

February is **Black History Month**, a time to celebrate the vast contributions African Americans make to our nation's rich historical and cultural landscape. Black History is American history. A wise nation remembers and honors its past. Every American president since 1976 has designated a theme during Black History Month. This year's theme is, "**African Americans and the Arts.**" At Brewster Place, we are embracing this theme by celebrating African American contributions to music. The **Diversity and Inclusion Group** at Brewster Place has planned these special events. We hope you will join us!

SACRED AND SECULAR AFRICAN AMERICAN INFLUENCE IN MUSIC

AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSIC A CELEBRATION!

**Tuesday, February 13
6:00 pm
Cultural Arts Center**

BSJ Ensemble

*Featuring Dr. Beryl New,
Sharisse Verser and Janel Johnson*

David Scroggin

Topeka Civic Theatre Actor/Singer

Asbury Mt. Olive United Methodist Church Adult Choir

*Directed by Donald Revely, Music Director
and Organist of Asbury Mt. Olive United
Methodist Church in Topeka.*

LOOKING FOR MAMA LOU

**Tuesday, February 27
6:00 pm
Main Street Chapel**

Looking for Mama Lou, the legendary singer whose work helped inspired American ragtime. Washburn professor and former poet laureate of Kansas, Eric McHenry, will present his research on the appropriation of music from Black artists and its influence in American culture. ■

*"We all require and want respect,
man or woman, Black or White.
It's our basic human right."*

—Aretha Franklin

MISSION

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

EVERYONE HAS A STORY TO TELL

LAWRENCE AND ROBERTA FOTH
BY DIANA REED, RESIDENT



Lawrence Foth opened the door of his home with a smile and the first thing I saw were beautiful quilts. Lawrence's wife, Roberta, was covered with a brilliant red and star applique quilt that spoke of Christmas. Another lovely bright quilt lay casually on a chair and the far wall had a lovely hand-built storage shelf that held at least 100 neatly-folded applique quilts. I smiled at Roberta, whom I had never met.

"You love quilts," I said with a grin.

Roberta responded, "Oh my. I grew up around quilting. My mother and grandmother were quilters."

Roberta has a Kansas story to tell. She said, "I grew up on a farm in western Kansas near Protection which is south of Greensburg. My dad and brother took care of crops and livestock while my sister and I helped Mom with the dairy herd and chickens.

Lawrence lived in Henderson, Nebraska. His dad was the school principal and his mom was the community nurse. There was not a doctor living nearby, so she would visit sick people and phone the doctor. The doctor would give directions on how to dispense medications that he had provided for her after she received the doctors orders. Lawrence's mother was instrumental in raising money to build the very first hospital.

In 1950, a very unfortunate accident at a county intersection killed most of Lawrence's family — his mom, dad and young sister. Lawrence and his brother and sister

were placed with relatives in central Kansas. Lawrence spent most of his growing up years with his 72 year old grandfather and step-grandmother in Hillsboro, Kansas.

Lawrence went to college at Friends University where he met Roberta. They started their teaching careers in Howard, Kansas — Lawrence in industrial arts and Roberta in home economics. They have two children and four grandchildren. In their 62 years of life together, their church has always been important.

Lawrence has built a lifetime of beautiful furniture for their home including cabinets, tables and decorative pieces that very few people could build.

After teaching seven years, Lawrence accepted the job as Curriculum Specialist in the State Department of Education, and later became Executive Director of the State Advisory Council on Vocational Education. He has enjoyed involvement in several businesses and is currently an estimator for Carpet One.

Roberta enjoys quilting and has done beautiful quilts since 1988. She has won many first in show and first place ribbons over the years. She has been featured in the newspaper and is known in the area for her beautiful work.

The Foths enjoy living at Brewster Place and are interested in their beautiful birds around their apartment. They are a wonderful couple meeting new friends all around campus. ■



LENT — A TIME OF RENEWEL AND GROWTH

BY CHAPLAIN JULIE FREEMAN, M.DIV

February brings us into a new church season. **Ash Wednesday** begins our 40-day journey of Lent, a time of reflection and self-sacrifice. Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxion word *lencten* meaning *springtime*. Like spring, Lent is a time of renewal and growth — spiritual, relational, personal — in the lead-up to the “*new life*” of Easter.

I didn't grow up in a church with a Lenten tradition. Lent was something mysterious that got my Catholic friends out of school early on a day that I didn't. I heard them talk about giving something up for Lent — soda, candy, or an activity that they really didn't like anyway. They ate fish on Fridays, but I didn't know why they did any of those things and, truth be told, most of them didn't either.

