



THE GROVE STORE

The purpose of the Hearth and Health Center Auxiliary is to enhance the physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being of the 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.*



Fall 2014

MESSENGER

Monte Vista Grove
HOMES

(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.

2014 Spirit Gala

Monte Vista Grove Homes celebrated 90 years of faithful, caring service at their 4th Annual Gala on Saturday evening, July 19, 2014. This historic event was held at the beautiful Descanso Gardens.

It was a perfect evening, and guests enjoyed the lovely outdoor setting the first hour of the evening. Small tables and chairs were set up for guests to assemble and reconnect with friends and enjoy hors d'oeuvres. Nearby, Silent Auction items were displayed so guests could peruse them and make their bids. Also, an original painting from professional artist Ruth Basler Burr and 9 paintings from 5 MVGH residents were offered.

At 7 p.m. doors opened and guests entered to assigned tables with a centerpiece pot of succulents, oranges (representing that the MVGH property had been an orange grove previously) and colorful flowers all uniquely and beautifully arranged. All centerpieces were provided by Gala committee member, *Julie Komen*. A delicious free-range chicken dinner was served during the program. Executive Director, *Deborah Herbert* welcomed the 185 guests. Board President, *Mariko Yanagihara* gave the invocation. Music throughout the evening was provided by *Ross Jutsum*, Master of Ceremonies.

[Continued on page 3]



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

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

Monte Vista Grove Homes is a member of 

Messenger Editor: Meagan McClellan
Design: Alisha Zuch



MONTE VISTA GROVE HOMES

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CALENDAR

OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 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.

- Oct. 9** Peter Adams, Artist
- Oct. 16** League of Women Voters, Ballot propositions
- Oct. 23** Roberta King, Christian/Muslim reconciliation through music
- Oct. 30** New Hope Presbyterian Church, an "emerging" congregation
- Nov. 6** Jay Harvill, Methodist Hospital Administrator
- Nov. 13** TBA
- Nov. 20** Ramona Convent Choir
- Dec. 4** John Morris, Metropolitan Water District
- Dec. 11** No Convocation - Resident/Staff Event
- Dec. 18** Christmas Carol Sing-A long

Planned Giving Seminar

Monday, October 13, 2014

Guest Speakers: Allen H. Van Deventer & Elizabeth A. Bawden
4:30-6:30pm Light Dinner and Program
Complimentary event at Monte Vista Grove Homes.
RSVP to Robin Harvill at rharvill@mvgh.org or 626.796.6135 ext.437.

Monte Vista MUSINGS

Monday, October 20, 2014

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Dave Tomlinson
"The 21st Century Church and Who Will Lead It?"
6-6:30pm refreshments | 6:30-7:30pm program
Complimentary event at Monte Vista Grove Homes.

Cornerstone Society Dinner

Monday, November 3, 2014

6:00 pm at Café Bizou 91 N Raymond Ave, Pasadena, CA 91103
Dinner for Cornerstone Society Members.
A Cornerstone Society member is someone who has provided for Monte Vista Grove Homes in their will or estate plans.
RSVP to Robin Harvill at rharvill@mvgh.org or 626.796.6135 ext.437.



2014 Spirit Gala (continued)

The 90th Birthday Celebration featured a special vignette written by MVGH resident *Bill Hansen* honoring Mr. James Marwick, who served as an Elder in the Santa Barbara Presbyterian Church some 90 years ago. Mr. Marwick's vision and efforts raised the money to purchase the 13 ½ acre site in Pasadena to develop housing for retired Presbyterian ministers.

Steve Mandic did a terrific job as auctioneer for the Live Auction which was great fun with several competing anxiously for the final "catch"! The Live Auction consisted of 3 Getaway Packages: A Day at the Races by the Beach, A San Francisco Getaway, and a One-Week Vacation in Kauai.

The centerpiece of every Gala is honoring the recipients of the Spirit Awards. Spirit Awards are given annually to individuals who, according to the Board of Trustees, have provided exemplary service to the residents of MVGH. Recipients of this year's awards were *Dr. Stuart Miller, Knox Presbyterian Church*, and the *Soldwedel Family*.

