

# MERIDIAN MINUTE

Encouraging Seniors To Live Younger!

# Happy New Year!



Center At The Park  
Meridian Senior Center

January-February 2024

January-February 2024

# MERIDIAN MINUTE

## UPCOMING EVENTS

January 25th

Winter Wonderland  
Dance & Social

February 22nd

Sweetheart's  
Dance & Social

\*Calendar subject to change. See front desk for details & more events in January and February.

As we bid farewell to another remarkable year, we wanted to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support and dedication. Together, we've achieved incredible milestones and created lasting memories that will undoubtedly shape our future endeavors.

As we stand on the threshold of 2024, let's embrace the promise of a new chapter with enthusiasm, hope, and a collective spirit that knows no bounds. May the coming year bring you joy, success, and fulfillment in every aspect of your lives.

Let's continue to inspire each other, collaborate on exciting projects, and foster a community where everyone's unique contributions are celebrated. Our shared journey is a testament to the strength of our unity, and together, there's no limit to what we can achieve.

Here's to a year filled with exciting challenges, growth, and moments of triumph. May each day bring you closer to your aspirations and dreams.

Wishing you and your loved ones a wonderful 2024 filled with prosperity, good health, and joy.

Cheers to a fantastic year ahead!



Our Craft Bazaar surpassed all expectations, transforming into an extraordinary success that left both vendors and visitors alike in awe. The vibrant tapestry of creativity unfolded as artisans from diverse backgrounds showcased their masterpieces, weaving a mesmerizing atmosphere of talent and innovation. The venue buzzed with enthusiastic patrons, their eyes gleaming with admiration for the unique, handmade treasures on display. The dynamic synergy between artisans and attendees fostered a sense of community, as stories were exchanged and connections formed. The lively energy and passion for craftsmanship resonated throughout the event, creating an unforgettable experience for all. The Craft Bazaar not only celebrated artistic expression but also served as a testament to the power of community support, cementing its place as a highlight in the hearts of those who participated.

We will be closed on the following days:

January 1st,  
New Year's Day

January 15th,  
Martin Luther King Jr. Day

February 19th,  
Presidents Day



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# BINGO & BUBBLY

We are thrilled to announce that our recent Bingo & Bubbly Fundraiser event was nothing short of a resounding success, and it is with immense gratitude that we extend our heartfelt thanks to our sponsors and generous donors who played a pivotal role in making this event truly exceptional.



The evening was filled with laughter, excitement, and a sense of camaraderie as participants from all walks of life gathered to support our cause. The Bingo & Bubbly Fundraiser aimed to not only raise funds for our organization but also to create a joyous atmosphere where our community could come together and make a positive impact.



The success of the Bingo & Bubbly Fundraiser goes beyond the funds raised; it reflects the strength and unity of our community. As we move forward, we are inspired by the support and commitment shown by everyone involved. Together, we are creating a lasting impact that will resonate far beyond the confines of this event.




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A Difference!**

Our members and community helped us to reach our goal of

**\$15,000**  
in donations!

You can still set up a recurring donation at our Front Desk!



# History of our Center

## Part 9 - How to Clear the Mortgage?

We left off with Dale Ryan being installed as the Meridian Area Senior Citizens Assoc., Inc.'s 4th President on January 3rd, 1985. His goal was to raise the remaining funds to pay off the mortgage by January 31st. By the 23rd, they were \$30,000 short of the \$50,000 due. So, they approached the Church Board and were granted an extension as long as they paid the \$20,000, they had on hand. Then the 1st week in February, Idaho First National Bank presented Mr. Ryan with a \$3750 check and Melvin Lane gave \$1000. Things were looking up. On Valentine's Day, the seniors held a bake sale at the Bank and made \$400. Then the Beltone hearing aid representative provided care and assistance to members with hearing aids at the Center and Gene Watson attended to speak on political awareness. Glen Lundgren was sponsored to hold a public relations seminar the next week to employees and individuals to help develop expertise in sales and motivation. Admissions for these would be a donation to the Center.

On March 9th, the seniors held their 2nd annual Spaghetti Dinner and Auction. They started the day with a breakfast - an all-you-can-eat buffet at 8am. The Spaghetti Dinner would start at 4pm followed by the auction at 6pm.



