

ROADRUNNER

MAY 2025

VOLUME 2025-05



FROM THE DIRECTOR ~ DANIELLE WEINTRAUB

Interim Resident Services Support

I'm excited to step in and support the West Campus as your interim Resident Services Director while we search for a new director. I look forward to getting to know many of you and seeing some familiar faces over the coming weeks. Since I'll be sharing time between both campuses, I may not always be in my office. Please feel free to email me at danielleweintraub@blueskiestx.org or call me at 210-568-5026 if you need anything.

Shari's Farewell!

Please join us as we celebrate and wish Shari a wonderful retirement as she says goodbye to all the residents and staff, she has helped for the last 27 years and 6 months!

West Campus Main Lobby on Wednesday,
May 21st from 1:30-2:30pm.

SAVE THE DATE:

Friday, May 2 – Garden Open House, BSTW Garden, 9-11am
Monday, May 5 – AFIO Chapter Meeting, RR Lounge, 12pm
Monday, May 5 – Cinco de Mayo Event, RR Lounge, 2:30pm
Tuesday, May 6 – Rotary Club Presentation, RR Lounge, 12pm
Thursday, May 8 – DRAC Meeting, RR lounge, 1:30pm
Friday, May 9 – Thrift Shop Furniture Store Sale, Room #110 & #112, 8am-12pm
Wednesday, May 14 – DFCS Presentation, RR Lounge, 10am
Thursday, May 15 – RC Meeting, RR Lounge, 1:30pm
Saturday, May - The Stewarts 90th Birthday Celebration, RR Lounge, 2-4pm
Wednesday, May 21 – Shari's Farewell, Main Lobby, 1:30-2:30pm
Friday, May 23 - Memorial Day Ceremony, The Vista Portico, 10am
Thursday, May 29 – State of the Village, RR Lounge & The Lakeview, 2pm

Gate Sensors

Are available in Residents Services. Join the sensor club and get yours today. This is a great way for you to access your community after hours.

New Residents

Please give the following new residents a warm Blue Skies West "Welcome" in your respective neighborhoods.

Alan Walters, #147

Phyllis Youngdahl, #247

Jim & Eileen Mullen, #825

Cynthia Clements, #1601

Resident Services Announcements

Please Do NOT Feed Our Fine Feathered/Furry Friends

Just a friendly reminder that feeding ducks, wild animals, etc. on Village property is prohibited. It all starts innocently enough, but then they go off and tell all their buddies and before you know it the Village can have a real problem on its hands. Please do refrain from feeding the ducks or leaving food outside for other creatures that may come along.

Safety

Golf Cart parking is in designated parking golf cart spaces only; if no spaces are available, please park in a vehicle parking space in the parking lot leaving room for another golf cart. Do not park by entry doors. In the event of an emergency, this could block people from safely exiting the building and prevent emergency personnel from entering in a timely manner.

Rollaway Beds

We ask that you contact Environmental services a month in advance when requesting rollaway beds so that we may accommodate your needs. Keep in mind that request not made in advance is not guaranteed.

Employee Appreciation Fund ~ BST West Resident Council

It has been a long-standing tradition for Blue Skies residents to thank our hourly staff through the Employee Appreciation Fund. Your gifts qualify as donations to the Air Force Villages Charitable Foundation, and as such, will be included in your annual charitable contribution statement (to be sent next January).

You can make a gift by placing a check (please use a check instead of cash) into the slot marked "Employee Appreciation Fund" at the Front Desk. Checks should be made payable to AFVCF or Air Force Villages Charitable Foundation with "Employees' Appreciation Fund" on the comment line. You may also make arrangements with Finance for a specific amount to be added to your monthly service statement to benefit this fund.

These funds are distributed twice a year (mid-year and near the end of the year) to all qualifying, hourly-paid employees, except for the Beauty Salon employees, i.e., the only employees allowed to receive tips. Your check must be received, or your monthly gift must be set up with Finance, by no later than Friday,

May 16 by noon to be counted in the upcoming distribution. Otherwise, such gifts will be applied to the late 2025 distribution. Special Note: In addition to these individuals you see often, such as the wait staff, housekeepers and custodians, and Front Desk/Courtesy Officer and Maintenance teams, we've been asked: "Who are some of the behind-the-scenes employees who benefit from the Appreciation Fund?" These employees include utility workers in back-of-the-house BST kitchens, cooks, Finance hourly staff, and those who are part of the overnight Front Desk and Courtesy Officer team and the overnight shift nursing and assisted living team. Your gift thus makes a difference to a wide variety of BST hourly staff!

