

A publication of Palm Village Retirement Community

PALM VILLAGER

December 2022 | palmvillage.com

Elegant at Eighty



SPECIAL FEATURES

Resident Spotlight - Bob & Marilyn Lewis

80th Anniversary Retrospective -
Three Generations at Palm Village

Reedley Mennonite Brethren Church
Senior Pastor - Jeff Wheeland



PALM VILLAGE
RETIREMENT COMMUNITY



PALM VILLAGE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

703 W. Herbert Avenue
Reedley, CA 93654

Please call for more information
or to schedule a tour
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If you would like to be added or removed
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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
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703 West Herbert Avenue
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PALM VILLAGE
RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

A Letter from our Interim President



PALM VILLAGE
RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

Seasons Greetings:

In this season of gratefulness, I want to share my heartfelt gratitude to the Board of Palm Village for allowing me the opportunity to become the Interim Chief Executive Officer. As many of you know David Reimer has retired after 33 years of service in senior care at Palm Village. David has been an influential leader for Palm Village and mentor to me for the last five years for which I am grateful. I send my best wishes to him, and his family as they adjust to the new days ahead.

I am reflecting on the year behind us while looking forward to what lies ahead. Where I feel confident is that there will be no major changes in the day-to-day operations since I have been in my previous role as Executive Director for the past five years. But that doesn't mean that we still don't make changes to provide great service and care to our residents. We are in an industry where excellence is expected every day, and in every way possible. And where we do fall short sometimes, it is my expectation that we are coming up with solutions to consistently improve.

Something that has personally hit home for me is experiencing the blessings of Palm Village meeting the health care needs of my mom. A year in to occupying her patio home after moving from Hemet, CA, my mom's health took a sudden turn. After a hospital stay, and with the reassurance and confidence from the Palm Village staff, the continuity of her continued care happened with a temporary stay in respite care in our assisted living, and nursing care provided in our health care center. I was a firsthand witness to the care that Palm Village staff provides each day to the many seniors who come for residency, recovery, and care.

I believe that the 80 years of history at Palm Village provides a roadmap and future that we are looking towards. Recently, we received a lovely letter and donation from Ina Bergen Heinrichs and family. In looking at the history of their family they found three generations of family members that have lived and are now living at Palm Village. So, we decided to reach out to Ina and Benti Pauls Dueck whose three generations of family finish our 80th Anniversary celebration with this story.

Again, we wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a New Year of hope, health, and gratefulness.

Very truly yours,

Jim Higbee
Interim President & Chief Executive Officer

Palm Village Living Legacy

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

Our Mission Promise

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.



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Bob & Marilyn Lewis

Early in their marriage while living in beautiful Colorado, Palm Village residents Bob & Marilyn Lewis participated in Road Rally races around the state in their maroon 1961 Chevrolet Covair. Marilyn an excellent driver, and Bob the navigator competed on the open road courses. Road Rally race competitions are won when teams arrive at precisely measured checkpoints set up along a route where the exact arrival time has been calculated. Based on the designated average speeds for the course, teams compete to see who the best is at reading the route instructions, following the route, and maintaining the assigned average speeds. The navigator reads route

directions, figuring out the times and helping to spot landmarks, while solving clues or complete a puzzle at every stage along the way. Penalty points are assigned if a team arrives at a checkpoint late or early. The further off the time, the more points the team gets and the lowest score wins.

Marilyn Lewis - circa 1963





Collection of Rally plaques from memorable races.

Bob and Marilyn met at church in Boulder, Colorado where Marilyn lived with her family and Bob with his widowed mother. Bob jokingly states that they married after he determined that Marilyn was a great cook. Along with their three children and family, they will celebrate their 66th Anniversary this December. Bob was raised in Minnesota and following in the footsteps of his father chose a career as a pharmacist. They have seven grandchildren, and their 13th great-grandchild is due in March, 2023.

A love of travel and adventure has been a pivotal part of their married lives and they enjoyed many years of travel across the United States with their trailer going with RV Groups and on their own. A few summers in Montana allowed Bob to enjoy fly-fishing. One memorable trip while traveling through New York to visit their son in Maine, was during the horrific tragedy on 9/11. They have visited most states except for North and South Carolina, Connecticut, and Rhode Island.