Dr. Stuart Miller is the Grove's Medical Director, a position he has held for over 20 years. He has been acclaimed as "the best Director ever!" Several tables of family and friends and a contingency from *Huntington Hospital* and *Caltech* were present to honor him.

Knox Presbyterian Church has been in Pasadena for 126 years and many MVGH residents have attended Knox over the years. The *Rev. Matthew Colwell*, the pastor of Knox Presbyterian Church, graciously accepted the award on behalf of his congregation.

Family members and friends of the *Soldwedel* family filled several tables. The late *Fred W. Soldwedel* had served Monte Vista Grove Homes for decades, during which time Marwick Place was built. His wife *Donna* had been Vice President of the group that formed the Health Center and Hearth Auxiliary in 1975. His eldest son *Fred D. Soldwedel* has served on the Board of Trustees, and his wife *Cindy* is currently on the Board serving as Vice President.

At the close of the evening, 90th birthday cake was served and the room was filled with singing Happy Birthday. *Deborah Herbert* gave closing remarks including acknowledging this year's Gala Committee. *Meagan McClellan* and *Alisha Zuch* deserve many kudos and our thanks for all they spearheaded to make this such a memorable event. It was a wonderful celebration. A genuine spirit of camaraderie prevailed throughout the evening reflecting the vision and spirit of MVGH.

Submitted by Residents
Mary Brassard & Carolyn French



2014 Spirit Gala (continued)

Monte Vista Grove Homes wants to extend special gratitude of appreciation to our generous supporters for our successful 4th Annual Gala.



Presenting Sponsor



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2014 Israel Trip



On April 27, 36 people departed in the dark of night for a 12-day excursion to Israel. We left anticipating an adventure and returned, some 115,277 steps later, as changed individuals. Monte Vista Grove Homes partnered with San Marino Community Church for perhaps their most ambitious trip to date. *Frank and Valerie Fish* from Travel Gallery not only coordinated the trip but also accompanied us throughout the experience, going before us each step of the way to ensure our safety and comfort.

Each traveler was provided a Devotional book, authored by Monte Vista Grove Residents, with each day prayerfully tailored specifically to the location on our itinerary. These residents, who had gone before us, integrated their experience and wisdom into the devotional content. These proved to be a powerful tool in terms of setting our focus for the day ahead and providing a place to document our experiences. Now, several months later, it is a helpful reminder of our pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

In addition to *Frank and Valerie*, we were also escorted by *Eric Copperman*, our tour guide and *Shlomo*, our faithful bus driver. *Eric* has a Master's in history along with extensive training with the top archeologists in the world. We quickly dubbed him the "walking encyclopedia" as he could answer any question we threw at him regarding Christian or Jewish history and culture. He traveled with us each step of the way to ensure that we had a rich, well-rounded experience of this most treasured part of the world. Our experience was made complete with the leadership and teaching of *Rev. Jeffrey O'Grady* from San Marino Community Church. *Rev. O'Grady*, "*Jeff*," was behind the scenes seeking ways to enhance our experience and in front of us, teaching in communion with *Eric* and then de-briefing with our group in the evening. *Jeff's* leadership invited us to ask questions, dig deeper and challenge our preconceived notions of this holy place.

Eric tutored us as we visited Tel Aviv, Caesarea Maritima, Carmel, Megiddo, Tiberius, Nazareth, Dan, Baniyas Springs, Hazor, Caesarea Philippi, Capernaum, Korazim, Katzrin, Bet Shean, Jerusalem, Masada, Jericho, and Bethlehem. In addition, we watched sunlight dance on the Sea of Galilee; marveled at the Jesus Boat; prayed at the Mount of Beatitudes; remained vigilant in the Garden of Gethsemane; walked the Via Del La Rosa; wept at the Garden Tomb; worshiped at St. Andrew's Church; wept again at the Yad Vashem; swam in the Dead Sea; studied at Bet Shean and Zippori National Park; waded through Hezekiah's Tunnel; and prayed at the Western Wall.

We were moved on Israel's Memorial Day while up on the Masada; the holiday was marked by the sounding of a two



minute air raid siren. All activity ceased, including traffic on the highways, in remembrance of the soldiers who lost their lives in battle defending Israel.

