

Voice of the Village

A Newsletter For and By the Residents of Town Center Village



White and Quiet at TCV

Scene from the Terrace 2nd floor sewing room facing the east walking pathway during last winter's snow storm.

Photo by Karen Taira, Terrace

INAUGURAL RESIDENT LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

It was a sunny crisp fall day at our Generations sister-facility CherryWood Village in Portland. The TCV Resident Council officers were there to participate in the first-ever resident leadership summit, a long-awaited dream of Generations President Melody Gabriel-White. In addition to CherryWood Village and Town Center Village, there were resident leaders from Paradise Village in San Diego, Wheatland Village in Walla Walla, Washington and Fairfield Village in Layton, Utah. The goal was to gather resident leaders and management teams together to share ideas, collaborate and support each other. The second day of the summit was a morning spent at TCV. Tours of both facilities were conducted and a wonderful dinner at the impressive hillside home of Wendell and Betsy White in Oregon City was held on the first evening.

Much discussion centered on the development of a "sense of home" in our communities for all residents starting from the initial period when a new resident moves in. The first ninety days' experience for new move-ins plays a crucial role in determining if and how long they will remain and how satisfied they feel. The total environment was considered, and ideas such as how welcoming and friendly the staff and residents are, the campus and apartment layout, and the programs offered all play a part in contributing to a feeling of being at home.

Disaster and emergency preparedness also generated much sharing of what communities are doing; such as coordination with local resources like the Red Cross and local fire department and sales of emergency kits.

A peek into future Generations projects was presented by the architect and development team. Several communities are in the works, some of them large in scale and projected for the next few years.

Just as important as the wealth of ideas shared was a sense of rapport and camaraderie generated among the participants. There was a feeling that we are all in this together and that we are all committed to doing what we can to improve and enhance our communities. The plan is to follow-up and start putting plans into action and sharing them with each other. The TCV contingent is hoping, not so secretly, to visit San Diego next year!

Karen Taira, Terrace



Congratulations Team Ducks, Champions of TCV 2017 Beanbag Baseball League!!

Seated left to right: Joan Johnson, Evelyn Huston, Julia Holmes and Mary Davenport. Standing left to right: Swede Johnson, Andy Nebergall and Frances Maurice.

Witches and Goblins, Oh My!

Bright rainbow-colored stockings were the first thing one noticed when Mollie Paige took the stage in the Fountains dining room on Halloween afternoon. For an hour, the popular singer regaled the crowd with tunes that highlighted various colors: "Yellow Rose of Texas", "Blue Suede Shoes", and many more. Terry Rose, Chief Operating Officer for Generations, then took the stage and emceed the Halloween costume contest. Three finalists for each category: Most Creative, Most Funny, and Best Duo/Group were called to the stage. Residents and staff were judged separately. One winner was chosen for each group and presented with a \$50 gift certificate.

Some disappointment was expressed, especially by balcony viewers, that not all the costumed participants could be seen. A few opined that maybe the audience could have had a say in determining winners.

Karen Taira, Terrace



**Most Creative
Shirley Lundstrum**



**Funniest
Marilyn Marsh**



**Best Duo Adele Wilder and
Enid Briggs**

Dear Prudence



Dear Readers: Don't you just love the Holiday Season? So much cheer and joy all around us! This year, I am continuing a long-held holiday tradition of mine. Years ago, I decided that at Christmas time, instead of gifts, I will be giving everyone my opinions.

-Peace and Love to You All, Prudence

Dear Prudence,

TCV is hosting a lovely New Year's Eve party this year. I have gotten my gumption up to ask a very nice young lady who lives on my floor in the Fountains to go to the party with me. We are supposed to wear our fanciest, dressiest outfits. I am really looking forward to this party, but it has been so long since I have gone to a fancy party. Tell me, Pru, among retirees my age, what is considered formal attire? *-Ready to Strut*

Dear Ready To Strut,

Tied shoes. No slippers.

