

In the Company of Friends . . .



**Sierra View Homes  
Retirement Community**

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March 2010

## *Executive Director's Notes*

Spring is just around the corner and most of us are ready for some warmer, sunnier days. I'm hoping to do some bike riding again. Last year my wife and I bought each other bikes on varying holidays and we were thinking that riding our bikes would become a regular exercise routine. Well you know what happens: Summer comes and its much too hot, then Fall and Winter come and its much too cold.



One excuse I don't have any more is the terrain. Living in San Diego has its benefits with the weather but it has a hilly landscape. It was not unusual for Adriana and I to plop our kids in the station wagon and drive over the bridge to Coronado to find some flat real estate. Coronado has a bike path that encircles the island and even goes under the bridge. It was a joy to ride our bikes there but a pain to get there. Now we live in a flat area so we could go miles without working up too much of a sweat. So when we start to have nicer weekend days you may see us on our all-terrain bikes . . .

Adriana has decided to try her hand in soups for the **St. Joseph's Day** Italian meal. Sierra View's now annual tradition of cooking up a home made ethnic meal is to highlight Joseph's role in Jesus' time on earth. All monies collected will go to Mennonite Central Committee for the most needy. This time the main entree will be your choice of a **Manhattan clam chower** or a **Escorale Bean** soup in a sourdough bread bowl. It is believed that Italian and Portugese immigrants brought the Manhattan type of chowder to the New England states in the late 1800's. It is a tomato based soup with lots of vegetables and potatoes. A mixed salad and an Italian dessert will also be served on March 20 beginning at 11:30 a.m. It should be lots of fun.

So, whether you are having something new to eat or trying a new experience, have a good March!

Vito Genna

## *Corporation Meeting*

On February 11, the Corporation membership met to celebrate 50 years of vision, development and service. Reports of the past year and presentations on the future of Sierra View Homes were given. **Dick Peterson**, board chair, reviewed highlights of 2009 including maintaining the 5-Star rating from Medicare, completion and dedication of the Founders Room, contracting with Laura Neufeld as our first on-campus chaplain, and continuing improvements on campus. **Vito Genna** gave a video presentation that included a time line of the development of Sierra View Homes over the past fifty years plus conceptual plans for the proposed construction of Phase II, a three-story 52-unit independent living apartment complex, and Phase III, a memory care wing in Assisted Living. Vito noted that there are several reasons why it could be beneficial to proceed with the building projects at this time: 1) the cost of construction is significantly less during this economic downturn; 2) cost of financing and interest rates are lower; 3) there is a need for moderately priced apartments for seniors; and, 4) the City of Reedley is interested in working with us on the closure of Pecan Street and developmental fees. A feasibility study and marketing study will be conducted over the next few months to better determine what potential rents would need to be charged in order to cover costs. **Barbara Boldt**, Chief Financial Officer, reviewed the audited financial statements for 2009 and reported that Sierra View Homes ended the year with a strong balance sheet and well positioned for future growth. In addition, three board members whose first terms were expiring – Barbara Boldt, Linda Ewy, and Irvin Isaak – were re-elected to serve a second three-year term.

Corporation members who attended the meeting will receive a copy of the meeting minutes for review and approval at next year's meeting. Members who were unable to attend, will be receiving a copy of the Annual Report, audited financial statements and meeting minutes. In an effort to save paper and postage, these documents are **available in PDF form via email**. If you would prefer to have copies emailed to you, please notify me at [kanderson@sierraview.org](mailto:kanderson@sierraview.org) and type **Annual Reports** in the subject line. The requested reports will be forwarded to you.

As a reminder, Corporation membership is obtained by those who have donated a minimum of \$100 to Sierra View Homes other than memorial contributions. For every \$100 donated, one voting share in the Corporation is earned. There is no cash value in the shares and, as a non-profit organization, all proceeds go back into Sierra View Homes for the benefit of our residents.

Karen Anderson, Admin. Asst.

## *Activity Happenings*

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17 at 11:30 A.M.**

**ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION**

**Music by The "Fiddler" Wendell Miller**

**Followed by a Traditional Irish Lunch**

Please RSVP to the office by Monday, March 15.

Suggested guest donation: \$5.00

**FRIDAY, MARCH 19 at 11:30 A.M.**

**ST. JOSEPH'S DAY CELEBRATION**

Enjoy an **authentic Italian lunch** with your choice of soups, salad and cheesy breadsticks prepared by **guest chef Adriana Genna**.

