

THE MOST BEAUTIFUL PATCHWORK QUILT

BY JANIS SWANSON, EDITOR

"Our lives are like quilts – bits and pieces, joy and sorrow, stitched with love." — Unknown

Recently Brewster Place hosted its **Annual Holiday Craft Bazaar**. This event began in 1965 and has been a yearly tradition ever since. An exception, however, happened in 2020 when the world was faced with a global pandemic which kept everyone distant and isolated from each other. The Bazaar was canceled which made the holiday season a little less bright.

A highlight of the Bazaar is the quilt drawing where patrons can purchase chances to win a quilt that was handmade by Brewster Place residents. All proceeds of the drawing and the Bazaar have always benefited charities outside our community as well as programming at Brewster Place.

This year two quilts were featured at the Bazaar and together proceeds from the drawing were \$681. Amazingly, total net proceeds from this year's Bazaar



was \$8,431.80. The **Brewster Service Activities Committee** — one of the Resident Council standing committees — will meet to decide how proceeds are distributed. Examples include providing special programs including music and entertainment, Christmas gifts for Brewster Health Center and Assisted Living residents, supplies and equipment, and a host of other things.

The success of the Bazaar is thanks to the countless hours spent by residents and staff who work yearlong to make this event happen. And the Bazaar would not be the tradition it is without those who purchase items each year — keepsakes made with creativity and love by Brewster residents and friends.

As 2024 comes to a close, we also say 'goodbye' to a wonderful year of events celebrating Brewster's 60th anniversary. Reviewing the history of this community the past 12 months has given us a new understanding of the work, sacrifice, and dedication it took to arrive at this moment.

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MISSION

"Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love."

— Hamilton Wright Mabie

During the month of December, many things begin to pull for our attention. The holiday spirit fills the air along with the possibility for snowflakes. We begin to prepare our hearts and homes by putting up lights, getting out our cozy sweaters, and baking bread, cookies and other treats to share. Our various faith traditions call us to a time of reflection on what matters most — Love, Light and Community. As we celebrate this season, let us remember the warmth in our hearts and carry it with us all year long. Merry Christmas! Happy Hanukkah! Joyous Kwanza! ■

JOIN CHAPLAIN JULIE FOR THESE EVENTS

Sunday Supper Club

Sunday, December 1 4:00 pm | The Evergreens Brewster Bean

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

Mindfulness Meditation

Monday, December 9 2:00 pm | Main Street Chapel

The Mindfulness Meditation group offers a chance to slow down and center yourself in the present moment. All are welcome.

Angel Encounters and Divine Presence

Tuesday, December 10 1:00 pm | Main Street Chapel

The Spiritual Life Committee presents speaker Corrie Stanley to discuss her fascinating study on angels.

Grief & Gratitude Group

Monday, December 16 2:00 pm | Main Street Chapel

Finding life again after loss through gratitude with Chaplain Julie.

Sunday Morning Devotions

9:30 am | The Evergreens Brewster Bean

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

Biannual Memorial Service

Tuesday, December 17
10:00 am | Main Street Chapel

Join us for the Biannual Memorial Service as we remember those we've lost this year.

Christmas Songs and Stories

Wednesday, December 18 1:00 pm | Main Street Chapel

Learn the stories behind our favorite Christmas songs and sing along.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Tuesday, December 24 3:00 pm | Main Street Chapel

All are welcome!

Episcopal Services

Due to the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays our Episcopal services have changed:

St. David's Episcopal Service

Thursday, December 5 11:00 am | Main Street Chapel

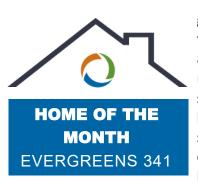
Grace Episcopal Cathedral Service

Thursday, December 19 11:00 am | Main Street Chapel ■

HOME OF THE MONTH

THE EVERGREENS 341

njoy your holidays knowing that you have locked in 2024 pricing on your Evergreens apartment.



Evergreens 341 is a
two-bedroom
apartment,
measuring 1,180
square feet. It is
located at the
south end and
east side of the
building. That

means you will enjoy gentle morning sun rises from your deck. You'll also appreciate the warmth from a south facing window in the guest bedroom with a pleasant view of the nearby neighborhood. Parking is close, just a short walk to your assigned carport parking location.