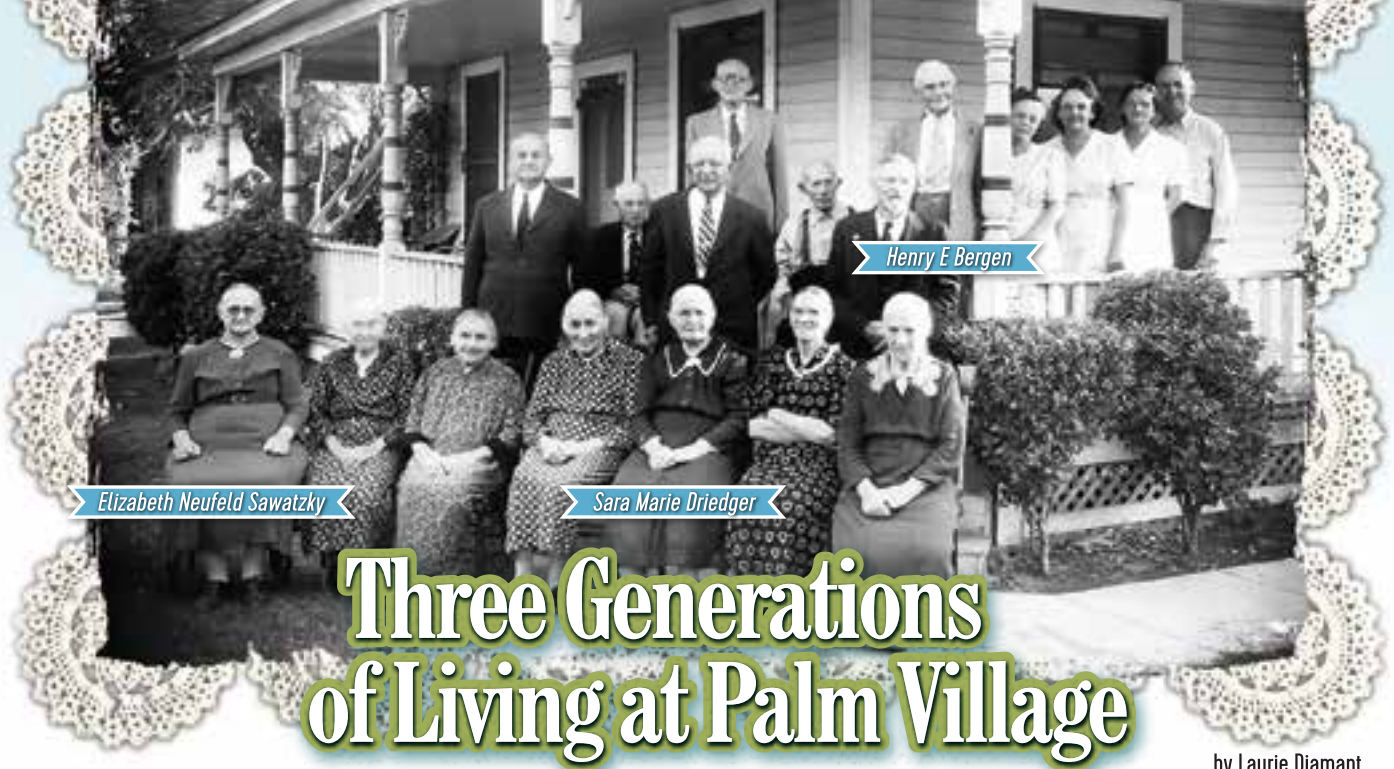
Both Bob and Marilyn were in service to others their entire working careers. For over ten years, Bob and his partner opened and managed a pharmacy in Santa Barbara, California. Bob felt called to make a career move in the area and worked public relations for a short period of time in the Fresno area. Deciding that pharmacy was his calling he worked for Thrifty's in Visalia and Selma and another pharmacy in Fowler where he retired. His career in pharmacy required

precision in his filling prescriptions, as well as helping patients understand what and how they should be taking the medication. However, his post-retirement was short-lived and he began working part-time for Sierra Kings District Hospital until his full retirement in 2007.

Marilyn credits her working career as a secretary at RMBC church office as well as an administrative assistant at the MB Seminary and Fresno Pacific University. After her retirement in 2000, and after moving to Palm Village she has been a volunteer at Palm Village, including Chapel support for the Chaplains and other committee involvement. Marilyn has been a long-standing member of the Reedley Mennonite Brethren Church Choir since 1979.

Bob and Marilyn enjoy their lives at Palm Village. They have made many friends and appreciate the care that is provided when needed. They are involved residents and make new residents feel welcome in the community.