-Velcro Also Works, Prudence

Dear Prudence,

I am quite upset about the annual Holiday Letter that I received from my cousin Cosina. She wrote, "I'm very busy this time of year, so I'll keep my holiday news letter brief. My family is much happier and more successful than yours, so you should be very jealous". So now I **am** very jealous and have lost all my Christmas spirit.

- The Glow Is Gone

Dear Gone Glow,

Oh my dear, quickly, let's get your Christmas spirit back. Just try what I do; I start dreaming of a white Christmas...but if the white runs out, I'll drink the red. *-Too Sassy (?), Prudence*

Dear Prudence,

At the Holiday Season I am again reminded that I am a hopeless romantic. And Pru, I get the sense that you are also. Is there hope for either of us?

- Too Many Romance Novels

Dear Never Too Many,

At my age I no longer believe in free love. But we can still hope for a Senior Citizen Discount.

Hopeful, not Hopeless, Romantic, Prudence

Dear Prudence,

How I dread the holidays! Every year the whole family gathers together for Christmas dinner. There are 21 of us and this family has more dim bulbs than a strand of Dollar Tree Christmas lights! Can you give me some words of wisdom as to how to survive? *-Feeling Like Scrooge*

Dear Scroogie,

Words of wisdom, by all means; helpful, maybe. It is a well-known fact that true happiness is having a large, close-knit family...in another city. And if that is not possible, slip some Prozac into the turkey stuffing.

-Santa's Favorite, Prudence



Dear Santa,

I was good at being naughty. Does that count?

Your Favorite, Prudence

Meet Your Neighbors



Nadine Hickenlooper (85) came to TCV from another retirement center that was “really bad”. Married for twenty- five years, she raised three boys and a girl. One boy and the girl are still living. “Thank God for the girl. She is my salvation.” (Her son paid for a cruise that she and her daughter enjoyed.) Nadine is almost an Oregonian having lived here since she was five years old. She worked in the office at Meier and Frank and later worked in personnel at Kaiser Permanente. When I asked what she would like people to know about her she responded, “The less the better.” She doesn’t like too many of the activities at the Fountains but she hurried me out so she wouldn’t be late for balloon volleyball. A conversation with Nadine is very interesting.



Marge Congress (79) has lived at TCV for over two years. She is a librarian with a Masters Degree from USC. Marge moved here to simplify her life. (She hates to cook.) In addition to Oregon, she has also lived in Florida, California, and a year and a half in England. Marge is very active at TCV. She has started a book club, and a group called the “Curiosity Club” which discusses various issues. Both clubs meet once a month. Marge has two children—a boy and a girl. The girl lives close and the boy lives in San Francisco. She really enjoys being with her children. Her favorite pastimes are reading and listening to classical music. She really likes it here at TCV because she meets and talks to people and sometimes solves problems. The residents here are like a family. She claims that hers is the smallest apartment in the Towers but is just right for her and her two cats, who let their desires be known.



Barbara Fuge (91) After living in a home in North Portland (close to University of Portland) for sixty five years, Barbara moved to TCV because the upkeep was just too much after her husband died. She came to TCV over three years ago because she had a friend who lived here and really liked it. She was looking forward to spending time with that friend and then that friend got married. Barbara has many foot and leg problems but that does not keep her from spending almost every weekend at the beach. Her husband was in the Navy and had spent some time in Hawaii which he did not enjoy. She convinced him to try it again and he liked it. Since that time, they spent one month in Hawaii every fall. Barbara continues that practice. She raised two boys and a girl and they all live close. Her son recently retired from the Canby Fire department. Barbara is easy to talk to. She says she has made good friends here and there are many things to do—she just doesn’t do them.



Betty Beckwith (93) has lived at TCV over three years, most of the time with her husband. Betty has had so many jobs, from being a teacher in a one room school in South Dakota to a professor at Portland State University with stops in between as an elementary school teacher, a school counselor and an active wife helping her husband with his many creative ventures. In her spare time she raised three girls who have supplied eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. After she and her husband retired they worked with missionaries in India, Singapore, Costa Rica, and many other countries including Paris, France. Betty taught English as a Second Language in the

mission schools while her husband helped with construction. (I don't think there are many missionaries in Paris.) They also remodeled one condo and built another in Hawaii where they spent many winters. She will go there in January. Faith is most important to Betty and religion is the center of her life. I found her easy to talk with and fun to listen to.