Resident Services Announcements

Exciting News: Welcoming Prestonwood to Blue Skies

After a thorough and competitive selection process, including campus tours and presentations from seven impressive companies, we are thrilled to announce that Prestonwood will join Blue Skies as our new landscaping contractor beginning 1 July.

Prestonwood stood out for their thoughtful approach and forward-thinking vision for our community. Their plans include creating a comprehensive landscaping master plan, optimizing our participation in the SAWS rebate program, and implementing smart irrigation systems to promote water conservation and cost savings. By leveraging our existing underground infrastructure and incorporating recycled water from the City of San Antonio, this partnership will reduce our reliance on fresh water from the aquifer—supporting both sustainability and our bottom line.

Prestonwood comes highly recommended, with notable work you may recognize at Valero Headquarters, Independence Hill Retirement Community, and along La Cantera Parkway. We're excited for this new chapter and the vibrant transformation ahead!



Great Prizes for a Great Cause ~ Development

The Development Team will be selling raffle tickets for \$5 and all proceeds go directly to benefit Freedom House. We will be at the West Campus by the entrance to the Lakeview on:

- Friday, **May 9** from 11am–1pm
- Friday, **May 16** from 11am–1pm

Here's what you could win:

- \$25 gift certificate to Stone Werks
- \$50 gift certificate to Dough Pizzeria
- Four seats to a Missions Baseball Game (valued at \$120)
- A stunning patio furniture set from Lowe's (valued at \$950)

Come by, grab a ticket (or a few!), and support Freedom House—you might just walk away with an amazing prize! Winners will be contacted Friday, May 23 no later than 3pm.



New Fiscal Year, New Approach on Maintenance

As we continually evaluate contracts, Blue Skies decided to transition to an in-house maintenance model beginning with the new fiscal year.

After a thorough review of our budgets, service needs, and long-term goals, we identified an opportunity to enhance service quality and strengthen our internal team. By bringing day-to-day repairs and minor make-readies back in-house, we'll be able to build internal expertise, reduce reliance on outside contractors, and expand our technician team. We are sincerely grateful for the many years of service Vanguard has dedicated to Blue Skies. Their support has helped shape our community, and we wish them continued success.

This transition reflects our commitment to continuously improving how we care for our residents and community spaces.

Resident Services Announcements

This Spring don't let Scammers Spring one on you... ~ Ashlie Maltos

A UPS scam is a phishing scheme in which scammers pose as UPS representatives in fake texts or emails. UPS scam messages may mention a "missed" delivery or unpaid shipping fees, and they often include a malicious link that leads to a fake UPS website or payment portal. When targeted by a UPS scam, fraudsters urge you to click a link to track, reschedule, or pay for a delivery. However, doing so could infect your device with malware, direct your payment to the scammer, or trick you into sharing sensitive personal information such as your UPS password, home address, or Social Security number. One of the most common UPS scams involves scammers sending a message from a fake UPS email address or phone number claiming you missed a delivery. They'll often prompt you to click a link to reschedule for another day or update your delivery address, counting on your curiosity to entice you, even if you weren't expecting a delivery.

If you fall for a UPS text or email scam, the scammer might be able to:

- Steal your personal information
- Gain control of your devices
- Direct payments to their own accounts
- Commit identity theft using your data
- Sell your information on the dark web

How AFVCF Works for You

Tuesday, **May 27** - 2pm - CC2 & CC3 at BSTE

Wednesday, **May 28** - 2pm - Roadrunner Lounge at BSTW

Come learn more about the Air Force Villages Charitable Foundation, how it benefits Blue Skies residents, and how you can get involved.

