

News

ALTA'S TRADITIONAL MOUNTAIN LODGE



2025 - 2026

Losing an Alta Legend

Remembering Mimi Muray Levitt 1943-2025

Friends and family gathered on Sunday, August 31, to celebrate the life of the Lodge's beloved leading lady, Mimi Muray Levitt, who passed away peacefully on July 22, 2025, at the age of eighty-two.



Mimi was a well loved and respected figure at the Lodge and in the Town of Alta. As a native New Yorker, Mimi discovered a connection to the outdoors and a love for skiing as a child, while attending North Country School in Lake Placid. She later returned to Manhattan to attend Finch College, where she graduated with a B.S. in Early Childhood Education. But in 1966, at age 23, Mimi once again felt the pull of the mountains. She landed a job at the Lodge, packed up her Ford Mustang, and headed west.

Arriving amidst a blizzard, she remembered feeling instantly at

home in the Lodge's "warm and cozy" atmosphere. The next day she began work at the Front Desk, and everything soon fell into place. Mimi quickly advanced from "Deskie" to Reservations Manager, a role she held for decades and where she built lasting, genuine connections with guests.

Throughout the years, countless new guests have found the Lodge "warm and cozy." However, those comments evolved to encompass more than just the Lodge atmosphere; they were also a nod to Mimi's welcoming spirit.

Beyond her role in Reservations, Mimi became a key member of Lodge ownership. She and Alta Lodge Proprietor, Bill Levitt, found a love connection and married in 1980. Together, they worked to make Alta Lodge a "home away from home" for guests and employees. They also co-founded the non-profit now known as Friends of Alta to sustain and preserve the uniqueness of Alta for future generations.

"She embodied the Lodge. She knew every guest by name, knew their families, knew who were good friends with them. If you asked any guests who had been there for the last 40 years, they would say: 'Mimi. The Lodge is Mimi.'"

Cassie Levitt-Dippo



In addition to the many hats she wore at the Lodge and in Alta, Mimi and her brother, Chris, created the Nikolas Muray Photo Archives to preserve the work of their father, Nikolas, a celebrity portrait photographer. This became another passion for Mimi as Nikolas' most prized subject, Mexican Artist, Frida Kahlo, gained notoriety. Mimi was proud to share some of her father's iconic Frida images on the walls of Alta Lodge, along with stories of his work with interested guests. Mimi also enjoyed the art of photography, capturing many of the nature and landscape photos that adorn Lodge walls.

It is hard to imagine the Lodge without Mimi. But she taught us well. We will continue to care for our guests and employees with the same welcoming hospitality that she embodied, keeping the Lodge "warm and cozy" for decades to come.

Dear Friends,

Losing our “leading lady,” Mimi, this summer has been a catalyst for reflection as we celebrated her legacy at the Lodge and in Alta. It has been wonderful to connect with so many of you as you joined us in honoring Mimi with your kind words and stories. Whether you knew Mimi personally or not, and whether or not she was in the building, Mimi’s presence has been foundational to the Alta Lodge experience. She is part of who we are, and we look forward to honoring the Lodge culture and traditions that Mimi lovingly helped shape over the past sixty years.

We are excited to welcome you back this winter for Alta Lodge’s 85th year and Alta’s 88th season. During your stay, we invite you to raise a glass in Mimi’s honor and to share your favorite Mimi memories, stories, and jokes. We also welcome you to continue posting your comments and reading what others have shared [here](#).

Alta’s tentative opening date is Friday, November 21, and the Lodge will open for the season on Friday, November 28th. It has been a busy and rewarding summer filled with events and renovations, followed by a glorious fall. But the weather pattern has started to shift. Before long, the snow will be piling up and we’ll be skiing! Our sights are set on winter, and we can’t wait to welcome you back to Alta soon.

