



DOMINICAN OAKS

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



APRIL 2026

A MESSAGE FROM OUR ADMINISTRATOR

Last month we wrapped up the second phase of our carpet installation project, and now have beautiful new carpet throughout our B, C and D wings. As we move into April, we've been fortunate to enjoy some beautiful weather here in Santa Cruz. The warmer temperatures and sunshine have made it a great time to get outside, enjoy the many beautiful outdoor spaces at the Oaks, and join in our bus outings and scenic rides.

One of the highlights this month will be our upcoming Easter Buffet, and we are so excited to celebrate with all of you. This special event is always a favorite in our community—bringing together delicious food, festive décor, and the joy of gathering with friends and family. As always, I encourage you to take full advantage of all that our community has to offer this spring. Whether it's attending events, enjoying our beautiful outdoor areas, or simply spending time with one another, these moments are what make our community so special.

Warmly,

Amy Saulnier



MEMORIAL CONCERT

At Dominican Oaks, one of our greatest gifts is the deep sense of connection we share. Friendships form quickly here, and with that closeness comes the experience of sorrow when members of our community pass.

We feel these losses together, each in our own way. The Activities Department is dedicated to fostering vitality and creating spaces of joy, creativity, movement and connection through concerts, classes, outings, and more. Our role is to support the life of our community as it continues forward.

Many of you have approached me with your grief. So, in heartfelt recognition of those we have lost, I invite you to join us for our first annual **Memorial Concert (performed by resident Pianist Elizabeth Bunch) on Friday, April 10, at 1:00PM in the Oaks Room.** Following the concert, there will be time to share memories of all our beloveds.

For a more intimate space for healing and reflection, our **Grief Support Group meets every Thursday at 10:00AM in the Garden Level Activity Room & at 11:00AM in the Chapel.**

With great affection,
Annette, Activity Manager

DOMINICAN OAKS MANAGERS

Administrator:
Amy Saulnier

Activities & Transportation:
Annette Rau

Assisted Living:
Stacy Smith-Paynter

Dining Services:
Gerardo Piduca

**Facilities (Maintenance) &
Housekeeping:**
Eric Botkin

Food Service:
Matt Mettalia

Marketing & Community Relations:
Cheir Harty

MUSIC IN APRIL

- **Tibetan Sound Healing**, Fri, 4/3, 1:30pm Oaks Room
- **Virginia Sings**, Sat, 4/4, 2pm Oaks Room
- **Ken Margolis Trio**, Mon, 4/6, 1pm Oaks Room
- **Joe Ferrara**, Wed, 4/8, 2pm Oaks Room
- **Memorial Concert**, Fri, 4/10, 1pm Oaks Room
- **Charlie Lindner**, Sat, 4/11, 2pm Oaks Room
- **Justin Mosely**, Sun, 4/12, 1pm GLAR
- **Ellen & Glenn Sing Along**, Fri, 4/17, 1:30pm Oaks Room
- **Kip Allert**, Sat, 4/18, 2pm Oaks Room
- **Two of Us Trumpet**, Mon, 4/20, 1pm Oaks Room
- **Parker Guitar**, Fri, 4/24, 2pm Oaks Room
- **OLLI Music Group**, Sat, 4/25, 12pm Oaks Room



**LEFT & BELOW,
RESIDENT
MODELS
DELIGHTING
FELLOW
RESIDENTS WITH
STYLES FROM
THE DAISY AT
OUR ANNUAL
FASHION SHOW!**



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE'S POTENTIAL BENEFITS FOR SENIORS

You have lived through the age of Television, Computers, The Internet. What comes next? Please join us on **Wed, April 15 at 1:30PM in the Oaks Room** to explore:

- What AI is
- AI in everyday life
- Curiosity and connection
- Your questions

Presented by AgeFully Solutions - a Silicon Valley company serving seniors & their families with aging in place through personalized support, appointment coordination, medication tracking, & home task management. The service aims to reduce the "hidden work" of caregiving & enhance independence for older adults. Attendees may help shape a new digital companion designed to support: Daily Rhythm, Intellectual Engagement, Meaningful Connection.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS!

- 03 Bill O'Connor
- 05 Sr. Veronica Kelley
- 06 Vera Molinar
- 07 Jenny Birnbach
- 07 Jim Foote
- 10 Anne Boyd
- 10 Cathie Mueting
- 10 Robin Sanderson
- 12 Ina Jacobson
- 15 Judy Barry
- 15 Les Yeffa
- 21 Jerry Houser
- 23 RJ Middough
- 25 Mary Ellen McTamane
- 26 Roy Vigliecca
- 30 Doris Knudsen

RESIDENT MIXER!

Giddy up, neighbors! Get ready to trot on over to The Oaks Room for our **Kentucky Derby-themed Resident Mixer on Wednesday, April 29th from 3:00 to 4:30 PM!** This is your chance to really stirrup some fun and make neighbors into friends. We'll be serving a winning spread of delectable appetizers, cocktails, and refreshing mocktails worthy of any Triple Crown winner. And don't forget to place your bets on making new connections, as our Buddy Program will be introducing our newest residents to help them feel right at home in the winner's circle.

BELOW, RESIDENTS ENJOYING LAST MONTH'S RESIDENT MIXER!



DOWN MEMORY LANE

Once again we meet to hear Dominican Oaks Residents share stories and memories from their lives. Resident Topsy Smalley compiles these writings into a volume she publishes several times a year for us all to enjoy. On **Wed, April 8, at 1 PM in the Oaks Room**, we will gather to listen to residents read their stories. As Topsy is fond of saying: Sharing Memories keeps us connected!

MEET YOUR NEW NEIGHBORS!

Stuart Graham

Stuart was born in Buffalo, NY. Moved to Hawaii when he was five and went to The Punahou School until senior year when his family moved to Scarsdale, NY. Stuart went to Carnegie Institute of Technology (currently Carnegie Mellon) for a masters in mathematics.

Stuart also served in the Airforce in Frankfurt Germany where he met his future wife, Danielle, in Amsterdam. He returned to California to pursue his doctorate in Political Theory.

Stuart taught at the University of California for two years and decided to return to engineering where he was a project manager in Engineering/Construction.

Stuart retired 17 years ago in Houston, he and Danielle returned to California last year to be closer to their children and grandchildren.

Joyce McLean

Joyce was born in San Francisco, one of 8 children. Her father worked for the railroad. At the age of 3 months, she and her family moved to Tucson, Arizona where she lived until moving to Dominican Oaks last month. Joyce has 2 sons, one who lives here with his family, and one who lives in Maui and works as a private chef. Joyce worked for 32 years as the bookstore manager of a large high school, ordering supplies for teachers, checking books in and out, getting to know and love the staff and students. Joyce wants to travel and discover small towns in California. She enjoys meeting people and hearing their stories.

**Newsletter Editor Annette Rau
welcomes your input!
annette.rau@commonspirit.org**

Danielle Graham

Danielle was born in Antwerp, Belgium. She moved to Amsterdam when she was 15. She met her husband, Stuart, when she was 20 years old. They were married the next year in Antwerp, Belgium then traveled to Los Angeles. There, her husband continued his studies. They moved to Houston for Stuart's work in 1989. Danielle and Stuart raised 4 daughters who now have their own families. Together they have 12 grandchildren.

HAWAIIAN CULTURAL & HULA DANCE PERFORMANCE!

Monday, April 13, 3:30pm Oaks Room

Hālau Nāpuaokaleimaoliola (“The Flowers of the Living Native Garland”) is a Hawaiian cultural and hula dance group with branches in California and Washington. The group is led by Kumu Po'o (Teacher and founder) Diane Kamaolipua Grace, who lives in Hilo. They were joined in 2019 by a Kumu of Hula (Teacher of Hula) Nate Kuhio Evans, also of Hilo. The students learn Hawaiian cultural practices, history, stories, hula, chants and music. They view their performance as sharing the aloha spirit and the many things learned, as well as entertaining those who come to watch. **Be sure to look closely: some of the dancers might be your neighbors!**

