

Office & Gift Shop Hours: Monday - Friday 11am - 3pm

Santa's Senior Center



Phone: (907) 488-4663
Fax: (907) 488-4683



www.santaseniors.com
santaseniors@alaska.net

❄️ January 2026 - Volume I ❄️



Santa's Senior Center Corporation Inc.

**101 E. 5th Avenue
North Pole, Alaska 99705**

Office & Gift Shop Hours: Monday-Friday 11am-3pm

JANUARY

Our mission is to create inviting and enjoyable programs that encourage older adults to utilize their skills, develop their potential, and remain engaged in the community.

Santa's Senior Center Corporation, Inc. 2025 Board of Directors:

Joe Gelinas (2026)	907-347-1774
Ruthie Sevy (2026)	907-322-6433
Lamie Ellsworth (2026)	503-568-9666
Cora Williams (2027)	907-388-3577
Tammie Wilson (2027)	907-590-7602
Patty Belcher (2027)	916-996-6462
Kathy Hamby (2027)	907-799-1051



The Board of Directors Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month.
The next meeting will be January 14th at 1pm.
The Meeting Minutes can be found on our website:
www.santaseniors.com

Highlights from December Board Meeting:

Members: Individuals 205 - Businesses 2

November Volunteer Hours: 196.5 by 8 Members

- ◆ Thank You cards are coming in from our sharing Gaming money.
- ◆ Fuel Usage has improved since insulation and upgrades to the heating system has been made.
- ◆ A volunteer section will be added to the membership application.
- ◆ Discussion continues regarding volunteers to open and close building when rented out to non-members.
- ◆ Diane Jewkes Thanks all New Hope members for putting together the Holiday Boxes that were given out.

As the new year begins, so does the membership at Santa's Senior Center. After your first year, membership fees are due at the beginning of each year. Membership fees are \$30 for individuals and \$40 for a couple, per year. Your contributions and participation at the center are very much appreciated. We look forward to seeing you throughout the coming year.

December Birthday Lunch:



Birthday girls:
Sharon Geese
Barbara Sevier
Ruthie Sevy
w/ Board President
Joseph Gelinas



50/50 Drawing Winner:
Cindy Stageman



Happy 49th Anniversary!
Cal & Cindy Stageman



December Volunteer of the Month Sharon Corbett

Several months ago when Hunter announced that he can no longer do the Wednesdays and Fridays lunches Sharon stepped up and took over. She resigned from her Board of Directors Secretary position and jumped in feet first and have been doing an outstanding job and with some help from her husband Greg. Congratulations Sharon!

January

Birthdays:

Date: * 80 Yrs+

8 Wayne Sumner
 9 Jean Leder
 10 Rebecca Armsey
 12 Nicholas Vedder
 15 Lynda House
 17 Diana Crawford
 18 CarolAnn Lovejoy
 20 Wanda Weatherby
 27 Sue Czerski
 27 Karen Takao
 29 June Newsome*

Anniversaries:

Date: Years Married:

30 JoA & Roger Havens 60
 28 Marie & Rusty Scholle 58
 22 Jane & Willard Simmons 59

Happy Birthday to all members born in January!

Please join us on the 3rd Wednesday of each month to celebrate birthdays.

Lunch is \$10.

If it's your birthday month, lunch is on us!

Birthday Lunch Menu:
 Beef Stew by Jo Small



Guest Speakers:



Benny Williams,
 North Pole City Council



Marji Illingworth,
 Master Gardeners



New Year's Trivia

1. What do the words, "Auld Lang Syne" actually mean?
2. What island nation is listed in the Guinness Book of Records for the biggest New Year's celebration?
 a) Australia
 b) Hawaii
 c) Madeira
 d) Iceland
3. What do people traditionally do at midnight on New Year's Eve?
4. Why does the Pacific Island nation of Kiritawa become briefly famous every New Year's?
5. Which super-group released the hit single "New Year's Day" in 1983?
6. Which feelgood movie saw Meg Ryan and Billy Crystal finally become lovers on New Year's Eve?
7. Which Jewish holiday celebrates a new year?
8. When is Chinese New Year?
9. What is the most popular German New Year's tradition?
 a) chasing a piglet
 b) watching a British play
 c) firing shotguns
 d) skinny dipping
10. Who is the Gregorian calendar named for?
11. When do Iranians celebrate a new year?
12. What was the original purpose of making loud noises for New Year's?
13. What do Europeans refer to as first-footing at New Year's?
 a) a dance where the woman stamps on the man's foot
 b) playing footsie with your intended lover for the year
 c) smashing a glass on the doorstep
 d) the first person to enter the house
14. Why do Irish people fear the east wind on New Year's?
15. What is the traditional New Year's Eve drink?



