



Celebrating June

Donut Day
June 2nd

Drive in Movie Day
June 6th

Iced Tea Day
June 10th

Flag Day
June 14th

Nursing Assistant
Day
June 17th

The Longest Day
June 21st

Pink Day
June 23rd

Bomb Pop Day
June 29th



Joyful Moments in June

For the romantics at heart—stay with me here. What do you feel when you see an elderly couple strolling down the path, holding each other's hands? Maybe a little squeeze as well? Is there a moment of awe (and "aww") and hoping or wishing that might be you someday?

When someone with silver hair walks on the beach treasuring the feeling of the sand between their toes, do we find it inspiring and then take off our shoes and walk too?

As a trio of ladies in their eighties walk on the sidewalk, enjoying some ice cream, good stories and many giggles, are we suddenly warmed by their friendship?

Do we smile with joy when we see a group of senior citizens on the dance floor at a wedding, and they are dancing to Lizzo instead of Elvis and they've got some pretty good moves?

I often wonder why we find it unusual when older people do ordinary things. While aging may come with some health challenges, aging itself is not a disability. Growing older does not take away the desire for love, expressing affection, companionship, enjoying nature or having fun. On the contrary, as we get older, we have years of experience and wisdom, and perhaps freedom from the burden of caring what people think, that might make these experiences that much more satisfying. We might do things a little more slowly as we become older, but for many, there is still a young soul inside enjoying all that life has to offer.

So when you see older people doing life with happiness—go ahead and share the joy. Let it be the norm. Start a conversation and hear the stories of young romance that has stood the test of time, of journeys taken across the sea, of friendships that have lasted decades, and feet that have danced a million miles.

Come join the Bell Tower Residence family as we live these moments together. We all have so much to share.

Kris McGarigle
Administrator

Welcome to Bell Tower! Chaplain Phyllis Smoot

Hello! My name is Phyllis Smoot, and I am a new Chaplain at Bell Tower working alongside Chaplain John. I'm excited to begin there June 5th and that is why I am writing the Chaplain Corner piece for the month of June. As I begin to get to know everyone at Bell Tower, I'll start the conversation with a little bit about me.

I am an ordained pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and have been for over 14 years. God had a plan for me while I was studying engineering at Valparaiso University when I heeded a different vocational route.

The call to serve the church did not surprise me as I was the eager little girl in church always helping, always active, and always amazed at what God has done and was doing.

I grew up in the city of Chicago and still feel like that is home. I wrote earlier that I attended Valparaiso University and then went onto The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Chicago. During my seminary years I completed an internship as well as a chaplain residency at a hospital.

I took a call, my first call, to a two-point parish in rural Northeast Indiana and served there for 11 years. My family and I moved to the Wausau area in January 2020. I took a new call and continue to serve St. John Lutheran Church in Mosinee.

Now I mentioned my family and I'd love to introduce you to them, at least through words right now. I have a lovely spouse named Justin Smoot and he is also an ordained pastor in the ELCA and serves in the area. I have two daughters, Lillian, and Genevieve. I also have two dogs named Yoda and Lucy.

For fun, our family hosts international exchange students and we are just finishing hosting our 4th student named Pelin from Turkey. I enjoy taking walks, especially with my dogs, running, singing, acting, and spending time outside, any time of year, with family and friends. I am involved in my girl's Girl Scout troops, 4-H, and also volunteer with AFS the international exchange student group that I have hosted with.

For prayer and daily devotions, I like to read the daily lectionary and have early morning prayer right before the whole family gets up and ready for the day. I tend to see God as ever present, comforting, guiding, and reminding us how special we are every day. We can come to God in joys or sad times and God will listen. I enjoy worship and being creative in planning worship as well because I think God is awesomely creative.

I look forward to meeting you all very soon. Maybe I'll end with a question for you to give me an answer when I meet you. What is your favorite way to encounter God during the season of Summer?

Peace! Chaplain Phyllis Smoot



*In loving memory of
Sally Leistikow*



Sally B. Leistikow, 87, of Merrill, passed away Monday, May 1, 2023, at Bell Tower Residence, Merrill.

Sally was born July 23, 1935, in Merrill, daughter of the late Marvin and Mildred (Speas) Ingersoll. She married Gerald 'Jerry' Leistikow on January 7, 1956, at St. John Lutheran Church, Merrill. Sally was a lifelong member of the church and was baptized, confirmed and married there. She had also attended St. John Lutheran School.