Charlotte Graber (90) Charlotte, a native Oregonian, has lived at TCV over ten years. At first she lived in a two-bedroom apartment hoping that her husband would soon be well enough to move in with her. She and her husband had nine children—there was twenty years difference between the youngest and the oldest. She has twenty-five grandchildren and seventeen great-grandchildren. At one family party there were fifty-two relatives. There were even more at her ninetieth birthday party. Charlotte met her husband at church. He worked in construction and in the insurance business. Charlotte was a nurse. A trip she and her husband took down through Texas and up into Canada in their RV is one of her many favorite memories. At TCV she likes beanbag baseball, golf putting, chimes, Wii bowling, gardening, and choir. Charlotte shares the care of some of the roses at TCV. She regrets that she never learned to swim. (I think she might still take it up.)

Her apartment is beautifully decorated with numerous pictures of relatives. Charlotte feels that she is a friendly person who likes to help people. I enjoyed our conversation.



Bev Mason (86) has lived at TCV for four years. Before moving to Portland, she had lived in Minnesota and Arizona. She and her husband raised three daughters; all are successful, working in various cities. Bev started her working life as a bookkeeper and then ran her own employment agency. This was a special type of employment agency because it worked with people who had difficulty finding jobs. (I suggested that they were handicapped but she said that she never considered them handicapped.) The agency covered nine states and had about forty employees. Since Christmas time was a very slow time in this business all her employees took vacation at this time. Bev arranged to take them all someplace together such as Las Vegas during this time. Bev enjoys bridge, canasta and attending plays. She seems very happy at TCV with her sixteen year old cat.

Employee of the Month for November 2017



Kate Jurgens is awesome at what she does, says her supervisor, Doug Mackaben. Kate has been at TCV since July 2009. She is the lead cook in the Fountains kitchen. She relates well with all residents, staff, visitors and anyone with whom she has contact. Her ability to cook is without question. She competes with Doug, in particular in the area of “best meatloaf” knowing full well that she will win, but “allows” him to go up against her just for FUN! Her kindness and smile, even under stressful circumstances, has made staff and residents appreciate Kate for the amazing service she provides. She embodies the TCV Mission statement. What a great avenue to enhance someone’s life, via food! Kate is married to Michael, and they like to hang out together, listen to music and watch television series. When her husband is willing, she likes to do a bit of traveling. Kate has family in Idaho and goes there whenever possible. Kate is focused on providing meals and good service to all staff and residents; for that we appreciate her and celebrate her.

Contributed by Laura Burr, Administrative Assistant, Fountains and Sandy Warrick, Human Resources Director



'TIS THE SEASON TO BE JOLLY

Yes, be jolly, and if you live at TCV you will also be entertained. The Terrace dining room will be the center of action, starting on **Dec 3rd** with the School of Polynesian Dance, one of over a dozen events which are scheduled for the month. If you want to shop for holiday giving, but don't want to fight the crowds, on **Dec 4th** there will be over 30 vendors at the Village Bazaar. Then on the **5th** the Village Birthday Party happens. On the **8th** there will be a piano recital and a quartet to entertain us; the next day the Studio Dance Academy will be here. The String Connections will be here on the evening of the **11th**. On the **13th** we will all go over to the Generations offices and the reception area on the 2nd floor of the Towers for the Generations Open House. This is always a wonderful party, and it gives us a chance to thank the White and Gabriel families, and all the Generations staff, for our lovely Village. Be sure to check on the times for these events, as they vary.

At 11:00 AM the next morning our own Chimes Choir will be in the dining room, with beautiful holiday music. Rest up on the afternoon of the **14th**; that evening, from 5:30 to 7:00, we will all be wined and dined, when the kitchen and staff pull out all the stops for the annual Village Holiday Celebration. Not only will the food be great, the Westside Singers will be there to entertain us.