Please RSVP to Daniel Garcia Casillas at 210-568-3290 or email at danielcasillas@blueskiestx.org



Resident Services Announcements



<u>Employee</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Hire Date</u>	<u>Years of Service</u>
ZERTUCHE, DOLORES ANN	The Mission	05/12/1998	27
RODRIGUEZ, VIRGINIA	BSTW	05/16/2006	19
CANTU, BRENDA	ACRC Freedom House	05/28/2014	11
ESPARZA, ROSEANNE MARIE	BSTE	05/27/2016	9
CERDA, NICOLE	Arnold House	05/12/2017	8
TRENIDAD, THERESA MICHELLE	BSTW	05/01/2018	7
ALARCON, JESSE RAY	BSTW	05/10/2019	6
GONZALEZ, CONSUELO	The Mission	05/14/2019	6
DIAZ, ALMA	The Mission	05/10/2021	4
SALAZAR, LUISA	Liberty House	05/18/2021	4
DE LOS SANTOS, GENESIS	ACRC Freedom House	05/25/2022	3
BALDWIN, BRIANNA	ACRC Freedom House	05/26/2022	3
GUTIERREZ DE LA CRUZ, BETTY	The Mission	05/03/2022	3
ESCARPITA, JULIANA	BSTE	05/31/2023	2
ALFARO, RODRIGO	BSTE	05/29/2024	1
VELEZ, BENNY	ACRC Freedom House	05/29/2024	1
VIDAURRI, MATILDA SOPHIA	BSTW	05/14/2024	1
PENA, RITA F	BSTE	05/09/2024	1
DEL RIO, JAMIE ANN	ACRC Freedom House	05/29/2024	1



Deadline for the next Roadrunner is Thursday, **May 22**

Send articles to Roadrunner@blueskiestx.org

Next Publication Date: Friday , **May 30**

Resident Updates

Freedom House Support Group

The Freedom House Support Group will meet on Thursday, **May 1** for all those who are caring for loved ones with memory issues. Please join us for lunch at noon in the Lakeview Dining Room with a meeting to follow at 1:30pm in the Freedom House Chapel.

Garden Open House RESCHEDULED ~ Jim Conner

The date of the Blue Skies West Garden Club Open House has been moved to Friday, **May 2**. From 9-11am, resident gardeners will give tours, serve kale smoothies, and offer some free plants. Anyone is welcome to walk through the garden at any time. The Blue Skies Community Gardens are adjacent to the RV parking lot on the North side of the campus.



Village Voices ~ Nancy Sowada

The Village Voices Spring concerts will be Thursday, **May 8** at 2pm, at Blue Skies East in the CC Rooms and Friday, **May 9**, at 2pm at Blue Skies West in the main lobby. The Village Voices will also be singing at The Mission and Freedom House on Tuesday, **May 13** and at Liberty House on Tuesday, **May 20**. We hope you will join us for a program of old and new favorites, including The Ash Grove, Danny Boy, What Wondrous Love is This, Amazing Grace and many others. We are sure you will hear something you enjoy! We hope you will join us!

Jerry Garcia Tie & Scarf Sunday Brunch

The next gathering and display of Jerry Garcia Tie & Scarf Brunch will be on Sunday, **May 4**, at 11:45am. We will eat, look pretty, and grow! Please mark your calendars!

AFIO Chapter

The **May 5th** program will start with Mariska Khalikov, a high school senior preparing a study of intelligence and will present a short briefing on North Korea. The second part of the program will be an AFIO NOW video, The Red Line. Joby Warrick researched and wrote the book about the race to destroy the most dangerous chemical arsenal in the world as Syria unraveled in civil war. Very dangerous people had an opportunity to seize huge stockpiles of sophisticated nerve agents and the research facilities to make even more sophisticated weapons. Mariska Khalikov, a high school senior preparing a study of intelligence will present a short briefing on North Korea.

The San Antonio Chapter of the Association of Former Intelligence Officers offers this program to inform the public of achievements of the intelligence services that were not publicly known at the time.. The AFIO programs are presented as a free public service. The national office of AFIO is a 501(c)3 non-profit, non-political, educational association for current and former intelligence professionals and supporters of the US intelligence community.

The presentation starts at noon in the Roadrunner Meeting Room. All residents and their guests are welcome to attend.

