

January 2026

# Oakwood Village

Oakwood Village Assisted Living & Memory Care | 3388 Bell Rd. Auburn, CA 95603 | (530) 889-8122 | RCFE# 317000237



Happy Birthday!



Larry B. – 01/01



Antoni T. – 01/01



Phyllis P. – 01/10



Gail C. – 01/21



❄️ ✨ Hello, 2026! ✨ ❄️

As we wrap up an incredible year, all of us at **Oakwood Village** want to take a moment to say **THANK YOU** to the people who make our community so special. ❤️

👏 **To our amazing staff** — you are the heartbeat of Oakwood Village! Your dedication, compassion, and hard work shine every single day, and we are so grateful for everything you do to make this a place filled with care, comfort, and connection.

🏠 **To our wonderful residents and families** — thank you for choosing Oakwood Village as your home. Your trust, laughter, stories, and smiles bring our community to life, and we are honored to share each day with you.

🌟 As we ring in **2026**, we are filled with excitement, hope, and big dreams for the year ahead! A new year means new memories, new opportunities, and even more moments to celebrate together. **2026 is going to be a GREAT year at Oakwood Village**, and we can't wait to make it unforgettable with all of you!

🥂 ✨ Wishing everyone a **Happy New Year** filled with joy, good health, laughter, and endless reasons to celebrate. Cheers to an amazing 2026! ❄️

## From Playtime to Patents

January 17 is the day of the K.I.D.—that's short for Kid Inventors' Day. This special day honors Benjamin Franklin's birthday on January 17. Most people know Franklin for his bifocals and experiments with electricity, but fewer realize that at age 11 he invented swim flippers for the hands.



But Franklin isn't the only kid inventor. Perhaps the following inventions by kids will inspire you to take your own unique product from idea to "patent pending" (through the federal Patent Office).

In 1905, an 11-year-old boy from San Francisco named Frank Epperson stirred some sugary soda powder into water and left the mix outside all night. He awoke to discover it had frozen solid in the cold. When he licked it straight from the wooden stirrer, he knew he had accidentally made something delicious. The "Epsicle," as he called it, was the first Popsicle.

On the last day of middle school, Sarah Buckel watched as a friend struggled to scrape off the glue used to stick posters and other decor to the locker wall. Over summer break, Buckel came up with a solution: magnetic wallpaper. Fortunately, Buckel's father ran a magnet manufacturing company. In no time, her decorative magnetic wallpaper could be found at Staples, Target, and other large chains.

The list of young inventors doesn't end there. Chester Greenwood invented earmuffs at age 15. Louis Braille invented braille, the alphabet for the blind using raised dots, at age 15. Hart Main, 13, conceived of a line of candles for men called Man Cans, offering "manly" scents like sawdust. At 15, Param Jaggi had the idea to insert algae into a car's muffler to eat up carbon dioxide before it entered the atmosphere. And Mattie Knight, dubbed "Lady Edison" by fans, developed a safety device at age 12 that became a standard fixture on looms.

How's that for ingenuity? All of these kids prove there's no minimum age for having an inventive spirit and leaving your mark in the world.

# RESIDENT SHOUT OUT



**Renee Hightower**

Renee Hightower is a sweet, caring woman whose gentle presence makes everyone feel at ease. She speaks beautiful French with natural grace, and her calm, warm demeanor makes her a pleasure to be around and talk to.

Renee is a thoughtful listener, kind in her words, and rich with quiet wisdom. Her soft smile and easy laughter bring comfort, and time spent with her feels meaningful, peaceful, and genuinely uplifting. If you see Renee out in the hallway or during happy hour, be sure to say hello—she always makes the moment brighter.





## Aussie All Around

January 26 is a big to-do down under. All across Australia, citizens observe Australia Day as the anniversary of the first arrival of British ships on the island continent.



