

MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS

Pat Galvez - Trying to Make A Difference

TGN: Pat, tell us about your background.

Pat: I was born and raised in Denver, Colorado. My mother was German and Irish, and my father English. So I am a combination of those. I went to nursing school, but did not pursue that career. When I was 18 years old I came to California with my roommate to visit her sister who lived near Vallejo. I went sight seeing and decided I would stay in the Bay Area. So I and that roommate lived in San Francisco and I got a job with the telephone company. After that I married and had a family. In five years my husband and I had four daughters. Later, they were married within a few years of each other. Now I have ten grandchildren. We sadly lost my first grandson in a tragic accident. Our family is very close and the grandchildren are more like siblings than cousins. I have so much pride in my family. We lived in Belmont for about 37 years and raised our girls there. I worked in Palo Alto for Hewlett-Packard, initially in the finance and personnel departments, and eventually became the retirement plan administrator and retired from company in that position. I unfortunately was in a car accident that forced me into early retirement. Mr. Packard demanded excellence from his Human Resource staff, because he had such a unique commitment to his employees. I feel fortunate to have worked for and learned from him. I truly enjoy working with people. I eventually became the retirement plan administrator. I found that I really liked people - I am proudly a "people-person."

TGN: When did you come to Menlo Commons?

Pat: It was just two years ago. I was just divorced from a 45 year marriage and was lucky to find this wonderful unit and community! I like the people here. I enjoy the community. I have a lot of fun here. There is such a wealth and diversification of people. I like to think that Menlo Commons can be a cozy, homey place to live. I also care for people who are alone. When we care about other people, nothing can be more important.

TGN: Now you are on the Board of Directors.

Pat: Yes. I want to do something different for Menlo Commons as a director. I want to help there be a common goal on the board which will cause a pleasant environment for the people who live here - as well as for



those who serve on the Board! This year there will be three vacancies to fill on the Board, and I pray for new members to bring their own thoughts, and be open to others. I believe the board members shouldn't take things so personally. We should come to a middle solution on problems and work as a unit for the benefit and betterment of the community! I have also helped on the social events that I hope people enjoy.

TGN: What hobbies and other interests do you have?

Pat: I would love to have time to do more arts and crafts. I love to paint I have also had experience managing rental properties, and enjoyed hands-on decorating and design using textures in wallpaper paint and fabrics in rooms for example. I think living spaces can be made comfortable without moving walls - just doing things modestly. I am also close to Church of the Nativity where all my daughters were married, all my grandchildren were baptized, and I continue to be an active member of that parish. Last year I had the opportunity to do the layout and design of their parish directory which was enjoyable.

TGN: What improvements would you make to Menlo Commons?

Pat: One thing I have worked on is the hall lighting. In Building A, we have had installed sensor lights which will brighten the areas around them in the hallway when people move by during a power outage. Another thing I have done is having what I hope will become the annual "newcomer's party" where we have a simple meal, inviting and getting to know new residents at Menlo Commons. I would like that to continue in the future. I have been involved in organizing social activities, such as the barbecues, and I would like this to continue on a larger scale. We do need more volunteers to do social events! I find I have to be doing something. I hope to make a difference in helping the people here feel more comfortable. This is our home, and it should be that way.

TGN: Thanks, Pat for sharing your thoughts and desires with us.



Chuck and Betty Everson - Long Time Menlo Park Residents



TGN: Tell us about your background.

Chuck: Well, Betty was born at the old Hoover Pavilion Hospital, and raised in Menlo Park. Her family home is still in the family - down the street from here at the corner of Cedar and Alameda de las Pulgas in Menlo Park. Her sister manages the home now, which was bought in the 1920s by her parents. I was born and raised in Idaho. When World War II came I joined the Army Air Corps, and during the war, I was in the Philippines and Okinawa. After the war I graduated from Utah State with a degree in landscape architecture and planning. I became a landscape architect - one of the first in the area.

Betty: My parents were Dutch. My grandparents were among the first families to settle in Menlo Park in the late 1920s. I attended Sequoia High School and then graduated from San Jose State where I majored in business.

Chuck: After being offered a job in Arizona, I decided that was too hot for me so I came to Menlo Park. I worked on Linfield Oaks area (which includes where Sunset Magazine is). I worked on the house plans and landscaping there. I went to a restaurant on University Ave. in Palo Alto and first met Betty there. We were married in 1954 in Menlo Park. In 1958, we moved to Phoenix where I worked for the Del Webb senior homes organization which were building homes in Sun City. When they were ready to be sold they went fast - 50 homes in two days. After Phoenix, we moved to San Diego where I worked in a company designing retirement homes. After three years of designing and building retirement communities, we came back to Menlo Park. I worked for awhile as an owner's representative for high-rise buildings in San Francisco. I came back and formed my own firm in Menlo Park, named CAEverson & Associates, doing landscape architecture. I think we may have done more than 300 projects.

Betty: We have two children - both girls, Audrey and Deanne. And now

we have five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren!

Chuck: I was also active in the Air Force reserve, and after 41 years of active and reserve duty, I retired as a civil engineer with the rank of major.

TGN: I understand you have traveled quite a bit.

Chuck: Yes, we have been around the world four times. We spent three years in Saudi Arabia where I was responsible for landscaping a complete city. We were at Jubail at the Persian Gulf (also known as the Gulf of Arabia), and also near Riyadh, the capital city of Arabia. These are places that are "wonders of the world" today. We got used to the heat there and had a good time. Gold was the major product for the expats - lots of gold, including in jewelry, being sold at good prices. We have visited about 27 countries in our traveling, so we mixed business with pleasure. We enjoyed the food in Germany particularly.

TGN: How long have you resided at Menlo Commons?

Chuck: We've been here 15 years. We love it here. It is a great location. However, it is not what it used to be. There has been a lot of turnover of residents and so there are a lot of new people living here. It takes more money to buy and maintain a unit now.

TGN: And how are you getting along, Betty?

Betty: I had a stroke seven years ago so I have to be careful getting around. We do exercises three times a week, some at Little House and some at Avenidas.

TGN: Chuck, you have been on the Board of Directors, right?

Chuck: Yes, in fact I have served on it three times. The complex is gradually being brought up to date. The new front entry has made a great change. Many things still have to be reviewed, but it is difficult with financing issues.

TGN: Thank you for sharing your background and thoughts with us, Chuck and Betty. We appreciated your time.