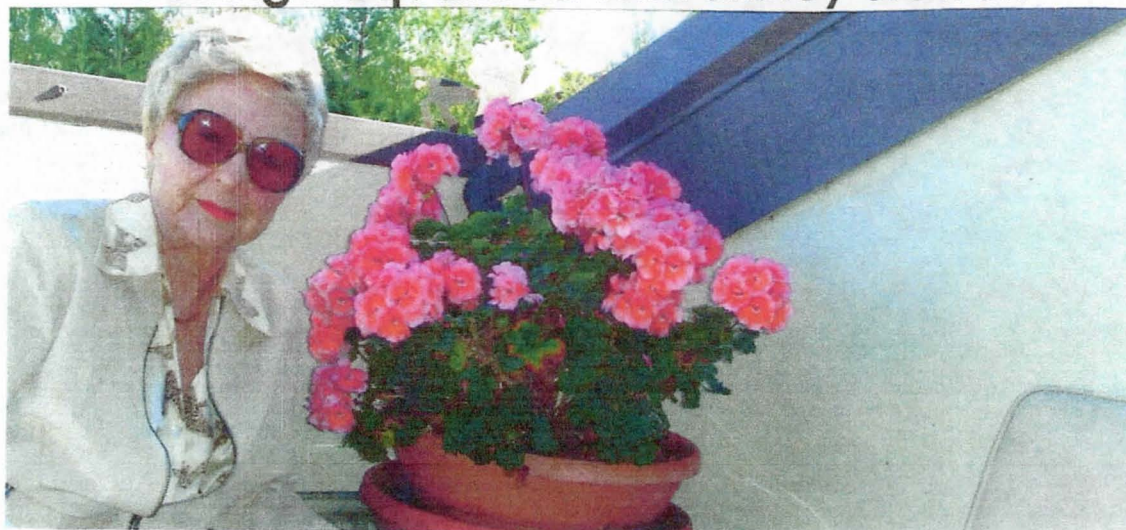


MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Getting Acquainted With Shirley Stewart



TGN How long have you lived at Menlo Commons, Shirley?

Shirley: I moved here with my husband George in September 1998. He died a year later. I plan to stay here for as long as I can. I think the location here is great. I like the weather and enjoy my friends. Even though I can't drive anymore I get invited to go shopping and also can take the bus when I need to. I have my daughter Carol in Redwood City close by. I have two surviving children and seven grandchildren and we all get together for Thanksgiving, and most of us at Christmas time, too.

TGN: We have seen two of your grandchildren helping at Menlo Commons parties.

Shirley: That would be Stewart who is 34, and Ryan who is 22.

TGN: So what else keeps you busy?

Shirley: I love to cook. I fix myself complete meals, and I do a lot of experimenting with food, such as vegetable dishes with garlic and coconut oil. I also spend time gardening with my potted plants (I have flowering geraniums outside and a number of inside plants to take care of). I enjoy playing bridge. Then I listen to books on tape. I have been listening to a good book called "Collapse" which is about the history of various civilizations and cultures. It is fascinating and takes 22 hours to finish. Then I am also trying to learn the computer, so I take a weekly one-hour class and then try to use what I learn at home. It can be frustrating, however.

TGN: I see you have a hummingbird feeder hanging on your porch.

Shirley: Yes. This is the busy time for so many hummingbirds and they eat only cane-sugar water from the feeder. They drink a quart a day.. I think they are preparing to go south for the winter to Mexico. There are so many colors on them and they flap their wings very fast to stay a float while feeding.

TGN: Tell us about your educational background.

Shirley: I started college at Pine Manor, a small college near Boston. I finished with a degree at Northwestern University in 1947 with a major in speech. Over the years this has helped me a lot as I have served on a number of boards such as the Commonwealth

Club and Menlo School and College.

TGN: When did you come to California?

Shirley: My husband I moved here in 1950 from Chicago. He worked with Matson Navigation Company in San Francisco, where we lived on Telegraph Hill until we moved to Hillsborough and then to Atherton. We loved this part of California because of its nice weather and beautiful areas

TGN: I have seen you at Menlo Commons parties dressed in Scottish colors.

Shirley: Yes. Of course my husband was a Stewart, and my background is German, English, Scotch, French, and Dutch. I have been interested in looking at family historical information for these names and find they track back to many centuries ago.

TGN: You have served on the Menlo Commons Board of Directors.

Shirley: Yes, for a short while. I decided to resign though since my eyesight was giving me trouble in handling all the Board paperwork. I am glad to be off of the Board. However, I hope that good decisions are made. For instance I think the roofing work that was done a couple of years ago really helps keep my third floor unit cool. I think that was a good decision. I want them to keep the window boxes since I feel strongly that they add a lot of charm to the place. I think they should keep the shrubbery and trees which I can enjoy from my patio..



Menlo Commons Autumn Get-Together



Pianist Gwen Leonard and Chuck Kinney clap hands after "Cruising Down the River" is rendered at the Light Autumn Supper.

Pat Galvez organized and produced the "Light Autumn Supper" for new and long time residents of Menlo Commons on Sunday afternoon, October 20. There was a great turn-out, with wonderful food to enjoy. A special treat was the electronic piano playing of Gwen Leonard (one of the new residents), with some occasional singing of old time songs by residents Chuck and Marilyn Kinney, Shirley Stewart, Ingrid Rogers, and others.

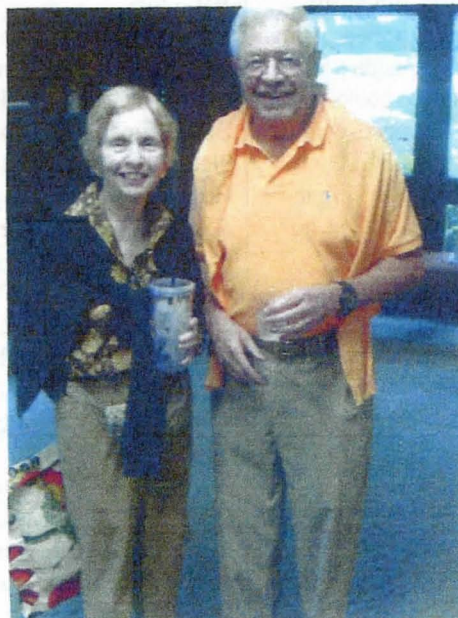
The food included a corn chowder soup, butternut squash soup, green salad, a marvelous-tasting stew, and fresh rolls. Top it off with a pumpkin pie with whipped cream dessert to die for.

Annual General Meeting Features Food, Wine and Election Results

Menlo Commons held its annual general meeting on October 28. While the business of the well-attended meeting was the announcement of the election results of the board of directors (new directors elected were Sue Marshall and Pat Galvez), the festivities featured wine and tasty food for all who attended. **The Good Neighbor** took pictures of some who were present to enjoy the event.



Sandra Long and Val Smith versaw the meeting details.



Marilyn Kinney and Gene Brown sampled some light beverages.



Joan Bouma and Betty Smith enjoyed sampling the food.