

# the VIEW

Fountainview at Eisenberg Village ♦ Reseda, California ♦ Summer 2017

[www.fountainviewjha.org/fountainview-living/publications](http://www.fountainviewjha.org/fountainview-living/publications)

## Our First Wedding



*By Rikki Levine*

Such a brouhaha! And over what? The Wedding at Fountainview of course! Where else could such a unique event take place?

Conceived by Evelyn Bauer and executed with the magic of Shelley and Lauri, it was as no other wedding - I am certain!

There were two couples: Zita and Mickey - the other Allen and Harry. They were affectionate and loving as new love should be. The entrance of the wedding party - and it was quite an entrance - was led by Flower Girl, Ruth Waller, and Ring Bearer, Amber. (For the outside world - Amber is her dog!) Best Man was Donald Thorner - Maid of Honor was Evelyn Bauer.

The ceremony was original, to say the least. It

was often difficult to hear because of the uproarious laughter. As the Rabbi, Jordan Kurnick was at his best (and his worst isn't bad). *Anshuldic mir*, I know we're Kosher - but he was such a ham!

There was a DJ who played and entertained. We danced the Hora and did some shuckling down the aisle - shoulders - hips - whatever still moves!

The guests were famished and the buffet of hors d'oeuvres tempting. We were given the 'go' table by table. Champagne flowed.

The wedding cake was the *piece de resistance*. It was scrumptious!! Angel at his best!

At the conclusion, the wedding party exited, anxious for romance and too impatient to eat.

## A Special Sukkot Wall Hanging



*By Joyce Edelman*

The Sukkah next month will be graced with a new special needlepoint wall hanging created by the skillful and creative hands of our Sue Richter. The design shows a Sukkah in the desert at night with many stars in the sky. There are Hebrew letters in the sky that come from Leviticus which translate to: "You shall stay in the Sukkah for seven days and seven nights." This is also inscribed on a brass plate on the frame. Sue obtained the design from a woman who creates needlepoint artwork on the internet. Sue chose the threads and stitches, original to the piece. The project took eight months to complete!

Making beautiful objects with needlepoint has been Sue's hobby for sixteen years. She has made needlepoint stuffed animals for her grandchildren. She has made numerous Tallit bags for her friends and relatives. She also made an award winning Chuppah under which nine nieces and nephews have been married.

Besides spending time doing needlepoint, Sue is an avid devotee of exercise. Every day you can find her in the Fountainview Fitness Center working out. Sue and her husband, Mort, are world travelers. They have been to over one hundred countries. The two recently returned from

Cuba, and shared their experiences with their Fountainview neighbors through a presentation in our Theater. Keep up the good work, Sue!

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## Children at Fountainview

*By Lil Baker*

If you doubt that children are cherished, especially at Fountainview, you have only to watch as we gather around a little one. The child might not belong to our family, may even be completely unknown to us. Oh, we are discreet. Sometimes it is only one of us or two. Sometimes we give only a smile or a wink. Oh yes, sometimes we even make faces or wave to one of them, hoping to get a reaction. Usually they are kept very close by someone dear.

Yesterday, I had a treat as I worked the jigsaw puzzle in the Creative Arts Studio. Joan and Casey Kagan brought their three grandchildren, Kasey, Quinley, and Jugger to play with the Wii bowling game. Joan and Casey closely watched and interacted with them as they all played with the game. Their laughter, squeals and comments brought pleasure to me, too. Our wonderful facility may not be the ideal place to entertain the little ones, but we share the joy when they do come.

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## A Warm Welcome to Our Newest Residents



Al and Claire Wilen



Lee Hahn



Michael and Judy Bernstein



Beverly Pleskus

## Total Solar Eclipse!



*By Guest Reporter Joy Picus*

Gerry and I chose to see the Total Solar Eclipse on August 20th in Jefferson City, Missouri. That way, I could visit my 48th State Capitol (Gerry is not far behind) and also see this celestial miracle.

