



# Over the Back Fence

Masonic Homes of California at Covina

Volume 30, Issue 9

## Hello September!

*Fun Facts, Historical Events, and Birthdays*

Submitted by John Feagans

As the ninth month of the year, September marks the beginning of autumn in the Northern Hemisphere (and the start of spring in the Southern). Traditionally considered the month that marks transitions between seasons, it is often one of the most temperate weather-wise. Here are some interesting facts about the month of September.



Autumn Park/Marco Maccarini/Getty Images

The name September comes from the Latin septem, meaning seven, since it was the seventh month of the Roman calendar, which began with March. There are 30 days in the month of September, which starts on the same day of the week as December each year but does not end on the same day of the week as any other month in the year.



### Birth Month

September has three birth flowers: the forget-me-not, the morning glory, and the aster. Forget-me-nots represent love and memories, asters represent love as well, and the morning glory represents unrequited love. The birthstone for the month is the sapphire.

### Holidays

September has several United States and international holidays.

- **Labor Day** is the most well known holiday in September. It is observed every year on the first Monday in September.
- **Native American Day** is always celebrated on the 4th Friday of September.
- **Grandparent's Day** is observed in the United States on the first Sunday after Labor Day.
- **Constitution Day**, celebrating the ratification of the governing document of the United States, is observed on the 17th.
- **The autumn equinox**, which is the traditional transition from summer into fall, takes place on or around September 22nd, depending on the year.

### Fun Days

There are lots of days dedicated to fun activities in September. Look out for these days.

- **September 5th:** National Cheese Pizza Day
- **September 9th:** National Teddy Bear Day

- **September 16th:** National Play-Doh Day
- **September 19th:** International "Talk Like A Pirate Day"

### Historical Events

- **September 2, 1666:** The Great Fire of London was started, completely destroying the old city located within the ancient Roman walls. It was believed to have started in a bakery and took three days to put out.
- **September 1, 1715:** Louis XIV, known as the Sun King, died at the age of 76, after ruling France since the age of five. He was succeeded by Louis XV and Louis XVI, who was executed

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### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- Donald Cannon - Sept. 7
- Jerry Chandler - Sept. 16
- Billie Karz - Sept. 13
- Irwin Lieber - Sept. 22



## Over The Back Fence

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Over The Back Fence is published monthly as a vehicle of communication and entertainment for the Residents and Staff of the Masonic Homes at Covina with a focus on sharing information about Residents, Homes activities, and items of interest to the "Masonic Family." ALL RESIDENTS are welcome to contribute to *your* newsletter. Articles are subject to editing by the Editor. If you have an article you wish to have published, please give it to Jennifer before the 15th of the month. Space is limited so please restrict your article to a half page.

Volume 30 • Issue 9

**Masonic Homes of  
California at Covina**



## OTBF Readers' Perspectives



### Free Wheeling (I Told You So)

With the newly available in-house testing, we Residents of the Masonic Home should be allowed to use our cars more freely, albeit judiciously. That doesn't mean frivolously. No roaring past Aunt Judy's house at ten o'clock at night with the radio at full blast. Judiciously. We have to be respectful of others, who might have the COVID-19 virus or something terrible like that.

Speaking personally, I lost a lot by letting my car sit as long as it did. The sensitive electronics which allowed all the doors to be controlled from the driver's seat went away, as did the driver-side settings for two drivers' seat mirrors, and so on. They can be fixed if I can ever get to the dealer. Not only will it cost a small fortune to repair or replace these parts, I will probably have to drive a loaner car for several days or even a week or more. The car drives well enough, since the engine has kept its cool for lo these many months.

This is probably the longest any one of us has let a car sit around. Oh, sure, we drive it a few times over the ring road around the Home and pat it on the rearview mirror when we get out of the car and go home. But our cars have suffered real damage and I would think the Home should absorb at least part of the cost of these damages.

I suspect the damage to my car, which was spotless prior to the coronavirus pandemic,

started the day (April 4<sup>th</sup>) when we could not take our cars out. The guard at the gate made me turn around and go back to my stall. I heard later that day that the same thing happened to other Residents. I gnawed my fingertips to the bone worried about my car, my dearest friend.

Upcoming is my car's California state registration, due Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>. I have to get the car smogged this year. I cannot go the mile-and-a-half to the smog place for about an hour to get the smog checked because of the cruel, unyielding rules that say that every absence involving a car must result in a two-week quarantine. And I can't register my car without this.

