

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Hazel Langhofer: Collector of Angels



1977. I was then also taking care of my mother who had cancer. Then I decided to do some traveling with a friend. I started traveling to Hawaii and Alaska. Then I took a three weeks cruise to Japan and China, followed by a trip to Italy. We did lots of land travel with a mobile home, visiting Alaska, Canada and the U.S. We went to every state except Florida and Indiana. I like to see the fall colors so I have been back East several times. I also enjoyed New Orleans and the Ozarks.

TGN: When did you move to Fortuna?

Hazel: In 1989 I settled there and got involved in making quilts as a church project for their Rescue Mission. That's a poor area and lots of people are homeless. Since I was getting older, my daughter Laurie convinced me to move here to Menlo Park. She is a licensed professional fiduciary (she acts as a conservator or trust administrator) and lives nearby. My son Laurin, by the way, is retired as a software engineer. He helped develop medical equipment to test eyes, and equipment which takes three dimensional pictures used in mammogram testing. Anyway, I moved here into Menlo Commons about four years ago.

TGN: What do you think of Menlo Commons?

Hazel: I like it very much. The people here are friendly. I attend all the events I can and I participate in the exercise class on Tuesdays and Thursdays. I do "chair exercises" which involve leg and arm lifting around a chair. Since I have leukemia that they don't want to treat at my age, I find the exercises very helpful. However the leukemia slows me down.

TGN: What else do you do to keep active?

Hazel: I am a member of the Bethany Lutheran church nearby. I help out there doing whatever I can. I like to read and watch TV. I use a Kindle for reading. My sister and I visit regularly during the year. She lives in Fortuna, and so I go up there a couple of times a year, and she comes down here a couple of times a year.

TGN: I will take some pictures of your angels and other figurines to share with our readers. Thanks, Hazel for sharing with us about yourself.

TGN: Hazel, tell us about your angel collection.

Hazel: I started collecting my angels together with "depression glass" figurines and also milkglass at least 20 years ago. I could pick them up at garage sales, estate sales, and antique shops. When I moved to Menlo Commons in 2012, I had to downsize, so what you see now is just a chosen few of what was my entire collection. I lived in Fortuna, California (Humboldt County) for 23 years before I moved here to be near my daughter Laurie in Menlo Park. My son Laurin lives in Auburn.

TGN: Where were you born and raised?

Hazel: I was born in a township in Iowa in a German household. My grandparents had come from Germany. So I was brought up in a German speaking family. We moved to Strubel, Iowa where I went to high school. Then I came to California where I married my husband in 1941. He was a school teacher. I tried to finish school but World War II came along and I was not able to do that. So I did some volunteer work for the Red Cross, had our two children, and spent my time raising the family. We first lived in Maywood near Los Angeles, and then moved to Whittier, and after that my husband went to work for the California State Printing Plant in Sacramento, so we moved there. He didn't want me to work, so I ran a child care center out of our home until the children were grown. Then I was employed by the State Legislature in Sacramento, where I did law indexing for state legislative counsel and his assistant lawyers. That was during the Brown and Reagan years as governor.

TGN: What did you do next?

Hazel: My husband and I went into the residential real estate business in Sacramento. We worked together until he passed away in



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Carol Van Schaack: Active in the Arts

TGN: Carol, what is your background?

Carol: I was born and raised in California. My father was with Prudential Insurance Co. and he was transferred often, so I lived for a while in Los Angeles, then Sacramento, then Palo Alto (in the times when the streets were not so crowded), and then back to Southern California. We then moved to New Jersey where I finished high school and then went on to Goucher College in Baltimore where I majored in the history of art. After college I worked in the Baltimore Museum of Art. I met my husband in Baltimore and our two daughters were born there. In 1977 Eric was hired to be chairman of the art department at Colgate University in central New York state. I became the curator of Visual Resources at Colgate when it was quite a young profession. I shot slides from art books and periodicals or bought slides of art work, architecture, and archeology. I had them put in protective mounts, cataloged them and made them available for classroom teaching to faculty in the art classics, foreign language, and history departments. I started with a manual typewriter, upgraded to an IBM Selectric, then a progression of desktop computers. I added a primitive relational database to catalog and label the slides. By the time I retired, the slide library had a very complex searchable database. We were converting our best slides to digital versions, and we had acquired subscriptions to online art and architecture databases which increased the availability of images for teaching a hundredfold. So many changes in technology over the years and the possibilities of accessing cultural images on so many intellectual levels kept the job really interesting during all those years! We lived in New York state until 2006 when we moved to Sunnyvale to live near our daughters in California. My husband died three years ago, and I moved to Menlo Commons in 2014.

TGN: Tell us about your daughters.

Carol: Our younger daughter, Leslie, is a pediatrician at the Presidio in Monterey. Our other daughter, Beth, lives in Mountain View and is a faculty member at Santa Clara University Law School, and for several years has been a visiting professor at Stanford Law School teaching in the areas of global criminal justice and human rights. Global criminal justice involves subjects such as genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. She has two children, Brooke who attends Girls Middle School in Palo Alto and likes to play soccer, and Miles who is in the ninth grade at Mountain View High School enjoys little league baseball and basketball.

TGN: What do you like to do?

Carol: I love having the opportunity to follow the activities of my grandchildren, especially their sports and musical events. I like to go to exhibitions at art museums in San Francisco and at the Cantor Museum of Art and the Anderson Collection at Stanford. I am also looking forward to the re-opening this spring of SFMOMA (the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art). I have half-season tickets at both the San Francisco Opera and the San Francisco Symphony. I also enjoy music events close by at Stanford's Bing Concert Hall. Over the years I have collected art work which you see on the walls here (I am running out of wall space!), especially the work of local artists, first from central New York state, and now from the Bay Area. I enjoy taking evening courses at Stanford University in various subjects. I am also in an Italian book club in Cupertino which meets weekly. I started taking Italian 45 years ago when my husband and I lived in Rome for about nine months, and I want to keep my hand in.



TGN: What traveling have you done?

Carol: My husband and I did a lot of traveling. Once we retired we rented apartments for a month each year in a major European city to do some in-depth sight-seeing. I love to travel and have done quite a bit of it, particularly with the travel group "Road Scholars". I am looking forward to my next trip which will be in April to Tuscany, and to the less-known villages in that area. I hope to also spend some time in both Siena and Florence, Italy.

TGN: What other activities are you presently involved in?

Carol: I like to play Chinese mah-jong at the Commons. I also play American mah-jong at Little House, where I also take step-dancing classes. I am a member of the Mountain View YMCA where I am in an aerobics class, and also do resistance and weight training. I also use the treadmill in our little gym here. I like to read and frequently use the public library.

TGN: Do you like Menlo Commons?

Carol: Yes. It found it liberating to downsize before I moved to California. I wanted to stop renting and actually own a place, so I appreciate that I was able to do that here.

TGN: Well thank you Carol for taking the time to let us get to know you better.

The Good Neighbor is published monthly for residents of Menlo Commons by Jim Palmer, E303, jdpalmerjr@aol.com. All issues are kept in a red binder located in the Commons Room and are available for your review.