

In this issue:

- 2 Ewert Named CEO Community Health Nursing and Catered+
- 3 Family Caregiver MonthMake It MondayWriting Group
- 4 From the Chaplain
- 5 Bible StudyComing in DecemberThankful Thursdays
- 6 Foundation News
- 7 Foundation Forum Charitable Gift Annuity Rates

Brewster Meal Plan
At the Movies on BPTV

8 Honoring Our Veterans Photos

Our 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.

A Shared Purpose with a Spirit of Giving

or more than 54 years, Brewster's purpose has been to provide services to seniors in the place they call home. Our commitment is first and foremost to our residents by providing them with opportunities for an optimal quality

of life. We are also, however, committed to the larger community and we seek to find ways to live out our faith-based mission of serving others.

The Brewster Place Annual Holiday Charity Bazaar is a tradition for the Brewster community as well as the Topeka community.

Although the actual event culminates with a twoday Bazaar, the preparation for the

Brewster Place Annual Holiday Charity

BAZAAR



Friday & Saturday November 9 & 10 9:00 am—3:00 pm Klinge Activity Center

Quilt Drawing

Tea Room (Friday only)

Bake Sale (Saturday only)

- Hand-embroidered tea towels
- Knitted & crocheted items
- ♦ Charming gifts for babies & kids
- Wonderful quilts, throws & runners
- ♦ Handmade kitchen & home goods
- ♦ Holiday accents
- ♦ Hand-painted ornaments & crafts

Proceeds benefit charitable organizations in the Topeka community.

event is what provides us purpose. Residents gather every week to sew, quilt, build, paint, iron, stuff, hem, cut, saw and create. It's a collaborative effort led by Creative Arts Coordinator Kris Saia where many hands work together to make each item. It's in the *gathering together in creativity* where we find purpose and work for something that is greater than ourselves.

We can't wait to show you all of the wonderful things the residents have completed for this year's event! We have a talented crew here at Brewster Place! This year we have added a **Friday Tea Room** to the Bazaar — a little spot where our guests can sit and enjoy a bit of dessert and something hot to drink while they are shopping. And, as in years past, we will have a **Bazaar Bake Sale on Saturday**. If you're a great candy, cookie, brownie, cake, or pie baker, we would be so pleased to accept your homemade donations for Friday and Saturday! Please call Kris Saia, Creative Arts Coordinator, at 274-3317 to find out details.

Ewert Named as Brewster's Next President and CEO

The Brewster Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Walter J. (Joe) Ewert, will assume duties as President and Chief Executive Officer on January 1, 2019, succeeding David Beck, who announced his retirement in late spring.

Ewert currently serves as Vice President of Health Services at Brewster Place. Ewert's appointment culminated a nation-wide search conducted by the Brewster Board.

"We are delighted that Joe has accepted this most important position at this time in Brewster's fifty-plus year history of providing awardwinning programs to elders in our community," said Darin Stephens, Chair of the Board of Directors. "We see Joe's passion for providing state-of-the-art care, positive environments and experiences to our residents and off-campus clients. Quite frankly, Joe is the right fit for Brewster at this time."

Brewster Place is in the midst of completing a major project constructing an indoor pool, expanded exercise facilities, new dining venues, spa and living accommodations. The project is expected to be completed in early 2020.

Community Health Nursing and New Catered+ Program

Stay in your Independent Living home longer — with a little help from Brewster

ne of the biggest reasons people move to a Life Plan Community like Brewster Place is for the security of knowing health services are available when needed. If you live in Independent Living you might need the assistance of our Community Health Nursing staff. If the term Community Health Nursing sounds new to you, it's because this is the new name of Brewster's Home Health department.

The Community Health Nursing office is still located on the first floor of Assisted Living and you can still get the same great services as before. Services available on a fee-for-service basis include:

- Medication management
- Medication delivery and reminders
- Diabetes management
- Wound dressing changes
- Emergency assessment and triage
- Additional housekeeping
- Emergency nurse call
- Care coordination
- Assistance with dressing, grooming, bathing, and personal hygiene

We know residents want to stay in their homes for as long as possible. Residents who live in Redwood are already part of **Catered Living** where their meals are part of their monthly fee.

This program has been in existence for several years and works well for those in Redwood. If you are interested in **Catered Living**, please contact our Lifestyle Consultants at 274-3350.

