

the VIEW

Fountainview at Eisenberg Village ♦ Reseda, California ♦ Winter 2018

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Fountainview Against Gun Violence

By Sue Richter, Guest Reporter



On Saturday, March 24, 2018, more than fifty Fountainview residents joined the rest of the country to “Stand Up Against Gun Violence”. Al Wilen, Ruth Waller and Sue Richter made signs while others brought battery-operated candles to display support. They proudly stood in front of our entry having pictures taken by Mike Maroko, waving at cars that drove by. Many drivers honked their horns in unity.

The residents moved into the Fountainview lobby to observe a minute of silence before Rabbi

Mervin Tomsy spoke passionately about gun violence in the United States and the senseless deaths that result from the violence. He led everyone in El Maleh Rachamim and Kaddish. All the residents joined together to sing “Sim Shalom” - the prayer for peace.

The group was unanimous in its plea to government officials to step forward in a legislative effort to protect our children and citizens from gun violence.

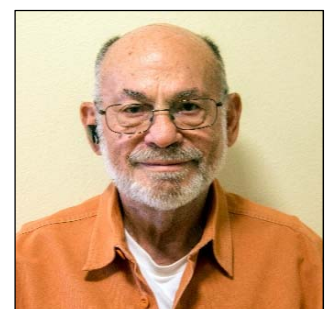
A Warm Welcome to Our Newest Residents



Lynn Green



Joel and Rosemarie Nathanson



John Beyer

Purim

By Rabbi Mervin Tomsky

The holiday of Purim is the most celebratory holiday in the Jewish calendar year. Although the events portrayed in the Book of Esther cannot be historically verified, the Book or Scroll of Esther – the Megillah – serves as an allegory describing the life and lot of the Jewish people in an alien and hostile world. But good can conquer evil, and the reading of the Megillah renews this hope for all of us.

The author of this Biblical Book is unknown. Esther hides her Jewish identity at first and God is not mentioned though His influence is certainly felt in the ultimate redemption of the Jews of ancient Persia. Mordecai is royally honored; Esther finds her purpose in life; Haman is hanged, and the Jews achieve happiness, celebration, joy and honor.

We can learn important lessons from all the happenings in the Megillah. At times we all wear “masks” of one kind or another to disguise our real selves in order to find favor in the eyes of others. But from Purim we learn to tear away the “masks” and our pretentiousness and be our true and authentic selves where our “neshama” can shine forth! We also learn from this holiday that we – like Esther – can find our special purpose in life and pursue its fulfillment. We each can make a difference! And even more important, we learn from the story of Purim that we dare not even think of destroying others because they are “different”, as Haman designed to do to the entire Jewish population of ancient Persia.

We need to affirm the basic concept in Judaism that all human beings are created in God’s image, and that we therefore must acknowledge the sacred worth of everyone who lives by a set of moral values.

So, let us learn from our heritage, and be proud of who we are and what we represent! And may we be worthy of many occasions for celebration in the years to come!

Residents enjoy a visit from Yeshiva Katina girls dressed in costumes for Purim!



Epidemic

By Dr. Harry Shragg

Falling is an epidemic here for us old people. It is one of the most common reasons for ending up in the hospital or Grancell.

This past January within a 10-day period, 3 of our residents fell on their apartment floors and lay for hours before they were lucky enough to have a friend who kept looking for them.

In one case, a friend was waiting to go to the Dining Room. When he failed to show up and did not respond to her calls, she went to his apartment, heard him moaning and called Security who rescued him. Paramedics took him to the hospital.

In the second case, a resident fell, could not get up, and continued to sleep on the bathroom floor for several hours, expecting a caregiver or a friend to find him. He was finally discovered, and the paramedics were called to help him.

The third case was more interesting. After the resident fell and could not get up, he was confident that he would be discovered in several hours by a relative in Pennsylvania. This person calls him several times every day. He knew that if he did not answer the phone, the relative would call Concierge and get him some help. Paramedics came and took him to the hospital.

