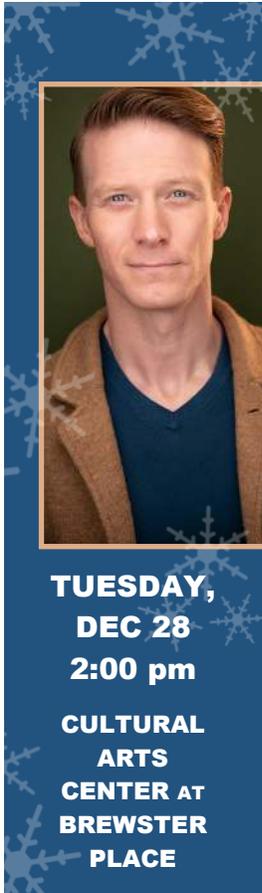




THE BREWSTER FOUNDATION IS PROUD TO PRESENT  
**TOPEKA NATIVE AND BROADWAY STAR JEFF KREADY**  
IN A SPECIAL MATINEE PERFORMANCE



**TUESDAY,  
DEC 28  
2:00 pm**  
**CULTURAL  
ARTS  
CENTER AT  
BREWSTER  
PLACE**



**T**he Brewster Foundation is pleased to present a very special concert featuring Topeka native and Broadway star Jeff Kready. Jeff has performed at Brewster Place several times over the years and we are so pleased he has agreed to entertain us once again. Brewster's new Cultural Arts Center is the perfect venue for this special matinee show. And we've heard through the grapevine that Jeff's talented and adorable daughters Lena and Louise just might make an appearance too!

Jeff Kready can be seen featured as Bert Healy the radio announcer this December in *Annie Live!* on Thursday, December 2 at 7:00 pm on NBC. He was most recently on Broadway standing by for the "title" role of Michael Dorsey/Dorothy Michaels in *Tootsie*. Other Broadway credits include Monty Navarro in *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*, Tony Elliot in *Billy Elliot the Musical*, *Sunday in the Park with George*, and *Les Misérables* (Jean Valjean understudy). Jeff's favorite regional credits include Tommy in *Brigadoon* (Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera), Ted Hanover in *Holiday Inn* (Paper Mill Playhouse), Mr. Snow in *Carousel* (Goodspeed Opera House), and David Sedaris's one-man-show *Santaland Diaries* (Hartford TheaterWorks). His television credits include "The Code" (CBS), "The Good Fight" (CBS), "Elementary" (recurring, CBS), "Boardwalk Empire" (HBO). He has also performed as guest soloist with The Cincinnati Pops Orchestra, The Grand Teton Music Festival, the Seattle Chamber Music Society, the Allentown Symphony, the Topeka Symphony, and can be heard on the album, "The Broadway Tenors" (Jay Records).

Jeff is a graduate of Washburn Rural High School and Washburn University and taught music at Randolph and Whitson elementary schools in Topeka before moving to New York. Jeff lives with his wife, Nikki, and daughters, Lena and Louise, in central Harlem. ■

## MISSION

Brewster Place is a retirement community providing all of its residents opportunities for an optimal quality of life.



The Brewster Health Center is accredited by The Joint Commission.



WITH CHELSEY WESSEL  
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SPECIALIST

## FOOD DRIVE FOR HARVESTERS



**B**rewster is pleased to once again host a Food Drive for Harvesters. Products collected during food drives are distributed in our region through Harvesters’ network of more than 760 nonprofit agencies. Every \$1 helps Harvesters provide three meals. Every 1.2 pounds of food equals one meal. No donation is too small or too big! Last year we filled two Harvesters barrels with 169 pounds of food which totaled 141 meals. Let’s beat last year’s total! Barrels are located at Redwood and The Evergreens. Donations accepted until December 15.

### FOOD

- **Canned vegetables** (low sodium)
- **Canned fruit in 100% juice**
- **Canned chicken, tuna, salmon** (packed in water)
- **Peanut, almond or sun butter**
- **Canned soup** (chicken, tomato or vegetable)
- **Cereal — hot and cold** (whole grain, low sugar preferred)
- **Dried fruit** (no added sugar preferred)
- **Brown rice**
- **Dried beans or canned low sodium beans**
- **Whole grain pasta**

**D**id you know that Brewster staff have volunteered for Meals on Wheels for several years? Team Brewster members volunteer to drive a delivery route every Friday. This is a wonderful way to engage with and serve our community as many times the meal that is delivered is the only meal and visit they receive each day. If you are interested in volunteering for this program, please contact Chelsy Wessel at 274-3394.



