

UNION GROVE NEWS

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WISCONSIN VETERANS HOME AT UNION GROVE

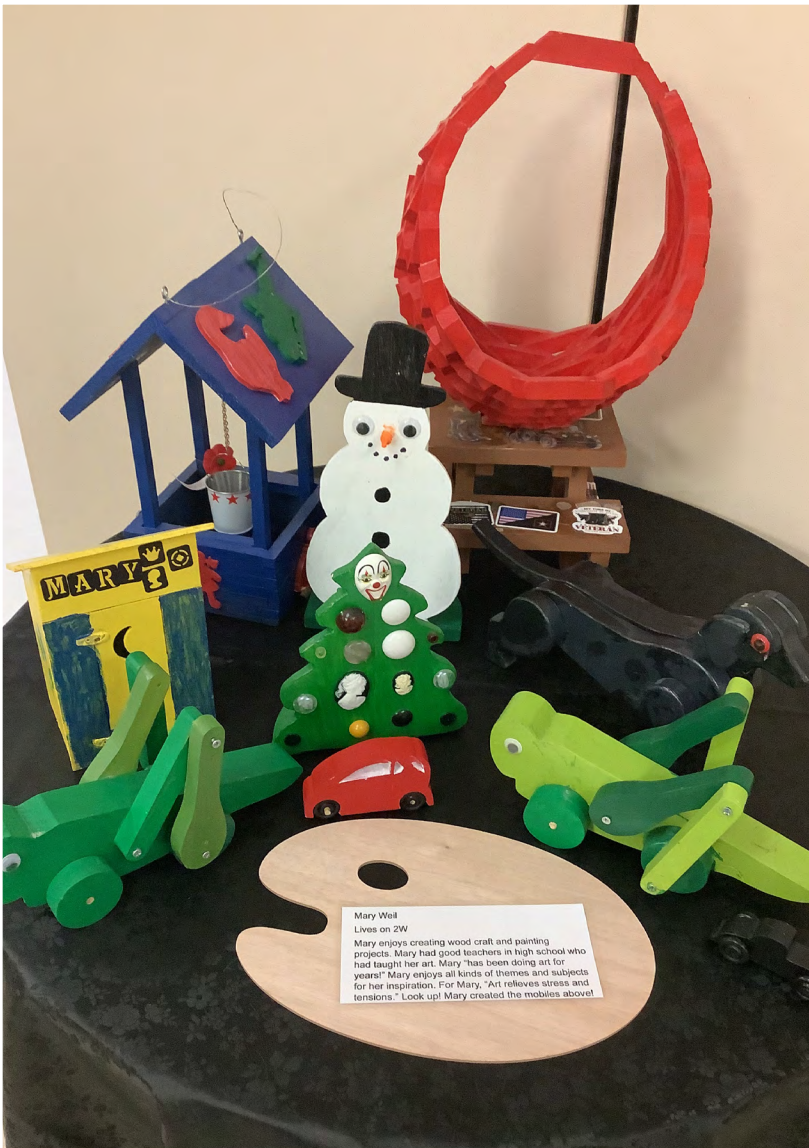


CREATIVE ART GALA

Our talented veteran members put their creativity on display at our art gala! Artists enjoyed sharing their drawings, paintings, woodcrafts, and more at a special “Meet and Greet the Artist Gala” on January 26.



ART GALA



ART GALA





MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

FEBRUARY

Tom Kinnard – February 1st
Ralph Pitz – February 1st
William Paxton – February 4th
Roland Baier – February 4th
Neil Schueneman – February 7th
Clarence Graff – February 9th
Charles Chapman – February 22nd
Ray Young – February 23rd

MARCH

Warren Wollmer – March 7th
Regina Miracola – March 14th
Dennis Hipke – March 17th
Ralph Lewandowski – March 27th

DONATIONS

We received \$2,770.00 in monetary donations from December through January to assist with activity programming, campus events, catered meals, and for general purposes.

In addition 29 non-monetary donations were provided including Christmas cards, Christmas ornaments, sponsorship of our Christmas party food and entertainment, Valentine Day cards, spiritual devotion books, Valentine's Day decorations, large candy bars, branch of service blankets and pillow cases, postage stamps, pub supplies, Dilly bars, and bingo snacks .

