

**A Huntcliff “Night Before Christmas” by
Huntcliff Resident - Anne ter Weele**

’Twas the night before Christmas
When down in the Lobby
White heads were bent over,
Engrossed in a hobby.

Whilst you with your walker,
And I with my cane,
Had just ended a stroll
And come in from the rain.

When we heard “Someone Special
Is paying a visit.”
So we hustled on in
While we wondered, “Who is it?”

Apparently, up in the bar
Was a jolly old elf
And when we arrived,
It was St. Nick, himself!

He pulled up a chair
Alongside the fire
For our holiday wishes
He’d come to inquire.

“New bones, please for me!”
I hastened to say
“For old age has wasted
My own all away.”

“New ears would be nice,
And some eyes that can see.
A bladder that holds
Would rejuvenate me!”

“And, besides that, I’m missing
My keen sense of smell,
And peripheral vision
Is all shot to hell.”

He replied, “My dears, do not ask me
For things I can’t give.
But, if with a heart full
Of kindness you’ll live,

Forgiveness and empathy
Show to your brother,
Respect and generosity
Toward one another,

You will generate gifts
That are richer by far
Than any I offer,
And some of them are:

The Love and devotion
Of all that you know.
(For truly we harvest
The seeds that we sow.)

And these are the gifts
I can offer tonight.
May your days brim with gladness,
With joy and delight.

With memories “that bless you,
And folks you hold dear.
Now.....Merry Christmas to all,
And to all a good year!”

December 2023

HUNTCLIFF HARBINGER



*The mission of the Huntcliff Harbinger is to announce planned events and activities for residents and interested parties. Also included are photographs and stories of resident art-work, club reports, and staff and volunteer recognition. The HH is written and developed by the Harbinger Editorial Staff. **Huntcliff Summit Website: www.huntsumres.org***

HIGHLIGHTS of COMING EVENTS

Continue to check the monthly calendar, daily elevator postings, and bulletins for activity announcements & updates.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA – FAMILY EVENT

HOLIDAY CONCERT-ROSWELL UMC - TREE LIGHTING

HANUKKAH PARTY AT HUNTCLIFF SUMMIT

PROGRAM- WOMEN OF VALOR -WWII- part 2 – Brandt Ross

HOLIDAY PARTY AT HUNTCLIFF SUMMIT- fancy dress

NUTCRACKER at Cobb Energy Center – bus trip

WHITE CHRISTMAS at Sandy Springs Center – bus trip

HOLIDAY MUSIC PROGRAM AT HUNTCLIFF SUMMIT - Brandt Ross

CRAFTS BY GILLIAN

NEW YEARS’ EVE GALA

HUMOR ON THE BIG SCREEN - Rosemarie

Message from Lisa Schilling—Huntcliff Executive Director

As the holiday season approaches, we are all preparing to celebrate Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanza. Three very distinct yet beautifully intertwined festivals that bring individuals together in the spirit of joy, love, and gratitude. This season is filled with vibrant decorations, lights, festive music, and time to share special meals and memories with our families and friends.

We have a month filled with many events and activities that will allow us to celebrate the season as a Huntcliff Summit family. I hope everyone takes a few extra minutes to review the December calendar. We have a wonderful opportunity to share in the many traditions that make this season so special. I hope everyone takes time to pause and genuinely enjoy the celebrations. I know our team will be working hard to provide many opportunities for you to enjoy all the things that are fun and festive!

On behalf of the entire Huntcliff Summit Team, I wish you all the best for this holiday season. I wish for peace and happiness to you and your loved ones!

Lisa

December Birthdays

12/2	Art Schultz	12/6	Marcia Swanson
12/17	Katie Copeland, Florence Dewey	12/20	Gail Long
12/21	King Trousdale	12/22	Eileen Winkler
12/25	Ron Kolze	12/29	Lynn Adcock
12/31	Erma Davis		

December Anniversaries

12/3	Sandy & Bill Bentz	12/18	Susan & Bob Price
12/23	Jane & Don Radman	12/24	Ellen & Harry Freedman
12/27	Delores & J.A. Markle		

Team Service Anniversaries Who Began in December

12/12	Kierra D. Billingsly (Housekeeping)	1 Year
12/31	Franki Groh (Activities)	19 Years

Harbinger Development Members & Distribution Team

The Harbinger is written and prepared by residents. The articles were all prepared independently by the Harbinger Editorial Staff. Joan Abram, Wilma Asrael, Stan Bernstein, Jo Bailey, Erma Davis, Sara Davis Merriman, Marvin Fellner, Rosemarie Hosbein, Fred Ortyl, Jobie Ponder, Brandt Ross, Marcia Swanson, Betty Taptich and Julian Yudelson all contributed to the writing and distribution of this month's issue.

