A publication of Palm Village Retirement Community

# PALM VILLAGER

E RETIREMENT

YEARS

PALM

1942

June 2022 | palmvillage.com



# SPECIAL FEATURES

2022

Resident Spotlight - The Wohlgemuth's Recognizing Our Employees Palm Village Timeline 80th Anniversary Poem - Boots Braun



703 W. Herbert Avenue Reedley, CA 93654

Please call for more information or to schedule a tour (559) 638-6933 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

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** 

or Mail your check to: Palm Village Retirement Community 703 West Herbert Avenue Reedley, CA 93654

# LM VILLAGE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

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### A Letter from our Executive Director



### Celebrating 80 Years of Senior Living and Care

This year, Palm Village Retirement Community is celebrating its 80th Anniversary in Senior Care Living. In taking a retrospective look at our history, it gives us pause to honor those whose lives we have impacted and the employees that have given of their talents and commitment to our residents. Our Board of Directors over the many years have imparted wisdom and guidance to propel what started in a home next to the Church in 1942, to the large campus we

Palm Village continues to teach us valuable life lessons. Things like trust, loyalty, enjoy today. punctuality, unity, caring for others, listening, tenacity, and doing the right thing for the community. That is not to say that we haven't struggled or didn't quite meet our own expectations, but we strive as individuals and departments to provide for our residents. Everyone benefits from the successes we achieve and our seniors flourish with the care they are provided!

Another amazing tradition that I admire are the generations of families who have called Palm Village home. There are a number of stories where people are moving in, because of the care that their parents and extended family received here. That is a true testament to our community, employees, and governing Board.

We are celebrating with employees and our community over the summer, and we look forward to the years to come in our community. We have put together a timeline of events starting in 1942 that we have gleaned from records. This timeline also allows us to look forward to changes that we can make to better serve our seniors in the future.

Very truly yours,

Jim Higbee Executive Director

### Palm Village Living Legacy Our Mission Promise

Palm Village Retirement Community honors it's 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.



by Laurie Diamant

# Ivan & Jean Wohlgemuth

"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel." - Mark 16:15

When Ivan Wohlgemuth was 18 years old, he was listening to a missionary speak from Heifers for Relief, now known as Heifers International. They were looking for young men, especially those who were growing up on farms, to go into the missionary field taking animals to foreign countries that had been ravaged by World War II. After prayerful consideration, Ivan signed up to assist in taking 250 goats on a ship from California to Yokohama, Japan. He was to care for the goats on the ship which would take the better part of a month to get there. On the ship he met and became friends with Mr. Sim Togasaki of San Francisco. The Togasaki family had immigrated to San Francisco prior to the 1904 earthquake and were involved in the import and export for the MJB Coffee Company. Sim Togasaki was on his way to Japan to meet up with his brother, George Togasaki who was the editor of the newspaper Japan Times.

Once they arrived in Japan, the smell of the goats would not come out of his clothing, so he burned them and was forced to buy new clothes to wear. While in Japan, he stayed in contact with the Togasaki's and was invited to meet and have tea with the brother of Emperor Hirohito through his connections with George Togasaki who was friends with the family. With the tea, he was served a corn on the cob, demonstrating how difficult it was to get food post war, even for the Imperial family.

Ivan met Jean Zimmerman at Immanuel High School where they met and dated until their marriage in 1951. Not a year after their wedding, Ivan received his draft notification for the Korean War. Due of his faith and heritage, he chose to serve with a 1AO non-combat designation, that sent him to Virginia for basic training. From there he went to San Antonio, Texas where he was trained in a special unit for neuro-psychiatric care for soldiers. Jean was able to join him in San Antonio and then moved again to El Paso, Texas to complete his training. Ivan and Jean had one week post training for a trip home to Dinuba and for Ivan to ready for his transfer to Korea. A tearful farewell at the Fresno Airport and on to Seattle to meet the other 3000 soldiers boarding the ship that would take him across the world. Ivan spent 14 months in Seoul, Korea living in a tent, some 25 miles from the front line of the war. He was given "R & R" to Japan, again giving him an opportunity to spend time in a country he was fond of. Towards the end of the war, Ivan was appointed to represent his unit for a prisoner exchange at the border.