The Evergreens building opened in 1987, the era of fireplaces and large soaking tubs. Over the years many of these features have been removed. But in this apartment, residents have continued to enjoy these original design elements. The fireplace has a lovely mantle and has been fitted with an electric insert, for a feeling of warmth and coziness. The primary ensuite bath also has a large soaking tub.

The next residents can decide if they want to keep the fireplace and tub. If they choose to have them taken out, Brewster will remove them at no cost.

Do not wait, or you will miss the chance to lock in the 2024 investment plan pricing. Give Brewster Place Sales and Marketing a call at 785-274-3351.

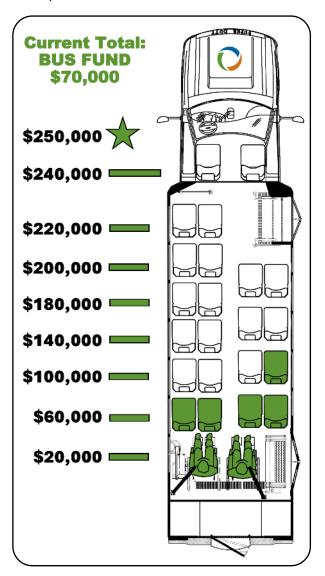
Residents in Independent Living who make a new referral to Brewster Place will receive one month's free rent once the friend moves in. ■



BUS FUND UPATE

The mission of the Brewster Foundation is to "raise funds in support of Brewster." Currently the Brewster Foundation is seeking funds so a new bus can be purchased. Our current large bus is several years old and uncomfortable.

We want to thank everyone who has already contributed. The current total for the fund is \$70,000. If you are interested in giving to the Bus Fund, please contact Mary Blubaugh, President and CEO, at 785-274-3392. ■



CREATIVE ARTS

WITH KATHY PHLAUM, CREATIVE ARTS COORDINATOR

DECEMBER EVENTS

Deck the Halls

Tuesday, December 3
9:00 am | Cultural Arts Center
Join Jamie and Kathy in decking
the halls for the holidays. We
will have a pizza lunch. Many
hands will make the halls
sparkle with the holiday season. We hope to see you for
the festivities.

Holiday Card Making Workshop

Wednesday, December 4 2:00—3:30 pm | Redwood Art Studio

Come by the Redwood Studio and make a few Holiday Cards and meet Kathy Pflaum the new Creative Arts Coordinator. We will have card stock, stickers, stamps and other creative items to embellish your cards. Kathy will have examples of some cards to give you ideas.

Cheers to the New Year Tuesday, December 31 1:00 pm | Cultural Arts Studio

Join Jamie and Kathy for hot chocolate and crafts. We are planning to have several stations set up and you can pick a craft or all of them that you want to make. We plan to have a very fun afternoon.

COMING IN JANUARY and BEYOND

Block of the Month

- Do you want to learn to make a quilt (or 2 or 3)?
- Do you want to learn tips & tricks to make the blocks?
- Do you want to use the blocks to build a quilt?

This group is an opportunity to learn all of this and much more. Each month you will learn how to construct the block of the month. We will talk about color selections, selecting fabric and what it takes to make a beautiful block. Each block will contribute to an overall quilt. This will be a 12-month program.

At the end of the 12 months you will be able to construct a beautiful quilt. We will guide you to the finished line.

Tea Towel Tuesday *plus*Embroidery Basics and Beyond

Learning basic embroidery skills and advancing those skills. We will talk about a basic embroidery stitch each month and build upon the skills with each embroidery stitch we learn. We will also discuss ways to stabilize your fabrics/papers to embroidery. We will assist you in making tea towels which are always a popular Bazaar item.

Paper and the Possibilities

What can be done with paper and creating artwork? You will be amazed each month by what you create. Exploration of all of the ways to use paper, make paper and what can be done with that paper. Each month we will explore some type of papermaking, by printing on paper, folding paper, making and embellishing paper and using the paper for other projects. We will use these papers to learn new card making techniques, new collage art techniques, small journal making techniques and so much more.

Alpaca, Llama, Sheep, OH MY!

Calling all who knit or crochet to come together and bring you knitting or crochet work. This is a social gathering to visit, share stitches and stories.

