

Our Lifelong Learning Theme of the Month is:

The Winter Season

The weather has influenced significant events throughout history. Changes in the weather are normal. We all have expectations for each season and are often surprised when extreme weather wreaks havoc with our best-laid plans. Throughout history, fierce winds, raging monsoons, and other weather changes have changed the tides of entire civilizations.



Historical Winter Events

Americans have witnessed many significant firsts, from the Boston Tea Party to the first manned mission to the moon. Recalling past events can bring a new awareness to the present and help us use creative thinking to understand what happened and how significant events can change our world.



Norman Rockwell's Happy New Year

As America grew and we put our own spin on a New Year celebration, one artist helped us visualize the goodness of the holiday. The idea of a "Norman Rockwell New Year's Celebration" is firmly established in American culture. His imagery and humor remain important in how we "picture" a New Year's Day celebration.



The Gift of the Magi by O. Henry

The story tells of a young husband and wife who are struggling to buy secret Christmas gifts for each other with very little money. As a sentimental story with a moral lesson about gift-giving, it has been especially popular at Christmas. The plot and ending are well-known.

Join us for some interesting monthly topics!

It's all happening here, in our Social Room.


BERKSHIRE
HATHAWAY
HomeServices
Starck Real Estate



Dee Toberman-Gamble

Broker, SRES

Starck Real Estate
330 W Virginia Street
Crystal Lake, IL 60014
O 815.459.5900 | C 847.322.7929
F 847.829.9278
dtoberman@StarckRE.com
DeeToberman.com | StarckRE.com

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 BROKERO CITY INC.
REAL ESTATE BROKERAGE

Bill Spencer 

Broker
bill@brokerocity.com
www.bill-spencer.com

601 W. Main St.
West Dundee, IL 60118
Direct: (815) 382-7300
Fax: (847) 897-4877

The Village Voice



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Christmas Stories



It had been a rough year: A single father with two young daughters, I was out of work and out of money. With little choice, I told the girls, "It looks like our gift from Santa will be the gift of our love for each other." Then a miracle occurred. I won \$1,000 in a contest. I kept it a secret as I went on a shopping spree and spent Christmas Eve wrapping presents for my girls, all the time thinking, *Boy, will they be surprised!* The next morning, I went to the living room to lay out the gifts and froze. There were already dozens of presents under the Christmas tree—all with my name on them. My girls had felt bad that Dad wouldn't be getting any gifts, so they'd carefully wrapped their favorite stuffed animals and other toys so that I would have a merry Christmas. As I stared at the gifts through tear-filled eyes, I promised myself to never again doubt Santa Claus.—*Andrew Shecktor, Berwick, Pennsylvania*















As my son Mike and I drove to the mall, we passed a Salvation Army Santa ringing his bell. "Mike," I said, "there's Santa!" He shook his head. "That's just some guy in a Santa suit," he said. It saddened me to think that maybe my son no longer believed in Santa, and we drove the rest of the way in silence. At the mall, we spotted another Santa greeting young believers. Suddenly, Mike took off toward him. Turning back to me, he shouted, "Now, there's the real Santa!"—*Michael E. Fahey, Huntley, Illinois.*

One Christmas Eve, there was a knock on our door. It was Santa—red suit, white beard, and all! My parents invited him in, and he proceeded to pose for photos with us and eat our cookies. After a while, he wished us all a merry Christmas and left. Once the door closed behind him, we all looked at one another and asked, "Who ordered the Santa?" To this day, we have no idea who that man was.—*Kathy Brody, Chino Hills, California.*

On Christmas Eve, my husband went next door to retrieve a gift for our son and daughter. I had just slipped into bed when I heard him return. Our three-year-old son also heard him, and soon he was in my bed clinging to me, nervously excited that Santa was in the house. We waited in silence for a few minutes, until he whispered, "Too bad Daddy can't be here."—*Connie Chamberlain, West Lafayette, Indiana*

It was December 1935, during the Depression. Although she was a single mother of three with little money, Mom never turned away any hungry person who came to our door. One day, she welcomed in a man with white hair and a great white beard. While she fixed him a meal, he asked me in the kindest way, "What do you want for Christmas?" "Skates," I quickly replied. "You'll get them," he assured me. I was elated. Not so my mother—she couldn't afford them. Christmas morning came, and there were no skates under the tree. Mother tried to explain that I wouldn't be getting them, but I knew differently. I ran to the front door and threw it open, and there on the porch was a pair of skates. My mother later told me that a family friend had left them there for me. But I know it was Santa.—*Ziza Bivens, Port Orchard, Washington*