My faith journey as an adult brought me to a church that celebrates Lent and for the first time, I understood the beauty of this season. *It's about giving in, not giving up.* Giving in to the life God calls us to lead.

Giving in to the love and grace poured out through the life and ministry of Jesus. Exchanging the things that hold us back from real relationship with the One who asks us to walk with him day by day.

So, this year I'm doing something different. I'm not worried about giving up my favorite coffee or Diet Dr. Pepper, or vowing not to eat chocolate until the bunny brings a basket. I'm giving God something more important, my time. Time free from electronic distractions to dive deep into God's word and seek God's will. Time in mindful worship at every opportunity breathing in the Holy Spirit in new, refreshing ways. Time free from unnecessary drama to serve others in need. Time to take in the awe and wonder of creation all around me.

However you mark our journey into spring, I pray that you experience a time of spiritual renewal unlike any other. God bless. ■

Sunday Supper Club

Sunday, February 4

4:00 pm

The Evergreens Brewster Bean

Do you look at what's happening around you and wonder...” Where do I belong?” You're not alone. Bring your dinner and join us for Sunday Supper Club — the place for fellowship, fun and curious conversations. We'll have a different theme each month reflecting current events, culture, art or faith traditions.

Devotions and Donuts

Sunday mornings at 9:30 am

The Evergreens Brewster Bean

Join us for coffee, donuts and a short devotion with Chaplain Julie.

Ash Wednesday Service Ashes and Prayer

Wednesday, February 14

9:00 am

Main Street Chapel

Unbound Gratitude Group Monday, February 19

2:00 pm | Main Street Chapel

Finding life again after loss through gratitude with Chaplain Julie.

HOME OF THE MONTH

In the 1970s the musical group **Earth, Wind & Fire** had crowds dancing to their blend of Pop, Disco,



**EARTH, WIND
AND FIRE**

and Latin mix with great brass interludes. If you remember the group, you may be the right generation to enjoy the **Earth, Wind, Fire, Rain, and Stone** apartment homes opening on the fifth floor of Redwood!

The element-named apartments range in size from 713 to 1,078 square feet and include large walk-in closets, full kitchens, and washers and dryers in every unit.

The coziest and most economical apartment home is **Earth**. **Earth** faces east and has large windows and quartz base windowsills for cat lovers who will enjoy watching their fur-baby bask in the morning light.

The **Wind** is a one-of-a-kind west-facing, one-bedroom, one-and-a-half bath and boasts two large walk-in closets in the large 1,052 square feet of living space.

The **Fires** are the largest one-bedroom one-bath apartments. The two remaining face west and have plenty of room for your favorite full dining room set. The living area is also spacious at 14 x 15 square feet.

The variety of apartment sizes and prices will have you dancing through the beautiful dining area, art studios, and game room of the newly renovated Redwood building.

If you want to put on your boogie shoes and tour, we would love to show you around and we promise you do not have to dance if you don't want to!

Residents in Independent Living who make a new referral to Brewster Place will receive one month's free rent once the friend moves in! Contact Chris Gallagher with Sales and Marketing, 785-274-3351. ■

TELL US WHY! IN 60 WORDS OR LESS

Brewster Place is 60 years young this year and Sales and Marketing would like to ask residents and staff why they chose to live here or work here.

In 60 words or less, please tell us why you have become part of the Brewster legacy. To participate, please email Chris Gallagher at: chris.gallagher@brewsterliving.org or send your note to the Stone House, attention to Chris Gallagher.

We will be using your words to help promote and commemorate Brewster's 60th anniversary.

Watch for upcoming celebrations and events this spring. ■

BREWSTER SALONS



Brewster Place has three on-campus salons located at Redwood on Main Street, The Evergreens and the Brewster Health Center. The salons are operated by PS Salons.

New to The Evergreens Salon and Spa is Wendy who is a nail tech. Wendy will be available on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 am—3:00 pm. Come by The Evergreens Salon and Spa to make an appointment or call Wendy at 785-266-6111. ■

**SPEED
LIMIT
12**

REMINDER

The speed limit at Brewster Place is 12 mph.



CREATIVE ARTS

WITH SAMANTHA BANKS
CREATIVE ARTS COORDINATOR

WATERCOLOR COLLAGES MURAL

Wednesdays, February 14, 21 and 28

1:00 pm | Redwood Art Studio

Join in making a watercolor collage mural to decorate the studio. We will create small “tiles” using abstract watercolor images on paper. Then, we’ll create a scene by arranging the tiles by color. This project will take a few weeks to make, but you can jump in at any time.

