

## MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

# Lois Cardinal - A Lady of Many Talents



and is a psychologist. She advises corporate lawyers on jury selection. Now, with her family, she has become a homemaker. Three of my granddaughters are in college. They are studying engineering, chemistry and neuroscience at Princeton, Wesleyan, and Northeastern Universities. The fourth one graduated last year from the University of Maryland, and she works in computer science,

**TGN:** Lois, what activities do you enjoy now?

**Lois:** I've traveled extensively. Last year I went to South Africa for a safari in Botswana with my son. He also took me to southeast Asia a few years ago - to Burma, Cambodia and Thailand. Two years ago I took two of my granddaughters to Costa Rica. We did the zip-line over the rainforest, which was a longtime wish. I've been around the world over the years - to other countries in Europe, Asia, Africa and Central America. I enjoy traveling, but I also enjoy coming home. It makes you appreciate all that we have here. More people should do it. I am also into painting art (one of my pictures is hanging inside the door to the first floor of Building D), play golf, participate three times a week in the swimming pool exercise group here, and play bridge. I'm active in Stanford Singles, belong to a weekly discussion group, and the Portola Valley Investment Club which is a group of 12 men and women with an interest in investing. I spend more time researching investments on my own, than on any other hobbies.

**TGN:** Tell us more about your investment group.

**Lois:** We don't have any professional financial counselor present in the group, although the other members may have their own outside advisors. We discuss investments, such as stock equities and others of interest. I read the Wall Street Journal. And we have our own investment portfolio. We invest together and see how we can improve our skills.

**TGN:** Thanks Lois, for sharing with us.

**TGN:** Lois, tell us about your new position as liason for Building D at Menlo Commons.

**Lois:** I am supposed to filter concerns of residents in my building and bring them to the Board of Directors - perhaps from residents who don't feel comfortable expressing their concerns directly to the Board. I have just begun and have had a couple of concerns expressed to me so far. This is supposed to be on the monthly agenda of the meeting with one of the liasons making a presentation at each meeting. I am on for the April meeting.

**TGN:** When did you move in to Menlo Commons?

**Lois:** It was seven years ago. I like the quiet location I have at Building D. I remodeled the unit, putting in wooden floors and fixed up the kitchen.

**TGN:** Tell us about work education and occupation background.

**Lois:** I was graduated from William Paterson University in New Jersey, and later obtained my masters degree at age 50 form National University in Irvine, California. I have taught developmentally disabled and brain injured children, ages 10-18 in special education, first in Southern California, and then at Juvenile Hall in San Francisco where I worked with high risk youths. I taught math and language arts subjects. Although I retired 6 years ago, I continue to tutor two students now.

**TGN:** You served on Menlo Commons Board of Directors too?

**Lois:** Yes, until about a year and a half ago. During my six years as a director we did the elevator project and started the roof project. The experience gave me a better idea of what is going on here, although it involved the disadvantage of stress.

**TGN:** Tell us about your family.

**Lois:** I have two children and 4 granddaughters, My son David was graduated from Princeton University and has a variety of skills. He gives speeches and consults on digital and high technology, and takes and exhibits photographs of wild life from locations around the world. My daughter Suzette was graduated from Duke University,



Lois stands alongside one of her paintings next to her golf clubs.

## Meet Gloria Dawson and Jerry Wilkerson



**Gloria:** I was born near Cincinnati, Ohio, went to Bowling Green University, and then taught school. In 1958, I married my first husband and we came to California. I taught at Oak Knoll elementary school in Menlo Park. I married Jerry in 1999.

**TGN:** So what do you like to do?

**Gloria:** I like to travel, we play bridge, and particularly I like to play golf. Bridge I play in a ladies group and at the Los Altos Country Club. I have played in a ladies golf group at Stanford Golf Course. We have traveled to Europe, England, Rome, Gibraltar, Tangiers, Turkey, and also Florida and Hawaii. Our golfing has been all over the country!

**TGN:** Jerry, tell us about your own education and career.

**Jerry:** I graduated from Stanford University, went to law school at Golden Gate University in San Francisco. As a lawyer, after practicing generally for a while, I went with a real estate corporation in 1980 for 6 or 7 years. My first wife and I didn't have any children. My wife died about the same time as Gloria's husband, and then she and I got together,

**TGN:** Gloria, tell us about your grandchildren.

**Gloria:** Well, I have five grandchildren - one granddaughter and four grandsons. One is Douglas, who has a Scottish background. When he dresses in Scottish wear (including a kilt) he is terrific! He was able to travel to Scotland to see his ancestor's homeland and bring home his family kilt.

**TGN:** Thank you Gloria and Jerry for sharing with us. I would like to take some pictures, particularly of the golfing statues you have, and of Gloria's son's beautiful art paintings.

**TGN:** Gloria, I understand you are the liaison for Building E.

**Gloria:** Yes, I am to listen to complaints and comments (both good and bad) from Building E residents and report them to the Board of Directors for Menlo Commons. One item I have heard about is there should be more get-togethers so people can meet and enjoy each other. I had a good experience at the Town Hall meeting recently where people had a chance to talk and have a good time with each other. I hear that there should be new carpeting, and lighter hallways.

**TGN:** Tell us when you moved into Menlo Commons.

**Gloria:** We moved into Building B two years ago. Then we heard that the unit in Building E was available last August and we bought it and remodeled it. We put in new hardwood floors, and worked with redoing the walls and the kitchen too. The place was not in good condition so it took until December to get it ready to move into.

**TGN:** I see that you and Jerry have your different last names, but are married to each other.

**Gloria:** We decided to keep our prior married names because each of our prior spouses had died, and everything was listed that way when we got married to each other in 1999.

**TGN:** Tell us about your family.

**Gloria:** My daughter Alice was educated at UC Davis and USC.. She lives in Sedona, Arizona, and has started a Montessori school, for which she is the administrator. She also is a runner - a 5 kilometer last time for first! My son Lindsay is an artist. He also invests in real estate. He graduated from Oregon State and then Pasadena Art Academy. My third child, Samantha, attended Sacred Heart and Menlo School. She then graduated from UC Santa Barbara where she obtained a teaching credential. She lives in Atascadero.

**TGN:** And you?



*Gloria stands by her son's painting of Allied Arts in Menlo Park*