Peace and Powder Snow

Marcus, Cassie, Toby, and Alta Lodge Staff



Alta Lodge Employees
1966-67



CELEBRATING 85 YEARS

TRADITION, HOSPITALITY, AND AUTHENTIC ALTA EXPERIENCE

This year celebrates 85 years of Alta Lodge as Alta's first ski hotel. Built by the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad Company, the Lodge opened its doors to guests on November 29, 1940, with twelve lodging rooms, the Sitzmark bar, and a dining room. Skiers rode Alta's single chair Collins lift (the second chairlift in the country) for just twenty-five cents per ride, and stayed at the Lodge for less than \$25 per night, with breakfast and dinner included.

As Alta Ski Area grew, so did the Lodge. After purchasing Alta Lodge in 1959, Bill Levitt added on two new lodging wings in the 1960s. With a modern design of steel and glass that showcased the surrounding mountains, the expansion increased the Lodge's original A-frame capacity by forty-two additional guest rooms.

Things have changed over the years. But despite its growth, Alta Lodge has remained true to its roots with the charm and traditions of a classic European ski lodge.

"When it opened, Alta Lodge was the epicenter of the social culture at Alta. The love of skiing, powder, and après ski were all aspects of a tradition where the focus was skiing. The Levitt family, who own and operate the Lodge, are dedicated to the traditional lodge style, which exemplifies an approach to skiing that gained its roots in Europe and New England—breakfast and dinner included with stay, no televisions, a common dining area, and an opportunity for communal social engagement between guests. This tradition is what brings three and four generations of families back to the Lodge with their own tradition of a skiing lifestyle."

-David Davenport, President, Alta Historical Society



A very early photo of Alta Lodge, about 1940.

Photo: Alan Engen Ski History Collection



Construction on the East Wing window replacement project started according to schedule on September 2. The Lodge closed early for the summer season to ensure renovations were completed before the snow began to accumulate.

Similar to the new "curtain wall" windows in the Middle Wing, the East Wing rooms are being updated with energy-efficient double-pane glass. The engineered windows should eliminate condensation and provide better climate control in the rooms. The project is ahead of schedule, and we are excited about the upgrade to the guest experience. We think you are going to love it too.



Kids Club & Kids Stay Free

Families who ski together stay together - and our commitment to the next generation of skiers is as strong as ever. Avoid the crowds and save on a family ski vacation by joining us during Early season (Nov. 28 - Dec. 17) and Spring season (April 5-19), when Kids Stay Free! Paired with Kids' Club, it makes a ski vacation for the entire family easy and fun. [Learn more.](#)

For only \$69, families with 4th, 5th or 6th graders can save big on lift tickets with the Ski Utah Passport. The Passport offers students three days of skiing at each of Utah's fifteen resorts. That's three days at Alta for \$69! [Get a Passport here.](#)

And don't forget that you can book kids' lessons online at Alta's Alf Engen Ski School. From beginner to expert skiers, your children will build confidence, make new friends and develop a lifelong passion to ski Alta. [Reserve lessons.](#)

What's New Alta Ski Area

The Year of Powder 8s

Not only does this season celebrate the Lodge's 85th year, but Alta Ski Area is celebrating its 88th winter and "88 years of timeless turns." Share in the fun and come make some powder-eights with us to commemorate these milestones. [Learn more.](#)

Chairlift Updates

The Supreme chairlift was dismantled early this past spring and reinstalled for a straighter line of operation from the bottom to the top. This eliminates the "bumpy" bend midway up the lift, resulting in less wear and tear on the equipment and a smoother ride up for skiers. Get ready to ride the new and improved Supreme lift this winter!

Alta is also replacing the Alta Lodge Access Tow. While still a surface tow, the updated lift will feature an adjustable height mechanism to accommodate varying snow depths and allow for better grooming. This should make it easier for users to load and ride the tow. The concrete has been poured, and the new equipment will be installed soon.

Upgrading Snowmaking and Unearthing Treasures

While digging trenches to upgrade the snowmaking lines for more water and snowmaking capacity throughout Alta, crews uncovered hidden treasures just downhill from the Lodge along the transfer tow, dating back to the early days of Alta, when it thrived as a mining town.