ALCOHOL INK TILES

Thursday, February 15 | 1:00 pm

Redwood Art Studio

This is a Brewster favorite! Join us to create beautiful works of abstract art on tiles that can be then used as coasters or simply enjoyed as decoration. You will leave with two finished tiles. Registration is required. Call Sam at 274-3317 to reserve your spot!

ART FEATURE: FAITH RINGGOLD

Friday, February 16 | 2:00 pm | Main Street Chapel

This series of videos will feature artist and children’s book author Faith Ringgold. Ringgold is an artist who works with a variety of media, most well-known for her mixed media story quilts. Ringgold created a children’s book she titled, “Tar Beach” inspired by her story quilt style.

QUILT SHOW CLOSING RECEPTION

Thursday, February 29

2:00 pm | Brewster Events Center Art Gallery

The quilts are hanging just outside the Cultural Arts Center and you have to come see them! The quilts will be up for the month of February, and your chance to meet the artists will be at the closing reception on February 29th. We will have light refreshments and enjoy looking at the quilts together with their makers.

SAM IN THE STUDIO

Mondays and Fridays
(except February 16)

1:00—3:00 pm

The Evergreens Art Studio

Tuesdays

9:00—11:00 am

1:00—3:00 pm

Redwood Art Studio

Did you miss a class you wanted to attend? Would you like help with a project? Just want to chat? Sam in the Studio is the time for any or all of the above! This is also a great time to come make Valentine’s cards. Sam will have cards to color and other supplies available.

QUILT CLUB

Thursday, February 22

3:00 pm

Redwood Art Studio

Do you love quilting? So do we! Come to Quilt Club in the brand-new quilting/sewing studio in Redwood. Meet other quilters and learn about project possibilities for the new year, including hand quilting for the Bazaar quilt drawing.

VALENTINE’S CARDS FOR COMMUNITY

Thurs, Feb 1 and 8;

Wed, Feb 7

1:00 pm

Redwood Art Studio

It’s time to show the love to our friends at BHC and in the Topoka community! Last year we made a record 1,314 cards. How many can we make this year? No experience necessary; all supplies provided. Plus, keep an eye out for cards to color around campus throughout January and February. ■

KAW VALLEY BANK AT BREWSTER PLACE

The Kaw Valley Bank at Brewster Place is located at Main Street (lower level of Redwood South).

The bank has limited hours:

HOURS

Tuesdays

9:00—11:00 am

Thursdays

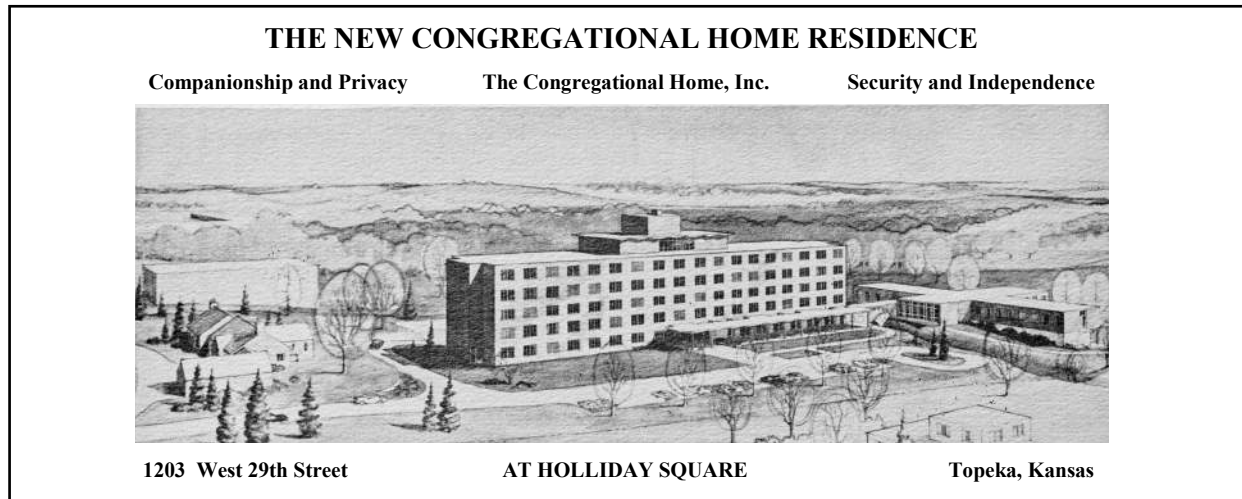
11:00 am—3:00 pm

BREWSTER PLACE — A DREAM AND LEAP OF FAITH

THE BREWSTER PLACE STORY — PART 2

BY JANIS SWANSON, EDITOR

The image below was from a brochure that was distributed in 1961 when the retirement home was no more than a blueprint and known as "The Congregational Home." Note the absence of balconies which were added later and the location of the home was identified as Holliday Square.



