DOMINICAN OAKS

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2026

A MESSAGE FROM OUR ADMINISTRATOR

There is a unique warmth that settles into our community during this time of year and the changing leaves on the trees around the community serve as a beautiful reminder of the passage of time and the importance of coming together to celebrate the people and moments that make life at Dominican Oaks so special.

We are delighted to invite you to our annual Thanksgiving Buffet on Thursday, November 26th. Our culinary team is busy planning a traditional, delicious spread featuring all your favorite holiday classics. This will be a wonderful opportunity for residents to gather, share a meal, and enjoy each other's company.

To help our kitchen team plan perfectly for the buffet, please sign up at the front desk no later than November 19th. When you sign up, please be sure to include any guests that will be joining you and if you would like a boxed dinner that night.

Beyond the holiday, November is packed with activities and social gatherings designed to keep us active and engaged. I encourage you to check your monthly Activity calendar so you don't miss out on any of our upcoming events.

Thank you for making Dominican Oaks such a vibrant and caring community. We wish you a month filled with much to be thankful for.

Warmly,

Amy Saulnier

A MONTH OF FASHION & FINE MUSIC

We'll kick off November in style with the return of our **Annual Fashion Show!** Join us on **Monday, November 2, at 2 p.m.** in the Oaks Room for an afternoon of fashion, bargains and fun, featuring our very own Dominican Oaks resident models! The show is presented by the Daisy Auxiliary, whose more than 150 members work throughout the year to support the Family Service Agency of the Central Coast. For the bargain-shopping fashionistas among us, this is a wonderful opportunity to find beautiful clothing at discounted prices while supporting a worthy cause. And your new outfit will be ready just in time for another special occasion:

The return of internationally renowned **Concert Pianist Gustavo Romero** on **Wednesday, November 25, at 2 p.m. in the Oaks Room.** Known for his technical brilliance and expressive depth, Mr. Romero has earned acclaim for his thoughtful exploration of a wide range of composers. At 13, he performed with the New York Philharmonic under Zubin Mehta. A graduate of the Juilliard School, Mr. Romero has performed with leading orchestras around the world, including the New York Philharmonic, the Boston Pops and the New Japan Philharmonic. It is an absolute honor to welcome Gustavo Romero back to Dominican Oaks. **I invite you to dress in your finest for this special afternoon, as a gesture of appreciation for his continued commitment to sharing his extraordinary talent with our community.**

Fondly, Annette

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

Associate Administrator/ Business Office Manager:
Cheir Harty

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

03 Burt Gabriel
04 Margaret Lacey
04 Dana Mackenzie
12 Veneta Hoffman
14 Elaine Kamian
14 Sandy Stephenson
15 Jean Poland
19 Carol Warren
20 Toni Deane
20 David Steller
21 Devera Black TURNS 100!
21 Marilyn Lipton
21 Carol Van Tiem
23 Laurie Babka
24 Vivienne Andres
25 Peter Molinari
26 Keith Wilson
29 Tom Carson

VETERANS DAY: HONORING OUR VETERANS

Please join us on **Wednesday, November 11, at 11AM in the Oaks Room** as we gather to honor our Dominican Oaks veterans and express our gratitude for their service.

Singer Nancy Heth will lead us in patriotic music, and our observance will include the Pledge of Allegiance, a moment of silence, and refreshments. At the heart of our gathering will be the introduction of each of our veterans, with an opportunity for each to share a few words about their service.

Later that same day, our beloved performer Joe Ferrara will join us at his usual time of 2PM, sharing a selection of patriotic songs in keeping with the spirit of the day.

These gatherings offer us a chance to recognize the courage, dedication, and sacrifices of those among us who have served, while also remembering those who gave their lives in service to our country. We hope you will join us in honoring them with gratitude and respect. *(Below, some of our Resident Veterans sharing their stories).*



NOVEMBER RESIDENT MIXER

Fall is in the air! Join us for an afternoon of refreshments and new friends on **Tuesday, November 24th, from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM in the Oaks Room.** Please Note: We've moved the mixer up one day to give our fantastic dining team a head start on preparing for our Thanksgiving celebration.We'll be serving delicious seasonal appetizers paired with your choice of cocktails or mocktails. The Buddy Committee will also be introducing our newest neighbors, so please stop by to help us make them feel right at home!



