EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Store Window Wonders

The joy of the holidays goes on display each season in beautifully decorated department store windows. I have very fond memories of strolling the streets in awe of the beautiful window displays. As a family we took great pride in knowing that we have gone above and beyond to make our home look extremely festive.

Large windows became a feature of storefronts in the 1800s, when the Industrial Revolution made plate glass more widely available. Store owners used the space to showcase merchandise. Looking for ways to lure window-shoppers into their stores, retailers began to get creative with their displays, especially during the holidays.

Macy’s in New York City was one of the first department stores to deck their windows with a holiday theme in 1874, creating a scene with wind-up toys and porcelain dolls that drew crowds. Other stores began decorating their windows with a seasonal flair, and a beloved holiday tradition was born.

By the turn of the 20th century, these displays grew increasingly elaborate as stores competed to attract the biggest crowds. Many windows featured eye-catching innovations, including animated figures, steam-powered moving parts and electric lights. Famous artists, such as Salvador Dali and Andy Warhol, were sometimes hired to design the intricate exhibits. The unveiling of a store’s windows became a grand production.

Today, large retailers in major cities have teams of designers who plan each season’s window spectacle.

It is my wish that this Holiday Season finds you blessed and in good health and that you are surrounded by those you love and hold dear. I personally feel very blessed to share this time of year with the staff and residents at Miramont Pointe, you all are a part of making the holidays special.

Happy Holidays,

Julie Taylor
Executive Director

SANTA BREAKFAST APPROACHING QUICKLY

Resident, Staff and Loved Ones
Santa Breakfast and Festival
Saturday, Dec. 14
8-11 a.m.

Breakfast served: 8-11 a.m.
Gingerbread Houses: 8-11 a.m.
Caricature Artist: 8-11 a.m.
Holiday Bazaar: 8-11 a.m.
Christmas Carolers: 8:30-11 a.m.
Pictures with Santa: 9-11 a.m.
Therapy Bunnies: 9-11 a.m.

Miramont Pointe
503-698-1600
Valet Available
8-11 a.m.

at Miramont Pointe
RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT SPECIAL HOLIDAY MEMORIES AND TRADITIONS

Cora Mae G.

When I was a little girl, during WWII, my parents always had the family Thanksgiving dinner. Our family at that time included members of all ages — from 3 to 70. There would always be guests, like servicemen from Camp Adair, college friends and others to share with us. My father, at that time, was a radio engineer. He would set up his equipment, and mother would be Master of Ceremonies. She would go around the big table interviewing all of us one at a time. These tapes remain with us, and we can hear these family members talking to us from the past. You can imagine how precious these tapes are to my brother and me, the only ones left! Some things are just priceless, aren’t they?

Julie D.

The first Sunday of December, my mother hosts the whole family for an early Christmas Dinner. She gives each family money, and as a family, we are to decide how we would like to share this with our community. On Christmas Day, we share how our family spent our money. I am always in awe at the variety of ways our family pays it forward. We have bought bikes for low socioeconomic schools, provided a gift card and babysitting for foster parents to have a date night and bought blankets and provided dog food for a local humane shelter. We have served in soup kitchens, buying all the supplies for the meal. We have also bought goats and chickens for families. It is always a gentle reminder of the true spirit of Christmas.

Joan L.

Our house consisted of mama, grandma, Johnnie (brother) and me. We trimmed the tree as a family. We got to open one or two presents, sometimes more, on Christmas Eve. My dad usually visited us at Christmas, drank until he passed out and we and other guests carried him out. This was embarrassing to us kids! He gave us money, one of our favorite gifts!

Maurine A.

1948 — Christmas is coming: My brother (9) and I (11) stand transfixed in front of the most wonderful thing we have ever seen, a beautiful Black English Ridge bicycle in Monkey Wards window, with three speeds and hand brakes! Wow! 1948 Christmas Eve — Mom comes to my room to explain that if I hear anything it is them bringing in Ron’s new bicycle. I understand, I already have a bike, he doesn’t. 1948 — Christmas morning — Two beautiful fabulous Black English Ridge bicycles parked by the tree. I’m 82, Ron 80, and we still remember that as the best Christmas ever!

Janet W.

When people sent large numbers of Christmas cards, I would design mine and get out my silkscreen equipment to print about 100. When they were signed with greetings, stuffed into envelopes and addressed, the children would make theirs from linoleum blocks or potato stamps — depending on age and skills. Then, there were lots of cookies and we were off to the Christmas tree farm to cut two trees — one very large one for the living room and a smaller one for outside hung with berry ropes and seed balls made by the children for our many wild birds.