Early settlers unknowingly left the town vulnerable to snow and landslides by harvesting slopeside trees (nature's natural barriers) to build with, and inadvertently creating devastating slide paths. Between the late 1800s and the early 1900s, the Town of Alta had been levelled and rebuilt more than ten times, resulting in layers of history in the process. Alta Environmental Center teamed up with archeologists from partnering organizations to unearth hundreds of artifacts, ranging from building foundations to everyday items, and revealing more of Alta's unique history.

Albion Day Lodge

Skiers will notice some changes over the next few seasons as Alta expands and enhances the Albion Day Lodge. This summer, a new storage facility was added at the Albion base, along with the start of phase one of the Albion expansion.



Photo: Utah Department of Transportation

SKI ADVENTURES



Women's Skills Camp

December 3–7, 2025

Alta Lodge's Early Season Intermediate to Advanced Women's Skills Ski Camp returns again, with the entire Lodge reserved exclusively for the camp. Participants will be surrounded by fellow women skiers, building camaraderie and connection both on and off the snow. The program features three days of coaching from Alta's renowned Alf Engen Ski School, demo skis, evening tech talks, and meals in the cozy, welcoming atmosphere of the Lodge.

With Alta's legendary snow and terrain right outside the door, it is the perfect way to kick off the ski season, elevate your skills, and enjoy a one-of-a-kind, women-only mountain getaway. [Learn more.](#)

Co-Ed Performance Ski Camps

December 9–13, 2025

December 13–17, 2025

April 5–9, 2026

Deepen your understanding and love of skiing through our Early and Spring season Performance Camps. These immersive co-ed programs for advanced to expert skiers, coached by top instructors from Alta's Alf Engen Ski School, offer precise practice and strategies to improve on-snow performance in varying terrain and conditions. [Learn more.](#)



MEET OUR GUESTS **THE CANUCK CREW**



For the past 50 years, a group of skiers has convened at the Lodge in early December for an annual Alta ski trip. Hailing from the Toronto area, Dr. Howard Ironstone, Dr. Jerry Omelon, and the late Norman Bradley were some of the first Canucks in the group to visit the Lodge. It all started back in the early 1970s, pre-Snowbird (Jerry recalls seeing signage on the road for “Snowbird Resort to be built here”), when Howard came across a small, simple ad in a US ski magazine consisting only of the words “The greatest snow in the world – Alta, UT” – no photos or other details. As an avid skier always looking for a great adventure, those words offered Howard all the information he needed. He recruited a few friends to join him, and they headed to Alta that winter. They discovered an abundance of truth in the advertising and have never looked back since.

In the winter of 1981-82, another friendly neighbor to our north, Seymour Epstein, made his first visit to Alta with a group of Canadian ski patrollers. Seymour connected with Jerry and some other acquaintances from the Toronto area while staying at the Lodge, and the Canuck Crew continued to grow.

According to Seymour, “there is no place better in the world to ski.” He has always wanted to share his love for Alta and the Lodge with other skiers, inviting many enthusiasts over the years to join the group and bring their families. Some have traveled from as far away as Australia to join in the fun. They have also met fellow Canadians while skiing Alta and welcomed them into the group.



Lodge guests and siblings, Brenda and Brian Matas, joined the crew after Brenda randomly offered to take a photo of the group lounging in the snow during one of their Alta visits. Brenda and Brian quickly connected with Norm Bradley and continued to align their December stays and join their fellow Canadians at the Lodge.



Jerry, Seymour, and their friends are a diverse group, and their traditions have evolved over time. But the focus has always been the same – they share a passion for skiing and being in Alta. They enjoy having breakfast together as a group, skiing at their own pace and level, and then reconvening for dinner to share the camaraderie and stories of the day.

