



We hope you will join us May 13—17 as we celebrate our 60th anniversary with special events that showcase our homes, amenities, services *and* gather us together in community!

MONDAY, MAY 13

Parade of Homes and Social

2:00—4:00 pm

Tours begin at the Cultural Arts Center

We will welcome guests from the community to tour a variety of homes including The Evergreens, Redwood, Cottonwood Villas and Brewster Rehab.

Social at 3:00 pm

Cultural Arts Center

At 3:00 pm residents, BrewsterConnect members and Parade of Homes guests are welcome to a special Social with drinks, appetizers and fun!

TUESDAY, MAY 14

T-Shirts and Treats!

10:00 am | Redwood

Residents, BrewsterConnect members and staff are welcome to come for donuts and to pick up your FREE 60th anniversary t-shirt. We ask that you stick around and put your t-shirt on so we can create a BIG 60 outside for a great photo op.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15

Experience Brewster Place Fair

2:00—4:00 pm | Cultural Arts Center

The public is invited to “experience” what life is like at Brewster Place. There will be a Fair at the Cultural Arts Center with staff from all departments ready to give information and answer questions. We will also have “*break-out*” sessions showcasing classes at the Brewster Events Wellness Center, Aquatic Center, The Evergreens Art Studio, and the Brewster Events Center Woodshop.

THURSDAY, MAY 16

BBQ and Live Band

4:00 pm | Food served

5:00—7:00 pm | Music

Bill Foley Band

Brewster Events Center (outside weather permitting)

Residents and their families, BrewsterConnect members and staff are welcome to have some wonderful BBQ. And then stay for great music from all decades from the Bill Foley Band.

FRIDAY, MAY 17

Ribbon Cutting

Celebrating 60 Years and Redwood Renovation

10:00 am | Redwood

Everyone is welcome to attend this special ceremony held exactly 60 years to the day from the first public open house at Brewster Place. Dignitaries from the community and Brewster Place board members will be in attendance. ■

MISSION

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

60 YEARS AGO — DEDICATION AND OPEN HOUSE

THE BREWSTER PLACE STORY PART 5

by Janis Swanson, Editor



Top: The full-page ad in the Topeka Capital-Journal dated May 17, 1964. **Above:** The Dedication Ceremony and Dinner held in the basement on May 16, 1964. This is now the Klinge Activity Center in Redwood.

*This article was compiled using documents from the Brewster Place archives including **The Brewster Place Story: A Dream Come True** which was published in 1981 and is the first volume of the history of Brewster Place.*

On May 16, 1964, a dedication dinner and ceremony was held in the basement of Brewster Place. If you can believe it, 365 patrons and residents attended the emotional and satisfying event that marked the culmination of six years of planning and building.

On that same day, a full-page advertisement appeared in the Topeka Capital-Journal to invite all Topekans to an Open House on Sunday, May 17, 1964. The advertisement was paid for by M. W. Watson Co., the general contractor that built Brewster Place.

It's hard to imagine the sense of accomplishment the founders felt on this special dedication evening. The Rev. Ned Burr McKenney, former pastor of Central Congregational Church who played a key role in the early stages, returned to Topeka to speak at the dedication. He said, *"Two qualities — faith and imagination — built Brewster Place."* He continued, *"Brewster Place is not a last refuge for old people. It is emphatically not a home for the aged. It is a place where you can come to live, enjoying both independence and security. This is a place where those who love life can live it to the full. Here you can be young at heart for as long as that heart keeps beating."*

Brewster Place was indeed a unique concept and both city newspapers featured stories about this new home describing it as the, "2 1/4 million dollar Congregational retirement home" or the "five-story 150 unit luxury apartment building" or just the "Brewster Hilton."

Brewster Place was described as the most "comfortable and convenient if not actually luxurious," that included:

- The 150 apartments that vary from single-room studios to larger bedroom and living room combinations. Some have balconies. Some are garden apartments with private entrances.

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LISTENING TO OUR FAITH PARTNERS

BY CHAPLAIN JULIE FREEMAN, M.DIV

Faith is a word we use often but perhaps we don't understand well. Christian scripture tells us that faith is the *"assurance of things hoped for and the conviction of things not seen."* (Heb 11:1) Meriam Webster defines faith as *"belief in something for which there is no proof."*

Faith goes beyond intellectual knowledge into the realm of mystery because it requires belief in something our senses cannot perceive. Misunderstanding faith has been at the heart of many cultural and religious conflicts.