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Show and Share

We want to see what you are working on, both at home and in the studio. This will be an opportunity to talk about your art as you show us the beautiful work you are doing. This is an opportunity for all of us to be aware of the robust artist community on the Brewster campus.

Let's Paint

Calling all painters to the studios. We will explore techniques together and learn from each other during this time. Be watching in the studios for various still life arrangements for your muse to paint each month. They will be placed at the center of a table and marked to your Drawing and Painting Muse. Currently, there is a small flower (real live grouping from around the campus) arrangement at Redwood in the general studio for your drawing and painting muse. Should you paint that, please show it off so we can see how it inspired you. Going forward, we want to see what you have done with these Muse offerings.

BAZAAR Happenings!

Each month we will have a Bazaar workshop to make items for the Bazaar. We will make them, price them and box/label the items for the Bazaar. They will be stored for next year's Bazaar. If you have ideas to make for the Bazaar, please contact Kathy Pflaum.

If there is something you want to learn, a workshop you would like to teach or other suggestions, please let Kathy know at kathrynp@brewsterplace.org. She will research how to do that and how we might be able to create it here at Brewster. Here are a few things Kathy is exploring right now:

- Ceramic Hand Building Workshops
- Additional Quilting Workshops
- Boiled Paper Botanical Workshop
- Etched Copper Workshop
- Jewelry Workshops
- Collage Workshops
- Art Quilt Workshops
- Card Workshops
- Nuno Felting Workshops Think making some beautiful, felted bowls

Stay tuned for fun activities to come! ■

RESIDENT TESTIMONIAL

RESIDENT PAT KRATINA SHARES HER THOUGHTS

I have been a resident of Brewster since November of 2016. I had a wonderful apartment in the Main Building, now Redwood. I had been shown all the facilities but hadn't really paid much



attention to the other places, as figured would never be necessary for me. All went well for 3 1/2 years, and then the unexpected happened. I became very ill after a failed knee replacement and I was left unable to stand or walk at all. I was moved to the Brewster Health Center. And what a blessing this is and it is here for all the Brewster residents. I have now resided here for nearly five years. I have complete care, day and night. I have to be lifted in and out of bed with a lift. I do have a power chair that is my own. I can get all around the building inside and out, can get to the other buildings on campus. We also have chair accessible buses for trips

off campus. I have been to Applebee's, the Longhorn Steak House and went to Walmart at Christmas time to shop for gifts. So, if anyone out there is looking for a wonderful place to downsize and spend your retirement days, please check out Brewster Place. I have personally experienced this place from A to Z, and recommend it highly.

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BAKE SALE FUNDRAISER

BENEFITING BREWSTER STAFF ANGEL TREE

ach year, Brewster coordinates an angel tree for staff who are struggling to afford Christmas presents for their families. Staff who sign up are kept anonymous and donations are collected by the Human Resources department and then distributed to the staff. Our biggest fundraiser for this event is a holiday bake sale. This is the best way for residents to get involved and donate to the cause.

On Monday, December 2, we will host the Bake Sale from 10:30 am—Noon and 1:00—2:30 pm at the Evergreens Community Room. Staff and residents are invited to come get some holiday treats with a free-will donation. Cash or check donations are accepted.

If you would like to donate baked goods for the sale, please drop those in the Community Room by 10:00 am that day. If you would like to contribute, but need your goods picked up, please call at 785-217-3394 and we can arrange for that. ■

HOLIDAY LIMERICK CONTEST

veryone loves a good limerick. We are challenging you to write a holiday limerick and submit your entry to Jamie Fritz at The Evergreens.

A limerick is a five-line poem with a strict rhyme scheme and a bouncy rhythm. The rhyme scheme is AABBA, with the first two lines rhyming, the third and fourth rhyming, and the fifth line either rhyming with or repeating the first line. Limericks are often comical, nonsensical and easy to memorize. Give it a try! Let's have some fun this holiday season.

Brewster history can be traced back to the 1950s when Roy and Frances Engler had a dream to build a home for their aging aunt. Much like creating a patchwork quilt, the piecing together of Brewster Place has been a communal project — leaders from the Congregational churches and the local community came together in a leap of faith to gather the needed pieces to make the dream a reality.