I have heard of some people leaving the Home because of the strictness of the rules. One of the gentlemen who lived in one of the houses up and left, probably permanently. Before you know it, we may soon see Residents packing up and leaving for the same reason. What good is your life if you can't enjoy it by doing the simple things you're used to doing?

Threatening Residents with the ennui of a two-week quarantine for taking their car out is not the way to win friends and influence people.

You've whispered to each other about this conundrum, I'm sure. But you're reading it here first.

- Karla Johnson

## Artificial Flowers in the Planter Box



The artificial flowers in the planter box fooled the hummingbird.

Searching for sustenance, the flowers appeared so real and inviting to the hummingbird.

But, after many tries, it left with no satisfaction.

Then by earnest fortune, the hummingbird flew to what was rooted in fertile soil.

*"Fertile soil is where we find ourselves right where we are at the moment to accomplish well-being."*

- Michael Maji Magliato

# Hello September

Continued from page 1

during the French Revolution in 1789, thus ending the reign of monarchical rule in France.

• **September 5, 1774:** The 1st Continental Congress was called to order. Comprised of delegates from all 13 American colonies, it served as the governing body during the American Revolution, from 1774 to 1789. Two years later, on September 9, it changed the name of the United Colonies to the United States.

• **September 22, 1862:** President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which ended slavery in the territories held by the Confederacy, effective January 1, 1863. In spite of the ruling, the Civil War would not end for another year and a half after that.

• **September 14, 1901:** President William McKinley was shot on September 6, 1901 while attending the Buffalo Pan-American Exposition in New York. He passed away eight days later.

• **September 1, 1939:** In the early morning hours of this day, Hitler

invaded Poland, starting World War II in Europe. Der Führer called the move a “defensive” retaliation against the persecution of Germans in Poland.

• **September 5th, 1961:** President John F. Kennedy signed a hijacking bill, making air piracy a federal crime. Punishment ranged from a \$10,000 fine to 20 years in prison; if a deadly weapon was used, the perpetrator(s) could receive life in prison or even death.

• **September 8, 1974:** President Gerald Ford gave an unconditional pardon to former president Richard M. Nixon, for his role in the infamous “Watergate” fiasco.

• **September 9, 2006:** Typhoon Ketsana hit the Philippines, China, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, and Thailand, resulting in 750 fatalities and over \$1.09 billion in damages.

On Tuesday morning, September 11, 2001, members of the Islamic terrorist group al-Qaeda hijacked four airliners as part of a series of coordinated attacks against targets in the United States. The Twin Towers in New York City were hit by one plane each, American Airlines Flight 11 and Flight 175, while American Airlines Flight 77 was crashed



into the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. The fourth plane, United Airlines Flight 93, is thought to have been headed for the White House, but passengers overtook the hijackers and the plane crashed into a field in rural Pennsylvania.

More than 3,000 people lost their lives during what was the deadliest terror attack on U.S. soil to date. Property and infrastructure damage amounted to over \$10 billion. The attack is thought to have been ordered by Osama bin Laden, who was finally located and killed in Pakistan by U.S. Navy SEAL Team Six in May 2011. The 9/11 Memorial Museum occupies the sites where the Twin Towers once stood.

**Source:** <https://www.liveabout.com/september-fun-facts-3456089>

## WE'RE HERE TO HELP

### RELIEF FOR CALIFORNIA MASONS AND THEIR FAMILIES

- Information and referrals • Senior communities in Covina and Union City
- Statewide Masonic Outreach Services for members of all ages and their families
- Transitions short-term care for neurological and post-surgical rehabilitation (Union City)
- The Masonic Center for Youth and Families in San Francisco and Covina – with telehealth services now available everywhere
- NEW! Shared housing for seniors in Covina

**CONTACT US TODAY TO ACCESS YOUR MEMBER BENEFITS AND SERVICES:**

[masonichome.org](http://masonichome.org)  
(888) 466-3642

[mcyaf.org](http://mcyaf.org)  
(877) 488-6293 (San Francisco)  
(626) 251-2300 (Covina)

**MASONIC VALUE NETWORK:  
CARE RESOURCES + PRESCRIPTION DISCOUNTS**

[masonichome.org/ValueNetwork](http://masonichome.org/ValueNetwork)



# Living on the Edge...

## Diary of a Fat Girl



**Karla Johnson**

First, I should tell you that I wasn't a Miss America when I was a teenager. Far from it. I was chubby. This is a sensitive subject for me. OK, I was FAT. There.