### MEALS ON WHEELS EASTERN KANSAS

Meals on Wheels is also collecting donations for the holiday gift bags. Currently there is a need for combs, socks, gloves, notepads, chap stick, bar soap, shampoo, conditioner and lotion. If you would like to donate, please bring your donations to Chelsy at the Stonehouse.

## BLANKETS FOR BABIES



**W**e want to give a big “Thank you” to five Brewster Place residents for their work sewing receiving blankets for babies at Stormont-Vail Healthcare NICU and Ronald McDonald House. Residents Ginger Cain-Davis, Jackie Buchanan, Elizabeth Stubbings, Cheryl Menges and Waunita Shoemaker gave their time and talent for this worthy project. It was much appreciated! ■



# FROM the CHAPLAIN

REV. CAROLINE VAUTRINOT, M.DIV

## HOPE, PEACE, JOY AND LOVE



**W**ith Advent now fully in swing, many of us have turned our eyes towards the end of the month when we will once again welcome the

Christ Child into the world. This is an important time within the cycle of Christian life. Derived from Latin, the word ‘advent’ means ‘coming’ and denotes the arrival of a notable person, thing, or event. As such, the season of Advent is a time of spiritual preparation for the arrival of Christ.

**How do we prepare for this special birth?** One way is to look at the traditional themes of the Advent season: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. Throughout the Advent Season, we will be lighting candles of the Advent wreath to represent these themes. We will be asking ourselves; *What does it mean to have hope? How can we further the cause of peace? What does joy bring to our lives? How can we offer more love to those around us and to ourselves?*

All of these are important questions for any time of the year, yet they take on additional meaning as we await the arrival of the Christ Child.

In this time of Advent, this time of preparation and anticipation, to what are you most looking forward? This season there will be carols sung and gingerbread made, Christmas lights and trees decorated, reminding us of Christmases past. We will gather together with family and friends to celebrate new beginnings and new life.

As Christmas approaches, take time to remember the message of this season: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. Find ways to bring all four into your life and into this community this holiday season.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all! ■



### ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

**Tuesdays in Advent  
Beginning November 30  
1:00 pm | Chapel**

Join Chaplain Caroline in an Advent Bible Study, each Tuesday of the Advent season at 1:00 pm in the Chapel! It’s a great addition to your Advent season as we prepare for the birth of Christ! ■



### REMINDER

The speed limit on the Brewster Place campus is 12 mph. ■

### STATE OF BREWSTER WITH CEO JOE EWERT

**Thursday, December 2  
10:00 am | Cultural Arts Center**

Please join CEO Joe Ewert as he presents the State of Brewster. This annual program allows Joe to update you on the progress made in the past year as well as update you on what’s to come in 2022. This informational meeting is one you don’t want to miss. ■



## AT THE KITCHEN TABLE

PONDER & STIR WITH SHARON CHRISTIAN-ADERMAN

**E**very year, as I grow older, I try to simplify Christmas with all it's folderol and commotion. Here in the Cottonwood Villas this Christmas I am putting out fewer decorations, for the more you drag out the more you have to put away. I don't need the perfect tree or perfect dinner table with a perfect family gathered together like all the articles in those glossy December issues of magazines.

I have all those memories of Christmases when we decorated the tree and then it fell over and we had to decorate it again. We went to Christmas pageants which sometimes were more of comedy pageants but we always shed a few tears while we watched. But I remember them all with smiles and comfort and joy, like snowflakes melting on your nose. These cookies melt in your mouth.

### MELTING MOMENTS

- 1 cup soft margarine
- 2 Tab. powdered sugar
- 2 cups flour.

Cream together the margarine and powdered sugar, add flour and mix well. Make into small balls and pat down on lightly buttered cookie sheet. Bake at 400 degrees 10-12 minutes. When cool frost bottom with 1 cup powdered sugar, 2 Tab. margarine and maraschino cherry juice. Put another cookie on top of frosting in sandwich fashion. Frost and decorate top with half a cherry. Merry Christmas! ■



#### BPTV Channel 1960

Your go-to place for daily news, announcements, updates, music, classes, and fun photos! Morning audio announcements occur Monday—Friday from 8:00—8:30 am.