In addition to Catered Living, we now have an extension to that program called **Catered+** that is available through the Community Health Nursing Program. **Catered+** allows residents to secure additional assistance whenever needed as part of one monthly fee. Services include items listed earlier in this article.

To qualify for **Catered+** current residents must be able to:

- Navigate the campus independently
- Dine in the campus restaurants independently
- Demonstrate safety awareness
- Manage incontinence
- Not be a wander risk

If you would like to learn more about the services of the Community Health Nursing team or the **Catered+ Program**, please call Elise Leonard, Director of Community Health Services, at 274-3385. ■

Words from Wellness

National Family Caregiver Month

By Tim McManus, Spiritual Wellness Support Specialist

ovember is **National Family Caregiver Month**. This is a time to celebrate the contribution of



those volunteer friends and family members who support a loved one with their health or managing a disability. It's estimat-

ed that more than 44 million Americans care for a family member, friend or neighbor. While the care provided is necessary and done unselfishly and with love, caregivers need to be mindful of their own physical and emotional needs lest they wear out before the person they're caring for.

Jo Horne, author of *Caregiving: Helping an Aging Loved One*, has developed a Caregiver Bill of Rights in order to assist people in minimizing the stress and burnout that can accompany caregiving. In it she states caregivers have the right:

- To take care of myself. This is not an act of selfishness. It will enable me to take better care of my loved one.
- To seek help from others even though my loved one may object. I recognize the limits of my own endurance and strength.
- To maintain facets of my own life which do not include the person I care for, just as I would if

he or she were healthy. I know that I do everything that I reasonably can for this person, and I have a right to do some things for myself.

- To get angry, be depressed, and express other difficult emotions occasionally.
- To reject any attempt by my loved one (either conscious or unconscious) to manipulate me through guilt, anger or depression.
- To receive consideration, affection, forgiveness, and acceptance from my loved one for as long as I offer these qualities in return.
- To take pride in what I am accomplishing and to applaud the courage it sometimes takes to meet the needs of my loved one.
- To protect my individuality and my right to make a life for myself that will sustain me when my loved one no longer needs my full-time help.
- To expect and demand that as new strides are made in finding resources to aid physically and mentally impaired persons in our country, similar strides will be made toward aiding and supporting caregivers.

Caregivers need not go it alone. Brewster Place offers a Caregiver Support Group that meets the third Monday of each month at 10:30 am in the Chapel. This group is open to residents and Brewster Connect members. If interested, contact Tim McManus at 274-3310. ■

Creative Arts with Kris Saia

Make It Monday!

Monday, November 19 1:00 pm | Redwood Lounge

Save this date to get crafty with Kris. She has a surprise project and everyone is welcome. No experience necessary! ■

Writing & Reminiscing

Monday, November 26

1:00 pm | Redwood Founders Room

November Prompt: Write an original piece or speak about gratitude, specifically, when did you remember really understanding what it means to be grateful and how have you cultivated that gratitude throughout your life. ■



From the Chaplain | Enter His Gates with Thanksgiving

PRAISE:

by Chaplain Roger Jackson, M. Div.

all is here! Before you know it, we will be celebrating Thanksgiving. Why do we observe this

holiday? The observance of Thanksgiving is a tradition that we hold near to our hearts as Americans. The tradition of gathering together with friends and family for Thanksgiving began almost 400 years ago at Plymouth Colony. The Pilgrims uprooted themselves and sailed for America on the Mayflower seeking religious freedom and a new way of life for their families. Through what they endured, it is amazing that we ever came to have this holiday at all.

First, instead of landing in Virginia where others from England had already established settlements, the Mayflower was blown off course and landed at Plymouth, Massachusetts just in time for winter to set in. What followed next was enough to break the will of even the strongest of people; terrible storms and sickness ravaged the settlers. Gov. William Bradford described this first winter as, "That which was most sad and lamentable, was that in two or three months' time, half of the company had died."

He went on to describe how that sometimes two, even three, people died each day. Shelter from the harsh winter was scarce as the Pilgrims spent their time digging seven times as many graves for their dead as they built homes for the living. When the ship arrived which was to bring food for their relief, they found that while it brought 35 more mouths to feed, it brought not an ounce of provisions. The very fact that the tradition of Thanksgiving originated from this band of beaten brothers is amazing indeed!

