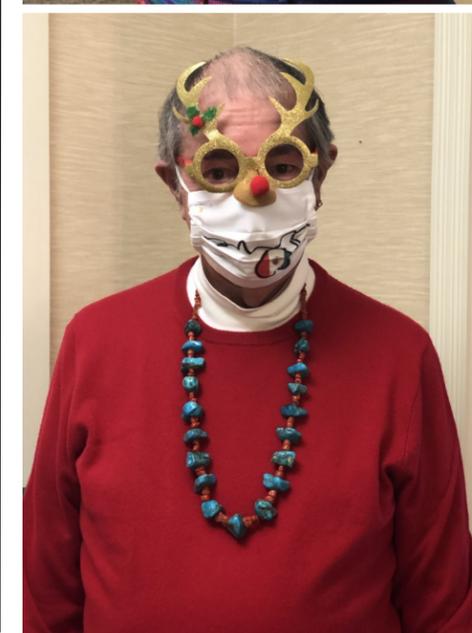
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDirOZW3VZKw_XsNCw03cg



Independent Living Notes

Laurie Wilson

Add to the Story: On Monday, December 21 I will begin a story that will be passed on to each resident! You will add ONE paragraph to that story and pass it to the next person on the list with the story. There will be more detailed instructions with the initial story. There will be one story for cottagers and a different story for Tamarack /Elm residents. Please don't break the chain—even if you choose not to write a paragraph, please pass it to the next person on the list. Be creative and fun! At the end I will publish both stories!



A Week at A Glance Independent Living

Laurie Wilson

Sunday, December 20

Vespers: Divided into 2 parts this week:

<https://youtu.be/EZRKtGFoL7M>
<https://youtu.be/5N7MYuw7Q9Y>

Monday, December 21

Add to Story begins—please complete by Dec 31.

There will not be an ornament exchange.

Thursday, December 24

4:00 Turn on your luminaria lights

6:00 pm people around the world will be ringing bells to "help Santa fly" around this very difficult year. I am asking all of you to do the same. Open your doors at 6pm and ring bells, or if you do not have a bell, please clap spoons or something.

Friday, December 25

12 Days of Christmas: Each day you will begin receiving something representing the song *12 days of Christmas*. Note: the weekend/holiday gifts may be distributed early.

We will also ring bells at noon on New Year's eve to ring in a happier, healthier 2021!

IT Update

IT will be conducting quarterly maintenance on our systems beginning at 6pm on Friday, Dec 11. During this time you might experience intermittent access issues. Please be patient with us as we work hard to keep our systems secure and up to date.

Lost Bracelet

Unfortunately I have lost a special bracelet. If you find it in one of your cookie boxes, luminaria bags, or anywhere else—please let me know:)

Laurie ext. 1053