

OVER THE BACK FENCE NEWS

Masonic Homes of California at Covina

Volume 28, Issue 8



From Judy Figueroa, Executive Director

Once again, we had a successful Summer Festival. We do not have an exact count of how many visitors were on Campus, but my guess is approximately 1,000 guests.

I want to thank all of you for assisting the Staff in making this event special.

HAVE YOU MET?

Welcome to our new Resident BARBARA DRUMMOND, who lives in Apt. B110.

Barbara was born in Princeton, New Jersey, but at her tender age of only six months, the family moved to Sao Paulo, Brazil. She came back to the States in 1942 during World War II. The trip home was considerably longer than expected because their ship had to navigate to avoid German vessels attempting to block their passage.

Barbara and her husband, Gordon eventually lived in Kensington, CA in the San Diego area. Barbara has 3 living children, 3 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren. Gordon was a member of Unity Lodge, where he became Worshipful Master. Barbara went on record as claiming she did not want to “get involved”, but in due course became High Priestess of the Ladies of the Oriental Shrine of North America, and also Queen of the Daughters of the Nile. Not bad for someone who “didn’t want to be involved”.....Interview by Bob Dow.

AND HAVE YOU MET?

Welcome to DAVID HARRIS our new Resident, whose apartment is B113.

David is a member of Coachella Lodge #476 in Indio. After 17 years working as a Systems Specialist for Pitney-Bowes, he retired in 1977.

Since his retirement, David has been active as a Tour Guide and Docent for the McCullum Arts Theater in Palm Desert. In 2004 David became a Lecturer and has participated in over 80 cruises for various cruise lines. Since 2000, he has been repairing and tutoring for Windows computers and has been President of 3 computer clubs. He is more than willing to help any one of us with our computer problems.

David has 3 children, 4 grandchildren and tries to be the “World’s Greatest Papa”
.....Interview by Bob Dow.



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

4 – Rosemary Spencer

22 – Michael Magliato

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION NEWS (Update as of 8/3)

Footings are completed.

Preparation will begin for the slab on grade.

Structural steel to begin mid-August

Underground utilities will be completed in early August

JUST A SPECIAL NOTE – REMEMBER WHEN?

One of Bobby’s staff, wants us to know that he had his First Ever Adult Paid Vacation and went to Orlando, Florida. Favorite Park was the Magic Kingdom; did four parks in 4 days although the humidity was 95%. “Had a great time. Disney Orlando was a great experience, but Disneyland in Anaheim will always be my home”.

..... Edgar Reynoso

SUMMERFEST 2018.....BY “BELLA”

What a party! In all my 3 doggie years, I had never seen such a thing. There were lots of people: Masonic dignitaries, Firemen, Policemen, Kids and their families, Residents and everybody who works here at my new Home. What fun!

There were speeches that were not long at all. (I was patient) Destiny Lodge presented CEO Gary Charland with a really BIG check (3'x4') for \$250,000 and Jerry Chandler presented Dog Rescue equipment to the Covina Fire Dept. (well, I guess it could be used on cats, too.) The Police Dept. brought a huge SWAT vehicle and a very large K9 German Shepherd. He looked friendly and some kids were petting him, but I wasn't allowed to go near him.

The Residents gave the guests tours of the campus and buildings. We had water stations and cooling areas as it was very hot. There were Rainbow Girls, -DeMolay boys and Shriner clowns. We saw vendor booths and booths for information including Masons 4 Mitts and the OES Home. The swimming pool was open. Another booth was Ceramics for Kids, where they could paint ceramic items made by Pearl Chandler and Carole Haggart and could take them home.

Best of all, there was food! Our chefs barbecued hot dogs and hamburger sliders. There was cotton candy and popcorn and sno-cones and cookies. Plus, there was a great food truck. Yum! For all the guests, but not for doggies (me).

At the end of the day, everyone left tired but satisfied with a day well planned, well presented and well lived. I slept very well and dreamed of the hamburgers I didn't get to eat.....By Bella with help from Sharanne Wick.

OUR RECENT TRAVELS TOOK US TO “TEA TIME”

On July 26, Will and Karen took 8 of our Lady Residents to the Four Seasons Tea Home in Sierra Madre. Each table was given the choice of a number of teas and we were served a fancy plate of five different types of tea sandwiches and scones after which came a choice of desserts. Everything was served on beautiful, old bone china plates, cups and saucers. The teas and food were delicious and we had a delightful time.

As our bus was leaving, Will noticed there was a traffic problem on the freeway and opting not to get involved, instead took us on an unplanned sightseeing tour of a “classy” neighborhood of huge homes and estates with outstanding landscapings. As we wondered about the value of the homes, Will used his phone to find recent sales prices in the neighborhood. We were impressed! Thanks to Will and Karen for a really delightful outing.....By Lois Gray

WE ALSO TRAVELLED TO

BEST OF BROADWAY – Our “man of many talents” and Superhero William (subbing for Will) came to the rescue on July 12 and ferried 18 Residents and Shari to a GEM of a theater in Garden Grove to see a production of “Hello Dolly”, which is a 1964 Broadway classic that has survived our musical and cultural changes over the last 54 years, and has thrived via revivals and countless presentations throughout the world.