Resident Updates

Rotary Corner ~ Debby Cox

All residents are welcome to attend any of the meetings of the San Antonio West Rotary Club, which meets right here at Blue Skies of Texas West, to hear one of our great speakers or to learn more about our service projects. We meet the first and third Tuesday of every month in the Roadrunner Lounge from Noon until 1pm, and you are welcome to bring your lunch.

Our **May 6** speaker will be Chief Master Sergeant Maurice “Mo” Muro. He is the Senior Enlisted Leader for the Inter-American Air Forces Academy, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas. He is the Advisor to the Commandant and provides consultative leadership on all matters of alignment and effective utilization of assigned personnel, military readiness, morale and welfare, professional development, and academy operations.

Then on **May 20** our speaker will be Chief Master Sergeant Carlos F. Damian from the 37th Training Wing at Lackland. He serves as the primary advisor to the commander on all matters affecting training, performance, discipline, safety, readiness, and health of more than 18,000 students and permanent party Airmen. He assists the commander in ensuring the success of four primary training missions graduating more than 85,000 students annually. The wing encompasses nine wing staff agencies, three groups, and one Inter-American academy that operates from 10 geographically separated locations.

Both speakers have served long meritorious careers in the US Air Force and have received numerous awards. So, whether you have served in the military or not, I think you will find it very interesting to learn about how our troops prepare to defend our country.

If you would like to learn more about our Rotary Club, please call Debby Cox (see Resident Roster), or you can visit our web site or Facebook page:

Web Site: Your paragraph text

Facebook Page: Your paragraph text



DRAC ~ JERRY PIERCE

Meal allowance carryover policy will be discussed at the **May 8** DRAC meeting at 1pm in the Roadrunner. Due to scheduling conflicts with Management, the executive committee was unable to meet to discuss the issues prior to our May meeting. Therefore, please attend the meeting and let your voices be heard. The purpose of the recommended change to the meal allowance policy carryover is to allow the residents the freedom to spend their meal allowance to fit their needs throughout the year. Circumstances will arise that may or may not be under the residents' control, which require them to lose a portion of the meal allowance at the end of several months during the year. By changing to a once-a-year cumulative carryover, all residents should benefit and not adversely affect, at the margin, the meal allowance subsidy provided by Blue Skies. After all, the meal allowance can only be used for food, and any amount left over will be transferred at years end. Currently, a resident has a choice at the end of each month to lose any amount over \$50/\$100 carryover or spend that amount on wine or ice cream, which may not be the healthiest choice.

Resident Updates

Intro to Restorative Sound Meditation ~ Sharon Freeto

~A Time of Rest and Renewal for Your Soul~

Restorative Sound Meditation is a profound practice that invites individuals into a space of deep relaxation and rejuvenation. It is a practice that combines the ancient art of sound healing with modern techniques to foster a sense of peace and renewal. This introductory session will be led by the esteemed Rev. Rebecca "Becky" Hamaan an ordained Deacon in the United Methodist Church, who holds a Master of Theological Studies and a Certificate in The Art of Spiritual Direction.

Session Details

Join us at the Willow Chapel at 10am on Monday, **May 12**, for a transformative experience. This session is designed to help attendees quiet the body, heart, and mind, allowing for a deeper connection with the divine and with oneself. As Rev. Becky guides you through this journey, you will be invited to embrace the stillness and listen to the gentle, healing sounds that facilitate a meditative state. Free-will offerings are accepted. Contact Sharon Freeto with questions.



Distinguished Flying Cross Society ~ Robert Certain

The Alamo Chapter of the Distinguished Flying Cross Society will hold its monthly open meeting on Wednesday, **May 14** at 10am in the Roadrunner Lounge at Blue Skies of Texas West. David Sweigart will speak about his involvement in a C-130 rescue mission in the Congo. The Congo has been in chaos for centuries, basically in battles for power and control between European colonizers and the native population. It escalated in 1964 when Anglos, mostly missionaries, were taken hostage with the threat of death by the Simbas. David was assigned to the 777th TCS at Pope AFB, NC on rotation to Evreux AB in France. They were tasked to take Belgian paratroops to the Congo to rescue those hostages. It was called Operation Dragon Rouge. All residents of Blue Skies East or West are welcome to attend.

