

# DOMINICAN OAKS

## COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

MAY 2026

### A MESSAGE FROM OUR ADMINISTRATOR

May is a wonderful time to reconnect—with one another and with the simple joys of the season. Whether it's enjoying a walk through the gardens, attending a social event, or sharing a meal with neighbors, I encourage everyone to take advantage of all that this time of year has to offer.

This month also brings an important and meaningful observance—Memorial Day - a time to honor and reflect on the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country.

Here at our community, we are especially mindful that many among us have served in the military or have loved ones who have served. Your experiences, your sacrifices, and your commitment are deeply respected and appreciated. On behalf of the entire community, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to each of you. Your service has helped shape the freedoms we enjoy today, and we are honored to have you as part of our community.

As always, thank you for being such an important part of this community. It is a privilege to serve you, and I look forward to a month filled with connection, gratitude, and continued engagement.

*Amy Saulnier*

### MUSIC IN MAY

- **Ellen & Glenn Sing Along**, Fri, 5/1 & 5/15, 1:30pm Oaks Room
- **Harbor High School Jazz Band!** Sat, 5/2, 1pm Oaks Room
- **Lemo Calypso Fiesta**, Fri, 5/8, 2pm Oaks Room
- **Charlie Lindner Piano**, Sat, 5/9, 2pm Oaks Room
- **Justin Mosely Soothing Music**, Sun., 5/10, 1pm Garden Level Activity Room (GLAR)
- **Joe Ferrara**, Wed, 5/13 2pm Oaks Room
- **Kip Allert**, Sat, 5/16, 2pm Oaks Room
- **Harp Concert**, Fri, 5/22, 1pm Oaks Room
- **OLLI Music Group**, Sat, 5/23, 12pm Oaks Room
- **Ken Margolis Trio**, Mon, 5/25, 2pm Oaks Room
- **Lizz Fischer**, Sat, 5/30, 2:15pm GLAR

### SHAKESPEARE SANTA CRUZ RETURNS!

Given the great success of *The Tempest* production here earlier this year, and at the request of many residents, we have invited Shakespeare Santa Cruz to return! We are thrilled to announce they will perform:

*Romeo & Juliet*

Mon, May 4

1:30pm Oaks Room

## 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

## MAY BIRTHDAYS!

01 Wayne DeBons  
21 Nick Drobac  
04 Gerald Lowe  
05 Catherine Hansen  
05 Edna Harvey  
11 Dorothy Van Zanten  
22 Lynn Hutchinson  
22 Eugene Lieb  
23 Karen O'Neal  
29 Rosemary Shafer (100!)



## RESIDENT MIXER!

¡Olé! Get ready to spice things up at our Resident Mixer on May 27th from 3-4:30 PM on the Thomas Patio (weather permitting, of course!). Prepare for a fiesta of flavor with a margarita bar and dazzling spread of Mexican-style appetizers. This is your chance to connect with your neighbors and welcome our newest residents as their buddies introduce them. Cheers! Cheir



**RIGHT, RESIDENTS  
BLANCHE MOSS ♥ & IRENE  
HAKET AT A PRIOR GARDEN  
PARTY. BELOW, THE  
RESIDENTS' GLORIOUS  
DAHLIAS!**



## FAB FABRIC-ART MAKING WORKSHOP

Open to all! Using recycled cloth, Fabric Artist Ellen Wagner will lead this two hour workshop and supply everything we need to create stunning visual pieces on canvas, wood, and more. Come join the crafty fun on **Saturday, May 30 from 1-3pm in the Oaks Room.**

## THREE MONTHLY OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNICATION, COLLABORATION & CONNECTION

At Dominican Oaks, we believe a strong community is built through open communication, shared ideas, and meaningful connection. Each month, residents are invited to take part in forums designed to keep everyone informed, engaged, and heard.

**The Manager's Forum** is held on the **first Wednesday of each month at 2:30 PM in the Oaks Room**, with our Administrator & department managers sharing news, updates, and answering resident questions.

**The Activity Forum** with Annette takes place on the **third Wednesday of each month at 2:30 PM in the Oaks Room**; a chance for residents to share feedback & ideas about activities, outings, transportation, and future programming.