WELCOME

TO OUR NEW MEMBERS AT UNION GROVE

David Renau was born and raised in Milwaukee. He served in the Army during the Vietnam War and later worked at a wastewater treatment plant. David is pleasant to talk with, and we welcome him to the Veterans Home. Please stop by to say hi and introduce yourself to David!

VOLUNTEERS PROVIDED OVER 269 HOURS OF SERVICE FROM
DECEMBER THROUGH JANUARY. THANK YOU SO MUCH TO OUR
HARDWORKING VOLUNTEERS, WE GREATLY APPRECIATE YOU!



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Hello! My name is Maggie Pelli, and I am excited to be a Recreational Therapy Intern for the next few months! I am a University of Wisconsin-La Crosse student and will graduate with my bachelor's degree in May. During my time at the Wisconsin Veterans Home at Union Grove, I will be learning from Therapist Senior Emma and the activities team to implement therapeutic activities, plan special events, create care plans, and more! In my free time, I love reading, baking, being active, and spending time with my family.

As an intern, I get to plan a special event. I have chosen to plan a decades-themed party to be held sometime in April - so be on the lookout for more information on that! Until then, you can find me in all units doing a variety of activities, in choir practice, and at regular programs like bingo and happy hour. I'm looking forward to getting to know the members and being able to serve those who have served our country!

MANY WAYS TO SPEND TIME VOLUNTEERING WITH OUR MEMBERS THIS WINTER:

- Provide one to one visits for Members on our Memory unit
- Provide one to one visits on Boland Hall second floor
- Take Members for wheelchair walks outside, weather permitting
- Provide a movie night on Boland Hall second floor
- Maintain organization of the Boland Hall library
- Escort Members to Happy Hour on Fridays at 2:00pm
- Escort Members to bingo on Tuesdays at 11:00pm
- Pass Member monthly activity calendars in Boland Hall
- Water plants and weed during gardening season
- Assist Members with computers and technology

IF YOU'RE A VISITOR OR VOLUNTEER, PLEASE CHECK-IN AT THE KIOSK BEFORE MOVING ABOUT THE BUILDING. VOLUNTEERS MUST BE TESTED FOR COVID BEFORE VISITING MEMBERS. PLEASE CONTACT TERRI PRESSER AT 262-878-6725 IF YOU'RE UNSURE OF THE REQUIREMENTS OR PROCESS. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AND SUPPORT!

BOLAND HALL ACTIVITIES

1 West December and January were busy months for members at Union Grove. Christmas was celebrated with music, gifts, and festivities. Our recently revived VA Voices Choir led a holiday sing-along after a three-year hiatus. The New Year was welcomed with a catered meal from Olive Garden. Members on 1W embraced the recent snowfall by making fresh snow ice cream and working on winter coloring sheets.

January brought Lumberjack week with a Pancake Breakfast, games, and a Lumberjack Historian. Members will be displaying their artwork during the upcoming Creative Art Festival. The 1W members continue to love their music time and have recently been requesting to hear Elvis and Frank Sinatra. We can't believe that it is almost Spring!

1 East These past two months have been filled with celebration and holidays, so the time has been flying past. Christmas projects such as planting pine cones, feeding the birds and squirrels, watercolor painting, and baking Christmas cookies has kept us busy on 1East. We sang along to Christmas favorites as the choir led us in song. The flannel week was terrific as we celebrated being from Wisconsin in winter, which included "ice fishing," flapjack breakfast, hearing the history of lumberjacking put on by Susan, a Lumberjack Historian, watching Grumpy Old Men,

and listening to the "Spoon Lady" play folk music with her band. We have a United States map on the unit with pins of all the places our members have traveled. This led to great stories and memories to share. Works of art created by our members are displayed during the Creative Arts Festival. So much talent under one roof! Winter has been fun to view through our projects and programs!

2nd Floor These past few months have been busy for members, as many holiday celebrations took place. December was jam-packed with all things Christmas: gift-giving, music, parties, socials, reindeer games, etc. The choir made its big return with a Holiday sing-along. We finally had the snow we were waiting for all December long, and with that came the cold weather. Luckily, we were able to spend this time inside having a themed Lumberjack week with a pancake breakfast, axe throwing, flapjack flipping, the "Spoon Lady," and a Lumberjack Historian. We ended January with a Creative Arts Festival for members to show off all the great and creative pieces of art they make. Though we've had many special events, we keep up with our favorite weekly activities, such as bingo, cribbage, trivia, socials, active games, word games, and more! We are enjoying the winter and looking forward to the spring.



