



# The Messenger

Published for the Residents

Masonic Homes of California at Union City

## Fulfilling Dreams and Desires in 2023

Written by Joseph Pritchard, Chief Clinical Officer

January always brings a sense of renewal and reinvigoration to the Masonic Homes. The Masonic Homes residents and staff are fresh off the holidays and ready to tackle what the new year has in store for us. The past few Januarys have not been that exciting. In those years, COVID forced us to pause our plans and resolutions. We couldn't travel as freely, couldn't eat as healthy, couldn't visit more with friends and family.

This past year that changed. There were more opportunities to fulfill our dreams and desires. Taking advantage of those opportunities is how we pay homage to the sacrifices we have made.



One of the many benefits of living at the Home is that we have a dedicated recreation team that is focused on providing purposeful and enjoyable events and activities. Towards the end of last year, that team had already started hosting events, parties, outings, and small group activities. I saw some residents walking around campus while learning how to take professional-looking photographs. On the Sedam Terrace, residents were stretching their muscle with chair aerobics. Coffee



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## **Fulfilling... Continued from page 1**

groups gathered at 2nd Adams to talk about the taboo topics of politics, religion, and sports. We ended the year well!

In 2023, the Union City campuses will have even more exciting times! Because 2023 marks the 125th anniversary of the Masonic Homes in Union City. The events and recreation teams are already creating different ways to celebrate this auspicious year. A June gala, small celebrations, fun activities are all planned to help celebrate our anniversary.



This year will be filled with new hopes and expectations. I am sure COVID will still rear its ugly head, but our campus, staff, and residents are seasoned now. We are more prepared than ever to weather the storm. I can't promise that every moment of 2023 will be rosy, but I do believe that there is more hope this year!

I look forward to seeing you out and about! If you are able, please come to Siminoff Lodge for stated meetings and other events—(I hear the new Chaplain is handsome, smart, funny, and very humble!).

Join the parades. Pick which outings you like and go to them. Visit both 2nd Adams and 2nd Wollenberg for new and engaging programs. Take 2023 by the horns and make it amazing! You deserve it!



## 22nd Annual Christmas Tree Lighting

Written by Kim Hegg, Sr. Director of Events, Recreation & Volunteer Services



What's Christmas without a tree? For the residents and staff of the Masonic Homes at Union City it's an opportunity to think outside the box!

The days leading up to the annual lighting of the tree that stands in front of the Head Building were filled with high winds and LOTS of much needed rain. Unfortunately, Mother Nature's temper tantrum wreaked a little bit of havoc on our favorite tree. But that didn't stop the festivities from happening!

The party moved indoors to the Sedam Auditorium where guests were treated to Christmas Carols performed by Gabriel's Trumpets, holiday treats and beverages, Ale from Das Brew, and of course, SANTA CLAUS!

Everyone was dressed in the most festive attire, and we even had some special guests, Past Grand Master Jeff Wilkins along with Liz and March Wilkins, and Junior Grand Warden Garrett and JoMay Chan.

Drawings were held throughout the evening, pictures with Santa were very popular, and the line at Das Brew never seemed to diminish! At the appointed time of 6:30 p.m., with the assistance of Ken McMillen, the countdown began to the lighting of the tree nestled in the corner next to the stage. Even those who couldn't come down to the Auditorium were able to share in the evening's festivities—thanks to James MacRae who broadcasted the event to the in-house channel.



Although the rain put a damper on the actual lighting of the big tree in front, I don't think anyone really minded being inside, sharing the magic of the evening

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and staying warm!

The days following our modified tree lighting, the damage done to the tree was repaired, lights were replaced, and once again our tree shines as a beacon of the Season for the Tri-City area.

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## This Past Christmas...—Written by the Lorber Recreation Team



To bring some holiday cheer to Lorber residents, we were visited by some very special guests coming all the way from the NORTH POLE! Yup, you guessed it—Santa Claus and Mama Claus! They took time out of their hectic schedule to spread some Christmas cheer and to find out which of our residents made the nice list this year. We must give a special shoutout to the dynamic duo behind all the magic and recognize one of our residents, Patricia Danielson, along with her friend Brad Hatton.

This holiday tradition was started back before the pandemic, and after 2 missed Christmases, we were overjoyed! Santa and Mama Claus were able to visit each resident in Lorber and gave out Hershey's kisses for those who have been nice this year. It was a wonderful treat for all staff and residents. We hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday, wishing good health and happiness in the new year!

