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## Oakcreek Senior Cohousing

Winter Newsletter

March, 2021

At the time of this writing, Oakcreek has just dug out of the Sub Zero Snowstorm of 2021!! Opting to get our exercise shoveling, rather than hiring a snow removal service, we spent hours clearing the sidewalks and parking lot. We enjoyed having a couple of grandboys here to help, and to provide entertainment.

A week earlier, ice had covered the grounds, so our Maintenance Team (and others) sprung into action spreading sand on walkways. This two-week episode came just as most of our members had completed COVID vaccinations, and were hoping for a smidgen of freedom.

No complaints, though. Stillwater City kept the power on, except for one half-hour rolling outage, and we all reminded each other of freeze resistant measures. Cohousing, in operation!!



Most of our winter had been beautiful – weather-wise. Holidays were low key, of course -- very little traveling or visits with family. Rather than our normal Common House decorations, we lit the terrace in observance of the COVID Memorial, remembering those who have lost life to the pandemic.



The labyrinth in the woods provides a space  
for reflection on the year that's past,  
and its strangeness.





Attempting to celebrate Christmas in some way, though we were mostly isolated from each other, some of us exchanged photos of favorite decorations. Kay shared a lighted holiday glass brick that she had made. Beautiful!



One of the more  
unique decorations:

Miriam's 'universal'  
lampshade, decorated  
for Christmas -- then  
for other holidays as  
they arrive each year.



A number of us had made angels  
that have survived many years --



Bonnie's hand painted wooden Santa is a welcome visitor each Christmas.



And Carma even managed to keep her poinsettia alive from LAST winter, qualifying it as an antique.





Nelda and Karen compare ornaments  
that they made in years past.



We closed out the holiday season, leaving lights  
on our porches much longer than usual --  
hoping for a more 'normal' and happy season in  
December 2021.

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Intent on keeping us all entertained and occupied  
in our downtime, the Social Team organized a  
couple of 'Scavenger Hunts,' with members  
supplying clues about themselves, and all of us  
expected to identify who matched the  
clues. Fortunately we worked in teams. The rules  
are fairly simple, but with clues like these, who can  
even compete??

- *I crossed the Atlantic on the Queen Mary, arriving  
in New York City on New Year's Day 1952*

- *I got a speeding ticket in Wyoming while on vacation because I was so engrossed in the climactic basketball game in an audio book of Sherman Alexie's memoir, **The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian**, that I just forgot myself and pressed the gas pedal as the suspense built.*
- *I had a summer job as a night clerk in an Atlantic City hotel.*
- *I have been an event planner for professional organizations.*
- *I have degrees from three of the colleges in the Big 12 Conference.*

*This activity required us to become even better acquainted, while having a LOT of fun.*

### **PETS OF OAKCREEK:**

With more time spent at home as we avoid extended contact with others, our pets have benefitted from added attention.

Cheryl's Jake and Donna's Jamie are escape artists, but beautiful ones!!



Helen's George and Nadine's Minnie  
provide great companionship.





Frank & Mebbie's Ginger is the beauty queen of the neighborhood, always ready to socialize with others.

Though not an official resident, Cody is a regular visitor to his sitters Mark & Tracy, making perfect use of the yoga mat.



Though they've both passed in recent years, these two Siamese bad boys can't be excluded from any Oakcreek pet article. Steve and Pat's Yoda and Rounder were permanent fixtures in the community for many years, and live on in our memories.



Our upstate New York satellite member Anne  
is spending her winter training this ball of fur,  
Mooshi.

Bonnie's Lucy avoids the ice and snow,  
Staying warm and playing inside.



Many of us, though,  
are content to enjoy our 'pets in nature' –  
colorful cardinals, especially this winter.





During this time of convoluted school schedules and uncertain futures, we're encouraged to see students who are using their free time to develop new skills. At Valentines Day we enjoyed the creativity of an 11 year old who delivered some of her homemade sweet treats. We leave you with these pleasant images, and wishes for health in the coming spring:



**Sorry No Vacancies**  
**All Oakcreek homes are occupied**

**We are glad to put your contact information on our Interested List.  
Call number below if you want to be notified when a vacancy occurs.**

**405-880-3703**