

## MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

### Ryoko Winter: Japanese Conference Interpreter

**TGN:** Ryoko, describe how you decided to live at Menlo Commons?

**Ryoko:** My daughter Hannah lives across the fence in the Sharon Heights area, and she located this place for me when I left my job at the Graduate School of Monterey Institute of International Studies where I taught Japanese-English interpretation/translation. The Japanese-English interpretation/translation was the first non-European language interpretation program in the United States and I was invited to start it at the graduate level. I thought Menlo Commons is ideal for me because my daughter Hannah lives nearby at Sharon Heights.

**TGN:** Were you born in Japan?

**Ryoko:** Yes, I was born in Tokyo, graduated from Aoyama Gakuin University with a BA, and from Rikkyo University with an MA, in Anglo-American Literature. I married a German-American husband and we moved from Japan in 1976 to the States. I obtained a doctorate in language education degree from University of San Francisco multi-language program. I worked teaching as an interpreter/translator in the San Francisco area at SF State, Stanford, International Christian University, and Monterey Institute. My husband and I were married 30 years before he passed away. I traveled with him to many places, including his home, Germany. We had two daughters. I continue to go back to Japan, and am planning my next trip in October. I can meet with relatives and also some of my former students who are working there.

**TGN:** Tell us about your daughters and grandchildren.

**Ryoko:** As I said, my daughter Hannah lives here in Menlo Park and has two children, John age 16, and Diana age 12. Hannah graduated from Stanford University and Stanford Business School. John is attending Sacred Heart School, and he plays the trumpet. Diana is attending middle school near here, and she likes to play the flute. My other daughter lives in Mill Valley.

**TGN:** What keeps you busy here?

**Ryoko:** I like to read a lot of books, including Japanese literature as well as English literature. I keep discovering new short English words on TV programs which I am trying to gather. I am also studying Chinese with a tutor coming every week. I think Chinese is easier than other languages except the pronunciation. As I do not do much



exercise, so I intend to walk to the market every other day, which is one mile away. I like to play Japanese mah-jong here. I like to attend the special events they have here at Menlo Commons - for instance, the Memorial Day party.

**TGN:** I see you have a piano.

**Ryoko:** Yes, although with my back problem I think I can play better than before. I enjoy playing simple music.

**TGN:** It must be good to have your daughter so close by.

**Ryoko:** Yes. She can see my place here on the west side of Building D by looking through the fence. She says she can see my lights on sometimes.

**TGN:** Well thanks for your time and your sharing about yourself with me and our readers. I look forward to seeing you at more Menlo Commons events in the future.

**The Good Neighbor** is published monthly for residents of Menlo Commons by Jim Palmer, E303. [jdpalmerjr@aol.com](mailto:jdpalmerjr@aol.com). Copies of all issues are maintained in the red binder at the Menlo Commons Room for your reading.



# The Good Neighbor

June 2016

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## Memorial Day at the Commons: Pulled Pork, Chicken, and Good Stuff



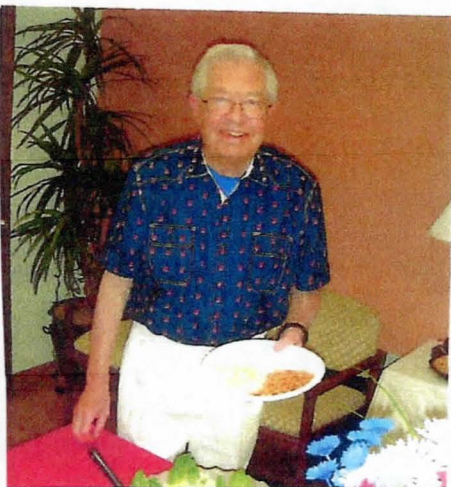
*Ingrid Rogers sees to a good time for all!*



*Newcomers Rocio and Jan Reimer enjoy food*



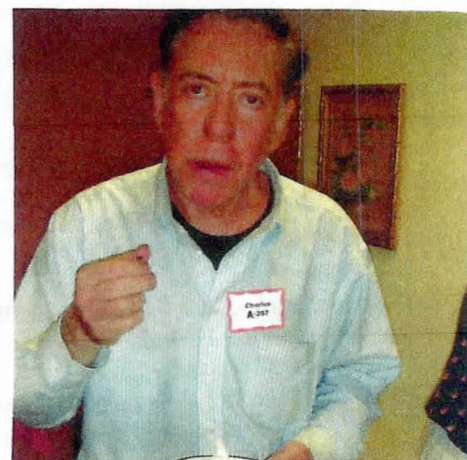
*Carol Van Schaack ready for the party*



*Gene Brown loads up at the buffet*



*Shirley Stewart and Roger Murray prepare to eat*



*Charlie Reeds has a full plate*



*Ruth Strohane is happy to be here*



*Margaret James, Martha Estrada, and Joyce Stewart dig in*



*Joan and Kent Bouma have fun*