There were no guesses submitted for this drawing.

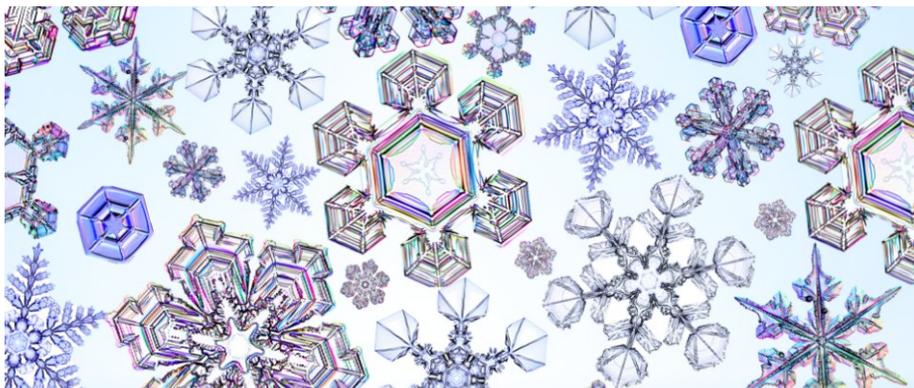
Thank You, Elly Smith, for sending in this fantastic photo of you!





2025 Winter Wonderland Fundraiser luncheon. Even with the very cold weather just about everyone who signed up plus 3 more people showed up. As usual Chef Marie Scholle and her 2 helpers Cathy, her sister-in-law who flew in from Phoenix, and her long time friend Pat Ivey, President of the Fairbanks Senior Center. It ran smoothly. It was an international buffet feast from prime ribs to Italian to Polish dishes and ended with Whoopie Pies for dessert. At the end we received a total donation of \$1,425. Thank you everyone for supporting this event. Without your support this would not have happened.

Ruthie Sevy



THIS AND THAT FROM SENIORS

By Goldie Southwood 12/31/25

In November, several seniors were on the go: **Barbara Sevier, Joyce Outten, Martha Murphree,** and **I** went to Anchorage for the “Alaska Mining Convention”. We were representing the “Alaska Mining Hall of Fame”, located in downtown Fairbanks. If you ever get the chance to visit there, it is a treasure trove of the history of our area. **Barbara** is a steadfast volunteer there and would welcome more senior help. Several of our members have volunteered from time to time. Because of this, the Hall of Fame makes generous donations to our Center.

Christy Foytich took her daughters and son-in-law to Croatia and Slovenia on a ten-day tour in October. They enjoyed visiting the capital of Croatia, Zagreb, then drove to Slovenia to do a walking tour of the capital, Ljubljana and spent two nights at beautiful Lake Bled. They then traveled back to Croatia to soak in the spectacular scenery of Plitvice Lakes (16 interconnected falling lakes) and then on to Split to tour the home town of her husband **Richard’s** ancestors. They ended their trip in Dubrovnik walking around the walled city before enduring three layovers (Dublin, London, and Seattle) and over 22 hours sitting in economy airplane seats to get back to Fairbanks. Now that “Nana” has recovered, she can say it was worth it and what a wonderful experience.

I visited my sister in Washington state, for two weeks in November. While there, my wandering son, **Carl**, stopped for a visit. (He is travelling around the lower 48 in his motor home.) His sons, **Ryan** and **Logan** (my grandsons) joined us for Thanksgiving. I returned just in time for the Christmas Party at my place, on Dec. 6th. Everyone decorated my tree, enjoyed a potluck and Fun & Games. Christmas with my two sons and granddaughter was a Joy!

Wishing you a Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous 2026 to All!

Let me know if you are travelling adventurers. Contact information is below.