On one special day, Ivan received a telegram that his daughter Sandra was born. He held on to a photo of Jean and Sandra and looked at it every day longing to go home. Ivan faithfully served this country for 2 years and another 6 years in the reserves.





Ivan returned home to farming growing grapes, alfalfa and cotton, and son Terry was born in 1955. Ivan and Jean began to pray about how they could be involved in missions. They decided to sell their farm and move to Fresno to finish their education. Ivan graduated Fresno State and then went on to Fresno MB Seminary to further prepare him for service as a missionary. Jean completed classes in Bible at Fresno Pacific.

Ivan and Jean spent the better part of twenty years as missionaries in Japan. In 1963, along with their children Sandra and Terry, they arrived in San Francisco to board an older immigrant ship the Brazil Maru to Japan. Over a hundred of their church friends and family came to the San Francisco port to see them off with a farewell service on board the ship.

After their arrival in Japan, Ivan and Jean attended language classes for two years to learn Japanese and studied it for the many years that they lived there. Initially, for their first two tours to Japan, they lived in Osaka. Their first home was the typical small Japanese housing with tatami and wooden floors. The children went to school at the Canadian Academy for foreign students. After a furlough back in the states and despite a housing shortage in Osaka, they lived in a new more modern home that gave them more room and more western style living areas. They lived in Osaka for the better part of 13 years. Their last move was near Hiroshima City, Japan for the next seven years of

their service.

Ultimately in their twenty years of mission work in Japan, they built churches and facilities in Neyagawa, and the Nosegawa camp in Osaka that would serve as a Conference Center for MB Churches, other evangelical groups, and outside conferences. They started the Hiroshima Church from humble beginnings of meeting neighbors in their home.

Moving to Hiroshima, where they did not have any connections, they moved to a new neighborhood

called the Peace Housing Development. As was the custom, they would provide a gift and introduction to the new neighbors as they moved into the neighborhood. They would greet the neighbors and provide them information about the bible studies in their home. Ivan began introducing people to the Bible and as attendance grew, Jean was serving simple lunches for the time of fellowship. When the meetings in the home grew to 20 people, they found

> a four-story building on a main street to rent. Another church planted in the name of Christ that has continued to grow in its mission.

Their most important work was leading people to Christ. Ivan preached, baptized, and led the building projects and Jean worked tirelessly in her efforts with women's studies, social commitments, caring for their children, and home. Jean also carved out time to study the tea ceremony, flower arranging classes, and Japanese calligraphy. She provided a banner in an ancient writing technique that is more like a painting and very difficult to learn. Jean's banners are still a very important addition to the churches that she blessed with them. Each one is inscribed with Kami wa Ai Nari, meaning God is Love.

Upon their return to the United States, Ivan worked for the next sixteen years for the MB Foundation and farming oranges. They decided to move to Palm Village when Jean's health called for additional assistance. They knew that Palm Village Retirement

Community would be a good place to live since Ivan's father Henry, was on the Board for MB Homes, Inc. from 1966 to 1969 and Ivan's mother Bertha resided at Palm Haven and Palm Village.

Recently, Jean passed to Heaven's embrace, but their home at Palm Village is beautifully decorated with Jean's paintings showcasing her talent as an artist, Japanese mementos from their lives in Japan, and memories.





# Recognizing Our Employees

As a service business, our success is dependent upon the strength and unwavering support of the people employed at Palm Village Retirement Community. Our stability as a community is strengthened by the long-term commitment to work and provide care to the seniors who live here. And while we recognize the employees who've invested a decade or more of their working lives to our community, we would be remiss if we didn't say that the past few years have been difficult, and our challenges have been many to keep employees during the pandemic.

To our employees, we value you and your commitment to the care of our residents and the support of Palm Village. Our commitment is to provide a positive, productive environment that is critical to our Christian convictions which is to value honesty, courage, helpfulness, and respect.

