

Harrogate Happenings

Worry Less. *LIVE MORE!*

WINTER 2025



Welcome to the first issue of *Harrogate Happenings*, the newsletter from Harrogate Senior Living Community. As Executive Director, I am so proud of this one-of-a-kind community. Our newsletter is meant to give you a peek into what makes Harrogate so unique — the delicious food, the exciting activities, the caring staff, and our amazing residents. We hope the joy captured in every photo shows you why we say, “At Harrogate, every day is a HarroGREAT day!” We have lots of fun planned for 2025, and we’ll be sure to share it all with you through this and upcoming newsletters. Happy reading!

Warmly,

Charles Benjamin

Residents Take a Theater-Lover’s Trip to Lancaster, PA!

Harrogate residents who love live theater recently enjoyed an overnight trip to Lancaster, PA, where they were treated to two amazing theater productions. “All our residents have to do is pack an overnight bag, and the rest is taken care of,” said Sharon Budde, Director of Community Life Services. “We see two performances, enjoy some terrific Pennsylvania Dutch food, and even squeeze in some shopping at the Amish Village. It’s a whirlwind of fun!”

The first stop on the Theater-Lover’s Trip was the Sight & Sound Theater, for a production of Daniel. Residents Bill and Marsha Slivka were completely wowed. “It’s a theater in the round, with an Imax screen,” said Bill. “The quality of the production far surpassed some Broadway shows we have seen. We were so impressed.”

“I was mesmerized,” said resident Rosa Turano. “The stage moved. They had live animals. We had great seats. Amazing!”

The second stop on the trip was to The American Music Theater for their Christmas Revue — Joy to the World. “I loved it,” said resident Donna Green. “They performed holiday standards and original songs. The singing and dancing were just marvelous.”

“We had a wonderful two days with great friends, great food, and great theater,” said resident Marsha Slivka. “Sharon took care of every detail. She and Ron, our driver, made us all feel so special. We can’t wait for the next theater-lover’s trip!”



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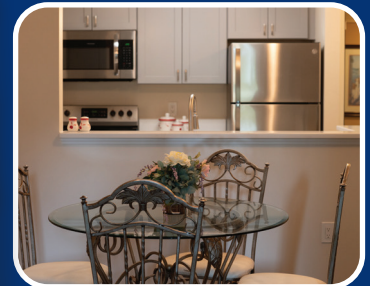
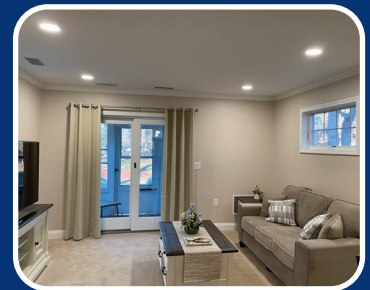
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Comedy Singer **Joey Vincent** Keeps Everyone Laughing!

Resident favorite, Joey Vincent, returned to Harrogate with his one-man show to standing room only crowds. With his fast-paced humor, rapid-fire costume-change impressions, and terrific song and dance, Joey's show took Harrogate residents on a musical journey through a host of greats — from Harry James to James Brown, from Stevie Wonder to Willie Nelson, from Louis Armstrong to Luciano Pavarotti. The fun never stopped from the minute Joey took the stage!

"He was amazing," said resident Judy Steinweiss. "He played the trumpet. He sang and did musical impressions. He did comedy. He even did a Michael Jackson medley! I hope he performs here again."

"Joey does a completely new show every time he plays here," said resident Joe Kamsar. "He's a great variety performer and does a little bit of everything. You always leave his show feeling happy."

"I particularly like Joey's singing," said resident Dottie Malcolm. "He's got perfect pitch. And he's just so entertaining."

"Joey is very talented," said resident Mary Murdter. "There's something for everyone in his show. I'm so happy to be living here at Harrogate. I get to experience so many things I wouldn't get to do if I were living in a house by myself."



[Check the Activities Calendar for the next live performance entertainment.](#)

The **CODA Brass Quintet** Concert **WOWS** the Crowd!

There's nothing like the bold, crisp sound of a spectacular brass quintet to set your pulse pounding, and the CODA Brass Quintet Concert wowed the Harrogate audience with a holiday concert that was nothing short of awe-inspiring. Their program included familiar seasonal classics as well as reimagined holiday favorites. The uplifting performance created a festive atmosphere and filled the auditorium with the joy of the season.