We also experienced a small piece of the conflict between Israel and Palestine when we had to leave our behind beloved Israeli tour guide, *Eric*, before we crossed through the checkpoint into Palestine, where we were greeted by our Palestinian Christian guide. There were cheers and applause as *Eric* re-boarded our bus at the end of the day.



There were layers to this adventure: First, the deepening of our faith as we were able to visualize some of the places our Lord and his disciples lived and traveled. Second, the expansion of our knowledge of the history, traditions and people of this part of the world.

Third, an awareness of the many complexities to the Israeli conflict and appreciation for individuals who live with this conflict day to day. Fourth, a bond that developed between the 36 individuals who traveled for 12 days on 1 bus and walked over 115,277 steps.

We quickly became a "tribe," supporting and encouraging one another, united in our faith in Christ. *Anne Cominotto, Phil and Irene Lao, Yasuko Sakimura, Derald and Charolotte Brackmann, Don and Carol Decker, Harold and Penny Ray, Kathleen Campbell, Steve and Hilary Dorsey, Susie French-Fister, Ellen Haserot, Roger and Penny Hunt, Tom and Susan Maxwell, Bill and Mary Payne, Stan and Teena Pitts, Matt and Linda Smith, Phil and Kay Swan, Bill and Janet Wells, Margy and Brandon Wentz, Frank and Valerie Fish, and Bill and Debbie Herbert* will always be connected through this extraordinary experience.



Deborah Herbert, Executive Director



Pasadena Police Ride-Along

Each spring Monte Vista Grove Homes hosts a Pancake Breakfast. In May 2013 they also held a silent auction at the breakfast. My friends, *Sherman and Alyse Fung*, invited me to attend. This event is always very enjoyable, and I spotted silent auction tables nearby. The item that caught my fancy was a certificate for a patrol car ride-along. It was good for one person, and the owner was given a year to use this gift.



Focusing in on the gift certificate, I noticed several men bidding. I kept coming back to the item from time to time. Finally, as closing neared, I began “hovering” near my chosen gift. My interest in this object was due to having several law enforcement relatives: my dad was Chief of Police in a small town in the central valley of this state. Later he was appointed Under Sheriff of Kern County for several years. Two uncles were Highway Patrolmen, as was a cousin, all in California. One brother was an attorney in the District Attorney’s office of San Diego; another one was a prison guard at Tehachapi. I happily won the award!

Somehow, time frittered by and it was May 30, 2014, before I appeared in Pasadena as instructed to check in at

7:30 a.m. A year before, this ride had seemed like a fine idea. Now, turning 80 years in five months, I wasn’t so sure!

A 30-year-old officer was assigned to be my mentor for the day. He took me to an area to put on a bulletproof vest. That was exciting! I was then handed a waiver to sign that if I were shot, injured or killed, the City of Pasadena would not be liable. Once inside the car he taught me what he could in a short time. We proceeded to our assigned city

area. During eight hours, we had about 14 events. Most of the time I exited the car with the officer.

I could have stayed for all 12 hours but elected to leave after eight. It was a very exhausting day. I slept well that night. I learned a lot. My police officer guide was a perfect gentleman, dedicated, bright, efficient, fast, very alert, personable, professional and firm, but kind. He had good decision-making skills, good thinking. Yes, it appears that Pasadena citizens are in very competent hands. These men and women are serving you well. I loved my special day!

Jacquie Townsend, Stephen Minister
La Canada Presbyterian Church

COMMUNITY

DONOR Mae Douglas

Born in 1925, *Mae Douglas* made a significant impact at Monte Vista Grove with her time, talent and treasure. She served for many years on the Board of Trustees and even as Board President. She graciously shared her time, leadership expertise and wisdom in that capacity. Furthermore, she also generously supported the ministry throughout the years, eventually through her estate as well.

Mae enjoyed a fulfilling life, serving the Christian community in a variety of roles. In Mae’s Testimony she shared that while she grew up attending an Anglican church in Canada, it wasn’t until her late teens that she made a “life-changing commitment to Christ” at a Youth For Christ rally. She had said that this began a new journey with a great sense of wonder. “God provided friends who shared my interest and a church with a strong teaching ministry to help me in my quest,” she said in her written testimony.