Three Generations of Living at Palm Village

by Laurie Diamant

“To forget one’s ancestors is to be a brook without a source, a tree without a root.”
 – Chinese Proverb



As we bring our celebration of the 80th Anniversary of service to seniors at Palm Village to a close, we recently received a lovely letter with a donation from Ina Bergen Heinrichs and family. Ina details in her letter that she has had three generations of family members who have lived out their days at Palm Village going back to the days where it was the Home for the Aged next door to the Reedley Mennonite Brethren Church. The letter came with a memorial donation in the name of her beloved grandfather Henry Elias Bergen after the family determined that he did not have a gravestone on his grave in the Reedley cemetery. The family decided that any funds donated by family members over the amount of the headstone would be donated to Palm Village in celebration of the 80th Anniversary and in memory of Henry.

During a recent marketing meeting of three people, two out of three of us have had three generations of family members who have lived at Palm Village and its predecessors. And we know that many families besides ours have had three generations of family members reside at Palm Village. So, we’ve reached back out to Ina and to Benti Pauls Dueck to tell us about their family and the impact of Palm Village for the families.

Ina’s paternal grandfather Henry E. Bergen lived in the Home for the Aged in the 1940’s and passed away in 1949. Henry is included in the photo from the Home for the Aged that graced our cover five years ago. Henry born in 1866, like most of our Mennonite families emigrated from Russia (Ukraine) and came to the United States in the 1880’s. He arrived in Oregon but homesteaded for a while in Oklahoma on the Cherokee Strip. Henry Bergen farmed for some time on his homestead in Oklahoma but worked in a haberdashery. He was always a natty dresser! Henry’s children Martha Bergen Bese Quiring was born in Oregon and Sam Bergen, Sr. was born on the Oklahoma strip. Martha was a resident at Palm Village until her passing in 2001. Ina vaguely remembers visiting her grandfather at Palm Haven and watching him walk with double canes but remembers fondly her Aunt Martha who was always impeccably dressed and the furnishings in her home were so beautiful.

Her maternal grandmother, Elizabeth Neufeld Sawatzky also in the photograph at the Home for the Aged and later moved to Palm Haven when it was completed. In the early 1900’s Elizabeth and her husband Abram emigrated from Russia to Canada and then United States. Three of their daughters,

Mary was born in 1903 in Russia, Agnes (1907) and Helen (1911) were born in Aberdeen, Saskatchewan, Canada also resided at Palm Village. The family moved to Orland, California where the sisters met and married, and then all of the family moved to Dinuba, California in the 1930's and 1940's.

Ina's mother Agnes Sawatzky Bergen married David Fast a few years after the death of her husband. They moved to Palm Village in the 1980's, along with her sisters Mary and David Letkeman and Helen and Dave Ewert. Ina's brother Sam Bergen, Jr. and his wife Marvis are current residents at Palm Village. It is also believed that Marvis has had three generations of family members at Palm Village through the Dick/Nikkel families.

Visiting with family and extended family that were residing at Palm Village made staying connected easier in one location, yet each family had their own unique space to live. Ina and her family appreciate the great care of their family and the ministry provided to the seniors of the community.



Benti Pauls Dueck

Benti's great grandmother, Sara Marie Driedger and her husband Peter immigrated to the United States through Galveston, Texas in 1902. They arrived in Reedley in 1911 with seven children and while living on 40 acres in north Reedley, had four more children blessed to them. Peter Driedger passed away in 1944 and Sara moved to the Home for the Aged in 1945. She called her daughter and told her it was time for her to move to town, she was 64 years of age. Sara is also included in the photo on the porch of the Home for the Aged. Sara moved to Palm Haven after construction was complete on the Reedley MB campus, later she moved to the Pleasant View Manor location. Benti recalls visiting Sara who would teach her in the low German dialect (plautdietsch) and laugh when she repeated them. Benti loved when Sara moved to Pleasant View because of the large sitting room with the huge fireplace and lovely view of the orchard and river across the street.

Sara's daughter, Elsie Thiesen was a nursing director at Pleasant View where she cared for many family members and friends, including her mother. Benti recalls seeing many relatives who were visiting other family members at Pleasant View and great aunts who were visiting their mother, in-laws, and neighbors.

The first to move to the current Palm Village campus was Benti's grandmother Agnes Driedger Pauls who at 76 years of age moved into an independent living patio home in 1984 with a window that faced a lovely courtyard. Agnes and Benti would regularly walk the grounds to see the camellias in the spring and the roses in the summer. Agnes would host a large Easter Egg hunt for her great-grandchildren and would put out large quantities of eggs around the courtyard while other residents would sit on their patios to watch the fun. The Easter Egg hunt was held after she moved to Assisted Living on the West Lawn. Many of Agnes's sisters were living at Palm Village campus at the same time. This included Marie Golbeck, Martha Funk, and Frances Dick. While many family members were living at Palm Village at the same time, Benti would visit with her grandmother and her great-aunts with her children, allowing the extended family to get to know them. This would not have happened if everyone was not living in a central location.

