

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Joyce Stewart: World Traveler and Hiker



and one has graduated from law school. I like to visit my grandchildren at their colleges. I also like to watch them compete in sports events such as soccer and baseball. I am very thankful for all I have and for my family.

TGN: What caused you to move to Menlo Commons?

Joyce: Jack and I had been living on Sand Hill Circle in Menlo Park in a place with stairs. He developed health problems that made climbing stairs difficult, so we found this unit at Menlo Commons in 2011. It has been an ideal location, and I have enjoyed living here. The people are very nice. This is a lovely place to live.

TGN: Tell us more about your hiking experiences.

Joyce: I often hike with the Sierra Club - including backpacking. I have hiked many places, in California (twice to the top of Mt. Whitney and nine times to the top of Half Dome), and Nepal (to within five miles of the top of Mt. Everest). I have a picture to show you of Mt. Everest and can point out where I hiked. My children and grandchildren have come along on hiking trips and they also have gone cross-country skiing and snowshoeing with me. I still hike once or twice a week. Last fall I went to northern Spain for a hiking trip. Next summer I plan to go hiking in Croatia. Around here I like to hike in the Santa Cruz mountains, Portola Valley area and Windy Hill. I also use the YMCA three times a week, and I like the exercise room here. My daughter has a place at Capitola, where I can go beach walking. I try to stay busy. My children recently hosted an 80th birthday party for me at a restaurant in Palo Alto.

TGN: Welcome to the "elite eighties". Are you keeping up with high-tech these days?

Joyce: I use the computer and am a real fan of Apple. I try to buy their various devices, including the Apple watch which I am wearing and have fun with.

TGN: What was your favorite trip?

Joyce: I really liked Antarctica. We visited many islands and saw thousands of penguins. At Deception Island I went for a brief swim in the Southern Ocean, and then warmed-up in a "natural hot tub" which was a pool receiving warm water from a volcano.

TGN: That's a fine looking grandfather clock, Joyce.

Joyce: It came from Jack's grandfather, too. It keeps perfect time and is a family treasure.

TGN: Well, thanks for sharing with us Joyce. I am amazed at how active you are. Keep it up!

TGN: Joyce, tell us about your background.

Joyce: I was born in Massachusetts, moved to Florida in the 8th grade, then lived in Southern California during high school. I moved to Cupertino in 1963, and attended San Jose State where I received my BS and Masters degrees in nursing. I spent 18 years as a special education nurse in public school, helping children with severe mental or physical disabilities, such as cerebral palsy. I worked with staff and parents to meet the needs of the disabled students. I retired 20 years ago.

TGN: Describe your family.

Joyce: In my first marriage, I had four children and spent my time raising them. That marriage ended in 1986. I met my second husband, Jack, on a hiking trip to Mount Lassen. This marriage expanded my world. Jack was a geologist with USGS. We took trips all over the world, to Europe, South America, Africa, Iceland, New Zealand, Nepal, and Antarctica, doing a lot of hiking together. We acquired a place in Truckee near the north shore of Lake Tahoe, which I still visit regularly. Jack died three years ago, after we had been married 23 years. Now my family consists of two stepchildren in addition to my four children, and eight grandchildren plus two step-grandchildren. My children live in the local area - Menlo Park, Emerald Hills, Palo Alto, and San Jose - and we get together frequently. Five of my grandchildren have graduated from college - two of them are still in college, two in high school, one of them is in law school



Ann Mueller: Local Technology Nerd

TGN: Ann, what brought you to this area?