Yet, in 1621, Edward Winslow, one of the fifty or so members of the Plymouth Colony wrote these words describing the first Thanksgiving. "Our harvest of corn came in well, and God be praised, we had a good increase of Indian corn and our barley crop was also good... And although our harvests are not always so plentiful, as it was at this time with us, yet by the goodness of God, we are so far from want, that we often wish that you could be partakers of our plenty." (http://www.stlukes.net/recent_sermons/Thanksgiving_Day_Sermon_C_2001.htm)

Wanting never to forget how God delivered them from their want, the Pilgrims and their descend-

ants developed a tradition to remember the hard times from which they had been delivered. Whenever they gathered for a dinner of "thanksgiving," they had a custom of placing five kernels of corn upon an empty plate before the meal was served. Each member of the family would pick up a kernel and tell that for which they were thankful. This was a reminder to them how during that first winter at Plymouth food was so scarce that each individual was rationed only five kernels

of corn each day.

I am reminded of Psalm 100:4 that says, Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name. As Christians, even in the direst of circumstances, we are to be thankful for what we have, giving thanks and praise to our God. We need to give God our thanks not just during this holiday season but all year round.

There is a worship song that shares our praise and thanksgiving to God; it is simply entitled, "Give Thanks," written by Henry Smith. The song goes:

Give thanks with a grateful heart Give thanks to the Holy One Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son

And now let the weak say, "I am strong"

Let the poor say, "I am rich

Because of what the Lord has done for us"

Give thanks!

When you are sitting around the dinner table this Thanksgiving, whether you have 5 kernels of corn or not, share with others one thing you are thankful for. We have so much. Then, I encourage you to give thanks everyday throughout the year. As you get up in the morning just shout out, "I am thankful for..." and you finish the sentence. Let us be a thankful people!

Happy Thanksgiving! ■

Bible Study

Mondays, November 26—December 17 3:00—4:00 pm | Main Street Chapel



BECAUSE OF

Bethlehem

From New York Times
Bestselling Author MAX LUCADO

n Because of Bethlehem, a four-session Bible study, Max Lucado explores how the One who made everything chose to make himself nothing and come into our world. Jesus' birth gives us the promise that God is always near us, always for us, and always within us.

Chaplain Roger Jackson, Facilitator 274-3349 ■

Coming in December!

Mark your calendars for these special events coming in December:

Merry Market

Wednesday, December 5

We will once again have outside vendors come to share their products and allow us to have a festive shopping experience right here on campus! Everything from jewelry to poinsettias to treats and more! More details coming soon!

Retirement Reception

David Beck, President & CEO

Thursday, December 13

2:00—4:00 pm | Klinge Activity Center

Please join us as we thank David for his years of service and wish him well in retirement.

Resident Holiday Party

Tuesday, December 18

6:00 pm

Dessert with festive beverages

6:30 pm

Entertainment provided by Nancy Goodall and friends ■

Thankful Thursday

Thanksgiving is not just a date on the November calendar. Thanksgiving is an attitude that we all should continue to develop in our lives. Each Thursday in November we hope to make a conscious effort to be thankful for our blessings.

It is easy in today's world to have toxic thoughts and listen to the negative words. These thoughts and words create negative cycles in our lives. Being



thankful changes the sequencing of words and the processing of your thoughts. Your story will change when you open your heart to compassion for yourself and others. With a heart of gratitude, it is easier to find your blessings in everyday situations.

There is still much to be thankful for if we only have eyes to see it. Join us as we cultivate a lifestyle of gratitude by observing Thankful Thursday.

Thursday, November 1

Be mindful of an attitude of gratitude for our simple blessings. Food, water, shelter, etc.

Thursday, November 8

Make a card for a friend or neighbor expressing your thankfulness for them.

Thursday, November 15

Bless a Brewster employee with a quick note of gratitude.

Thursday, November 22

Be a blessing to those around you.

Thursday, November 29

Send a letter to a family member letting them know how they have blessed your life.

We will have supplies available in the Redwood Lounge and The Evergreens Parlor to make cards, notes and letters. ■



Non-Cash Giving May Be the Right Fit for You

by Jeremy Hall, Director of Brewster Foundation

S urveys have shown that donors rarely cite the tax advantages as the most important reason they give to charity. This means donors give because they care about the organization.