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## Quotable

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# Residents' Holiday Party

Written by Kim Hegg, Sr. Director of Events, Recreation & Volunteer Services



On Tuesday, December 13th, the Masonic Homes welcomed Grand Master Randy Brill, Deputy Grand Master Sean Metroka, Senior Grand Warden Art Salazar, Junior Grand Warden Garrett Chan and his wife JoMay, and members of the Masonic Homes Board to the annual Residents' Holiday Party.

The festivities began with a reception in the newly renovated 2nd Adams Lounge, where guests enjoyed appetizers passed by the Morrison Living team, champagne and apple cider served by members of the staff, and holiday entertainment provided by the Dix Duo.



A sumptuous dinner was served in the Main Dining Room prepared by Chef Juan Valencia with entrée choice of Beef Wellington, Pan Seared Scallops, or Roasted Red Pepper Stromata. A passed dessert tray with an assortment of decadent holiday treats was a sweet finish to a wonderful dinner! The Dix Duo provided entertainment throughout the meal.

Following recognition and introduction of the Morrison Dining team by Soledad Martinez, Executive Director, and introductions of staff from Joseph Pritchard, Chief Clinical Officer, Gary Charland, President and CEO, introduced

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## Residents'... *Continued from page 5*

Larry Adamson, PGM, Chairman of the Masonic Homes Board of Trustees, who introduced the trustees in attendance. Sean Metroka, Deputy Grand Master, introduced the Past Grand Master and Grand Lodge Officers in attendance, after which Larry Adamson introduced the Grand Master with a brief biography and invited him to give his remarks.

Following the Grand Master's remarks, Gary Charland presented Most Worshipful Brother Brill with a pen, handcrafted by residents of the Masonic Homes from the great Oak tree that stood at the entrance of the Home, as well as a gift for his wife Susan, who was unable to attend.



Many thanks to all those who helped to make this evening a success—Morrison Living staff, Jeff Krahulec, Rio Castillo and Nikho Aquino who rearranged the dining room, Jenn MacRae and Brenda Leon who helped with table decorations, Ranshu Malini for setting the place cards, and James MacRae for being the photographer and A/V troubleshooter! Thank you!

\*\*\*\*\*

## Senior Center Citizens—Submitted by Zelma Campbell



At 71, George was told to make a new friend every 6 months or so to make up for the friends who may pass away. At 76, he was asked how this plan was working. "Okay," he said, "Except now I have too damn many friends!"

\*\*\*\*\*

Billie says when she was young, it was "Look, but don't touch." Now she says it's "Touch, but don't look."

\*\*\*\*\*

Joe claims he's a weightlifter every time he stands up.





# The Chaplain's Corner

by Chaplain Joel Ingram

## Not One...

This year I'm not making ANY New Year's Resolutions. Not one. Yes, I know in years past I have written about the value of making New Year's Resolutions each year, but this year, Nada. Nope, none for me! Now before you start thinking the cumulative effect of

"Resolutions Past" have "Scrooged" my interest in resolving self-reform in the 12 pristine months ahead, I should say more about why there are no neatly wrapped resolutions beneath my New Year's tree.

I have no new resolutions because I don't need new ones; that is, there's plenty left over from THIS year's list. I mean, so many things I wanted to do or become are still sitting there waiting for completion. So, why not just save the paper and skip the list this year! (What should we call such a list anyhow, "Old Year's Resolutions").

In truth, this is not exactly what I have in mind for 2023. This year, I've decided to try a different tact. Instead of making a new list of things "To Do" and things "To Stop Doing" – I'm only promising to (resolving to) – take a serious look at what worked last year, what didn't and to try and figure out what made the difference. I guess it's like the advice someone once gave a weary laborer, "Don't work harder – work smarter!" This year I just want to see what things have been holding me back from being the person, the chaplain, the husband, the "whatever" – I'd like to be.

It seems to me this is significantly different than simply sitting down and making a NEW list. Have you ever done this? Did it work for you? Are you interested in looking at the goals and ideals you had for yourself LAST year and consider what were the contributing factors that helped you reach one goal (Hint: Keep those things) ... and the things that held you back or kept you down? (Hint: Stop those things).