Our New Friends



Joyce and Bill Kratzenberg moved here from Dawsonville, Georgia. They have 2 children, 4 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. Bill was in Bowling Center Management. They like reading, card playing, and vacations with family. Welcome Joyce and Bill!

Meeting Famous People, continued

Joan Abram's neighbor displayed the American Flag at their front door for many years. One day the flag was stolen. Being devastated by the theft, Joan's neighbors wrote to Senator Glenn and described what happened with their flag. The Senator arranged to come to the neighbor's home in Ohio with a new flag. He made a speech and mingled with the neighbors. That was an amazing experience.

While living in Washington DC, **Wilma Asrael** was driving with her two year old child and saw LBJ out in public with photographers. Later, she saw him again.. She opened the car window and asked him if he would give her child a hug. He quickly responded, gave Michele a hug and Michele immediately gave him a hug. When Wilma's mother-in-law heard the story she immediately asked if Wilma washed the child with Lysol!!!!

Louisa Ford was in Washington DC serving on the National Scholarship Committee for the Garden Club of America. After the interviewing session was complete the Committee received a call from the White House. Barbara Bush invited the Committee to come to the White House for a tour. While Louisa was in the Lincoln Bedroom, she took a souvenir book of matches. After returning home, she felt guilty and mailed the matches back to the White House. Afterwards, Mrs. Bush's secretary wrote back to Louisa, saying that she broke the law twice; once when she stole the matches, and second when she mailed an inflammable item in the US mail.

In 1986, As I (**Brandt Ross**) was approaching a milestone birthday; and because I was a huge baseball fan, I decided to celebrate by attending a week-long Baseball Fantasy Camp that Major League Baseball sponsored. Whitey Ford, retired Yankees Hall of Famer pitcher was "recruiting" for the Yankees camp and he and I had lunch. We lunched for 3-4 hours, and I listened to wonderful stories of the great Yankees teams especially about Mickey Mantle. Eventually I decided to attend the Cincinnati Reds camp; but Whitey Ford and I kept in touch and went on to have 4-5 lunch meetings thereafter. He presented me with a painting of himself with an accompanying personal autograph which I treasure. He was one of the greatest pitchers of all time and a kind and intelligent human being.

2023 MLB Awards - Acuna is Crowned

Ronald Acuña Jr. racked up a stat line for the ages, establishing the 40-70 club with 41 HRs and 73 SBs on his way to a unanimous **NL MVP selection**. He paced the NL in runs (149), hits (217), OBP (.416), OPS (1.012), and total bases (383). Plus the following:

MLB Player of the Year

Outstanding National League Player

Player of the month - 3 times.

Silver Slugger Award.



Marisa Gallo - Sr. Director of Sales



Marisa Gallo is a 1st generation Canadian and 2nd generation Italian. Her parents and grandparents emigrated from Italy and settled in Montreal, where Marisa was born in 1981. Surrounded and raised by all the adults in the family, Marisa in turn took on the role of caring for them as they became senior citizens. She studied and became fluent in Spanish, which led to her first job as a customer service translator for Northwest Airlines (now a part of Delta). Due to her linguistic talents, Omni Hotel recruited her as a front desk manager. During the next 15 years, she moved steadily up the corporate ladder, working also in the Best Western and Marriott hotel chains. Laid off in 2020 when Covid began, Marisa posted her resume on various online job sites. A recruiter from the Sunrise system offered her a one-year contract at an Assisted-Living residence in Quebec, and at the end of the contract, asked her to stay on with Sunrise permanently. At the same time, her previous hotel employers tried to lure her back, but Marisa had fallen in love with caring for the people in the Sunrise system. Sunrise offered her a position at the Johns Creek location, and in the space of 30 days, she relocated to Georgia. In April 2023 Marisa had the opportunity to come to our Huntcliff location. After an interview with Lisa Schilling, she knew that she wanted to work here, and quickly accepted the position as Sales Director. Her smiling face and pleasant demeanor are certainly an excellent asset as she escorts potential residents around the building, at the same time greeting current residents.

Recycle "To Go" Containers



Are the used plastic cups from "to go" food collecting in your cabinet? Did you know that they can be washed and reused by the Huntcliff kitchen staff? Please put unwanted, **RINSED** cups and lids, separated, in a bag and bring them to the Food Service Director's (Brent's) office and place the bag on the floor.

