

## **Happy Holidays to all!**

Once again, the holiday season is upon us time to celebrate the joys of Thanksgiving with all the smells of food cooking and the memories of family surrounding the table. Reuniting with those we haven't seen in a while, remembering those who can't be with us.

It was with these thoughts that I offered a dinner here at Singles Outreach to give those who would otherwise be alone, a chance to be with, and dine with friends and create a good memory of the day.

As it turned out over 25 came to enjoy the day together with food, friends, games, and conversation. I look forward now in December offering the same opportunities. The chance to remind you that throughout the holiday season, and throughout the year Singles Outreach, and the friends you made here are here for you.

With that in mind we at Singles Outreach have planned many events for you to enjoy this holiday season. On December 1st, help decorate the tree. On December 7th enjoy a relaxing afternoon with friends and a cup of Christmas tea. On December 14th, come to the holiday concert featuring a favorite of ours, Don "The Soulman" Hyman at 1:00. December 15th, is our holiday "share a dish" dinner. Then on December 25th, come and share Christmas Day Dinner with us starting at 2:00 p.m. December 31st, we will be having a New Years Eve Party.

Whichever way you celebrate, whether Christmas, Hannukah, or Kwanzaa, may you do so with joy, peace, and love. Be safe through the holiday season, and have a very Happy 2025.



## **A Cup of Christmas Tea**



**"Of course, I'll understand completely if you can't, But if you find you have some time, how wonderful if we Could have a little chat and share a cup of Christmas tea."**

*The above is an excerpt from the poem, "A Cup of Christmas Tea" written by Tom Hegg.*

It bests describes this event I hope you will join us for and share a few hours with friends as the busy holiday season gets under way. On Saturday afternoon December 7<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00 p.m. we will be hosting "A Cup of Christmas Tea" tea party complete with tea, finger foods friends, and conversation. There will also be a reading of the poem that inspired this event.

**Don "The Soulman" Hyman**

**Saturday December 14<sup>th</sup> – 1:00 pm**



**Don "The Soulman" Hyman**

Come join in the holiday fun as we share finger foods and the talents of the season as portrayed by a Singles Outreach favorite, Don "The Soulman" Hyman.

Don will have a special holiday show put together for our enjoyment. Don always strives to bring us a different show. Afternoon event begins at 1:00 p.m. \$10.00.

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**Weekly Events****Sundays December 1, 8, 15, 22, 29**

- Indoor Tennis at Tri-City Fitness in Latham., 10:00 am contact Dan at 518-629-0088 for details
- Sunday Share a Dish dinner 2:00 pm
- Darts/cards/games 4:00 pm

Attend Dinner, Games, for one price. \$4/6

**Mondays December 2, 9, 16,\***

- Peer support group 6:30

**Tuesdays December 3, 10, 17,\***

- Real World discussion group 7:00 pm \$4/6
- December 3, "Mandela Effect" Maria I.
- Dec. 10, "Open Mike "Show n' Tell" Mark M.
- December 17, "Second" Dave S.
- Blessings Tavern after Real World @ 9 pm for snacks and more discussion.

**Wednesdays December 4, 11, 18,\***

- Open bowling 6:15 at Sportsman's Bowl 1652 Crane St Rotterdam \$10.00 includes 3 games and shoes. Contact Judy at 518-374-0765 for information.

**Thursday December 5, 12, 19, 26,**

- Walking/Biking 9:30 am Enjoy walking and/or biking with a great group of friends followed by a lunch at a place chosen by the group. Contact John at [vabchpop@aol.com](mailto:vabchpop@aol.com) for details. A different location each week get on the email list today!
- Mahjong -- come and share the fun. Noon \$4/6 Beginners are welcome.

