



The Meadowlark

Holiday Issue

January 2020

Seasons greetings from your editors, Mary Jo Doherty and Judith Pulley. We hope you will enjoy this collection of photographic memories from our holiday celebrations. The residents of Carolina Meadows really know how to party!



NOVEMBER 28: The season got off to a rousing start with Thanksgiving dinner. Many residents, accompanied by family and friends, enjoyed the delicious dinner prepared by Chef Jody (joined in this photo by Yaira). Along with the turkeys and all the trimmings, few could resist the array of desserts.



Others chose to join with friends at home to celebrate the holiday. This beautifully arranged centerpiece perfectly captures the season's bountiful harvest.



The Private Dining Room was decorated for the holiday season, ready for all who wished to host a party in this festive atmosphere.



DECEMBER 6: Decorations appeared everywhere in the Club Center, from the Club Center Lobby to the hallways. Many residents turned out for the tree lighting, led by tree-lighting impresario Ben Cornthwaite. Free-flowing prosecco and sugar cookies added to the festivities.



The Pines also got into the spirit of the season, with beautifully decorated doors and Christmas trees located throughout the facility.



DECEMBER 7: The tree lighting was followed by the Saturday night Holiday Party. The Seafood Station, with the raw oyster bar, smoked and poached salmon, and mini crab cakes, was a big hit. Chef Jody and Travis shucked 600 oysters! Your photographer became so enamored of these choices (not to mention the champagne served at his table) that he failed to take more photos! The Pasta Station, with cheese-filled beggar's purses and assorted meat and vegetable toppings, received kudos. And the Southern Station with mini-chicken and waffles, brisket sliders, deviled eggs and pimento cheese in sweet potato biscuits appealed to northerners as well as southerners.



DECEMBER 9: Thanks to Melissa Ferguson's monumental effort, 58 CM men and women were treated to a festive holiday Nutcracker Tea. The table was laden not just with special teas but also with sumptuous goodies, both savory and sweet. The event was so successful it is likely to become a tradition.



DECEMBER 11: After a couple of days to recover from the Holiday Party and the Nutcracker Tea, residents gathered in the Auditorium to enjoy the MeadowSingers' Holiday Concert, "The Very Best Time of the Year," led by Director Rebecca Dyck.

The musical selections ranged from the sublime, *Masters in This Hall*, to the ridiculous, *Christmas . . . in about Three minutes*. The latter was greatly invigorated by the enthusiastic participation of the "Sign Team," Marge Miles, Rebecca's husband Graham, (both in the photo at the right), Melissa Ferguson and Chris Blue.



DECEMBER 13: Friday the 13th was a lucky day for CM employees. They were treated to an exciting Cruise Party, featuring a tiki bar, karaoke, a dance club, a spa with chair massages and facials, ping pong, a photo booth, bean bag toss games, and a magician. And there were lots of prizes. As on any cruise, there was also an abundance of food. This was followed by the distribution of checks



Resident John Haynes and Myra Jones from Housekeeping (above left) show their appreciation for the cruise and Carolina Meadows. Samantha Medley, Home Care Aide, and Helen Swartz, Home Care Coordinator (above right), display their checks. Total donations reached \$478,062, an increase of \$57,839 (13.7%) over 2018. Participation by residents also set a record.

The average check for full-time employees increased from \$1,071 to \$1,238. The average check for part-time employees increased from \$321 to \$405. The highest check for full-time employees (based on length of service) increased from \$1,521 to \$1,777. In all, a very good year!

DECEMBER 16: Time for another celebration, this time the Holiday Singalong. Residents assembled in the Club Center Lobby to sing carols, led by pianist Diane Archer, Senior Activities Specialist in the Pines (aka Mrs. Claus). The event was enlivened by the appearance of her spouse, Hugh (Santa Claus) Tilson. As is customary at any CM festivity, refreshments were served — cookies, hot chocolate and spiced tea.



One of Santa's elves, aka Kris Snyder, also got in on the act.

DECEMBER 18: It's time for our residents and staff to get a little exercise — the annual Reindeer Romp. Needless to say, they were rewarded for their efforts with “healthy snacks.”



DECEMBER 22: Christmas Bird Count. Steve Graves, the official counter, arrived at the crack of dawn and was joined by CM counters Susan Gaca and Connie Loy.



Both bucks (look for the antlers) and does turned out for the romp.



The counters were “treated” with a grackle flyover. The official count came to 45 total species consisting of 6,802 individual birds, including 1,000 grackles, some of whom took up residence at Building 3. Robins supplied the second largest number at 200.

DECEMBER 22: Chanukah began on Sunday evening with the lighting of the first candle. Melissa Kass got things started, after which the first candle was lit. Wallace Mandell and Connie Margolin led the singing.



DECEMBER 23: Second night: Mike Jacobs read the story of Chanukah.



DECEMBER 30: Last day of Chanukah. All eight candles were lit.



DECEMBER 24: Christmas Eve saw residents turn out for a delicious dinner, beginning with jumbo chilled shrimp with cocktail sauce, followed by a choice of entrées including roasted bacon-wrapped beef tenderloin, orange-glazed duck half, feast of seven fishes, and vegetarian roasted red pepper and goat cheese eggplant. Dessert and coffee were served in the Marketplace.



A lovely little snow-covered village appeared in the Lobby, trying to compete with the enormous Christmas tree.

DECEMBER 25: Residents gathered with family and friends for a Christmas Day lunch. The sumptuous buffet offered a salad station, sides and an abundance of entrées — salmon, chicken picatta, braised lamb and vegetables, prime rib of beef, honey-baked ham, and butternut squash raviolis. Below, Jason and Yaira were at the ready to serve entrées, while Jordan took his place at the sides station. The dessert station was unguarded, but Santa was close by at the fireplace, keeping an eye on everyone.



HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS: Holiday decorations were not limited to the Club Center and other CM facilities, as residents also joined in, decorating their homes indoors and out. Below are a few examples, from Marge Miles, the Kraybills (that's their daughter and grand-daughter trimming the tree), Bill Holton and Harriet Herring.



Of course, not everyone stayed home for the holidays. Some took off to visit families and other tempting destinations. Peter and Jo Baer chose to spend their holidays in that foodie mecca New Orleans. They are pictured below at the Roosevelt Hotel. Tom and Colette McCarty observed the winter solstice in California.



DECEMBER 31: New Year's Eve.



JANUARY 1: New Year's Day



JANUARY 2, 2020:

Party's over. Back to business.



Stretch and Toners perform their "favorite" exercise, "Picking up Boxes." Below, James Ruffin checks on participants' form.



A special "thank you" to our many photographers: Mary Jo Doherty, John Haynes, Harriet Herring, Bill Holton, Diana Lafferty, Marty Lyon, Michelle Marino, Tom McCarty, Marge Miles, Judith Pulley, Raymond Pulley and Margaret Scott (with apologies to any whose names may have been inadvertently left off the list).