



2889 San Pasqual Street
Pasadena, CA 91107
626.796.6135
www.mvgh.org

Monte Vista Grove Homes
is a member of **LeadingAge™**
California

Monte Vista Grove Homes has been granted a Certificate of Authority by the State of California, for the assisted living (RCFE# 191222411) and skilled nursing (SNF#970000086) levels of care, as a Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC), Certificate #252.

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Design: Alisha Zuch



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Fall 2015

MESSENGER



(MVGH) is a not-for-profit, active, senior community located on 13.5 acres in Pasadena, California. The Synod of California founded MVGH in 1924, with a mission of serving qualified retirees of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The Health Center (skilled nursing) and Hearth (assisted living) serve both MVGH residents and the wider community. Today, 90 years later, MVGH is a regional ministry of the Synod of Southern California and Hawaii with a mission of serving residents in all levels of care within the context of a supportive, caring, Christian community that assists in meeting their spiritual, physical, social and emotional needs and interests.

Memory Care Residence and Wellness Center

The vision of the Memory and Wellness Campaign is two-fold. Our new Memory Care Residence will provide a safe, homelike residence where those with cognitive impairment can remain engaged in day-to-day life. Grounded in a preventative approach, the Wellness Center will be home to comprehensive physical and occupational therapy services as well as exercise equipment and programming that supports healthy aging.

Currently, we're in the organizational and planning stage of our campaign. The Rev. Dr. Gary Demarest and the Rev. Dr. Tom Erickson serve as Co-Chairs of the campaign. MVGH Board member Bob Hiller leads the campaign's Board Committee and The Rev. Dr. Marilyn Manning chairs the Communications Committee. The Rev. John Toay and the Rev. Dr. Peter Hintzoglou are serving as chair and vice-chair of our Major Gifts Committee. Over thirty volunteers from MVGH and its broad community are investing their time to ensure that our vision becomes a reality.

[Continued on page 3]



THE GROVE STORE

The purpose of the Hearth and Health Center Auxiliary is to enhance the physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being of residents of the Health Center (Skilled Nursing Facility) and the Hearth (Residential Care Facility). Receipts from the store help fund projects supporting the needs of the residents in the Health Center and the Hearth that are not included in the MVGH budget.

**Open the 1st Saturday of the month 9am-12pm
and
3rd Wednesday of the month 1-4pm
(September - May)**

**Location: unit A9 - Boutique/Books and
unit C57 - Clothing/Odds 'n Ends, both near the front of campus.**

*Park on San Pasqual Street and walk in through Exit B or Driveway C.
If you would like to donate items to The Grove Store, please
call Bev Grant at 626.577.2959 to arrange a convenient delivery time.*

**MONTE VISTA
GROVE HOMES**

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CALENDAR

NOVEMBER TO JANUARY CONVOCATIONS

Convocations are free weekly programs open to the public in Marwick Place each Thursday at 4pm (unless otherwise noted), schedule subject to change. Please call 626-796-6135 for the current week's program.

- Nov. 5** Tom Erickson on model ships
- Nov. 12** Neil Mottinger, JPL update on Mars Voyager
- Nov. 19** Ramona Chamber Singers
- Dec. 3** Resident Trustee Luncheon
- Dec. 10** Resident and Staff Appreciation Party
- Dec. 17** Christmas Sing Along
- Jan. 7** Judy Huang, Pianist
- Jan. 14** Martin Luther King, Jr. Observance
- Jan. 21** Bill Burke, Mountain Climber
- Jan. 28** Li Wei Yang, Curator of Western American History at the Huntington Library Archives
- Feb. 4** Two Ukuleles and Early 20th Century Songs
- Feb. 11** TBA
- Feb. 18** TBA
- Feb. 25** Lance Davis, "Everyman" Reader's Theater
- Mar. 3** World Day of Prayer
- Mar. 10** Kathy Starbird, Pianist
- Mar. 17** TBA
- Mar. 24** Maundy Thursday Service