I've said it for all the world to see. I was fat for two reasons: (1) I ate too much of the wrong things, and (2) unfortunate genetics. My father had a fat gene stored somewhere and when he was young, he was a body-builder, a la Arnold Schwarzenegger, which attracted my mother, who came from a family of thin, "normal" people. But as he got older, everything dropped, a little bit at a time. His chest replaced his belly and his belly replaced whatever was below that, and everything that was thin was replaced by – you guessed it – FAT.

My brother, who took after my mother almost exactly, was thin all his life. But I took after my father almost exactly and I inherited, along with his assets, his liabilities. I was shunned by

the other kids. I had to learn to keep my own counsel, because no wisdom was forthcoming from them. I had to make friends with the kids who were partly paralyzed and lived in their wheelchairs, the kids who had subnormal intelligence and were referred to as the "village idiots", the uncontrollable, crazy kids. My friends, in short, were the cream of the crop. They were the only real thinkers I knew. They had to be, in order to survive.

Those were the days (in the late '50s) when girls wore poodle skirts. The poodle skirts were supported by layers and layers of petticoats. The other girls looked great in them; me, not so much. I looked like a freight train.

I ate like a walking mouth. My father worked for a food supply company and he was always bringing home delicacies and expensive cuts of meat, fish, and poultry which he got for nothing. My parents did nothing to help me lose weight; they encouraged me to eat and eat and eat. I didn't like being overweight, but my parents encouraged

me to stuff myself into oblivion.

High school came with a jolt. Boys were more masculine, girls were more feminine, and both were focused more on the opposite sex. I tried to get the attention of the boys in my classes by acting out. It was good for a laugh, but it won me zero dates. I gave up trying to get the "ordinary" boys to go out with me.

My high school was next to a Catholic boys' high school. I got a few dates from there, all of them virtuous. By that I mean no sex, not even trying for it. Not that they didn't want to, but the fear of the Lord was in them mightily.

My mother started nagging me: "You're in high school, young lady. You're going to find a husband here, but not looking like that!" She had done a one-eighty on my weight. She cared. My father was too busy to care. I was just trying to get dates, not get married.

"When you have kids, you'll \_\_\_\_\_." Fill in the blank. I supremely disappointed her by not wanting what she wanted – grandchildren. As it turned out, years later I had reproductive problems anyway which necessitated the removal of my uterus. I was relieved, actually.

College was another story. Maybe someday I'll write about it.



### Masonic Homes Covina RESIDENT CENSUS

#### **TOTAL POPULATION**

60    **Women = 29**  
      **Men = 31**

#### **COUPLES**

8    (Includes 5 Outplacements)

#### **OUTPLACEMENTS**

Bente, Clare	Claremont Care Center
Riedel, Robert	Alta Loma Gardens
Ripley, Daisy	Pilgrim Place - SNF
Scovill, Robert	Silverado Sierra Vista
Stoddart, Yvonne	St. Simon Home For the Elderly

#### **TEMPORARY STAYS**

Ivie, Bruce	Leisure Glen Care Center
Long, Pat	Garden View Post-Acute



### United States Capitol Cornerstone Laying

The United States Capitol cornerstone laying was the ceremonial placement of the cornerstone of the United States Capitol on September 18, 1793. The cornerstone was laid by president of the United States George Washington, assisted by the Grand Master of Maryland Joseph Clark, in a Masonic ritual.

# Masonic Homes of California at Covina

# **RESIDENT COUNCIL**

August 11, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 AM by Chairperson Lenore Upson. 8 members were present, and 1 Resident, plus Jennifer Shapiro assembled in the dining room. One member per table wearing masks was allowed. The Beauty Salon is still closed. We now have Norma Garcia as our weekend receptionist. We can reopen the campus when we are COVID-19 free for two weeks with negative test results. We are going by the guidelines set by: CDC, DSS, LA County Health Services.

## **REPORTS – BILLIE KARZ**

Our bank account balance as of 8-11-2020 is \$6,298.19.

## **ACTIVITIES - LYN EFFREN**

Due to the COVID-19 virus, all off campus outings have been suspended until further notice. This includes shopping, lunches, and dinners. We had more activities this month. We now have hallway Bingo once a week, and the library is now open with a limit of 2 people at a time. General store is open weekly, and we had a coffee social for Pink Hats, and root beer floats or ice cream on Saturdays.