"I'm always on the hunt to bring new talent to Harrogate," said Sharon Budde, Director of Community Life Services. "The CODA Brass Quintet is a wonderful group of up-and-coming musicians that we were lucky enough to book during the holiday season. They were so lively and genuinely connected with the audience. Everyone absolutely raved about them."

"What a pleasure to attend a concert put on by these young people," said resident Alicia McComsey. "They were so professional, so enthusiastic, just delightful. We loved them!"

"They were charming," said resident Ruth Guenzburger. "Such a wonderful program with that big brass sound. I appreciated that they performed both Christmas and Hanukkah music."

"This group was exceptional. Excellent musicianship," said resident Joe Kamsar. "The euphonium added a tremendous depth of sound. Everyone knew all the music. We loved it!"



[Check the Activities Calendar for the day/time of upcoming concerts and entertainment.](#)

Residents Take a Trip to the Surflight Theater to see *Miracle on 34th Street*



The Surflight Theater in Beach Haven, on Long Beach Island, is a favorite trip for Harrogate residents. A group of theater-lovers recently enjoyed the musical production of *Miracle on 34th Street*, playing at the Surflight Theater, and everyone unanimously gave the show rave reviews.

"I've seen the *Miracle on 34th Street* movie, but never the stage show," said resident Barbara Moreau. "The cast was fantastic, and the children in this show were just wonderful. There were so many of them! It was a musical, so there was plenty of singing and dancing. Overall, it was a very enjoyable afternoon."

"I've gone on trips to the Surflight for years," said resident Alice Jefferys. "Our driver, Ron, gives us door-to-door service wherever we go. We had lunch at Buckalew's Tavern, and the musical itself was just lovely. I think we've been to at least four shows at the Surflight during 2024. You can never go wrong with a show here."

"The production was excellent," said resident Bill Slivka. "Harrogate always organizes trips to see terrific local live theater productions at the Surflight Theater in LBI, the Algonquin Arts Theater in Manasquan, and the Grunin Center at Ocean County College. Theater trips with friends are a great way to spend the day. We never miss an outing."

[Check the Activities Calendar for the day/time of the next Surflight Theater trip.](#)

The Island Singers Concert Captures the Joy of the Holiday Season

The Island Singers are a wonderful community chorus, and Harrogate residents look forward to a private holiday concert with them every year. The 50+ member choir, directed by Ned Perwo, recently performed their beautiful "Ring Out, Wild Bells" concert at Harrogate. "For centuries, bells have been used to announce events, herald celebrations, or to express grief," said director Ned Perwo. "This festive choral concert explores those diverse sentiments with selections from a variety of cultures. And, of course, we're excited to get toes tapping to some new arrangements of classic favorites like *Jingle Bells*, *Silver Bells*, and *Carol of the Bells*. We hope everyone leaves with a smile on their face and a whole new appreciation for that ancient percussive instrument, the bell. The Harrogate audience is always so warm and welcoming to us, and we appreciate the opportunity to perform for them again this year."



"What a fabulous concert!" said resident Alicia McComsey. "They sang the most wonderful seasonal music, and their emcee was excellent. The whole performance was awe inspiring."

"I've always enjoyed the Island Singers when they've performed here before," said resident Marie Rideout. "This year's concert was exceptional! Such a delight!"

"There's nothing like an Island Singers concert," said resident Bea Salomon. "They are so talented, and their traditional mix of Christmas and Hanukkah music always gets you in the holiday spirit. I look forward to their concert here every year."

[Check the Activities Calendar for the day/time of upcoming concerts and entertainment.](#)

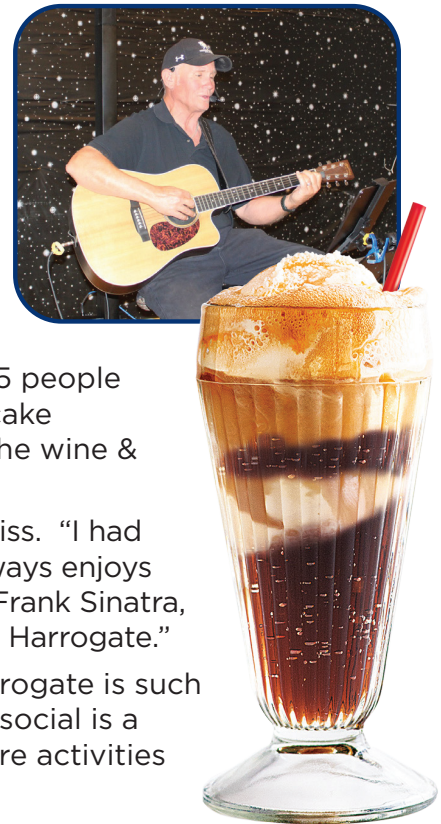
The Rootbeer Float Social Offers Up Fizzy FUN!