That was a full day for anyone, let alone seniors. They were determined folks! \$3000 was raised just from the auction. (Their hard work and long hours paid off.)

The seniors just kept adding activities. Bingo would be offered after lunch on Wednesdays. The Cancer Society gave lectures on Thursdays. Lessons on gardening and Nutritional talks once a month with healthy food recipes all brought in small fees. Dr. Fender was speaking on Medicare regularly to provide information and answer questions. Several talented members entered the Ada County Talent Show at the Kuna Senior Center. Meridian's President, Dale Ryan's vocal solo took 1st place! Now he would represent Ada County at the Area III Talent Show. Two winners would represent Area III in Pocatello at the Idaho State Conference on Aging in May. Meridian's Center was selected to host the event on April 19th. Pie and coffee would be on sale at the contest. (Dale placed 3rd.) Meridian seniors donated the pies and the sale yielded \$200.

Plans were made to once again (4th time) apply for the Community Development Block Grant (HUD) because when Governor Evans visited in December at the Area III Agency on Aging conference, he suggested the Seniors would be successful this time.



They would make application for building improvements to include air conditioning, weatherization and a walkway cover. The application was due March 29. April 30th, they were awarded \$4,388 for the improvements - finally, success!

In May, the seniors celebrated National Senior Center Week. The first center was opened 40 years earlier in New York by that city's welfare department. By 1985, more than 8,000 centers across the nation served more than 7 million older persons. The week had been selected to honor the major role senior centers play in providing services so important to the well-being of our older citizens. May 14th was a special day for those 80+ as they were the guests of honor at a Golden Years party after the luncheon. Special entertainment was provided, including an original poem, "Golden-Agers", written and read by Ada Journey. Lee William (90) and Ennis Duntun (95) were crowned "Queen and King for a Day". 230 seniors attended with 59 of them over 80.

The week was concluded with the State Conference on Aging where 500 seniors representing the 140,000 living in Idaho voiced concerns on issues affecting all older citizens. The theme of the statewide conference was "Keep Healthy - Stay Independent". The agenda focused on consumer health care, health problems, and healthy lifestyles.

Twelve Meridian members attended with one, Clarence Perebloom (90), receiving the "Oldest Conference Participant" award. He and his wife, had attended the previous 3 conferences. (They donated the P.A. system to the Meridian Center and Clarence kept it operational. The Mrs. was serving her 3rd year on the Board of Directors for the Center.)

May ended with a 2-day yard sale that garnered \$700. And plans were started for the Bazaar to be held in the fall.

Monday luncheons were added starting August 5th, and a bus trip to Lucky Peak and Idaho City was scheduled for the 9th. A call for all recyclables (bottles, jars, aluminum cans & newspapers in bundles) was put out as a fundraiser. Throughout the summer, the lunch goers were well-entertained. Some included Glen Belcher's Blind Musicians, the Old Time Fiddlers, and gospel singer Erica Oswald. A new telephone number came into use, 888-5555, which is the same one we have today. Informative speakers included St. Al's rep on Alzheimer's, Elwin Grout on legal problems, Ada County commissioners who announced that all seniors could attend Les Bois races free of charge July 28th.

As funds were earned, the seniors continued making incremental payments on the mortgage. And finally, with a grand donation from Elsie and Fred Stieglemeier of \$3000, THEY DID IT!! The mortgage was paid off September 11, 1985! So what comes next? Check the next issue of the Meridian Minute to learn of the seniors' progress.



# HAPPY Birthday

JANUARY & FEBRUARY BABIES!

Happy birthday! We hope all your birthday wishes and dreams come true.



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## This Time In History

January 1, 1863: The Emancipation Proclamation, issued by President Abraham Lincoln.

January 15, 1929: Civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. was born in Atlanta, Georgia.

January 20, 1961: John F. Kennedy was inaugurated as the 35th President of the United States.



February 19, 1473: Nicolaus Copernicus, the astronomer who formulated a heliocentric model of the solar system, was born in Toruń, Poland.

February 22, 1732: George Washington, the first President of the United States, was born in Westmoreland County, Virginia.