The Brewster Foundation has been able to provide emergency loans for staff, some scholar-ship help for those continuing in educational pursuits, and paying the co-pay for qualifying staff on the Brewster insurance plan. The Foundation has contributed to provide for benevolent care for those residents that have moved into Brewster on an EPP or LAP and have outlived their resources. The Brewster Foundation is also involved in many smaller projects and the larger *New Opportunities* for a Thriving Community NOW campaign.

As most people know, the Brewster Foundation accepts cash gifts, which is the most common form of gift received by non-profit organizations. What many people do not realize, is the wide range of gifts that we will accept and the benefits that you could receive from giving a non-cash gift.

We have talked with donors who have liquidated assets so they could have the cash to give or make pledge payments. This often will cost you transaction fees and capital gains taxes on those transactions. If that asset is given directly to the non-profit, like Brewster, it would reduce your tax liabilities on appreciated assets and maximize the gift.

Non-cash gifts can range from stocks, bonds, mutual funds, securities, real property, artwork, cars, real estate and more. Non-cash gifts can have a wonderful impact on the programs that matter to you. For gifts of stock, the process is simple. Most brokers will have a form that you fill out to expedite the transaction. Other non-cash gifts that we have received are tickets to events that we can then provide to staff as incentives or drawings. We recently accepted a vehicle that we are now able to use for staff transportation, keeping our other vehicles free to transport our residents. In addition, we have received gifts of teaching materials to use for continuing education for our staff. We even received the gift of therapy dolls for use in our memory care neighborhoods. As you can see, the possibilities are endless.

The Brewster Foundation has a gift acceptance policy that we follow for accepting some of the more interesting gifts — things such as the corn harvested on your farm for the season, or the land you have owned for years. We have to make sure the gift can either be easily used by Brewster, or can be converted to cash to benefit Brewster. We want to make sure the gift is in the best interest of the Brewster Foundation and your needs, so we will have an open and honest discussion about gifts of this nature. A non-cash gift could be the right gift for you. Let's be creative and benefit from non-cash gifts!

The Brewster Foundation's Mission is to Raise Funds in Support of Brewster.

Every gift, cash or approved non-cash gifts, helps us to advance our mission. ■

IRA Required Minimum Distribution

s the end of the year approaches, many people are meeting with their investment advisor to discuss their Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) - the amount that you are required to withdraw from your IRA account. Remember, you are able to gift your RMD directly to a non-profit organization, such as the Brewster Foundation, and this would give you some very nice tax benefits. In order to receive the tax benefits, let your advisor know that you want the gift given directly to the Brewster Foundation. You are still able to designate the specific fund that you would like your gift to support at Brewster. It could be designated to Benevolent Care, Employee Assistance and Support, our Unrestricted Fund, or be used to advance our ongoing New Opportunities for a Thriving Community NOW campaign.

Please give us a call at 274-3327 and let us help you make an impact at Brewster! ■

Charitable Gift Annuity Rates

In the October edition of the Brewster News, we shared with you that the Charitable Gift Annuity rates have increased. This is a great time for some people to invest in this type of gift. Did you know that you could fund your Charitable Gift Annuity with some non-cash gifts? YOU CAN! Check out these rates and call the Brewster Foundation to see if this is the right gift for you.

	One Life	
Age	Old Rate	New Rate
70	5.1%	5.6%
75	5.8%	6.2%
80	6.8%	7.3%
85	7.8%	8.3%
90+	9.0%	9.5%

	Two Lives	3
Age	Old Rate	New Rate
65/70	4.4%	4.7%
70/75	4.8%	5.2%
75/80	5.3%	5.7%
80/85	6.1%	6.6%
85/90	7.3%	8.0%
90/95	8.8%	9.3%

Foundation Forum

Thursday, November 1 10:00 am

The Evergreens Community Room

adison Sorsen, Topeka JUMP's Associate Organizer, will share information about the Topeka JUMP organization. Topeka JUMP is a coalition of 18 congregations in Shawnee County. Through Topeka JUMP, people of faith from all walks of life come together to seek justice for the widow, the orphan, and the poor. JUMP's mission is to provide a powerful vehicle for marginalized groups in Shawnee County to fight for justice. Significant impact has been made in the areas of education, mental health, affordable housing, and public transportation. Come and learn more about the organization and the many things they are doing in our community.