5th Annual Founders' Gala *Saturday, November 14, 2015*
 Honoring: The Ayrshire Foundation (Graciously accepted by Dick and Tracy Hirrel),
 Dr. Dawn Malcolm
 Trinity Presbyterian Church Pasadena
 6:00 pm at Descanso Gardens
 Featuring: Fritz Coleman, Master of Ceremonies
 Questions: Contact Meagan McClellan at
 mmcclellan@mvgh.org or 626.796.6135 ext.417



Memorial and Honorary Tributes April 2015 through September 2015

Making a contribution in honor or memory of a loved one creates a beautiful tribute. When you make a tribute gift, we will notify the family or loved ones that you specify (include their address) to let them know of your thoughtful gesture; however, no gift amount will be disclosed. Thank you for your generous tribute gifts.

Honorary Gifts

- Joel & Nancy Castillo - In honor of Roy & Nadine McManus
- Eleanor M. Wilson - In honor of Tom & Carol Erickson

Memorial Gifts

- Joseph Abe - In memory of Clara Heer
- Robert & Judith Cassell - In memory of Clara Heer
- Huw & Rachel Christopher - In memory of Margy Wentz, Dr. Wade P. Huie, Jr., Elizabeth Ann Gronmeyer, Rosa Trujillo Garcia, Nouvaart Djaferis, Dr. James McCallum, Rev. Dr. Steve Hayner, Frederick Joseph Torres
- Ted A. & Linda R. Daly - In memory of Clara Heer
- Mark & Agnes Duntley - In memory of Clara Heer
- Ray Falkenberg - In memory of Anne Falkenberg
- G. & E. Binder - In memory of Clara Heer
- Alvin H. Hart - In memory of Clara Heer
- Ewald & Hannelore Heer - In memory of Clara Heer
- Deane & Dolores Hendricks - In memory of Clara Heer
- Richard P. Henke - In memory of Clara Heer
- Marilyn Holdsworth - In memory of Malcolm Holdsworth
- Mark Holdsworth - In memory of Malcolm Holdsworth
- Eugene H. Holsinger, M.D. - In memory of Clara Heer
- Robert & Hedy Lodwick - In memory of Annabelle Dirks
- Berdine E. Kaeberle - In memory of Clara Heer
- George & Mary Mach - In memory of Clara Heer
- Joyce Bailey Maxson - In memory of Clara Heer
- Alvan E. and Roberta E. Morrison - In memory of Clara Heer
- Larry B. & Petite L. Morrison - In memory of Clara Heer
- David & Jean Owen - In memory of Margy Wentz
- Michael D. & Dora J. Poland - In memory of Clara Heer
- Elizabeth Trujillo Reyna - In memory of Clara Heer
- S L Seymour Construction, Inc. - In memory of Malcolm Holdsworth
- Alfred Solomon - In memory of Clara Heer
- Fawn De Layne Tanriverdi - In memory of Clara Heer
- Tennenbaum Capital Partner - In memory of Malcolm Holdsworth
- David & Anne Tomlinson - In memory of Clara Heer
- Melissa L. Tran - In memory of Clara Heer
- Ruth Turner - In memory of June Hansen
- S & J Waldon - In memory of Malcolm Holdsworth
- E. Eileen Wise - In memory of Margretha Buchanan
- Ruth Wright - In memory of Edward E. Wright & Timothy E. Wright
- Charles H. & Ellen Wunder - In memory of Clara Heer
- Mariko Yanagihara & Glenn Yoshida - In memory of Margy Wentz

PLANNED GIVING

Dear Friends at Monte Vista Grove Homes,

The Cornerstone Society luncheon on April 23rd was one of the best things we have attended in a long time. Our remarkable staff made beautiful arrangements and then very competently took care of us. The setting was a beautiful old brick patio enclosure. The fellowship was incredible and the food was delicious, but it was the program that really warmed our hearts.

Everyone who spoke was excellent, but we want to share a few highlights. Our MVGH Historian, Bill Hansen, told a moving story about a former MVGH resident, Justa Campa, who grew up as a child of poor immigrant migrant workers. She came to know Christ through our Presbyterian Migrant Ministry, gained a college education, and dedicated her life to our Presbyterian National Missions work, especially with migrant workers! Earning very little during her career, she was able to retire in a lovely, comfortable place at MVGH.

