

# VENTURA TOWNEHOUSE

CALIFORNIA'S CROWN JEWEL IN RETIREMENT LIVING

November 2021



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## November Holidays

*Daylight Savings Ends*  
**November 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Veterans Day**  
**November 11<sup>th</sup>**



**Thanksgiving**  
**November 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Hanukkah Begins**  
**November 28<sup>th</sup>**



## November at the Townehouse



### Man of the Month, Greg Morgan

Greg was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, but was raised from age 8 in a Connecticut suburb of New York City. His college and postgraduate education took place in Michigan and Chicago, but for much of his adult life, he worked in Florida as a software designer for several major corporations. Before developing those computer skills, he served two United Church of Christ churches as an ordained minister. Greg and his wife Nancy have been married for 33 years—second marriages for both. They met when they were both cast in a play at a community theatre in Hollywood, Florida.

Nancy was the mother of two sons and a daughter, and Greg was the father of one son, all of whom were fully grown and on their own. Theatre remained a lifelong passion for both Nancy and Greg, although nowadays, they enjoy it as audience members rather than as actors. They lived for seven years in the New York metro area, enjoying the energy and the cultural opportunities of the “City That Never Sleeps.” But as they increasingly felt the age-related changes in their lives, they considered moving to a place like the Townehouse. But where? Meanwhile, Nancy’s daughter and granddaughter were living in Los Angeles County. Result: for the past three and half years, Nancy and Greg have lived in one of the Townehouse’s garden apartments with Oreo, the world’s best dog.

### Thursday November 11<sup>th</sup> Veterans Day



Bring your Veteran photo down to the front lobby to be displayed on the tables provided. Join us at 2pm in the Rose Garden for a special patriotic program.

## TOWNEHOUSE NEWS

### A Warm Welcome to Dave Lenehan



I'm a first-generation native Californian. I was born a stone's throw from Los Angeles in Huntington Park. Until I married, I lived in Los Angeles and graduated from Franklin High School and Cal State LA. After college I had three employers: the City of Los Angeles, the State of California and "Ma Bell" (Pacific Telephone and AT&T). The first parts of my career involved civil engineering jobs while the latter parts were varying assignments in both California and New Jersey. They included product management, marketing, advertising, international operations, an AT&T mail-order subsidiary and working with state and local government agencies. Of all the jobs, the most rewarding were during my last two years. It included representing AT&T in meetings with governors and non-profit organizations throughout the country to place computers in elementary, middle and high schools at minimal cost to the states' taxpayers. I also coordinated a program in San Francisco that took the concept further and provided computers and printers to disadvantaged families when the elementary students' parents took free, AT&T-sponsored evening computer classes.

I have three children who all received their undergraduate degrees from UC Santa Barbara: a son living in Ventura, a daughter in Santa Barbara and a son in Florida. I'm not sure they're telling the whole truth, but the two local ones say they're glad I'm finally living closer to them and their families.

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### Introducing Bryan Gross



I was Born in beautiful downtown Burbank, the first of three children followed by two sisters who all grew up in the San Fernando Valley.

In school I started playing the drums in elementary school and then all the way through high school and beyond. Performed with a multiple time national and international Championship Marching Band, competing all over the US and Canada. Then I Became a marching band instructor for several high schools in the Los Angeles area and held many championship titles as an instructor.

I learned how to cook from one of the best teachers ever, my mom, whose recipes I still use to this day. While working at one of the many restaurants in my life, I met my wife, who worked with me creating a catering division where we created many happy events with over 1000 weddings, anniversaries, birthdays, and Academy Awards spectaculars. My experience also includes serving as the Director of Food and Beverage/Executive Chef for hotels and restaurants including the iconic Sportsman's Lodge in Studio City, CA, Director of Dining Operations with the World Famous Hollywood Palladium and Executive Chef of South Street Philly Cheese Steaks, overseeing locations at Dodger Stadium, the Great Western Forum and the Staples Center, and most recently as Executive Chef/Director of Dining Services in Senior Living. With over 40 plus years of experience of teaching and food service, I look forward to continuing making as many more people happy as possible here at the Townehouse.

### Phyllis Dimant “Cookie”



Cookie was born in Warsaw, Poland, in 1937 to Cy and Emma Korentajer. When Cookie was ten years old her family fled the Nazis, eventually making their way to the United States with stops in China and Japan. Growing up in Los Angeles, she enjoyed taking ballet classes and she graduated from Beverly Hills High School.