In 1961, Sally and Jerry relocated their family to Fort Lewis Military Base in Washington when Jerry was called to serve in the National Guard during the Berlin Crisis. Thankfully, they only spent a year away from the Merrill area and returned home as soon as they could. Sally worked at Krambo's Grocery, Dave's Red Owl/County Market. She worked primarily as a cashier and in her retirement years she did personal shopping at the store.

Sally enjoyed sewing and baking. Camping with her family and friends was always a highlight. She loved living on the Wisconsin River where watching the wildlife and tending to her plants and flowers gave her joy. Sally and Jerry sought many opportunities to travel. They had been to Tennessee, Florida, Colorado, Arizona, California, and Alaska. Their trips also included Germany and Switzerland. Sally lived a life of care and connection. Her everyday life exemplified her core values of faith, family and friendship; leaving behind a lasting legacy of love.

Survivors include her husband of 67 years, Jerry Leistikow of Merrill; children, Vicki (John Kilgust) Leistikow of Merrill, Randy (Ann Bohun-Leistikow) Leistikow of Barron, WI, and Shari (Brian) Samuelson of Merrill; four grandchildren, Kally (Eric) Jehn of Weston, Brianna (T.J.) Morris of Scott AFB, IL, Krista Leistikow (Logan Wardean) of Eau Claire, and Ryan Leistikow of Mankato, MN; five great-grandchildren, Boone, Ryker, Ember, Marceline, and Jeremiah; sister, Cynthia (Mark) Leubner of Superior; sister-in-law, Lavera Hildebrand of Merrill; and brothers-in-law, Stanley Rothmeyer of Merrill and Clarence Leistikow Jr. of Merrill. Sally was preceded in death by her parents, Marvin and Mildred Ingersoll; sister, Sandra Rothmeyer; and brother, James Ingersoll; and sisters-in-law, Dawn Leistikow, Geraldine (Lyndon) Oelke, and Verna (Edlor) Kleinschmidt.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF



Geraldine Dotter

Geraldine A. 'Gerry' Dotter, 94, of Merrill, passed away Wednesday, May 10, 2023, at Bell Tower Residence, Merrill.

Geraldine was born November 18, 1928, in Merrill, daughter of the late Ray Turbin and Delores (Egan) Cotter. She graduated from Merrill High School and then attended beauty school in Eau Claire. She married Gordon Dotter on May 29, 1948, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Irma. He preceded her in death on April 12, 2016. Geraldine was a homemaker, she loved reading and traveling.

Geraldine is survived by her daughters, Barbara (Jay) Harding, and Deanna Dotter both of Merrill; sons, Jim (Jayne) Dotter of Marshfield, and Tom Dotter of Merrill; grandchildren, Beth (Todd) Pehlke of Lake Orion, Michigan, Kyle Harding (fiancée Shelbi) of Merrill, Kevin (Jessica) Harding of Irma, Adam Dotter of Merrill, and Elly (Troy) Hanson of Merrill; great-grandchildren, Brenden, McKenna, Brooklyn, Langdon, Eli, Everleigh, Elliott, Emilia, Finn, Kane, and Tillie; sister, Marjorie Heidemann; brother, John Cotter; and half-sister, Ellen Barbre. Geraldine was preceded in death by her husband, Gordon Dotter; parents, Ray Turbin and Delores Cotter; stepfather, John N. Cotter; son, Gary Dotter; half brothers, William Turbin, Richard Turbin, and David Turbin; brother-in-law, Victor Heidemann; and sister-in-law, Gene Cotter.

The family would like to thank the staff at Bell Tower Residence, Inclusa, and Aspirus Comfort Care & Hospice Services for the wonderful care they showed Geraldine.

THE
LONGEST
DAY

alzheimer's association

LEMONADE STAND FUNDRAISER

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21ST
11AM TO 3PM

\$1 PER GLASS
ALL PROCEEDS TO
BENEFIT THE
ALZHEIMER'S
ASSOCIATION

TO MAKE A DONATION PLEASE VISIT OUR TEAM FUNDRAISING PAGE AT
[ACT.ALZ.ORG/GOTO/BELLTOWER](https://act.alz.org/goto/belltower)
OR SIMPLY SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW!



