

Townehouse Management Team

Administration

Executive Director Evan Granucci
 Director of Marketing Samantha Crisp

Customer Service Front Desk

Office Manager Antoine Guerrier II
 Concierge Supervisor Jazmine Dominguez
 Concierge Hazmin Garay
 Chantel Hernandez
 Alyssa Mora

Resident Relations

Social Services Kimm Bryan
 Director of Activities Anne Howorth
 Fitness Frank Jackson

Clinical Services

Health & Wellness Director Marissa Fontanilla
 Assisted Living Nurse Marina Shrauger

Memory Care Director Kimmi Bryan

Food Service

Director of Food Services Salvador Alvarez
 Dining Room Manager Sean Trujillo

Housekeeping

Director of Housekeeping Alejandra Hernandez
 Janitor Leo Brizuela
 Janitor Raul Quintana

Maintenance

Chief Engineer Steve Drake
 Assistant Engineer Cliserio Meza
 Maintenance Armando Ruiz
 Arnulfo Ruiz

Transportation

Bus Driver María De Los Reyes
 Townehouse Car Chauffer Greg Nicely



Employee of the Month Congratulation! Adela Diaz



Adela has worked at the Townehouse for five years. She loves all our residents, especially the ones on the sixth floor, where you can find her almost everyday with a helpful smile. She has four sisters and one brother. Two of her sisters, and her brother also work at the Townehouse. Adela has been happily married to her husband Israel for five years and when she not working they both enjoy traveling to our many National parks.

Photo of the Month



VENTURA TOWNEHOUSE

CALIFORNIA'S CROWN JEWEL IN RETIREMENT LIVING

April 2018



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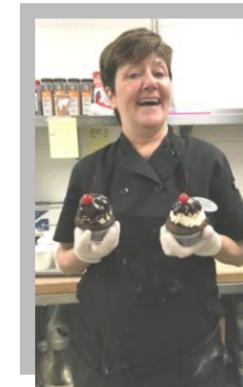
April Holidays

April at the Townehouse

Nice Cupcakes, Brigid!



April 1st Easter Sunday



We are happy to welcome our new pastry chef, Brigid Miklas, to our team here at the Ventura Townehouse. Brigid comes to us with a wealth of experience. After her schooling she started her own pastry catering company. She continued her education, attending classes at the French pastry institute in Chicago. She later became the head baker and manager for Gi Gi's cupcakes. Brigid moved here recently from Los Angeles, but has lived all over the United States, including Philadelphia and Atlanta. Whenever anyone asks her where she's from, she always says "St. Louis," because that's where she grew up with her close and loving family. Brigid and her husband, Rob, have raised two children, Monica and John, who live in Los Angeles and San Diego, respectively, with their significant others. As you all can guess from her delicious desserts, baking is her passion. And you'll be happy to know that she spends her free time experimenting with new recipes to bring even more treats to all of us here at the Townehouse.

April 22nd Earth Day



I wanted to thank Ventura Townehouse for making my visit with my mom, Lois Argend, so special! I returned to Chicago grateful for the fun times we shared and the memories we made. There is a friendly warm atmosphere that seems to be contagious. The residents and staff made me feel so welcomed. We had so many activities to keep us entertained. Our favorites were Rummikub, exercise, bingo and the live music. I already miss my new friends and my mom!



April 27th Arbor Day

Thank you,
 Janie Hollingsworth

INTRODUCING STEFAN MASIEL



Stefan was born in Poland in 1923 and lived there until World War II started. Germany and Russia divide Poland. Germany attacked Poland on September 19, 1939. The war did not last very long as the Russians came from the other side of Poland and occupied eastern Poland where Stefan lived. Stefan was 16 years old and still going to school. One morning when Stefan's family woke up, the vacant fields across from his home were occupied by Russian troops; they now lived under Russian occupation. One night in May of 1940 there was a knock on the door, when they opened the door there stood the Russian police with a neighbor. This was their system of arresting people. The police said to Stefan's parents, "We want to ask your son a couple of questions. We'll take him to the police station and he'll be back in the morning." His mother had a feeling it was going to be more than an interrogation.

That was the last time Stefan saw his parents. Stefan was taken to a local prison where he was accused of being an enemy of the Soviet Union because he was a Boy Scout. That was an excuse the Russians used if you were a Boy Scout, if you had any connection with the government, if you belonged to a religious organization you would be arrested. Stefan spent six months in a Polish Prison.

One morning Stefan was told by his Russian officer interrogator that he was sentenced by a secret corps in Moscow to eight years of forced hard labor at a camp in Siberia. This was sentencing that Stefan and others had expected. In June, 1941, Stefan found himself in a place called Vorkuta above the Arctic Circle. From the guards, their inmates later heard that Germany had again attacked Russia and troops were almost in Moscow. Stefan was released from prison later in 1941. The Russians had become very confused. They were so preoccupied with the war that they released all political prisoners in hopes they would join the Russian army to fight the German's. With the prisoners in such a terrible physical condition, however, the Russians gave them a ticket to go to the warmer southern part of Russia to recuperate. A group of us found ourselves very close to the Afghanistan border. So, one night we crossed the border, because they knew Afghanistan was under British occupation.