BSTW Resident Council Meeting ~ Corlea Plowman

The Resident Council's next meeting will be at 1:30 pm, Thursday, **May 15**, in the Roadrunner Lounge. All residents are welcome, especially those new to Blue Skies West. Come and find out all that is happening in the community and how you can become part of the action.

Handbells ~ Nancy Sowada

The Blue Skies West Handbells will play at Blue Skies East on Thursday, **May 15**, at 2pm, in the CC rooms and they will play at Blue Skies West on Friday, **May 16**, at 2pm in the main lobby. In addition, they will play at Freedom House on **May 14** and Liberty House on **May 23**. We will be playing a wide variety of music on handbells and hand chimes including America the Beautiful, the Overture from Music for Fireworks by G.F. Handel, Largo from The New World Symphony by Antonin Dvorak, and Three Folksongs for Chimes! We are sure you will enjoy the music! Join us!

Resident Updates



Spring Flowers Bloom at May 14 B&A ~ Corlea Plowman

All BST West residents and guests are invited to the Wednesday, **May 14**, Birthday and Anniversary event (B & A). Doors open for the hosted Social Hour in CC1-3 Rooms at 5 pm. Dinner service in the Lakeview Room is at 6pm. The Fernando Davil Trio will entertain. Al Johnson will be available to take Birthday & Anniversary pictures from 4:00-5:30pm in the Helen LeMay Room. Please check in with Ruth Ann Taylor.

The dinner includes:

Starter: Strawberry Arugula Salad (arugula, strawberries, pecans, feta cheese, honey Dijon dressing).

Entrée: Coffee Crusted Pork Tenderloin with bourbon mushroom sauce, served with smoked Gouda whipped Yukon potatoes & roasted butternut squash

Bread: French baguette

Dessert: Pineapple Upside Down Cake

Water, Coffee, or Iced Tea

\$30 Per Person

Alternative Entree: Grilled Salmon

Dinner reservations are required. All those planning to attend, including guests, must sign up on the Sign-Up List in CC3. If you need to cancel after 11 am Monday, May 12, call the Dining Services Office (210-568-3232). If you wish to create a table of 6-8, call Bonnie Gardner or Donna Bowman (resident phone directory). Seating will be assigned for all others. Reservations are not made through the Dining Room for this event.

Sponsors for the Social Hour before dinner are Diana Dill, Fidel & Eppie Exconde, Ed & Carolyn Gruber, Roger & Carol Hansen, Dave & Sallie Hennessy, Jane Hill, Kyle Hood, Tom & Karen Keck, Ralph & Edith Kelly, Winston Padgett, Alfred & Kathleen Ramsey, Tom & June Reedy, Pollyanna Randol, Larry Runge, Rita Schmidt, John & Susanne Shore, Alan & Sandi Snyder (chair), Howard & Edie Talley, Clare Taylor, and Dan Van Syoc.

Red Hat Luncheon ~ Vivian Ray

This month's lunch is hosted by Lynn Church. On Friday, **May 16** at 11:15am, we will dine at STONE WERKS, Culebra Commons, 6626 W. Loop 1604 N, San Antonio 78254. Please be in the lobby by 10:30 am. The bus leaves at 10:45 am. If you sign up, you need to ride the bus. If the bus fills up, you can then drive yourself. When you sign up on the sheet in CC3, indicate "W" if you are using a walker or a wheelchair because the bus only accommodates one wheelchair. If you sign up and can't go, it is essential that you remove your name from the sheet by Wednesday morning before the luncheon. If you do not remove your name, you will be considered a "no call, no show," and will be charged the transportation cost.

Resident Updates

Come Celebrate ~ Douglas & Merry Stewart

Our family celebrates two 90th birthdays this year. Our kids said they would support just one party, which includes our 66th wedding anniversary. So, the date is set for Saturday, **May 17**, from 2-4pm in the Roadrunner Lounge. Y'all come. Casual attire. No gifts, please.