Quilting has a long history going back to medieval times. According to Robert Bishop's and Jacqueline M. Atkins's *Folk Art in American Life* (1995), quilting, "became known in Europe during the Crusades, when it was learned that the Turks wore several thicknesses of fabric quilted together under their armor. In northern Europe, where the climate is often harsh...this technique offered warmth as well as protection, and it was rapidly extended to bedcovers and various forms of clothing."

There are many different styles of quilts as well as uses ranging from bedding, décor, commemoration, and artistic expression. Each style of quilting requires a vision, planning, and the piecing together of different fabrics, threads and materials. Most importantly, however, creating a quilt requires the coming together of people — a communal exercise where each person's contribution makes the completed project possible.

Much like creating a quilt, the founders of Brewster Place and the thousands of individuals who have lived and worked here since 1964 have served as the blocks of fabric, layers of material, countless stitches, firm backing and beautiful binding of this community. Each person has brought their own personality, skills, needs and passions to this place.

From Roy and Frances Engler to you and me, the history of Brewster Place is a beautiful patchwork of dreams, vision, dedication, joys and sorrows stitched together over time to form the most gorgeous patchwork quilt — Brewster Place.

PLEASE NOTE:

DECEMBER SHOPPING TRIP CHANGES

Due to the holidays, the weekly shopping trips in December have a few changes:

- Wednesday, December 4—Walmart
- Wednesday, December 11—Aldi's
- Wednesday, December 18—Walmart
- Christmas Day—No shopping trip
- New Year's Day—No shopping trip
- Shopping at Dillon's on Fridays is normal
- Christmas and New Year's Week—the personal shopper will shop on Monday and Friday of those weeks



The Brewster Health Center salon has welcomed a new stylist, Gracie Howard. In addition, Robert will be working at The Evergreens Salon on Friday afternoons. PS Salon management is continuing to look for a nail technician and are reviewing applications. They understand this is an important service and are working diligently to fill the position. ■

BLOOD PRESSURE CLINICS

A free service provided by Elara Caring Thursday, December 12 2:00 pm Winchell Wellness Center

Thursday, December 26 2:00 pm Brewster Events Center Wellness Center

FUTURE EVENTS

RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY!

New Theatre and Restaurant Wednesday, January 22 | 9:30 am Shuttle pick up at BEC

New Theatre presents Vicki Lewis in Nunsense. *Nunsense* is a hilarious comedy spoof about five nuns who get caught up in a series of misadventures. The convent's cook, Sister Julia, accidentally serves food that poisons a large group of nuns, and they start dropping dead like flies! When the remaining sisters plan a talent show to raise money to bury their dearly departed, hilarity ensues! With catchy songs and irreverent comedy, Nunsense is sure to keep audiences rolling with laughter. Starring Vicki Lewis, Beth in "NewsRadio," Deb in "Finding Nemo" and Flo in "Finding Dory. Tickets are \$40 and include lunch. Transportation is \$13. Please call Jamie at 785-274-3398 as space is limited.

Topeka Civic Theatre Unnecessary Farce

Thursday, February 6 | 6:00 pm
Shuttle pick up in Evergreen Lobby and
Redwood Westside

This is a story ... Two cops. Three crooks. Eight doors. Go. In a cheap motel room, an embezzling mayor is supposed to meet with his female accountant, while in the room next-door, two undercover cops wait to catch the meeting on videotape. But there's some confusion as to who's in which room, who's being videotaped, who's taken the money, who's hired a hit man, and why the accountant keeps taking off her clothes. Tickets are \$38. Please call Jamie at 785-274-3398 as space is limited.

t's the holiday season and that means gift giving, yummy treats and browsing the shops. To make some of your shopping easier, we hope you will attend the Merry Market and support local artisans and entrepreneurs. A partial list of vendors is listed with many more expected to showcase their work.



SHOP LOCAL

SUPPORT LOCAL ARTISTS. **VENDORS AND CRAFTERS**

- **Brewster Elves Shoppe**
- **David Rake Paintings**
- **Donna Low Jewelry**
- Susan Hsia Scrubbers
- Naomi Cashman Art
- Glennie Buckley Children's Books
- Waunita Shoemaker Quilts
- **KNI Plant Shoppe**
- Martha's Munchies
- Barbara Deeter with Avon
- Amy with Mary Kay
- **Rhonda Burns Quilts**
- **Cheryl Burkhead Local Honey**
- And much more! ■



Mary McNabb and Patricia Watson at the November birthday party. Mary volunteers at the party each month and Patricia brings her own special creative talent to the event by making cards for celebrants.