Well, if you do so, I'm wishing you every success in the year ahead. Wish me success and say a prayer for me too won't ya? After all, some people say, "Say a prayer – after all it can't hurt." – but – I'm more inclined to think, "Joel, say a prayer – it's GOT TO HELP!" Wishing you all the help you need in the coming year—*Chaplain Joel*



**"Good resolutions are simply checks that men draw on a bank where they have no account."**

—OSCAR WILDE





Since the last update there have been five Blue Box Cards submitted as of December 21, 2022. There was one compliment in them.

- ♦ “I have a compliment about Maintenance Crew: Nelson Abeleda, Rhoel Frieria, and Raul Ting. They provided impressive repairs for a very difficult and complicated kitchen sink drainage problem. Again, I am blessed with help that seems beyond the call of duty!!
  - ♦ Great job, gentlemen! This card was forwarded to their supervisor for their recognition.

In the blue box there were four concerns/requests submitted:

- ♦ There was a concern that the 2nd Floor Sedam door by the Dining Services office was being left open for long stretches of time, causing that area and the rooms beyond to become cold and feel drafty. Dining Services was made aware, and they have been careful to make sure that it no longer remains propped open. Their director and I will continue to monitor to be sure that if it does need to be propped open to move equipment in for the kitchen hood repairs that it is closed as soon as possible.
- ♦ There were two cards expressing concern that no powerchairs and no walkers would be allowed in the Main Dining Room once the remodel is completed. It was stated that Soledad had confirmed this. This is not the case. She did not.
  - ♦ There will be no powerchairs allowed in the Main Dining Room for safety reasons, but walkers will not be excluded. Explanation of what will be allowed and what accommodations will be made for those using assistive devices was discussed at the December Town Hall and will continue to be shared with the residents as progress is made in the Dining Room remodel.
- ♦ The final card contained a suggestion that we could bring back Pizza Wednesday or even Pizza once a month
  - ♦ This suggestion/request was sent to Dining Services for review and planning purposes.

Thank you very much for continuing to use this communication tool, especially for any safety-related issues. Please keep the cards coming!

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## *New Residents*



Gary Peterson  
Sponsoring Lodge:  
Saddleback Laguna  
No. 672  
City: Lake Forest  
Moved in: November 10,  
2022

Charlotte Mikkelsen  
Sponsoring Lodge: Las  
Palmas-Ponderosa  
No. 366  
City: Fresno  
Moved in: December 13,  
2022





ARRIVING FROM...  
✈️ MICHIGAN!



The Masonic Homes extends a warm welcome  
to our new resident and 5 time worthy Matron, Sharon Acevedo.  
Sharon loves gardening, painting wooden crafts, and making hook rugs.

She's enjoying the full MH activity calendar but can't  
wait to have some down time so she can make a  
ceramic dragon.

She's also looking forward to doing  
chair aerobics.

Sharon can be reached at A306, ext. 6381.



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## Thank You!—Written by Mike McComas

The Environmental & Facility Services team would like to thank each resident for your generous gift that the Masonic Homes staff received in December 2022.

We sincerely appreciate the fact that our residents think about us during the Holiday season, and we are truly blessed to be able to serve such a wonderful group of people.



## **Santa Stole the Show**—By the Wanderers Bruce & Evelyn Rick



The highlight of the annual “Tree Lighting Party” this year wasn’t the white lights of the indoor tree but the twinkling eyes and rosy cheeks of Santa Claus! Santa visited each of the filled auditorium tables and welcomed kids of all ages to the holiday season! He even took time out of his busy schedule to have his picture taken with groups and individuals. Some bringing him his favorite snacks: cookies, candy canes, and eggnog.

Due to technical difficulties, the outside tree was not lit, but the fix was done at a later date.

A large turnout of residents welcomed the three trumpeters of “Gabriel’s Trio”, whose repertoire of Christmas Holiday songs was wide, and all were well done.

A big thank you to the staff for hosting this happy and special event as the first party of the holiday season!

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## **Eastern Star Installation**—Written by Jeanne Benedict



On Sunday, November 20th at the Installation of San Lorenzo officers, 3 of our residents were honored. Linda Peck was installed as Worthy Matron, Lyman Penning was installed as Worthy Patron, and they presented Mildred Housholder with her 75-year pin and certificate.