When we open ourselves up to different faith perspectives, we enhance our spiritual imagination without compromising our beliefs. Listening to faith partners takes courage and patience, but our reward is a wider faith and a bridge of understanding. ■



Faith Speaks: An Interfaith Dialogue

Tuesday, May 7

6:00 pm | Main Street Chapel

The Spiritual Life Committee presents the first speaker in this new series Rabbi Samuel Stern from Topeka Beth Shalom.

JOIN CHAPLAIN JULIE FOR THESE EVENTS

Sunday Supper Club

Sunday, May 5

4:00 pm | The Evergreens Brewster Bean

Bring your dinner and join us for fun, fellowship and curious conversations.

Mindfulness Meditation

Monday, May 13

10:30 am | Main Street Chapel

After a short break, Mindfulness Meditation is back with Chaplain Julie leading. The Mindfulness Meditation group offers a chance to slow down and center yourself in the present moment. All are welcome.

Morning Devotions

Sunday mornings

9:30 am | The Evergreens Brewster Bean

Join us for coffee and a short devotion with Chaplain Julie Sunday mornings 9:30am EV Brewster Bean.

Weekly Worship Service

Every Sunday

1:00 pm | Brewster Health Center

Weekly Vespers

Every Sunday

2:30 pm | Main Street Chapel ■

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

Have you ever caught yourself thinking, *“I am not creative — I can’t draw or write or paint, so why try?”* At Brewster Place we believe everyone has a creative side and it’s just waiting to be explored. Living a creative life can begin at any age and the benefits of doing so are so worth it.



**live a
CREATIVE
life!**

Ongoing research looking at singing group programs, theater training, and visual arts for older adults suggests that participating in the arts can improve the health, well-being, and independence of older adults. (nia.hih.gov)

Benefits include having a sense of purpose, interacting with others, maintaining coordination and concentration and improving mental health. Creativity is not just something found

in an art studio, it can also include planning and maintaining a garden, playing board or card games, singing, decorating, sewing, quilting and even participating in a book group where you can share your unique perspective with others. There are endless ways to pursue a creative life and we are here to nudge you to get involved and try something new. ■

CREATIVE OPPORTUNITIES JUST FOR YOU!

NEW Brewster Place Book Group

Tuesday, May 28 | 10:30 am

The Evergreens Community Room

This new group facilitated by Chaplain Julie will begin by reading the *Chicken Sisters* by K.J. Dell’Antonia.

Set in Merinac, Kansas. Chicken Mimi’s and Chicken Frannie’s have spent a century vying to serve up the best fried chicken in the state. The legendary feud between the owners — the Moores and the Pogociellos — has caught widow Amanda Moore in the middle. She had worked for her mom at Mimi’s before marrying Frank Pogociello and working for Frannie’s. When she convinces Food Wars, a reality-TV competition, to cover the feud, Amanda and her sister Mae must choose whether to fight with each other, or for their heritage. *Adapted from back cover. (A limited number of books are available in Chaplain Julie’s office.)*

Writing Club

First and Third Tuesday | 9:30 am

The Evergreens Community Room

This resident-run group helps you explore your ideas as you write poems, prose or wherever your interests lead you. Members share their writings during meetings.

Brewster Choir

First Practice for July 4th Celebration

Tuesday, May 28 | 3:30 pm

Main Street Chapel

Join Director Dorothy Iliff and other residents and staff to practice for the annual July 4th celebration.

Wood Working

Woodworkers Meeting

Wednesday, May 29 | 2:00 pm

Brewster Events Center Woodshop

Learn about the opportunities and procedures to be part of the woodshop group.