Wendy S.

On Christmas morning, I always made breakfast pizza. My family loved it! Breakfast pizza was discovered in Iowa, where I was born and my family still lives. While it’s not a popular food in the Northwest, it’s loved in Iowa! I’d be happy to share the recipe.

Orville and Emily B.

For many years (over 60), Emily and I had the holiday dinners, including my parents in our Milwaukie (Oak Grove) home. In the last 10 years, the children have taken over, Tom for Thanksgiving and Kelly for Christmas. Matt and Kathy hold many holiday get-togethers as well. Emily and I continued our Christmas open house on Christmas Eve until we sold the homestead and became Miramont Pointe residents.
LaRene P.

Growing up, there were 15-20 people for every holiday dinner. My mother’s Waldorf Salad was required for every family dinner. Mother created the dressing, cooking and cooling ingredients and mixing them together. We all tried to make mother’s Waldorf Salad but none of us could make it taste as good as hers. I still have the recipe.

Lorraine W.

When my son was almost four years old, he came in from playing with friends; he was in tears, telling me some children told him there was no “Santa.” Oh dear, what to do! Then I remembered a family near us had a small farm. Upon visiting them, they gave us a small bundle of straw. On Christmas Eve, we put straw on our roof-patio and by the indoor fireplace. When our son woke on Christmas, he saw the straw before toys, so happy that now he knew Santa and the reindeer had come. This event was talked about for several years as my son grew up!

Sue B.

The Christmas season, for me, begins on Dec. 13. This is St. Lucia Day, which is celebrated in Scandinavia. The night before, I bake saffron buns. Early the next morning, I make coffee and place a crown of candles on my head. Then I take the buns and coffee to whomever I think might enjoy this. In past years, I would drive to my parents’ house and wake them up! My mother always acted surprised and pleased.

Darryl B.

For several years we took our four kids and the grandkids on an expedition up the Clackamas River to cut our Christmas trees. We always hoped for snow and brought along sleds and dishes to slide on. We would build a fire and drink hot cocoa after we had found and cut down a tree for each family. Sometimes, we would take bread and a string of cranberries to decorate a tree for the birds. Sometimes we would conclude the day with a snowball fight.

Sue B.

Resident

MP THEATER

This group of dedicated residents provided an entertaining and jovial day of laughter. Thank you again to Muriel L., Monya G., Charlie C., Cora Mae and Ed G. and Jerry B. Once again, you have proved that “laughter is ageless.” This group will resume practice in January. Reach out to Julie Dunn if you are interested in joining the group.

AROMATHERAPY AND MEMORY

Have you ever caught a whiff of perfume that reminded you of a loved one? Or smelled vanilla and recalled eating freshly baked cookies as a child? Smell is one of the most powerful of the five senses and closely tied to memory. Breathing in scents to tap into pleasant memories is a form of aromatherapy.

Ancient cultures in China, India, Egypt and Greece added aromatic plants to balms and oils, believing they had physical and psychological benefits. In the early 1900s, a French chemist coined the term “aromatherapy” and wrote a book on the medical use of natural essential oils and extracts from plants.

Aromatherapy often involves breathing in essential oils or applying them to your skin, but it can also be as simple as smelling favorite foods or flowers, as well as using scented lotions, soaps or sprays. Odors activate areas of the brain that control emotions, which is why scents can stir such vivid memories. When a fragrance evokes happy memories, it can have a calming effect and boost mood.

Peppermint, vanilla, lavender, lemon, and eucalyptus are some of the scents used in aromatherapy.

DEC. 13: RESIDENT COUNCIL AT 2 P.M. IN THE TALBERT ROOM

All residents are encouraged to attend and hear the latest from our staff and their team.

This is our opportunity to ask questions and make suggestions.
EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: WENDY S.

I was born in Eastern Iowa, but grew-up in Vancouver, Wash. I married in August 1989, and we had two boys, Ben and Jake. As a family, we spent much of our time outdoors, camping, hunting, fishing, water skiing, dirt-bike riding, hiking and mushroom hunting. Over the years, we accumulated 12 rental homes and managed them ourselves.

I was hired at Miramont Pointe in January 2006. My first day was on my birthday, Jan. 24, and I was 41 years old. I loved my job at the front desk, however, after five years, I had the opportunity to apply for the Business Office Manager position. I was fortunate to be chosen for the job.