For Garden Level residents, **Conversations** with Amy and Annette occurs on the **first Tuesday of each month at 9:30 AM in the Garden Level Activity Room**, and offers assisted-living residents an opportunity to have their voices heard, ask questions, learn what is happening in the Garden Level, and stay connected with staff and one another.

We hope residents will take advantage of these monthly opportunities to listen, share, ask questions, and help shape the life of our community, engaging in thoughtful dialogue about the issues that matter most to our community. Your voice matters, and these forums are one more way we co-create a warm, welcoming community at Dominican Oaks.

Fondly, Annette

## GARDEN PARTY!

Please join us in the gorgeous *Community Resident Garden* to enjoy socializing among the flowers!

**Thursday, May 21 at 10AM.** For those new to this garden, take the A elevator to the top floor and follow the signs.

Resident gardeners will be on hand to answer any questions you may have about the garden or participating in the care of this special area.

Light beverages and treats will be offered.



**RESIDENTS ENJOYING THE COMMUNITY GARDEN PARTY IN PAST YEARS**

## MEET YOUR NEW NEIGHBORS!

**Nancy Toledo** – Was born and raised in Milwaukee, where she began her education at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee. Life took her next to the Chicago area, where she welcomed a daughter and two sons before moving west to Northern California in 1968. Santa Clara became home, where Nancy raised her family and built deep roots in the community. She is the proud grandmother of six grandchildren. Once settled in Santa Clara, Nancy completed her college degree and became actively involved in community life. She is a founding member of the Santa Clara Library Friends and Foundation and has given her time and talent to the library and several other volunteer organizations over the years. Nancy is an avid reader with wide-ranging interests that include crafts, exercise, and a local Spanish book group. A love of travel took root early, accompanying her father on trips abroad, and her curiosity about the wider world has stayed with her ever since. Nancy also cares deeply about the environment and has long been committed to protecting the planet. Many of her happiest summers have been spent in Capitola, where she made lasting memories along the coast. She now looks forward to this next chapter at Dominican Oaks, where she is pleased to join a welcoming community and continue the activities she enjoys most.

**Candace Hoag** - Attended University of California, Los Angeles, where she broadened her intellectual horizons and embraced new opportunities during a time of social change on college campuses. A defining part of Candace's life was raising her two accomplished biracial Black daughters in Huntington Beach, instilling in them the values of education, resilience, and cultural pride. Her daughter, Adia, attended Smith College and later Harvard Graduate School of Education, and now serves as a UniServ Director for the California Teachers Association. After commencement, Candace and Adia drove across the country from Massachusetts back home to California stopping to visit American authors' historic homes and museums. Her daughter Alexis studied at Yale University and New York University School of Law,

and is now a law professor at Brooklyn Law School. Prior to academia, Alexis was a civil rights and appellate defense attorney. Throughout her life, Candace has volunteered in her community, donating hours to knocking doors and phone banking for her favorite candidates. When she is not reading or completing crossword puzzles she loves to travel with her daughters. Last year for her birthday they all went to London and visited Jane Austen's home in Chawton Hampshire in celebration of the 250th Anniversary of her birth.

**Mary Selby** - Grew up in Maryland and attended the University of Maryland. She worked at the Department of State; later, she worked at the newly formed Arms Control and Disarmament Agency for the first cabinet appointee, Wm. C. Foster as first director. She was his personal Assistant and travelled with him to New York for UN discussions and to Geneva, Switzerland for negotiations on the Non-Proliferation Treaty. She left that job when her husband, Dick was assigned by the IMF (International Monetary Fund) as Resident Representative to Kabul, Afghanistan where they lived for 3 years. Her first daughter was born there. Other places Mary and Dick lived were Paris, France where she had another daughter; Port-au-Prince, Haiti, and of course back to DC between assignments. Dick, who was from Berkeley, always wanted to return to California, they moved to Aptos upon his retirement. Mary remained in their home after Dick's sudden passing in 2000. Dick and Mary enjoyed playing Bridge during their life together, she has not played since his death. She would like to resume Bridge here at Dominican Oaks. Mary and Dick also played tennis but now Mary uses a walker after 2 knee replacements. Mary is a former President of a Democratic Women's Club. During that time she fundraised for candidates and cooked for fund raising dinners. Mary also enjoys reading, mostly non-fiction.

**Newsletter Editor Annette Rau  
welcomes your input!  
[annette.rau@commonspirit.org](mailto:annette.rau@commonspirit.org)**