Anne ter Weele - Huntcliff's Poet



Our resident Anne wrote the famous "Twas the Night Before Christmas" poem, Huntcliff version. The original poem she wrote is about 40 stanzas, way too long for our Newsletter, so we asked Anne to write a shortened version for the December Harbinger. For those purists at Huntcliff, we attached her original full length version on Huntcliff's Website (www.huntsunres.org). Anne was born in London, and travelled the world, as her father served as an American Consul with the State Department, before returning to the United States when WWII broke out. She received a degree from Wheaton College in English literature. Afterwards, she obtained a master's degree from Simmons College School of Social Work and after that she worked for several years as a medical social worker at the Children's Hospital in Boston, Mass. Later, Anne trained as a Special Education teacher and taught at schools in Maine. Her inspiration to write the poem occurred on Christmas Eve after being at Huntcliff only a few days. Anne wrote the poem to get herself into a more happy, joyful, and humorous mood on that holiday night. The poem is a real gem to read, and we certainly hope you enjoy this feature as we did. Thanks, Anne, for writing this great and meaningful poem for us.

Huntcliff Artisans Wanted



If you are a resident artisan and would like your specific art featured in our Harbinger, please contact any of our Editorial Board members and we will take the evaluation process from there. As you have seen in previous editions of the Harbinger, our back page contains excellent examples of talented residents.

Be a Kid Again



Live with Legacy,..... Getting into the Zone with CHOA...what is this? This is a new Huntcliff program in which our residents can enjoy participating. CHOA is Children's Healthcare of Atlanta and the Zone is a play area in the hospital where patients can have time away from treatments and just be kids. In January we will visit the Zone for an orientation. Our residents can then decide what activity they want to share with kids.

This will be a great opportunity to make these kids so happy and fill your heart. Look for details from the Activity Department to follow soon.

Deadline Approaching

December 7 is the deadline for contributions to the employee appreciation fund. See the November Harbinger for all the details associated with this fantastic recognition program.

Please, continue to check your monthly calendar, elevator postings, cubbies, and other posted announcements to increase your awareness and participation in our events.

Huntcliff Players, Summit Singers, and the Book Club will be taking a well deserved vacation in December and will resume activities next year. Continue to check updates for more information.

Men's Club outing on Tuesday December 12th will be lunch at Longhorn Steakhouse in Roswell. Because it is during the Holiday season, we will be limiting the number of guys so we can all hear each other at the table. So sign up with Fatiha and reserve your spot as they will go quickly.

Knitting Club & Stitch Club would like to share the outstanding work of one of our knitters, Joan Copper. For years, she has participated by knitting chemo hats for Northside Hospital and other Atlanta Hospitals. Most weeks' she finishes and sends five or six such hats. Her most recent donation was 9 hats to the Craddock Center of Cherry Log, Georgia, which distributes hats and books to the Head Start Children in the area. Huntcliff is proud to thank her for her work and generosity

Huntcliff Art Show

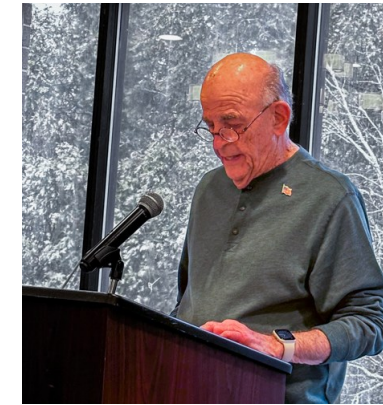


The Huntcliff Summit Art Show and Silent Auction was a HUGE success. Due to the generosity of our Huntcliff Community Neighbors and our own Huntcliff Resident artists, craftsmen, and collectors, the show was beautiful and interesting. The marketing department provided a delicious assortment of hors d'oeuvres and wines. Best of all, however, we were able to present a very generous check to the Roswell Arts Fund. They, in turn, have shown an interest in providing us, at Huntcliff, with new programs and cultural activities! We want to again thank all who participated in making the evening so successful!

Halloween at Huntcliff



Huntcliff Celebrates Veteran's Day



Huntcliff saluted our Vets on their special day. Lisa and Franki gave opening remarks followed by Art leading the Pledge of Allegiance, then by Hal reading the poem "In Flanders Fields". Staff handed out certificates of recognition and appreciation to all our Vets. **Thank You for your service.** A Veterans' recognition wall was also exhibited by the cubbies.

Summit Singers Do It Again



The Summit Singers did it again with outstanding performances singing songs by George Cohan, Irving Berlin, and others. Over 100 residents and friends attended the two concerts. Our talented folk singer, Brandt Ross, also participated in the two programs. The Singers performed favorites like; Over There, God Bless America, America the Beautiful, and I left My Heart in San Francisco. The concert ended too soon with showing Lee Greenwood's rendition of God Bless The USA. Well done, and looking forward to more performances in 2024.