

A publication of Palm Village Retirement Community

PALM VILLAGER

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PALM VILLAGE
RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

SPECIAL FEATURES

Resident Spotlight - Jim and Mary Gaede

Chaplain Dennis Fast

Tom's Garden

Taking Care of Our Residents



PALM VILLAGE

RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

703 W. Herbert Avenue
Reedley, CA 93654

Please call for more information
or to schedule a tour

(559) 638-6933
palmvillage.com

If you would like to be added or removed
from the Palm Village Retirement
Community mailing list, please email your
request to: jeanettetena@palmvillage.com
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Palm Village Chapel Services



Enjoy Chapel every Thursday night.

Service begins at 6:30 pm with Old-Fashioned Hymns
with our speaker beginning at 7:00 pm.

Donations

Living Legacy Fund



Many of our residents outlive their resources. To
prepare for the future of all residents, your donation
to our Living Legacy Fund will be greatly appreciated.

Secure Online Donations

Visit our **DONATIONS** page on our website to setup
your one time or better still, recurring donations.

www.palmvillage.com

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Palm Village Retirement Community
703 West Herbert Avenue
Reedley, CA 93654

A Letter from our Executive Director



We Are Better Together!

The holidays, believe it or not, are almost upon us. And while the year 2021 held such promise, we'd sincerely hoped that the pandemic would be in the rear-view mirror. As Covid-19 still lingers, we still take all necessary actions, following county, state, and federal guidelines to maintain safe environments for our residents, visitors, and our staff. Without healthy employees, it is difficult for us to fulfill our mission to take care of our residents.

On a positive note, we are pleased to announce that Dennis Fast is the new Chaplain at Palm Village. While Dennis is no stranger to the community of Reedley, he is a welcome addition to our staff. Having a Chaplain on campus is an important tenant of our Board's desire that we minister to our resident's spiritual needs. You can read more about Dennis on the pages to follow.

Some of the other highlights of this magazine center around care; the care of Palm Village residents, a treasured car, and friendship. You'll enjoy learning about Palm Village residents Jim and Mary Gaede who left on their honeymoon in a Volkswagen Beetle and there have been Volkswagen cars for the entirety of their marriage. We also acknowledge the special garden at the east end of our property that is cared for by Tom Pobst and JoElla Reimer.

In another difficult year, we are still grateful for the donations that we receive for the seniors in our care that have outlived their resources. We are ever mindful of the ministry that we have on our campus. We ask for your continued prayers as we provide for those in our care.

We send our warmest greetings to you, your families, friends, and community for the holidays ahead.

Happy Holidays to you and yours,

Jim Higbee
Executive Director

Palm Village Living Legacy

Our Mission Promise

Palm Village Retirement Community honors its commitment to care for seniors in their retirement and advancing age, even if they have lived beyond their assets. To assist in our mission, we receive tax-deductible donations through our Palm Village Living Legacy fund.

The Living Legacy fund helps residents continue to live in our community with all resources available to them. A promise that we made to never discharge any resident for a lack of funds. It is made good on the biblical commandment in James 1:27 "...true and pure religion...is

to take care of widows in their affliction." The "widows" have been joined by plenty of people whose affliction is simply a lack of funds.

Would you please join us in helping to keep our promise to provide continuing care for our senior residents? Our Living Legacy donation envelope is enclosed with each magazine, or you can visit www.palmvillage.com and click on the secure DONATIONS button at the top of our website. Thank you to all who continue to donate towards our mission.



Resident Spotlight

by Laurie Diamant



Jim & Mary Gaede

California ★

Oklahoma ★

Married in Fairview, Oklahoma, in August 1956, Jim and Mary (Kliwer) Gaede started their cross-country honeymoon trip in a black 1956 Volkswagen Beetle, which was the beginning of their involvement with Volkswagens in their lives for the past sixty-five years. Jim and Mary met at Tabor College in Hillsboro, Kansas. Mary's college roommate was Jim's cousin, Elaine Lepp Karber. Mary and Elaine lived in the Tabor women's dorm called Elm Hall. The women's dorm was a home previously owned by Jim's paternal grandparents purchased by the college.