Palm Village has 190 employees; 53 employees having more than 10 years of employment, 21 have worked more than 20 years, 7 have worked more than 30 years,

#### 47 Years Nellie Molina - RCFE Supervisor: 47 years of service

#### 30 - 39 Years

<b>Leticia Hernandez</b> 39 years	<b>Laurinda Salvador</b> 37 years	<b>Yolanda Acosta</b> 36 years	<b>Judy Guerra</b> 35 years	<b>David K. Reimer</b> 33 years	<b>Ron Sharp</b> 31 years
<b>20 - 29 Years</b> Surinder Kaur, 29 years Dalia O'Bryan, 29 years Josie Estrada Aniag, 28 ye Jim Dueck, 27 years Judith Estrada, 27 years Susan Pequet, 27 years Janie Escutia, 26 years Gonzalo Huaracho, 26 yea Maybelle Chumbley, 24 yea Martina Garcia, 23 years Maria Sanchez, 23 years Catalina Gutierrez, 23 yea	Tina Velasco, 20 yea Celia Searl, 20 yea Sylvia Gomez, 20 yea Yong Hernandez, 20 rs Delia Clindinin, 20 yea ars	3 years Jan rears Ma rears Len ars Jea s Joi ars Rei years Sha ears He Em Ka Yea	<b>) – 19 Years</b> cob Sapp, 19 years ria Leyva, 19 years o Gomez, 18 years anette Tena, 18 years hn Andres, 17 years becca Valencia, 16 year anda Williams, 16 year ctor Gomez, 15 years ima Cardenas, 15 year therine Hanline, 15 year senia Sanchez, 15 year	rs Bertha Salazar, Ana Gomez, 12 y rs Vanessa Estrad ars Xochitl Sanchez rs Khristina Monta	14 years a, 13 years 5, 13 years 2, 13 years ndez, 13 years 12 years 2, 12 years 2, 12 years 2, 12 years

Brenda Sanchez, 14 years

Rebecca Ramirez, 23 years



Seniors begins

#### °1942

Mennonite Brethren Homes, Inc. is established with six area MB Churches.

•1954 Nursing Care Building added for 10 patients

#### °1955

The "C" Wing is added to the Home of the Aged, bringing the population to 53 residents

#### °19/5

Pleasant View begins construction on the new C & D wings to the present Intermediate Care Facility adding 42 additional beds

#### °1946

The "B" wing was added to the Home for the Aged, bringing the total resident population to 34.

#### °1928

An additional assessment of \$2.50 per member of the participating MB Churches was added to cover the expanding of two facilities.

#### °1966

Pleasant View Manor, formerly the Reedley Hospital, was dedicated in June on the corner of 13th and K Street with 26 beds

#### °1974

Need for a retirement community is recognized. The MB Homes Board appoints William Wiebe. Milton Thiesen and Vernon Dick to investigate properties for building a retirement community.

#### °1985

Quiring Construction is awarded the contract to begin building the **Residential Care Center** 

#### **∘1996** Patio Homes 67 - 78 completed

**•1977** 

At the Annual Meeting of the General

Conference of MB Churches, the MB

including a community care facility.

Homes Board of Directors approves the

establishment of a senior citizen village

°1982

apartments.

Phase II of construction

begins on additional

apartments through

1988 for a total of 66

°2022

Health Care Center completed with 120 beds

#### **•1942**

Home for the Aged of the Mennonite Brethren Pacific District Conference opens on the corner of 13th & K Street Reedley, California with six residents. The home was purchased for \$2500.00 with a down payment of \$500.00. This was achieved with donations of .40 cents per member of the participating MB Churches.

PALM VILLAGE

-1938 **TIMELINE** 2022 -

### 01944

**•1942** 

next 13 years.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Jost are

appointed Supervisors of the

home and continued their

faithful positions for the

Additional wing added to the Home for the Aged with an additional 10 beds. The wing was dedicated on March 6, 1944. This was accomplished by donations of \$1.50 per person in the participating MB Churches.

°1944

The second house to the

South of the 13th & K Street property was purchased.