Debbie Herbert told three equally moving stories illustrating the way MVGH ministers to the outside community through the Health Center and the Hearth. We brainstormed about additional ways that we might further minister to “outsiders.” Robin Harvill, our Philanthropy Director, graciously thanked us as members of the Cornerstone Society and Roy McManus, President of our Board of Trustees, challenged us with his moving words and his strong commitment to the Grove.

We feel so thankful to be members of the Cornerstone Society and we invite you to give prayerful consideration to becoming a member. There are various ways to provide for your children and other loved ones in your will and still give something to Monte Vista Grove. These are explained in the Cornerstone brochures found in the brochure racks in the Commons.

Affectionately in Christ,
Joan and Bill Stackhouse, MVGH Residents

Community Outreach

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU FROM WILLARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Dear Residents of Monte Vista Grove,

On behalf of Willard Elementary School we would like to thank you for your generous donation of school supplies. Your commitment year after year is sincerely appreciated. Due to budget cuts in Education, we are so grateful to have community support from your organization. Our teachers, staff and students are so excited to receive much needed school supplies for our classrooms. Again, on behalf of our Willard Elementary School, thank you for your generous donation, and for being part of our Willard Family.

Sincerely, Mrs. Angela Baxter, Principal

JERICO ROAD

Monte Vista Grove Homes (MVGH) residents are very active in serving the community. Some of our residents are exploring volunteering with Jericho Road Project (JRP).

Jericho Road Pasadena (JRP) matches the professional talents of volunteers with the needs of nonprofit organizations. Nonprofits, often short on staff and resources, need a variety of expertise to help them perform better at both the strategic and operational levels. JRP has facilitated projects ranging from board development, strategic planning, data management, marketing, information technology, assessment and evaluation, finance and human resources. They need more volunteers with these skills.

JRP uses a specific match-making and project management process to ensure that you and the nonprofit assisted have a successful and fulfilling collaboration. This is a great opportunity for you to make a real contribution using the expertise you have worked hard to develop during your career. By matching your professional talents to the needs of nonprofits, JRP is working together to promote community development and strengthen social services in our community.

For more information contact Melanie Goodyear JRP Executive Director at 626-319-6466, mgoodyear@jerichoroadproject.org or www.jrppasadena.org.

Memory & Wellness (continued)

Campaign volunteers have been hard at work securing lead gifts and developing campaign materials. To date, the response has been overwhelming. Not only have we received broad endorsement of our Memory and Wellness vision, financial support of approximately \$2,717,432, or 54%, of the \$5 million challenge goal has been pledged or received.

Monte Vista Grove Homes is blessed to have such outstanding volunteer support lending their efforts to the campaign. And, we are blessed by the supreme generosity of our donors. We know that “*with God all things are possible*” (Matt. 9:26) and so we press on toward our goal of new facilities to support all aspects of holistic aging.



Proposed Memory Care Rendering

A Note From the Executive Director

One thing that has always impressed me about Monte Vista Grove Homes (MVGH) is that while change is inevitable, the essence of this special community stays the same. This is a campus of leaders who understand the importance of looking ahead to the future within the context of the Mission and Vision of MVGH. As Executive Director, it is a great joy to work with and learn from the uniquely qualified individuals who serve on our Board of Trustees, live on our campus, and work on staff.

I am celebrating my 20th year with Monte Vista Grove and have witnessed many changes. When I began my career here, thick, ominous hedges lined the perimeter of our campus. One could barely find the driveways and giving directions was an arduous task at best! A few years ago, we planted a new row of hedges behind the original one and it has now taken shape. Official entrance markers were built and now, the ominous hedge has been removed. The City of Pasadena has approved the plans for sidewalks and streetlights on both San Pasqual Street and El Nido Avenue, and the project is out to bid. We have transitioned from an organization that hid behind hedges to one that is embracing its location in the community.