THE KITCHEN PROJECT IS STILL MOVING FORWARD!

We have a pre-bid walk through the kitchen on the morning of March 7th. If previously discussed timelines are still in play, we could be looking at pre-construction as early as June. After that, they will give us a formal pre-construction date, which is the contractor changing Gates around to meet the needs for the tray line. They are aiming for July to start.

VALENTINES FOR VETERANS



Veterans Program Specialist and Women Veterans Coordinator Jodi Barnett delivered Valentine's Day cheer to our members. WDVA's Valentines for Veterans program received 30,000 cards from across Wisconsin and around the country to be given to veteran home members at Union Grove, King, and Chippewa Falls.





UPCOMING EVENTS

HERE ARE SOME OF THE SPECIAL EVENTS PLANNED FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2024. PLEASE REFER TO EACH FLOOR'S MONTHLY ACTIVITIES CALENDAR FOR THE COMPLETE SCHEDULE OF ALL OUR WONDERFUL ACTIVITIES.

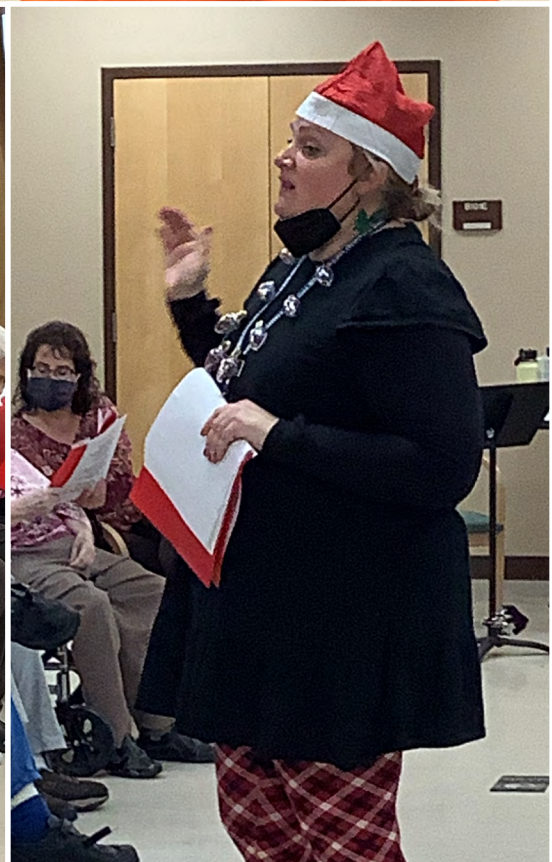
FEBRUARY SPECIAL EVENTS

- Thursday, Feb. 8th - **Fried Egg and Toast Breakfast** - 8:00AM - MPR
- Friday, Feb. 9th - **Movie "Grumpier Old Men"** - 10:00AM - MPR
- Tuesday, Feb. 13th - **Paczkis and Coffee** - 10:00AM
- Tuesday, Feb. 13th - **Mardis Gras Bingo Sponsored by VVA** - 2:00PM - MPR
- Wednesday, Feb. 14th - **Valentine's Day Couple's Lunch** - Noon - Pub
- Wednesday, Feb. 14th - **Valentine Day Happy Hour with Singer Norgie** - 2:00PM - Pub
- Monday, Feb. 19th - **Ice Cream Social** - 1:30PM - Pub
- Wednesday, Feb. 21st - **Racine Heritage Museum presents "Racine Underground Railroad"** - 10:00AM - MPR
- Tuesday, Feb. 27th - **Navy Ship 40 Sponsored Bingo** - 11:00AM - MPR
- Thursday, Feb. 19th - **Leap Day Lunch - Grilled Cheese and Tomato Soup** - Noon - MPR