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>DON'T MISS OUR NEW YEARS EVE CELEBRATIONS On the 31st: 4:30 Cocktail Hour, 6:30 Sweet Table, 7:30 White Elephant</p> 	<p>Resident's Birthdays</p> <p>Dorothy Smith 2nd #154 Joseph Sheehan 4th #100 Kathleen Erickson 10th #350 Carol Jones 10th #136 Marilyn Giuliano 13th #212 Eric Fjortoft 14th #332 Diane Schaefer 16th #104</p>	<p>Resident's Birthdays</p> <p>Geraldine Rodman 17th #260 Karl Burkholder 24th #214 Pat Sullivan 30th #304</p> <p>Employee's Birthdays</p> <p>Scott Hart 9th Marcia Calendo 17th Edward Martinez 27th</p> 	<p>Sign up for Secret Santa and our Christmas Party!</p>  <p><i>Details at the sign up desk.</i></p>	 <p><i>Wishing You All Happiness, Good health and Joy this Season!</i></p>	<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 9:00 Beauty Shop ◆ 1:30 Dime Bingo ◆ 3:00 Village Singers ◆ 4:00 Happy Hour 	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 2:00 Game Time In the Social Room Learn new games or start some social time.
<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 11:00 St. Margaret Mary Communion Service ◆ 11:30 Coffee Hour & Pastries 	<p>4</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 1:30 Lifelong Learning: Historical Winter Events 	<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 10:30 Tai Chi ◆ 1:30 Bean Bag Baseball ◆ 3:00 Rosary & Prayers 	<p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 1:00 Owner / Resident Meeting ◆ 2:00 Giant Crossword 	<p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 9:00 Manicurist ◆ 1:00 Wii Bowling ◆ 1:30 In Home Exercise 	<p>8</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 1:30 The Prairie Voices Christmas sing along! ◆ 3:00 Village Singers ◆ 4:00 Happy Hour 	<p>9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 2:00 Game Time In the Social Room
<p>10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 11:00 St. Margaret Mary Communion Service ◆ 11:30 Coffee Hour & Pastries 	<p>11</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 1:00 Come see the Carolers! Valeo Adademy 5th-8th grade sing for us! ◆ 3:00 Lifelong Learning: The Gift of the Magi 	<p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 10:30 Tai Chi ◆ 1:30 Bean Bag Baseball ◆ 3:00 Rosary & Prayers 	<p>13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 10:00 Board Meeting ◆ 1:30 Wheel of Fortune 	<p>14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 9:00 Manicurist ◆ 1:00 Wii Bowling ◆ 1:30 In Home Exercise 	<p>15</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 1:30 LIVE MUSIC: Christmas Around the World w/ Dan Sullivan ◆ 3:00 Village Singers ◆ 4:00 Happy Hour 	<p>16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 2:00 Game Time In the Social Room ◆ 6:30 DIME BINGO! 
<p>17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 11:00 St. Margaret Mary Communion Service ◆ 11:30 Coffee Hour & Pastries 	<p>18</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 1:30 Let's Celebrate This Month's Birthdays 	<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 10:30 Tai Chi ◆ 12:00 Book Club ◆ 1:30 Bean Bag Baseball ◆ 3:00 Rosary & Prayers 	<p>20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 1:00 Food Meeting ◆ 1:30 Activities Meeting <p>All residents are invited to attend these meetings in our Social Room.</p>	<p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 10:00 Confession ◆ 10:30 Holy Mass (St. Margaret Mary, will be here at Village Green) ◆ 1:00 Wii Bowling ◆ 1:30 In Home Exercise 	<p>22</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 9:00 Beauty Shop ◆ 1:30 Resident Christmas Party 	<p>23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 2:00 Game Time In the Social Room
<p>24 CHRISTMAS EVE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 11:00 Communion Service ◆ 11:30 Coffee/Pastries 	<p>25 CHRISTMAS DAY</p> 	<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 10:30 Tai Chi ◆ 1:30 Bean Bag Baseball ◆ 3:00 Rosary & Prayers <p><i>Rob is out 26th-29th</i></p>	<p>27</p> <p>Please don't miss our live music and carolers this month! Highlight your calendar!</p>	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 9:00 Manicurist ◆ 1:00 Wii Bowling ◆ 1:30 In Home Exercise 	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 3:00 Village Singers ◆ 4:00 Happy Hour 	<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 2:00 Game Time In the Social Room
<p>31 NEW YEARS EVE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 11:00 Communion Service ◆ 11:30 Coffee/Pastries 						