



# DOMINICAN OAKS

## COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

MAY 2025

### A MESSAGE FROM OUR ADMINISTRATOR

As we welcome the vibrant month of May, there's a renewed energy in the air and a sense of warmth that only spring can bring.

This month, we're especially excited to celebrate Mother's Day—a time to honor the incredible women who have nurtured, guided, and inspired us. Whether you're a mother, grandmother, or a cherished maternal figure, your presence enriches our community in countless ways.

To mark the occasion, our culinary team has created a delightful buffet in your honor, filled with seasonal favorites and a few sweet surprises. We hope you'll join us in celebrating this special day together—it's our small way of saying thank you for all the love and wisdom you've shared over the years.

Wishing you all a joyful and meaningful May, filled with connection, celebration, and the simple joys of spring.

*Amy Saulnier*

### CALLING ALL GREEN THUMBS



The Dominican Hospital organic garden is looking for volunteers who would be willing to donate time in the garden planting, pruning, and tending to the garden beds. Those interested in this volunteer opportunity, please contact Annette!

### POETRY WITH THE SANTA CRUZ POET LAUREATE

*Friday, May 9, 2pm Oaks Room*

We have the great honor & pleasure to welcome published Author Paola Bruni and Santa Cruz Poet Laureate Nancy Miller Gomez, who will both be reading selections from their published works!

### REIKI WORKSHOP

*Wednesday, May 7, 1:30pm Oaks Room*

Reiki Workshop for Seniors: Gentle Relaxation for Body & Mind

Monica Montefiore returns to guide us in this engaging & interactive workshop introducing the Japanese art of Reiki, a gentle practice that promotes deep relaxation & well-being. Attendees will learn how Reiki helps reduce stress, ease discomfort, & supports emotional balance. The session will include a live demonstration, a brief guided relaxation experience, & an opportunity to ask questions.

### THE PICKLE MAFIA RETURNS

*Monday, May 12, 2pm Oaks Room.*

Yes, the rumors you heard were true! We are thrilled to welcome back this amazingly talented Jazz band, visiting from the East Coast, and touring the West Coast with our beloved regular pianist Charlie Lindner. This is an event not to be missed!



**NEW**

# BUS TRIPS

Please check your calendars for our regularly scheduled outings & shopping trips. In addition to these, we are extremely pleased to announce outings to:

## **Chico's Clothing & Lunch at the Wine Cellar in Los Gatos**

*Thurs, May 1, bus l departs 10:30am*

## **The Bonsai & Orchid Show & Sale (free admission)**

*Sat, May 3, two trips: bus departs 10am & 2pm*

## **Horse Sanctuary Outing**

*Thurs, May 15, bus departs 10am*

## **Alladin Nursery & Brunch at Cadillac Cafe**

*Fri, May 16, bus departs 10am*

## **Breakfast on the Beach! Back by popular demand!**

*Thurs, May 22, bus departs 8am*

## **Monterey Museum of Art & Lunch at Rosines**

*Thurs, May 29, bus departs 10am*

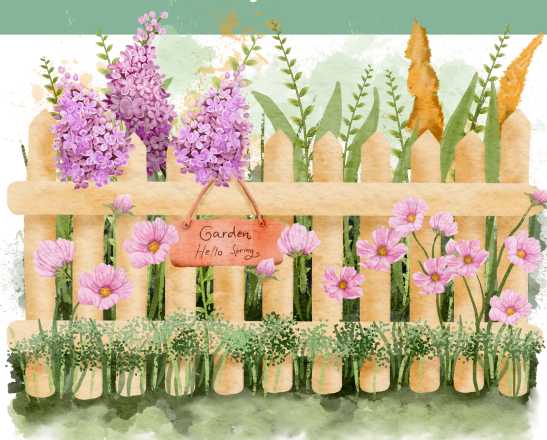
## GIVING TABLE

ACORN ROOM

All day - May 1, 2 & 3

Bring your items to give away  
(excluding shoes and clothes)

Take items you find useful



## MAY BIRTHDAYS

5/1 Wayne DeBons

5/4 Jerry Lowe

5/5 Cathy Hansen

5/8 Anna Liddell

5/8 Christine St. Leger-  
Barter

5/9 Wilma Belschwender

5/11 Dorothy Van Zanten

5/12 Nick Hartman

5/15 Constance Hatch

5/21 Nick Drobac

5/22 Gene Lieb

5/29 Rosemary Shaffer

5/31 Sabine Bainum

## END OF LIFE WORKSHOP:

*Deeper Dive into the Practical aspects of End-of-Life Planning*

This workshop, led by the wise, experienced & compassionate Monica Montefiore, will include information on completing an Advanced Healthcare Directive, guidance on Wills & Trusts, organizing one's administrative affairs, & different options for making final arrangements beyond traditional funerals.

*Wednesday, May 21, 1:30pm Oaks Room*

DEPARTMENT  
MANAGERS  
831.462.6257

Administrator:  
Amy Saulnier

Activities:  
Annette Rau

Administrative Services:  
Brenda Barber

Assisted Living:  
Stacy Smith-Paynter, RN

Dining Services:  
Gerardo Piduca

Facilities & Housekeeping:  
Eric Botkin

Food Service:  
Chef Matt Mettalia

Marketing & Community  
Relations:  
Cheir Harty & Michelle  
Lackey

# May Music at The Oaks

## FIAT MUSICA SPRING CONCERT

*Saturday, May 10th, 2pm in the Oaks Room*



## PIANIST RICHARD STAUFF

*Sunday, May 18, 2pm Garden Level Activity Room*

## JOE FERRARA

*Wednesday, May 14, 2pm Oaks Room*

Singer & Guitarist returns to serenade residents with his catchy tunes.