**Friday December 6, 13, 20, 27,**

- Pinochle beginning at noon 4/6

**Saturdays December 7, 14, 21, 28,**

- Game Night 7:00 pm enjoy an evening of games/cards with friends. Got a game you want to play bring it along. \$4/6

**\*Note Date changes due to holidays**

**Special Events****Sunday December 1<sup>st</sup>,**

- Trim the Christmas tree following the potluck 3:00 pm.

**Friday Dec. 6**

- Halfmoon Diner 4:30 pm Hosts Dave & Bonnie 231 Grooms Road Clifton Park
- T.V. Game Night 7:00 pm

**Saturday December 7<sup>th</sup>,**

- "A Cup of Christmas Tea" Tea Party 2:00 pm \$10
- Cracker Barrel 4:30 pm Host Maureen 122 Troy Road East Greenbush. R.S.V.P. by Dec. 6th, 518-410-2207

**Thursday December 12<sup>th</sup>.**

- Board Meeting 10:00 a.m. open to membership.

**Friday Dec. 13th,**

- Metro 7 Diner 4:30 pm Hosts Dave & Bonnie 1090 Troy-Schenectady Road Latham
- Holiday Bingo for fun & prizes 7:00 pm

**Saturday December 14<sup>th</sup>,**

- Afternoon Holiday Concert with Don "The Soulman" Hyman 1:00 pm \$10

**Sunday December 15<sup>th</sup>,**

- Holiday Dinner We provide the ham you bring a side dish. \$4 with a dish, \$10 without.

**Friday Dec. 20th,**

- Glenville Queen 4:30 pm Hosts Dave & Bonnie 210 Saratoga Road Schenectady

**Wednesday December 25<sup>th</sup>,**

- Holiday Dinner We provide the ham you bring a side dish.

**Saturday Dec. 28th,**

- Asian Tea House 4:30 pm Host Maureen 117 Columbia Turnpike Rensselaer R.S.V.P. by Dec. 26th, 518-410-2207

