



1155 East Springfield Avenue
Reedley, CA 93654

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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)

Phone: (559) 638-9226; Fax: (559) 638-6857; www.sierraview.org

In the Company of Friends

January 2019



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NOTE . . .

The New Year will be ushered in with lots of noise. If not reveling yourself, you probably will be watching the “noise” that was displayed at the New Year celebrations from all parts of the world.

To say we live in an “age of noise” is certainly an understatement. The sounds envelop us from Radio, TV, and social media. When I was in school I used to admire the folks that could do their homework and study while the music is blaring. I am too easily distracted.

Indeed, one of the first disagreements Adriana and I had was over “noise.” Adriana liked to have the radio or a tape running all the time. She enjoys background music no matter what she is doing. She often says she doesn't listen to the lyrics, she just focuses on the melody. Needless to say it took a while to find compromise and continue marital bliss.

Don't get me wrong, I am not against this form of entertainment and even a time of distraction, but I do think it all has its place. We live in a noisy world even in rural areas. We are bombarded with new ways of listening (some residents have ‘Alexa’), and phone telemarketers to tell us what we desperately need. We are in a world of instant awareness with 24/7 news. So much of the news cycle is babble rather than hard news. It's a constant form of comment and noise rather than facts of the happenings.

Unfortunately, in such a so called sophisticated atmosphere, we see way too much anxiety, worry and panic. We have given up on our peace of mind and quiet contemplation. A 16th Century mystic gives us some sound advice in her short poem:

Let nothing distract you
Let nothing frighten you
All things are passing away
God never changes
Patience obtains all things
Whoever has God lacks nothing
God alone suffices.

May you have many happy moments in 2019, let the noise drift away and have quiet time to reflect and contemplate the constancy of God.

Vito Genna

In Appreciation . . .

Jodi Botello and Julia Duran, Activity Directors, were presented a plaque and acknowledgment from the City of Reedley Community Services Department. The presentation was made at the Community Center. The plaque reads, “In grateful appreciation for your dedicated support of Reedley Senior Programs. We thank you.”

Annual Meeting . . .

Sierra View Homes will hold its Annual Auxiliary Meeting at 5:30 p.m. and Corporation Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the Terraces Lobby on February 12, 2019. Proxy votes will be sent out early in January with a closing date of January 15, 2019. Dick Peterson, Chair and Ed Boldt, Financial Secretary are finishing their second term and are not eligible to run again. Joleen Siebert is finishing her first term and is willing to run again. Dick and Ed make up the nominating team to find two replacement board members. As candidates come forward, information will be sent out. The election of Board members will take place at the Corporation Meeting. Besides the election, there will also be a vote on whether to allow more directors on the board that are not from the Mennonite Church USA. The addendum would stipulate that at least five of the nine member must be in good standing of Mennonite Church USA and at least one of the nine members must be a resident of Sierra View Homes Retirement Community. Please call Kecia, Administrative Assistant, for any further information.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 2019 at 11:30 A.M.

SPECIAL AUXILIARY LUNCHEON

The Sierra View Homes Auxiliary would like to extend to you an invitation to attend a complimentary luncheon in the Terrace lobby. A presentation will be provided on what the Auxiliary does and what you can do to be a part of this worthwhile organization that benefits the residents of Sierra View Homes. At this time, the Auxiliary will be honoring the years of service of Nancy Petinak. Come join us for a time of fellowship, lunch and good information.

ACTIVITY HAPPENINGS

TUESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2019 at 10:15 A.M.

NEW YEAR'S DAY BOWL GAMES AND SNACKS

Mineral King Room

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2019 at 5:30 P.M.

BORSCHT SUPPER

First Mennonite Church

Sign up in the office

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2019 at 2:00 P.M.

NEW YEAR'S COOKIES

Kings Canyon Room

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2019 at 12:00 P.M.

ALL YOU CAN EAT SOUP LUNCHEON

Kings Canyon Room

Sign up in the office

Cost - \$6.00

Survey Time . . .

The California Department of Public Health arrived November 26, 2018, for their yearly recertification survey of Sierra View Homes Nursing Care Center. They were here for a week picking through charts, interviewing staff and residents and inspecting all areas that affect our residents in Skilled Nursing. We are happy to report we did very well and Sierra View Homes still retains our Five-Star rating.

Defiant Joy . . .

Perhaps it is my pastoral lens, but I have been trying to be more aware of people that feel bad about feeling bad at Christmas time. There is no more highly anticipated holiday in our culture. Stores seem to trip over themselves setting out their Christmas displays where Halloween candy stood days before. Songs about sleigh rides and an almost magical holiday cheer follow, almost before Thanksgiving dinner is cleaned up. We are bombarded with movies, programs and advertisements about how happy we will be. But are we?

Christmas is also the most stressful time of the year. