

DOMINICAN OAKS

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2025

A MESSAGE FROM OUR ADMINISTRATOR

As we turn the page into November, the air feels just a little crisper, and our community begins to take on that familiar holiday glow. It's a season for gratitude, reflection, and togetherness—and there's no better way to celebrate than with our famed Thanksgiving Buffet.

Our culinary team is already hard at work planning a feast filled with all your favorites. This beloved tradition is truly one of the highlights of the year at Dominican Oaks.

Sign-ups are now open, and seating tends to fill quickly. If you plan to attend, please be sure to stop by or call the front desk to reserve your spot. We can't wait to share this special day with you and your loved ones.

Wishing you all a wonderful start to the holiday season—may your November be full of comfort, gratitude, and community.



MUSIC IN NOVEMBER!

What a musical month we had in October with the Tibetan monk's Sound Healing, Elizabeth Bunch's sweet piano playing, the Pickle Mafia's electrifying Jazz performance, Virginia Lieb's entertaining medley of show tunes, Jade's folksy harmonies, and our wonderful Ellen & Glenn's Sing Alongs!

How can we possibly top all of that? Not to worry, we have many exciting performances coming up this month as well:

- **Sing Along with Ellen & Glenn**, Fridays 11/7 & 11/21 at 1:30pm in the Oaks Room
- **Multi-talented Musician Kip Allert**, Sat, 11/8 at 2pm in the Oaks Room
- **Justin's Soothing Music**, Sun, 11/9 at 1pm in the Garden Level Activity Room
- **The one and only Joe Ferrara**, Wed, 11/12 at 2pm in the Oaks Room
- **The Cabrillo Youth Chorus**, Wed, 11/12 at 4:15pm in the Oaks Room (the late time due to the students' school schedule)
- **Incredible Charlie Lindner**, Sat, 11/15 at 2pm in the Oaks Room
- **Distinguished Pianist John Orlando**, Wed, 11/19 at 2:30pm in the Oaks Room

DOMINICAN OAKS MANAGERS

Administrator

Amy Saulnier

Activities & Transportation:

Annette Rau

Administrative Services:

Brenda Barber

Assisted Living:

Stacy Smith-Paynter

Dining Services:

Gerardo Piduca

Facilities (Maintenance) & Housekeeping:

Eric Botkin

Food Service:

Matt Mettaglia

Marketing & Community Relations:

Cheir Harty

RESIDENT COUNCIL OPEN MEETING

All residents are most welcome to attend; this is a chance for your voice to be heard!

Tuesday, Nov 4 at 10am in the Oaks Room.

(Note: The 11am Tai Chi class will be canceled to allow for this meeting).

JUSTIN'S SOOTHING MUSIC

On Sunday, Nov 9 at 1pm the the Garden Level Activity Room, come enjoy Justin's enchanting & healing harp, flute, and crystal bowl playing.

NEW BUS OUTINGS IN NOVEMBER!

At the request of residents (and in addition to all our regularly scheduled shopping trips & scenic drives), we will be taking bus outings to the following locations in November:

- **Porter Memorial Library in Soquel** - A charming, volunteer-run local library with historic & architectural value. They host local historical exhibits, have strong ties to the community, and offer welcoming space for book browsing. We continue to visit local libraries until our beloved Bookmobile is able to return.
Sat, 11/1 at 10am, & Fri, 11/28 at 2pm.
- **Gizdich Ranch** - As last month's trip was canceled, we will return to enjoy their delicious rhubarb & olallieberry pies, and tour the historic ranch, gift shop & antique barn.
Friday, 11/7 at 10am.
- **Tour the famous Annie Glass factory** - Annie Glass is collected in museums around the world. At their headquarters in Watsonville we will be led on a tour of the factory to learn how these artistic glass pieces are created. A store onsite offers gifts & more.
Fri, 11/14 at 1pm.
- **Visit to Martinelli's** - A family owned juice & sparkling cider maker founded in 1868 - we will be shown a historical video and given a 3 part taste test at their headquarters in Watsonville.
Fri, 11/21 at 1pm.

As always, please sign up for bus outings at the Activity Desk in the lobby. Ideas for future bus trips? Please share them with Annette!

DOWN MEMORY LANE - RESIDENT MEMORIES

As resident and **Down Memory Lane** publisher Topsy Smalley reminds us, “sharing memories brings us together!”

Topsy has been accumulating and publishing Dominican Oaks Residents’ memories for the past several years. We gather several times a year to hear these resident authors read from their works.

Please join us yet again for this extremely special sharing of memories on **Wednesday, November 26 at 1pm in the Oaks Room.**

GIVING TABLE TIME

Giving & receiving items on November 1, 2, & 3, all day in the Acorn Room:

- Bring your items to give away (excluding shoes and clothes)
- Take items you find useful

Clothing Donations? Drop them off with Annette, Shannon or Erik and we will bring them to Grey Bears or Goodwill for you.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

03 Burt Gabriel	21 Carol Van Tiem
06 Cyrus Pakzad	23 Laurie Babka
12 Veneta Hoffman	23 George Vegter
14 Elaine Kamian	24 Vivienne Andres
19 Carol Warren	25 Peter Molinari
20 Toni Deane	26 Keith Wilson
21 Devera Black	29 Tom Carson
21 Marilyn Lipton	29 Pat Rebele

VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION

Dear Residents, If you are a veteran and have not already provided us with your service information, please contact Shannon in Activities at 831- 201-1467.

Our Veterans Day Celebration will take place on **Tuesday, Nov 11, at 3pm in the Oaks Room.**

All residents are invited to join us for:

- Patriotic Songs
- Ice Cream Floats
- Delicious desserts

Respectfully & joyfully honoring those who have served, including many of our very own Dominican Oaks residents!

SEEKING SUBSTITUTE PINOCHLE PLAYER

Resident Roy Vigliecca would like you to know the Pinochle players meet each Monday and Friday at 1:30pm in the Garden Level lobby near the C elevator. Whether a longtime card fan or in need of refresher instruction, please feel free to join this group!

NEW LIBRARY COMMITTEE!

Gratitude to Gert Goldman for many years of volunteer service! The new committee includes residents Pat Faber, Florence Giacinto, Lynn Herman, Evelyn Jones, MaryEllen McTamaney, and Judy Warner. They now serve the entire Library system throughout the building. We are so grateful to you!

MEET YOUR NEW NEIGHBORS!

Beatrice Carswell

Born and raised in Paris, France, Beatrice Carswell comes from a Swiss family but is a permanent resident of the United States. She moved to Dominican Oaks from Huntington Beach, where she lived for 52 years and raised two daughters, Anita and Lilian, while working as a reference librarian for the Orange County Public Library. Her beloved husband Jim was an aeronautical engineer but passed away in the 1980s. Beatrice is the proud grandmother of two dogs (Aksel and Sable) and several cats, including her most special grandcat, Zane Grey. Beatrice loves art, music (classical and world), dance (modern and ballet), animals (especially horses), and nature, with a special affinity for dramatic vistas and snow-covered mountains. She has traveled much of the world and would enjoy speaking French or Swiss-German with anyone who would like to converse in those languages. She can also speak Italian, Spanish, and high German reasonably well if you are looking for a partner for conversation. Beatrice has macular degeneration and may not immediately recognize you (don't be offended!), and her hearing is best on her left side. She is celebrating her 95th birthday on October 26.

Jane Sartain - Hopeless Romantic

I was blessed to be born on August 9, 1947. For 12 productive years, I was taught by a myriad of fascinating personalities, including the memorable and feisty nuns. They taught me well; in 2 years I learned all the jobs at Bank of America work Headquarters for Travelers Cheques as the Operations Officer Staff. I headed the move from 1 Van Ness Ave to #1 Powell St where the cable cars begin. My next job was at the first computer dating firm in SF equipped with personality testing & meeting the staff psychiatrist on staff for 1 session.

I met my 1st husband 2 days after he returned from Vietnam which altered his temperament. My 2nd husband produced me a baby girl - now 50, living in her college town of Santa Barbara. My 3rd & final built me a 4,000 sq ft house on a hill overlooking the Bay Area. My last job was a fork lift driver at PG&E Materials Department. I had decided if I was the sole supporter, then I had to earn man's wages. I retired after 23 years.

Mark and Helene Cooper

Mark & Helene are moving from NYC where they lived for the last 50 years. Helene has lived her entire life on the East Coast. She grew up in Philly in a big house with her parents, sister, grandparents, uncles & cousin. She went to Overbrook High & then the University of Pennsylvania at the age of 16 after skipping 2 grades. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa in the Fine Arts & won a scholarship to continue studying painting. She got married & raised three children, one who lives in Santa Cruz, and continued to paint & had several sold out solo painting shows. She moved to NY in the 1960s. Her love & knowledge of art evolved into becoming an art advisor & independent Art dealer for major collectors. She only ever sold things she loved herself.

Mark grew up in a small town in North Wales on the Irish sea after fleeing the bombing in Liverpool with his family. He had an idyllic childhood roaming the surrounding farms, river & slate quarries. He went to boarding school at age 13 outside of London, then on to Oxford & served as a second lieutenant in the Parachute regiment which he chose because it paid an extra 36 shillings a day hazard pay. After his service he spent 2 years traveling & working in Europe to become fluent in Spanish & French. He played Rugby since he was a boy & when he moved to the US he became a founding member of the Old Blue NY Rugby Club. He has been in independent sales in the tea business for the last 22 years. He met Helene on July 5th 1970 & it was love at first sight.

Helene & Mark have been together for over 50 years. They have traveled the world together. They love food, music, art, their children, grandchildren, & great children & their two Cats -Abby & Cooper.