

Upcoming holiday events at Calvin

Holidays are an exciting busy time at Calvin. Please join us for one of our many holiday traditions:

MerryMaker – Julie Moss will entertain in the Main Lounge on Sunday, December 28 at 2 p.m.

New Year's Party – ring in the 2009 New Year with noisemakers, food and entertainment from The Moonlighters on Wednesday, December 31 at 2 p.m.

Hollywood in the Heartland – speaker from the State Historical Society of Iowa talks about Iowa's involvement in movies and Iowa theaters on Thursday, January 8 at 10 a.m.

Men's Group Luncheon – this special luncheon will be held in honor of volunteer and coordinator Leo Cleeton on Monday, January 12 at 12:30 p.m.

Nintendo Wii – come play and have fun in the Main Lounge on Tuesday, January 13 at 1:30 p.m.

History Classes – Dick Hudson presents a history lesson in the Main Lounge on Tuesday, January 13 at 6:30 p.m.

Keepin' it County – dance around the rec room during line and country partner dancing on Monday, January 26 at 7 p.m.

visit us at www.calvincommunity.org or call 515.277.6141

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Calvin Connection

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Long time volunteer passes the torch

Leo Cleeton has been an active and committed volunteer at Calvin Community since January 1993. He has coordinated fellowship and program for the monthly Men's Group meetings. He has taken time to become personally acquainted with the men residing at Calvin Community and is a friend and encourager to them.

After 15 years of serving as the Men's Group Coordinator he has decided it is time not to lose touch with Calvin Community and his friends here, but to retire from the volunteer position he developed and supported for so many years.

It is our good fortune that Brian Cooney, who began volunteering at Calvin Community in 2006, will be coordinating future meetings.

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Resident Stew Stewart (L) and Leo Cleeton (R).

Letter from the president

By President & CEO, Edred Kingery

As the first snow of winter was falling, I was standing in the darkness of night listening. No traffic passed by on the road. No dogs barked in the distance. In the quietness of night made even quieter by the insulation of the snow cover I could hear the



President & CEO, Edred Kingery

sound of snowflakes falling gently on my shoulders. In winter I realized, we are reminded of a promise made long ago.

In the darkness, in the quiet of winter when the earth was asleep, a star appeared lighting a path for kings from the Orient.

In the darkness, in the quiet of the stable lying in a manger shepherds gazed upon a baby born in the night. The birth of the Christ child lights a path to our promise. It is in that light, if we so choose, where we will find our promise of new life.

In the darkness of our lives whenever we face hunger, prejudice, the loss of jobs, poverty, complications in a marriage, illness, political upheaval and unrest, or economic downturns let us remember each of us was given a light.

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New residents feel at home for the holidays

Christmas is special to Mary and Gerald Rickert – they got engaged on Christmas Eve in 1942. The couple met in Corpus Christi, Texas where Mary was a teacher and Gerald was training as a marine pilot during WWII.

They met at a dance where Mary cut in on him; he says "she liked the uniform." Gerald married

his 'Lantana Queen' on June 5, 1943. After the war, the couple returned to Iowa where Gerald returned to work at Banker's Life in Des Moines. Gerald retired from Banker's Life in 1981 as the Vice President of mortgages. The couple raised 4 children and their brood has grown to include 7 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

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Resident's birthday brings gifts to all

What do you give a man that has everything? Recently, John Swanson's family held a birthday celebration at Calvin in honor of his 85th birthday. As they pondered what gifts to give they came up with a novel approach to this age old question.

While the family requested no gifts, they suggested that if an invitee was so inclined they could make a gift in honor of John. They asked those gifts be directed to the Good Samaritan Fund at Calvin. While many guests attended John's party many Calvin residents benefited from their thoughtfulness and generosity.



Resident John Swanson with his daughters.

Profiles

Employee Stojan Veletic

Stojan (pronounced Stoy-yan) was born in Sarajevo, Bosnia to parents Dragon and Dragica Veletic. Also welcoming him was older brother Goran.



Stojan Veletic

Stojan and his family spent seven years living in one room at a refugee camp in Belgrad, Serbia before the family came to the USA in 2001.

Stojan's mother was hired as an evening cook at Calvin and had been working in the kitchen for a few years when she mentioned her 16 year-old son who attended Roosevelt was looking for a part-time job.

In 2004, Stojan became a student dietary aide at Calvin, and quickly learned his position working after school and on weekends.

Today, Stojan (22) helps out and works wherever needed, including the dining room, stocking, cooking and special parties.

Stojan is currently taking liberal arts classes at DMACC and plans to transfer to Iowa State University. His hobbies include car repair, fishing with his dad and snow skiing.

Letter from the President

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In a similar manner if uncertainty in your life has happened to lead you to Calvin Community it is our hope, our intention and our goal to be a light for you as you find your new life here.

As we enter this Advent season, it is my hope we are able to slow down, to gaze upon the star, to see it leading us to our promise.

May we slow down to quiet ourselves in order to hear and to listen to that reassurance of new life. May we remember we have been given a gift beyond compare. May it be possible for us to set aside all the distractions we face so we may freely accept this gift.

Calvin Volunteers

Volunteer offers support

Hers is a career of service, teaching, and learning. Charlotte Newman, a volunteer for the Alzheimer's Association for the last eight years facilitates one of nine small support groups in the Des Moines area. Charlotte's monthly caregivers group focuses on the needs of those providing care to family or friends who experience the effects of Alzheimer's or dementia.



Charlotte Newman

In retirement Newman continues her career path of education and caring. A graduate of the University of Iowa she worked as a nurse at Mercy Hospital in Des Moines and then taught nursing for 23 years at Mercy. Her expertise was teaching about organic brain syndrome.

"The rewards are many," says Newman, "I find it gratifying when group members discover they can provide loving care and still have a life of their own."

"It is reassuring for care providers to understand they are not alone. In the group setting, members listen to each other's experiences. Through sharing, they learn how they may better care for their loved one," says Newman.

The Alzheimer Support Group meets the second Thursday of each month at 2 p.m. at Calvin Community. For more information call 515-633-2512.

Leo retires

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We are looking forward to the ideas he will be contributing to the Men's Group.

Calvin Community has been and continues to be blessed with the leadership of caring people. We certainly have great respect for Leo Cleeton's contributions.

We are thankful the Men's Group programming can continue regularly with Brian Cooney. These volunteers are greatly appreciated and make a difference.

The next Men's Group is scheduled Monday, January 12, 2009 in the Calvin West Dining Room at 12:30 p.m. The luncheon meeting will honor Leo Cleeton.

Profiles

The Rickerts

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The Rickerts moved into Calvin earlier this winter, but have known Calvin since its beginning. Through his work at Banker's Life, Gerald was involved in the financing of Calvin and also served on Calvin's first Board of Directors. Since moving here, Mary has been sharing her wonderful piano playing ability and never turns down a request to play. The couple continues to enjoy Calvin and say they really appreciate the helpfulness of the staff.



Gerald and Mary Rickert