February 23, 1945: During World War II, U.S. Marines raised the American flag on Iwo Jima, a moment captured in the iconic photograph by Joe Rosenthal.



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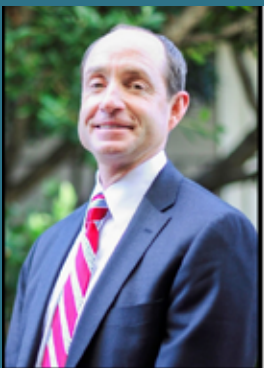
# A Man's One-Word-Sermon "Eternity" Reaches Millions (New Year's Eve, 1999)

As TV networks around the world cycled between the various New Year's Eve fireworks shows and Millennial celebrations in 1999, one celebration in particular stood out: Sydney, Australia. The famous Sydney Harbour Bridge was emblazoned with the word "Eternity" in illustrious copperplate script that looked hand-written – except it was the size of a giant bridge, of course. For many Christians, the word was a happy reminder of God's wonderful promises in Christ. For many others, it was a curious sight – especially if the viewer didn't happen to believe in eternity or Heaven or Hell. People began asking about it, and the story got out. An illiterate alcoholic heard a sermon in the 1940s and was powerfully saved. He was subsequently cured of his alcoholism as he grew in his personal relationship with Christ. One day, he heard a sermon in which the preacher shouted the word "Eternity!" and exclaimed that he wished all of Sydney could hear the word and contemplate where they would be spending eternity. The preacher described it as a one-word-sermon: "Eternity!"

At that moment, a lightning bolt of revelation struck Arthur Stace's heart. He found some chalk, walked outside, and in beautiful flowing script wrote "Eternity" – even though he had never learned to read or write. He could never explain how he managed to write it, but for the next 35 years he wandered through the streets of Sydney in the nights and early mornings and wrote the word wherever he could – sidewalks, subway walls, buildings, etc. One newspaper estimated that he would go on to write his one-word sermon 500,000 times. The city took notice and newspapers searched for the mysterious "Mr. Eternity," as they called him. For years, no one could discover his identity or photograph him, and he never stepped forward. Finally, in 1956, a reverend caught him writing the word and obtained his name. Only four photographs were taken of him in 35 years. He was very elusive.

For him, it was his simple way of getting people's minds focused on spiritual matters so that, hopefully, they would think about their eternal destiny and eventually come to faith in Christ. It became such a part of Sydney's lore in the 1900s that in 1999, the city honored Arthur Stace by replicating his handwriting in enormous letters across the city's most famous bridge. Cameras focused in on that word during the fireworks show, and millions of viewers around the world saw the simple Gospel message of a reformed, illiterate Christian man. One word was all he had to offer to God, but – like Jesus multiplying the boy's few loaves of bread – God multiplied Arthur's efforts far beyond anything he could have imagined.

His one-word-sermon was preached not just to Sydney, but to millions upon millions of people around the world as the New Millennium began. How's that for going viral? And all he had was a piece of chalk!



Scott Finnegan is with Alpha III Wealth Management. He is our preferred financial advisor & generosity consultant. He can help you with giving to charities, retirement planning, estate planning, investments, insurance and taxes.

**Scott Finnegan - 208.918.5149**  
**scott@alpha3wealth.com**

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# Highway Angle - A Short Story

I was driving home from work when my car started to choke and sputter and died. I barely managed to coast, cruising, into a gas station, glad only that I would not be blocking traffic on the highway and would have a somewhat warm spot to wait for the tow truck. It wouldn't even turn over. Before I could make the call, I saw a woman walking out of the "quickie mart" building, and it looked like she slipped on some ice and fell into a gas pump! So I got out to see if she was okay. When I got there, it looked more like she had been overcome by sobs than that she had fallen. She was a young woman who looked really haggard with dark circles under her eyes. She dropped something as I helped her up, and I picked it up to give it to her. It was a nickel.

At that moment, everything came into focus for me: the crying woman, the ancient Suburban crammed full of stuff with 3 kids in the back (1 in a car seat), and the gas pump reading \$4.95. I asked her if she was okay and if she needed help, and she just kept saying "I don't want my kids to see me crying," so we stood on the other side of the pump from her car. She said she was driving to California and that things were very hard for her right now.

