December is upon us, and another year is quickly coming to an end. 2015 Parkview special events have included Valentine’s Day, Mardi Gras, Mother’s Day Tea, Easter Bonnet Parade, The Roaring 20’s Flapper Party, Hallowe’en, Oscar Night, Mystery Dinner, and many outstanding Happy Hours.

Christianne Martineau, our Community Life Assistant, and “Decorator Extraordinaire”, in addition to maintaining Parkview’s stunning decor, has provided appropriately creative and attractive decorations for each special event.

During the Christmas season Chef Russell’s lighted Christmas village delighted Residents and welcomed each visitor who came into our Lobby.

We have added Executive Staff in the past few months. David Gustafson, our Executive Director, quickly endeared himself to us. Not only has he been quick to respond to our needs, he has also established a “family” atmosphere by treating us all like his grandparents. We do need to be loved, and David, sensing that, has filled that need.

Donna Hartman, our new Sales Director, has also won our affections. Donna’s warm smile and friendly attitude match that of our Sales Associate, Susan Taylor. They are our Cheerleaders!

Lolita London, our new Community Life Director, brightens every room she enters, and has instituted several activities in the short time she has held that position.

December 2014 we happily anticipated the holidays of Hanukkah, Christmas and New Year’s Eve.

Hanukkah, a solemn celebration, was observed by Jewish people all over the world. That Holy eight-day observance is also known as “The Festival of Lights” and the “Feast of Dedication.” A special menorah that holds either oil cups or wax candles is reserved for Hanukkah. Each evening, amid prayers, one candle or oil-based light of the menorah is lit. In addition to the solemn ceremony, special foods are served, gifts are exchanged, Hanukkah songs are sung and children play special games.
On Christmas Eve 2014, Christians commemorated the birth of Jesus Christ with candlelight services held in brightly decorated churches. Believing that God gave to the world the ultimate Gift of His Son, Christians congregated to sing carols that tell of the Holy Nativity of their Savior.

As always, Christmas season was a time for family gatherings and parties with friends. Homes twinkled with holiday lights, animated lawn ornaments and decorations of the red, gold, green and white symbols of the Christian faith. (Red depicts the blood of Christ shed on the cross in payment for sin; gold symbolizes the Magi’s costly gifts to the Christ Child; green speaks of newness and growth in the Christian life, and white represents purity and holiness.)

Watch Night services were held in many churches on New Years’ Eve, while all-night parties were enjoyed by those “Ringing out the Old Year and Ringing in the New.” Many folks gathered in New York’s Times Square or around the TV, to watch the dropping of a gigantic globe at the stroke of midnight. Firework displays were enjoyed far and wide, and kisses and “Happy New Year” toasts were shared by everyone.

Desperately trying to lose the weight gained over the Thanksgiving holiday, we excitedly anticipate the approach of Hanukkah and Christmas, 2015.

Have yourself a Happy Hanukkah, or a Merry Christmas and a.....