Harrogate residents know how to turn an ordinary Wednesday into an afternoon of FUN, enjoying a sweet treat at a Rootbeer Float Social!

“I’m the Chairperson for the Activities Committee,” said resident Regina Sabini. “It’s very rewarding helping support Sharon Budde, Director of Community Life Services, at the many activities she plans. Our Rootbeer Float Social was packed. There were at least 75 people there. Everyone has really loved the socials this year. We did a pancake breakfast one month. There was a pizza party lunch recently. And the wine & cheese happy hour dance parties are always a big hit.”

“I love being on the Activities Committee,” said resident Judy Steinweiss. “I had so much fun pouring all the rootbeer for this event. And everyone always enjoys listening to Gary Nokes perform. He sings a little bit of everything — Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Barry Manilow. We always get the best entertainment at Harrogate.”

“I really enjoyed the Rootbeer Social!” said resident Sal Marino. “Harrogate is such a friendly community. My wife, Barbara, and I are new here, and the social is a great way to meet new people. We’re looking forward to joining more activities in the new year.”



[Check the Activities Calendar for the day/time of the next Community Social.](#)

Tasty Tuesday Serves Up Delicious Fun for Residents

Harrogate residents all love BBQ Thursdays on the terrace during the summer months. Executive Chef James Rivera wanted to find a way to bring that interactive cooking experience indoors for the winter, and Tasty Tuesdays became an instant hit.

“Every Tuesday we set up a live cooking station in the dining room during our lunch and dinner hours,” said Chef James. “Our culinary team — myself, Da’Quon, Davanté, and Walter — comes up with a delicious Dish-of-the-Day and we make it to order at our cooking station. Residents have the opportunity to chat with us, make suggestions, and give us feedback. It’s a great way for our team to make a connection with the residents.”

“Tasty Tuesday is a wonderful idea,” said resident John Lombardi. “My favorites are the seafood dishes. I talk to Chef James as he prepares my entrée just the way I like it.”

“Chef James looks out for everyone,” said resident Regina Sabini. “He knows I have a strawberry allergy, and whenever there is a dessert or cocktail made with strawberries, he’ll make me an alternative dish. I don’t even have to ask him. So thoughtful.”

“The sauces they have created especially for Tasty Tuesday have all been delicious,” said resident Rosa Turano. “The lemon caper sauce Chef James makes with the broiled flounder is just wonderful. I told him to put that sauce on everything.”



[Join us for Tasty Tuesdays to see what new entrées the culinary team has dreamt up next.](#)

Chair Volleyball is full of laughs!



There are so many ways to get your exercise, and one of the most popular options at Harrogate is the Chair Volleyball class.

“We have a Chair Volleyball class twice a week,” said Matt Butera, Harrogate Fitness Coordinator. “We set up two rows of chairs with a pickleball net and use an inflatable beach ball instead of a heavy volleyball. It’s a team effort to keep the ball in the air. To keep score, we count the number of taps to the ball before it hits the ground. When it’s nice weather outside, we’ll set up our Chair Volleyball court on the putting green. We bring snacks and drinks with us, and before we know it, a bunch of spectators will have gathered around and are cheering us on. It’s a very popular class. Everyone loves it!”



“It’s great exercise,” said resident Marie Marcolla. “All we do is laugh. It’s a 60-minute session, and everyone is having so much fun the time goes by in a blink.”

“It’s a lot of fun,” said resident Fred Weber. “It’s a great upper body work out, gets the blood flowing, good for eye-hand coordination. I’ve made some nice friends there!”

“Anyone can play Chair Volleyball,” said resident Regina Sabini. “There’s a few of us in our 70’s, a few in our 80’s, a few in our 90’s, and our oldest chair volleyball player is 100 years old. You’re never too old to have fun!”

Check the Activities Calendar for the day/time of the next Chair Volleyball class.

The Greenbriar Choir Concert Celebrates the Talents of Neighboring Friends

The Greenbriar Woodlands in Toms River is a neighboring community with Harrogate. Every year our community is so pleased to welcome the Greenbriar Choir to perform for our residents, and this year’s holiday concert didn’t disappoint.

