

# VENTURA TOWNEHOUSE

CALIFORNIA'S CROWN JEWEL IN RETIREMENT LIVING

## JANUARY 2021



VENTURA TOWNEHOUSE  
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### January Holidays

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*January 1<sup>st</sup>  
New Year's Day*



*January 16<sup>th</sup>  
Martin Luther King Day*

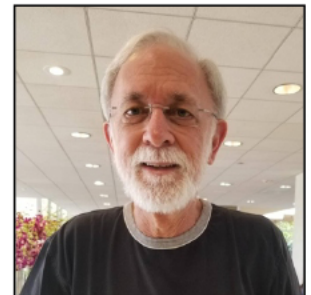


## Happy New Year Ventura Townehouse! 2021

Holiday bonus checks were written to 134 employees and issued on December 15<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to resident board treasurer Sandy Thieme for promoting the gratuity fund and for writing all the checks. Full - time employees received checks of \$220. All employees express their appreciation for this generous gift given with love and kindness just before the Christmas holiday.



Last month Sandy announced her retirement from the resident board treasury position. The board thanked her for seventeen years of devoted service. Greg Morgan will take up the position of board treasurer starting in January 2021.



### Ms. January Helen Stackhouse



In her younger years, Helen modeled clothes for stores in Santa Barbara and Montecito. Her first husband was a building contractor building homes in California and Hawaii. She has fond memories of living in Hawaii. After her husband passed, she joined a travel group based in Hueneme Bay. She has traveled to Europe twice. Helen enjoys relaxing with a good novel. She maintains her spirituality by meditating each day. Now being retired she enjoys her life here at the Townehouse. She has made many new friends and enjoys the social activities.

## INTRODUCING OUR TOWNEHOUSE RESIDENT BOARD MEMBERS



### **Terry Gibson, Board President**

I spent my working years as an Enrolled Agent, specializing in taxes and accounting. I retired 16 years ago and stayed busy with the woman's group that promotes women to run for public office. I was president of that group for 2 years, PAC treasure, for 6 years. Prior to that, I was a president of my synagogue, and served on the regional board (serving 6 states) as vice president of the new memberships.

I moved here in early February and enjoy the people, staff, and our lovely grounds. I resisted taking office as president of the resident's association, and even offered to sweep floors instead, but relented since it appeared no one else was interested in the job. Now that I am elected, I will do my best to perform the duties of the office as stated in by-laws.



### **Maxine Snelgrove, Secretary**

Being an extrovert with lifelong secretarial skills, I count it a pleasure to be your resident council secretary. Leaving my hometown in WNY, I was employed at Cornell University. I married my returning Korean Vet and moved to California. With several moves back and forth to NY, CA, and fourteen years in Portland, Oregon, I was mom to 3 girls and 3 boys which has presently multiplied to 26 great-grandchildren. Family activities, real estate sales and MLS office service, toy party management sales, elementary school office manager, and retirement traveling have filled up the years to now. Never one to lack for something to do, I read, crochet, spend time on my computer and play games, particularly cards. I'm looking forward to a return of Resident's meetings and your faithful participation.



### **Vlad Fajnor, Vice President**

As the son of immigrant parents from Czechoslovakia, I spent my school years in Chicago and earned a Mechanical Engineering degree from Illinois Institute of Technology. In those days ROTC helped pay the way, so I was in the Air Force for two years. Arlene and I spent a brief time in Long Island but mostly Minneapolis/St. Paul. I was employed as a Tech Rep for 34 years at Hughes Aircraft. We lived for fifty years in Woodland Hills where we reared our five sons. I volunteered twenty years with the YMCA and was very active in our church as a head usher and board trustee.



### **Radell Mitchell, TowneMart Manager**

I consider being the chairwoman (manager) of the TowneMart as one of the best things about living at the Townehouse. It gives me structure to my week. We have a great group of volunteers and I think we all agree we have enjoyed helping people get the things they need during these tough times. I took this job last December when the former manager retired, and the shop was going to close if someone didn't step up. I have volunteered with various organizations. My career was as a legal assistant and I worked for several large firms in Spokane, WA where I lived for 33 years. I was born in Denver, CO and still miss Colorado. I hope 2021 is a much better year for us all. Happy New Year!



### **Leslie Wright, Librarian**

Leslie became the Ventura Townehouse Librarian because she ran in to the former librarian, Barbara Hurwitz, one day, and mentioned if Barbara ever needed any help, to consider her. Leslie offered because she was new to Ventura Townehouse and did not know many people. It was not long before Barbara was ready to hand over the reins of librarian to Leslie. We are happy she is here keeping us and our lovely books in order. Leslie's passion is reading and wishes to pass that on to anyone she meets and especially to our youth.



