

VENTURA TOWNEHOUSE

CALIFORNIA'S CROWN JEWEL IN RETIREMENT LIVING



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**December
2023**

**December
Holidays**

***Hanukkah
begins 7th***



Happy
Hanukkah

Christmas



New Year's Eve



Hanukkah

Please join Rabbi Latowicz and Marty Flam for our annual **Hanukkah Party** on Thursday 14th at 2:30pm.

Christmas at the Townehouse

December is an action-packed month, with lots of groups reaching out to us to visit and perform. We will be entertained by numerous caroling groups as well as musicians and youth performers.

Our **Holiday Party** is on Wednesday 13th at 2pm with music by Steve Ormond.



New Year

It's difficult to believe that we are saying goodbye to 2023 and hello to 2024. It's a time of reflection of all that has happened during the year, the good times full of joy and laughter as well as the not so good times. But we have made it through and look forward to the new year with all its possibilities. What are your memories of the year?

Our **New Year's Eve Party**, on Sunday 31st, will start at 7pm with music by Bob Bishop and Rod Robles. The countdown and ball drop will be at 9pm.

Spotlight on Wendell Morriset

Wendell was born in Lubbock, Texas in 1925. He had a happy 63-year marriage to wife Jeanne, and a successful career in a few professions. He served as a Marine Corps officer in World War Two, a bank president and then was the right-hand man to the late Oxnard developer, Martin V “Bud” Smith as well as working as a real estate broker in partnership with his wife. He also served as president of the Oxnard Chamber of Commerce and was on the board of the Channel Islands National Bank.

Wendell became a member of Channel Islands Yacht Club in 1976 and Commodore in 1977. He presided over vast improvements to CIYC including building what is now the main dining room and raising the \$86,000 needed for the project. He wrote the by-laws, negotiated a long lease agreement with Channel Islands Marina and ran an active boating program including frequent trips to Santa Cruz Island. Over the years, Wendell served as Commodore, Director, Chaplain and Historian.



Wendell says that the key to his long life is a daily cigar and a “Pink Squirrel” cocktail. (A shot of Scotch with one ice cube that he named himself). We are so happy that Wendell is living with us here at the Townehouse.

Don Bowles: How to turn 100 without really trying



Don Bowles says living to 100 is easy. “I go to the gym twice a day when it’s open... ride the elevator five floors: not a rough commute. Also eat lots of vegetables... are these things hard to do? I don’t understand what people are doing with their time who aren’t exercising – everyone here has done harder things; it’s not like we’re being asked to become fluent in other languages.”

Incidentally, Don was fluent in Russian for years, so he certainly has done harder things. He eviscerated turkeys and bagged groceries as a youth and was a professional singer before giving it up for a career in academia. After graduate degrees and a PhD from Columbia he became the world’s top expert on Russian timber; spending years in Moscow on special projects – while living in Maryland and teaching Economics at American University in DC. Because of his extended time in the USSR, you might think Don was a CIA agent. “Ridiculous” he says, “I’m terrible at keeping secrets.” Don retired as VP of American University... where he greatly strengthened the faculty team by removing dead wood (that means kicking out low performers). The University still has boxes of his published papers, and he earned many prestigious awards.

“Very few people are interested in this stuff, even after the work I did for the CIA was declassified...” wait, I thought he didn’t work for the CIA?! Whatever. Don doesn’t spend much time talking about the past. He’s more interested in what you think about the world around us right now, and what you’re doing about it. When he’s not keeping up with the news and refuting rumors about his life, Don spends time pushing the TH management team on improvements. “What a privilege it is to live in a beautiful, high-quality place like this. Being around for a long time is easy; just give up the booze, exercise, and eat right. Speaking of exercise, why isn’t the gym open more often? 6 days a week would be nice; and it wouldn’t be hard to do.”