We are thankful for family and friends.....Goldie

Please call, text, or email, letting us know how you are doing.
Call or text (907) 378-3624 or e-mail: goldtops@msn.com

**“Cheers to a new year
and another chance
for us to get it right.”**

— Oprah Winfrey

- Which calendar started January 1 as New Year's?
 - Gregorian
 - Julian
 - Lunar
 - Mayan
- Where do people eat 12 grapes at midnight?
 - Spain
 - Italy
 - Mexico
 - Greece
- When was the first Times Square ball drop?
 - 1907
 - 1920
 - 1945
 - 1950
- January is named after which Roman god?
 - Jupiter
 - Janus
 - Juno
 - Mars
- Where do people smash plates on New Year's?
 - Greece
 - Denmark
 - Germany
 - Norway
- Who hosted the first “New Year's Rockin' Eve”?
 - Dick Clark
 - Ryan Seacrest
 - Carson Daly
 - Regis Philbin
- Which U.S. state is last to celebrate New Year's?
 - Hawaii
 - Alaska
 - California
 - Washington
- How many time zones celebrate New Year's?
 - 12
 - 18
 - 24
 - 36
- What zodiac sign is for New Year's Day birthdays?
 - Sagittarius
 - Aquarius
 - Capricorn
 - Pisces
- Which vegetable brings good fortune in Greece?
 - Onion
 - Potato
 - Garlic
 - Carrot

Winter Cancellation Guidelines:

The office and gift shop will be closed when the temperature reaches 30* below zero or colder.

The exercise groups: 10am & 11:15am, will be cancelled if the temperature is 25* below zero or colder.

Call the North Pole Temperature hotline before coming to the center on days in question: 907-488-1111

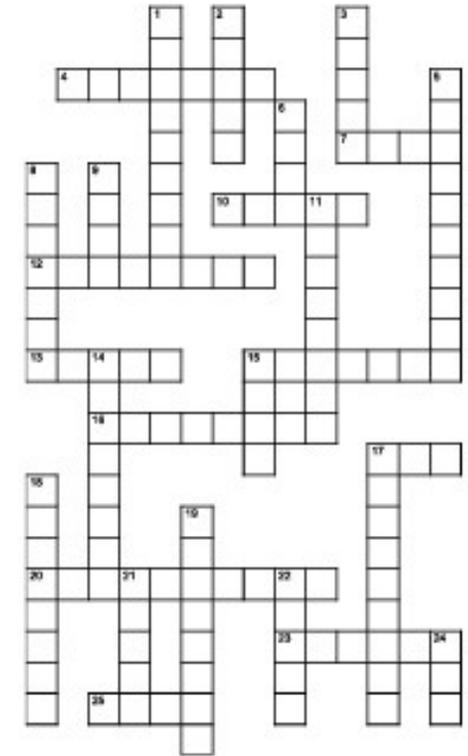


Across

- The first month of the year.
- This might happen at midnight.
- Start of the New Year.
- You might draw circles on it.
- What you might play at a New Year's Eve party.
- You blow it up and it floats.
- Last month of the year.
- Party going head topper.
- New Year's Eve character carrying an hourglass.
- New York City location where people gather on New Year's Eve: Times _____.
- Traditional New Year's song: Auld Lang _____.

Down

- Five, four, three, two, one ...
- Social celebration.
- Everyone's eyes are on this as midnight approaches.
- New Year's promise.
- It usually has 365 days.
- Kicking up your heels.
- It drops in Times Square on New Year's Eve.
- Firework you hold in your hand.
- Time the new year begins.
- Personification of the New Year.



- Father Time carries this around.
- New Year's paper shower.
- Long, flowing party ribbon.
- ____ New Year!
- What you need to dance.
- The day before a holiday.

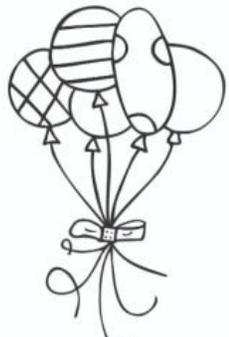
Word Bank

Baby, Ball, Balloon, Calendar, Clock, Confetti, Countdown, Dancing, December, Eve, Father Time, First, Games, Happy, Hat, Hourglass, January, Kiss, Midnight, Music, Party, Resolution, Sparkler, Square, Streamer, Syme, Year

There are better
things ahead than
any we leave behind.

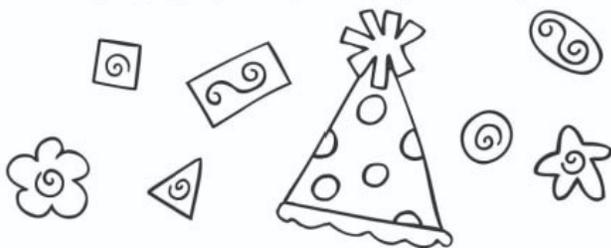
C.S. LEWIS

New Year's Word Search



countdown
 balloons
 confetti
 hats
 streamers
 party
 celebrate
 January
 clock
 cheers
 goals
 dreams
 midnight
 music
 friends
 poppers

