

February 2026

Oakwood Village

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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Maria S. – Feb. 3

Joan E. - Feb. 6

Todd P. - Feb. 7

Allan G. - Feb. 10

Alex D. – Feb. 13

Tony P. – Feb. 15

Gary N. – Feb 19

Mary Ann P. – Feb.24

Lynn B. – Feb. 27

Chasing Winter Glory

The 2026 Winter Olympics are headed to the stunning landscapes of northern Italy, bringing together athletes and fans for a celebration of winter sports, culture, and camaraderie. Set across Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo, the Games promise a picturesque backdrop of snow-capped Dolomite peaks, charming Alpine villages, and historic cities bursting with Italian flair. Visitors can expect not only thrilling competitions but also the chance to savor local traditions—from hearty mountain cheeses and cured meats to rich pastries and steaming bowls of polenta. Northern Italy's cuisine, hospitality, and vibrant markets offer a unique flavor to the global event, making the Olympics more than just an athletic spectacle.

At the heart of the Games are the timeless Olympic values: teamwork, perseverance, and friendly rivalry. Whether athletes are coordinating flawless relay passes on the ice, supporting teammates in grueling downhill runs, or striving to shave precious seconds off their times, the Olympics showcase how dedication and collaboration turn individual effort into shared achievement. Even the competition itself, while intense, is framed by respect and admiration, highlighting the joy of challenging oneself and connecting with others from around the world.

For winter sports enthusiasts, the 2026 Olympics also carry a strong sense of nostalgia. Fans will relive the thrill of skiing down glittering slopes, the elegance of figure skating routines, and the exhilaration of sledding through icy tracks. From alpine skiing and snowboarding to speed skating and bobsled, the Games celebrate the full spectrum of winter sports, each steeped in history and tradition.

The Milan-Cortina Olympics offer a rare combination: breathtaking scenery, rich cultural experiences, and the universal language of sport. As nations gather to compete, cheer, and share in this global festival, the event promises to leave lasting memories for athletes and spectators alike. Whether you're drawn by the chance to witness record-breaking performances or simply to enjoy the snowy landscapes and Italian charm, the 2026 Winter Olympics are shaping up to be a spectacular, heartwarming celebration of skill, spirit, and wintertime joy.



Good Deeds and Good Fortune



February 17 may ring in China's new year, but preparations often begin weeks ahead of Chinese New Year's Day. One of the most important customs is a thorough cleaning of the house. This ensures any bad luck built up over the past year is swept away. Similarly, one must not clean during the first days of the new year so as not to sweep away any new good luck. Cleaning house also means it's time to take care of unfinished business; paying debts and resolving quarrels are all part of prepping for the new year.

Food is an important part of any Chinese New Year celebration, but most food must be prepared in advance, thanks to a popular superstition dictating that knives be put away on New Year's. Using a knife might just "cut off" the flow of good luck and prosperity to a home.

Perhaps the most important New Year's tradition is paying respect to ancestors. Celebrations can begin only after proper homage has been paid. On New Year's Eve, temples are often crowded with people bringing food, incense, and other offerings for their departed forebears.

Next door to China in neighboring Tibet, February 18 brings the new year, called *Losar*—Tibet's most important holiday. Drawing from Buddhist tradition, Tibetans believe good comes only to those who do good themselves. For this reason, *Losar* rituals include a focus on "virtuous attitudes," "virtuous actions," and thus, a "virtuous new year." For three to 15 days, depending on the locale, family and friends gather and celebrate by eating good food, telling stories, lighting fireworks, and playing games. Celebrations also involve donning one's finest clothes to visit temples and offer good wishes to the living, the dead, and the spirits of the enlightened. Since it's common to hurl barley flour, known as *tsampa*, as a spiritual offering, it may be a good thing their neighbors have a broom handy.