HAD THEY BEEN WEARING THE PENDANT THEY RECEIVED WHEN THEY MOVED IN, THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN SAVED IN MINUTES.

There is another way they could have been rescued even if they could not have activated the pendant. We have a morning check-in system at Fountainview. It is a voluntary program. I believe it should be mandatory for everyone, even if they have a companion.

You call (818) 654-5570 every morning. You will be connected to a special voicemail and, at the signal, you simply announce your apartment number. This indicates that you are alive and well. At 11 AM the Concierge listens to the calls and if someone is missing, they call you. If you do not respond, Security will come to your apartment and check to see if you need help.

**WEAR YOUR PENDANT!
JOIN THE MORNING CHECK-IN PROGRAM!
AND BE SAFE!**

In Memoriam

We remember the name of our recently departed dear friend Seymour Bloom. May his memory be a blessing.

Antiques and Collectibles

By Evelyn Bauer

It's my passion, my addiction, and I'm so happy that I am afflicted with it. I feel fortunate that I still have that adventurous spirit to go out on the hunt, and to experience the thrill of discovery. I bring it home, wash it lovingly, then look it up on Google or in my reference books. Then comes the real fun; the search to figure out where to put it! Not to worry – there's always room for one more gem.



I have been a collector for over 60 years and a dealer for about half of that time. It was hard to part with so much stuff when I moved here but it was also a joy to see other people adopt my things at my Estate Sale. I am happy with all of the wonderful treasures that I chose to bring to my new home at Fountainview.

Sharing my knowledge and enthusiasm is always a pleasure. So now, we have a group here at Fountainview that meets about every other month to share our "things". I have found that a broad category like "Boxes" or "Purses" or "Candlesticks" works best because when you look around you will find that you have some. I give a brief history of the topic, I show and tell about the items that I have brought, and then we go around the room so that everyone has a chance to share their treasures.

Usually we meet in the Creative Arts Studio. Occasionally we have met in a resident's apartment, which is lovely, but limits us to whatever number the host can accommodate.

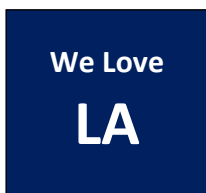
A field trip to an Estate Sale is a possibility in the future and perhaps a trip to a local Thrift Store, too. Oh, the treasures to be discovered there!

Editor's Note: Do you have a hobby, collection, obsession or talent that has enriched your life? Share your story with Evelyn in her upcoming column entitled "*My Hidden Passion*".

It's A Small World at Fountainview

By Shirley Rosenberg

After dinner several weeks ago, I had the pleasure of meeting John Beyer, one of our newer Fountainview "family" members.



We started with the preliminaries – "Where are you from?" - and spoke for over an hour. It was in that conversation that I discovered another Angelino. Not only that... his mother was the counselor for my B'nai B'rith Girls and his sister one of my friends. Wow, I thought, he was the fifth person here from L.A. and as of last night, I discovered there are 11 of us.

It was our thought to have a dinner for all of us to meet and perhaps form an "L.A. Club" to examine ideas for meeting in the future.

If you are interested, please call Shirley "R", and join us to make further plans.

New Year's Eve at Fountainview

By Joyce Edelman

Fountainview was the place to be on New Year's Eve. Fountainviewers made a spectacular farewell to 2017. The theme for the evening was SPEAKEASY. Residents were encouraged to wear their finery - Fringe, Fedoras and Feathers - and the evening began with mugshots.

Passwords were needed to get into the dining room for a swanky dinner and prohibited "bubbly". The dinner and cocktail tables were resplendently covered in sparkling gold sequined cloth, centered with tall, crystal-prismed candelabras, topped with black tapers. A stunning surrounding for the celebration!

Casino games were taking place in the Lobby and Event Center. The cat's meow 1920's musical, "Chicago" was shown in the theater. There was live music by the Dick Parent Trio for dancing in the Dining Room while an unbelievable array of desserts was offered in Riverview Lounge.