In 1954, Mae felt the Lord call her into fulltime Christian service and moved to Michigan to serve on staff at the Strathmoor-Judson Baptist Church. In 1962, she moved to California and took a job at the American Bible Society. “But the Lord had other things in mind,” she wrote.

She was approached to be Charles Fuller’s right hand person at the Gospel Broadcasting Association. She wrote, “It was my privilege to spend five years listening and learning of God’s work in and through this servant, Dr. Charles E. Fuller.” Following Dr. Fuller’s death, Mae continued to work as a key administrator as the organization grew into the Fuller Evangelistic Association. In fact, Mae served there for 27 years, until her retirement in 1991.

Mae was an active member of *La Canada Presbyterian Church (LCPC)* for over 40 years, where she was an ordained Elder, served on Session and the San Fernando Presbytery – not to mention a dedicated member of the Chancel Choir since 1970.



Mae never married, and loved to travel and enjoy new adventures with friends. She was an avid Dodger fan, loved the theater, and enjoyed Disney Hall concerts with her dear friend *Dawn Malcolm*, also an LCPC choir member and MVGH Trustee.

Later, when she came to a place in life where she needed some additional support, she turned to none other than Monte Vista Grove and moved into the Hearth. Here she enjoyed a rich community life and daily expression of God’s love. She later moved into our Health Center where she eventually passed away. However, she continued her legacy of Christian caring and service far beyond her lifetime, as she named Monte Vista Grove Homes to receive a third of her estate to help sustain this vital ministry and ensure that others who come after her could enjoy the same kind of excellent care that she received. We are deeply grateful for Mae’s many contributions to Monte Vista Grove Homes. Her legacy continues strong!

Raised Garden Beds

On January 29, 2014, a ribbon cutting was held in our garden area to celebrate completion of a very special project – raised garden beds created by Girl Scout *Katherine Shinno*. *Katherine* (with the help of her devoted family) had been working on transforming the garden area between the Commons parking lot and San Pasqual. She installed raised garden beds for wheelchair access, particularly appealing to our “gardeners” in the Health Center.



Katherine approached Monte Vista Grove Homes in September 2013, to offer the raised garden bed project as her Girl Scout Gold Award (similar to the Eagle Scout award). She chose MVGH because her grandfather, *George Inadomi*, had been a Trustee on our Board for several years, during which he would bring *Katherine* as a young girl to events such as our Pancake Breakfast. This instilled in her an affection for seniors as well as a spirit of volunteerism.

The raised garden beds are not only well designed and constructed, but really improve the gardening experience for our wheelchair-bound residents. The feedback from residents has been overwhelmingly positive with comments such as “I haven’t been able to garden in years” and “how good it feels to be outside and getting my hands in the soil!” They are excited to be able to enjoy the fruits of their labor, as every vegetable grown is used and tables in their dining room are decorated with the flowers from the garden. The residents are so proud of their garden; they show it off to every visitor who comes to the Grove. It is through the generosity of persons like *Katherine* and her team that helps improve the quality of life for our treasured residents.



RESIDENT Angelita Lizárraga

Angelita Lizárraga has lived at Monte Vista Grove Homes for 35 years, longer than almost any other current resident. She moved here in 1979 with her beloved late husband of 66 years -- *Rev. Cesar M. Lizárraga*. They enjoyed a powerful ministry together and made an indelible and lasting impact in the communities where they served.

Although they were both born in Mexico and moved to the U.S. as children, they met at a Methodist School in El Paso where they were both studying to become missionaries. Cesar later moved to Los Angeles to continue his preparation for ministry, while continuing a long-distance relationship with Angelita. Through scholarship support and help from many, Cesar received a degree from USC's Theological Seminary -- the first US citizen of Mexican descent to earn this.

After their marriage in 1939, they served at the Methodist Church on Olvera Street. Later they went on to the First Presbyterian Church of San Gabriel, where they served for 10 years. Angelita said that Cesar had a vision of this church working in the community -- to be God's hand and feet to those in need. They prayed a great deal about it, and then Cesar presented his dream to the Session, that approved it.

The rest is history. They developed alliances with other neighboring churches, schools and Kiwanis clubs. They began programs for children and youth and the church grew! Times were challenging for Mexican immigrants then, so they encouraged community members to become

citizens, vote and become part of the solution -- empowering them.