Wireless Technology ~ Betty Overacker

The National Science Teachers Association convention occurred in Philadelphia, PA from **March 26-29** with more than 15,000 education professionals from around the world present. The American Radio Relay League's (ARRL) Learning and Education Manager, Steve Goodgame (K5ATA) was present, and spoke to several hundred highly qualified and interested teachers about ways to elevate their STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematical) curriculum utilizing amateur radio. The first components of the new ARRL Stem curriculum were unveiled and shared with teachers who were enthused to access a curriculum utilizing electronics and amateur radio that was aligned to national educational standards. This curriculum will be available with the beginning of the 2025/2026 school year, and will inspire our next generation regarding wireless technology. All are welcome to attend the next Amateur Radio Club meeting on Tuesday, **May 20** in Meeting Room 11 located in the Vista at 11am. Please contact Bob Stuckert for more information.

73—Best Regards in Ham Language

Cliburn Competition for Classical Piano Music ~ Bill Ball

If you like classical music, particularly focused around the piano, I have a treat for you!

The Cliburn International Competition has long been a top competition and is named for the famous pianist – Van Cliburn – who won the first Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow at the height of the Cold War in 1958.

Linda and I have attended some of the Cliburn competitions in person over the years, and now we can see and listen to the performances live (or recorded) in the comfort of our own home! And you can do it, too!

The best Cliburn performance I ever heard was in 2022, when Yunchan Lim from South Korea became the youngest performer ever to win the prestigious grand prize, at age 18. His version of the Rachmaninov Piano Concerto No. 3 in D Minor, op. 30, is revered. It's also available online for your listening pleasure.

To find out more about the Cliburn Competition for 2025, just go to this website:

<https://cliburn.org/competitions/2025-cliburn-competition>

30 pianists (narrowed down from a field of 340 applicants) will advance to the Seventeenth Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, taking place **May 21–June 7**, 2025, at Van Cliburn Concert Hall at TCU and Bass Performance Hall in Fort Worth, Texas, USA.

And if you want to see/hear some of the fabulous performances recorded over the years, including that winning Rachmaninov concerto, the Cliburn's Performance Library is available here for your enjoyment:

<https://cliburn.org/cliburn-artists/performance-library>

The best news? All of these performances, and even this year's live competition, can be enjoyed free of charge!

We're planning to watch all of it this year, right in our living room. Enjoy!

Resident Updates

Memorial Day Ceremony – Volunteers Needed ~ Tom Cochran

On **May 23rd** at 10am we will remember all BSTW residents who have passed away since last Memorial Day. The John Paul Stevens High School AFJROTC Drill Team will perform and have lunch with residents after the ceremony. We need volunteers to eat with the cadets. You'll eat lunch with the cadets in the Vista Sun Room and pay for your meal (\$17, choice of 3 sandwich types, charged to your resident account). The lunch sign up sheet is in CC3. If you have any questions, please contact Tom Cochran or Ken Brockway.

Library News ~ Barbara Folkeson & Peggy Durack

Thank you for all the Large Print donations to the library – some are in the main library, and some are in Liberty House.

The Liberation Line (Wolmar) and War of Supply (Dvorak) were recommended in a recent issue of the MOAA magazine. They are on the New Books shelves.

Large Print:

The First Ladies by Marie Benedict; Three Days in June (Tyler); Battle Mountain (Box); Blood Moon (Brown)

Liberty House:

Act of Defiance (Clancy); Three Days in June (Tyler); The First Ladies (Benedict); Chaos Agent (Greaney); James (Everett- alternate version of Adventures of Huckleberry Finn); To Die For (Baldacci)



Resident of the Month

Three times weekly an enthusiastic group of residents known as the “Seasoned Soles” commence traversing “Blue Skies” walk ways for a one or three mile jaunt while most residents are still sleeping. Bringing up the rear of the long distance group are three residents, Pat Perry, Cynthia and Tom Cochran, who combine their aerobic maneuvers while walking for they are frequently squatting, flexing from their waists, and reaching out, plus they carry bags maybe to relieve their hunger with all their activity. No, these are our “Picker Uppers”, who spot all the debris and graciously bag such findings filling at least two bags on each walk. Occasionally on weekends, the “Picker Uppers” observe furniture and other large objects sitting near the Montgomery and John Ryan gates, and they take their time and effort to notify the appropriate municipal authorities for removal, which is a tedious task! Thank you Pat, Cynthia and Tom for keeping our community clean and neat! Nominated by John and Pat MacIntyre