The Longest Day is the day with the most light—The Summer Solstice. On Wednesday, June 21st, Bell Tower Residence will be participating to raise awareness and funds for the Alzheimer's Association by hosting a lemonade stand and selling t-shirts all month long! Staff members, residents and volunteers are encouraged to participate by volunteering to work the lemonade stand, purchasing lemonade, buying a t-shirt or simply making a donation to the cause. Join us in helping raise awareness and fight the darkness of Alzheimer's Disease on the day with the most light—

The Longest Day!

Resident Birthdays

4th—Pennie B.
5th—Betty M.
8th Rosemary S.
11th—S. Anita
16th—Ruth R.
24th—S. John Marie



Resident Anniversaries

1 year—Donna G.
1 year—Arlene Y.
2 years—Barb B.
2 years—Norma H.
3 years—Shirley O.
4 years—Larry P.
6 years—Marlene S.
8 years—Harriet T.
10 years—S. Loretta
18 years—S. Anita

Staff Birthdays

3rd—Lynn E.
7th—Lizzy W.
15th—Pat B.
16th—Delainy F.
25th—Allison B.



Staff Anniversaries

1 year—Sabrina W.
2 years – Hana B.
3 years—Allison B.
1 year—Som S.
5 years—Becca R.

Congrats
Grads!



Destinee
Nursing Assistant
MAHS Class of 2023



Mikaela
Admissions Coordinator
Master of Social Work



Lizzy
Nursing Assistant
MAHS Class of 2023



Sierra
Culinary Aide
MAHS Class of 2023



Amanda
Licensed Practical Nurse
Registered Nurse



Hana
Culinary Aide
MAHS Class of 2023



*As the warmer weather approaches, residents
please make sure you are signing out at the front
desk when leaving the building!*



MYLENE JONES
HOUSEKEEPING SUPERVISOR

**BELL
TOWER
RESIDENCE**
EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
JUNE 2023

*"MYLENE IS ALWAYS THERE TO LEND A HAND WHEN NEEDED. SHE HELPS ACROSS ALL DEPARTMENTS—SERVING MEALS, BRINGING RESIDENTS DOWN FOR ACTIVITIES AND ANSWERING DOOR ALARMS. HER POSITIVE ATTITUDE AND WILLINGNESS TO ALWAYS JUMP IN AND HELP MAKES HER AN ASSET TO OUR TEAM AT BELL TOWER RESIDENCE."
- ALLI B. LIFE ENRICHMENT AIDE*

BELL TOWER BOOK TALK
THURSDAY, JUNE 22ND AT 3:00

ASSISI HALL

**Red Road Redemption : A Book of Short
Stories by Pamela Fullerton**

"The iconic red gravel roads of Central Wisconsin lead past idyllic farms and fields, across tall rolling hills and through forests of majestic white pines and ancient maples. These stories are about the lives lived beside those roads---Roads that may guide you to an Amish harness maker's shop, a local tavern, or a country church and its quiet cemetery. Roads which often lead to unexpected adventures for man and beast; that connect, but can also divide neighbors, and for some---can become rare paths leading to the redemption of individual dignity and spirit.

Prize winning author Pamela Fullerton presents stories set in the heart of rural Wisconsin. These are the tales shared over the paddock fence by older, and much wiser, neighbors. They are funny or tragic stories that both fascinate and precisely capture a way of life that was becoming extinct, even as it was being lived.

Now...Please join us for a memorable stroll down these iconic red roads..."



Next Resident Council Meeting
Wednesday, June 7th at 11:00
2nd Floor Activity Room

THE
LONGEST
DAY

alzheimer's association

T-SHIRT SALE FUNDRAISER



T-shirts can be purchased at our front desk by cash or check! Employees may have these deducted from their paychecks! T-shirts to be worn on Wednesday, June 21st to raise awareness on the Longest Day!

T- SHIRTS
\$8 each
Small - 3X

BELL
TOWER
RESIDENCE

Assisted living & memory support

BELL
TOWER
RESIDENCE

Assisted living & memory support

1500 O'Day Street
Merrill, WI 54452
715-536-5575
info@belltowerresidence.com

Set on 12 beautifully landscaped acres with over 68,000 square feet of living and common spaces, Bell Tower is a friendly assisted living community where residents feel at home and live life well with purpose and dignity. We offer private apartments, religious services, activities, outings, delicious home-cooked meals and our caring and compassionate staff are always nearby to help.

For more information or to schedule a tour, please reach out to our Admissions Coordinator, Mikaela Meier.

Phone : 715-536-5575

Email : mmeier@carriagehealthcare.com

