

Thoughts of Winters Past: Warm Our Hearts and Bridge the Gap To Spring... We Hope!

By Silvana LaFerlita Gullo

Most would agree that this winter has been one of the worst they can remember. Friday, February 20th marks the day that we broke the sixty-five year record when our temperatures dipped to 2 degrees. Yes, I believe this will be a winter to remember....and the perfect opportunity to reflect on those of the past.

Memories of winter as a child and family celebrations are comforting thoughts during these too many forced days at home. I remember longing for snow days. Neighborhood kids would meet in our front yards for major snowball fights. Snow forts became home base for snow-throwing battles. Freezing hands and toes would eventually force us indoors for hot chocolate and cookies hosted by one of our moms. As a young mother, I relished those all too few snow-days when I would be home to enjoy a few hours of sledding with my kids. I so looked forward to cuddling by the fireplace afterwards to warm up. The sound of their laughter is etched in my memory forever as we swished down what seemed like a giant mountain. February may bring the worst weather winter has to offer, but every cloud has a silver lining.

For my family, February marks both my parents' birthdays and cause for many once in a lifetime celebrations. February also marks special celebrations at the Center as well. The 38th Anniversary Celebration included sharing photo albums and "home" movies from the Center's archives. Those that attended were happy to share a story of when they first came to the Center. Several talked about visiting here with their own parents, grandparents, or friends, and pictures of their loved ones in photo albums were eagerly sought by our Members. Sylvester Durrant, our resident historian, shared his own recollections of when the Center first opened. Many Members had their stories to tell of the early days. It was a lovely afternoon which ended with a videotape of the 2005 "President's Ball" which brought warm smiles and tears to our eyes remembering those we lost. February also commemorates my own anniversary at the Center and I am so grateful to have already assembled a history of lovely memories to cherish.

My thoughts are with each of you as we forge ahead and look forward to the coming of Spring. I hope my reminiscing of winters past inspires warm memories of your days enjoying snow storms and winters gifts. We welcome you back with open arms and hope you join us for Movie Day on March 4th , Music Therapy on March 10th, and Anthony's Famous Corn Beef and Cabbage on March 12th (Make Your Reservations Early).

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