The 1956 Volkswagen was ordered directly from the factory in Germany. A friend Clarence Bauman who was studying there, picked up the car, allowing him time to drive it for a few weeks, and shipped it to Long Beach, California. Jim had been approved by the Mennonite Central Committee for a two-year assignment at their headquarters in Akron, Pennsylvania, to fulfill his Alternative Service for conscientious objectors in place of military service. He worked in the Mental Health office, which was responsible for the operation of the three Mennonite psychiatric hospitals located in California, Kansas, and Maryland. His orientation to his job was to first visit each hospital for three to four days. The Director agreed that since Jim was getting married a week

before he began his service, they would give him extra time to complete his first assignment. Jim picked up his VW in Long Beach, drove to Fairview, Oklahoma, to get married, and then began the extended cross-country honeymoon trip going first to Reedley, California, Newton, Kansas, Maryland, and Pennsylvania.

Just before Jim graduated from the Master's program at the University of Southern California in 1960, they traded in their beloved black 1956 Volkswagen for a new 1960 Volkswagen Beetle purchased in San Bernadino, California. But for Mary, her favorite Volkswagen was purchased in 1964, a red Squareback Variant with a white top. Ordered again from Germany, the car was made to their specifications and shipped to them. At that time, their first son Paul had been born

1964 VW Squareback Variant



and Phillip a few years later. The last Volkswagen Beetle purchase came in 1969 and is still Jim's daily-driving car that we see on campus. Purchased used from Pauline Karber-Kohr with 12,000 miles on it, the 1967 Volkswagen Beetle now has over 650,000 miles that Jim has personally put on the car. For thirty-one years, he drove from Reedley to Hanford for the mainstay of his working career at King's View and then his post-retirement, a part-time position with Fresno State. He drove from Reedley to Fresno for another seventeen years. The faithful Volkswagen still has many original parts; one exception was a rebuilt motor four years ago.

Jim and Mary were both brought up in the Mennonite Brethren faith and tradition. The conversation has all the cities that we come to know as meccas of the faith and people; Fairview and Corn, Oklahoma (Mary), Hillsboro, Kansas (Jim and Mary), Shafter, California (Jim), and Reedley, California (Jim and Mary). When Jim began 7th grade, his father, a medical doctor, and his mother accepted the call of a two-year assignment with the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) to Paraguay to staff a medical hospital and establish a nurses training program. Jim was sent to the Hillsboro, Kansas area (Ebenfeld) to live with his uncle and aunt Herb and Anna Claassen on their farm. Jim attended a one-room schoolhouse with 13 students, the same school his father attended.

Jim graduated from Tabor College with a Bachelor's degree in 1956 with a major in psychology, and then on to USC for a Master's Degree in Clinical Social Work. His career in mental health counseling at King's View, along with his own private practice, kept him busy. The Mennonites' tradition of caring for those with mental health issues began with the Mennonites in Russia, where there was a hospital for very severe mental health cases. During World War II and the Korean conflict, Mennonite conscientious objectors were often given alternative service assignments, including being aids in State Mental Hospitals throughout the United States. Out of those combined experiences of those who served, a movement was started to improve care and compassion for the mentally ill. MCC took on the challenge, beginning the initial Mennonite psychiatric hospitals built in the late 1940s and early 1950s. It also encouraged more

Mennonites to consider and obtain professional training in the mental health field. While there remains some stigma towards counseling and treating psychiatric illness, there have been significant advances in the healing practices in the mental health field.

After attending Tabor College and marrying Jim, Mary worked for the Hillsboro Superintendent of Schools. When Jim transferred to USC, she worked in the Student Loan office of the University. After moving to Reedley in 1962, Mary worked for Gus Jansen, CPA in Dinuba, until her retirement in 1985. Mary held the family and household together and was active with her sons' interests.