Eventually Angelita and Cesar began a vital Community center called *La Casa de San Gabriel*, which educates and supports families in need. Angelita was responsible for all programming at La Casa and remembers even picking up children from school for activities. "It is a joy to bring happiness to people," she said. La Casa continues to thrive today.

Cesar and Angelita were later called to a church in East Los Angeles, where they continued to serve the needs of their community. As the Lizárragas' only son *David* grew up, he watched his parents serving others with the love of Christ. Angelita said that when David was a little boy, he wanted to get involved in community work like them, and began volunteering at an early age.

The seeds Angelita and Cesar planted during their ministry have impacted thousands of people, as the legacy of their work has continued for generations. Now, four generations of Lizárragas have been involved in working to make the local community a better place.

Their son David went on to found a very successful company called *TELACU Industries*, a pioneering institution that serves and empowers the community by building affordable homes, developing



community centers, creating jobs and much more. David's only son, *Michael* serves as President and CEO of TELACU.

It is a family affair. This legacy of service continues to the fourth generation. Angelita's great granddaughter *Lauren* graduated from Azusa Pacific University, is currently pursuing a Master's of Science in Social Entrepreneurship at USC, and is on the Board of La Casa. As Angelita and Cesar modeled and taught David, his company is built on giving back. In 1983, he created the *TELACU Education Foundation*, dedicated to providing college scholarship support. Annually, this Foundation supports more than 2,000 students in realizing their dream of higher education, and in so doing, has changed the trajectory of their lives.

Angelita enjoys living at Monte Vista Grove Homes today and finds joy in seeing fruit from the seeds she helped to plant many years ago. She said that she is grateful to live at Monte Vista Grove and describes it as a, "beautiful, extended Christian family that cares for each other...one of the best." What a beautiful legacy she and her family have created...what they have given to the community is the gift that keeps giving!



COMMUNITY

STAFF Anni Krikorian

Anni Krikorian -- an employee of Monte Vista Grove Homes for over 15 years. Anni, MVGH Activities Director, started at MVGH in 1998 as a C.N.A. (Certified Nursing Assistant). Her goal was to eventually become an L.V.N. (Licensed Vocational Nurse) but she soon discovered after helping out in the Activities Department that her true passions lie in developing and implementing activities and events for the residents with the ultimate goal to make them happy. She was promoted into her current position in 2009.

Anni was born in Lebanon and raised in Syria with her three younger brothers. She eventually returned to Lebanon where she met and married her husband, *Vic*. What brought her to California in 1979 was the civil war that had broken out by fundamentalists. She remembers the day clearly -- it was called "Black Saturday" when masked individuals opened-fired at all the civilians where her husband was managing their business. She was at home pregnant with the first of her two children. Their business at the time had 35 employees -- one of whom was an unreliable and troubled



man who often did not show up for work. Anni and her husband continued to pay his full salary because they felt sorry for him. On that Black Saturday, while the fanatics were firing at everyone in sight -- one man raised his gun to Anni's husband which would have marked his last day. But by God's providence, a miracle happened. Another masked individual jumped in front of him, opened his arms wide to cover him, and commanded, "Don't touch him -- he's my boss." Anni and her husband's act of kindness towards that lost soul ended up saving their lives. This marked the beginning of a new life in America as Anni and her husband packed their bags and joined the rest of her family in California.

Anni has two grown children -- eldest son *Mgo* and daughter *Isabel*. Anni enjoys hobbies such as swimming, singing, cooking, helping people, and she actively serves at her church where her brother is the minister. Her friends and co-workers characterize her as happy and friendly. She loves her job at MVGH. Her motto in life is: Help anyone. Make them happy and comfortable in this life no matter what circumstance they are in. The secret to her own happiness is, "If you have Christ, you will be happy no matter what."