Accompanied by our daughter, Emily, and granddaughter, Valerie, we headed for a park close to our motel. We brought lunch as the eclipse began at just past 12 Noon, totality began at 1:13pm, and it was over a little past 2:00pm. There were plenty of people in the park, but no crowds. We all watched First Contact, and then checked the progress of the moon across the sun every few minutes. When the sun's crescent got very slim and changes were evident all around – it got dark enough to see Jupiter,

the shadows increased and the cicadas began to sing – everyone was looking up through their special eye protectors. The excitement was palpable. At the moment of totality, everyone screamed! It was a transformative experience. Breathtaking! Awesome! The Capitol building was pretty cool, too.

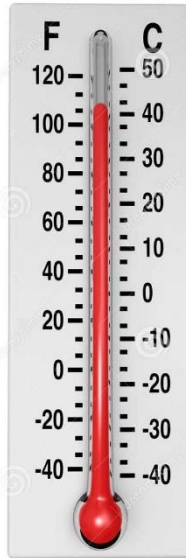
Back at home, many thanks to Beverly Lawson for her foresight and preparation of instructions and supplies. Thus, Fountainview residents learned about the event and some 15 eager residents who gathered on the main patio were able to view the eclipse's shadow on the ground. Watching even a tiny reflection of sun and moon was an awesome experience!

## Hot! Hot! Hot!

*By Evelyn Bauer*

It was HOT, triple digits on August 31, so our Outdoor Concert was thoughtfully changed from the courtyard to the Dining Room. Angel and the dining staff did a remarkable job of serving dinner and getting us out of the Dining Room in record time so the tables could be cleared and ready.

And what a sight it was! HOT orange table clothes were centered with beautiful floral bouquets. Soon the delicious Sangria cocktails appeared with fresh peaches and strawberries, and everyone was ready and mellow for a wonderful concert. Popular crooner, Bill A. Jones, who has entertained us before, charmed again with renditions of old favorites. He was



accompanied by Bob Selvin on the piano and Simeon Pillich on bass. This excellent jazz duo also performed a few instrumentals, most memorable a rendition of "Summertime." Bill did justice to Johnny Mercer, Tommy Dorsey, and Dick Haymes as he strutted about flirting and kissing ladies' hands.

Outstanding was Frank Sinatra's "I'll Be Seeing You" but he brought the house down with his version of Bobby Darin's "Mack the Knife." For me, the highlight was the last of the red HOT mamas, Sophie Tucker's "Some One of These Days". That was HOT!

Shelley and Lauri, as usual, did a great job in planning this event. We look forward to the September Concert, hopefully outdoors so that we can dance along with the music.

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## The High Holy Days - We Are All Connected

*By Rabbi Mervin B. Tomsky*

Rosh Hashana is a time for introspection of our personal lives: are we the kind of persons we want to be; what difference have our lives made; in what ways do we need to change? Are we accountable? Yom Kippur is a time for reconciliation - with ourselves; with others; with God. Through repentance, we arrive at atonement.

The Jewish Tradition brings us into each other's lives. Of course, we differ in many areas of Jewish life and beliefs and practices, but we are all one people - at least we are to see ourselves and our fellow Jews as being part of one people. The watchword of our faith, the Sh'ma, has symbolically served as a link bringing Jews of all backgrounds throughout the world together as one - one

nation, one heart, one soul. By embracing the words of the Sh'ma, the Jew indicates his desire to be part of the destiny



and the eternity of the Jewish people. Of course, the sounding of the Shofar and the recitation of the Kol Nidre prayer also serve to bind us to one another as a people. We care for one another and we protect one another. That's part of what it means to be a Jew. And all are included!

It is to be noted that some of the prayers in the Machzor are in the plural: Oshamnu, Aveinu

Malkeinu and V'Al Kulam, for example. What we learn from this is that while some in our society are guilty of committing sin, all are responsible. We should know that the word for "sin" in Hebrew is "Chet". "Chet" means "missing the mark". We can do better - as individuals and as part of our society - in making the world more worthy of God's blessings. We have to ask ourselves: are we bringing more holiness into the world by what we say and by how we act? Yes, we can be more thoughtful, helpful and respectful and thus bring a greater awareness of God's divine presence into our lives and the lives of others.