## PS SALONS CELEBRATION PORTAL

**S**alon services at Brewster Place are provided by PS Salons who serve senior living communities around the country. They are now adding a new Salon Service Authorization feature within the Celebration Account Gifting & Rewards Portal. Family, friends and powers of attorney who support residents will now have a convenient way to authorize salon services on their behalf.

For more information, please visit [salonps.com/celebration](http://salonps.com/celebration) or pick up a flier from Maxine at The Evergreens or Cheryl at the Redwood Information Center. ■



**OPEN  
MONDAY-FRIDAY  
7:00 am—11:00 am**

# EVERYONE HAS A STORY TO TELL

## WANDA MEYER

BY DIANA REED, RESIDENT



**W**anda Meyer speaks through her art. The gifted painter is outstanding in many areas of the medium. She is best known at Brewster Place for her tole art or her extravagant acrylic strokes on wood. Don't dismiss this lovely lady as an artist only at the holiday seasons. Her oils on canvas are simply breathtaking. They soar to the level of museum quality with deep and rich hues and tone, blended casts and depth of feeling. She has also painted with acrylics on a variety of palettes. In recent years, however, Wanda has focused on her tole art and art on wood.

Wanda's current work seems full of lovely details and intricate signs of the particular season. Her Christmas works, for example, are filled with children's rosy cheeks, Santa Claus' happy face and sparkling stars carefully placed on gleaming clear blue skies.

"My mother was my inspiration," Wanda says with a loving smile. "She never sat down all day. Her hands were always busy. She never stopped all day long."

This is why Wanda takes such pride in her work. Why she is so careful with each detail and why every piece she makes is so beautiful.

"Before I went to college, I had no art training," she says. "I went to Emporia State and had some acrylic design in a class to bring out our creativity. At the end of the semester, my teacher said, 'You should be an art major.'"

Wanda went on to earn an education degree, met and married her husband, Benny, had three children, and taught social studies, spelling, and homeroom in White City, Kansas. She took drawing classes or an art class once a week when she could.

The Meyers moved to Topeka when Benny gave up teaching and became an insurance agent. This gave Wanda the freedom and opportunity to take art classes from an instructor. She started taking classes in the mid-1970s at Jan's Tole Shop at Brookwood which was owned by the late Jan Burnett who was also a Brewster resident. Wanda also took painting at a shop in Pauline from an English woman who taught her canvas work, portraits, oils and paint strokes. Wanda says, "Oils are beautiful. You can't beat oils."

Wanda produced items which she sold at craft shows and at craft malls. When the Meyers moved to Brewster Place, Wanda took classes from Joline Kovarik, Brewster's former arts and crafts coordinator.

"Everything I've done has led me to where I am now," Wanda says. From watching her mother to her first class at Emporia State — wherever they lived — from western Kansas to Topeka and Brewster Place — when a class was available, Wanda took the opportunity to learn and grow. And now her amazing paintings are admired and purchased to this day.

Wanda says, "I love to paint. I work at it. I do it with love as well as with skill." ■

## EDITOR'S NOTE

This month we begin a series of articles by resident Diana Reed focusing on staff memories. Diana continues to write her **Everyone has a Story to Tell**, but she also wants to highlight different Brewster staff members so we can all learn a little bit more about each other. We hope you enjoy this series. We are one community that includes so many unique people.

## BREWSTER STAFF MEMORIES

BY DIANA REED

**W**onderful Maxine Thuston has been employed at Brewster Place for almost 15 years. She began working as a server at the dining room in Redwood. She then transferred to Security and now she is the Administrative Assistant at The Evergreens as well as Volunteer Coordinator for clerical support. Maxine is efficient, knows the answers to many questions and almost always has a kind smile on her face! She is truly a people person, both here and within her large family.

Maxine is one of 11 children, six girls and five boys. She says she enjoyed being part of a large family, growing up in Minnesota. She says she was the “go to” person in her family. Now, she has one son, who lives in Wichita and five grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

We are honored to hear about Maxine’s memories. This month she graces us with her “Laundry Outdoors.” Next month, Maxine will tell us more. Thank you, Maxine!