On January 26, 1788, British Captain Arthur Phillip hoisted the Union Jack flag in Sydney Cove—and unloaded 759 British convicts from 11 ships. For the next 70 years, 160,000 felons would arrive in Australia's penal colony and overwhelm the aboriginal Australian population. Indeed, this anniversary seems to mark a rather inglorious beginning to Australia's British-national history. Even former Australian Tourist Commission Managing Director Ken Boundy calls Australia "the only country in the world that marks its national holiday not by celebrating its identity but by questioning it."

From these inequitable beginnings, Australia Day has grown into a day recognizing and celebrating equality. For many, Australia Day means celebrating everyone's right to identify as a "true blue" Aussie—as many Australians call themselves—in whichever way they choose.

Perhaps there's no better example of the Australian spirit of equality than on the sporting field. "Within the story of sport in Australia, the idea of egalitarianism is very powerful," says Australian sociologist Catriona Elder. Sport, she says, is "the key place where equality is practiced." The idea of a level playing field, where talent and hard work make you a winner, seems to embody exactly what it means to be Australian.

So maybe it's no coincidence that the Australian Open tennis tournament falls from mid- to late-January, or that so many Australians celebrate Australia Day by lighting up the barbecue and playing national sports like rugby, cricket, or Australian Rules Football, that curious mishmash of American football, soccer, and rugby, played with an oval ball on an oval field. No matter what you play, there's no one way to be a "true blue" Aussie.



**Want to have your voice heard and stay connected with your community?**

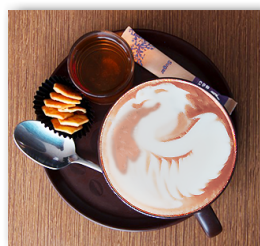
Join us for an open discussion on key local issues!

- Share your thoughts and concerns
- Learn about upcoming community events
- Talk about the quality of local services
- Offer your suggestions and ideas
- Ask questions and engage with others
- Work together for positive change

**When:** Thursday January 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 2:00pm

**Where:** Poppy Room

## Winged Wonders



Why wait every 12 years for the Chinese Year of the Dragon when you can enjoy Appreciate a Dragon Day every year on January 16? These massive flying, fire-breathing beasts are enough to appreciate in

and of themselves, but perhaps even more fascinating is how the belief in dragons evolved independently among ancient peoples living in China, Europe, Australia, and the Americas. Anthropologist David E. Jones thought the widespread belief in dragons grew from the discovery of dinosaur fossils or whalebones that seemed to back up superpredator myths. With real-life 18-foot Nile crocodiles in Africa and eight-foot Australian perentie lizards, it seems that humans already have plenty of reptiles—of the non-fire-breathing variety—to wrangle.

# Meet Our Team

Executive Director



Patty Uclaray

Business Office Manager



Destiny Moore

Life Enrichment Director



David Collison

Maintenance Director



Ryan Risdal

Resident Care Director



Malina Meador

Wellness Director



Heather Mendoza

Housekeeping Director



Joshua Ochinerio

Dietary Director



Maria Hernandez

## January Birthdays

In astrology, if you were born between January 1–19, you are a Goat of Capricorn. Goats are the most stable and sure-footed of astrological signs. Reliable, economical, practical, and organized, they make good multitaskers and politicians. Those born between January 20–31 are Aquarian Water Bearers. Aquarians have attractive personalities, vivid imaginations, strong intuition, and a thirst for knowledge. They also share a strong desire to help humanity and create unity. Some of note:

J. R. R. Tolkien (writer) – Jan. 3, 1892  
Soupy Sales (comedian) – Jan. 8, 1926  
Robert Stack (actor) – Jan. 13, 1919  
Rakesh Sharma (cosmonaut) – Jan. 13, 1949  
Ethel Merman (singer) – Jan. 16, 1908  
Oliver Hardy (comedian) – Jan. 18, 1892  
Dolly Parton (singer) – Jan. 19, 1946  
Neil Diamond (singer) – Jan. 24, 1941  
Oprah Winfrey (host) – Jan. 29, 1954  
Jackie Robinson (ballplayer) – Jan. 31, 1919

# Happy ANNIVERSARY!

This month marks your anniversary of how long you have lived here at Oakwood Village. Thank you for choosing us as your home.



Bob S. 1 Year