The story of Brewster Place is an extraordinary one. Beginning in 1958 as the dream of Roy and Frances Engler who envisioned a safe and comfortable home for their aunt and other seniors in the community, the story of Brewster Place is in many ways a shared leap of faith.

Making this particular dream come true was going to be a monumental task. There were so many unknowns, questions, challenges and uncertainties. Building a home of this type was new and innovative and there were no instructions or guidelines to follow. With no money, no blueprints, and no land on which to build, the architects of this huge project had to rely on their own faith as well as the support of countless Congregational church members, Topeka community and business leaders, and the newly hired Executive Director Nathan Barr.

When Nathan Barr reported for duty on January 2, 1961, Rev. Ned Burr McKinney found him a room in a private home to live. In addition, board member and owner of J.C. Sargent Mortgage and

Investment Company, J. Churchill Sargent, offered him a desk in the basement of one of his buildings. With no typewriter or phone and only a desk drawer and his briefcase, Nathan Barr made this humble office work for the first few months of his tenure.

In June 1961 Nathan Barr's wife joined him in Topeka, and the couple moved into the Stone House which had been acquired by the board thanks to a \$50,000 loan from J. Churchill Sargent. This also included the five adjoining acres. Mr. Barr's first priorities included reorganizing the various board committees, and making their tasks more specific. The committees included: Recruitment and Admissions Committee, Services and Program Committee, Publicity Committee, Building and Grounds Committee and Finance Committee.

The Finance Committee needed to set up sound financial policies and procure adequate finances to build the home. It had been decided earlier that a Federal Housing Authority (FHA) loan would be the best route. An early challenge was that the FHA

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SPRING 2024 MUSIC CITY USA TRIP TO NASHVILLE April 29—May 2

Jamie Fritz and Julie Schmanke will host another wonderful adventure this spring. The deadline to sign up has passed, however, there is a wait list in case of cancelations (which commonly occur).

Single Occupancy

\$1950 per person

Double Occupancy

\$1450 per person

Price includes nonstop airfare on Southwest, three nights of lodging, daily breakfast, tour fees and lots of fun!

Please call Jamie at 785-274-3398 for more information and add your name to the wait list. ■

TUNE-UP TUESDAY

Tuesday, February 20

11:00 am—1:00 pm

Redwood Game Room

The Brewster Therapy Team will be available to adjust your assistive devices (canes, walkers, wheel chairs) and provide guidance as well as answer your questions. ■



Tune in for music, movies, updates, and more!

had plans for housing for the aged *and* plans for infirmaries/nursing homes, but they had no plans for a combined nursing home and housing unit. This project was indeed a new concept and would later become a model for other communities.

Since 1959, the Board had been meeting with Don Depew of Ekdahl, Davis and Depew Architects. Don had provided tentative drawings and plans, but to move forward, detailed architectural drawings would need to be completed. But how would the Board pay for this expensive, but necessary, step? With financing of the project still yet to be determined, would Ekdahl, Davis and Depew Architects invest their time and efforts on a project that might not become reality, resulting in no funds to pay them for their efforts. When Mr. Ekdahl asked his associates about taking this risk, they said yes. Don Depew and Nathan Barr then spent days and weeks reading through the intricacies of the FHA specifications that would later translate into blueprints of buildings, apartments, lounges and offices.

The hours of work culminated in the 90 page prospectus and application that was submitted to the FHA on November 28, 1961. On April 17, 1962 the board was informed that the loan insurance commitment for \$2,136,600 had been received from the FHA. Not surprisingly, the FHA was impressed by the prospectus as being a wonderfully detailed and comprehensive plan for a retirement home. It was suggested that this plan could be made into a handbook for the use of other groups building retirement homes. The handbook never came to fruition, but other communities did follow the example set by The Congregational Home.