**Tuesday December 31<sup>st</sup>,**

- New Years eve party 7:00 pm \$5

## December 2024 Calendar

Please watch for our email Weekly Updates on Wed. at Noon

Singles Outreach Services & Capital Region Social Happenings [www.singleoutreach.org](http://www.singleoutreach.org)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>December 1</b> Indoor Tennis 10:am Sunday "Share a Dish" Dinner <b>Tree Trimming</b> 2 pm Games 4 pm	<b>December 2</b> Peer Support Group 6:30 pm	<b>December 3</b> <b>Real World</b> <b>Discussion 7pm</b> <b>"Mandela</b> <b>Effect"</b> <b>Maria I</b> Snacks at Blessings at 9 pm	<b>Dec. 4</b> Bowling 6:15 pm	<b>December 5</b> Walking/Talking Hiking/Biking/ Seating/Eating 9:30 am Mahjong noon	<b>Dec. 6</b> <b>Pinochle noon</b> <b>Half Moon</b> <b>Diner</b> <b>4:30</b> <b>T.V. Game</b> <b>Night</b>	<b>Dec. 7</b> <b>Christmas</b> <b>Tea 2:00</b> Cracker Barrell 4:30 Games 7 pm
<b>December 8</b> Indoor Tennis 10 am Sunday "Share a Dish" Dinner 2 pm Games 4 pm	<b>December 9</b> Peer Support Group 6:30 pm	<b>December 10</b> <b>Real World</b> <b>Discussion 7 pm</b> <b>Open Mike</b> <b>Show n' Tell</b> <b>Mike M.</b> Snacks at Blessings at 9 pm	<b>Dec. 11</b> Bowling 6:15 pm	<b>December 12</b> Walking/Talking Hiking/Biking/ Seating/Eating 9:30 am Bd Meeting 10 am Mahjong noon	<b>Dec. 13</b> <b>Pinochle noon</b> <b>Metro 7 Diner</b> <b>4:30</b> <b>Holiday Bingo</b> <b>7:00</b>	<b>Dec. 14</b> <b>"Don</b> <b>Hyman</b> <b>Party 1:00</b> Games 7 pm
<b>December 15</b> Indoor Tennis 10 am <b>Holiday</b> "Share a Dish" Dinner 2 pm Off-site Concert 3:00 Games 4 pm	<b>December 16</b> Newsletter Deadline Email all <u>submissions by this</u> <u>date – after that</u> <u>they will be</u> <u>included in the</u> <u>following month</u> Peer Support Group 6:30 pm	<b>December 17</b> <b>Real World</b> <b>Discussion 7 pm</b> <b>"Second</b> <b>Chances"</b> <b>Dave S.</b> Snacks at Blessings at 9 pm	<b>Dec. 18</b> Bowling 6:15 pm	<b>December 19</b> Walking/Talking Hiking/Biking/ Seating/Eating 9:30 am Mahjong 12 noon	<b>Dec. 20</b> <b>Pinochle noon</b>  <b>Glenville</b> <b>Queen Diner</b> <b>4:30</b>	<b>Dec. 21</b> Games Galore! Cards & more! 7 pm
<b>December 22</b> Indoor Tennis 10 am Sunday "Share a Dish" Dinner 2 pm Games 4 pm	<b>December 23</b>	<b>December 24</b> <b>No Real World</b> <b>Discussion</b>	<b>Dec. 25</b> <b>Christmas</b> <b>Dinner</b> <b>2:00</b>  <b>No</b> Bowling	<b>December 26</b> Walking/Talking Hiking/Biking/ Seating/Eating 9:30 am Mahjong noon	<b>Dec. 27</b>  <b>Pinochle noon</b>	<b>Dec. 28</b> <b>Asian</b> <b>Teahouse</b> <b>4:30</b> Games 7 pm
<b>December 29</b> Indoor Tennis 10 am <b>"Share a Dish"</b> <b>Dinner</b> <b>2 pm</b> Games 4 pm	<b>December 30</b>	<b>December 31</b> <b>No Real World</b> <b>Discussion</b>	<b>Jan. 1</b>  <b>No</b> Bowling	<b>January 2</b> Walking/Talking Hiking/Biking/ Seating/Eating 9:30 am Mahjong noon	<b>January 3</b>  Pinochle Noon	<b>January 4</b> Games Galore! Cards & more! 7 pm

**Special Note: In case of inclement weather, you can check our Facebook page for updates as well as watching your inbox for an email or you can call 518-941-2586 for the latest information.**

## **Annie's Corner**

### **Exactly What is the Winter Solstice?**

December 21 – the shortest day of the year. Fire and Light are incorporated into most festivals.

Early humans may have observed the winter solstice as early as the Neolithic Period which is the last part of the stone age (about 10,200 yr. BCE). Monuments found in Ireland and Scotland are aligned with sunrise on the Winter Solstice. Some archeologists think that these may have been used for religious purposes – to catch the sun on the shortest day.

Stonehenge is oriented toward the winter solstice sunset and may have been a gathering place for religious purposes.

Also celebrated around the solstice was Saturnalia, a Roman Holiday in honor of Saturn. They also celebrated Juvenalia, a feast that celebrated the children of Rome.

Other Solstice traditions include, St. Lucia's Day (Christian); Dong Zhi (Chinese); Toji (Japan); Shab-e Yalda (Iran) and the Native Americans also had traditions around the same time.

The good thing about the Winter solstice is that the days start getting longer after that, so, we do have something to celebrate.

Wishing you all -- Happy Holidays (there are many in December and we don't want to miss anyone). Here's to a Happy and Healthy New Year to all of you.



## **Meet Your Board Series**

### **Scott Stewart**

Hi, my name is Scott Stewart. I was Treasurer for many years - more than 10, I think it was because I enjoyed the work & I was a CPA.