Resident Updates

BSTW Art Group ~ Sandi Snyder

Your BSTW Art Group is inviting new residents who are artists and crafters to share their talents with us! We display our art around BSTW on the main floor of the towers. Look at the various walls throughout the main floor and find original artwork hanging throughout. In the hallway across from the elevators in towers 1 and 2 there is a featured artist wall. Monthly, one artist has some of their favorite paintings for all to enjoy.

June's featured photographer is Linda McMillion. Please check out her beautiful work on the Featured Artists Wall.

Each quarter a drawing takes place to determine wall space assignments for hanging original art. This quarter's drawing will take place on Monday, **June 2**, at 10am in the Arts and Crafts Room. After the wall assignments are made, please be ready to hang your art.

Any questions may be directed to Sandra (Sandi) Snyder. My phone number is in the directory.



U.S. Army 250th Birthday Celebration

The 250th Birthday of the United States Army will be celebrated at Blue Skies of Texas during the weekend of **June 13-15** on the West campus.

Join us Friday, **June 13** at 3pm. in the West Campus Main Lobby for The Village Voices performance followed by the Army's birthday cake. Open to residents of both campuses.

Saturday, **June 14** at 1:30pm the Buffalo Soldiers will reenact their history in the Roadrunner Lounge (West Campus). Open to residents of both campuses.

Also on **June 14** at 5pm there will be a cocktail party followed by dinner at the West Campus. It is open to all of the following: Army veterans of all ranks, Army vets who joined other services, Army National Guard and Army Reserve veterans of all ranks, graduates of Army schools such as the Command and General Staff College and the Army War College, residents who grew up as "Army Brats", parents and grandparents of children preparing to enter the Army (such as West Point cadets or ROTC cadets), Dept. of the Army civilians and contractors who served with the Army, any resident of Blue Skies who feels a connection with the United States Army. Reminder, there are several of our residents who grew up in US Army Air Corps families before 1947. All Army attendees are requested to wear their Army uniform: Greens, Blues, or Mess Dress, if possible. Not required.

Sunday, **June 15** at 3pm join us for a presentation by the 323d Army Band (Ft Sam Houston) in the Main Lobby (West Campus). Open to all residents of both campuses. West residents are asked to sign up after May 1st in the CC3 Room. East residents, please sign up with Rob Lindsey,

rob.gerlinde.lindsey@gmail.com

Any questions: Johnmacintyre@mac.com or 210-677-0742

Resident Updates

Tai Chi for Balance

A new video of Tai Chi for Balance with Hope Santos is now available for viewing at home on your computer or entertainment system. It was shot in the Persimmon Room by Bill Ball & Bob Seigel. In this class, Hope shows how to use Tai Chi techniques to improve balance, breath and movement. Tai Chi offers many advantages for seniors. Regular practice can increase balance, flexibility and strength, and even improve cardiovascular fitness. Balance becomes ever more important as we age, so regular Tai Chi exercise can help avoid serious falls.

This video is a 46 minute class on Tai Chi for Balance and can be used for practice at home in addition to the scheduled classes held at Blue Skies of Texas West and East. Hope's live classes are wonderfully entertaining and fun, but a private video is great for practice if you can't get to a live class. You can watch the video through an "unlisted" link that is not openly available to the public: <https://youtu.be/99CxoCNesZo>

We hope you enjoy the class and decide to join our live classes! Your own balance and flexibility will improve significantly by participating in the classes that are held at 10:15am on Tues/Thurs mornings at East; and at 1pm on Wednesday afternoons at West, or just by following along with the video.