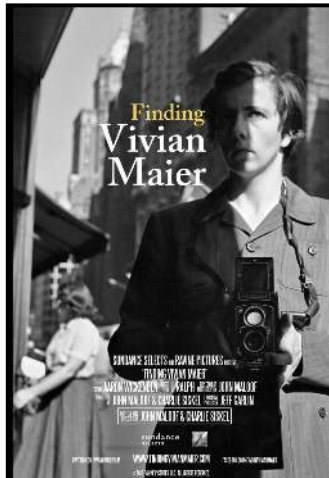
**Share Your
Creative Ideas
Join a Committee**

From the committees of Resident Council to the Diversity and Inclusion Group, there are many ways to use your creativity in helping to plan programs and events for our community. ■



CREATIVE ARTS WITH JASON BERRYMAN

Get inspired to create by attending the many offerings provided by Creative Arts Coordinator Jason Berryman. Beginners are always welcome at the two art studios or stop by Jason's office at The Evergreens if you have ideas you'd like to try.



Art Feature: *Finding Vivian Maier*

Wednesday, May 8
2:00 pm
Main Street Chapel

Please join us to view a documentary on the late Vivian Maier, a nanny and American street photographer, whose previously unknown cache of 100,000 photographs earned her a posthumous reputation as one of the most accomplished street photographers.

Vivian Maier (February 1, 1926 – April 21, 2009) was an American street photographer born in New York City. Although born in the United States, it was in France that Maier spent most of her youth. Maier returned to the U.S. in 1951 where she took up work as a nanny and caregiver for the rest of her life. In her leisure however, Maier had begun to venture into the art of photography.

Consistently taking photos over the course of five decades, she would ultimately leave over 100,000 negatives, most of them shot in Chicago and New York City. Vivian would further indulge in her passionate devotion to documenting the world around her through homemade films, recordings and collections, assembling one of the most fascinating windows into American life in the second half of the twentieth century. (vivanmaier.com)

Phoneography + Editing

Friday, May 3

10:00 am

Redwood Art Studio

Learn (or practice!) taking spectacular photographs with your smartphone! In this workshop you will not only practice taking better images on your cellphone but also (if you'd like to go the extra step) how to edit your images as well.

Easy Abstract Watercolor

Friday, May 24

10:00 am

Redwood Art Studio

If you've ever wanted to start watercolor painting (or haven't in a while) then this is the project for you! Using only paper, paints, a brush, and water you will learn a few basic techniques and finish with a completed painting.

Open Art Studio

Mondays and Fridays

1:00—3:00 pm

The Evergreens Art Studio

Tuesdays and Thursdays

1:00—3:00 pm

Redwood Art Studio

Did you miss a class you wanted to attend? Would you like help with a project you are currently working on? Open studio time is a great opportunity to learn about art from others or chatting while you work on your own creations! ■

Quilters Group

Every Monday at 9:30 am

Redwood Art Studio

This group of hand quilters is working on the quilt for the drawing at the November Bazaar.

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- Each apartment has a full private bath, a complete electric kitchen, thermostat for individual control of central heating and air-conditioning, draperies and wall-to-wall carpeting, and basement locker space. And intercoms in each room are connected with the office and the infirmary.
- Among features for use by all residents are a variety of lounges, designed to

**Brewster Place:
Honoring the Past While
Building Toward Tomorrow**

*A Special Exhibit at the
Brewster Events Center Art Gallery*

Beginning Monday, May 13

View archival photos and documents
that tell the Brewster Place story
through the decades until present.



The dining room at Brewster Place in 1964. Note the art gallery wall in the background. Residents dressed in their Sunday best while dining and enjoying visiting with their neighbors.

appeal to a variety of tastes and moods. There also are a central dining room, laundry, hobby workshops, chapel, game rooms, shuffleboard courts, rooms for private parties and a penthouse solarium with an outside boardwalk.

The open house on May 17, 1964 was a huge success with over 1,400 community members touring the new building from basement to penthouse. Twenty Congregational church members served as volunteer tour guides that day and for several weeks afterward, one or two of the volunteers were on duty every afternoon.

In preparation for the two events, residents and staff prepared an art exhibit that hung on the south wall of the dining room. The exhibit included works by Topeka artists: Helen Hodge (mother of Frances Engler), Mrs. Bryan Stoffer, Grace Sargent (mother of Churchill Sargent), and Mrs. H.H. Lanning (aunt of Anita Laurent, resident). The exhibit was changed monthly and began a long tradition of our commitment and support of the arts at Brewster Place and in the larger community.

