

## Mother May I?



Sunday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, is Mother's Day in the United States, Australia, and Canada. In Mexico, *Dia de las Madres* is Thursday, May 10. In France, *La Fête des Mères* is Sunday, May 27<sup>th</sup>. After Christmas and Easter, Mother's Day is the third-most celebrated holiday in the world, but the way mothers are honored differs from place to place.

In the United States, the most typical gift given to mom is a Mother's Day card and flowers. It may come as no surprise that the vast majority of Mother's Day cards—80% in fact—are not bought by men, but by women. A mother's job is never done, it seems, not even on Mother's Day.

Mother's Day wasn't always celebrated by buying cards, flowers, chocolates, and jewelry. It was Anna Jarvis who fought to establish the national holiday. Jarvis was inspired largely by her own mother, who had organized "Mother's Day work clubs," where women would tend to soldiers wounded during the Civil War and tackle problems that led to infant mortality. Indeed, Jarvis proposed Mother's Day as a day to honor women like her mother, who had played greater political roles for the benefit of society. She was disgusted when her holiday turned into a commercial bonanza for those hawking flowers and candy. Jarvis spent her life fighting what Mother's Day had become.

In most countries these days, Mother's Day is celebrated by showering gifts and attention on mom. In Mexico, it is tradition on *Dia de las Madres* to serenade mom in the morning before church and then prepare dinner for her. France's *La Fête des Mères* originated as a way for the French government to honor the mothers of large families with a gold medal. It was a means to encourage French women to have more children and repopulate the country after World War I. By the 1950s, consumer appeal and a rising birth rate transformed the holiday into one more commercially aligned with the United States. And why not take one day out of the year to recognize their vital importance?

## Important Telephone Numbers

Office Hours – Monday-Friday 8:30am-5:30pm  
 Saturday & Sunday 9:00am-5:00pm  
 Office 916-929-3966 Fax 916-929-3627  
 Barbara/Activities Office 916-929-6003  
 Van/Transportation 916-468-3091  
 Dining Room 916-921-5998  
 Comfort Keepers 916-560-9100  
 Police Non-Emergency 916-264-5471  
 Emergency & Fire 911  
 Comcast Cable 1-800-266-2278  
 AT&T 1-800-310-2355  
 Paratransit 916-429-2744  
 Yellow Cab 916-444-2222

Beauty Salon Jane Ma 916-223-9658  
 Wednesday-Saturday  
 Clean Touch Dry Cleaning 916-366-6666  
 Pick-up & Drop-off Monday & Thursday

## Activities Corner by Barbara Higley

Warmer days are here again! Hopefully you are enjoying the outdoors with added color this time of year.

We will visit Granzella's, located in Williams, on **Wednesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>**. Granzella's is known for its old-world charm. Every department from the restaurant, to the deli, to the bakery, to the specialty items offered in the gift shop, has a unique piece of history and inviting menu that suits everyone's taste. Plan to join us for this adventurous spring outing.

On **Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup>**, residents will have the opportunity to enjoy the Sacramento Women's Chorus Spring Concert, "The Power of One" with one of our very own, Genelle Palmer, singing in the Chorus. Transportation will be provided by Campus Commons and tickets can be purchased online. For additional information, please see Genelle, or myself. A sign-up sheet is currently in place outside the Activity Center for those planning to attend. Our annual Armed Forces Day, Red, White & Blue Pancake Breakfast with special performance by the Sacramento Banjo Band is on **Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>**.

# Campus Commons

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 Thealise Wager, Evening Porters

Richard Beyerl  
 Chef/General Manager, Sodexo

## Christine's Comments

My husband promises to take me to Italy for our 30<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, which isn't for another three years. But, until that time, I'll be entertained and hopefully you will too, on May 3<sup>rd</sup> when Experience Italy presents an Armchair Travel to Italy. We'll sample some wines and cheese too, so you'll want to attend this presentation in the Cabaret Lounge.

It's that time of year when we pull out the BBQ and smell the delicious meats, chicken and ribs that Richard so expertly prepares for us. If you've never barbequed, which some of you haven't, Richard will show us how it's all pulled together from start to finish with some yummy samples too. Join us on Tuesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, when he hosts a BBQ Food Demo outside in the outdoor dining area. We'd like you to R.S.V.P. so we can be sure to have enough seating.

The ideal location for a picnic with others is at the Amador Flower Farm. This outing will be hosted by your Activities Director and is scheduled for Wednesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>. The farm is nestled in the valley of Plymouth and has a variety of more than 1000 different daylilies, a gift shop, nursery and acres of gardens in bloom. Barbara will provide the picnic and you get to enjoy all of the colors of the day.