Ann: I was born in Brooklyn, NY and raised about 50 miles north of the city in a town called Carmel. One day, when I was in the library, I saw a catalog for Stanford University. I fell in love with the architecture and decided this was the University for me. Initially, I thought I would only be here for a few years and then return East. But, I was seduced by the climate and the lifestyle so I became a permanent resident. I received a degree in music, working mainly at the Stanford Artificial Intelligence Lab (SAIL). I spent some time on the FM (Frequency Modulation) project. Its intellectual property was licensed by Stanford to Yamaha and became the foundational technology for their first generation of electronic musical instruments. I continued at Stanford, working on my Ph.D, but the siren of Silicon Valley lured me away, so I am one of those "all-butts" - all but dissertation. I abandoned the dissertation for a programming job at a subsidiary of National Semiconductor. I then returned to Stanford working on some amazing bleeding edge projects. For example, SLAC had the first WEB server in the US and I led a team that designed, developed and launched Stanford's first Internet portal (1994). I can't begin to express my awe when I observed the first digital image being "drawn" on my PC in 1993 - it was a photo of a jar in which the Dead Sea Scroll was found and the images were a part of a Library of Congress exhibit. I then became the project leader for JBC-Online, now HighWire Press, a digital media content provider focused on scholarly publishing. JBC Online (1995) was the first peer-reviewed science journal to publish on the Web. HighWire's digital publication concepts and infrastructure launched a revolution in science, technical, engineering, and medical academic publishing. I was recruited by Price Waterhouse Technology Centre in Menlo Park and joined them as a senior manager and then director. I initiated a program in technology research and analysis, which grew into technology analysis and due diligence practice. I also contributed to thought leadership publications including the Technology Forecasts and delivered presentations around the world. I split my time between the Menlo Park and London offices. I then joined the Deutsche Telecom Group and initiated a program in technology scouting to accelerate innovation for Deutsche Telekom through their newly found R&D unit, T-Labs in Berlin. The program developed a systematic process to identify, assess, and qualify emerging technology innovations and their potential to disrupt existing business models, create new opportunities, and revenue streams or drive new consumer or industry trends. Having recently "aged out" of this position, I now have a consulting group, Innovatrix-Silicon Valley, doing nearly identical work for European clients including DT.

TGN: Tell us about your family.

Ann: I have one son Brian, who grew up on the Stanford campus and graduated from Palo Alto High School. He now works in the financial industry in New York City. There he met and married Suzi Triqui (daughter of sport announcer Don) and I have one grandson, Archer, who will be graduating from nursery school in June. After Brian left the Bay Area, I built a house in Menlo Park and lived there for 14 years. Nearly two years ago, I downsized, and renovated a cottage in Pacific Grove on the Monterey Peninsula. Didn't last long - too windy and cold, way too quiet! I was thinking about returning to Menlo Park, saw the "for sale" ad in the PA Weekly, drove up, made the offer last June, renovated and moved here in late September. I love the grounds and the friendly, welcoming residents.



The location is just perfect.

TGN: Sounds like you have done a lot of traveling.

Ann: Yes. I have been to many countries, but I still have my bucket list. I have been to England, Germany, and France many times (having lived in all three), also Denmark, Ireland, Wales, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, Jordan, Egypt, Syria, South Korea, and Nepal. I love experiencing different cultures and life styles as a solo traveler.

TGN: What do you like to do in your spare time?

Ann: I take a yoga class at Avenidas in Palo Alto, and I like to walk. I enjoy movies, especially foreign films, PBS series, and reading. I like biographies, historic novels, and mystery thrillers. I visit museums and attend lectures all the time. I also enjoy chamber music events. I am entranced by art and architecture, both ancient and modern, and am a news junkie - PBS news hour, NY Times, and UK's Guardian are my daily treats. I used to backpack and rock climb in the High Sierras and cross-country ski in the winters, but my two titanium knees prevent me from those activities now. I have an apartment filled with electronic devices, BUT they are all surrounded by many of my 19th-early and 20th century European oil paintings featuring landscapes with water and a few items from my extensive mask collection. I also am an aficionado of single malt whiskey.

TGN: And you have a very friendly dog!

Ann: Yes he likes to greet my guests and is full of energy.

TGN: Thanks for meeting with us.