

Illuminating the New Year



The Chinese Lantern Festival, also known as Yuan Xiao Jie, will be celebrated on February 12, 2025, marking the end of the Lunar New Year festivities. With a history that spans over 2,000 years, this festival has its origins in the Han Dynasty (206 BC–AD 220), when emperor Han Mingdi promoted the lighting of lanterns to honor Buddha. Over time, the tradition evolved into a broader celebration of family, community, and hope for the future.

At the heart of the festival are the colorful lantern displays, which light up streets, parks, and homes. In ancient times, these lanterns were simple paper creations illuminated by candles, but today's festivals feature intricate designs, often shaped like animals or iconic symbols. Lanterns are believed to symbolize letting go of the past and embracing good fortune for the coming year. A unique aspect of the festival is the tradition of solving riddles attached to the lanterns. Dating back to the Song Dynasty (960–1279), these riddles provide a fun, intellectual challenge for festival-goers, with puzzles that range from playful to deeply philosophical.

Tangyuan, sweet glutinous rice dumplings, are a key part of the festival's culinary traditions. Their round shape represents family unity and harmony, and they're often filled with sweet sesame paste, peanuts, or red beans. The festivities also include lively performances, such as lion and dragon dances, along with dazzling fireworks displays that heighten the joyful atmosphere. Historically, the festival was one of the few occasions when young women could venture out in public, adding a romantic element for couples strolling beneath the lantern-lit sky.

The Lantern Festival remains a cherished cultural event in China, blending ancient traditions with modern celebrations and offering a moment to reflect on the past while welcoming the future with hope and light.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

If you were born between February 1–18, you are Aquarius, the Water Bearer. Witty, clever, and honest, Water Bearers desire independence above all and are not afraid to deviate from the crowd to pursue their own interests. Those born between February 19–28 are Pisces, the Fish. Selfless, spiritual, and intuitive, Pisces swim on an inner journey. They are emotional, compassionate people who are always willing to help others.

ALBERT TORTORELLA ~ FEBRUARY 11TH
MARTA BANKO ~ FEBRUARY 11TH

James Dean (Actor) – February 8, 1931
 Jimmy Durante (Actor) – February 10, 1893
 Toni Morrison (Author) – February 18, 1931
 Sidney Poitier (Actor) – February 20, 1927
 Steve Jobs (Innovator) – February 24, 1955
 Jackie Gleason (Actor) – February 26, 1916
 Elizabeth Taylor (Actress) – February 27, 1932

A NOSE FOR LIES



On February 23, 1940, Walt Disney released *Pinocchio*. In honor of the wooden boy who could not tell a lie without his nose growing, enjoy the quiz below. Do you know which statements are true and which are false?

1. Pinocchio was created by Geppetto.
2. Jiminy Cricket serves as Pinocchio's conscience.
3. The Red Fairy helps Pinocchio learn right from wrong.
4. Moby is the name of the whale in the film.
5. Pinocchio is turned into a real boy at the end of the movie.

ANSWERS: 1. True: Geppetto is the kindhearted woodcarver who creates Pinocchio. 2. True: Jiminy Cricket guides Pinocchio as his conscience throughout the story. 3. False: The Blue Fairy plays a significant role in teaching Pinocchio important life lessons. 4. False: Monstro is the giant whale that Pinocchio and Geppetto encounter. 5. True: Pinocchio becomes a real boy after proving his bravery and honesty.

FEBRUARY 2025



ADVENT SQUARE

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SUNDAYS & EVENINGS
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DEAR RESIDENTS & FAMILIES:

IN MARCH THE BOCA RATON GARDEN CLUB WILL HAVE A "TRASH-TO-TREASURES SALE". THERE WILL BE A WIDE VARIETY OF ITEMS INCLUDING JEWELRY AND HOME DÉCOR. PLEASE SIGN-UP IN THE ACTIVITY ROOM. SPECIFIC DETAILS TO FOLLOW. THERE IS NO ENTRY CHARGE AND THEY ARE ONLY A FIVE MINUTE DRIVE FROM ADVENT SQUARE.

WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A PUBLIC SPEAKER VISIT US TO SPEAK ABOUT PHONE / INTERNET SCAMS, AND HOW EVEN THE SMARTEST PEOPLE CAN FALL VICTIM TO THEIR TRAPS. I AM WORKING ON FINDING A FREE SPEAKER OR AT LEAST A REASONABLY PRICED ONE!