All this revelry was enough for some of the celebrators who enjoyed the *first* countdown to 2018 at 10:00pm in the Dining Room and then said 'good-nite!' Those with more stamina headed down to the Theater to watch the movie concert *Liza with a Z*, followed by the countdown to Midnite with champagne, desserts, hugs and best wishes for a happy 2018!

Welcome 2-0-0-0-CHAI!



Cuban Exhibit

By Rikki Levine

The Annenberg Space for Photography is a unique cultural destination that informs the public. It connects photographers and the human experience through imagery and storytelling.

The color of the photographs in this exhibit was beautiful. The range of subjects captures the defiant youth “Los Frikis” and the partying children of the 1% of Cubans. This is Cuba’s reality.

There is a dynamic music scene, even on a casual visit. However, there wasn’t one smiling face in the exhibit. David and I took two trips to Cuba and had an opportunity to walk and talk with the people.

They were friendly and expressed their contentment with their country – they had no wish to leave. There is free medicine – free education and more than adequate food. As we say in Yiddish, “Vos Felt Zai?” (What are they lacking?)

I felt there was no story line – no upbeat message. In observing the photographs and no other knowledge of Cuba – I’d have had an extremely negative, desultory feeling about the island.

But, this remains only one woman’s opinion. Most everyone else attending thought it was great. Photographically – it was splendid.

45th District Special Election

By Joy Picus..... March, 2018

I have always been passionate about voting in EVERY election and have never missed one. Not only is it important to vote, it is essential to cast an informed vote.

There is a Special Election in our 45th Assembly District on April 3. There are 7 candidates running for this position, and all of them have come to Fountainview to meet us, tell us about themselves and their positions, and to answer our questions. It was very enlightening to see and hear them. If you have not already voted by mail, be sure to take the short walk to the Eisenberg campus Library on Tuesday, April 3. The rule is: if you don’t vote, you can’t complain!

There will be a longer ballot for the statewide primary on June 5. You will see the same names again, plus statewide candidates, Congress, and a few ballot measures. Only those proposed by the legislature appear on this ballot. The more controversial initiatives will be on your November ballot. I will attempt to bring you as much information as possible. It is our privilege for living in a Democracy!

An Amazing Life

By Joyce Edelman



It is a miracle that Ginette Gani is living here at Fountainview. She was born in Cairo, Egypt in 1938 where she lived in an apartment with her parents. The rest of her extended family of aunts, uncles and cousins also lived in Cairo. In 1956, all the Jews were expelled

from Egypt. They had to leave their passports and all their possessions. They were each allowed to take twenty dollars and a few clothes.

The family decided to go to the Belgian Congo where her mother had relatives. Ginette lived in the Belgian Congo for ten years. During that time, she worked for the American Embassy. Then Ginette

moved to Brussels, Belgium where she worked for Estee Lauder, the cosmetics company. Ginette’s first language was French. She also knows English, Spanish, Italian and Arabic.

She first came to the United States as a visitor in 1960. She sold cosmetics in Beverly Hills. She met her husband in 1960 and they married in 1965.

Ginette lived in a condo in Sherman Oaks for 22 years before coming to Fountainview. We are happy that she is here.

Editor’s Note: *Why not join Ginette at the breakfast table or at lunch in Riverview to hear more about her amazing life?!*

Top Player – DAKIM

Congratulations to Carmen Posner who was at the top for December, January and February!



The Princeton Footnotes

By Lil Baker

Thanks to Lauri, our Activities Coordinator who is always on the alert for possible entertainment for the residents of Fountainview, we had the opportunity to hear the 11-voice acapella choir from Princeton University on January 30th.

Originating in 1959, this ever-changing group has been enthusiastically singing all over the world. It was a delight to see these young performers happily join in a medley of songs most of which we had not heard before. We had the chance to interact when they invited questions. We learned that these young men come from various parts of the country, of different backgrounds and different religions including two who were Jewish.

Hopefully, more of us will hear them again and with a program of some familiar music.