Please RSVP to the office by Wednesday, March 17.

All proceeds from your generous donations will go to Mennonite Central Committee (M.C.C.) for its relief efforts.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 20 at 6:00 P.M.**

**ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT CRAB FEED**

This is a fund raiser for the Reedley Sunrise Kiwanis Club that supports kid's programs including Break the Barriers in Fresno. Please contact the office if you would like to attend. Ticket price: \$40 per plate.

**FRIDAY, MARCH 26 at 2:00 P.M.**

**SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE**

Join us as we honor and remember those who have lived among us.

The residents to be remembered are: Freda McColgan, Joy Harrelson, Belle Tanner, Leona Sanders, Dorothy Rempel and Velma Klingenberg.

Only three months until our

**ANNUAL SPRING BENEFIT DINNER**

on **Saturday, June 5**. Mark your calendars now for this great event with entertainment by

**The Sons of the San Joaquin.**

We will have more information in our April newsletter.

## ***Meditation on Psalm 51***

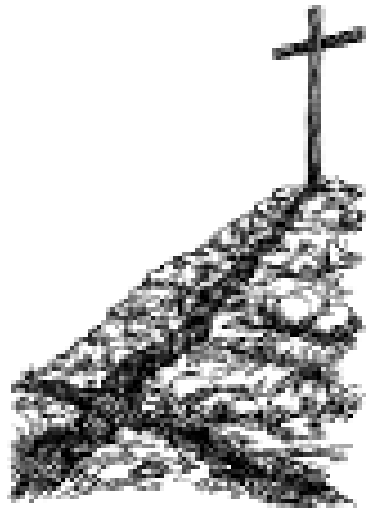
The month of March finds us in the Christian season of **Lent**, those forty days of **preparation leading up to Easter Sunday**. Some of us may carry a dreary view of Lent. Perhaps we think of Lent as somber time during which we are supposed to give up something pleasant like candy or coffee. Some Christian denominations may not observe Lent at all. I would like to suggest that we think of this season not as a dreary time, but as a time when we are making eager preparations for the celebration of Jesus' resurrection.

When Sierra View Homes hosts a special celebration, we prepare in many ways. We invite guests, set up extra tables, arrange for entertainment, fix special food, and decorate the dining room. A joyful party does not happen by itself, but emerges thanks to thoughtful preparation and eager anticipation. So it is with Lent and Easter. Thoughtful preparation helps us to fully appreciate the miracle of the resurrection and Christ's defeat over the power of death. But what might this preparation look like?

Psalm 51, a psalm of David, offers us a powerful model for practicing spiritual examination and preparation. David asks God to forgive his sins, cleanse his heart, and renew his spirit (v. 10). David trusts God to purge the ugly stuff from his life and fill his spirit with truth, wisdom, and joy. How do we need forgiveness? How do we need renewal? During this season of preparation we rejoice that while our bodies may grow old, our spirits may be continually renewed through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

May we pray with David, *“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.”* (v. 10, 12)

Laura Neufeld, Chaplain



## ***The Journal***

We have a new feature to our reading area in the lounge in Residential Care. We continue to have stacks of books and magazines that any resident may borrow. The daily edition of the Fresno Bee is available to read at the tables. And now, through a generous donation of a 12-month subscription, the **Wall Street Journal** is available six days a week. The Journal has many special feature articles besides business news. In addition, puzzles and games are available in the lounge as well.

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## ***Foam Anyone?***

We are looking into a new roofing system for the Kings Canyon Room, kitchen, laundry area and therapy center. If all goes according to plan, a polyurethane foam insulative roof system will be installed over the existing roof. Several coats of spray foam will be applied at the rate of three gallons per 100 square feet. The new roof will have a 15-year warranty to ensure against leaks. Perhaps an equally valuable measure of importance, this thick light weight coating will also increase the R-factor, better insulating the building and reducing heating and cooling costs.

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## ***Note of Appreciation***

*Dear Friends,*

*I am grateful for the exceptionally fine care . . . and caring . . . that I received recently at Sierra View Homes. My thanks to the Administration and all the employees. Every one of them went out of their way in their care and services for me in various ways. They each hold a very special place in my heart!*

*I am getting along fine. I hope to be out and about soon and I plan to stop in at SVH and say hello. Keep up the good work!*

*Gratefully,  
Melba Bergthold*