

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Josephine Dorval: "I'm Glad to Be Here!"

TGN: Josephine, tell us about where you are from.

Josephine: I was born and raised in Abadan, on the Persian Gulf in Iran. My family had come there from Baghdad, Iraq. We lived in a small Christian community there. I moved to Rome, Italy in 1976 with my American husband. We were married in Tehran, Iran at the US Embassy (Presbyterian Church). We went to Italy and attended Christmas Eve midnight mass at the Vatican Cathedral given by Pope John Paul II. My husband organized the entire computer center at Fiat, the automobile company, in northern Italy, teaching computer science to their computer engineers.

TGN: When did you come to the United States?

Josephine: We spent three years in Italy and then moved to the U.S. where we lived in Washington D.C. He was Chief of Technology with Sperry Rand Co., one of the first computer companies. I worked for almost ten years at the World Bank "International Bank of Reconstruction" which had its headquarters in Washington (the president of the World Bank is assigned by the President of the U.S.) The World Bank serves Third World countries by loaning money to finance development in those countries. I supported the division chief of the African department at the World Bank. After I got divorced, I moved to the Bay Area. I then returned to Washington, D.C. and worked at the International Monetary Fund (a sister organization of the World Bank; the IMF approves the loans of the World Bank, and the World Bank actually goes to the borrowing countries and follows up on the actual use of the money.) I was there for five years and got the chance to travel first class and three times on the Concord airplane, going to English speaking African countries, including Sierra Leon, Uganda, Kenya, Zambia, and Swaziland. Then I returned to the Bay Area where I have lived ever since.

TGN: What did you do when you returned here?

Josephine: I acquired a residence in Belmont and became executive assistant to the vice president of finance at the office of the CEO of Oracle. I continue to work there today.

TGN: Tell us about your decision to move to Menlo Commons.

Josephine: I first bought a larger residence in Emerald Hills and tried to adopt a child. For a single person, however, that proved to be very difficult, so I then decided to be closer to my mother who lives in a board and care home on Monte Rosa Drive in West Menlo Park. Also I had hurt my knee, and faced keeping up a large house. My dear friends had moved to Menlo Commons two years before. I loved the idea of not gardening or spending money on a house. I wanted to enjoy more travel. I first tried to find a unit on the third floor here, but that did not materialize, so I moved into a unit on the first floor of Building A. That was on January 25 of this year. I am still getting settled. However, I certainly am glad to be here!

TGN: Now what do you do in your spare time?

Josephine: I volunteer at my church, St. Dennis in Menlo Park. I help with the parish tea at Christmas time. I also contribute my time and assistance at a homeless shelter on Maple Street in Redwood City. Also I am a member of two book clubs, one is a traditional club with women who love to read. In the other we concentrate on non fiction. I recently read and liked "Children of the Jacandra Tree", "Kitchen House", and "Born a Crime. I also like to cook Italian and French food. I also like to take my mother out to lunch once a week (her favorites are Jason's Café and Ziba restaurant). I also watch a lot of

TV. I like seeing ice skating and tennis. Right now I am expecting a knee replacement operation so that is next on my agenda.

TGN: What would you like to become involved in now that you are here at Menlo Commons?

Josephine: I want to get more involved with social events here. During Super Bowl Sunday in the Commons Room I washed dishes and enjoyed the party.

TGN: Have you done further traveling lately?

Josephine: Yes. I loved the river boat cruise I took on the Rhine River from Cologne, Germany, up to Basil, Switzerland. This July I plan to take another river boat cruise on the Danube River. I like the Uniworld boat trips since they are all-inclusive and very special.

TGN: Well, thanks for sharing with us. We look forward to seeing you at Menlo Commons events in the future.

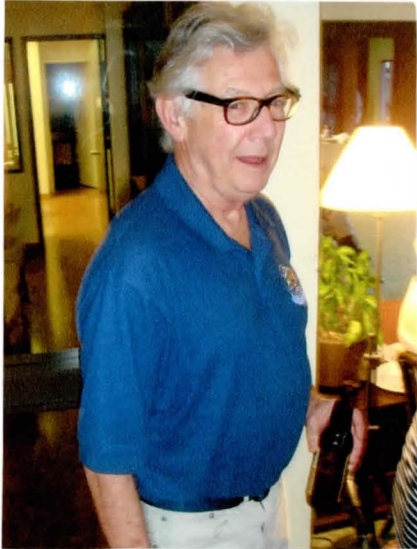


The Good Neighbor

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Super Bowl Sunday: Time for a Tailgate at Menlo Commons Residents Eat Well While Watching the Eagles Upset the Patriots



Jack Dabbs roots for his favorite team



Pam Kaiser and Jeff Lazarus hope they bet on the winning numbers



Polly Pine enjoys food at halftime



Lily Schulte and Halle Hewitt in first row



Hans Ringertz, Susan and John Barnet tailgate at the game



Josephine Dorval enjoys the social event



Marina and Duane Clapp like chili



Gwen Leonard joins the festivities