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 February 19th, 2026

Where & Time: Poppy Room at 2:00pm

Dancing the Divine

Ballet is not only a beautiful and elegant dance form, but it's also the perfect civilizing art, says ballerina, critic, and historian Jennifer Homans. Throughout its history, ballet has been used to refine the body, mind, and soul. Since its origins as a dance of wealthy Italians during the Renaissance, ballet grew beyond the

dance floors of the rich. To develop its fluid and balanced movements, choreographers used math and geometry, then taught by ballet teachers to their students. The dance was thought to be so harmonious and perfect that it was given religious significance. In their view, mastering ballet could actually improve the soul. With results like that, why not try a few steps on February 7, Ballet Day?



February Aloha

For those dwelling in the northern hemisphere, February brings a chill to both the air and the spirit. Spring is just a month away, but who can think of spring when the snow's still falling? Drive away the chill on February 1 with Hula in the Coola Day.



Hula dancing is an integral part of Hawaii's Polynesian history and culture. The dance is far more than swaying the hips in a grass skirt; it's a ritual way to explain Hawaiian gods and goddesses, the history of the people, and the mysteries of natural phenomena through chanting, singing, and dancing. Hula has been performed during religious rituals, rites of passage, social

gatherings, and even football games. So if you're looking to warm your spirit this February 1 with a little *aloha*, find a real *kumu hula* teacher. Ditch the grass skirt for one made of *kapa*, a traditional fabric handcrafted from the bark of the paper mulberry tree.

Since hula is Hawaii's iconic dance, the ukulele must be Hawaii's iconic instrument. In the 1900s, the ukulele became part of the musical backdrop to hula dances, so it stands to reason that World Ukulele Day falls on February 2, the day after Hula in the Coola. Famed Hawaiian musician Samuel Kamaka explained that the ukulele was first played in the islands in 1879 by João Fernandes, an immigrant from Portugal. His fingers rapidly strummed a four-stringed *braguinha*, which the native Hawaiians nicknamed *ukulele*, a word meaning "jumping fleas."

Perhaps no ukulele musician was as beloved as Israel "IZ" Kamakawiwo'ole. Raised in a musical family from Honolulu (his uncle was Moe Keale), he was exposed to entertainers like Don Ho and Palani Vaughan. His version of "Over the Rainbow" may rival Judy Garland's. It will, no doubt, be strummed the world over on World Ukulele Day.

RESIDENT SHOUT OUT

Steven H.



Steven is one of those people who instantly makes a place feel warmer. He's friendly, kind, and genuinely nice to everyone he meets—the kind of person who's just great to have around. Steven loves participating in activities and brings good energy wherever he goes.

He's also incredibly talented when it comes to hot rods. Steven can strip a car all the way down to the frame and bolts, then rebuild it into a true masterpiece. That same passion carries over into family life, where he proudly teaches his son how to race motorbikes, passing on both skill and love for the sport and family.

One of Steven's coolest joys is his amazing photo albums—collections he treasures and loves to share. If you ever get the chance, ask him about them. He'll happily show you, and they're pretty awesome to look at.

If you see Steven in the halls, at meals, or during activities, make sure to say hello. A simple greeting goes a long way with someone like him. Steven is truly one cool guy, and getting to know him is always worth it.

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 Ochinero

Dietary Director



Maria Hernandez



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



Brian H.
2 Years

The Long Sleep



Karolina Olsson of Sweden became known as the "Sleeping Beauty of Oknö" when, on February 22, 1876, at age 14, she fell into a deep sleep and did not awake for 32 years. How did she survive? Legend has it that family members diligently spoon-fed her sweetened milk each day.

Over the years, they sometimes observed her sleepwalking or crawling. Her family and much of her small remote village believed the girl bewitched. When Olsson finally awoke, she looked in the mirror and burst into tears. She hardly recognized herself. And yet, she seemed to have aged only to her mid-20s, when she should have been 46. Doctors examined her to find no lasting physical or mental damage, only that her mind was still that of a 14-year-old. Olsson had amazingly, inexplicably "hibernated," though today's doctors suggest she might have been in a state of catatonia.