With funding secured, the next step began — preparing working architectural plans and readying the building site for construction. In addition, plans for a ground-breaking were finalized, and on Sunday, December 2, 1962, a ceremony was held marking the beginning of making this dream a reality. Due to an agreeable winter, construction got underway and the five-story building we now know as Redwood was near completion by January 1963. Amazingly, in April 1963 the first residents moved in to Brewster Place. ■

(source: The Brewster Place Story: A Dream Come True)

KU OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE

NO HOMEWORK. NO PRESSURE. JUST LEARNING FOR THE JOY OF IT!



SPRING 2024 Class Schedule

Please call Jamie
at 785-274-3398
to register.
Brewster Place
residents and
BrewsterConnect
members attend
for free.

The Small Town in Kansas: The Interminable Struggle for Survival

Tuesdays, February 27; March 5 and 12

1:00—3:00 pm | Cultural Arts Center

The historical geography of small towns reveals that their struggles for economic viability began shortly after settlement. Climatic misconceptions, ineffectual land alienation laws, and the townsite activities of railroads led to oversettlement and too many towns. The platting of new towns continued despite depopulation and the abandonment of rail lines. We'll explore the various survival strategies implemented.

United States Vice President: Insignificant Position or Second Most Powerful Office?

Tuesdays, April 9, 16 and 23 | 1:00—3:00 pm | Cultural Arts Center

We'll explore U.S. Constitutional requirements and powers given to U.S. vice presidents as we study the evolution of the position from someone "waiting in the wings" performing ceremonial duties, to becoming an influential and respected advisor. We'll examine how the relationship between the president and vice president has changed over the years. ■

STAYING ACTIVE INCREASES JOY — GIVE IT A TRY!



David Rake attended the Redwood Art Studio Open House where visitors had the opportunity to help with a group painting project. This new art studio has three spacious rooms for painting, crafting and quilting.



Diana Reed and Glennie Buckley attended the Red Carpet Carnival hosted by the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library. Red Carpet is celebrating 50 years of service to the Topeka community. Residents who attended the carnival had lots of fun completing puzzles, word games, and even a little corn hole. We thank our friends at Red Carpet for providing library services each month!



Louise Gleason is a passionate bridge player. Every Monday afternoon bridge and Rummikub players gather at the new Redwood Game Room and The Evergreens Brewster Bean and Grill to play their favorite games. All are welcome to join the fun!



BrewsterLiving.org



OFF CAMPUS — A few highlights!

TRIP TO NELSON-ATKINS MUSEUM IN KANSAS CITY

Thursday, February 8 | 8:30 am | Shuttle (pick up from EV lobby only)

We will go to Kansas City to see the *Monet and His Modern Legacy Exhibit*. In honor of the 150th anniversary of the birth of Impressionism, the Nelson-Atkins presents an exhibition exploring Claude Monet's transformative impact on a later generation of American artists. Featuring three remarkable loans from the Musée Marmottan Monet in Paris. These paintings, including his expansive *Water Lilies* canvases created in his mid-70s until his passing at age 86, embodied an immersive nature that anticipated the Modernist departure from traditional easel-bound art, marking a pivotal shift in the approach to painting. Admission is \$22. Transportation is \$13. Lunch is Dutch treat. Please call Jamie at 785-274-3398 as space is limited.

TOPEKA CIVIC THEATRE

Thursday, February 8 | 6:00 pm | Shuttle (pick up from EV lobby only)

TCT presents *Drinking Habits*. It includes accusations, mistaken identities, and romances run wild in this traditional, laugh-out-loud farce. Two nuns at the Sisters of Perpetual Sewing have been secretly making wine to keep the convent's doors open, but Paul and Sally, reporters and former fiancées, are hot on their trail. Tickets are \$35. Please call Jamie at 785-274-3398 as space is limited.

GUIDED TOUR OF THE COMBAT AIR MUSEUM

Wednesday, February 14 | 12:30 pm | Shuttle (pick up from EV lobby only)

The Combat Air Museum has served as an educational institution and tourism destination for 47 years. It is one of a handful of major aviation museums in the United States located on an active air field. Highlights of museum are 47 aircraft ranging from the earliest aviation period to the present day and the largest collection of WW I replica aircraft in the midwest. Tickets are \$7. Please call Jamie at 785-274-3398 as space is limited.