*About the author: Brian Cargille, like most people, wants to be more like Don. He is the son of TH resident Brenda Knight, and the retired Sr. VP of Operations at HP... who now teaches group exercise at the Ventura YMCA. Despite Don’s example, Brian *only* goes to the gym once per day, and believes his superpowers come from extra crispy French fries.*

TOWNEHOUSE NEWS

The HarpWorks Ensemble

Sunday, December 3rd at 3pm in the Vista Room

The HarpWorks Ensemble was founded in 2016 by Michelle Whitson-Stone, a professional Harpist, well known arranger and teacher in the Woodland Hills area. She is a former award winner at the International Pop and Jazz Competition. She is trained in classical harp technique and studied with the late Dr. Carol McLaughlin, as well as world renowned jazz harpist, Stella Castellucci. She has performed for many dignitaries and celebrities including Presidents Clinton, Ford, and Reagan, as well as Henry Mancini, Bob Hope and Quincy Jones.



In their 7 years together, The Ensemble has played at many venues in Santa Barbara County, Ventura County and Los Angeles County. The editor of The Montecito Voice referred to them, as “a septet of vertical string wizards.” Their set list is designed to please all and includes a mix of Latin, classical, spiritual, Broadway, medieval English, gospel, folk, holiday repertoire, and more. In addition to the performance, the audience always enjoys that Michelle takes time at each concert to share the interesting aspects of the harp, and to answer questions people might have about the harp.

Welcome to Babette and John Thompson



Babette and John moved to Ventura from beautiful Whidbey Island Washington, their home for the last 16 years. Prior to that they lived in Philadelphia. Babette was born and raised in the City of Brotherly Love. She attended Connecticut College for Women and went on to obtain a degree from the Temple University School of Law. John grew up in Erie, Pennsylvania and graduated from Gannon University and, after a stint in Turkey with the Peace Corps, he obtained a Master’s degree in urban & Regional Planning from Wayne State University in Detroit. Babette’s legal career focused primarily on financial matters, both prosecuting fraud cases and in international finance for major financial institutions. John had a long career with the US Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) in Philadelphia.

They have one son, who lives in Valencia and two orange tabby cats, Red and Blue. The Thompsons are animal lovers and long-time Sierra Club members. They look forward to working on environmental causes here in SoCal, and they support programs aimed at providing assistance to unhoused persons. The Thompsons have done a lot of world travel and even lived in Africa for a couple of years, so they hope to be able to continue to indulge their zest for adventure. Both are avid readers and are hoping to find book clubs of like-minded individuals. They are also hoping to find people who are interested in the occasional bridge game.

Townehouse Management Team

Administration

Executive Director Evan Granucci
Executive Assistant Chantel Hernandez

Marketing Directors Harvey Marasigan
 Nancee Borgnine

Director of Resident Care Yonatan Isaacs

Front Desk Deserae Navarro
Lead Concierge Susana Jacobs

Director of Activities David Scarlett
Fitness Frank Jackson

Director of Memory James Christensen
Care

Director of Social Services Kimmi Bryan

Director of Culinary Bryan Gross
Services/Executive Chef

Director of Housekeeping Alejandra Hernandez

Maintenance

Chief Engineer Steve Drake
Assistant Engineer Cliserio Meza

Bus Driver Ed Cardona



What's Going On?

It's hard to believe that I've only been here for one month. It seems much longer...but in a good way. I want to say a big THANK YOU to all the Residents and staff who have made me feel so welcome.

I especially want to thank Anne who has been invaluable with her expertise, insight and experience. And thank you to Rachel too for all her support. I am very lucky to be working with such kind, giving ladies.

In November, I gave a talk on **Queen Elizabeth II** which I hope you all enjoyed. On the 28th, I shall be giving a talk on her son, **King Charles III**. I plan to keep up the British themed talks in the new year.

Happy Holidays to all the Residents, staff and loved ones. And I wish you peace and happiness in 2024!

David

Join our activities team on December 13th in the Vista



Room at 2pm for our annual holiday party. Our Townehouse singers will be performing a special holiday program. Santa will make a guest appearance with his own chair decked out for those special photos. Don't forget to wear your creative sweater.

Anne

On most Wednesdays at 3:30pm, I host a cocktail social in the Pavilion. With many years of experience working in bars, I am the Townehouse's very own mixologist, each week coming up with another fun and delicious cocktail for you all to enjoy.

This month's cocktails are:

Eggnog
Grinch On Vacation
Winter Wonderland
Geese a Laying



Rachel