Brewster Meal Club

oin our Brewster Meal Club! Sign up for \$175 per month, and enjoy a minimum of 52 FREE MEALS over the next 3 months on Brewster! Why be a slave to your dirty dishes when you can enjoy a good meal with friends and leave the dishes to us? Contact Kelly Chavez, Culinary Arts Manager for details at 274-3365.

The Evergreens Grill

The Evergreens Grill is now open until 7:00 pm to accommodate those who prefer to dine later in the evening. ■

At the Movies on BPTV 1960

Thursdays at 2:00 pm BPTV 1960

November 1

"Let There Be Light" (2017 faith and inspirational)

November 8

"The Miracle Season" (2018 drama based on real life)

November 16

"The Great Gilly Hopkins" (2016 drama)

November 22

No movie today.

November 29

"The Children Act" (2018 courtroom drama)

Wellness Surveys

Please note residents will receive Wellness Surveys in December. We value your input and hope you will take time to fill one out. Your input helps us know how to serve you better.



facebook.com/brewsterplace.org

With Grateful Hearts We Honor Our Veterans

Veterans Day originated as "Armistice Day" on November 11, 1919, the first anniversary of the end of World War I. Congress passed a resolution in 1926 for an annual observance, and November 11 became a national holiday beginning in 1938. Unlike Memorial Day, Veterans Day pays tribute to all American veterans—living or dead—but especially gives thanks to living veterans who served their country honorably during war or peacetime. *History.com*

The military men and women who serve and protect the U.S. come from all walks of life; they are parents, children, grandparents, friends, neighbors and coworkers, and are an important part of their communities.

At Brewster Place we honor our veterans — both residents and staff — all year long by showcasing their photos on the Veterans Wall of Honor in the Dorothy Trueblood Resident Art Gallery. We have over 100 photos on display. In addition, veterans photos are displayed on BPTV 1960 during the week of Veterans Day. Brewster Health Center also honors veterans with a special ceremony each year where every veteran receives a certificate honoring their service.

Please join us for any or all of these events! ■

We invite you to join us for these special events to honor our veterans! **Deo Gloria Singers Veterans Day Performance** Tuesday, November 6 7:00 pm | Redwood Lounge **Honoring Our Veterans** Monday, November 12 10:00 am Brewster Health Center **Veterans Wall of Honor** Reception Monday, November 12 2:00 pm Dorothy Trueblood Resident Art Gallery (Redwood lower level)



Photo: Virginia Tevis along with Driver Darrell Vaughn and Kaizen Kayla Schmidt at the Brown v. Board Mural in Topeka. This mural is located across the street from the Brown v. Board National Historic Site. The mural explores themes of equality and justice through the eyes of young people in our community. Artist Michael Toombs directed the painting of the 130' x 30' wall along with a team of artists and thousands of members of the community.

Earlier in the year, some of our residents had to opportunity to paint part of the mural.

Birthdays		
Mary Fallon	1	
Carol Ann Garrett	1	
Hilda Lundgren	1	
Beth Neuer	1	
Joan Briman	2	
Paul Beck, Jr.	3	
Glenda Sleeper	3	
Ann Uhl	3	
Dorothy Funk	4 4	
Bob Knight		
Gloria Barron	5	
Jean Warner	6	
Julie Reeves	8	
Ginger Cain Davis	10	
Dorothy Fager	10	
Michael Long	11	
Marilyn Stanton	14	
Shirley Albright	16	
Betty Casper	16	
Diana Siegal	16	
Maurice Trower	17	
Joyce Davis	18	
Susan Anderson	21	
Marcella Montgomery	22	
Barbara Thiele	23	
Don Moses	26	
Virginia Tevis	26	
Barbara Wydman	28	
Lila Rice	30	
Anniversaries		
Lew and Mary Mills	11/14/2004	
Woody and Monna Bulkley	11/21/2007	
Bruce and Glenda Bower	11/23/1984	
In Memoriam		
Mrs. Hazel Cramer	9/30/2018	
Mr. Herbert Smith	10/02/2018	
Mr. Robert Jernigan	10/13/2018	
Mr. Ray Beers	10/16/2018	
Nay Decis	10, 10, 2010	

Staff Anniversaries

Brewster staff members who are celebrating their employment anniversaries in November!