Currently, we have many talented artists who live and work at Brewster Place. At the Brewster Events Center Art Gallery we have curated shows of regional, local and Brewster Place artists. Beginning the week of May 13, we will have a new exhibit entitled, ***“Brewster Place — Honoring the Past While Building Toward Tomorrow.”***

We hope you will join us the week of May 13 (see front page for schedule) as we celebrate 60 years of history, commitment to our mission, and service to thousands of residents over the years. ■



KU OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE

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

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

SUMMER 2024

The Musical Theatre of Lerner and Loewe

Tuesdays, June 11, 18 and 25

1:00—3:00 pm | Cultural Arts Center

Three of the most enduring musicals from Broadway's Golden Era — Brigadoon (1947), My Fair Lady (1956) and Camelot (1960) — were created by the team of writer Alan Jay Lerner and composer Frederick Loewe. This class will explore this memorable collaboration with emphasis on these three shows, as well as Lerner and Loewe's other notable projects, including the film Gigi (1958). Their work earned Academy Awards, Tony Awards, Golden Globes and Kennedy Center Honors.

Young Generals of the American Civil War

Tuesdays, July 16, 23 and 30

1:00—3:00 pm | Cultural Arts Center

During the American Civil War, the United States Army grew exponentially in size. In order to command the increased number of troops, general officers were created from younger members of the military. This class will focus on the generation of young leaders who served in the ranks of the Union Army attaining senior military positions outside the traditional norm. The class will look at the careers and war making abilities of officers in both the Western and Eastern Theaters. The first class will examine the military exploits of Western Theater generals William T. Sherman, Benjamin Grierson, Judson Kilpatrick, and John Schofield. The second class will move to the Eastern Theater and focus on Union generals Winfield Hancock, John Gibbon, George McClellan, Alfred Pleasonton, and Joshua Chamberlain. The last class will examine the Civil War careers of three of the youngest Union generals that attained senior rank, George Custer, Philip Sheridan, and Darius Couch. ■

PACKAGE DELIVERIES

If you receive a package from FedEx, UPS, US Postal Service or Amazon that has been delivered to you in error, please contact Maxine Thuston at 785-274-3374 or bring the package to her at The Evergreens.

Because of our large campus, we are experiencing packages being delivered to wrong buildings and we need your help to get the deliveries to the correct person. Thank you! ■

VETERANS HALL OF HONOR

If you are interested in honoring a veteran with a tile, please call Cheryl Shaffer at 785-274-3327 for more information. Tiles are \$250 each.

If you would like to have a photo included in the gallery, please contact Janis Swanson at 785-274-3389. Adding a photo is free. ■

HOME OF THE MONTH | EXPLORE REDWOOD

The completion of the Redwood 16 million dollar renovation is here! After a comprehensive market study, intensive structural examination, choosing building partners, architectural plans worked and re-worked, finish selections chosen, and 16 months of construction, the reimaged



Redwood Restaurant

first floor, 17 remodeled apartments and six brand new penthouse suites are ready for new residents.

Sixteen of the new apartments are spoken for with most of our new residents already on campus! The seven remaining apartment homes include two penthouse suites with floor to ceiling windows, sweeping views of campus and beyond, full sized washers and dryers and new parking spaces.

On the fifth floor there are four remaining apartments. They all have full kitchens with quartz countertops, stainless steel appliances, large walk-in closets and ensuite stackable laundry units.

The first floor has one apartment remaining. It has easy access to parking and is the perfect home for the social person who likes a hot card game or a quiet quilting session. All the amenities are just a stroll down the hallway.

If you would like to tour Redwood, give Brewster Place Sales and Marketing a call at 785-274-3351

Residents in Independent Living who make a new referral to Brewster will receive one month's free rent once the friend moves in. ■

CELEBRATING THE SOLAR ECLIPSE AND 60 YEARS!



Rhoda Wisman looked up at the total solar eclipse with her safety glasses. We had a wonderful event that began with the Brewster Place Choir and then we trekked outside to watch the eclipse and have ice cream. It was a perfect day!



Susan and Fred Hsia attended the 60th Anniversary Celebration on April 10. The event at Redwood was enjoyed by residents and staff from all areas of campus as well as board members. The new Redwood is a great place to hold a fancy event. Thank you to everyone who worked to make it happen!



JoAnn Buntun and Barbara Buntun also attended the 60th Anniversary Celebration in April. As you can see, everyone enjoyed the appetizers, drinks, music and fellowship.