TOPEKA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Saturday, February 17 | 6:45 pm | Shuttle (pick up from EV lobby only)

Buckle up and get ready for a concert unlike anything you've ever heard. TSO is thrilled to welcome the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra trombonist Denson Paul Pollard for not just one, but two spectacular bass trombone solos with the orchestra. They will also play Sibelius's charming *Karleia Suite*, and get down to some unfinished business with Schubert's famous **Unfinished Symphony**. For tickets, please call 785-232-2032 to purchase. Please call Jamie at 785-274-3398 to make a transportation reservation as space is limited.

DAY OUT IN LAWRENCE

Wednesday, February 21 | 9:00 am | Shuttle pick up in Evergreen Lobby

We will begin our day with a guided tour to the Spencer Museum of Art on the KU campus. We will take a drive and look at the new welcome center at KU. Then we will head downtown to shop and eat a delicious lunch at your own pace. We will make many fun spots to check out different things. Lunch is Dutch treat. Transportation is \$13. Please call Jamie at 785-274-3398 as space is limited.

DAY OUT IN MANHATTAN

Wednesday, February 28 | 8:45 am | Shuttle pick up in Evergreen Lobby

We will begin our day with a guided tour of the Beach Museum on the KSU campus. We will take a drive and look the campus. Then we will head downtown to shop and eat a delicious lunch at your own pace. After lunch let's check out the cool cars at Midwest Dream Car Collection. The tours cost \$5. Anyone still need ice cream from Call Hall Dairy Bar? Lunch is Dutch treat. Transportation is \$13. Please call Jamie at 785-274-3398 as space is limited.

ON CAMPUS — A few highlights!

RUMMIKUB EXTRAVAGANZA

Wednesday, February 7 | 1:00 pm | Redwood Game Room

In 2024, we are looking to start new and exciting game groups. This is a chance to learn how to play Rummikub and meet some new people. We will have snacks, prizes and fun. Everyone is invited to come.

PALENTINE'S DAY CELEBRATION (VALENTINE'S FOR PALS!)

Tuesday, February 13 | 11:30 am | Cultural Arts Center

We are inviting all the pals to participate in an early Valentine's Day Celebration. **We will have a yummy baked potato bar with delicious fixings.** Additionally we will have special magical entertainment. The cost is \$5.

DIANA CARLIN PRESENTS HER NEW BOOK

Tuesday, February 20 | 1:00 pm | Cultural Arts Center

Osher faculty member, Diana Carlin, will be at Brewster Place to present a program on her new book, *Remember the First Ladies: America's History-Making Women*. Diana taught an Osher course, *The Generals' Wives*, about Martha Washington, Julia Grant, and Mamie Eisenhower and has featured other first ladies such as Eleanor Roosevelt and Barbara Bush in some of her other Osher programs. She will highlight some of the women in the book and little-known facts about them and will have copies of the book available for purchase and signing. The book covers all presidential wives from Martha Washington to Jill Biden (who gave an interview for the book) and includes numerous photos and portraits (many in color) of the first ladies. The price of the book is \$25 and can be paid by check, cash, or through Venmo.

SIGMA ALPHA IOTA MUSIC PROGRAM

Tuesday, February 20 | 7:00 pm | Cultural Arts Center

The Topeka Alumnae Association of SAI invites you to their Annual Musicale: Let Us Entertain You. We will offer a variety of musical entertainment including scholarship winners: Cleo Foster, violin solo and Cassandra McMannes, viola solo. Kristy Baker Lampe, piano solo; Lana Balka, flute, Alcia Foster, flute and Carole Hawkins, piano performing Pachelbel Canon; Barbershop Quartet representing the Capital City Barbershop Chorus; Sunflower Music Festival students, in collaboration with the Topeka Housing Authority, coordinated by Dr. David Woods, performing on a variety of instruments, a brief "sweetheart" singalong with you, ending with the SAI alumnae performing their own Chorale. Lana Balka, SAI President and Carole Hawkins, Program Director.

FUTURE EVENT

NEW THEATRE AND RESTAURANT IN KC

Wednesday, March 27

9:45 am | Shuttle pick up at The Evergreens Lobby only

New Theatre is bringing back the man...ELVIS. *ELVIS: ALOHA FROM VEGAS* traces The King's journey through the 70s. It was a period of reinvention, kicking off a seven-year annual residency at the International Hotel in Las Vegas, running through the sold-out shows at Madison Square Garden, and culminating in a historic international live satellite broadcast from Hawaii, all set to unforgettable songs like "Burning Love," "Suspicious Minds," and of course, "Can't Help Falling in Love." Tickets are \$36 and includes lunch. Transportation is \$13. Please call Jamie at 785-274-3398 as space is limited.