Our own Village Voices have been working for weeks on their holiday repertoire and they will be in the dining room at 2: 00 PM on the **19th** ready to give us even more holiday spirit. As of this date that is all the entertaining scheduled, but be sure to check the flyers and notice boards. Shirley tells us that there may be even more to come. Happy Holidays!

Rosie Thiers, Towers

Holiday Traditions

Holidays are the time for family traditions to come alive. Several TCV residents shared their early holiday traditions. As young adults, **Clara Falkenrath** and her sisters all lived in central California. They wanted to celebrate Christmas together, and came up with the idea of having Christmas Eve dinner together, then exchanging gifts that night, with each family returning to their homes for Christmas day. Since Clara's home was between the others, allowing everyone to get home for the next day, she always hosted the celebration. At first there were just the sisters and spouses, then a few children arrived. As time went by the number of children and grandchildren increased. Clara remembers one year there were over 30 for dinner and gift opening. It was a long and happy night.

Karen Taira grew up in Hawaii. Because there is no weather change to announce Christmas, her father would drive them to downtown Honolulu to see the beautiful lights and to get in the spirit. Santa arrived each year in a canoe on the beach at Waikiki. He wore the traditional red hat, and a pair of red shorts. If it was cold enough he wore an aloha shirt. Since there are few chimneys in Hawaii, she tells us that on Christmas Eve they left the lanai door ajar.

Betty Hirota's family celebrated New Years Day in the traditional Japanese way of completely cleaning the house from top to bottom, and fixing food for all the visitors who would come on the first of the year. Because the family had a bakery, with living quarters upstairs, Betty remembers that as a girl her week between December 25 and January first was spent scrubbing and cleaning the bakery and the house. She remembers it as a very happy time.

Now for a tradition from my own childhood. Every Christmas Eve we would put the gifts under the tree, and have a supper of oyster stew before opening them. I always looked forward to the after-dinner event, but not the oysters. Still, tradition is important so every year we had oyster stew. I asked my brother if he liked it, and he told me that he didn't but it was important to our father because his family always ate oyster stew on Christmas Eve. One year, when I reached the rebellious teen years, I got up the nerve to say I didn't like oysters. To my surprise my mother said she hated them, and my father said he did too. So...that one tradition was finally gone.

Rosie Thiers, Towers



ZOMBIE INVASION AT THE VITALITY CENTER

During October the Vitality Center held an exercise contest in which participants competed by doing exercises while avoiding Zombies which obstructed their progress and added to the excitement of the game. Credit was given for each week of at least four hours of exercise.

A \$10 local gift card was awarded to five residents credited with three or four weeks: Betty Hirota, Diane Klingman, Mary Litch, Joe Mantia and Jerry Thiers. A gift card of \$5 for one or two weeks was given to five residents: Gene Crumpton, Stan Hirota, Evelyn Huston, Judy Kuretich, Tanya Senn, and Ida Bauman, four off-campus members: Kay Haberlach, Xaviar Williams, Jenna Nelson, and Jessica Tarulo, as well as to staff members: Josh Hillard, Stephanie Ribas-Stepp, Lisa Walker, Tom Tritz, Jamie Raskauskas, Lynda Sinnott, Veronica Storm, Cheryl Talaraczy, and Denise Dorgan-Miller.



Prize winners or not, all enjoyed and benefited from the exercise; hopefully they are continuing at the pace established during the contest. I know I am!

Jerry Thiers, Towers



Look Ma, no hands! The secret of the driver-less car.

Contributed by David Leavenworth, Towers

WELCOME

Terrace
Kay Matsumoto

Towers
Dennis Kucera

Gables
Joy Foggia

Fountains
Joyce Foster
Theodore Weber

In Memoriam

Richard Chan
Dortha "Dottie" Force
Doris Miller
Elmore Mostul
Thelma Snyder



The Newsletter team wishes all of you a Blessed Holiday Season! Thank you for your support.

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