For the past several years Mildred has been telling us that she has been a member of Eastern Star for 75 years. However, it seems that she demitted a few times over the years when she and her husband lived overseas. This year all of her active years have added up to 75 years and her dream has come true at last.

Please extend congratulations to Mildred when you see her.

To my knowledge, this is the first time a resident has served as Worthy Matron of a chapter while living at the Masonic Home. We have had residents serve as Worthy Patrons, but

not as Worthy Matrons.



## Cinderellas Go to the Ball—By the Wanderers Bruce & Evelyn Rick



T'was right before Christmas when the Pavilion turned into a palace! RCFE resident Volunteers and staff teamed up with Connected Living department to plan and put on a fancy formal Ball for the Traditions residents in the Pavilion. To prepare for the big day, the Traditions residents, nearly all women at that moment, were outfitted with splendid gowns from the New to You shop, while the volunteer escorts polished up their tuxedos.



At the appointed hour, the dapper and masked escorts were whisked from the South Mall in their coach. At the Pavilion, each lady and her escort had a formal photo portrait made. There were holiday decorations, live music, yummy treats, and a bit of bubbly cider. The program featured a reading on the history of Christmas, and everyone sang carols. Mrs. Claus even handed out gifts of handmade quilted place mats for the residents, and sweets bags for the volunteers.

Some residents voted to repeat the event every holiday, Arbor Day included. But everyone—residents, staff, and volunteers—had a magical time. (So far, there has been no word on whether the coach turned back into a pumpkin.)



## Happy Holidays from Dining Services



We want to start out by thanking our entire Dining Services Department and for all the efforts that were put into making memorable experiences for our residents. Collectively, as a department we are setting the vision of what our core expectations are. The expectations come from all the shared comments that we have received and have reviewed.

The main goal for us is to make sure we give our residents a memorable experience through our services. Stay tuned, we will be having more exciting things to come! Happy Holidays.

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### **Secret Santa**—Written by Lydia McComas



The Recreation team became Elves this year for a resident ‘Secret Santa’ who spent months purchasing gifts for all the residents at the Masonic Homes. ‘Santa’ told us, “I don’t have any family left so the residents here are my family.”

Gifts were delivered to the 3rd North Craft Room where residents were invited to choose one to keep for themselves or give away to someone else.

We were touched and honored to have been invited to help with this. It truly showed a spirit of love and giving. Special thanks to Gloria Krahulec who helped keep the secret under wraps.

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# Betty Ashfield's Recollection of the New to You Shop



“My husband Arthur and I moved into the Home in September of 1995. We ran the New to You shop from 1996 until 2000. We were open four days a week from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm: just the two of us. There was a letter from Administration, Kelly Wiest, the then Administrator, thanking us for all our hard work.

The shop was twice the size of the current one, sprawling from the now Ice Cream parlor all the way down to the current MOS office at the South wing basement. It was closed in 1998 when the building was being renovated and we were moved to the small computer room in Wollenberg. We helped design the current New to You Shop—it was just the two of us; no volunteers, but we enjoyed working in the shop. Loren Bennett won the contest for naming the “New to You” shop. Art passed away in 2017.

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## **Perlita “Perla” Perez Cristobal December 7, 1950—November 25, 2022**

Perlita “Perla” Perez Cristobal was born on December 7, 1950, in Paoway, Ilocos Norte, Philippines. Her parents are Jorge Perez and Rufina Cabuyadao. She attended her elementary and secondary education in Cagayan, where she was raised by her Aunt Cidad.

She was a school athlete and a proud softball player. She attended colleges in the University of the East and Jose Rizal College in the Philippines. She married the love of her life, Armando “Boy” on March 19, 1975. She gave birth to their only child “Michelle” with whom she will re-unite in heaven.

In 1995, Armando petitioned her and their daughter to settle in the United States. She attended her CNA course at We Care School of Nursing.



Perla was the happiest when she found out that she would become a grandma to the most amazing grandson “Klark”. During her days off, she loves spending it with her grandson. She enjoys cooking and some of her specialties were pancit, pinakbet, igado and dinuguan. She was a very hardworking and dedicated employee of Masonic Homes working in Lorber for 26 years.

She was a very loving and devoted wife. She was a very thoughtful, generous, sincere, and kind person. Her family and colleagues would all agree. Perla is survived by her loving husband, amazing grandson, son-in-law, sisters, and her wonderful family and friends. She will be dearly missed. Adieu, Perla!

