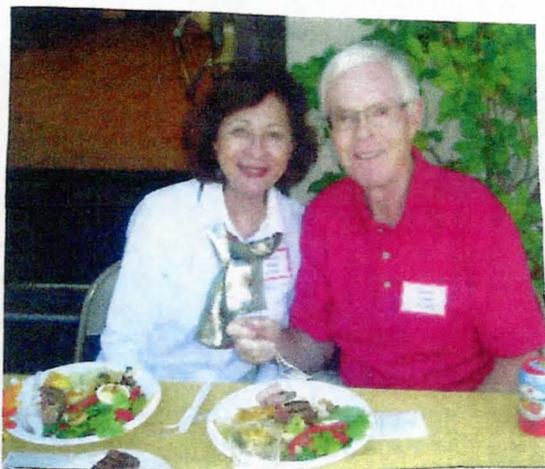


Labor Day BBQ - Celebrating the End of Summer Holidays

Menlo Commons Residents Enjoy The End of Vacation Time



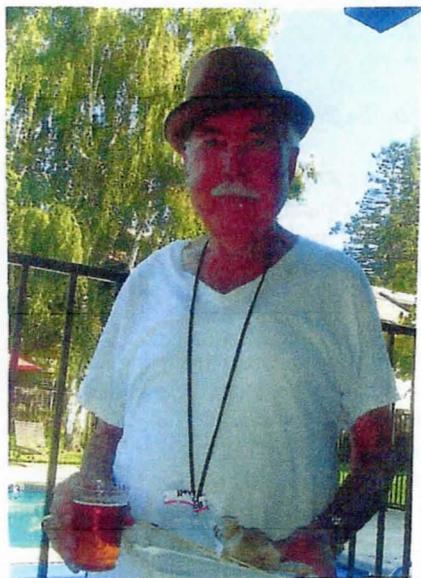
Rita Schena Visits, Brings Her Latest Art



Marina & Duane Clapp Have Full Plates



Betty Smith Joins the Party



Roger Murray Serves as BBQ Chef



Gene Brown Says Hello to Marilyn Palmer



Judy and Hal Harbatkin Enjoy the Event



Ruth Strohane Likes Parties



Ruth Wise & Gerry Gilchrist Having Fun



Betsy Scroggs Adds to the Festivities

Throwing a Private Party in the Commons Room



The Lamplighters group presenting one of their singing and acting numbers at our party in the Commons Room

By Marilyn and Jim Palmer

It's fun to have a private party in the Menlo Commons Room!

Residents of Menlo Commons can invite their personal friends and/or family to their own private party in the Commons Room. First, you need to fill out a reservation form to reserve the room for the date and time you select. Contact the Chairperson of the Social Committee (for us that was Gwen Leonard). A refundable deposit of \$ 40 is required for cleaning up, and another fee for the use of the space is determined by the number of persons attending (\$25 for under 30 persons, and \$50 for more than 30 persons). You have the use of the kitchen there (range, refrigerator, dishwasher, dishes and glasses, with space to prepare and clean up after any meal) and for the room the tables and chairs can be pre-arranged as you wish, if you let Val know to do so when he is here during the days before the party. There is a supply of table cloths in different colors available together with silverware. The hosts can take care of kitchen clean-up afterwards and get the deposit back.

In 2016, we have hosted two private parties, one in January (to celebrate our 80th birthdays for the two of us, which occurred near the end of 2015), and another party in June (to have a presentation by the Lamplighters theatrical musical group of San Francisco - they specialize in Gilbert and Sullivan).

For the first party we hired a chef and staff to prepare and serve dinner meals, with appetizers and dessert, and clean-up. We also provided beverages to be served our guests. We opted out of a buffet-style dinner so our guests could remain seated and be served, but buffet was done for our second party with the enclosed board room being used to present the dinner items for the attendees. Parking was taken care of by a valet parking service which we had hired for each event.

For our "birthdays" party we had about 50 friends and family as guests. Our family helped decorate with flowers on the tables. The tables and chairs were pre-arranged by Val the day before the party. Our family had prepared some wall signs with a basketball tournament

theme, indicating that we were entering into the "elite eighties" after surviving the "sweet seventies" and anticipating the "final few". Our son provided background music from his ipod. After the meal the two of us introduced each of the guests at the event by relating how we knew each other and had first become acquainted (often many years ago).

At the Lamplighters party we had the visiting singers and actors from the group present scenes and sing selections from their many productions. These included "HMS Pinafore", "The Mikado", "Iolanthe", "Pirates of Penzance" and others. Baker Peoples, Lamplighters musical director, acted as MC and accompanied the singers on the electronic keyboard we provided. We had 20 guests plus ourselves for this one.

At our "birthdays" party, the tables were arranged with guests sitting together to the extent possible who had something in common with each other or knew each other. Invitations were prepared and sent out to each of the guests ahead of each party.

So if you want to entertain, this is a good and convenient place to do it. The Commons room can not be reserved on certain holidays, or when other regularly scheduled events occur, and it is first-come, first-served for reserving the date and time for the room.



Marilyn & Jim celebrate their 80th birthdays at Commons Room party