



# AROUND THE CENTER

## CICBVI NEWS December, 2021

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Paula Balistreri, Editor

### HOLIDAYS: HURRAH OR HUMBUG?

Well, here we are at the end of the year with the holiday season in full swing. Are you a Hurrah for the Holidays person or a Bah, Humbug type? Sometimes it just depends upon the day.

Bah, Humbug for early (before Halloween!!) Christmas commercials. Bah, Humbug for commercializing everything from socks to nativity scenes. Bah, Humbug for treacherous weather, or the opposite, a brown Christmas instead of a white one. Bah, Humbug for Christmas lights that burn out, cats climbing Christmas trees, and ugly Christmas sweaters. But, worse, Bah, Humbug that there are people who get sad around the holidays, miss their families, struggle for food or shelter or who just believe the holidays are no different than any other day.

We can probably all agree Holiday Hurrahs go to cozy blankets, treats in stockings, the smell of pine and spices and homemade gifts from friends or kids. But, especially after all the Covid-related adjustments last year, why not expand our Hurrahs a little bit? Why not add a Happy Hannukah or Happy Kwanzaa to our Merry Christmas? Let's hug somebody on the "naughty list" – they might need it! Let's show more appreciation for those who work extra hard over the holidays –

our police, our fire fighters, our first responders, our clerks and postal workers to name a few. And, last, but not least, let's take some time for ourselves to enjoy a Silent Night, to wonder at the tiny events that are really miracles and truly experience the meaning of the season. From my heart to yours, may you find peace and joy this holiday season and all year long. – Paula B

## YOU'RE INVITED!

Due to the holidays, there will only be one meal at the center this month – and its gonna be a good one! Mark your calendars – AND CALL IN YOUR RESERVATIONS NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup> – for December 7<sup>th</sup> (NOTE: this is a Tuesday) for dinner. We will eat about 6:00 PM – transportation will be provided but, again, you MUST CALL IN BEFORE FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup>. The menu is ham, cheesy potatoes, veggies, roll and dessert. There has been discussion about a white elephant gift exchange but not enough interest so we are NOT doing that – there will be other surprises instead. The cost is the usual \$5/per person, transportation is free as long as you reserve your spot. Hope to see you there!

DECEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup> – (a Saturday) if we get enough interest, we will take a group to the Peoria Civic Chorale Christmas show. This is an evening event (7:30 PM) so we will do dinner before the show (around 5:30 PM) at the East Peoria Avanti's. We must have at least 10 patrons but no more than 12 and all transportation will be via our bus. Reservations MUST be in no later than December 10<sup>th</sup>.

## IMPORTANT DATES!

December 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Happy Birthday to Gyla Grigsby
December 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Deadline to reserve your spot for dinner at the Center December 7 <sup>th</sup>
December 4 <sup>th</sup>	Happy Birthday to Jimmy Smith
December 7 <sup>th</sup>	Dinner at the Center – Be sure you've reserved your spot!
December 10 <sup>th</sup>	Reservations due for Avanti's & Peoria Civic Chorale Christmas show
December 11 <sup>th</sup>	Happy Birthday Ashley Edwards
December 13 <sup>th</sup>	Happy Birthday Ron Selby Happy Birthday Bonnie Gudat
December 15 <sup>th</sup>	Happy Birthday Melinda Sell
December 15-18	Food Boxes picked up and delivered
December 16 <sup>th</sup>	Happy Birthday Ludwig von Beethoven
December 17 <sup>th</sup>	Happy Birthday Linda Eddy
December 19 <sup>th</sup>	Happy Birthday Dena Lybarger Happy Birthday Derek Battles Happy Birthday to Paula B's daughter, granddaughter AND son-in-law
December 21 <sup>st</sup>	Happy Birthday to the crossword puzzle Today is the shortest day of the year!
December 25 <sup>th</sup>	Merry Christmas!
December 26 <sup>th</sup>	Happy Birthday Keith Nielson Happy Kwanza!
December 29 <sup>th</sup>	Happy Birthday to the bowling ball!
December 30 <sup>th</sup>	Happy Birthday Bill Harrell

Coming in January – Chinese New Year (which occurs on Feb 1<sup>st</sup>) will be celebrated!

## HELP GET THE WORD OUT!

Please visit our social media pages. Every “like” and visit helps us become more visible and, in turn, gets the word out about our services. You will find fun posts, videos, Tech Tuesdays, news about upcoming events, pictures and more!

Website: [www.cicbvi.org](http://www.cicbvi.org) Facebook: [www.facebook.com/cicbvi](http://www.facebook.com/cicbvi)

Did you know our website has a tab called “Resources” where you can find a list of places to go for all your specialized needs from Braille adapted cooking utensils, magnifiers, books, social welfare services and more.

### IDEA FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

#### TERRILYNN NUTS AND SWEETS

Feeling a little nutty? Or sweet? Shop this TerriLynn link for some goodies and benefit CICBVI at the same time.  
<https://www.cicbvi.terri Lynn.com>.

### YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

This is very simple but greatly appreciated. If you receive food bank deliveries, we really need to have the boxes and totes returned to us. We specifically purchased the totes so we wouldn't have to scramble for boxes – they were not purchased for you to keep – and are marked with CICBVI. To date, we still have not received any back so are asking you to search for yours and have it ready to give to the driver this month. Thanks!

## BOOK REVIEW

Patron Deanna Bruce loves to read. You may recall that she also loves to write and has successfully written a children's book that is available on Amazon. She has agreed to share book reviews with us from time to time which, if you love to read, you can appreciate how nice it is to get good book referrals. Please note that all the books Deanna reviews here are available as audio books. Enjoy!

“The Hotel” – by Pamela M. Kelley. “The Whitley is a well-known, family run, hotel on Nantucket. The story centers around Paula, who was comfortable in her job as the hotel's bookkeeper. But, all that changes when Grandpa promotes her to General Manager and fires her cousin. A nice read!”

“The Disability Experience: Working Toward Belonging” – by Hannalora Leavitt. “The author of this book is blind and really hits on so many critical issues faced by low or no vision individuals. She speaks from experience. This is a good book for both sighted and non-sighted people relating to “fitting in” to a sighted society.” Deanna notes that she has given many presentations on her disability band how to adapt her daily living and this book speaks to exactly what she has experienced and would be a highly recommended read.

**Condolences and Sympathy to the family of Betty Clark, who passed away November 5, 2021.**



## Free Matter for the Blind & Visually Impaired

2905 W Garden St., Peoria, IL 61605  
**November, 2021 Newsletter**

### Quote for the Month

“The only real blind person at Christmas-time is he who has not Christmas in his heart.” —  
Helen Keller