



»» FRIENDSHIP NEWSLETTER ««

Connecting Elder Neighbors

COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF PUBLIC WINTER EVENTS

Chair Yoga for Seniors: Every Monday 11:45 am - 12:30 pm;

Join certified yoga instructor Mary Bartel on Mondays for 45 minutes of peaceful, mindful chair yoga. No registration required, FREE to the public! Saranac Lake Free Library in the Cantwell Room.

Knitting: Every Thursday at 1:30 pm; Open to the public at the Saranac Lake Free Library.

Saranac Lake Winter Carnival February 2 - 11th:

10 fun days of sports and games, live music, 2 parades and 3 fireworks displays. FREE to the public.

Gallery of Local Art: Lake Placid Library; This public gallery offers a free space for Lake Placid artists and others to show their work. Regularly changing art shows highlight work by students, emerging artists, and experienced professionals.



Get Set Up: New York State Office for the Aging offers FREE online classes to keep you mentally, physically and socially active. Hundreds of live classes to choose from such as Easy Exercises; How to use your Smartphone; Recipes; Starting a Kitchen Garden; Online Banking; Low Impact Aerobics; Refresh your Technology Skills; Watercolors; Calming Crafts; and so many more. Go to <https://www.getsetup.io/partner/NYSTATE> to find some classes of interest and have some fun!

»»» MERCY CARE & ST. BERNARD'S SCHOOL GAME DAY

Please join us for Mercy Care Game Day with St. Bernard's School. A fun-filled day of playing reimagined versions of classic board games from Hasbro, with the 5th grade students of St. Bernard's School. January 23rd, 12:30 pm - 1:45 pm, at First Presbyterian Church, Saranac Lake.

RSVP to Katherine Rhodes, Elder Care Manager, at 518-523-5585 or email at krhodes@adkmercy.org

»»» MERCY CARE FRIENDSHIP VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Do you know someone who would be interested in becoming a Mercy Care Friendship Volunteer? Spread the word that we will be holding a Friendship Volunteer Training at The Holy Ghost Parish Center, Tupper Lake on January 18th. Current Volunteers wanting a refresh are welcome!

RSVP to Lexi Bevilacqua, Program Director, at 518-523-5446 or email at abevilacqua@adkmercy.org

PATTY FRANCISCO - A Life of Love, Devotion and Service

>>> Ruth izraeli

Mercy Care Friendship Volunteer

Patricia (Flint) Francisco was the second of six children born to Cecil Calvin Flint and Elizabeth Electa Hills (m. 1927). Patricia (Patty) was the first surviving child in her family (her older sister, Barbara Ann, died at birth). Patty was joined by siblings Nelson, George, Dorothy May, Frances Elizabeth, and Charles Edwin.

Patty was born in 1933 in Syracuse, NY. Her father Cecil attended the Central City Business Institute and worked for Mohawk Electric Company as an accountant. Later, he moved his family into his parents' (Alvin and May Flint) house in Winthrop, NY. Cecil was Alvin and May's only child and they would do anything for him (including opening up their farmhouse to his family of seven). Cecil had many different jobs in his life including protecting a huge landholding.

Patty's grandparents on her mother's side, Edith Emma (Longley) Hilts and Nelson B. Hilts, descended from the Dewey and Longley families. In addition to raising five children, Patty's mother taught her children and about 15 others of all ages in a one-room, neighborhood school. Elizabeth's outstanding teaching skills were recognized when Patty and several of her siblings received the highest Regents' scores in their respective classes. Please See Patty's story "Remembering" for more on this.

Life was very difficult in rural New York in the 1930s. Patty did more than her share of farm chores, such as milking nine cows, as well as helping her family with cooking, canning, sewing and cleaning. She hoped to become a doctor, but the farm came first.

Unlike most women of her time, left home and moved to the Adirondacks to live and work on her own. From 1951-1953 she worked as a park Watchman; regularly walking 20 miles a day to protect several Adirondack Great Camps. In 1953, she moved to Tupper Lake to find work as a Nurse's Aide; she was working by 4pm on the day she arrived!