UPCOMING FEBRUARY 2025 ACTIVITIES:

FEBRUARY 4TH @ 10:00 AM ~ A VALENTINE'S DAY CRAFTING PROJECT. COME AND EXERCISE YOUR CREATIVITY!

FEBRUARY 11TH @ 2:00 PM ~ JEWELRY MAKING CLASS IN THE ACTIVITY ROOM. WE WILL MAKE PRETTY BRACELETS FOR YOU TO ADD TO YOUR HAND-MADE COSTUME JEWELRY COLLECTION.

FEBRUARY 18TH @ 2:00 PM ~ WE WILL BE MAKING CHOCOLATE CANDIES & LOLLIPOPS. PLEASE JOIN US IN THE DINING ROOM FOR SOME SWEET TREATS.

FEBRUARY 20TH @ 11:00 AM ~ THE SPANISH RIVER CHRISTIAN SCHOOL 2ND GRADE CHOIR, WILL BE SINGING FOR YOU! KINDLY SHOW YOUR SUPPORT TO THESE CHILDREN. IT WILL BE A SHORT BUT SWEET SHOW! THANK YOU.

FEBRUARY 25TH @ 10:00 AM ~ PERSONAL PONIES VISIT. ENJOY THE BENEFITS OF EQUINE THERAPY. JOIN US UNDER THE GAZEBO OR OUTSIDE YOUR APARTMENTS TO PET AND/OR WALK THESE VERY SPECIAL MINI PONIES.

FEBRUARY 26TH @ 10:00 AM ~ *TRIP TO BUTTERFLY WORLD* NOW THAT THE WEATHER IS PERFECT FOR IT, WE WILL EXPERIENCE THE BUTTERFLY ENCOUNTER, TROPICAL BIRD AVIARY, TROPICAL RAIN FOREST, BUG ZOO & THEIR FABULOUS GIFT SHOP! WE WILL BE HAVING LUNCH AT THEIR CAFÉ ALSO. PLEASE SIGN-UP IN THE ACTIVITIES ROOM. DETAILS ON DISCOUNTED TICKETS TO FOLLOW. TOGETHER WE WILL ENJOY A TRANQUIL & BEAUTIFUL DAY!

Wishing you much Love for Valentine's Day
Warm Regards, Donna

CURTAINS UP ON OPERA

With an explosion of media outlets available on the internet, some think the days of opera as an art form are numbered. Operas have been entertaining audiences for 400 years, so why not give one a chance on Opera Day, February 8?



In its heyday, opera was the most exciting and dramatic form of entertainment imaginable. The greatest composers, musicians, and singers performed in elaborate music halls. No expense was spared on the grand sets and fine costumes. The perfect marriage of music and

theater, opera was a thrill, even in America. During the 1920s, throngs of young fans would stop traffic in New York City just to catch a glimpse of their favorite soprano. The kids screamed, threw flowers and ribbons, waved American flags, and acted in a manner typically associated with fans of the Beatles. Yes, 100 years ago, opera was like rock 'n' roll.

So which opera should one see, or hear, to feel this exuberance of yesteryear? Many believe that the greatest opera is Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, a masterpiece that is serious, frightening, and funny all at the same time. Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* and Rossini's *The Barber of Seville* are two parts of the same story. Rossini's opera, a prequel to Mozart's, gives more detail to the life of the wily comedic hero Figaro. Verdi's *La Traviata*, one of the most performed operas in the world today, has come a long way from when it was first condemned as scandalous in 1853. Then there is always Bugs Bunny's *What's Opera, Doc?* Elmer Fudd is hunting wabbits again, but this time he is in full Viking gear in a parody of Wagner's *The Ring of the Nibelungen*.

If the human voice is indeed "God's most beautiful instrument," then there may be no better way to enjoy it than listening to the opera.

Hair Stylist Tom Gallo

Tom Gallo is happy to join Advent Square as your hair stylist. He specializes in cutting, coloring and foil highlights. He and his wife Ann owned salons in Westport & Fairfield, CT.

He is a graduate of the Vidal Sassoon Haircutting Academy in San Francisco, CA. Tom uses Framisi Italian hair coloring products & Paul Mitchell shampoo styling products.