So, I asked, "And you were praying?" That made her back away from me a little, but I assured her I was not a crazy

person and said, "He heard you, and He sent me."

I took out my card and swiped it through the card reader on the pump so she could fill up her car completely, and while it was fueling, walked to the next door McDonald's and bought 2 big bags of food, some gift certificates for more, and a big cup of coffee. She gave the food to the kids in the car who attacked it like wolves, and we stood by the pump eating fries and talking a little.

She told me her name and that she lived nearby. Her boyfriend left 2 months ago, and she had not been able to make ends meet. She knew she wouldn't have money to pay the rent January 1st, and finally, in desperation, had called her parents, with whom she had not spoken with in about 5 years. They lived in California and said she could come live with them and try to get on her feet there.

So she packed up everything she owned in the car. She told the kids they were going to California for Christmas but not that they were going to live there.

I gave her my gloves and a little hug and said a quick prayer with her for safety on the road. As I was walking over to my car, she said, "So, are you like an angel or something?"

This definitely made me cry. I said, "Sweetie, at this time of year, angels are really busy, so sometimes God uses regular people."

It was so incredible to be a part of someone else's miracle. And of course, when I got in my car, it started right away and got me home with no problem. I'll put it in the shop tomorrow for a check, but I suspect the mechanic won't find anything wrong.

-Author Unknown



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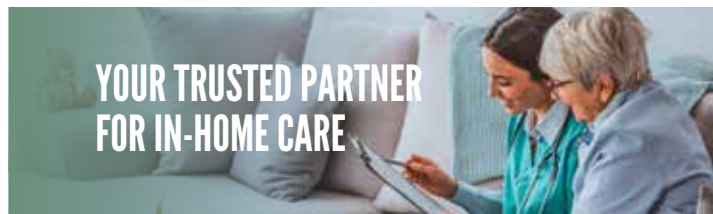


The earliest New Year festivities date back about 4,000 years. At that time, the people of ancient Babylon began their new year in what we now call March. They would have an 11-day festival to celebrate the beginning of spring. They would also celebrate the fact that crops were being planted for the coming year.

Do not  
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*Your Tango*



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**FAMOUS QUOTES**

Who said...

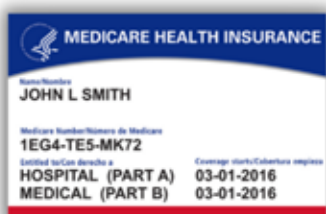
“Whatever you are, be a good one.”



Abraham Lincoln



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Get moving — try gardening, biking, or walking.



Choose healthy foods rich in nutrients.



Manage stress — try yoga or keep a journal.



Learn something new — take a class or join a club.



Go to the doctor regularly.



Connect with family and friends.



## Facts About Meridian, Idaho

The average commute time for residents of Meridian is 22.7 minutes.

The annual average precipitation at Meridian is 8.21 inches.

The original Meridian townsite was filed in 1893 on homestead grant land belonging to Eliza Ann Zenger.

Meridian shares boundaries with the two largest cities in Idaho, Boise, ID to the east and Nampa, ID to the west.

In 1941, Meridian's status changed from a village to a city.

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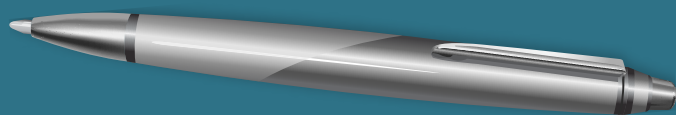


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# MERIDIAN SENIOR CENTER WORD SEARCH



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**Moo Year's Day.**

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Please know that your hard work does not go unnoticed. We appreciate the sacrifices you make and the enthusiasm you bring to every endeavor. The success of our Center is a direct reflection of your dedication, and we are grateful to have such an outstanding group of volunteers.

**THANK YOU TO OUR TOP SPONSORS**



We also want to thank our Community Partners! Without all of you, we could not do what we do for our amazing community!

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- Advanced Neuropathy Center
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**EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT**



Center At The Park  
Meridian Senior Center

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**



**DOORS OPEN AT 4:00PM - GAME PLAY STARTS AT 6:00PM**

**\* MUST BE 18 YEARS OR OLDER TO PLAY \***