Department <u>Dining Services</u>	Location	Years			
Charles Todd	RW	1			
Breanna Cunliffe	RW	3			
Environmental Services					
Jennifer Biggs	RW	4			
Health Services Administration					
Lea Chaffee	BHC	2			
Layla Sullivan	BHC	7			
Margaret King	BHC	7			
Health Services					
Sarah Watson	BHC	2			
Kathy Hosey	BHC	14			
Jayce Heiman	BHC	2			
Jeveny Nolting	BHC	3			
Jacqueline Epperly	BHC	2			
Raven McElroy	BHC	1			
Julia West	AL	2			
Kay Uhlich	HH	18			
Samantha Schlagel	HH	3			
<u>Rehab</u>					
Shavonne Bennett	Rehab	7			
Security/Transportation					
Martina Adams	RW	8			
Albert Lewis	RW	4			
Yolanda Hull-Smith	Campus	3			
Dan Brooks	Campus	2			
<u>Therapy</u>					
Sherry Geisler	BHC	8			

New Residents

Dorothy Melchior The Evergreens G-5

The Brewster News is a monthly publication for the residents and friends of Brewster Place. The Brewster News is also available online at:

www. Brewster Living.org

Janis Swanson, Editor Janis.Swanson@BrewsterLiving.org

november | on-campus events

Foundation Forum | Thursday, November 1 | 10:00 am | The Evergreens Community Room

The Forum will host Topeka JUMP. See article on page 7 for more details.

Deo Gloria Singers Veterans Day Performance | Tuesday, November 6 | 7:00 pm | Redwood Lounge

We love having this wonderful group come to sing for us. This month they will honor all veterans with some patriotic songs and the song of each military branch.

Resident Council Meeting | Thursday, November 8 | 10:00 am | Redwood Lounge

Please note the change of location due to the Bazaar. All residents are encouraged to attend!

Brewster Place Annual Holiday Charity Bazaar

Friday and Saturday, November 8 and 9 | 9:00 am—3:00 pm | Klinge Activity Center

See article on page on the front page of this issue.

Veterans Wall of Honor Reception | Monday, November 12 | 2:00 pm

Dorothy Trueblood Resident Art Gallery (Redwood lower level)

If you haven't taken time to view the Veterans Wall of Honor, please join us for this reception and thank our veterans for their service.

Bridge | Tuesday, November 13 and 27 | 7:00 pm | Redwood Lounge

If interested, please call Doris Davidson at 286-1432 or Christel Marquardt at 274-5509.

Piano and Trumpet Performance | Wednesday, November 14 | 3:00 pm | Redwood Lounge

Come enjoy some toe-tapping, hand-clapping music! Ed Farris and his friend, Rick Williams, are coming to Brewster to entertain us.

Flute Performance | Sunday, November 18 | 2:00 pm | Redwood Lounge

You have the opportunity to enjoy the beautiful sounds of Jackson County Flutes. Each member of the group resides in Jackson County and plays the flute. They each have different professions but enjoy playing music together. Members range in age from the 20s to the 60s. The program will consist of traditional Christmas music with some surprising, jazzy twists. Some songs will feature the piccolo as well!

Make IT Monday | Monday, November 19 | 1:00 pm | Redwood Lounge

Kris has a surprise project for everyone to work on. No experience necessary!

Jeopardy for Fun Trivia | Tuesday, November 20 | 12:30 pm | Chapel

Back by resident request Valerie is coming to host Jeopardy for Fun. The Market will be serving Pizza for lunch and then move into the Chapel for Fun. Join us for this fun-filled trivia challenge that everyone can enjoy. Don't worry, it's all in good fun!

Bible Study | Monday, November 26 | 3:00 pm | Chapel

See article on page 5 of this issue.

Kansas Humanities Book Talk | Tuesday, November 27 | 2:00 pm | The Evergreens Community Room We will discuss the book, A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier, by Ishmael Beah. It is the story of the author's life in war-torn Sierra Leone. His childhood did not prepare him for his move to the U.S. in 1998, where he would finish high school at the United Nations International School in New York. The book details his life in the U.S. as an immigrant. The discussion leader, Marwa Ghazali, is a first generation U.S. citizen who brings interesting details to the written book. Even if you don't read the book, please come and listen to her interesting presentation.