His former clientele list includes;

- The Paul Newman Family*
 - Bette Davis*
 - Jason Robards*
- and many more from the Westport Playhouse.*

Tom is available every 5 weeks and/or upon special request.

Tell Tom the exact style you want to achieve, and he will make it happen.

Looking good makes you feel good!

THE MANY FACES OF VALENTINE



While February 14 is widely celebrated as Valentine's Day, there is some confusion as to which Saint Valentine this day refers to. According to the Roman Catholic Church, 14 different saints are named Valentine. Some believe Valentine honors the bishop of Terni, in central

Italy, who was condemned by Roman Emperor Claudius. Others believe Valentine was a Roman priest who secretly married Christian couples until he was discovered by the Roman authorities and sentenced to death. Perhaps the real identity of Saint Valentine is unnecessary since what is truly important is his enduring legacy of love.

RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT "JUDITH & DENNIS LUNDE"

Judith & Dennis both started their lives at the same rural hospital in northern North Dakota. Their childhoods were filled with the sights and sounds of nature and both grew up on farms. They met after high school was over, and a mutual friend of theirs was determined they were right for one another & had to meet.

The rest as they say is History! Dennis & Judy have 2 sons & one grandson. Their sons were raised with dogs, cats, rabbits, hamsters, a ferret, an Abyssinian guinea pig & teddy bear hamsters! Judy grew up primarily on the farm but did live in town for a few years. During the formative years she was in 4H, sang in the church choir & played the clarinet. She worked as a car-hop at the local drive-inn along with waitressing at a restaurant. Judy's career was working as an RN for hospitals, nursing homes & physician's offices. Her favorite position was the Dept. of Nursing/Inservice Education Director at a 35 bed nursing home. Dennis often said that Judy's best job was taking care of him & their sons...Sound familiar ladies! Dennis & Judy both became certified scuba divers.

Dennis' childhood was full of building things. He built his own motorized bicycle and his own Go-cart. Then he built his own Hot-Rod from the body of a 1927 Ford Roadster & it was beautiful. Dennis also enjoyed playing the accordion. When Dennis was 16 his Father was in a severe car accident and Dennis had to completely take over the family farm. Dennis had much knowledge of farming, along with being the president of the FFA (Future Farmers of America) in high school. Dennis worked for IBM for 34 years and got to travel the world visiting the Great Wall of China, the Eiffel Tower, the Queen's Jewels, Big Ben, the Locks of the Panama Canal, Hong Kong, Singapore, Germany & much more! Dennis won a full scholarship to the University of Vermont & acquired his Master's Degree in Electrical Engineering. They lived on 16 acres in Vermont and ate everything you can possibly make with apples & maple syrup! After IBM, Dennis owned his own electrical company for 12 years. Dennis & Judy have been living at Advent Square for 3 years & we are very happy they are here.

COOKIE CRAVINGS

It's the weekend you've been waiting for all year: February 24-25 is Girl Scout Cookie Weekend! The iconic flavors are all back: Thin Mints, Samoas, Trefoils, Tagalongs, Do-si-dos, and Lemon-Ups. Two other popular options this season are Adventurefuls, a brownie-inspired cookie with caramel-flavored crème, and a gluten-free option, Toffee-tastic, a buttery cookie packed with toffee bits.

This year, the price of Girl Scout Cookies has increased slightly to six dollars a box, which reflects rising costs. Every dollar goes toward supporting programs that help build our next generation of female leaders. The Girl Scout Cookie program continues to teach Girl Scouts five key life skills: goal-setting, decision-making, money management, people skills, and business ethics. Plus, scouts grow in courage, confidence, and character. There's something extra sweet about enjoying these cookies while knowing you're supporting such an impactful program.

CROSSING THE CLOUDS



Perhaps one of the greatest sightseeing adventures in the world is a four-hour train ride on the Bernina Express from Switzerland to Italy through the Alps.

There may be no better time to travel the route than in February, when the land is glistening white with snow.

What makes the journey so special? The railway, which opened in 1904, crosses 196 bridges, passes through 55 tunnels, and climbs more than 7,000 feet (2,100 meters). This marvel of engineering was designed to open isolated mountain villages to the rest of the world. For these reasons, the rail line has been granted status as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.