May we all be written and sealed in the Book of Life for a peaceful, healthy, and a Good New Year. Shana Tova!

## A New Sculpture Graces our Garden

*By Ruth Waller*

How thankful and how fortunate that we live amongst artwork of such distinction and prominence. Hopefully, each of us has had the opportunity to view "Grace" by the artist, Tanya Wolf Ragir.

This sculpture is meticulously rendered in all the passion and drama that its title suggests.

"As Grace came into being I was inspired by the inherent qualities of the Jewish Home: compassion, giving, faith, and reverence for the past and the future. The idea of the circle as a context of the sculpture was born. At its base is a deconstructed "Alef". The Alef means oneness and unity. It is also the first letter in the Ten Commandments. The figure atop the Alef is moving forward, uplifted. The feminine is life-giving and speaks of generations to come. The billowing fabric is a way to describe breath, the ultimate source of life. She is holding branches of a tree which complete the circle shape of the sculpture. The tree of life is an icon image. It is the great provider. It brings shelter in the storm,



*Photo by Mike Maroko*

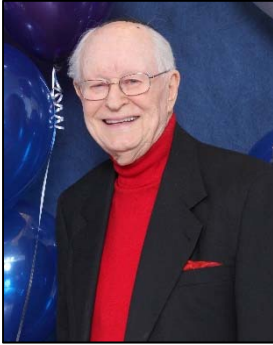
warmth in the winter, medicine, fire, and beauty year round. "Grace" recognizes donors whose extra ordinary estate gifts sustain the Los Angeles Home for years to come."

In her career, Tanya Wolf Ragir was performing in a ballet company before she attended college. She was sketching cadavers at the USC Medical center and after graduating from UC Santa Cruz, she pursued a career in the mannequin industry for twenty-five years. Tanya opened her own mannequin business sculpting over one thousand feminine figures mastering the strengths and delicacies of grace.

During Tanya's ever-morphing artwork ranging from classic to avant-garde, the artist has been internationally collected in multiple private and public collections.

We are very grateful to the generosity of the named donors for this gift which will enrich us all.

## Honoring Rabbi Tomsky



*By Guest Reporter Lee Weinstein*

On Sunday July 16, the Rabbinical Assembly honored our Rabbi Mervin Tomsky for his 25 years of welcoming and helping non-Jews to convert to Judaism. More than seventy guests, many from the Conservative Rabbinical Association, gathered at Valley Beth Shalom for this celebration. A good number of Fountainview residents attended also.

The festivities started at noon with a gala luncheon followed by eight rabbis praising Rabbi Tomsky for his accomplishments as a member of the Bet Din (the official body of the Conservative movement responsible for conversion).

Rabbi Tomsky concluded the program with personal remarks and anecdotes.

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## Miracles of Eisenberg Campus

*By Ruth Waller*

Just at the dawn of an early morning walk with my dog, Amber, we came upon a startling phenomenon. As we approached the statue "Grace," we beheld a perfect semicircle on the dew-covered grass. Surely a circle of fairies had just disappeared from view as we approached!



I'm certain that within the enclosed perimeter of our individual buildings, there is magic lurking all around us. Be on the lookout.

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## Saturday Afternoon's Theater Adventure

*By Rikki Levine*

I enjoy participating in Fountainview trips, but the Glendale Theatre is pushing my loyalty to the limit. Such was the case of the Saturday performance of "The Andrews Brothers". (The title in itself had me apprehensive.) I knew all the songs they sang that were of WWII vintage. The first act was a disaster, but I replenished myself with coffee and a cookie during intermission and dutifully returned to my seat instead of taking Uber home.

Amazingly, the second act was well performed

and fun. The guys were in drag, which added to the hilarity and the tempo lifted. A female performer was attractive, a good dancer and sang well. The Brothers were upbeat and we all commented on what great legs they had. The air conditioning was on- which helped considerably, since it was a full house.