Mary is a fabulous baker, and a few years ago, her nephew videotaped her making zwiebach and posted it on YouTube with over 8,000 views! In the tradition of Mennonite bakers, she also makes peppernuts (pfeffernuesse) for family and friends in the new year. Mary explains that people have their own recipes and shapes that are made, but the tradition of baking them for the new year remains. Mary has passed along her love of cooking and baking to her granddaughters Kaitlyn and Morgan. Mary and Jim have 2 great-grandsons, Nash and Calvin.

Mary and Jim are living their retirement at Palm Village in a beautifully decorated 3-bedroom home. They like to meet up with previous residents from Corn, Oklahoma and Jim has a cousin Jan Gaede Flanagan on campus that creates a feeling of home, family, and friends.

It's unusual for a retirement community to employ a chaplain, but the leadership and board of our community sees significant benefits.

"The spiritual care of our residents is vitally important and necessary,"

- Jim Higbee,
Executive Director of Palm Village



DENNIS FAST

PALM VILLAGE CHAPLAIN

CONNIE
FAST

We are pleased to welcome Dennis Fast as our new campus Chaplain. But Dennis is no stranger in our community. For over 40 years, Dennis has been in pastoral ministry. He served as lead pastor at the Hillsboro Mennonite Brethren Church in Kansas and seventeen years as the lead pastor of Reedley Mennonite Brethren Church. Since his retirement from Reedley MB, he has been serving part-time ministries in churches and conference denominational agencies.

Dennis is married to Connie (Klassen) Fast for 51 years and has three adult children and fifteen grandchildren ranging from 20 to 7 months. And as expected, keeping up with grandchildren takes considerable time! Three years ago, they purchased small acreage with their daughter, and they enjoy taking care of a small orchard and a yard with the need for continual maintenance. In his spare time, Dennis plays tennis regularly with a group of friends, and he and Connie enjoy traveling.

Dennis currently serves alongside the Chapel Support Committee to plan and lead vibrant chapel services each Thursday evening. One of the highlights for Dennis and the residents each week is the dynamic music and various guest speakers. Recently, he has resumed weekly Bible Studies for Health Care and Memory Care residents. As we continue to monitor Covid-19, he hopes to be offering Sunday worship service for the Health Care residents.

Dennis has been pleased with the quality of the staff at Palm Village. He sees the genuine care and deep commitment on the part of many. He has also been surprised at the capacity that many residents retain for thoughtful and meaningful interactions, even after other physical abilities have diminished. As Dennis continues to learn the flow of weekly ministries, he hopes to build on the valued traditions established by several Chaplains who have paved the way for him to serve. Dennis enjoys the Palm Village setting and hopes to be a blessing and make a positive contribution, which we know he will. Welcome Chaplain Dennis Fast!

TOM'S GARDEN



For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.

- Isaiah 61:11

On the east end of the campus hosts Tom's Garden which is lovingly tended by Palm Village residents' Tom Pobst and JoElla Reimer. Beautiful flowers and vegetables in raised planters installed by Tom are the main feature of the garden. Tom, a resident of 8 years having previously owned a farm, takes great pride in planting and maintaining the

plants, flowers, and abundant output of vegetables which are shared and enjoyed by other residents. JoElla, a resident of over 9 years likes assisting in the maintaining of the garden and the sharing of the gifts grown. Thank you Tom and JoElla for the treat to the eyes the garden provides and the sustenance it yields!





Taking Care of Our Residents

Palm Village Retirement Community is committed to remaining a Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC), which offers five levels of senior living and care. Along with this, we maintain a beautiful campus with a strong staff and administration, an excellent board of directors, stable financials, and an activities program second to none. Yet, the point of running an efficient organization is only as good as the residents' experience. They are the point. And the residents, when asked, say that the care they receive is suitable for their entire person, what professionals refer to as holistic care.

We are mindful of the importance of the spiritual life of our residents. While Palm Village has a long history of affiliation with the Mennonite Brethren Church, many residents come from other traditions. The commitment of Palm Village to provide chaplaincy services to all residents regardless of religious background is unparalleled in CCRC's. The weekly chapel services are well-attended and very much enjoyed. The chaplain, Dennis Fast (whom you can read about in this issue) came from a lengthy background in ministry and was always known as a specialist in pastoral care. When the time comes for residents to move between levels of care for health reasons, there is always someone available to talk and pray about the unique stresses of change and relocation.