Benti's parents Don and Ruth Pauls moved to Palm Village in 2011 to a peaceful patio home and enjoyed going to the Garden Room for a meal. Her father loved seeing some of his cousins who also lived in patio homes. Benti's father passed away this year in the health care center. Her mother, Ruth still resides in the health care center where she feels doted on by the staff. Someone cleans for her, does her laundry, makeup, her hair, and dresses her. She says she feels like a Princess!

Always a welcoming place for events, Palm Village has provided space for annual family gatherings in the basement of the Assisted Living building with the doors opening out to the patio for the young ones to play. This has been the place for baby and wedding showers, and funeral meals. Benti appreciates the devoted loving care that has been provided to her Driedger and Pauls family.



Dr. Jeff Wheeland

SENIOR PASTOR

REEDLEY MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH

by Charles Buller, M.Div.

For as long as Palm Village Retirement Community has existed it has had a very important relationship with Reedley Mennonite Brethren Church (RMBC) and its pastors. Those of us who have enjoyed the services at Palm Village have memories of the spiritual counsel, visits, and chaplaincy services of RMBC's Pastors. As Reedley MB has chosen a new senior pastor in the summer of 2022, Palm Village has enjoyed the new presence of Dr. Jeff Wheeland to its hallways. Jeff and his wife Maggy bring some new qualities to Reedley which are new to its history.

First, Jeff is the first Senior Pastor who comes with no ethnic ties to Mennonite Brethren heritage roots. Second, Jeff and Maggy are the first pastoral couple who are bilingual in their marriage and language. Maggy was born and raised in Peru and is a fluent Spanish speaker. Jeff can hold his own in both English and Spanish but always defers to Maggy when Spanish is the dominant conversational language. And, last but not least, Jeff is the first RMBC pastor who served as a US Army Chaplain in the Iraq conflict! As the residents of Palm Village reflect a greater diversity in culture and language with each passing year it is important to make note of this shift.

Jeff is uniquely gifted and called to his new role as the pastor of RMBC and encourager of those who live here. First, Jeff is a man of prayer and scripture memory. It is not unusual that people who grow up in the Christian faith often find their spiritual life more and more encircled by a commitment to Bible reading and prayer. Jeff has had these commitments since he was saved as a young boy. Jeff is never far from sharing a scripture verse from memory which encourages people. Jeff has a system for scripture

memory which he engages daily. Further, Jeff has in each previous pastorate (2) lived a commitment to prayer. Currently, he has facilitated no fewer than 11 prayer meetings at RMBC. Many of these include residents from PVRC.

Jeff's educational background rings true with the many evangelical Christians who reside at PVRC. He was an outstanding graduate of Wheaton College (the alma mate of Billy Graham), Dallas Theological Seminary and finally Liberty University where Jeff recently finished his doctorate with a thesis on "Simple Church".

While Jeff and Maggy are a young couple with three children at Immanuel Schools (which they love!) they are not without many skills in meeting the needs of seniors. Jeff's unique ability to seldom if ever to forget a name is phenomenal. And, touching. It is comforting when Jeff calls you by your name once you meet. Second, his tireless commitment to end most conversations with the one question that every senior citizen hopes to be asked..."what can I pray for you about?" And then a prayer to follow the question.

Ironically, Jeff gets to work in concert with one of Reedley MB's most cherished pastors in Dennis Fast who is the current Palm Village Chaplain. It is safe to say that the influence, ownership and connection to RMBC and its staff remains as strong as ever. While the denominational backgrounds at Palm Village have never been more varied, the roots of our faith commitment remain anchored in the soil of the local Church. Palm Village and RMBC are partners in God's kingdom as much as ever.

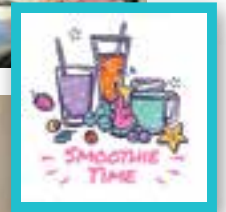
Welcome here Jeff and Maggy!

Residents & Staff

What's Happening



Assisted Living residents enjoyed a Smoothie Bar



Independent Living love the chance to share breakfast together with the Omelet and Waffles Breakfast



Thanksgiving Luncheon - Our staff shows their gratefulness by serving our residents a Thanksgiving meal.

Palm Village Donors

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Love

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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.



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PalmVillage.com

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.

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