## LAUNDRY OUTDOORS

BY MAXINE THUSTON

**I**n the summertime Mom used a wash pot. It was made out of cast iron and was big enough to hold a full load of clothes. A fire was built under the wash pot filled with water with added bleach and detergent. Mom would boil the clothes clean — especially white clothes.



The clothes were boiled for 45 minutes to an hour depending on how soiled they were. Stirring occasionally with a poker or a stick used only for that purpose. After boiling, clothes were removed from the pot to cool. Then they were wrung by hand. We had twin galvanized tubs — similar to a double kitchen sink but much deeper. Both tubs were filled with rain water. The clothes were shook really good and then hung on the clothes line to dry. The laundry was so soft and smelled so fresh. We didn’t know anything about Bounce or any other fabric softener. The end result was worth the work.

Wintertime was a little bit different. We used a washer with a wringer. I can remember taking frozen clothes off the line in the wintertime. For the most part, clothes were hung in the house near the wood burning stoves to dry. ■



**A**re you interested in the K4Community App? Stay up-to-date and in the loop of the happenings at Brewster Place. Also, view the digital resident directory! Call Taylor Cooper, Resident Engagement Specialist, at 785-274-3348 to learn more! ■



## INTERGENERATIONAL PROGRAMS

### WASHBURN UNIVERSITY

**B**rewster Place was honored to partner with Washburn University students during September. Students from WU’s gerontology program had the opportunity to interview some of our residents for an assignment. Thank you to the residents and students who volunteered for this partnership!

### PAULINE CENTRAL SCHOOL

**A** third grade class from Pauline Central is practicing their writing and penmanship and will be writing letters to residents at Assisted Living, Brewster Health Center and Independent Living.

### VALLEY FALLS GIRL SCOUT TROOP 5322

**A** big “thank you” to this wonderful group of Girl Scouts who made cards for Assisted Living and Brewster Health Center residents. Brewster Health Center residents also made cards and sent them back to the girls. ■



## SECURITY REMINDERS

**T**he Holiday season is a wonderful time of the year but it is also a time of the year when people are victimized by criminals. The following are reminders that will help to keep you from being victimized:

- If shopping online, use a credit card instead of a bank debit. The credit card companies have more protections in place to combat fraud and theft.
- Have a neighbor or Security collect any delivered packages if you plan to be out of town.
- If shopping in a store, try to park in an area of the parking lot that is well lit. Keep your purse close to you when shopping, don’t leave your purse in your cart and leave them unattended.
- If you are going to make more than one stop, store your packages in the trunk or cover them inconspicuously with coats or a blanket. Do not leave your purse or wallet in your vehicle where it can be seen. ■

## DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION GROUP

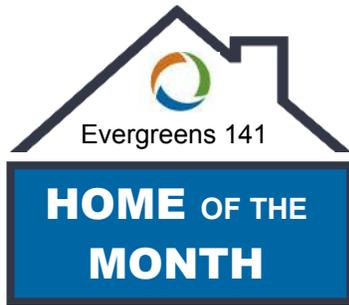
### JOIN US!

**Thursday, December 2  
2:00 pm**

**Cultural Arts Center**

“The mission of the Diversity and Inclusion Group at Brewster Place is to create an environment that reflects the diversity of Topeka/ Shawnee County, respecting the racial, ethnic, economic, religious, and cultural diversity of those who live and work here and within the local community.” ■

**H**ead east on the Brewster campus to The Evergreens 141 to view an apartment offering a private entrance from its back deck. The deck is located off the living room and is expanded, making it possible to support a full outdoor table and chair set. It also has stairs leading down to nearby covered parking.



This nearly 1,200 square foot apartment has some major updates already in place including beautiful indirect lighting, low step-in onyx showers, and a vinyl look wood floor in the master bedroom. The next person to call this apartment home will make choices in customizing the kitchen. Brewster Place covers the cost for standard updating! You pick it out — new cabinets, counter tops, and appliances as well as ceiling fans, paint colors and flooring throughout the apartment.