Physical well-being is a top priority of Palm Village. Jennie Wiest serves as the on-staff nurse who pays special attention to our Independent Living residents. The essential aspects of this care include simple features such as in-home emergency call mechanisms, regular in-home visits, and respite care rooms available should a resident be recovering from surgery and need some observation as they heal. Jeanie's ability to deal directly and compassionately with residents' questions about health care issues, coordinating small group care and sharing and the professional ability to refer residents to the appropriate health care professionals is viewed as an essential service of PVRC.

We address the mental health needs of residents, which has been a growing concern in this post-Covid era. One of Palm Village's new initiatives has been a partnership with the MFT (Marriage, Family Therapy) department of Fresno Pacific University and its director, Cynthia McGrady, to create counseling opportunities between therapists in training and residents of Palm Village. The partnership grew out of a fortunate circumstance that left the Seminary with fewer "lab" settings for students who are in the process of receiving their master's degree in marriage and family therapy. A new partnership was conceived several years ago that continues to evolve and grow. In the spring semester, residents are "gifted" up to ten counseling sessions with a

therapist who "listens" to resident concerns with issues that range from family history, grief, loss, and isolation. These ten "listening" sessions stand alongside the small groups this program has created where therapists and residents can continue to share their heartfelt needs in a mutually supportive setting. This program has continued to grow in demand. McGrady has said that the Seminary could not be happier with this arrangement which fulfills a need for student lab hours while meeting the needs of Palm Village residents. Additionally, Palm Village hosts many support groups for Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and Grief Share.

And importantly, we provide financial aid where needed. Palm Village has a long history of creating a living legacy that guarantees that once a resident is accepted into the community, they will not be asked to leave for lack of financial resources. This heritage is deeply rooted in the Mennonite Brethren tradition and its commitment to share, encourage personal and corporate stewardship and provide for the needs of those who sometimes end up less fortunate than others. This commitment enjoys a 70-year history.

Holistic health care is a multi-layered reality. Palm Village continues to serve on the cutting edge of this experience. God has called Palm Village and our staff to look after the whole person of every resident. The people who are tasked with guaranteeing this outcome find it a joy to serve this cause and encourage you to seek the potential benefit for any friend or family member who might need this commitment.

SHARING EMOTIONAL · FINANCIAL · SPIRITUAL LOVE



Winter Wonderland

C U H O L I D A Y N R B W L A
C A T C J H V X M C S L W W W
E C R H H T X E E L K E M V Y
L O U E A R F U K H P S H O B
Q Q F T P N I M S K J S C L P
N G A A F O K S N T T I D K Z
M I M B F W L S T O X N D S W
X V I O E Q Z B G M L G C W I
M I L R R E G N X I A S P A E
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Thanksgiving | <input type="checkbox"/> Holiday |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pffernuesse | <input type="checkbox"/> Zwiebach |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blessings | <input type="checkbox"/> Care |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christmas | <input type="checkbox"/> Family |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chaplain | <input type="checkbox"/> Giving |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Volkswagen | <input type="checkbox"/> Tabor |

Residents & Staff

What's Happening



Independent Living residents enjoyed an afternoon at the Cricket Hollow Barbecue along the Kings River.



Cricket Hollow Barbecue

Palm Village hosted the Annual Rods n Dogs for the community and residents.



Rods n Dogs

CHUCKWAGON BREAKFAST

The Chuckwagon Breakfast on the campus lawn was served to all residents!



Assisted Living residents enjoyed the Oktoberfest celebration with homemade German pretzels!



Oktoberfest

Halloween

Palm Village employees dressed for Halloween!



Harvest Party

Edna Egbert looks resplendent in her fall hat and apron for the Harvest Party!



June 1, 2020 to Oct 31, 2021

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The Gift of
Love



Palm Village Retirement Community
P.O. Box 1028
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We have **IMMEDIATE AVAILABILITY** in
Independent Living & Assisted Living




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RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

Located in Reedley



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