As part of this organization’s outreach to the community, annual trips were started over ten years

ago. They began as small, easy cruises to Alaska, New England and Mexico. In most recent years, as the world has become more connected, these trips grew and we ventured to China and Israel! The latter was done in partnership with San Marino Community Church (SMCC) and the Rev. Jeff O’Grady. It was so popular that we are repeating this trip in 2016. Space is limited and all are welcome – you do not have to be a member of SMCC or resident of MVGH. For additional information, you can contact Travel Gallery at (626) 577-9717 or Noelle Gonzales at MVGH (626) 796-6135, ngonzales@mvgh.org. Please consider joining us for this life changing adventure!

I have spent the majority of my adult years at MVGH. I have learned far more than I can share here! One lesson that I have definitely learned is to embrace change, especially if it is done in concert and in sync with those impacted by the change. The rhythm of change needs to fluctuate, giving time for the organization to rest and plan for the next adjustment. MVGH has experienced 91 years of changing and adjusting under the leadership of extraordinarily qualified individuals! I am grateful for the many leaders in my life, past and present, which I have the honor of partnering with, as we embark on the new and exciting changes to come with the new Memory Care Residence and Wellness Center.



A Special Grandfather & Grandson Bond

Can you remember your favorite teacher? A teacher who maybe played a special role in your life? Perhaps was a role model to you? Now imagine... what if your favorite teacher was your grandfather?

Nico Symons Galassi is a 13 year old boy in the 8th grade who lives in Pasadena, California. His favorite subjects are History and Science. Some of Nico's hobbies include: fencing, science and biochemistry. Jim Symons, age 81, is Nico's grandfather and resides at Monte Vista Grove Homes. Jim and Nico share a special bond. For the past year, Jim has been homeschooling his grandson in History, with a special focus on the explorations of Lewis and Clark.

This past July, Jim, his wife Marilyn, and Nico all took a road trip to follow the Lewis and Clark trail. The road trip lasted for 14 days and they drove over 4,000 miles. They started in Pasadena and traveled north and east to Great Falls, Montana in two long, hot days – it was 116 degrees in Mesquite, Arizona. Following the route of Lewis and Clark along the Missouri River in Montana, they then drove from Great Falls to Helena, Three Forks and over the Continental Divide at Lemhi Pass on a one lane dirt road. Stops in Idaho included Salmon, Lolo Pass, and Lewiston. The last part of the trip followed the Columbia River, stopping at Walla Walla, Washington and The Dalles, Oregon before reaching the Pacific Ocean at Astoria. After visiting Fort Clatsop near Astoria where



Marilyn, Nico and Jim

Lewis and Clark spent the winter of 1805, they turned south to return home to Pasadena.

As Nico's teacher, it was important to Jim to let Nico experience the trail instead of just reading about it. In Jim's opinion, Lewis and Clark are the most important explorers in American history, making life and death decisions almost daily in a wilderness never seen before by American citizens. Jim enjoys homeschooling Nico because he can be creative in his teaching and learn alongside Nico about American history.

One of Nico's favorite memories of the journey was a stop at historic Ft. Benton, Montana, where they visited an ice cream shop and were offered a variety of types of soft



Nico, Jim and Marilyn

serve on a boiling hot day. Another memorable moment was at Lemhi Pass where they found Sacajawea Spring, a tiny stream they could straddle which was the origin of the mighty Missouri River. Lastly, at the end of the journey, Nico had the privilege of stopping in Oregon to visit his great aunt Margie whom he was "super excited" to see.

If Lewis and Clark were still alive, Jim would like to ask Lewis how he kept his team going when they were lost and starving in the Bitterroot Mountains of Idaho. He also is curious to know what happened and what was going through Lewis' mind when he was attacked by a grizzly bear near Great Falls – and suddenly realized his gun was not loaded! Nico would like to know why Lewis and Clark took so much soup (which turned out to be the biggest expense of the whole expedition). On Nico's travels they stopped at a "fancy restaurant" in Three Forks and ordered minestrone soup. Nico complained about how disgusting the soup tasted so the question he wanted answered from Lewis & Clark (and became a running joke the rest of the trip) was if the soup the expedition ate was the gross minestrone soup Nico had eaten. Nico also wonders why their spelling was so terrible. He explains that in Clark's journal the word 'berry' is spelled three different ways in one sentence. 'Sioux', the Native American tribe, has 28 different spellings. Jim jokes that he thinks it was probably part of their humor.