Besides the lovely morning light and indirect lighting in the living room, there is a bonus window in the second bedroom that offers a warm southern view of the nearby neighborhood. This is one of only four apartments currently available at The Evergreens. So, if you are considering The Evergreens and would like a tour, please contact Chris Gallagher at 274-3351 with Sales and Marketing at Brewster Place.

Remember, you can help choose your future neighbors and receive a bonus! Residents who make a referral to Brewster will receive one month's free rent once the friend moves in!

**Signing a new contract on this apartment before December 30 will earn you a \$1,000 gift certificate from The Furniture Mall of Kansas!**

## CULTURAL ARTS CENTER — A PLACE FOR COMMUNITY



**Jan Karrer** practiced on the baby grand piano in the Cultural Arts Center recently. She had no idea her photo was being taken! She was playing Poems, Prayers and Promises by John Denver. A sweet moment in time.



**Kay Stephens and Jeanene Johnson** presented a red rose to our veterans during the Veterans Day Celebration in November. Kay was instrumental in planning the program and did a wonderful job. Jeanene has just finished her term as President of Resident Council. We thank her for her service to our community!



**Marty Edwards** is known for her singing talent and provides a sing-along once a month for residents. During the Veterans Day Celebration she led the audience in singing God Bless America.

# **ON CAMPUS — A few highlights!**

## **STORIES BEHIND CHRISTMAS SONGS WITH CAROLINE AND JAMIE**

**Thursday, December 2 | 1:00 pm | Redwood Lounge**

Come and sing praises of the season. Jan Mauck will play the piano and we will make a joyful noise. The Spiritual Life committee will be handing out a devotion book for advent called Joy to the World: Daily Reading for Advent.

## **MERRY MARKET**

**Tuesday, December 7 | 11:00 am | Redwood Lounge**

Enjoy a little holiday shopping right here at Brewster Place. Vendors include Plant Shop from KNI (selling poinsettias), Avon, Martha's Munchies, Brewster Bazaar, and many more!

## **TOPEKA BIG BAND**

**Tuesday, December 7 | 5:30 pm | Cultural Arts Center**

Kick off the Holiday season with some Christmas big band music. It is sure to fill the room with a joyful spirit.

## **THE HEART STRINGS HOLIDAY PARTY**

**Thursday, December 9 | 2:00 pm | Cultural Arts Center**

Resident Services would like to invite you to a holiday dance to enjoy the spirit of the season. This duet is guaranteed to get your foot tappin and heart smilin. We are hoping for a visit from Santa for the nicest to naughtiest of Brewster residents.

## **CASTLE AND CROSS CONSORT**

**Monday, December 13 | 2:30 pm | Cultural Arts Center**

Please come enjoy the beautiful holiday music from Castle and Cross Consort which includes our very own Gitta Gronewaller and favorite librarian Jim Mosher. The music will be provided by recorders, psalteries, tone chimes, drums and harps. This special presentation is provided by a generous donor through the Brewster Foundation.

## **FESTIVAL SINGERS SOLOIST**

**Tuesday, December 14 | 6:00 pm | Cultural Arts Center**

Come enjoy the beautiful voices of the members of Topeka Festival Singers. A few of the singers will bless of with their lovely voices singing the songs of the holidays.

## **BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION**

**Thursday, December 16 | 2:00 pm | Cultural Arts Center**

## **MARTY EDWARDS SING-ALONG**

**Saturday, December 18 | 2:00 pm | Redwood Lounge**

Marty Edwards will provide popular holiday music with the help of her lovely family. Feel free to join in the singing and just relax to the music.

## **HOLIDAY MUSIC WITH LARRY**

**Wednesday, December 22 | 3:00 pm | Redwood Lounge**

Come enjoy holiday music with Larry Lucas. He is a professor at the University of Kansas. It will be a fun mix of guitar and music.

# OFF CAMPUS — A few highlights!

## **DAY OUT IN WICHITA — Wednesday, December 1 | 10:00 am | Lobbies**

We will tour the Frank Lloyd Wright home in Wichita and enjoy shopping at Bradley Fair and then have a yummy dinner. Afterwards a lovely tour of the Wichita Botanica Illuminations. Tours, sack lunch and transportation is \$55. Dinner is Dutch treat. Please call Jamie at 274-3398 for reservations.

