



1155 East Springfield Avenue  
Reedley, CA 93654

[ . . . ]

**Dear Staff . . .**

Thank you all for your wonderful care of our father, George. He was very comfortable and content while staying at Marden's Place. We are enjoying the beautiful plant which every day reminds us of Dad. He is with the Lord and his Mary Ann. I know he's happy.

Sincerely,  
Gary and Debbie Willems  
Family of George Willems

**Sierra View Homes Retirement Community**

1155 East Springfield Avenue, Reedley, CA 93654

1245 East Springfield Avenue (Apt. 1-56)

1140 East Evening Glow Avenue (Apt. 57-65)

1079 East Springfield Avenue (Apt. 101-319)

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# In the Company of Friends

## December 2017



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NOTE . . .

May the Prince of Peace bring you blessings during the whole month of December.

Some of you questioned my olive picking recently. The two younger trees, near the Terraces, produced plenty that were still prime to cure; whereas, the two older trees in the front entry were way too ripe. I suppose I was motivated by what I saw in the Holy Land where olive trees have flourished for a very long time.

Indeed, the Garden of Gethsemane paints a picturesque olive grove. It is amazing to look at the centuries' old trunks with the new off-shoots of the season. Harvesting and curing olives are still prevalent in Israel and Palestine. Archeologists have dated olive tree remains even 3,000 years before Christ. Of course, besides being tasty, the oil is used in different religious ceremonies and the various wood carvings. Also, the tree branch has been used as a peace symbol. We will let you know how our attempt at curing a few jars of olives goes.

Adriana and I were so fortunate to be able to experience the Holy Land. A Catholic priest, Fr. Leo Patalinghug, a member of the Chefs for Peace and George Stefan, a Christian tour manager and licensed archeologist living in Jerusalem, led the group of 47 to experience the sights, sounds and tastes of the Israeli and Palestinian grounds where Jesus walked. George was an expert consultant for the film, "Passion of the Christ."

We walked the shores of the Sea of Galilee, a lake that spans 8 miles by 13 miles, where Jesus and His Apostles ate, conversed and preached. We were allowed to let our imagination run as the boat sailed on the waters. We witnessed current day baptisms at the Jordan River and people wading and floating in the Dead Sea (500 feet below sea level). We walked all the way from the Garden of Gethsemane to Calvary in Jerusalem. The joy of His birth in Bethlehem, the echoes of the Good News, the amazement of standing near The Cross and the shadow of His temporary tomb, were all so much to contemplate.

Our kids assisted in downloading pictures from our camera and iPhone to the computer. I am excited to give a promised presentation in the next couple of weeks.

As we move through the business of December, I wish each of you God's blessings during this beautiful season.

Merry Christmas!

*Vito Genna*

## To The Staff . . .

We want to say "thank you" for the excellent care given to our mother, Betty Lane, during her stay at Sierra View in nursing care. The respect and friendliness extended to her during her rehab was wonderful.

Sincerely,

The Lane Family

Steve, Vickie, Terry and Jo Ann Lane

Jim and Sue Crawford

## Some Winning Herb and Spice Combinations from a different Geographic Response . . .

### Geographic Region/Style

### Common Seasonings

Asian

Lemongrass, ginger, mint, Kaffir lime leaves, curry powder, cilantro, five-spice powder, miso

Caribbean

Adobo, annatto seeds, cinnamon, Jamaican Jerk, mace, mojo, nutmeg, onion, thyme

Indian

Red pepper flakes, saffron, mint, coriander seeds, garlic, cinnamon, cardamom seeds, sesame seeds, onion

Latin

Chiles, oregano, cumin seeds, citrus, chili powder, onion

Mediterranean

Garlic, basil, marjoram, mint, cinnamon, coriander seeds, saffron, tahini

Moroccan/North African

Red pepper flakes, cumin seeds, coriander seeds, cilantro, mint, garlic, ginger, turmeric

Spanish

Basil, bay leaf, cayenne, cloves, garlic, nutmeg, paprika, parsley, rosemary, sage, tarragon, vanilla

## ACTIVITY HAPPENINGS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14 at 10:00 A.M.

**SIERRA VIEW HOMES AUXILIARY BAKE SALE**

Kings Canyon Room

**BRING and/or BUY some of your favorite goods!**

**(ALL staff and residents are welcome and encouraged to participate). Any questions, please see**

**Jodi Botello, Nancy Petinak or Joann Kalafut**

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, at 2:00 P.M.

***CHRISTMAS MUSICAL AND DESSERT***

**Come listen to music and enjoy dessert with us.**

Kings Canyon Room

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22 at 2:00 P.M.

***BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS***

Founders Room

**Join us for cake, fellowship and singing carols!**

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25 at 11:30 A.M.

***CHRISTMAS LUNCH***

Kings Canyon and Founders Dining Rooms

**RSVP to the office by Wednesday, December 20**

**Cost - \$6.00**

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29 at 2:00 P.M.

**SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE**

Kings Canyon Room

## CELEBRATING IN THE MIDST OF DARKNESS . . .

I wonder if the season of Advent is getting harder to experience as it was originally intended? We celebrate Advent in the part of the year that brings the most darkness. As daylight shrinks, our lives can't help but be affected. And the newscasts daily bring more darkness into our world. Of course, we have ways of fighting this darkness. More lights please!

As we decorate our rooms and homes with little bright lights, gaiety returns allowing us to turn our backs on the darker matters, at least for a time. In fact, it seems the whole world conspires to push back the darkness and heaviness of life with its many celebrations. And so be it. I think there is too little joy sometimes; let joy ring out.

Yet if we deny the darkness and struggle in our lives, the joy and gladness tends to ring hollow and is somehow less than satisfying. We feel strangely unfulfilled. So denial of the darkness is not really the answer. But, on the other hand, if we let the darkness overwhelm us, where is our hope?

Our hope comes in the birth of a child. Why did God send us His son, Jesus, the Light of life? Because God loves us, and God knows our lives are hard. God knows our human struggle. God knows the grief we live with day in and day out. God knows how dark our lives can be.

I'm not trying to be Mr. Scrooge here. I say *light the lights*. And as we do, let them be a reminder of the one who comes to dispel all the inner darkness that plagues us each day. Let us walk, fully awake, into this darkening season of Advent with a renewed spirit of hope, being open to what the darkness can teach us. But let us also attend to the light of Christ which comes to heal us.

May this Advent season open us to the new things that God is doing in our world and in each of our lives. Let us take joy in the brilliance that surrounds us in this season; let us not fear the darkness. Let us reach out to those who are lost – and the joy of our Savior's birth will fill us with Light.

Arlee Johnson, Chaplain