

Cumru senior center gives residents Titanic night to remember

Sunday April 16, 2017 12:01 AM

By [Matthew Nojiri](#)



Reading Eagle: Harold Hoch | Gloria Naimoli, left, Joan Diefenderfer, Annie Keiser, Addie Bauman (hidden) and Janet Upton enjoy Titanic night at the Heritage of Green Hills on Saturday night. The event marked the 105th anniversary of the sinking of the luxury liner.



Reading Eagle: Harold Hoch | Dick Walter talks to Dyla Morrissey, left, and Louise Grieve during A Night to Remember at the Heritage of Green Hills on Saturday night.



Reading Eagle: Harold Hoch | Vera Relkin, center, and Addie Bauman enjoy Titanic night at the Heritage of Green Hills on Saturday night. The event marked the 105th anniversary of the sinking of the luxury liner.



Reading Eagle: Harold Hoch | Pat Lang shares a laugh during Titanic night at the Heritage of Green Hills on Saturday night.

The residents at the Heritage of Green Hills say there's always a party happening at the Cumru Township senior living community.

On Saturday that was especially true, as guests arrived for dinner in their best tuxedos, derby hats and dresses.

"It's the 105th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic, and this is a remembrance dinner," said Cheryl Anderson, Well by Design director for the heritage. "We're not celebrating the catastrophe. It's just a night for them to get dressed, have a great time and learn more about it."

The Titanic theme carried the night at the Heritage; across the senior living community there were hints of the luxury liner that met an unfortunate fate.

The event was billed as A Night to Remember, after the 1955 book that recounted the Titanic's fateful maiden voyage.

The ship struck an iceberg late on April 14, 1912, and sank about three hours later, killing more than 1,500 people, about two-thirds of those aboard.

Guests walked into the dining room as Celine Dion's "My Heart Will Go on" reverberated from the grand piano near the bar. The song was the theme of the 1997 film "Titanic."

The residents also fashioned an iceberg from a Kirby cart, cardboard and fabric.

"Tonight's another night for them to get dressed up," Anderson said. "We're always looking for something different or silly going on. It's about keeping them young."

Even the dinner menu featured some of the classics of the Titanic's final night. Guests chose between ice cream and eclairs for dessert, just as they did during that evening in 1912.

The residents arrived for dinner dressed in floppy hats, shawls, bow ties and jackets.

"I'm glad I wasn't on it," said resident Joan Diefenderfer, 81, with a laugh.

The residents said the event was fun, but also a reminder of the tragedies that can happen.

"You think about everyone who died," said Janet Uptown, 84. "Back then, things were different from today."

Resident Pat Lang was sitting with a group of her friends at a corner table. She said the evening was another chance to have fun with friends.

"Our activities director is always trying to come up with new ideas," said Lang, 74. "She's very creative."

Resident Vera Relkin, 86, agreed.

"Living here is like we're on a cruise, but without the water," she said.

Contact Matthew Nojiri: 610-371-5062 or mnojiri@readingeagle.com.