

Creative Program Ideas for December 2012

The birthstones for December are the blue topaz, turquoise, and onyx.
The flowers are the daffodil, narcissus, and holly.

Important Dates in December:



December 7 ~ Anniversary of Pearl Harbor

December 9-16 ~ Chanukah

December 24 ~ Christmas Eve

December 25 ~ Christmas

December 26 ~ Kwanzaa

December 31 ~ New Year's Eve

Celebrity Birthdays

December 1, 1913 ~ **Mary Martin**

December 2, 1948 ~ **Cathy Lee Crosby**

December 3, 1930 ~ **Andy Williams**

December 4, 1949 ~ **Jeff Bridges**

December 5, 1932 ~ **Little Richard**

December 6, 1920 ~ **Dave Brubeck**

December 7, 1915 ~ **Eli Wallach**

December 8, 1930 ~ **Maximilian Schell**

December 9, 1916 ~ **Kirk Douglas**

December 10, 1952 ~ **Susan Day**

December 11, 1931 ~ **Rita Moreno**

December 12, 1938 ~ **Connie Frances**

December 13, 1925 ~ **Dick Van Dyke**

December 14, 1946 ~ **Patty Duke**

December 15, 1933 ~ **Tim Conway**

December 16, 1901 ~ **Margaret Mead**

December 17, 1943 ~ **Lauren Hutton**

December 18, 1946 ~ **Steven Spielberg**

December 19, 1933 ~ **Cicely Tyson**

December 20, 1982 ~ **David Cook**

December 21, 1937 ~ **Jane Fonda**

December 22, 1945 ~ **Diane Sawyer**

December 23, 1948 ~ **Susan Lucci**

December 24, 1905 ~ **Howard Hughes**

December 25, 1949 ~ **Sissy Spacek**

December 26, 1915 ~ **Richard Widmark**

December 27, 1901 ~ **Marlene Dietrich**

December 28, 1954 ~ **Gayle King**

December 29, 1936 ~ **Mary Tyler-Moore**

December 30, 1935 ~ **Sandy Koufax**

Bingo's Birthday Month: The residents' favorite game was invented by Edwin S. Lowe in December 1929. Since the game's invention and manufacture, bingo has become a five-billion-dollar charitable fundraiser! Celebrate by asking some of the community groups to host a bingo game and bring the prizes. Don't assume that everyone knows how to call bingo; be sure to coach the callers to speak clearly and repeat the number three times, with plenty of time between the numbers to allow the residents to locate the number being called and cover it. Be sure to tell the volunteers to **help** the residents play – **not** to play for them!

National Tie Month: Organize a fashion show featuring ties from across the decades. The width of ties that are "acceptable" varies with the year or decade. The designs and prints being worn also change. Ask the residents' families and staff to bring in **clean** ties they are no longer wearing – the more outrageous the better!! You can also go shopping for outdated ties at your local thrift store. Often, if you tell the proprietor where you're from and why you need the ties, they will give you the ties free or at a reduced cost (if they do, don't forget to send a thank you note). Ask the

men to be the models and invite all the families. Have someone introduce each model and give a description of the tie he is wearing. Try to write funny descriptions about each tie. Serve refreshments following the show.

Holiday Light Tours: During the holiday season, neighborhoods across the nation are adorned with festive lights and displays of figures depicting the holiday stories and traditions. Take this opportunity to schedule several trips into the community to enjoy the holiday lights. Remember to dress for the weather -- take extra lap robes and prepare hot beverages in insulated cups with lids just in case you run into trouble along the way. Arrange stops at the homes of nearby staff and/or family members to view their displays and decorations.

December 5 ~ Ethnic Holiday Festival: Ask the residents, families, volunteers, and staff to share their ethnic traditions through special foods, music, crafts, dance, traditional dress, etc. Host a day of celebrating and recognizing holiday celebrations from around the world. Arrange a display of culturally diverse Christmas trees and crafts. Organize entertainment featuring music and dances from other countries. Ask the dietary department to prepare samples of foods from around the world for the social following the performance. Read about the traditions of the different countries represented in the facility and discuss these with the residents.

December 12 ~ Gingerbread House Day: Gather the children and residents involved in the intergenerational program and help them assemble gingerbread houses. (Substitute graham crackers as the “building blocks” for a sturdier, easier to work with “gingerbread” house.) Make the gingerbread ahead of time during a baking group. Assemble gumdrops, mini-marshmallows, rope licorice, mints, etc. for decorating the house. Mix meringue icing for the “mortar” and “snow” on the roof. Display the finished houses and have visitors vote for their favorite. Present awards for the top three winning gingerbread houses in several categories. Donate the finished houses to a local shelter to brighten the holidays for the occupants.

December 20 ~ Premiere of *It's a Wonderful Life*: Anniversary: Discuss this movie which has become America's favorite Christmas drama. The movie premiered on this date in 1946 and stars Jimmy Stewart, Donna Reed, Lionel Barrymore, and Henry Travers in the leading roles. Discuss the moral of the story and why the residents enjoy seeing it each year. Show the movie today as a matinee feature.

December Craft

Angel Ornament

This pretty little coffee filter angel is perfect as is, but you can dress her up with glitter to give her an extra special glow.

What you'll need:

- 3 basket style coffee filters

- 2 cotton balls
- 6-8" length of silver or gold ribbon
- 1 white chenille stem
- 1 gold chenille stem
- Scissors
- Hot glue gun



How to make it:

1. Place two cotton balls in the center of one of the coffee filters ([see image](#)).
2. Hold the coffee filter with your fingers, gathering the cotton balls in the center to create the angel's head.
3. Place a second coffee filter onto the open end, tucking the filter in a bit into the head area. This will produce the layered effect on the dress ([see image](#)).
4. While still holding the filter together, tie a piece of gold or silver ribbon around the "neck" and tie a tight bow. Trim ends and set aside ([see image](#)).
5. Take the third coffee filter and fold it in half, then fold the filter up length-wise accordion style. Wrap a white chenille stem around the center, and then fan out the wings ([see image](#)). Fold the excess chenille into a loop for your hanger and twist together at the end.
6. Make a halo from the gold chenille by wrapping it around something circular, such as the top of a paint bottle. Twist the ends to form the halo. Trim the long end of the chenille, leaving approximately 3" ([see image](#)).
7. Use a glue gun to glue the halo to the back of the angel so that it is positioned above the head.
8. Glue the wings in place behind the angel, hiding the gold chenille from the halo.

Tips:

- To embellish your angel, try using gold glitter glue or glue and glitter as decoration.
- We do not recommend using markers for facial features as the ink may bleed through the filter.
- If you really want to add facial features, try using a toothpick and acrylic paint.