When asked about his favorite memory of the Lodge, Seymour responded, “Mimi.” He shared that from the very beginning, “she always made us feel at home. She was easy to be friends with - a genuine human.” They also loved Mimi’s company on the slopes. Jerry and Brenda echoed Seymour’s fondness and connection to Mimi, enjoying getting to know her both on and off the snow.

The founders of the group have every intention of continuing to ski Alta annually for as long as possible, and hope their friends and families will join in and keep the tradition alive. They could not think of a better way to start the ski season off - no better place nor with better people.

From the Kitchen: Mimi's Favorites

Dining is always a highlight of the Alta Lodge experience for guests and employees alike. In honor of Mimi, we are sharing a few of her favorite "comfort food" recipes. **Enjoy!**



Walnut Shortbread

1 lb butter (soft)
8 oz brown sugar (1 C)
2 tsp vanilla
1 ¼ lb Flour (4 1/3 C)
3 oz cornstarch (6 Tbsp)
½ tsp salt
2 tsp cinnamon
1 cup chopped walnuts
White chocolate

(Yield: about 50 cookies)

Cream butter, sugar, and vanilla on high speed of mixer. Add dry ingredients and mix on slow speed just until incorporated. Add walnuts and mix until fully combined. Spread onto a sheet pan and chill until firm (at least 2 hours).
Cut into bricks. Slice each brick to desired thickness (about ¼ inch) and lay on a greased sheetpan. Bake at 350 for 8-10 minutes until just beginning to turn brown around the edges.
When cool, drizzle with melted white chocolate.

Broccoli Beehive Cheddar Soup

4 cloves Garlic (minced)
1 large Onion (diced)
3 stalks Celery (diced)
3 medium Carrots (diced)
2 large heads Broccoli
(cut into florets and finely chopped)
6 cups Vegetable or Chicken Stock
2 cups Heavy Cream
16 oz. Beehive Promontory Cheddar
(or your favorite sharp cheddar cheese)

1 T. Onion Powder
1 T. Garlic Powder
1 T. Dried Thyme
2 T. Cholula (or your favorite hot
sauce)
1 T. Paprika
Salt and Pepper to taste

Roux:

1/3 cup Flour

1/3 cup melted Butter

- Combine and cook over low heat stirring constantly approximately 3 minutes.
- Remove from heat and set aside.

1. Sauté garlic, onion, celery, and carrots over medium heat in a stockpot until onions are translucent (about 5 mins).
2. Add broccoli, stir, cover, reduce heat, stirring occasionally.
3. Once broccoli begins to soften, add stock and simmer for 25 min, until broccoli is soft and breaks apart easily.
4. Puree cooked vegetables with an immersion blender or in small batches using a conventional blender.
5. Add shredded cheddar while stirring continuously until cheese is melted and well-combined.
6. Add seasoning to taste and continue to simmer for 20 mins.
7. Thicken with Roux, and simmer additional 20 mins.
8. Add Heavy Cream and reduce heat.
9. Add Onion Powder, Garlic Powder, dried Thyme, and Paprika. Stir well.

SUMMER EVENTS



Photo: Katelyn Keddington Photography

We love sharing the magic of Alta with guests in the summer - when our winter wonderland transforms into an equally magnificent destination with wildflower-filled meadows, fresh air, and stunning vistas.

We are open weekends in the summer from June to October for private event bookings and Sunday brunch. Alta Lodge is the perfect place to say "I do," or gather with friends, family, or co-workers for a private event. Learn more about summer [here](#).

Mimi's Grilled Cheese

2 slices Sourdough bread
1 slice Cheddar cheese
1 slice Swiss cheese
4 slices Tomato
2 T. Butter
Olive oil



Onion, thinly sliced and sauteed in olive oil over medium heat until slightly caramelized, about 15-20 minutes. Set aside.

1. Pre-heat skillet over medium heat.
2. Butter outside of bread.
3. Place the bottom bread slice (butter side down) in a hot skillet.
4. Add cheese, tomato, onion, and the top piece of bread (butter side up).
5. Grill 3-4 mins each side until cheese is melted.