SPORTS, GAMES, & SCORES

BSTW Poker Clubs ~ Ron Rickard

We have Monday night and Tuesday night Poker Clubs here at BSTW. Both Clubs meet in the Billiard Game room adjacent to the Art Room. Both Clubs are looking for new regular and substitute players. All qualified games are both high hand and low hand split pots. We gather to play from about 6:30 until 9pm on Mondays & from 6:30 until 9pm on Tuesdays

Both Clubs play with a \$5.00 chips buy in and have nickel/dime/quarter---3 bet limits. Both Clubs play with a deck including a joker (which can be an ace or used as a wild card in straights and flushes). Games include OMAHA/5 Card Draw or Stud/7 Card Stud & 10 Card Stud. Texas Hold-em is not played because of betting limits.

The Monday night Club also plays several additional various wild card games which can be challenging.

Stop by either night and check out the play to spur your interest.

Blue Skies Hand Elbow and Foot ~ Gaye True

Many players are now enjoying the new game, and you are invited to come learn and play. Meet your neighbors and make new friends while playing a game that stimulates your card talents. Main group meets Mondays at 6:30pm in CC3. You don't need a partner, or a reservation and the cost is free. Just show up. The game is also being played on Saturdays at 1pm and Friday nights at 6:30pm. All in CC3. Friends and neighbors are playing in groups that may need substitutes so come learn and enjoy.

Bridge

The winners in the April Duplicate Bridge game were:

1st place: Joy Hough and Don Skucas

2nd place: Gail Gant and Mary Kay Ingram

3rd place: Connie Germann and Stu Flood

The May Duplicate game will be held in the Persimmon Room in the Vista on **May 20th**.

Resident Updates

Ladies BUNCO ~ Annette Johnson & JoAnne Oldham

🎲🎲🎲 We will be rolling the dice on Tuesday, **May 6 and 20** at 3:30 in CC3. Bring \$1 for the "POT" and a friend to introduce to this fun and fast paced game. You have 4 ways to win plus lots of laughs while meeting new friends. Following play, join us in the Bistro for a casual meal.



Golf Range Volunteers Needed ~ Ron Miller

Our golf range is a very valuable Blue Skies asset. Golfers of all levels of play enjoy hitting unlimited balls at no cost. And there are donated golf clubs available at the range with honor system check-out (Golf shack key at front desk). Every week (usually Wednesday) a dedicated group of resident volunteers pick up the balls from the range and wash them. Our team has openings for a few more volunteers. It is not necessary to be a golfer to volunteer. The time involved is once a month for appropriately 90 minutes. Training provided. Contact Ron Miller (Golf Range Manager)

SPIRITUAL NEWS

Centering Prayer / Silent Meditation

We will meet in the Willow Chapel at 8:30 am on Friday, May 2 & 16. Everyone is welcome to join us. Questions: Contact Jena Hatchett or Robert Ferre

Catholic News

Saturdays - 11am Mass (For Sunday by special dispensation of the San Antonio Archbishop) in the High Flight Chapel

First Saturday of the Month - Anointing of the Sick following Saturday Mass

Second Saturday of the Month - Birthdays and Anniversaries will be recognized with a special blessing at Saturday Mass

Saturdays/Sundays - Freedom House: Catholic residents will be visited, beginning about 1:30pm, with Holy Communion and prayers

Third Tuesday – 9am, Catholic Council meets in the Vista Room #11. Guests are welcome.

Wednesdays - 9am, Communion Service in the Vista Willow Chapel

First Wednesdays – 9:30am, Benediction and Adoration following Communion Service in the Vista Willow Chapel

Third Wednesdays – 9:30am, Rosary following Communion Service in the Vista Willow Chapel

Fridays – 3-4pm, Eucharistic Exposition and Adoration, and Divine Mercy Chaplet in the Vista Willow Chapel

Pastoral Care - To meet privately with a priest for Reconciliation or Anointing, please contact Fr. Richard Bendorf (see Resident Directory)

Homebound - If you are homebound and unable to attend Mass but would like to receive Holy Communion, you may contact John Siebert, Rebecca Vallejo, Barbara Wilson, Mary Tucker, Lorrie Cappellino, or Gil Wolfe by phone, text, or email and they will arrange for a Lay Eucharistic Minister to bring the Holy Eucharist to your apartment,/cottage (see Resident Directory).

Hospital Visits - Most hospitals have a Catholic priest available; ask a staff member to contact a priest.