# Wedding Anniversaries & Birthdays



## Resident Anniversaries

| Resident                | Ann. Date | Years |
|-------------------------|-----------|-------|
| Dick & Barbara Sullivan | 1/1       | 32    |
| Orrin & Jeanne Benedict | 1/5       | 4     |
| Bob & Ginger Huber      | 1/5       | 4     |



## Previous Month's Celebration

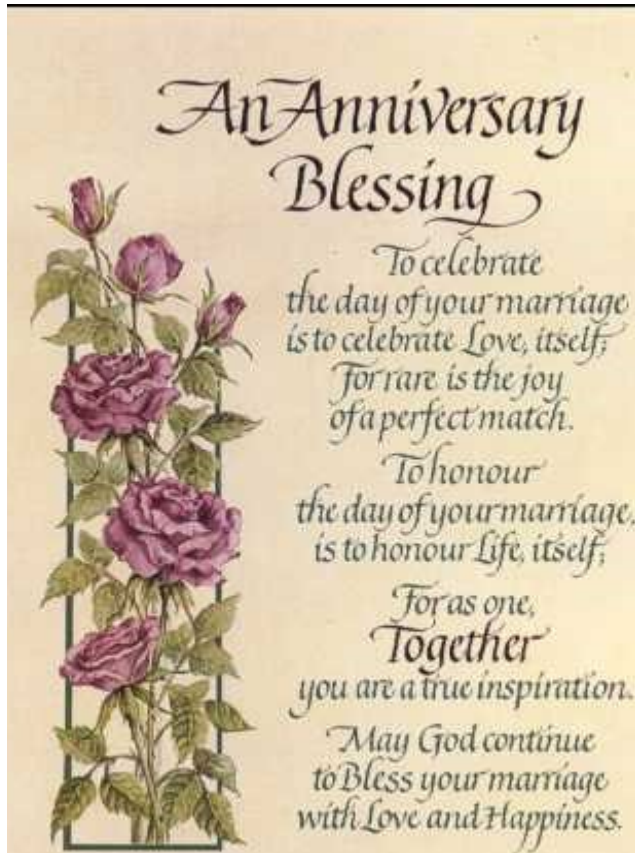


Mike & Sally Sander's 44th Wedding Anniversary



## Resident Birthdays

|  |      |
|--|------|
| Pat De Young                             | 1/1  |
| Dorthy Hollomon                          | 1/3  |
| Doug Field                               | 1/4  |
| Larry Sadler                             | 1/8  |
| Goodie Wixson<br>Suzie Hawes             | 1/16 |
| Gene Goodman<br>Bill Hems                | 1/20 |
| Shirlee Warren                           | 1/21 |
| Leonard Froomin                          | 1/22 |
| Pat Gates                                | 1/25 |
| Phillip Smith<br>Linda Biancalana-Church | 1/27 |





## In Memoriam



Charles "Chuck"  
Miller  
April 7, 1928—  
December 3,  
2022  
Mason of Indian  
Wells Valley  
#684



William "Bill" Schoenemann  
January 26, 1933—December 4,  
2022  
Mason of Siminoff Daylight #850

William "Bill"  
Stringfellow  
June 8, 1949—  
December 15, 2022  
Mason of Mosaic  
#218



Frank "Bill" Lind  
November 10, 1932—December  
16, 2022  
Mason of Mt. Moriah #292



Norita Church  
October 17,  
1926—December  
21, 2022  
Sponsored by  
Oroville #103



You're not here, but your presence lingers in the shadows.  
You don't see what I see, but I hear you laughing with me when I laugh.  
You don't know what I feel, but I feel you, feeling for me.



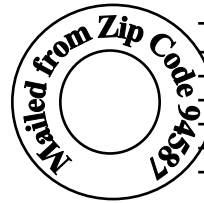
# In Memoriam



# The Messenger

Masonic Homes of California

34400 Mission Blvd., Union City, CA 94587



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## Parade of Lights

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**The Messenger** is published monthly as a vehicle of communication and entertainment for the residents and staff of the Masonic Homes at Union City with a focus on sharing information about residents, Home activities, and items of interest to the Masonic Family.

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*Mission: "Together we create meaningful life experiences that make a profound difference."*

**The Pillars: Safety, Personal Connection, Experience & Efficiency**

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