## **TOPEKA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA — Wednesday, December 1 | 6:45 pm | Lobbies**

The holiday season is a time for nostalgia and revisiting the memories and music of our childhoods. For the Capitol Federal® Holiday Concert the Singers will be right *en pointe* for the holiday season with music from Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker*. Get your tickets early so you won't miss your seasonal favorites and a return of our audience carol sing! You may purchase tickets by calling 785-232-2032, emailing the TSO office [tso@TopekaSymphony.org](mailto:tso@TopekaSymphony.org). Please call Jamie for Transportation reservations at 274-3398.

## **TOPEKA ACAPELLA UNLIMITED — Saturday, December 4 | 1:00 pm | Lobbies**

Celebrate the season! With Topeka Acappella Unlimited at Grace Cathedral with special guests Capital City Chorus. Our very own Evelyn Dillon will be singing at this event. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. Please call Jamie for a bus reservations at 274-3398.

## **SHAWNEE CHORAL SOCIETY — Sunday, December 5 | 6:00 pm | Lobbies**

The Shawnee Choral Society presents **The Very Best Time of the Year!** at White Concert Hall featuring the Laudate Ringers. Our very own Eddie Fowler and Lea Chaffee will be singing at this event. Tickets are free and donations are gratefully appreciated. Please call Jamie for a bus reservations at 274-3398.

## **TOUR OF CHURCHES — Wednesday, December 8 | 9:30 am | Lobbies**

We will tour Grace Episcopal Cathedral and First Presbyterian Church and listen to the Seaman High School Choir. This is a free program with a Dutch treat lunch optional. Please call Jamie at 274-3398 for reservations.

## **TOPEKA CIVIC THEATRE — IRVING BERLIN'S HOLIDAY INN**

### **Thursday, December 9 | 6:00 pm | Lobbies**

This play tells the story of Jim, who leaves the bright lights of show business behind to settle down on his farmhouse in Connecticut. But life just isn't the same without a bit of song and dance. Jim's luck takes a spectacular turn when he meets Linda, a spirited school-teacher with talent to spare. Together they turn the farmhouse into a fabulous inn with dazzling performances to celebrate each holiday. But when Jim's best friend Ted tries to lure Linda to Hollywood to be his new dance partner, will Jim be able to salvage his latest chance at love? Tickets are \$33. Please call Jamie at 274-3398 for reservations.

## **WASHBURN UNIVERSITY HOLIDAY VESPERS — Sunday, December 12 | 3:00 pm | Lobbies**

Join us as we head to Washburn University to hear the sounds of the season at this annual holiday concert. The concert is free. Please call Jamie at 274-3398 for transportation reservations.

## **DINNER AND LIGHTS — Sunday, December 12 | 4:30 pm | Lobbies**

After Holiday Vespers Concert we will grab a quick bite to eat and then go enjoy the beautiful lights of Topeka as well as a drive through of the Living Nativity at 1<sup>st</sup> Lutheran Church. We will NOT go to Winter Wonderland on this trip — see December 29 for details on that trip. Dinner in Dutch treat. Please call Jamie at 274-3398 for transportation reservations.

## **DAY OUT IN KANSAS CITY WITH LIGHTS AND MORE**

### **Wednesday, December 15 | 12:30 pm | Lobbies**

We will tour the **Van Gogh Exhibition: The Immersive Experience** and do a little light shopping on the Plaza. Dinner will be at Grand Street Café and then we venture out for a holiday light tour. Transportation is \$13. Dinner is Dutch treat. Please call Jamie at 274-3398 for reservations.

## **TOPEKA FESTIVAL SINGERS — Monday, December 20 | 6:30 pm | Lobbies**

No matter what our family traditions, we can all appreciate this time of year as a time to be with family and friends. Many of the familiar songs from this time of year speak to this sentiment. This concert will make the focus on the songs that make the Holidays Happy. Tickets can be purchased online or at the door for \$20. Please call Jamie at 274-3398 for transportation reservations.

## **DINNER AT CRACKER BARREL AND WINTER WONDERLAND**

### **Wednesday, December 29 | 4:00 pm | Lobbies**

Please join us for a yummy dinner at Cracker Barrel then we will go to on a drive through Winter Wonderland for TARC. Dinner is Dutch treat. The cost is \$1 per person. Please call Jamie at 274-3398 for transportation reservations.