These two are quite the duo and one would see how special their bond is. Jim describes Nico as being brilliant. He says you can ask him any science question and he will be able to answer it. Nico summed up his travels with his grandpa as, "It's pretty fun traveling with my grandpa!"

On the horizon for the next summer's trip are possibly Route 66 from Chicago to Santa Monica or even the Alamo in San Antonio, Texas. Stay tuned for more adventures from Nico and Jim!

Happy 100th Birthday Angelita!

Monte Vista Grove resident, Angelita Lizárraga, recently celebrated her 100th birthday in style! The Lizárraga family treated about 200 guests to a lovely birthday luncheon celebration at their beautiful family restaurant, Tamayo. During the program, numerous individuals came to the podium to pay tribute and personally share how she had made an impact at the church or fellowship group where Angelita served, as well as at the non-profit organization, La Casa, that she co-founded with her beloved, late husband, Cesar. As a resident of the Grove for over 30 years, stories were also shared of the impact she has made in this community. Speaker after speaker described Angelita as strong, warm, generous, gracious, a prayer warrior, and an inspiration as she continually radiates God's love and character.



Angelita and Family



Angelita and Grove Friends

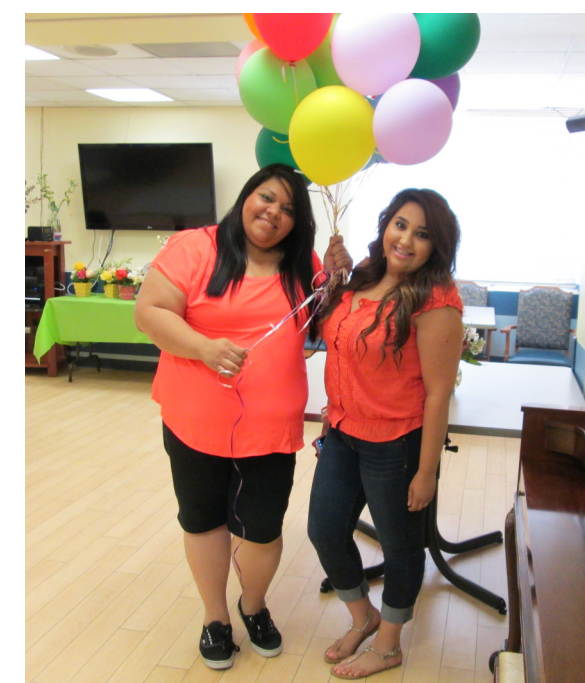
This was true at home as well. Angelita and Cesar's son, David, was strongly influenced by these values of faith,

integrity and community outreach that he saw modeled at home by his parents. In 1973, David went on to head TELACU, a pioneering institution that is committed to service, empowerment, advancement and the creation of self-sufficiency. One of their corporate entities is the TELACU Education Foundation, which for more than 3 decades has served more than 2,000 middle through graduate school students and veterans each and every year.

David's son, Michael, now serves as the President and CEO of TELACU and spoke at Angelita's birthday celebration of how his generation and the next, including his 3 daughters, are continuing the Lizárraga family legacy of serving and empowering our community. Michael's daughter Lauren (Angelita's great granddaughter) works at TELACU and also serves on the Board of La Casa. This is the best birthday gift one can receive – a family legacy of faith and service to the third generation and beyond. Well done, good and faithful servants!

When asked about her favorite memory at MVGH, she told a story of a female missionary who lived in the Health Center. The resident asked Kathy what she wanted to do with the rest of her life. Kathy explained she always felt her calling was to be a missionary somewhere overseas. The resident paused, looked up at Kathy and said, "you are fulfilling your calling, you are a missionary, and you are serving your mission every day here at MVGH."