## 2020 CHRISTMAS TREE CONTEST



**The basement tree** was decorated by Marilyn Westberg and tied for first place. All the decorations are handmade. The collection of delicate crocheted snowflakes were given to Marilyn from her mother over many years. The handmade angels, made by Marilyn and members of her church, were given out each year as gifts.

**The first-floor tree** was decorated using many of Eleanor Songer's decorations. Eleanor's caregiver did a beautiful arrangement. Dottie Leimert added the tinsel. We have all enjoyed passing and pausing to ponder the beauty of this tree. The snowy owls nestled in the tree and variety of birds make this tree a joy to look at.

**The second-floor tree** had a creative start. Terry Gibson, John White, Myrna Baily, Alice Reed and Rena Mitchell gathered and agreed to decorate this tree with hanging masks, surgical gloves, and toilet paper rolls. they named it the "Covid Tree." It was the most creative tree! It stirred up conversation and controversy. While some residents thought it was unique, creative and a clear winner, others saw it as inappropriate. After much feuding, the tree sat dark and bare. It was brought back to life with a dousing of bright lights. When Jan Christmann saw it, she renamed it the "Gratitude Tree." Jan covered the tree with signs of Peace, Love, Gratitude and Kindness. She then placed a peace dove on the top. This tree tied for first place.

**The third-floor tree** was decorated by Barbara Bean, Charles and Marjorie Cole, and Gloria Rodriguez. Charles added additional colored lights and many unique little trinkets from their own collection. Barbara added all the gold and silver decorations, and Gloria provided a special touch by adding decoration around the bottom of the tree.

**The fourth-floor tree** won the prize for community collaboration. The decorating theme, by Maxine Snelgrove and Cheryl Hodge, was completed with several floormates gathered for a festive decorating party. Once tables were set up at a safe distance everyone set to work creating decorations from used coffee cup lids and lunch sandwich boxes. The planning process for this tree goes way back when everyone was asked to save their sandwich boxes and coffee cup lids. Joe Potucky made a creative Christmas wreath from trash items which reads; "The Grinch says one man's TRASH is another man's TREASURE". This tree won second place.

**The fifth-floor tree** is beautifully decorated with a color theme of silver and ocean blue. The glass snowflakes are elegant. This tree is unique with a touch of Hanukkah and a beachy feel.

**The sixth-floor tree** has a wonderful collection of birds and topped with a peace dove in flight. Homemade Christmas greeting cards gave it a special touch. This tree won third place.

**The seventh-floor tree** was decorated by Judy Burke using Betty Pacocha's decorations.



**Thank you to our judges Nancee & Harvey.**

# Townehouse Management Team

## Administration

Executive Director Evan Granucci

## Marketing Directors

Nancee Borgnine  
Harvey Marasigan

## Customer Service Front Desk

Office Manager Antoine Guerrier II  
Concierge Supervisor Jazmine Dominguez

## Director of Activities Fitness

Anne Howorth  
Frank Jackson

## Director of Health Services

Marissa Fontanilla

## Director of Memory Care

Erika Rocha

**Director of Social Services** Kimmi Bryan

**Director of Food Service** Joe Messina

## Housekeeping

Director of Housekeeping Alejandra Hernandez

## Maintenance

Chief Engineer Steve Drake  
Assistant Engineer Cliserio Meza

## Transportation

Bus Driver María De Los Reyes

## Letter from Helmut Hoenigsberg

To:

The Ventura Townehouse Management & General Staff

As we are approaching the end of 2020, I am trying to collect my thoughts. I realize that I have certainly fallen behind and neglected to express myself with a "THANK YOU" for your being just YOU.

It was certainly a tough year. It made some of us grow up, some became parents, a few have gotten sick and some have moved. We, The OLDIES, certainly did not get any younger. A few have parted and a few new arrivals have joined us in our Little Paradise, The Ventura Townehouse.

Collecting our thoughts, we must realize how very lucky we really are to be here in this Ventura Townehouse. Count your blessings, I do!

It is so easy to find fault and to complain. It just rolls off our sleeves, to be cranky or make a sour face. Let me tell you, this is from many years of experience, a smile, a please, a kind word and a thank you will get you much further and is certainly more rewarding. If you have not tried it, give it a chance!

This pandemic, Covid-19, has not only changed us, it has changed the whole world. Our own election with its politics, still ongoing crises did and does not help our morale either.

Coming to the point, The Ventura Townehouse Leadership, The Department Heads, The Supervisors and The General Staff, you ALL deserve our thanks and appreciation for having carried on and stuck by us so very loyally. Your ongoing kindness, caring and willingness to assist is much appreciated.

I personally would like to extend my gratitude and love to each and every one of you, for sticking with us and being you – thank you!

Happy Holidays and A Better More Peaceful New Year 2021

Sincerely yours,  
Friend and resident,  
Helmut