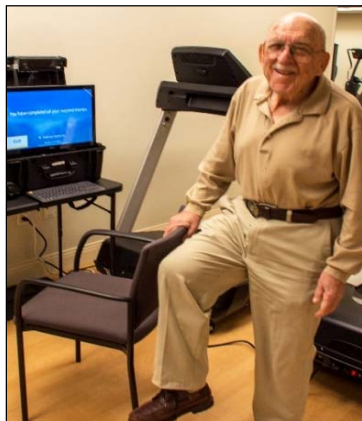
“Stand Tall”

By Lee Weinstein

The Computer world has caught up to exercise. No, the computer will not do the exercising for you. However, Fountainview has installed the “Stand Tall” computerized exercise program in the Fitness Center. The program is supplementary to exercise classes and trainer sessions. Its purpose is to improve balance, stability and prevent falls.

It’s quite amazing how the program instructs you through a group of simple exercises and then observes you as you conduct the routine. After a few weeks, you will be more stable and secure in your daily movements.

In order to get started call Norma Del Cid, Director of Health Services, at (818) 654-5544. Greater safety awaits.



Mauricio Vargas – Director of Housekeeping

By Ruth Waller

How wonderful it is to enjoy the leisure of our own living space free of all the cares of weekly household chores.

Thank you, Mauricio Vargas, for all the services offered by Housekeeping Services without so much as a phone call reminder.

Mauricio Vargas comes to us from the Holiday Inn in Burbank and then the Hilton Hotel in Woodland Hills. In addition to his management and leadership abilities of working with a large crew, he is also talented as a certified fitness personal trainer. In his youth, he engaged in the sport of competitive wrestling.

Mauricio is the youngest of 7 children! His older siblings have children ranging in ages from 12 to 24 years old. He is a single man and his greatest pleasure in life is hiking and camping outdoors. Sometimes he brings along all his nephews for the adventure. What a wonderful and fun uncle!



My New Life

Original Poem by Shirley Lazar

I really don't know what's happened to me,
Life's not quite the same as it used to be.
Unfamiliar and very strange,
That my life has made somewhat of a change.

Days went slowly for me in the past,
Now they're flying by, much too fast.
There was little time to write, play and read,
Now I find time to fill my every need.

Some things that were important to me before,
Have suddenly become quite a bore.
Many loved ones I held so dear,
Have left my life year after year.

This change came on very gradually,
Yet some old friends can't keep up with me.
What the future has in store,
Scares me now; never did before.

I'm working hard every day – so my mind will stay,
Keen and sharp as it is today.
I always stood straight and tall;
Was never afraid of taking a fall.

But in spite of the change, I'm still the same me,
Trying to accept the Golden Years graciously.
I'm lucky to find new friends at this stage;
Really lucky – for at Fountainview we're all the same age.

And though I seem to forget a few things,
It's O.K., just part of the challenge old age brings.
I'll never let my sense of humor slip away;
As that's what I rely on to get through each day.

So you see I'm not completely changed.
Just a few things in my life have been rearranged.
I'm going to live this new life fully, not settling for half;
And make sure each day I get at least one good laugh.

Yeshiva Girls

By Rabbi Mervin Tomsky

On the morning of February 23, Fountainview residents were treated to a visit of 25 costumed young girls from Yeshiva Katina in Valley Village. They came in celebration of Purim and presented a program to Fountainview in the Dining Room.

After performing a circle dance, the girls mingled with the residents, sharing plates of Hamentashen treats.

Competition: And the Winners Are...

While all Fountainview residents are truly winners, there are special events each year where prizes are awarded to the victors.



Football and the Super Bowl kicked off 2018 and thanks to Adelle Caplow, Sally Wilk, Anita and Lee Levy, and Sue and Mort Richter, the contest pool sold out again! The lucky winners on game day were Bess Alderman, Sheila Rosen and the Weingartens (Jack and Carla).

Next up was our annual *Countdown to the Oscars*. After a month of nominated movies and lively discussions, the champions of the ballot competition were Carmela Kochman, Shirley Lazar, Rabbi Tomsky and Lee Levy. Congrats to Lee and Sheldon Lipshutz who took home the prize baskets!

the VIEW Staff

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