Choir Director, Ruslan Odintsov, took a novel approach to setting this year’s program. “I let the choir members choose what we sang,” laughed Ruslan. “My only request was that we didn’t repeat any Christmas or Hanukkah songs from past concerts. They did a lot of research and chose some really challenging music. I was very proud of them.”



Greenbriar Choir participant Ron Meyer helped spearhead the music research. “Nancy Meehan and I watched a lot of YouTube videos to discover new music or find new arrangements of old favorites,” said Ron. “The choir started rehearsing right after Labor Day for two hours a week. This year’s program featured nine songs, three solos, and four selections performed by the Charlottes, our A Capella group. Our choir always enjoys performing at Harrogate. They are a wonderfully appreciative and enthusiastic audience!”

“I loved it!” said Harrogate resident, Bea Salomon. “I sang with the Greenbriar choir for over 20 years, and now I’m part of the Harrogate choir. It was so nice to see old friends still singing in the choir and get to chat with them after the concert. I can’t wait for them to come back and perform for us again.”

Check the Activities Calendar for the day/time of upcoming concerts and entertainment.

RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT: **Marie Marcolla**



At Harrogate...

I Have the Best of Both Worlds.

“My husband and I are at different stages of life. Here, now he gets the support he needs, and I still get to enjoy friends and activities on my own, without worry. And we spend time together every day.”

Marie Marcolla met her husband, John, at a church dance. “We’ve been married 68 years, and we still love listening to music together. The concerts at Harrogate are wonderful.”

When Marie and John were in their 80’s, they started to think about moving to a community where there is support. “We moved to Harrogate ten years ago, and I am so glad we did. We enjoyed many activities together. Later, John had some serious health issues where he ended up in the hospital, and it was so convenient to have him discharged from the hospital to Harrogate’s rehab center. He gets the care he needs, and I can just walk to the health center from my apartment to visit him.”

John’s health issues progressed, and he was diagnosed with increased vision loss and dementia three years ago. “John needs acute care now that I can’t give him, but Harrogate has the care team in place to meet all his needs,” said Marie. “I have the best of both worlds here — my husband has the care he needs, I have a full life, and we still spend time together every day.”

Marie is very active at Harrogate and makes the most of her day. “To be honest, I specifically chose Harrogate for the indoor pool,” said Marie. Playing pool volleyball with friends is always fun. I also play in a bocce group on Saturdays during the warm weather. I love being part of the Harrogate chorus and always look forward to performing in the Spring and Christmas shows every year. My favorite activity is the wine & cheese dance parties. I dance every chance I get! It’s really the people here that make everything fun.”

We’re so glad to have you and your husband as part of the Harrogate family, Marie. Your sunny personality brings everyone joy!





400 Locust Street
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The Annual **ROMEIO Club Cigar Dinner** is a Harrogate Tradition!

Harrogate's ROMEIO Club (Retired Old Men Eating Out) promotes fun and friendship through food, and their biggest event of the year is the ROMEIO Club Cigar Dinner.

"Three of us plan the annual Cigar Dinner," said James Rivera, Executive Chef. "It's myself, Keenan Masterson, Food & Beverage Director, and Melissa Wagner, Director of Dining Services. This year's five-course meal started with a flight of three unique beers, each paired with a different slider. The soup course was a Bourbon French Onion Soup paired with a bourbon cocktail. Next came the salad and antipasto, paired with a white wine. The main course featured a ribeye steak, stuffed potato, and asparagus, paired with a red wine. And for dessert we had a Bourbon Apple Cobbler, served with apple pie ice cream, all paired with dessert cordials. Then the men all stepped outside to the patio to smoke their cigars. It was a beautiful night, and everyone seemed to have a great time."

"Dining Services puts on a heck of a show," said resident Dan Marcantuono. "They have the auditorium set up with a huge banquet table that holds 35 to 40 of us. It's great food and great conversation. The guys all gave dining services a standing ovation at the end of the meal. It was a terrific night!"



"The Cigar Dinner is a tradition everyone looks forward to," said resident Joe Kamsar. "Or course, not everyone smokes, so you have your choice of a chocolate cigar or a regular cigar. This dinner is a way for men to find friends and feel at home here at Harrogate. Our community makes it a priority to bring people together to socialize."



Check the Activities Calendar for the next ROMEIO Club gathering.