The role of Dolly Levi was played by Adriana Sanchez, a seasoned actress in Southern California theater. Her stage acumen was outstanding, rivaling the original star, Carol Channing at her very best. Dolly/Adriana grabbed your attention in almost every scene and her infectious laugh and antics kept us all smiling throughout the evening.

This wasn't the “first rodeo” for the other members of the cast either, all of whom were excellent and the singers/dancers were terrific, many of whom came from the Cal State Fullerton Theater Department. They made the most of every inch of a smallish stage.

This theater is a perfect venue. Our bus can pull up to the front door, there's a place to park and there are no stairs for the Residents to navigate. Thanks again to William, Shari and the Activities Department for making this wonderful outing possible.

.....By Milt and Nancy Freer

AND, THEN WE TRAVELLED TO HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

in Covina on July 29 for the Celebration of a New Ministry and Installation of The Reverend Steven H. DeMuth as the 14th Rector of this church, which began in 1889.

A group of costumed dancers from the Ballet Folklorico de Lucia Parras performed in the aisles prior to the beginning of the service. The Los Angeles Diocesan Bishop, The Right Reverend John H. Taylor presided and led a procession of Episcopal dignitaries, local Saint Martha's Hospitality Guild members, Church choir and the newly called Rector (also our Home's Chaplain) Father Steve to the altar. Hymns were sung, Psalms were read and an interesting Sermon was offered by The Rt. Rev. Taylor extolling some of the background and virtues of Father Steve followed by a series of “gifts” presented to him from various leaders and members of Holy Trinity Church by way of an Induction into his new office. The Installation was ended by a Holy Communion Service.

Following the Service, a fine dinner was provided for all guests in the Social Hall.

.....By Lois Hoven, Editor

FANTASY FOOTBALL IN COVINA

Our Home has a Fantasy Football League, which consists of 8 teams.

There is no money involved, just friendly kibitzing. “Owners” of the teams are: Eduardo Escobar, Bill Papas, Ernie Salcedo, Jeff Riding, and Eduardo Garcia, from Facilities, Past Grand Master Russell Charvonia and two non-affiliated members.

Each team drafts 15 players from NFL franchises. Each week we field a team of 7 players from our Roster; 1 Quarterback, 2 Wide Receivers, 2 Running Backs, 1 Tight end and 1 Defense. Each week we play a schedule against each other. The scoring is as follows:

- 6 points.....Player scores touchdown
- 3 points.....Passer throws touchdown
- 6 points.....Running Back scores touchdown
- 2 points.....Player intercepts pass
- 1 point.....For a team sack
- 1 point.....Extra point
- 3 points.....30 yds. or less field goal
- 4 points.....40 to 50 yds. field goal
- 5 points.....50 yds. Or more field goal

And various points deducted by points scored.

DUMB DIVISION

Ernie.....Taco Boys
Bill.....Greeks
Jeff.....Mean Machine
Eduardo.....Yet to name team

DUMMER DIVISION

Kurt.....Brain Surgeons
Russ.....Top Hats
Mitchel.....Blue Ridge Bears
Hersch.....Covina Oldies

2016 Champions....Greeks
2017 Champions....Greeks
2018 Champions....Jeff the painter

If you want to follow along, the computer address is:

<http://retiredleague.fantasy.nfl.com>

Password is HIRAM

League I.D. 2534353

.....By Bill Papas, Commissioner

Tony Magnan was a vital part of our “family” and was known for his humor and good will to all. Sometime ago, Tony suffered what might have been a fatal accident. By his positive thinking, lots of rehab and sheer willpower he was able to return to us. Tony wrote the attached account of his experience and his feelings about life at the Masonic Home at Covina.

TONY’S TALE

July 10, 2018

On May 4th , I fell at our spa and the diagnosis was a fractured fibula and a crushed hip joint. Because of my past physical history, my age, the fact of my former heart attack and the risk factors involved in surgery, the doctor did not want to operate. His option was for me to be in a wheelchair for the rest of my life. My odds were 20% to 40% for success. I begged him to go ahead with the surgery. I told him I’d rather die than not be ambulatory. My previous Cardiologist was asked for an opinion and he said he felt there was a good chance I could survive.

The surgery was done on May 5th and I was sent to Pilgrim Place in Claremont for rehab. To add to my problems, I developed pneumonia and an iron deficiency. I worked hard and was sent back to Covina. For the next month I was cared for by Maria and the others at the Nurse’s Station. They cajoled, encouraged, propended, advised and transported me to the dining room twice daily in a wheelchair. They later let me use my walker but walked behind me with a wheelchair in tow just in case I tired. After one month back here, I walked alone with my walker again and am eternally grateful for the concern and care of Maria and the other Personnel of the Station. They are on the same page.

This facility has so much to offer a resident that losing it would have been devastating to me. It is miraculous, but it seems that pain and suffering are accompanied by the strength and will to heal regardless of age. I think the Lord is involved. I will soon be a two-year resident here and I love it. Life is stress free. I want for nothing and as long as I am here, Heaven can wait.

I doubt that any sitting President or reigning King could be better served than the Staff at the Masonic Homes in Covina.

NB: Sadly, Heaven could not wait and Tony left us just a few days before his birthday in July.