OFF CAMPUS — A few highlights!

A DAY IN KANSAS CITY

Wednesday, May 8 | 8:30 am | Shuttle (pick up from EV lobby only)

We are going on a fun day out in Kansas City. We will start with a tour of this year's Kansas City Symphony Designers' Showhouse. This year's house is a Rustic Tudor Revival house at 1100 Valentine Road is set on a curve of the road which was a part of the Kansas City Inter-State Fair and later became a fashionable residential neighborhood. It is built of rock faced coursed stone and dates from about 1900 from the vernacular style of George Mathews. The house is now on the Kansas City Register of Historic Places as part of the Roanoke Historic District. We will be sure to visit the Boutique. Then we will grab lunch and do some shopping. Showhouse tickets are \$20 in advance. Lunch is Dutch treat. Transportation is \$13. Please call Jamie at 785-274-3398 as space is limited.

SPRING MORNING DRIVE

Wednesday, May 15 | 10:00 am | Shuttle (pick up from EV lobby only)

Let's begin our day with a spring drive around Topeka. It is a busy week so we will just wander the streets for one hour. Please call Jamie at 785-274-3398 as space is limited.

DAY OUT IN MANHATTAN

Wednesday, May 29 | 8:30 am | Shuttle (pick up from EV lobby only)

We will begin our day with a drive to Manhattan through the Flint Hills. We will take a tour of the newly installed art at St. Thomas More Catholic Church in Manhattan with the artist, Barbara Waterman-Peters. We will then grab lunch and do some fun afternoon activities. Lunch is Dutch treat. Transportation is \$13. Please call Jamie at 785-274-3398 as space is limited.

FUTURE EVENTS

NEW THEATRE AND RESTAURANT

Wednesday, June 5 | 9:45 am | Shuttle (pick up from EV lobby only)

New Theatre is bringing back George Wendt and Bernadette Birkett in Squabbles. It shows the good, the bad, and the in-laws. Jerry and Alice are happily married until her father decides to move in with them. Then his mother moves in with them. Then all hell breaks loose...family style. Tickets are \$36 and includes lunch. Transportation is \$13. Please call Jamie at 785-274-3398 as space is limited.

TOPEKA CIVIC THEATRE

Thursday, June 13 | 6:00 pm | Shuttle pick up in Evergreen Lobby

TCT presents *The Gods of Comedy*. It is a story about Daphne and Ralph. They are young classics professors who have just made a discovery that's sure to turn them into academic superstars. But something goes disastrously wrong, and Daphne cries out in a panic, "Save me, gods of ancient Greece!"...and the gods actually appear! The Ivy League will never be the same as a pair of screwball deities encounters the carnal complexity of college coeds, campus capers, and conspicuous consumption. Tickets are \$35. Please call Jamie at 785-274-3398 as space is limited.

ON CAMPUS — A few highlights!

HOSPICE INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Tuesday, May 7 | 2:00 pm | Cultural Arts Center

Do you wonder what hospice care is for and how to get it? Please join Matthew Herman, Staff Development Coordinator, to learn more about hospice services in Topeka and how they affect your end-of-life care. He will explain hospice services, admission guidelines and eligibility.

PACKARD PIANO PLAYERS

Thursday, May 9 | 2:00 pm | Cultural Arts Center

Come and enjoy the beautiful piano concert by Debbie and Jon Packard, the son of Betsy Packard. Don't miss this unforgettable event.

SARA TUCKER PRESENTS: KEY ROLE OF HORSES THROUGHOUT HISTORY

Tuesday, May 21 | 2:00 pm | Cultural Arts Center

Sara is a gifted speaker and loves all things history. She taught many years at Washburn University and is happy to share her knowledge with us. She will be presenting a program about the key role Horses had throughout history. She will detail the power and influence they had in shaping human civilization.

JULY 4th CHOIR BEGINS

Tuesday, May 28 | 3:30 pm | Cultural Arts Center

Calling all music lovers. Do you enjoy singing, having fun and patriotic tunes? Join Dorothy Illiff and special choir to celebrate Red, White and Brewster. We are looking for enthusiastic voices to come together and perform. No experience is necessary just a love for fun and music. Please call Jamie at 785-274-3398 if you have any questions. All rehearsals offer a tasty treat.