#### °1960

Additional home in Shafter opened

#### °1964 Purchase of the Reedley

Hospital which had moved to a new location, for \$25.010

**•1965** Home for Aged re-named to

Palm Haven

#### **~1966**

Homes in Reedley and Shafter are incorporated separately

In December, 3.5 acres of property were purchased on the corner of Reed and Herbert owned by Michael and Florence La Rue is purchased as well as the adjoining 7 acres owned by Don and Waneta Jost.

#### °1980

Robert Harder a local Architect was hired to design community

#### **•198**1

Building begins in August for the first stage of Patio Homes - Apartments 1 to 12

First resident moves into a newly constructed Patio Home

Covid has certainly changed the landscape of senior care and we are looking at making some changes to our Skilled Nursing building that will be a better fit for the future of senior living and care. Stay tuned!

°1982

June 2022 6

#### °198

May 3rd is the Dedication Service for the new Palm Village Residential Care Cente

# Palm Village 80th Anniversary Poem

By Boots Braun Palm Village Resident Poet There's so much one could say, since its beginning 80 years ago, has come a long way. There are many who would have much to tell, many good memories, which they remember well.

A much-needed place for elderly to receive care, so, plans were in progress by folks who were aware. Men together way back in 1942, to make the decision, just what they should do.

A place was built called "Home for the Aged," a good name to give, it soon became home where many came to live. Volunteers called "Pink Ladies" came to work to get things done, Ready to do whatever, a great help to everyone.

The word spread and soon they were out of space, and in 1955, three extra wings were added to the place. In 1960, Shafter was anxious to have a facility too, so a home was started there, which was the right thing to do.

Here in Reedley, as more people needed care, they purchased "Sierra Kings Hospital" which needed much repair. In 1966, when it was ready to have people move in, the name changed to Pleasant View Manor, in time to begin.

To those whom God gave the idea of a home for elder care, never could have imagined how God has answered their prayer. Many over the years have been cared for and shown God's love, blessed beyond measure, showered from above.

In 1977, a "retirement community" wonder who thought of that, a great place for retired people to be catered to and hang their hat. On 17 acres in 1981, Palm Village Retirement Community was ready to begin, and it wasn't long till the first patio resident moved in.

Assisted Living units were completed in 1985, and till this day 37 years later, continues to thrive. Health Care opened in 1998, which was a needed addition, it includes the Wiebe Center where extensive care is given.

A wing of Assisted Living was remodeled, made changes here and there, to make rooms ready for residents in need of memory care.

At this time in life, there's not a better place to be, than here at Palm Village in this great big family. Many memories we love to share, and talk about things way back when, maybe about school, church, or learn to make a new friend.

Palm Village has lots to offer, the staff and helpers are great, the Christian fellowship is such a blessing and activities that we anticipate. God has blessed the prayers of those, who 80 years ago, saw the need for a place like Palm Village and how it could grow.

Many over the years have truly been given good care, by dedicated staff, that show they can fill in anywhere. As we celebrate Palm Village on this 80th Anniversary, we also look forward to our final home someday in eternity.

# Residents & Staff What's Happening

Barbara Roberts, Glenda Johnston, and Helena Voss enjoy Independent Living's trip to Rollie Rollie Ice Cream in Clovis



Assisted Living Crafts





Independent Living Breakfast at Batter Up in Clovis

Chapel Service Honoring Palm Village 80th Anniversary – Men's Quartet with Jim Enns, Bob Plett, Jim Gaede, and Stan George ( center right ) Assisted Living Breakfast and Strawberry Shortcake









Marilyn George at the Ladies Day Luncheon

Palm Village Donors

# **Christmas Living Legacy Fund Donors**

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> Palm Village Retirement Community offers Independent Living with a variety of floor plans with upgraded high-end options.

# LOVE 🕅 Where You Live

With worry-free living, friendly neighbors, and lots to do, Palm Village Retirement Community is the right move for senior living.



Palm Village Retirement Community is designed to allow each resident the opportunity to enjoy their retirement living. Enjoy all of the comforts of home with the peace of mind that you are part of a multi-level care community.

#### Safe, Supported, & Social

PalmVillage.com

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