U C U N Q D C M L G N Q V S V
 S L A O G O O A U Q L B W R R
 H M G E Z C U Z A S G Q O E A
 W D A R H C N J I M I U G M B
 P P Z E A Y T F A Q K C J A O
 A L E P R G D X S N L C L E W
 V R U A I D O H N U U L I R G
 S J I U N E W X R S O A E T D
 F I T T E F N O C O T B R S B
 R A G S D K X L N Y P A Y T C
 I H W O O P M S T O U S H L L
 E P C E L E B R A T E O B V O
 N U J C R N A Z X E F G G Z C
 D O C C S P M I D N I G H T K
 S S R E P P O P V F R S S K X



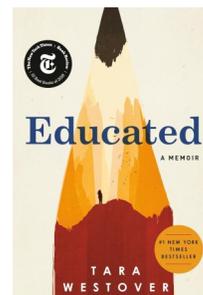
May all your troubles
 last as long as your New
 Year's resolutions!

JOEY ADAMS

BOOK CLUB



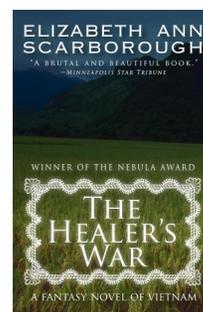
The Book Club meets at 2pm the first Wednesday of each month from September to May.



Jan. 7th: *Educated*

by Tara Westover

Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, Tara Westover was seventeen the first time she set foot in a classroom. Her family was so isolated from mainstream society that there was no one to ensure the children received an education, and no one to intervene when one of Tara's older brothers became violent. When another brother got himself into college, Tara decided to try a new kind of life. Her quest for knowledge transformed her, taking her over oceans and across continents, to Harvard and to Cambridge University. Only then would she wonder if she'd traveled too far, if there was still a way home.



Feb. 4th: *The Healer's War*

by Elizabeth Scarborough

Lt. Kitty McCulley, a young and inexperienced nurse tossed into a stressful and chaotic situation, is having a difficult time reconciling her duty to help and heal with the indifference and overt racism of some of her colleagues, and with the horrendously damaged soldiers and Vietnamese civilians she encounters during her service at the China Beach medical facilities. She is unexpectedly helped by the mysterious and inexplicable properties of an amulet, given to her by one of her patients, an elderly, dying Vietnamese holy man, which allows her to see other people's "auras" and to understand more about them as a result.

Mar. 4th: *The Rent Collector* by Carmen Wright

Apr. 1st: *The Destiny of the Republic* by Candice Millard

May 6th: *October Earth* by Olivia Hawker





Alzheimer's Resource Alaska

Jennifer Willeford
Education Specialist
jwilleford@alzalaska.org
(907)621-6071

At Alzheimer's Resource Alaska (ARA), we offer a wide range of education and support opportunities designed to empower families, caregivers, professionals, and individuals living with dementia or related conditions.

Whether you're just starting to navigate a diagnosis, caring for a loved one, or seeking ways to strengthen your brain health, we have something for you.

Most offerings are available virtually and statewide.

Not sure where to start? Call us at [907-561-3313](tel:907-561-3313), we'll guide you.

Thursday, Jan. 15th @ 5:30pm - Art Links is a **free program** that brings people with memory loss and their care partners together to **create, express, and enjoy** the process; no art experience needed.

Participants enjoy:

- A variety of artistic mediums
- Music and movement
- Memory-rich conversations

Facilitated by ARA staff and local artists. Offered in person and online.

Memory Cafés are a **free gatherings** that offer a warm, supportive place for people with dementia, their care partners, and anyone interested in brain health to **connect, share, and enjoy** music, coffee, and conversation.

What to expect:

- Friendly faces and a welcoming space
- Light refreshments
- Meaningful moments and shared experiences

Held regularly across Alaska. Open to all drop in or stay a while.



New Year's Day
Thursday, **January 1st**
CLOSED



First Saturday BINGO
January 3rd
CANCELLED



Book Club
Wednesday, **January 7th @ 2pm**



Board of Director's Meeting
Wednesday, **January 14th @ 1pm**



Alzheimer's Resource of Alaska
Art Link
Thursday, **January 15th @ 5:30pm**



North Pole Church of Nazarene
Community Chili Cook Off
Friday, **January 16th, 6-8pm**



Monthly Birthday Lunch
Wednesday, **January 21st, @ 11am**
Beef Stew made by Jo Small



Strong Memory
Discussion Group
Wednesday, **January 28th @ 1pm**