Cookie met her husband Mark Dimant in Los Angeles, where he and his mother had settled after becoming liberated from the Gunskirchen Lager concentration camp. When Mark’s father saw Phyllis, he named her “Takaya Kukla,” which means “such a doll.” Her husband later shortened her name to “Cookie”. Mark and Cookie married in 1956.

They were married 56 years when Mark died from prostate cancer.



Shortly after her husband's obituary ran in the newspaper, Cookie received a note from retired dentist John P. Arnold. Arnold had seen that Mark Dimant was a Jewish survivor of Gunskirchen Lager, a Nazi concentration camp in Austria that was liberated in May of 1945 by the 71st Division of the Army. In 1945, Arnold was a 19-year-old infantry soldier in the 71st Division. After Arnold sent Cookie the note, she called the retired dentist, and they found out that for years, they lived within blocks OF each other in Oxnard.

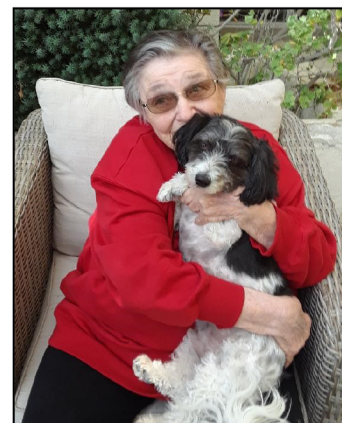
"Who knows? Maybe we passed each other at Albertsons or some other store," said Diane Arnold, who sat and listened as her husband and Cookie exchanged recollections of a horrific time.

Two men inexorably tied together by war had lived within walking distance of one another in Oxnard. Only after one died did their stories join again. Cookie was sympathetic. She said her husband rarely would talk about his experiences in the Holocaust.

Cookie later donated some of her husband's belongings from World War II to the Holocaust Museum to make sure the memories are preserved.

Today Cookie enjoys her community at Temple Beth Torah. She attends with her special friend Gerard, who she refers to as her adopted son.

Cookie has three children, nine grandchildren, and fourteen great grandchildren. She enjoys crocheting blankets and donates them to Project Linus. Project Linus is a nationwide charity that provides love, security, warmth, and comfort to children who are seriously ill. If you enjoy knitting or crocheting and you would like to contribute, join Cookie on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 in the Dining Room Lounge. Oh! and she just made a new friend. “Oreo” Oreo and Cookie go together.



## Townehouse Management Team

### Administration

Executive Director           Evan Granucci  
Executive Assistant         Justine Perigo

**Marketing Directors**         Harvey Marasigan  
  Nancee Borgnine

### Customer Service Front Desk

Director of Concierge         Antoine Guerrier II  
Services

**Director of Activities**         Anne Howorth  
**Fitness**                         Frank Jackson

**Director of Health**             Marissa Fontanilla  
**Services**

**Director of Memory**         Erika Rocha  
**Care**

**Director of Social Services**   Kimmi Bryan

**Director of Culinary**         Bryan Gross  
**Services/Executive Chef**

**Housekeeping**                 Alejandra Hernandez  
Director of Housekeeping

**Maintenance**                 Steve Drake  
Chief Engineer                 Cliserio Meza  
Assistant Engineer

**Transportation**                María De Los Reyes  
Bus Driver



## Employee of the Month Congratulations to Christina Ortiz



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## Resident Bulletin

Dear Resident Family.

I was very happy to see more residents at the last resident meeting.

A note to you all: The health department is asking that we wear masks, but it is not mandatory, so when you see people with or without masks it should not be a problem. In our last testing here in the tower, we were all negative and I just continue to hope that all tests will come back negative. Although Covid infections are down, please continue to take care of yourselves. If you go out to eat, use the outdoor areas that are all up and down Main Street. We are hoping that outdoor eating and the cute, but temporary outside restaurants will become permanent. I contacted our city council person (Mike Johnson) and he is proposing that we keep main street closed to traffic and keeping it a pedestrian walk way. At least for the coming year it will remain, and it's such fun to go in and out of the stores on Main and then have a Pizza or sandwich at the outdoor restaurant of your choice. Our activity department has scheduled an outing to main street this month. So be sure to sign up in the Dining Room Lounge.

Last month I suggested that I am available to any of you to help whatever may be bothering you. And I repeat here that I would be happy to assist you in getting what you need or want if possible. Again, my phone number is 805-407-7322. Have a good Thanksgiving month - we have much to be thankful for.  
Terry Gibson, Townehouse President