"I am blessed and privileged to get to spend time with the residents, families, and staff. My love and care for them grows each and every day. I know that I have been called by God to be here at Monte Vista Grove Homes, and I am truly thankful for the opportunity to be able to learn and grow in such a supportive community. The only reason I am able to excel is because I have the support of everyone who works at MVGH. The staff has been incredible and encouraging, and that is the only way I am able to do my job properly. TEAM WORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK!"



Kathy & Natalie

STAFF

Kathya Climaco

Kathya was born in Fairfax, Virginia and raised in West Covina, CA. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Psychology with a double major in Family and Child Therapy and Counseling from Azusa Pacific University.



Kathya at APU

Kathya learned about MVGH through her cousin, a former employee in the Health Center (skilled nursing facility). Kathya first joined MVGH in 2011 as a volunteer for a short time and soon became an official member of the MVGH team as an Activities Assistant in our Health Center. Today, Kathya is our Life Engagement Coordinator (LEC) and Social Service Designee (SSD). As the LEC, she coordinates activities through resident engagement promoting artistic expression, physical activity, spiritual support, community connections, life & leisure and continuing education. As SSD, she coordinates internal and external services in order to attain or maintain the highest practical well being for each resident. In both roles, Kathya serves as an advocate for each resident.

Kathya's drive and passion for the residents of MVGH has kept her motivated as she pursued the education necessary for these higher-level positions. She recently completed an Activities Director course, a Social Services Certification, and a Food Service Training Certification. Some of the key concepts she gained from these programs are the awareness of the rapidly aging community on campus, person-centered care, relationship building and the importance of quality time spent with residents.

Kathya continually seeks to enhance resident care by bringing new and innovative programs to MVGH. Some of these include: group crossword, karaoke, inflatable bowling, outside wheel chair walks, and a painting class with a local doctor who graciously volunteers his time. In addition, she has made several cosmetic improvements in the Health Center including

mounting several televisions on the common walls where everyone can enjoy an up-to-date photo slideshow with background music. She has invited more staff and families of residents to join and partner with her during activities. She has found by doing so, staff are able to connect in a more intimate and engaging way with residents. Additionally, this invitation has also helped resident families interact with their loved ones on a deeper level.

An important aspect of life engagement is not only connecting with the familiar past but also experiencing current trends. One experience she will be introducing in the future is a "foodie" event called "Taste of the Month" where residents have the opportunity to experience unique food dishes from different regions of the world. The dishes will be cooked onsite to emerge the residents in a culinary experience. She has also teamed up with our Food Service Director, Fran Janbakhsh to provide an alternative meal option called "Brunch for Lunch" where residents can order their food tableside. This cooked-to-order style offers the aroma of fresh breakfast cooking.



Kathya working in Activities

Kathya notes that some residents are nervous of transitioning to another level of care and share with her their concerns of being isolated, so she intentionally works to make transitions less worrisome. It is important for each resident and family to know she is their advocate and cheerleader.

COMMUNITY

DONOR

The Falkenberg Family

Anne Falkenberg was born and raised by loving parents in Indianapolis, Indiana. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree and teaching credential from Asbury College, Wilmore, Kentucky, where she was active in music as an accomplished pianist. Her 1937 senior class yearbook said that Anne is "able, quiet, a possessor of a sweet Christian personality who is vitally alive to the world about her."

At the end of WW II Anne and her husband, Don, with their 3 year old son were passengers on the first ship carrying civilians to the Philippines. During their missionary service there, Anne assisted her pastor husband with the English-speaking congregation of the United Church of Christ in Baguio. They led efforts in the re-construction of the bombed-out church edifice and served with many ecumenical groups working to heal spiritual wounds created during the war years.

