

## MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS

### Meet Duane and Marina Clapp: Original Owners!

When Duane and Marina Clapp bought their unit (as an investment) in 1978, Menlo Commons had just been built. They thought it was a great location, they rented it out for several years, and in 2005, they moved in, remodeled, and have lived in it ever since!

**TGN: Marina, why did you decide to buy a unit at Menlo Commons?**

**Marina:** Duane and I were married in 1972, and not having any children after six years, we decided to make an investment. We located and bought our existing unit at Menlo Commons, when the place was first being built. We then rented the unit out until we moved in to stay in 2005 after Duane had retired in July 2004. Right after we purchased here, we had a little surprise. Our son Brandon was born in 1979. Three years later our daughter Shelby was born. At this point we thought we were done, but the Lord had other plans for us. Taryn, our surprise baby, was born in 1986. This summer our two daughters will be married, Shelby in New York City on June 21, and Taryn in Oregon on August 23.

**TGN: Duane, describe your career.**

**Duane:** I graduated from Stanford University in 1965 with a degree in Political Science, and then went to Hastings College of Law. I started with a firm in Redwood City and then after 10 years formed my own firm in Palo Alto. I worked for this firm for 25 years and it still is in existence. The areas I worked in were insurance defense and personal injury, doing about 50-50 of each.

**TGN: What have you been doing since you retired?**

**Duane:** We have spent a lot of our time with our church, Menlo Park Presbyterian Church. I have been on 12 mission trips and Marina has come with me on six of them, including Costa Rica, Mexico and Kenya. We have traveled to places such as Israel, Greece, and Turkey since moving to Menlo Commons. I have been active as a Stephen Minister, served as an usher, and been an Elder on the



Session of the Church.

**TGN: Tell us more about your early years and your family.**

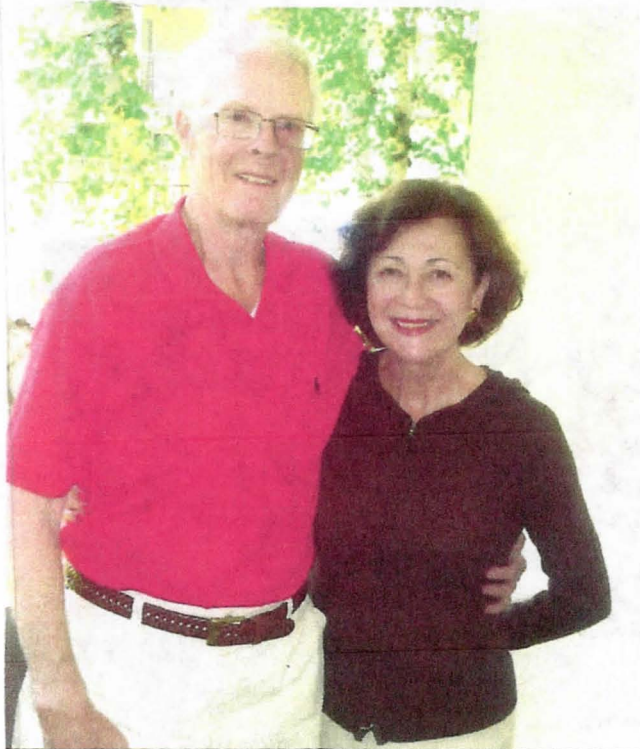
**Marina:** I was born in Mexico, and came to the U.S. in 1947 and lived in Sunnyvale. It was mostly orchards in those days. I became a U.S. citizen. My first job was as a bank teller, then I was a secretary at Foothill College, and finally for 19 years I served as a stewardess for Western Airlines (now Delta). As for our family, all three of our children graduated from college. Shelby is Associate Director of Special Events at the New York City Ballet. Taryn has had a variety of jobs and hopes to obtain a Masters Degree in Psychology. Our son Brandon lives in Southern California.

**Duane:** As a child, I lived on the East Coast. My father was with a small company named IBM in New York City when they made typewriters. My parents bought a house on Long Island - one of the first tract houses in the country in those early years, and I recall the cost at that time was something like \$7,500. At age 12 I attended the first Billy Graham Crusade at Madison Square Gardens in New York City.

**TGN: What do you appreciate about living at Menlo Commons?**

**Duane:** We like the beautiful landscaping and scenery here - the flowers around the gazebo that Debbie Reif has done a lot of work on - and Al's garden by the swimming pool that Gene Brown and his wife have helped with. We have a nice view of it all from our unit. We had lived in Atherton for 29 years, and have been happy not to worry about maintaining the exterior here ourselves. This has left us more time to travel, which we enjoy.

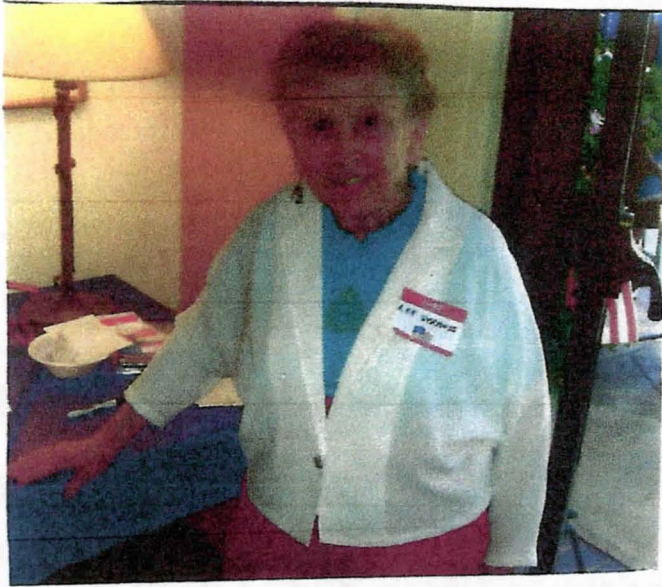
**TGN: Thanks, Duane and Marina for chatting with us.**





# MANY GATHER FOR MEMORIAL DAY PICNIC

Menlo Commons residents joined together for a Memorial Day 2014 Picnic and Bar-B-Q. Hamburgers and hot dogs were placed on the grill. And there was potato salad, watermelon slices, and ice cream, too, just like the "good old days".



*Lee Strauss greeted our guests.*



*Pat Galvez was in charge of it all!*



*Bob Grimes came in his flag shirt.*



*Dick Wrenn manned the barbecue.*



*Chuck Kinney - here's to you!*



*Bill Dearing and Etta Klein at the party*



*Jerry Wilkerson waves hello, with Gloria Dawson and Martha Estrada*



*Ina Frymire and Ruby Chang enjoy the picnic*