## **BUILDING & GROUNDS/HOUSEKEEPING - ERNEST MARUMOTO/ KARLA JOHNSON**

Lighting was replaced in the Boardroom and Fellowcraft rooms. The whiskey barrel posts for outdoor dining lighting to be hanged on were finished. Cybex installed a new security camera at the west end of the campus. Augie is replacing damaged sprinklers. Chiller repaired. Resident carpet extractions are being completed.

## **FOOD SERVICES - MILT FREER**

One-on-one input regarding our food services has continued to be limited. I did get some input regarding a high degree of greasy, fatty items on the menu. It still seems we have our share of “bills of fare” that don’t describe what is being offered for consumption.

## **DESTINY LODGE - JERRY CHANDLER**

Lodge is suspended until further notice.

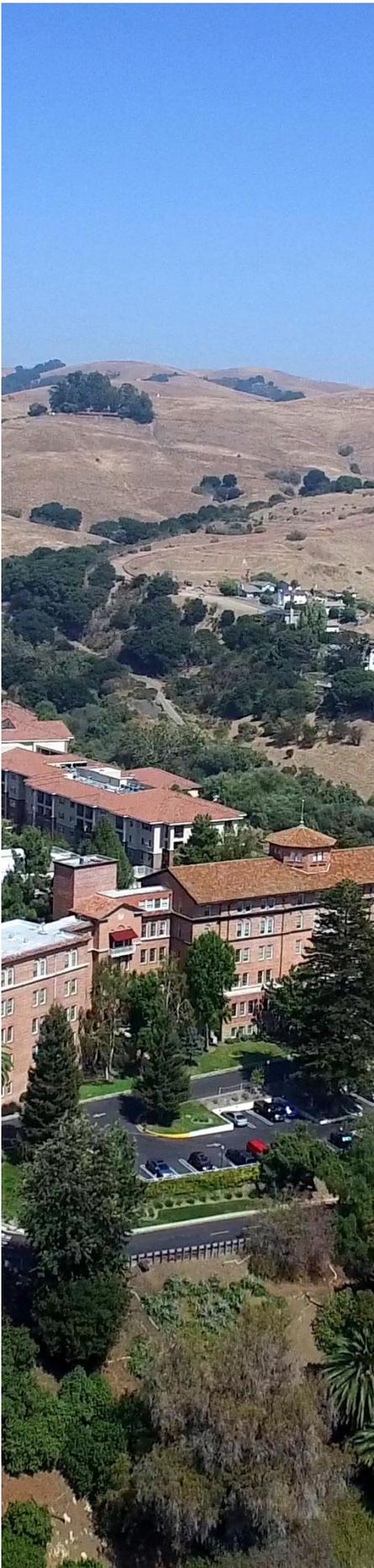
## **RESIDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE - HERSH MAZER**

No report given.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 A.M.

**Respectfully Submitted, Howard Steinore, Secretary**





# Welcome, Covina Residents to



Hello, my name is Jasmine Myers and I work at Masonic Home's Union City campus. I would like to take a moment to encourage you to check out Covina's Vibrant portal found online at [www.mhccovina.org](http://www.mhccovina.org).

This is a great resource for both of our communities, which allows the staff to send out the latest information as efficiently as possible, including Announcements, Events, and the Dining Menu.

In addition to staying up to date, residents have the ability to do a number of things from the comfort (and safety) of home. Check out the Dining Menu in advance, submit maintenance or housekeeping requests, submit a comment card, and chat with other residents using the message feature.

## How to log-in to vibrant®

1. In your web browser's address bar,  
Type: **[www.mhccovina.org](http://www.mhccovina.org)**
  - a. Be careful not to Google search this. It won't show up.
2. Your Username will be:  
**First.Last Name**  
Example: John.Smith
3. Your default password will be **mhc2020**  
(No capitals needed)
  - a. You will be asked to change your password the first time you sign in. Change your password anytime by clicking on the change password link in the top right corner.
4. For Username assistance, email  
**[Jmyers@mhccuc.org](mailto:Jmyers@mhccuc.org)** or call **x26354**.

If you have any trouble or questions arise, feel free to email me or reach out to your staff at Covina for help.

**Thank you and have a wonderful day!**  
**Jasmine Myers • Implementation Specialist**  
**[Jmyers@mhccuc.org](mailto:Jmyers@mhccuc.org)**