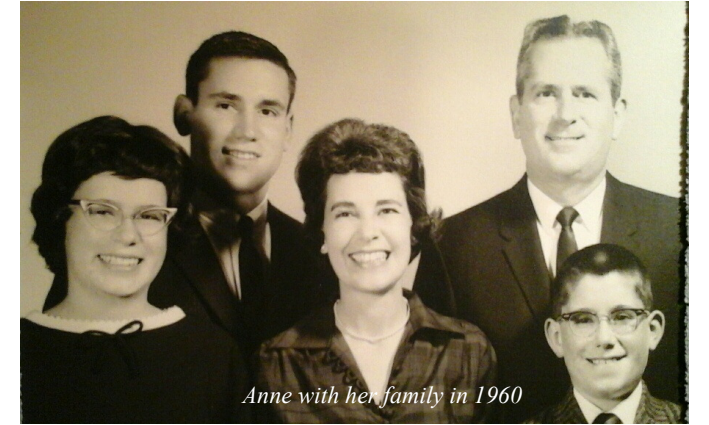
Returning to the United States in 1951, Anne supported her husband, pastor of Presbyterian churches in Pittsburgh, St. Louis, and Kansas City, where she was involved in church related activities in addition to raising their family of three children.

After moving the family to California in 1961 Anne became the director of a co-op nursery in Marin County, where her husband assumed the directorship of a career counseling



Anne at the co-op nursery

service serving Protestant clergy. After eighteen years at that location they moved to Pasadena where her husband continued the counseling service work. After retiring in 1984 they returned to the Bay Area, living in Terra Linda, where they were active with the Christ Presbyterian Church.



Anne with her family in 1960

During that time Anne was an elder at the church and was involved with the National Alliance on Mental Illness and the Housing Consortium of Mental Health. After her husband's death in 1990 she moved to Monte Vista Grove Homes in 1993, where she lived until her passing in 2012. Anne struggled with memory loss in her later years. Her family provided extraordinary assistance so that she could stay in her MVGH home as long as possible. A Memory Care Residence would have been a welcome option.

Falkenberg Tribute: *The Falkenberg family has honored Anne by sponsoring this year's Gala which will support our new Memory Care Residence and Wellness Center Campaign.*

"MVGH is more than a place. It is an active engaged community where life is full of living. We saw that vibrancy the times we visited, and as a result made personal connections with many of her friends. This capital campaign will provide for the enhancement of the lives of its residents. It is with the spirit of gratitude for the 19 years our mother lived there that the Falkenberg family participates as a sponsor of this year's Gala. In doing so, we share and support the organization's vision and values which are consistent with the way our mother lived her life."



Anne Falkenberg

RESIDENT

The Erickson Family Legacy: The Tom and Alicia Team

Monte Vista Grove is home to amazing and active residents rich with talent, drive, and passion. Residents Tom and Carol Erickson are no exception! Tom served as a Presbyterian minister for 47 years before he retired at age 68. At the time of his retirement, he was shepherding Valley Presbyterian Church, a large Arizona church with a membership of 2,400, where Tom had successfully led a \$10 million building campaign.

But upon retirement, did Tom kick back and hit the golf course? Not at all! In fact, 2 months later he was called to serve as the Interim Pastor of the prestigious National Presbyterian Church in Washington D.C. He then went on to serve in another interim pastoral role before he and Carol moved to Monte Vista Grove in 2007. However, Tom still didn't rest on his laurels. In fact, he served in 3 additional Interim Pastor roles in Orange County the past 8 years while living at Monte Vista Grove. Carol has always been a valued partner in ministry and would join Tom in making pastoral calls. Tom said, "I have always treasured Carol's intuitive ability to see what's really going on in a situation." Early in his ministry, Carol successfully managed several high end retail companies. Tom describes Carol as a "retail genius" and Carol utilizes that expertise today in managing one of the Grove stores here on our campus.

Tom and Carol have been married for 61 years and have 3 daughters, 6 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. Their middle daughter, Alicia Romo, lives locally with her husband, Michael. Alicia has been an active volunteer here at Monte Vista Grove for a number of years.