Larry Moreland and Bill Ramser were Susan Sebring attended the two of our steadfast fellas who volunteered at the Bazaar in November. It certainly takes a village to make the Bazaar happen and we thank all of our resident and staff volunteers for their work.



Veterans Day Celebration. Susan is a Navy veteran and enjoyed the music and tributes along with a packed house at the Cultural Arts Center. Thank you, veterans!





OFF CAMPUS — A few highlights!

CORNERSTONE FAMILY SCHOOLS CHOIR FALL CONCERT Monday, December 2 | 6:00 pm | Shuttle pick-up at BEC only

We have been invited to the Fall Concert at Fellowship Bible Church for the Cornerstone Family Schools Choir, directed by Dorothy Iliff. These talented students have worked tirelessly to prepare a heartwarming performance that you won't want to miss. The Brewster Choir will also take the stage to kick the concert off. Please call Jamie at 785-274-3398 to reserve a seat on the bus as space is limited. The concert is free.

TOUR OF FORT RILEY — WAIT LIST ONLY Wednesday, December 4 | 8:30 am | Shuttle pick-up at BEC only

We are excited to visit the US Army Base at Fort Riley: Home of the 1st Infantry Division with historian Bob Smith. To attend the tour you must register, please provide Jamie Fritz a copy of your Drivers License as soon as you register for the trip. Lunch is a Dutch treat. Transportation is \$13. Please call Jamie at 785-274-3398 as space is limited.

TOPEKA CIVIC THEATRE

The Game's Afoot: A Sherlock Holmes Christmas Comedy Thursday, December 5 | 6:00 pm | Shuttle pick-up at EV and RW west side

This is a story about December 1936, and Broadway star William Gillette, admired the world over for his leading role in the play Sherlock Holmes, has invited his fellow cast members to his Connecticut castle for a weekend of revelry. But when one of the guests is stabbed to death, the festivities in this isolated house of tricks and mirrors quickly turn dangerous. Tickets are \$38. Please call Jamie at 785-274-3398 as space is limited.

WASHBURN UNIVERSITY HOLIDAY VESPERS Sunday, December 8 | 3:00 pm | Shuttle pick-up at EV and RW west side

Washburn University will host the annual Holiday Vespers in White Concert Hall on a Sunday afternoon where musicians performed traditional songs and melodies. Vespers Concert features the Washburn choir, percussion ensemble, string orchestra, Jazz band, wind ensemble and symphony orchestra. Call Jamie at 785-274-3398 to sign up. The event is free.

LUNCH AT JONG'S THAI KITCHEN Wednesday, December 11 | 11:00 am | Shuttle pick-up at EV and RW

Join us for an unforgettable culinary experience featuring a variety of homemade Thai dishes. Every item is crafted from scratch in the kitchen, ensuring authentic flavors and fresh ingredients. This lunch will showcase a diverse menu of delightful options for you to explore and enjoy. The lunch will cost \$18 and will be added to your Brewster bill. Due to seating at the restaurant, space is limited. Please call Jamie at 785-274-3398.

CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION HOLIDAY PERFORMANCE AND LUNCH IN KC Saturday, December 14 | 9:45 am | Shuttle pick-up at BEC only

We will begin our exciting day with Lunch at J Alexanders. Then we will go and celebrate the holiday season at Christmas at Resurrection. We will attend a must-see event featuring the 120-voice Resurrection Choir and orchestra, Kansas City Dance Collective, actors, and soloists in *Illuminations: Revealing the Light of Christmas*. This 20-year tradition begins with the festive lights and sounds of the season, followed by a traditional telling of the birth of Christ in a majestic, musical setting. Christmas at Resurrection has quickly become a cherished Kansas City tradition that you and your family won't want to miss. Lunch is a Dutch treat. Transportation is \$13. Please call Jamie at 785-274-3398 as space is limited.

TOPEKA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Saturday, December 14 | 6:45 pm | Shuttle pick-up at EV and RW west side

They are puttin' on the ritz with a night of holiday music. The music will put you in the holiday mood with all of your favorites at our traditional holiday concert, featuring the Shawnee Choral Society, in a night of both secular and sacred works, including selections from Handel's Messiah. You'll leave ready to celebrate the season after our annual singalong. 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.