We're bringing back Kitchen Tours twice a month on Tuesdays. If interested in finding out how Richard and his team pulls it off every day, we need you to sign up in the office, as space is limited. Check your calendar for dates and times.





**Library News by Pat Edmonds**

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 of the more popular authors.

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 that book harder to find again. I appreciate your desire to help, but it often creates more work for me.

I have recently heard comments about the “bottom shelf”. Using these shelves has 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. That is how I shelve books, as I cannot bend down either.

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.

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.

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, requests for books, or help, is always welcomed. Ask me personally, put a note in my in-house mailbox #329, or in the library basket.

**May Birthdays**

- Irene Garcia, May 5th
- Loretta Landers, May 11th
- Barbara Cross, May 15th
- Norm Eade, May 17th
- Lyn Gaskin, May 22nd
- Ann Paul, May 24th
- Yolanda Wright, May 25th
- Bill Becker, May 26th
- Joann Charamuga, May 28th
- Sarah Lagomarsino, May 28th
- Midge Stahelek, May 31st

**Library News continued...**

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



Please welcome new residents: Lu B. #248, Helen W. #210 & Marguerite S. #144.

**Garden Club**

We will purchase flowers this month for the garden club to plant and care for throughout the season. If you are interested in this activity and have a suggestion of flowers you would like to see on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor terrace and 1<sup>st</sup> floor back patio area, please let Barbara know. Otherwise, the colorful impatience plants of the past will be purchased for the back patio for all to enjoy.

**May’s Featured Resident**

The account of Betty Olson’s life was prepared as a regular feature of this month’s newsletter, with the expectation that it would add excitement to the celebration of her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Sadly, the day before her birthday Betty went into the hospital with pneumonia and passed away on her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, April 16<sup>th</sup>.

One hundred years old! Yes, Betty Olson just celebrated her one hundredth birthday! Betty has weathered her life so gracefully and so eventfully through so many years.

Of course, we must all report our date of birth on official documents, and Betty reports hers as 04/16/18. You’ve guessed it – that “18” suggests the computer that Betty’s year of birthday is 2018! And a person born in 2018 is obviously not entitled to Medicare, or much else. Fortunately, Betty is now getting help in straightening out confusion with Kaiser, as just one example of this computer glitch.

When Betty was born, her name was recorded as “Lucille Elizabeth Harding.” Yet, from earliest childhood, she’s been called Betty. Oh wait – except for high school, where her official transcript showed her birth name as “Lucille”; therefore, all through high school in Stockton, Betty’s teachers called her Lucille.

In 1943, just one year after the United States Naval Reserve (WAVES), was established, Betty joined that women’s branch of the Navy. During part of her training for WAVES, in Norman, Oklahoma, she met and married a fellow worker in the Navy Supply Department, Roy Olson.

After she finished her WAVES service in 1945, the couple moved to Sacramento. Then their children came along, with daughters arriving in 1950 and 1952. A significant event in Betty’s life from that point on was her husband’s insistence that she not “go to work,” but instead that she devote her time to the family. And Betty followed that wish – carrying on with a surprisingly energetic pursuit of volunteering experiences. Just consider a few of those volunteer activities: \*Campfire Girls leader for 13 years teaching leaders how to build fires, then continuing as a helper for a total of more than 20 years.

\*Sutter Hospital Auxiliary for 19 years in the recovery room with families awaiting information about their loved ones undergoing surgery.

\*Room mother for the PTA for eight years.

\*Knitting with Knit Pickers for the last three years at Campus Commons with knitted articles donated to the Assistance League. Besides her many years of volunteering, Betty spent those years being what can only be described as “neighbor extraordinaire”:

For 66 years, starting in 1948, Betty lived in a south Sacramento community, Tahoe Park, made up largely of veterans having returned from the war. Everyone knew everyone. The children all played together. Everyone was a friend! The women got together in the evenings to play pinochle, while the husbands watched the kids.

For 20 years after Betty’s husband retired, the couple traveled in the United States and Canada by mobile home, each year leaving in September and returning after Easter. For those several months every year, these “Trailer Club” neighbors congregated in a southern California trailer park, forming the “Trailer Club” – a close, long lasting community.

When she was 95, Betty’s friends at that Desert Hot Springs Sky Valley Trailer Park gave her a party. Now, at year 100, many have congratulated her again with visits and cards, to celebrate her proud 100-year-old legacy: friendship, community and service.