The happy ending was finding the bus right in front of the theater. We arrived home at six o'clock to a welcoming dinner: no reservations- no lines- no waiting. Just staff that knows all our names!

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## In Memoriam

We remember the names of our recently departed friends Cliff Levine and LuVerne Desnick. May their memories be a blessing.

## Top Players – DAKIM

May: Bobbie Farkas and Shirley Wolfson...TIED!

June: Carmen Posner

July : Carmen Posner (51 games played! Wow!)

## Celebrating the Fourth



*By Lil Baker*

Patriotism was the theme of the day easily observed by almost all our residents who dressed in red, white and blue. Our Shelley continues to outdo herself decorating the first floor with flags and balloons and flowers. Chickie Opper won the Ms. Patriotic prize and Marvin Freedman won the Mr. Patriotic prize, each for attire. That was some hat, Marv!

Palmer Davis used music and songs to get us started with physical fitness. The excitement of the afternoon had so many of us intrigued with the casino games.



We had professional dealers taking our funny money at blackjack, poker and craps. And ta da... the most money winners were: Rose Geller, winning \$3,000, Sam Kremen winning \$5,700, and Al and Claire Wilen winning \$7,700 as a couple. Thanks go to Angel Perez for the great barbeque dinner.

From 7:30pm on, the program in the Theater kept us in the spirit. We left hearing the outside noises of firecrackers and even saw some of the nearby fireworks.

Wotta day!

## RESEDA

Canoga Park was once called Owensmouth; Woodland Hills was Girard; Reseda was formerly known as Marion.

In 1921, a fourth-class post office was established in Marion but the town had to change the name to

avoid conflict with another Marion, California.

The name agreed upon was RESEDA, Latin meaning "TO GIVE AID AND COMFORT".

What an appropriate name for the location of our Jewish Home!

## Bastille Day at Fountainview



By *Rikki Levine*

The celebration of France's Bastille Day on July 15th (the 14th is the actual date) at Fountainview was simple in comparison to its lavish recognition all over the world with singing, dancing and drumming. Bastille Day marks the anniversary of the storming of the Bastille in 1789, a medieval fortress that held prisoners brutally and without trial.

Fountainview showed a film of the concert "Les Miserables". I do not exaggerate when I say that those watching were mesmerized by the three-hour film. The magnificent voices of the cast portrayed the story as though it was a play. It was not the complete script, never the less it portrayed all the emotion and drama, the sentiment and the passion of what was transpiring.

It was followed by a dinner carefully choreographed by Angel consisting of French onion soup and salmon nicoise salad. The Saturday night movie was "Gold Diggers in Paris," with Rudy Vallee - remember him? A well-planned day by Lauri was totally appreciated by the residents.

**Editor's Note:** If you own a DVD of a Broadway-type production, you may like to share it with our Fountainview audience, as I did.

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## Sad News from Minnesota

*Courtesy of Harry Shragg*

Please join me in remembering a great icon of the entertainment community. The Pillsbury Doughboy died yesterday of a yeast infection and trauma complications from repeated pokes in the belly. He was 71.

Doughboy was buried in a lightly greased coffin. Dozens of celebrities turned out to pay their respects, including Mrs. Butterworth, Hungry Jack, the California Raisins, Betty Crocker, the Hostess Twinkies, and Captain Crunch. The gravesite was piled high with flours.

Aunt Jemima delivered the eulogy and lovingly described Doughboy as a man who never knew how much he was kneaded. Born and bread in Minnesota, Doughboy rose quickly in show business, but his later life was filled with turnovers. He was not considered a



very smart cookie, wasting much of his dough on half-baked schemes. Despite being a little flaky at times, he still was a crusty old man, and was considered a positive roll model for millions. Doughboy is

survived by his wife Play Dough, three children: John Dough, Jane Dough, and Dosey Dough, plus they had one in the oven. He is also survived by his elderly father, Pop Tart. The funeral was held at 3:50 for about 20 minutes.

### *the VIEW Staff*

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