ABOVE, RESIDENTS GEORGE & ELIZABETH BUNCH LOOKED SMASHING AT OUR HALLOWEEN RESIDENT MIXER! BELOW, RESIDENT DONNA MANNING & ACTIVITIES COORDINATOR SHANNON WOELKE ON A HALLOWEEN SHOP BUS OUTING.



MUSIC IN NOVEMBER:

- **Ellen & Glenn Sing Along** 11/6 at 1:30PM Oaks Room
- **Harbor High Jazz Band** 11/7 at 2PM Oaks Room
- **Joe Ferrara** 11/11 at 2pm Oaks Room
- **Parker Guitar** 11/13 at 1:30PM Oaks Room
- **Harp Concert** 11/14 at 1:30PM Oaks Room
- **Bus to the Santa Cruz Symphony** 11/15 departs 1PM
- **Charlie Linder Piano** 11/18 at 2PM Oaks Room
- **Ellen & Glenn Sing Along** 11/20 at 1:30PM Oaks Room
- **Student 1940s Musical Radio Show** 11/21 at 1PM Oaks Room
- **John David Pianist/Vocalist** 11/23 at 2PM Okas Room
- **Gustavo Romero** 11/25 at 2pm Oaks Room
- **OLLI Music Group** 11/28 at 12PM Oaks Room

BELOW, SO MANY SMILES AT OUR FABRIC ART CRAFTING CLASS. IN NOVEMBER, PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE HOLIDAY CARD MAKING CLASS ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9 AT 2PM IN THE OAKS ROOM



MEET YOUR NEW NEIGHBORS!

Gerald "Jerry" Frank was born & raised in greater Boston, he went to college in Cambridge & Medical School in Boston, all the while working part-time at his father's SUNOCO Station (Half a block from Fenway Park! He even changed the oil in Ted Williams' car!). Jerry married Joanie in 1967, moved to San Francisco in 1969, & they swore never to shovel snow again. Their son & daughter went to school back east & ended up in New York, where they decided to stay. After 5 years working in free clinics & as medical director of the San Francisco County Jail System, Jerry spent 32 years practicing internal medicine with Kaiser in the East Bay. Jerry & Joanie moved to Aptos from Piedmont in 2012 where she pursued her calling as an artist & Jerry became a Docent at the Seymour Marine Discovery Center. After Joanie passed in December 2024, Dante, Jerry's 12-year-old Labradoodle, became more socially isolated. He expects that will improve at Dominican Oaks.

Nancy Prevedelli was born in New Oxford, PA, 12 miles east of Gettysburg. She was born into a family of 14. She had 7 sisters & 6 brothers. After graduation & marriage she & her husband moved to California & settled in Santa Barbara. Nancy was homesick so after 5 months they went back home to PA. Her son was born there & they stayed 2 years. The family came back to CA & settled in Santa Cruz at a property on Paul Sweet Road! She has memories of her son riding horses on the property we now know as Dominican Oaks! Nancy remarried in 1962, moved to Thurber Lane & worked for Aptos Safeway for 26 years. She has 4 children, 14 grandchildren & 3 great grandchildren.

Genevieve "Gen" Graff was born and lived in Pittsburgh, PA for 70 years. She retired from her job as a purchasing agent from the VA Medical Center in Pittsburgh, PA and moved to California. Gen has a daughter in Orange County and a son who lives in Santa Cruz with his wife and 2 children (Gen's grandchildren). Gen's hobbies include crochet, word puzzles, grandchildren and relaxing! She is excited to meet new people at Dominican Oaks!

EMPLOYEE PUMPKIN DECORATING CONTEST WINNER IS COOK GERARDO "JERRY" RODRIGUEZ!

Gerardo spent over 10 hours working on his stunning, creative dedication to the animals we love and the unconditional love we receive from them. Gerardo would like to say Thank You to all the residents for voting for his pumpkin!



Newsletter Editor
Annette Rau
welcomes your input!
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Please be sure to check your calendars for all of this month's musical offerings, art classes, exercise classes, and more!