In June 1954, Patty met her future husband, Wendell Darwin Francisco, and he asked her to marry him in February!



Patty and Wendell on their honeymoon; 1955

Wendell was born in Tupper Lake, but there were few good jobs locally. In 1954 he enlisted in the army and was stationed in Fort Dix. Patty and Wendell got married in Elizabeth City, NC. Soon after, her husband shipped out to Korea for 18 months.

While Wendell was overseas, Patty moved to Ithaca and completed her nursing degree. When Wendell returned from Korea, they moved to Fort Belvoir, VA where their first child was born. The new family returned to Tupper Lake in 1957 where Wendell was employed by Sunmount. Wendell was also the Commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 3120 and Patty was president of the Women's Auxiliary.

Under the auspices of the VFW, Wendell and Patty started serving as Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus for the entire town. Patty continued to play Mrs. Claus at numerous locations around Tupper Lake for 67 years! Local businesses vied to have Patty in their storefronts because she drew in so many potential customers!

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»» Frances Clement Mercy Care Elder Friend

Patty is mother to four – May Dorothy, Lawrice Ann, David Leonard and Daniel Wendell. She is grandmother to five – Christina, Ethan, Elizabeth, Ayla and Maice; and Great Grandmother to Alicia and Brandon. The walls of her house are covered with pictures of her big, beautiful family, both living and deceased.

It's hard to say what the most important thing in Patty's life was because she has done so many things with great intensity. I do know that her family, Christianity, and sharing her many gifts with others, were guideposts in her life.

Patty has been a nurse (in hospitals, camps and private care), lay minister, counselor, Sunday School Teacher, and leader at Future Farmers of America. She is responsible for too many good things in Tupper Lake to name. A few examples are spearheading the 9/11 Memorial on Main Street and dressing up as Mrs. Claus in Tupper Lake. At 89 she still volunteered for Mercy Care, wrote letters to shut-ins, and helped by making phone calls.

Patty loved going out to lunch even when it was 15 degrees outside! Since I only knew Patty for a few years, this only includes bits and pieces of her big, beautiful, joyous life. She was a wonderful storyteller and could not do enough for her family, faith and community. Patty passed away at 90 years old on July 10, 2023. Her life was a testament to her resilience, intelligence and unending loving kindness.

My Mercy Care worker is Martha Holmes, only I prefer to call her my Mercy Care Angel. She has brought so much joy to my life. I feel very blessed to have her.

My hobbies are crocheting, making blankets for family and friends; I am an avid reader, and I am enjoying my iPad. I make handmade greeting cards, as you can see a few pictured below. At Christmas time, I send cards to patients at our local nursing home.

I want to express my gratitude for Mercy Care and the wonderful things you do for the Seniors.



**Frances Clement's
handmade
greeting cards**



**Aggie Pelletieri,
Friendship Volunteer
and Louise Harris, Elder
Friend taking a selfie
with Louise's new iPad.
They have a great time
sharing and learning.**

»» iPad Program

Mercy Care has received funding to purchase a limited number of iPads to permanently loan to our Mercy Care Elders. Elders will be trained on the use of the iPad for connection to friends and family and other needs such as entertainment, telehealth care, online purchases, applying for benefits online, ordering groceries through Instacart and other delivery services. If you would like to be involved in the iPad program please contact Lexi Bevilacqua, Program Director at abevilacqua@adkmercy.org or call 518-523-5446.

Game Day at First Presbyterian Church Mercy Care Elders, Volunteers and St. Joe's Veterans and First Responder Residents



Holiday Event at Raquette River Brewing Mercy Care's Elders and Volunteers Crafting Holiday Ornaments Generously Led by Debbie McLean



Newsletter Submissions

Submit your favorite recipe, movie with review or book with review. Share your talent with a story, poem, photography or art. Tell us about you, your life, your travels, your pets or your hobby. Send all submissions to:

Mail to: Karen Rodriguez, Mercy Care for the Adirondacks

185 Old Military Rd., Lake Placid, NY 12946

Email: krodriguez@adkmercy.org