## JADE DUO

*Friday, May 16, 2pm Garden Courtyard*

## HARBOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT MUSICIANS

*Saturday, May 17, 2pm Oaks Room*

## VIRGINIA LIEB

*Friday, May 23, 2pm Oaks Room*

Come support your fellow resident and opera singer.

## MUSICIAN KIP ALLERT

*Saturday, May 24, 2pm Oaks Room*

## PIANIST CHARLIE LINDNER

*Tuesday, May 27, 2pm Oaks Room*

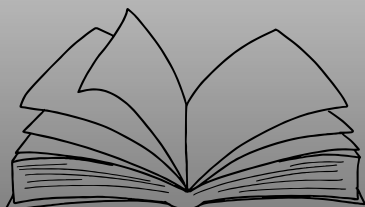
## JUNEBUG FOLK MUSIC

*Friday, May 30, 2pm Garden Courtyard*

## SUNDAY, MAY 4TH

Join us for a special new Sunday  
Bus Outing to see famous author &  
literary professor Percival Everett  
discuss his award winning, best-  
selling new book, JAMES.

The event is held at the outdoor  
Quarry Amphitheater at the UCSC  
campus.



THE  
DEEP  
READ

25 The  
Humanities  
Institute

## a conversation with Percival Everett



UC SANTA CRUZ

Please be sure to bring a cushion as benches are concrete and stone.

Ten seats have been reserved (for free) for Dominican Oaks  
residents. The bus will depart from the Lobby at 2pm. Please sign up  
at the Activity Desk in the lobby

## MARGO CHISHOLM

# MEET YOUR NEW NEIGHBORS

I was raised in Greenwich, CT and am not who I was raised to be! I've been clean and sober for 39 years which is the foundation on which my life rests. With a deep spiritual connection to what I call Spirit, I am able, most of the time, to feel a deep sense of internal peace even when the whole world seems to be in such chaos. I have a Masters degree in counseling and had a thriving therapy and coaching practice for many years, with some public speaking and a published autobiography on the side. I discovered in early sobriety an enormous passion for climbing very high mountains and was blessed to climb all over the world in my 40's and 50's. I have lived in San Diego, Denver, and Aspen and found my way to Santa Cruz in 2002. It is truly my place in a way nowhere else has been. Tennis has been a passion that my body has recently said no more to; singing in a wonderful community choir called Pacific Voices feed my musician self and conscious dance is what grounds me in each present.

## SALLY FRANCY

I was born in Milwaukee, WI, where I lived until I was ten years old. I was about to start my second year of high school, after my father, ultimately best known as "the author of PSYCHO", sold the movie rights to his book to Alfred Hitchcock, which changed our lives, then we moved to Southern California. After high school, I got my first job, where I met and married my husband. We moved from southern California to Saratoga and then to the Santa Cruz Mountains. I've had eleven horses over the last 60 years, until my last horse died in 2023. I rode in numerous disciplines: Western, English, Trail and pleasure. In later years Dressage and 25-50 mile one day endurance races. I also love cats and have had one or two cats at a time for my entire 54 years of married life and still have one to this day. I look forward to meeting any horse and cat lovers out there and swapping critter stories!

## FRAN BRUCE

I was born and raised in Merced. I met my husband in college at Fresno State. We were married in 1962. We moved to Capitola where my husband, Bill, got a job as a Construction Technology teacher at Soquel High School. In 1964 my son was born, and my daughter in 1969. In 1978 we moved out to Watsonville where my husband built our home. I was a homemaker for the first 18 years of our marriage and then worked the next 20 years as a classroom aide at Watsonville High School. My husband passed away in 2010. I have three grandchildren. My hobbies include exercising, gardening, and reading. I'm really looking forward to the delicious meals and no longer having to cook.

## HELEN ATKINS

Helen is originally from New York and moved to California where she met her husband and raised her family. She has been in the Santa Cruz area for 30+ years. Helen is a member of Resurrection Church in Seacliff and was a volunteer at Dominican Hospital for many years. She is looking forward to enjoying Dominican Oaks and meeting her new neighbors.

## SHIRLEY SMITH

Shirley was born in Indiana, her parents moved to Palo Alto when she was a teenager. She graduated from UC Berkeley. Shortly after graduation, she married her husband, George, and moved to Aptos in 1962. They raised five children in their Vienna Woods home. George passed away in 2020 due to Covid. Shirley was a teacher for Santa Cruz County office of education and she implemented programs for Special Needs Students at Cabrillo College and Aptos High in the 1980's. Shirley is a member of Resurrection Church and past President of the Women's Guild. Shirley enjoys playing competitive Bridge at the Monday Bridge Club. She also enjoys classes in Chair Yoga and Tai Chi, hiking and travel. Shirley is looking forward to participating in activities at Dominican Oaks as well as meeting the residents.