My background is that I grew up in a small town - Greenwich. It's east of Saratoga - by the Washington County Fairgrounds. In Highschool, I was a member of the FBLA-Future Business Leaders of America. I also played Football.

My first two years of College I spent at Adirondack Community College located in Glens Falls. I took Accounting & Marketing. I also headed up a major club - Circle K - which is sponsored by Kiwanis.

After graduating, I transferred to Siena. I took accounting there. Upon graduating, I went to work for a "Big Six" counting firm - Ernst & Whinny. I also met my first wife @ Siena - we had 3 children together.

After our divorce, 10 years later, I joined SOS at one of picnics. Back then, Volleyball was a huge of SOS, During this time. I met my second wife, we had one child together,

I had a major Stroke in 2003. I was in the hospital for rehab for 13 months. During my stay in rehab, I developed I liking for Bingo. Soon after I got out of rehab, I re-joined SOS & started hosting Bingo. I also started my run as Treasurer.

I recently had a major accident at home, which caused me to give up my Treasurer position but I'm still Assistant Treasurer.

***We at Singles Outreach thank Scott & all of our volunteers & members for their continued support.***

Activities for Singles  
December 2024 Newsletter  
518-452-6883

Singles Outreach Services Inc.  
Hanover Square Bldg.  
435 New Karner Road Box 301,  
Albany, NY 12205  
Community Room located at  
Hanover Square (Hill Entrance)

**Coming in December**  
**Trim a tree party**  
**Don Hyman Holiday Concert**  
**Holiday potluck**  
**Christmas Dinner**  
**New Years Eve Party**

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

**December 2024 Activities for Singles**

[www.SinglesOutreach.org](http://www.SinglesOutreach.org)  
[SOS@SinglesOutreach.org](mailto:SOS@SinglesOutreach.org)



**Reminder that Membership  
cards are sent out the last  
week of the month. Watch  
your mail.**

**Directions to our Community Room and Office**

From 2W of Northway, go West on Central Ave. for 1.7 mi, turn right on New Karner Rd. (Rt. 155 – Rite Aid on corner) for 0.6 mi. Hanover Square is on the right, set back from the road. Middle door on right side of bldg. is labeled “Hill St.” entrance. In lobby, left door on ground floor. (435 Address sign and Flag at road & Flag at our door)

**How to Join Us**

You are invited to join Singles Outreach Services, Inc. We are a not-for-profit corporation that provides activities for unattached people. Please join us at one of our events as a guest (small charge). We can provide you with a membership form to complete. One year is only \$30, which helps us support our mission and our office and community room. You will also receive a monthly calendar by email (provide and email) or as printed copy in your mailbox without an email. Providing an email allows us to send you a weekly update, which provides you with last minute changes or updates on existing calendar events.

**Volunteers Always Needed!** Do you have time to host an event or an idea for an event to be held in our community room? If so, please contact us we are always looking for new idea.

**Singles Outreach Officers and Board Members:** **President:** David Freeman; **1st Vice President** Esther Miklic; **2nd Vice President:** Gerald Boileau; **Secretary:** Bonnie Russell; **Notetaker:** Ann Parillo; **Treasurer** Judy DesChamps; **Asst. Treasurer** Scott Stewart; **Programming:** Bonnie Lee Russell, **Marketing:** Debra Gugig Bauer; **Website:** Sam Gallucci; & Janice Livingston. **Advisors** Jerry Durovic, Maria Immediato, Ann Parillo & Joan Slingerland. **Executive Director** Ann Parillo. **Heading up the following activities:** **Bowling:** Judy DesChamps; **Game Night:** Luella Dozois & Dave Freeman, **Memberships, Weekly Updates & Communication and PR:** Ann Parillo; **Newsletter, Mahjong & Bingo:** Dave Freeman, **Outdoor Activities:** John Feret; **Real World:** Maria Immediato; **Tennis:** Dan Streever; **Golf:** Martha Zibro & **Pinochle:** Carole Praga.