CHURCH Knox Presbyterian Church

Pastor: *Rev. Dr. Matthew Colwell*
225 South Hill Ave, Pasadena, CA 91106
626.449.2144



Knox Presbyterian Church was first organized in 1888. In 1925, it was incorporated as the First United Presbyterian Church of Pasadena. In its 126-year history, it has had over 28 pastors and interim pastors. The church has persevered through some very difficult times, including the Great Depression and threatened closure, due in large part to the faithful dedication of its lay leaders and volunteers. When the Presbyterian Church USA and the United Presbyterian Church joined, this small but mighty congregation voted to change its name to Knox United Presbyterian Church. Knox has been home to many MVGH residents. In 1987, *Rev. Dr. Marguerite Shuster*, became the first female pastor of Knox. She is the daughter of former MVGH residents, *Rev. Dr. Carroll and Grace Shuster*. Current residents who have served as a large part of Knox's ministry include *Kathie Jacobsen*, the late *Marjorie Dye*, and *Rev. Dan Newhall* who served as an interim and many other residents have attended Knox over the years.

It was our privilege at this year's 4th Annual Gala to honor Knox Presbyterian Church for the spirit of faithfulness, volunteerism, and concern for others that has not only been the lifeblood of Knox Presbyterian Church for 126 years, but has also manifested itself through acts of kindness and volunteerism for and with residents of MVGH.

PLANNED GIVING

The French Family Legacy Lives

Art and Carolyn French moved to Monte Vista Grove Homes in 2001. However, this was not the French family's first introduction to Monte Vista Grove. In fact, when Art and Carolyn moved in, Art's mother was still living here; she lived here for 31 years. So the French children and grandchildren who visit frequently consider Monte Vista Grove Homes to be a second home.

Art and Carolyn enjoyed a rich and exciting ministry before coming to Monte Vista. Art was born in China where his parents served as missionaries. Carolyn was also a pastor's daughter. Pastoral care is in their bloodline. Art and Carolyn met while both studying at the College of Wooster. Art went on to Princeton Seminary and Carolyn went to the University of Pennsylvania to pursue her degree in Public Health Nursing – but they continued their relationship long distance. Once Art graduated from Princeton, he was ordained, married and the two of them were off to their first church in Alaska – all within 3 weeks!

They were true pioneers in Arctic Alaska, stationed on St. Lawrence Island. Art pastored 2 churches there (a 60 mile journey) accessible only by dogsled in the winter and by walrus-skinned boats in the summer (a 40 mile trek). Carolyn served as THE health care professional for the entire 100 mile island (and she had all of 5 months nursing training under her belt before coming to the island). The only way to reach the Dr. on the mainland was through shortwave radio. Art recalls one time when he and 5-months pregnant Carolyn were traveling in freezing temperatures by dogsled with their 18-month old daughter sitting in Carolyn's lap for the 60 mile trek...Now that is dedication!

After several years in Alaska, they decided to come to California and thaw out. He pastored a church in Idyllwild, then they went on to First Presbyterian Church of Gardena for 30 years before Art retired. During this time, Carolyn continued her nursing career working at local hospitals.



Today Art and Carolyn are both very active here at Monte Vista Grove, each serving on multiple committees, giving back to the residents and community here. Art has also served as a Trustee for a number of years. "We knew from the start, this is home," said Art.

When talking about the kind of legacy Art and Carolyn hope to leave someday, Art said, "It's not financial; it's a legacy of faith." Art and Carolyn have 3 daughters; all live in California. Art and Carolyn have passed on their journey of faith to them. Art said, "Each girl has a strong faith. None of them are like us, but that is OK. We wanted each girl to be her own individual and develop a faith that was her own. They are who they are because of their faith."

Monte Vista Grove is a part of this faith tradition. "We have decided that Monte Vista Grove is our main mission. It's our life. I love Monte Vista Grove; it has taken care of our family for 2 generations. We saw how my parents were able to live a life free of financial concerns here," said Art.

Art and Carolyn have made a provision in their estate plans to benefit Monte Vista Grove, and thus are members of our *Cornerstone Society*. Art said, "This was a 'no-brainer' for us. It was very important to us to do this and we specified that our gift will benefit the *Quality of Life Endowment*." This fund provides for residents who may outlive their resources. "We feel really good about this commitment, and our children support it. I think many people believe that if they leave money to charity, that means they exclude their children. However, it's very easy to do both," said Art.