As a Managing Director at Union Bank, Alicia, like her parents, is remarkably talented. She also emulates the values of family and faith that she learned as a child. She described her parents as being open, loving, and supportive, encouraging her to pursue her own interests. Alicia and her husband have been married for 29 years and have a 22 year-old son. Tom and Carol have set a great example of a healthy marriage. They have made it a priority throughout their marriage to spend an hour together each day, connecting, and reviewing the day. Even today, they have breakfast together every morning and walk several miles a day together.

Tom and Alicia are embarking on a new adventure together. As a Father-Daughter team, they are serving on the MVGH Campaign Cabinet to raise funds to build a new Memory Care Residence and Wellness Center on our campus. Even though Alicia is extraordinarily busy, she is helping with this because she said, "This project is fabulous...People living here are experts in theology and nourishing the spiritual life. However, it is also important to have experts in the physical and mental life. I have had to learn that myself in my middle age...I want to age in place independently. If I am afflicted in the future, I want to be in a place like this."

For Tom, the reason he is serving as Co-Chair of this Campaign Cabinet is even more personal. He said, "I am watching one of my good friends decline into a vegetative state. I mourn her decline and her husband's (the best man in their wedding) grief and I feel so helpless. Carol and I go up to Santa Barbara to bolster him, pray with him and take him to dinner. And we also have friends here at the Grove that we see suffering the same fate, and the toll it takes on the caregiver."

Both the Ericksons and Romos are passionate about the impact the new Memory Care and Wellness Center project will have. This campaign will provide state-of-the-art care as well as a comprehensive wellness approach to enable residents to age in place well. The Erickson legacy of passion, caring, talent and drive continues with this Father Daughter team -- working hand in hand on this project, to help bring God's light to a very special place, Monte Vista Grove Homes.



Michael, Alicia, Carol and Tom

COMMUNITY

CHURCH

La Verne Heights Presbyterian Church

1040 Baseline Rd, La Verne, CA 91750
(909) 593-1017 www.lvhpc.org
Worship Services: Sunday at 9am

La Verne Heights Presbyterian Church (LVHPC) and Monte Vista Groves Homes have a lot in common. We love God and we love serving others. Here's a bit of LVHPC history. LVHPC is a relatively young church. In January, 1967, LVHPC held its first worship service. In 1970, ground was broken for the first building on the Baseline Avenue site, and the first pastor, the Reverend Jack Springer, took leadership. Over the years, we have enjoyed the leadership of several more fine pastors: Rev. Vic Pentz, Rev. Mark Frey, and Rev. Steve Metcalf, as well as several fine interim pastors. In 1990, our new sanctuary was dedicated and in 2002 our Christian Formation Center was completed. Worship, mission, and education for children, youth, and adults are the heart of our church. God has directed strong ministries for all ages at LVHPC and mission projects have always held an important place. The congregation is actively involved through ministry groups and in mission near and far with, for examples: Connect, Dorcas, Habitat for Humanity, Homeless, ICON, Pomona Hope Community Center, and Providence Children's Home in Kenya.

LVHPC is now in an exciting transitional period. We are calling a new pastor and new youth ministry director, and are seeking a new children's ministry director. On November 8, we will be saying "Thank you and farewell" to our esteemed and beloved interim pastor Rev. Dr.



Gary Demarest. Then, we will welcome Rev. Jonathan Hughes. Pastor Gary has so ably led our congregation for over two years. We are very grateful for his deep love of the Lord, his understanding of the scripture and polity, his excellent preaching, his depth of experience, his quick wit, and the way he takes a personal and sincere interest in everyone.

Monte Vista Grove Homes and La Verne Heights Presbyterian have been mission partners for many years. Why? We want to honor and support the Christian leaders who have served faithfully as pastors and missionaries. We pray for you and we support you financially. Each year our mission ministry group invites our mission partners to submit a request for funding, and every year Monte Vista Grove has responded with a specific request. It gives us great joy to have helped you create your beautiful desert garden and to bridge the gap for those needing assisted living support. This year, we will give toward the building of the Wellness and Memory Care Center. We look forward to building even stronger ties with you at Monte Vista Grove Homes!

Harriet Archibald-Woodward,
Elder, Mission Ministry Moderator, and Administration Chair