A lot has happened and changed in my life during these almost 14 years while with Miramont Pointe. As some of you know, my youngest son, Jake, was diagnosed with brain cancer in late 2009. We spent 2010 battling that awful disease. While most of the next few years were spent dealing with his recovery; we were grateful that he was still with us. In January 2014, the brain tumor (Medulloblastoma) had returned. This time, there were two, and it spread to his spine. We were blessed beyond measure with his beautiful soul in our lives, but God called him home six days after his 20th birthday on Oct. 16, 2014.

Our oldest son, Ben, and his wife made us grandparents in March 2015 to a beautiful little girl, Autumn Stoneking. She has her dad’s face, her mom’s personality and her uncle Jake’s smile! What a true gift she is.

Unfortunately, while you continue to put one foot in front of the other, life is really just never the same after such a tragic loss. With great sorrow, my marriage of 29 years ended amicably in November 2018.

With the help of dear friends, my life and my faith in God, I am hopeful. I find joy in the life in front of me. I’m happy to work in such a beautiful place. I’m fortunate to have the opportunity to work less hours when my work-load allows, so I can enjoy gardening, the beach, my granddaughter and running my portion of the rental business.

I have a quote I say often to myself: “God has a plan. Trust it, live it, enjoy.”

RESIDENT BIRTHDAYS

Ruby A., 3rd
Greta N., 3rd
Marjorie M., 4th
Eldon B., 4th
Holland H., 4th
Robin J., 5th
Janice T., 9th
Virginia C., 15th
Leonard J., 19th
Erika D., 19th
Lois S., 20th
Mary L., 20th
Barbara W., 25th
Bill D., 25th

EMPLOYEE BIRTHDAYS

Dustin H., 2nd
Hudson B., 7th
Jamiah S., 10th
Dung N., 10th
Lizbeth R., 12th
Hannah H., 17th
Noreen A., 21st
Taylor S., 25th
Blake H., 28th
Dayna Marie Y., 29th
Jocelyn C., 30th

ANNIVERSARIES

Jim and Molly O., 12/27/1957

NEW RESIDENTS

• C.B. R., 620
• Betty R., 401
MICHAEL JACKSON WAS IN THE HOUSE FOR HALLOWEEN

KITCHEN OPENS ITS DOORS

A special thank you to Chef Haktor and his gifted staff. They graciously escorted residents through the kitchen giving them a brief but complete tour. This is always a very popular event. If you were unable to attend, we are planning another open kitchen in April.

INDULGING IN EGGNOG

Rich, creamy, sweet and spicy, eggnog is a favorite holiday treat.

Before evolving into the drink we know today, eggnog began as a medieval English punch called posset, which was served hot. Since its ingredients of milk, eggs, some type of alcohol, and spices were expensive, posset was reserved for special occasions and used when toasting to prosperity and good fortune.

In the 1700s, settlers brought their posset recipes with them to Colonial America. Historians believe the name “eggnog” emerged around this time and may derive from the word “noggin,” the term for a wooden cup used to serve drinks like posset, or “grog,” an alcoholic beverage.

Before the days of refrigeration, eggnog was more likely to be whipped up during the winter months. This led to it becoming a staple beverage served at holiday parties.

Along with homemade versions, more than 15 million gallons of commercially made eggnog are sold in the U.S. each year. The drink’s popularity has inspired a range of eggnog-flavored products, such as coffee, ice cream and baked goods. Dairy-free varieties of eggnog are also available.

DEC. 30: DECEMBER BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON AT 11:30 A.M. IN THE PACIFICA DINING ROOM

Chef Haktor and the Activity Department Staff have special plans for the December birthday honorees and their guests.

TRIM THE TREE AND WEAR YOUR HOLIDAY SWEATER

On Friday, Dec. 6, at 11 a.m., please join us in the Talbert Room to enjoy this MP holiday tradition. Enjoy Larson’s Bakery holiday cookies and help decorate the tree. The MP singers will be spreading the holiday cheer by singing some holiday favorites. You may enjoy the caroling or singalong. Please stop in and enjoy the festivities; this is always a wonderful way to kick off the season.
PREZ SEZ

Congratulations to our Miramont Players for their outstanding two performances for the enjoyment of residents and staff. Many hours of practice are dedicated by the participants; they are looking forward to “doing it again” and welcome your enjoying this activity.

As we close another year, we reflect on our accomplishments: the plans for our enjoyment by the Miramont Staff, the dedication of our many volunteers (we encourage more) and the friendships we share one with another.

A joyous Holiday Season to all!

Warmly
Fred

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK
@MiramontPointe

Visit facebook.com/MiramontPointe to see pictures and catch up on all the fun here at Miramont Pointe. This is a great way for family members and friends to stay connected!