"We recognize that the amount we are able to give is small, but we know that every gift makes a difference. We need more people to give some amount." Those who make a minimum \$5,000 provision in their estate plans qualify to be recognized as a member of our *Cornerstone Society*. If you are interested in learning more about this, please contact Robin Harvill at (626) 796-6135 ext 437 or rhavill@mvgh.org.



Do You Know The Advantages of Gifting Stock?

Giving appreciated stock to a charity can save you from potential capital gains tax and enable you to take a tax deduction for the full value of the stock.

Perhaps you have owned stock for some time and it has appreciated...If you were to sell it, you would have to pay capital gains on the appreciated value. However, if you donated the same stock to charity (assuming you have held it for at least 2 years), you could take a tax deduction for the full value.

For those who have owned stock for a long time, or perhaps inherited some stock -- they often feel that they cannot afford to sell the stock, due to the exorbitant capital gains taxes they would have to pay. Donating this stock to a non-profit organization like Monte Vista Grove Homes is a great way to make a meaningful difference in the lives of our residents, get a nice deduction, and avoid taxes.

As always, we suggest you speak with your tax advisor to see if this giving option would work well for you. For more information on making a gift of stock to Monte Vista Grove Homes, please contact Robin Harvill at rhavill@mvgh.org or (626) 796-6135 ext 437.

Are Your Affairs in Order?

As we head into the last quarter of the year, it is a good time to take stock of our estate plans to ensure they are current and relevant. There are several items to look at to ensure your wishes are carried out appropriately.

Review your current trust or will. You will likely need to update these documents if you have moved to a different state or experienced any major life changes such as births, marriages or divorces within your family. For example, if there is now someone in your family with special needs, you may wish to consider providing for him or her via your estate.

Beneficiaries It is important to review whom you selected as beneficiaries of your retirement plans and any current life insurance plans. Have there been any name changes? Be sure this is who you want to inherit these funds.

Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare. Check whom you have listed to make health care decisions on your behalf, in the event that you are unable to do so. Be sure this person is still living and is a trusted, close friend or family member with whom you are still comfortable making these decisions.

Personal Property Review You should consider making an inventory of your personal property such as vehicles, art, jewelry, major electronics, and safe deposit box contents. Provide a copy of this to a trusted friend or family member.

Guardianship If you haven't selected a guardian for minor children in the event of your demise, this needs to be a top priority – otherwise, the state will decide who will raise your children.

Memorial and Honorary Tributes

January through July 2014

Making a contribution in honor or memory of a loved one creates a beautiful tribute. When you make a tribute gift, we will be sure to 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.

Memorial Gifts

Charlotte Colavin - In Memory of Esther Remington
 Cheryl Nelson - In Memory of Betty Turner
 Connie Van Vorst - In Memory of Richard Van Vorst
 Doris V. Schoon - In Memory of Angeline Badger
 Gideon & Jayne Young - In Memory of Wok Jun Linn
 Huw & Rachel Christopher - In Memory of Luther T. Rogers, Jr.,
 Katherine Rogers, Elizabeth Rogers & Theodore Anderson
 Margie Grossman - In Memory of Betty Tarlton
 Mary Jo Barrett - In Memory of Rev. Dr. William L. Barrett
 Minnie Allen - In Memory of Frank Allen
 Parsons - In Memory of Joseph Kropff
 Robert Koch - In Memory of Barbara Koch
 Robert & Rosemary Risley - In Memory of Betty Tarlton

Honorary Gifts

The Carroll Family - In Honor of The Soldwedel Family
 David Allen - In Honor of Mildred Allen
 Ed Honowitz & Ellen Pais - In Honor of Stuart Miller
 Eleanor Oakes - In Honor of Myron Oakes
 John & Helen Baatz - In Honor of the Soldwedel Family & Dr. Stuart Miller
 Huw & Rachel Christopher - In Honor of Tom & Carol Erickson
 and Tustin Presbyterian Church
 Josh & Janice Pais - In Honor of Stuart Miller
 The Miller Family - In Honor of MVGH Staff and Dr. Stuart Miller
 The Mitchell Family - In Honor of the Soldwedel Family
 Robert Koch - In Honor of MVGH Staff
 Steve & Tarry Goeden - In Honor of Tom & Carol Erickson
 Wayne E. Dawson - In Honor of Peter Hintzoglou