FEBRUARY SPECIAL EVENTS

- Monday, March 4th - **Ice Cream Social** - 1:30PM - Pub
- Tuesday, March 12th - **VVA Sponsored Bingo** - 2:00PM - MPR
- Friday, March 15th - **Elkhart Christian Academy H.S. Choir** - 10:00AM - MPR
- Monday, March 18th - **St. Pat's Party Featuring Bill and Lin O'Connor** - 2:00PM - Pub
- Tuesday, March 26th - **Navy Ship 40 Sponsored Bingo** - 11:00AM - MPR
- Friday, March 29th - **Vietnam Veterans Thank You Breakfast** - 8:00AM - MPR

V.A. VOICES



CHRISTMAS CAROLERS



CHRISTMAS PARTY



CHRISTMAS PARTY



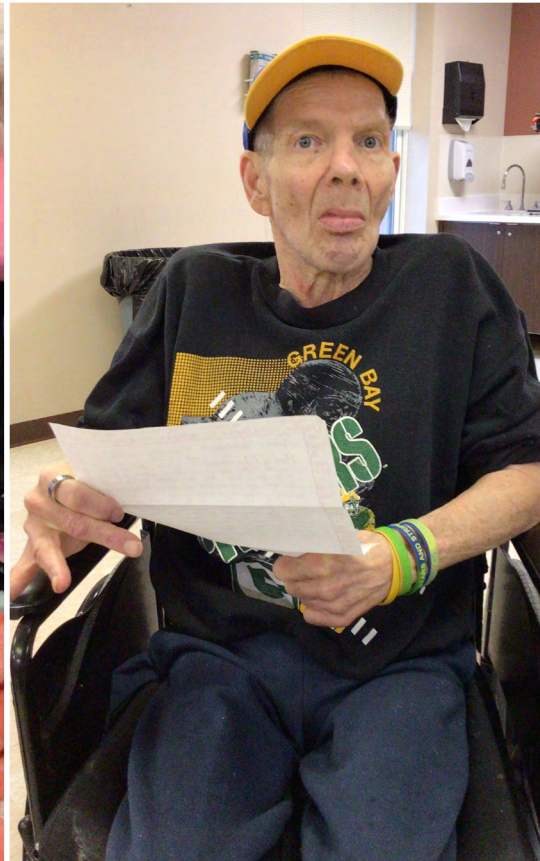
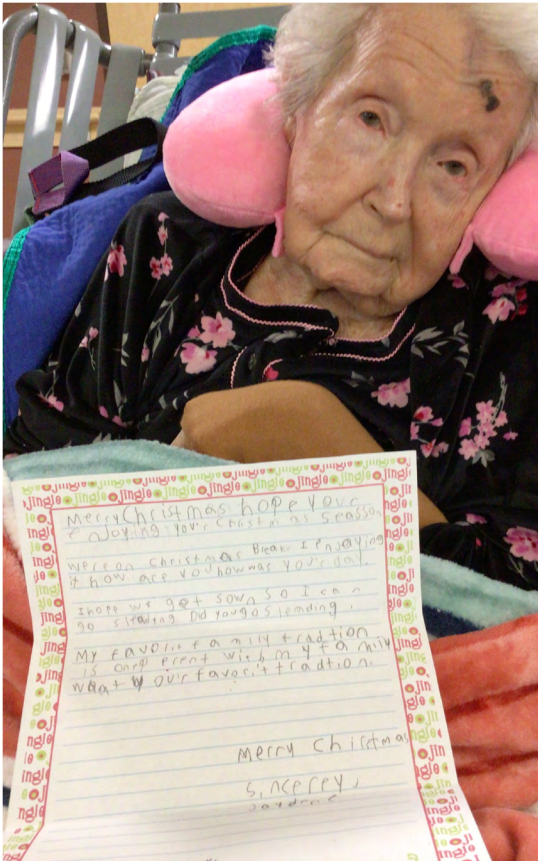
CHRISTMAS PARTY



UNION GROVE H.S. BAND



MEMBER LETTERS



IN MEMORIAM

REMEMBERING OUR MEMBERS WHO HAVE PASSED
IN DECEMBER 2023 AND JANUARY 2024

Gary Abendroth
Served in the Army

Jim Ankney
Served in the Army

Christine Brace
Spouse of an Army Veteran

Michael Heffernan
Served in the Marine Corps

Everett Stewart
Served in the Army

Gordon Voss
Served in the Army

Luther Phillips
Served in the Navy