



A Message from the Executive Director

by Ronald Villacis, Executive Director



So many ways to celebrate the end of year holidays! Where should you begin? We have a few suggestions.

Hanukkah begins December 12th this year and we'll start celebrating at 2 p.m., services at 4 p.m. with Gerri Corn. Please join us as we light candles each night and sing *Ma'Oz Tzur* ("Rock of Ages") and other traditional tunes. Will there be *sufganiyot* (doughnuts)? *Oy*, what would the holiday be without that?

The winter holidays often involve gifts, and some we like better than others. You can get good use out of last year's least-favorite gift on Ugly Sweater Day December 14th. This is a classic Melrose

Gardens tradition so dig deep in your closet, and if you can't find one, borrow from family or friends! Residents and staff will all participate in the 3:30 p.m. parade with prizes for the ugliest and "most creative ugly" sweaters. Beautiful freshly baked holiday cookies and eggnog social to follow.

The very next day at 1:30 p.m. is our Holiday Jazz Festival with the Jazz Trio Odyssey. Hum along to favorites like "Winter Wonderland," "Frosty the Snowman" and the "Dreidel Song." Here are links for [Christmas](#) and [Hanukkah](#) music to help get you into the spirit.

On Christmas Day we'll have a holiday lunch that ends with double-layer pumpkin cheesecake (it's a good thing we have exercise classes several times a week) followed by a holiday piano concert with Larissa at 2 p.m.

And at 3:30 p.m. that afternoon we'll watch the old holiday classic, *Miracle on 34th Street*. (Popcorn will be available!) Families are welcome to join in any or all of our festivities.

Have a beautiful holiday and a prosperous New Year.

Ronald Villacis, Executive Director

What's Inside...

Resident Spotlight



Resident Outings



December Socials



Halloween Trick or Treats





Please be sure to attend our **Special Music Concerts** in December.

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|-------|---------------------------------------|------------|
| 12/02 | Solo Concert w/Yolly | 2:00 p.m. |
| 12/03 | Concert w/Sherrol | 2:00 p.m. |
| 12/09 | Golden Oldies w/Julie | 2:00 p.m. |
| 12/10 | Singing Guitar w/David Kaufman | 2:00 p.m. |
| 12/21 | Music Around the World Nick and Ayeme | 3:30 p.m. |
| 12/22 | Comedy Show w/Jackie Lawrence | 2:00 p.m. |
| 12/23 | Classical Piano w/Ronnie | 2:00 p.m. |
| 12/24 | Xmas Concert w/Yasha | 2:00 p.m. |
| 12/25 | Classical Piano w/Larysa | 12:30 p.m. |
| 12/29 | Sound Healing w/Jahrazheen | 1:30 p.m. |
| 12/30 | Country Music w/Michael Quest | 2:00 p.m. |
| 12/31 | New Year's Concert w/Dallas | 2:00 p.m. |



Alf Geffcken Resident Spotlight

Alfhart (Alf) Geffcken, one of our newest residents, was born in Germany and raised in Zurich, so he speaks fluent German, French and English. He attended the University of British Columbia as a business and finance major, and other than two years flying for the Swiss Air Force, has worked most of his life as a commercial real estate investor and property manager. Growing up around so many mountains, Alf became an expert downhill skier and is noted for a one-time world speed record at 94 mph! His philosophy in life is to live well and he's always on the lookout for new things; his favorite saying is "Let's go see." Alf has three sons and two grandsons who help to keep him vibrant. Welcome Alf as our Resident Spotlight for this month.

Welcome to our Community



Martin Lieberman



Karla Heider



Marjorie McBride



Elizabeth Wallace



Resident Birthdays

Celebrate on Wednesday, December 22nd at 1:00 p.m.

Melrose Gardens

- Gloria Deretich 12/01
- Fumie Ire 12/09
- Diana Levitt 12/25
- Dorothy de Coningh 12/28

The Cottages

- Eunice Powell 12/02
- Ora Silverman 12/06
- Emma Johnson 12/14

Religious Services and Study

- Catholic Mass - Sundays at 9:00 a.m.
- Shabbat Services - Fridays at 4:15 p.m.
- Church Services - Saturdays at 10:00 a.m.



Monday, December 4th

Stroll around the Greystone Mansion and Park

Considered one of California's most luxurious residences south of Hearst Castle, the Doheny/Greystone mansion has been featured in movies like *Star Trek 2*, *The Muppets*, *The Social Network*, and *National Treasure: Book of Secrets*. It was purchased by the City of Beverly Hills in 1965 with the purpose of building a 19 million gallon water tank on the hilltop site. The site continues to serve as the City of Beverly Hills' largest reservoir.



Monday, December 11th

Enjoy a shopping adventure at The Grove

During the holiday shopping season, artificial snow is produced here every evening. And beginning in mid-November, the Grove Christmas Tree is on display. Usually up to 100 feet or more, it is the tallest Christmas tree in the city of Los Angeles. The Grove also features a large center park with an animated fountain. It's music-fountain show plays every hour, and the fountain's choreography is reminiscent of the Fountains of Bellagio in Las Vegas, just much smaller.



December Socials

No need to button up your overcoat when you want to be social, just come to one of our in-house events.

December 12th - Hanukkah Celebration & Services

Enjoy our Hanukkah Celebration at 2 p.m. and Hanukkah Services at 4 p.m. with Gerri Corn.

December 14th - Ugly Christmas Sweater Parade

Join us for a classic Melrose Gardens tradition - staff and residents bring an ugly Christmas sweater to wear. We'll parade around in the living room at 3:30 p.m. and we'll pick the winners. Fresh baked holiday cookies and eggnog to follow.

December 15th - A Jazzy Christmas

We've invited the Jazz Band Trio Odyssey to perform for us at 1:30 pm.

December 22th - Eggnog Social

We're having an Eggnog and White Chocolate Fudge social, with informal sharing about holiday history and personal experiences.

December 26th - Hot Chocolate & Cookie Social

We'll have a Hot Chocolate & Cookie social and enjoy the spirit of the holidays. Come and make some new friends!





National Boss Day

celebrated on October 16



Our Halloween party was a great success! Staffers paraded fun and creative costumes, then gave out treats (no tricks!) to delighted residents.

Our Executive Director Ron Villacis would like to thank everyone for celebrating National Boss Day with him. "A successful happy boss helps to form a positive winning team who both care and display enthusiasm for their craft."

Halloween at Melrose Gardens



Maintenance director Guadalupe Mejia, first-prize champion in our contest, won a gift card for her Frida Kahlo costume.



Happy ghoulish participants: caregiver Genet Yitalign, activity assistant Ana Meyners and activity director Kira Yakubovich.



Resident Claire Avitable takes a moment to pose with second place-winner driver Amador Dayrit, dressed as the tooth fairy.

Introducing... Our Staff



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