DINNER OUT AND HOLIDAY LIGHT TOUR Wednesday, December 18 | 4:00 pm | Shuttle pick-up at EV and RW west side

Celebrate the season with a cherished tradition—a dinner followed by a bus tour of holiday lights in Topeka. We will have dinner at Blackbird Espresso Bar and Bistro. It will be a preset menu of ½ sandwich, cup of soup, and a delicious dessert for \$20. It will be a night filled with holiday cheer. So be sure to sign up early to make this holiday season sparkle. Please call Jamie at 785-274-3398 for reservations.

ON CAMPUS — A few highlights!

BREWSTER HOLIDAY CHOIR PRACTICE

Tuesdays, December 3 and 10 | 3:30 pm | Main Street Chapel

The holiday season is upon us, and we are thrilled to invite you to be a part of our **Holiday Choir**, led by the incredibly talented director, Dorothy Iliff. Whether you're an experienced singer or just love the joy of holiday music, this is a fantastic opportunity to come together and share the festive spirit through song! She brings a wealth of experience and passion, ensuring a fun and rewarding experience for all choir members. Our choir will perform on Thursday, December 12 at 2:30 pm in the Cultural Arts Center. No formal experience is required—just a love for singing and a willingness to join in the fun! We can't wait to create some magical music together this season.

HOLIDAY HYMN SINGERS

Thursday, December 5 | 1:00 pm | Cultural Arts Center

We are delighted to welcome these beautiful singers. They will kickoff the holiday season with beautiful music. This event is open to all, so feel free to bring a friend or loved one to share in this musical experience!

SATURDAY SPECIAL BINGO

Saturday, December 7 | 11:00 am | Main Street Pavilion

Janet Rice, our best bingo caller, has graciously agreed to host a monthly Saturday Bingo during the fall and winter months. Mark your calendars for the future dates of January 4 and February 15. Please bring \$.25 for each Bingo card that you would like to purchase. We will have some extra prizes.

MERRY MARKET

Tuesday, December 10 | 10:00 am—2:00 pm | Cultural Arts Center

Looking for unique gifts for your loved ones this holiday season? Stop by the Merry Market! Enjoy delicious treats, browse handmade items, and explore a variety of treasures from talented vendors. Don't miss out on this festive shopping experience!

TOPEKA HIGH SCHOOL ORCHESTRA Wednesday, December 11 | 10:30 am | Cultural Arts Center

Come enjoy the beautiful sounds of the Topeka High School Orchestra as they perform a festive holiday concert. Celebrate the season with music and joy!

COREFIRST BANK AND TRUST HOLIDAY CONCERT Wednesday, December 11 | 7:00 pm | Cultural Arts Center

Take a moment to unwind this holiday season! Enjoy the soothing sounds of piano music, directed by Nancy Goodall, paired with delicious cookies. This delightful program is generously sponsored by Core First Bank. Don't miss this festive treat for the senses!

BREWSTER HOLIDAY CONCERT

Thursday, December 12 | 2:30 pm | Cultural Arts Center

Join us for a cherished tradition as the Brewster Choir presents their annual Holiday Performance! Enjoy the festive spirit with the classic reading of *Brewster's 'Twas the Night Before Christmas,* delightful cookies, and hopefully a special visit from Santa himself. Don't miss this heartwarming celebration of the season!

LOVE AND HARMONY SINGERS

Tuesday, December 17 | 2:00 pm | Cultural Arts Center

Join us for a delightful performance by a talented group of women vocalists, featuring our very own Evelyn Dillon! Their harmonious melodies are sure to warm your heart and brighten your day. We're thrilled to welcome these incredible ladies to Brewster for this special event.

HALLMARK MOVIE PREMIER: HOLIDAY TOUCHDOWN: A CHIEFS LOVE STORY Thursday, December 19 | 1:00 pm | Cultural Arts Center

Join us for a special screening of a Hallmark movie loosely based on the Kansas City Chiefs! We're thrilled to welcome Grace Schmanke, an extra in the movie, for an exclusive behind-the-scenes glimpse. Enjoy the afternoon with wine and chocolate to add a festive touch. **Show your team spirit by wearing your Chiefs gear!**