Christmas Hymn Sing with JoLana | Friday, November 30 | 1:00 pm | Redwood Lounge

Come and make a joyful noise! Join JoLana in singing our favorite Christmas hymns and songs. Or just come and listen to her beautiful voice.

november | off-campus events

Lunch Out and Drive | Thursday, November 1 | 11:00 am | Lobbies

Come and enjoy a delicious Mexican lunch at El Dorado Mexican Grille & Cantina. We will then take the scenic way home by way of Lake Shawnee. Please call Jamie at 274-3398 for reservations.

Topeka Symphony Orchestra | Saturday, November 3 | 6:45 pm | Lobbies

The orchestra will perform several pieces of music inspired by great works of art looking to the life and music of German composer, Paul Hindemith. Hindemith was writing during the Nazi regime in Germany and walked a fine line between self-expression and self-preservation. The symphony also welcomes Jane Carl to the stage on Mozart's ever-popular Clarinet Concerto. Tickets can be purchased at the door. Please call Jamie at 274-3398 for reservations.

Topeka Country Club Cooking Class | Wednesday, November 7 | 10:45 | Lobbies

Learn to create appetizers, side dishes and main courses to make your guests say "Wow!" Join us to learn chef secrets (shhhh!) for presentation, methods, and ingredients for your next holiday party. The cost is \$27 which includes a gourmet lunch, glasses of wine and delicious recipes. Please call Jamie at 274-3398 for reservations.

Ladies Day Out in Kansas City | Thursday, November 15 | 9:45 am | Lobbies

We will begin our day in Kansas City with a gourmet Lunch at J. Alexander's. They have the most delicious desserts in the area. Then we will go to the Kansas City Holiday Boutique at the Overland Park Convention Center. We will be delighted with lots of unique gift ideas for the holidays, artisan products, and chic fashions. We will enjoy a stroll through the Kansas City Festival of Trees. Please invite a friend. Transportation cost is \$13. Lunch is Dutch treat. Tickets are \$15. Please call Jamie at 274-3398 for bus reservations.

CASA Holiday Homes Tour | Saturday, November 17 | 9:30 am | Lobbies

For over 30 years, CASA of Shawnee County has been showcasing exquisite homes, which are beautifully decorated by expert designers as a way of raising money and awareness of CASA programs. This year they will feature six homes and will introduce WIBW Sweet Treats Bakery. Tickets are \$15. Lunch will be Dutch treat. Please call Jamie at 274-3398 for reservations.

Cornerstone Fall Concert | Tuesday, November 27 | 6:00 pm | Lobbies

Cornerstone Home School Group presents their annual fall concert. They are directed by Dorothy Iliff, Mary Muilenburg's daughter. A free will donation will be accepted. Please call Jamie at 274-3398 for reservations.

Kansas City Christmas Lights and Dinner | Wednesday, November 28 | 2:00 pm | Lobbies

This trip will surely put you in the holiday spirit! We will begin by strolling through the Hallmark Visitor Center. They feature Hallmark Live, Keepsake Ornaments, and many interactive displays and fascinating exhibits giving you a glimpse into the rich history and creative spirit of Hallmark. Then we will head to a yummy dinner on the Country Club Plaza at the Cheesecake Factory. After dinner we will go see the lights! Come and enjoy. Transportation cost is \$13. Dinner is Dutch treat. Please call Jamie at 274-3398 for reservations.

Topeka Festival of Trees | Thursday, November 29 | 1:00 pm | Lobbies

It's the most wonderful time of the year as we enjoy the Topeka Festival of Trees! There will be over 60 trees, wreaths, tablescapes, mantlescapes, and outdoor designs. There will be a holiday market and sweet shoppe. We will stroll through this magical wonderland. Tickets are \$3. Please call Jamie at 274-3398 for reservations.

Topeka Civic Theatre | Thursday, November 29 | 6:00 pm | Lobbies

TCT presents *Elf the Musical*. This hilarious fish-out-of-water comedy follows Buddy the Elf in his quest to find his true identity; while reminding us all what the true meaning of Christmas is all about. This modern day holiday classic is sure to make everyone in your family embrace their inner elf. After all, the best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear. Tickets are \$33. Please call Jamie at 274-3398 for reservations.

On Stage Live | Friday, November 30 | 6:30 pm | Lobbies

American pianist, Thomas Pandolfi, returns to Topeka with a magnificent program entitled "Spanish Romance, Chopin, and the Movies." If you are a fan of piano and cinematic film music, this night of romantic piano music is not to be missed! Tickets can be purchased at the door. Please call Jamie at 274-3398 for reservations.