

## Connecting Staff, Residents, Families, and Friends

### Tree Lighting at German Centre



On the evening of December 6, staff, families, residents, and friends gathered to celebrate the annual tree lighting at German Centre. This cherished tradition, deeply rooted in the foundation of our organization, brings our community together each year to kick off the holiday season. Guests were treated to a delightful spread of appetizers prepared by our talented dietary team, a stunning light display crafted by our dedicated maintenance team, and a festive performance by BSV Sangerchor Boston, a local German-American singing group. This event, organized thoughtfully by our Director of Resident Life, Carol Kelly, and the Legacy Lifecare marketing team, was a joyful occasion enjoyed by all. We are already excited for next year! In the meantime, we invite you to enjoy the holiday lights on our campus throughout the season.



### Organizational Updates

This month at German Centre, our staff, residents, and families are continuing to thrive as we move through the holiday season. The holiday season is always an exciting time at German Centre, with lovely decorations surrounding our campus, festive meals, and more! Our residents love gathering with one another for activities, parties and performances, especially during the holiday season.



December is Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) Awareness Month. Each year, millions of Americans are affected by this condition, including seniors. For those with memory loss conditions, the decrease in daylight and change in routine can cause Seasonal Affective Disorder. SAD can present itself in many different ways. Oftentimes the changes in routine can cause sadness, loss of interest in daily activities, confusion, and irritation for seniors, especially those with memory loss disorders. At German Centre, our staff is trained to mitigate these symptoms, help keep our residents and participants in good spirits, and remind them that the change in temperature and daylight is a normal part of their routine this time of year. If you feel concerned that your loved one may be suffering from Seasonal Affective Disorder, please reach out to our clinical care team. Our staff is always here to help in times of need.

### Employee of the Month



This month, we are proud to highlight **Kellyanne Saunders**, a dedicated aide at Edelweiss Village. Kellyanne consistently goes above and beyond for her residents. Her ability to connect with residents, anticipate needs, and create a warm environment has earned her the admiration of residents, colleagues, and families.

Whether it's assisting in daily routines or going the extra mile to brighten a resident's day, Kellyanne's commitment to providing excellent care shines through in all that she does. We are deeply grateful for the outstanding care and compassion Kellyanne provides each day at Edelweiss Village. Join us in congratulating Kellyanne this month!

### Welcome to the German Centre!

- Paula Da Silva**  
*Dietary Aid*
- Alexander Jusino**  
*Maintenance Assistant*
- Deanna Martinez**  
*Registered Nurse*



## Connecting Staff, Residents, Families, and Friends

### Deutsches Altenheim Foundation

#### Impact Through Giving

As 2024 draws to a close, the Office of Philanthropy extends heartfelt gratitude to everyone who supported German Centre this year. Your generosity allows us to provide compassionate, high-quality care to seniors in our community.

This year, we celebrated several milestones. In May, we launched our Biannual Speaker Series, hosting engaging events on key topics in aging and senior care. In June, we opened our new Memory Support Assisted Living Neighborhood, offering vital resources to residents and families navigating Alzheimer's and related conditions. September brought the first Sullivan-Walsh Scholarship Awards Ceremony, honoring three outstanding nursing assistants advancing their careers, and the reopening of the Curran Family Gallery, a vibrant space showcasing creativity and connection. Additionally, your generosity has enabled us to restart and expand our Music Therapy Program, bringing joy and enrichment to our residents.

From music therapy to specialized Alzheimer's care, facility enhancements, and inspiring events, these achievements reflect the power of philanthropy and strength of our community.

As the year ends, we invite you to consider a tax-deductible gift to German Centre. Your support fuels innovative programs, provides essential resources for caregivers, and ensures comfort and dignity for our residents. Every dollar makes a meaningful difference in the lives of our seniors and their families. Thank you for your continued generosity and trust. Together, we have achieved so much in 2024, and with your support, we look forward to an even brighter 2025. Let's finish this year strong, ensuring the year ahead is filled with care, connection, and compassion.

With gratitude,  
Claudia & Grace  
Office of Philanthropy

#### Ways to Give

- **Online:** [dafboston.org/donate](https://dafboston.org/donate)
- **Mobile:** Scan the QR Code
- **Phone:** Call us at 617-390-3217

**Thank You for Your Support!**

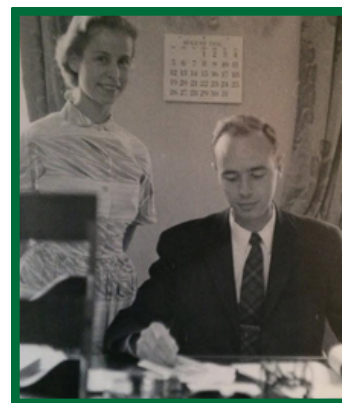


### Resident Highlight: Mr. James Wachob

This month, we are thrilled to highlight one of our Edelweiss Village residents, Mr. James Wachob! A resident since July 2024, James brings a world of experience and fascinating stories to share. Born and raised in Tillamook, Oregon, James embarked on a life of adventure after an educational trip to Europe during his time at Reed College in Portland, Oregon. Encouraged by a professor and mentor, James pursued a future in international diplomacy. His journey began with the U.S. State Department, where he was appointed as the first full-time cryptographer at the Consulate General in Tripoli, Libya.

Over his distinguished career as a United States Foreign Service Officer, James served in six different countries across Europe and Africa, as well as two domestic posts in Washington, D.C. Following his retirement, he continued making an impact by teaching English as a second language for 26 years. Altogether, James has visited 66 countries and all seven continents! When asked about his favorite, he fondly declared that Africa was by far the most fun continent.

James met his wife, Hildegard, during a Christmas dinner while stationed in Austria. Together, they raised a family amidst their globe-trotting adventures. One cherished memory includes their time at the American Embassy in Prague—see the photo of James and Hildegard below.



James also has a passion for poetry. While serving as the Senior American Official in Mbabane, in the Kingdom of Swaziland, he wrote a special verse honoring the country's 10th anniversary of independence, and a verse honoring the King's 80th birthday. See the photo of James presenting the poem to King Sobhuza here!



When it came to choosing an Assisted Living facility, James' family knew they wanted a home that met his needs and celebrated his extraordinary life. After learning about Edelweiss Village from a friend, they knew it was the perfect fit.

James loves the delicious meals, the joy of choosing from a menu, and having his cherished keepsakes nearby to keep his memories alive. We're honored to have residents like James here at Edelweiss Village. His incredible life story enriches our community every day. If you or your family would like to be featured in an upcoming newsletter, please reach out to a member of our leadership team!

### In Loving Memory

Rosalin Carrara, Schrafft Pavilion  
Patricia Cooper, Schrafft Pavilion  
Elizabeth Hegarty, Anna Bauer Place  
John "Jack" Keating, Edelweiss Village  
James Roberts, TCU- Sally Matthew's Wing

*The German Centre family extends our deepest condolences to the families and friends of these wonderful residents. They will always hold a special place in our hearts.*