Stefan found himself in Baghdad, Iraq. There he joined the Polish Army, which was based in England. He had a choice of staying in the Army or volunteering for the Air Force. Expecting to go with the Army to invade Italy, he instead received orders to go to England. However, with a group of thirty, they traveled to Syria, Palestine, India and finally South Africa. Here they waited about a month for a ship to be in a convoy because of the dangers of U-boats. Ultimately, they were placed on a former passenger ship, now requisitioned for troops, called the "Empress of Canada." They left Durban in March 1943, with about 1800 people on board. These included 400 Italian prisoners of war and 200 Poles who had been released by the Soviet Union after Germany invaded Russia.

On the night of March 13, the "Empress" was torpedoed twice by the Italian submarine "Leonardo da Vinci," and she sank within 20 minutes. There were 392 fatalities: 340 passengers including most of the Italian prisoners, 44 crew and 8 gunners. Stefan managed to get on a life boat and after three days was rescued by a British Destroyer. He witnessed many people in the water being attacked by sharks, and he lost many friends. The survivors were taken to Freetown and from there resumed their trip to England on the large ship "Mauretania."

He arrived in England in May, 1943, and immediately started to train for the Air Force. Stefan became a fighter pilot and in the invasion of Normandy, France, he flew a Spitfire for the Polish Air Force, a part of the Royal Air Force. In 1945 the war was over, but he was still in the Air Force when he met his wife Eileen at a dance hall in Bath, England. They were married in 1947. With their two children the family immigrated from England to Vancouver, Canada, in 1957. They later moved to Ventura. Stefan worked for different electronic companies as a design engineer until he retired in 1988.

COMMUNITY APPRECIATION BREAKFAST



We have all experienced reading the local hometown Breeze paper. At the Community Appreciation Breakfast, we learned how it all got started. Sheldon Brown is the owner, editor, and as he puts it, delivery boy. He began his paper adventure only 11 years ago. It happened when his daughter, Stacy, went off to school and began writing for the high school paper. At the same time Sheldon had just moved to Ventura. Sheldon, being the curious person that he is, read the local paper trying to get a feel for his new community, but he was not getting the information on a personal level about the community's people. That is when Sheldon decided he would take his daughter out to lunch to pick her brain about the school newspaper and to ask her what she thought about both of them starting up a local newspaper. Stacy's response was, "Are you out of your mind?"

More than that, he would eventually close his architecture business which he had established in 1968. He would go for years with his wife saying to him, "We are making money off the newspaper, right?" And of course, he was not. He said he viewed this as an adventure and the worst that could happen is that he would lose the newspaper, and it did not really matter because he started out without one to begin with. Since then, Sheldon is on another adventure he now hosts a radio show at KPPQLP 104 FM.

Sheldon introduced us to Breezy (yes, Breezy works for the "Breeze"), his trusty assistant, whom he met while she worked as a waitress at the diner he frequented. It is one of the main reasons he hired her. Once we got to know Breezy we understood it went much deeper than that. Born in Burbank, California, Breezy said she got her nick name from her mother and has always been called that. She said her two brothers also had nick names. Sheldon said he would not exist without her. That was obvious when he went to introduce her and could not find her. Then he realized she had jumped up to get the camera to take our pictures as we were talking in front of the Ventura Townehouse residents. Breezy is his efficient assistant and a bright star.

March winners of the drawings are Margie Jacobson who won the \$25.00 cash prize and Joe Szerwo who got the \$10.00 cash prize for the Q & A drawing.

Samantha Crisp, Director of Marketing

Introducing Joan Egeris



Joan was born in Nashua, New Hampshire, on January 7, 1936, to Lithuanian parents. They lived in Hudson, New Hampshire, on a poultry farm where she was active in two 4H Clubs. She won a trip to the National 4H Club Congress representing New Hampshire in the gardening division. Joan graduated from Nashua High School with salutation honors. She graduated from Boston, Massachusetts, Simmons College, obtaining a diploma in physical therapy. She continued her studies at Harvard Medical School in pursue of a career in physical therapy. After college she was employed and worked at Children's Hospital in San Francisco. After moving to Ventura, she secured a

position as Director of Rehabilitation Services at St John's hospital in Oxnard; she was director for 25 years. During this time, Joan went to night school and earned a master's degree in Health Care Management from La Verne College. Joan went on to open her own private practice in Health Care Services, focusing on in-home care. She worked with Livingston Memorial Care Services providing care for residents in their homes and she also provided services for people here at the Townehouse.

December of last year, Joan lost her home in the Thomas fire. She is grateful we could find her a home here at the Townehouse as her house was burned to the ground and she lost everything.

She has many interests and hobbies including travel (she has visited 140 countries), walking, cooking, going to the theatre, music and reading.

Her motto: "We have only one body and mind – take care of them with love."