

Activities Corner by Barbara Higley

Happy holidays! The calendar is filled with holiday festivities and entertainment throughout the month that will certainly put you in the spirit of the season. Capitol City Reflections (big band music) will open our Christmas season with a mix of Christmas music, along with music from the 30's and 40's on **Friday, December 1st**.

We will visit Duarte Nursery, near Modesto, on **Wednesday, December 6th** to purchase those beautiful poinsettias for gift giving. With more than 30 varieties and colors at a reasonable cost, you won't want to miss the outing. It's impossible to choose the best and prettiest poinsettia because each one is equally superb!

The holiday Christmas light tours are scheduled for **Wednesday, December 13th and December 20th**. We will leave the community at 5:30 p.m. If you plan to go on one of the light tour drives, please be sure to plan an early dinner for that evening. The tours have become very popular, therefore, we have scheduled two this year to accommodate the growing number of residents choosing to go. Oh, and we can't forget the tradition of holiday pie after each drive.

New residents will have an opportunity to learn more about our community and the activities available to you. Join Tonya on **December 23rd at 2:00pm in the Cabaret Lounge** for an informal get together and share ideas with others.

We will ring in the New Year on **Sunday, December 31st** with a delightful dinner, followed with our party at **7:00pm** featuring the 59ers Band! Pay attention, as the lead singer may look a little familiar to you! Feel free to dress up and join us for great music, dancing and celebrate as we bring in the New Year at **9pm** (east coast time)!

**Happy
New Year!**

Important Telephone Numbers

Office Hours – Monday-Friday 8:30am-5:30pm
 Saturday & Sunday 9:00am-5:00pm
 Office 929-3966 Fax 929-3627
 Barbara/Activities Office 929-6003
 Van/Transportation 468-3091
 Dining Room 921-5998
 Comfort Keepers 560-9100
 Police Non-Emergency 264-5471
 Emergency & Fire 911
 Comcast Cable 1-800-266-2278
 AT&T 1-800-310-2355
 Para Transit 429-2744
 Yellow Cab 444-2222

Beauty Salon Jane Ma 223-9658
 Tuesday-Saturday
 Clean Touch Dry Cleaning 366-6666
 Pick-up & Drop-off Monday & Thursday

Marketing Minutes

Hello Campus Commons! I am Bernadette Gonzales, your new marketing director. Let me tell you a little bit about myself.

I grew up in Sacramento, but moved to the bay area and lived in Mountain View for 15 years before moving back to Sacramento in 2005. I have a son, Michael, who is 20, and a daughter, Brandi, who is 33.

I have worked with seniors for many years and enjoy speaking to all of you regarding your experiences in life. I love to cook (I am a wannabe TV food chef) walking, reading, and hot yoga. I have travelled to ten countries and still want to add to the list. Italy being my favorite, with the UK being a close second.

Thank you for the wonderful welcome. Many of you have introduced yourself and I am trying my best to remember names. I look forward to my time here.

Bernadette



Campus Commons

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Chris Cook, Maintenance
 Donnie Terry, PT Maintenance

Charlene Wickizer, Marcy Solis &
 Rick Comer, Housekeeping

Shawn Asberry, Karen Schaefer &
 Thealise Wager, Evening Porters

Richard Beyerl
 Chef/General Manager, Sodexo

Christine's Comments

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year everyone! It astounds me that we are already at the end of another year. The Campus Commons elves will be busy the first part of the month decorating your home so we can all enjoy this beautiful time of year together.

Our Home for the Holidays Pie & Dessert Social last month was the best turn out of your family and friends that we have ever had! It was standing room only at one point. Thank you for allowing us to show your family how much fun we have.

My apologies for forgetting (the last two months) in announcing our newest residents: Fran Messenger and Joann Charamuga joined us in October, Mary & Robert Equi, Genelle & Frank Palmer and Betty Sutcliffe joined us in November, and this month we welcome DD Despard, Notch Parino and Adele Davis returns to us! Please give these new residents a very warm Campus Commons welcome.

Bingo players will have to take a back seat to two special piano performances on Sunday December 10th and 17th. Kathleen Atkins' "Lifting Spirits" performers (on the 10th) will leave you breathless – they are spectacular, and you MUST come down and listen at 2pm.

Be on the lookout for your notice regarding any changes in housekeeping schedules for the Christmas and New Year's holiday. Your housekeeper should be delivering your notice the week before a missed or altered holiday. If you do not receive one, or are unsure, please check with your housekeeper personally. Housekeeping would also like me to remind you to please check your pockets for tissues and personal items before laundering.

As a reminder, the last day to submit holiday gratuities for all staff will be Friday, December 22nd when all will be disbursed. Thank you!

Library News by Pat Edmonds

1. Our library is on the honor system. Take a book and bring it back ASAP when done. Since we are 24/7, I ask you to take one book out at a time so books can circulate more quickly among us all, especially the more popular authors.
2. When returning a book, put it in the return basket because shelving books can be difficult and often books are put back where there is an empty slot. This makes the book harder to find again. I appreciate your desire to help, but it often creates more work for me.
3. I have recently heard comments about the "bottom shelf". Using these shelves have created room for another 125 books. If you cannot bend to see the books, I suggest sliding a chair which moves easily to the bookcase and sit down. This is how I shelve books as I cannot bend down either.
4. Because we don't have anymore room, I have created the "Last Chance Shelf". I have removed 40 books from the library to make room for newly donated books which keeps our library full of new and exciting reading. When a book is returned, I place a colored dot on the top of the book spine telling me that this book is being read. Many books are never taken out and these are the ones that may be removed as room is needed.
5. If you wonder what to read, maybe looking for colored dots on book spines will give you a hint as to what is being read.
6. I am slowly completing putting genre tags on the books which mostly helps me shelve books, but may also help you find what you are interested in. Also, I have begun a book inventory (currently listing 450 books) that will help us know what we have in our library.

As always, any questions or requests for books, or help, is always welcomed. Ask me personally, put a note in my box (329), or in the library basket.

Keep reading! It calms and stimulates the mind, takes you to new places, teaches you new things, scares your socks off, takes your breath away, makes you laugh, or cry. It's all available in our library!

December Birthdays

In astrology, those born between December 1–21 are Archers of Sagittarius. Sagittarians are travelers, open-minded, and constantly in search for meaning. Extroverted and optimistic, Archers seek change and take concrete steps to achieve their goals. Those born between December 22–31 are Capricorn's Goats. Goats are practical, determined and focused on their ambitious goals. They follow a straightforward, well-planned path and persevere with grit and honesty. Their sympathetic and caring natures make them devoted friends.

Christa Henkelmann, December 1st
Barbara Dressler, December 2nd
Barbara Holland, December 2nd
Joan McGee, December 2nd
Lucille Roberts, December 2nd
Julia Barry, December 3rd
Bill Becker (335), December 13th
Claudia Trnka, December 20th
Pat Edmonds, December 22nd
Carol Durkee, December 26th
Gay Skarpaas, December 27th
Bob Laukat, December 29th
Edna Morgan, December 31st

Operation Santa Paws



The December holiday season may be one of good cheer for humans, but a group of animal lovers has made sure that the warmth of the season extends to pets as well. In 2001, Justin Rudd spearheaded a movement to solicit donations to animal shelters during the holiday season. Since then, every December, animal shelters and rescue groups participate in Operation Santa Paws, an effort to collect toys, treats, and supplies for neglected and abandoned animals, especially those pets given as gifts and then left out in the cold. Providing a happier holiday season for sheltered and rescued animals can even increase the likelihood of adoption.

This Month's Featured Resident by Shirley Riemer

You won't persuade Ginny Johnson to confirm the claim, but just about everyone who knows her will insist, "That woman was born with a needle in her hand."

Still, you might ask Ginny about her earliest memories – for example, her early years when she and a dozen or so little playmates would congregate in the basement of a house in a friend's home in Minneapolis, to keep cool during the summer heat. She remembers those days sitting in that cool basement – with an embroidery hoop parked on her lap.

Just to explain: Playing in the basement was the means for her neighborhood playmates to escape the heat, yet still to be available when one of the mothers called – each of them by ringing her own special bell, with a "that's your mom" sound to it. When a bell was heard, the children might call out, "Ricky, your mother wants you," and one of the little darlings would dutifully run on home. That was the earliest "practice time" that Ginny can remember of her days learning to use a needle.

By age 12, Ginny was knitting in earnest on Girl Scout knitting projects. She would knit squares, and a Girl Scout mom would sew them together to make lap robes.

During her high school years, Ginny was one of 9,000 girls who participated in the Girl Scouts' fourth – and very last – "Girl Scout Senior Roundup" in 1965, in Idaho (where, incidentally, those Girl Scouts planted 1,084 ponderosa seedlings).

Then, in Ginny's adult years, came marriage, college, training as a teacher, jobs in the field of human resources, living in a beautiful suburb of Chicago – and best of all, rearing a son and a daughter. (We can only imagine the energy Ginny put into sewing, and knitting for those two lucky kids – clothes, costumes, sweaters, scarves, and hats – what have you.)



Now in her senior years, Ginny continues on, day after day, volunteering her talents to the "Project Linus" organization.

Remember that little "Peanuts" character named "Linus" – thumb in mouth, his "blankie" slung over his shoulder? It's that little fellow's comfort-blanket that became the symbol of "Project Linus."

Hundreds of Project Linus volunteers produce and distribute blankets donated – always anonymously – to children in need. Fortunately, at Campus Commons, we have occasion to admire Ginny's blankets before they go out for donation.

Project Linus even includes volunteers who are serving time in prison, knitting blankets with yarn donated by Project Linus. Often these prisoners report their efforts to be their means of "giving back."

For 45 years, Ginny has been making blankets for children in need. As a Project Linus volunteer, she produces 110 to 120 blankets per year – whether they be knitted, fleece, simple quilts, or tied-fleece. It requires ten to twelve hours to make a simple flannel quilt, and about four hours to make a fleece blanket.

During California's recent fire season,



Project Linus chapters in our three-county area distributed 200 blankets to fire victims, and 1300 blankets to other organizations.

Where are these blankets donated? They go to fire departments, food banks, hospitals, organizations for the homeless and refugees, Loaves and Fishes, Ronald McDonald houses, flood victims – with every donated blanket carrying a Project Linus label.

Ginny considers that she is "paid back" for her work simply through being aware of the countless comforts and smiles evoked by these blanket donations.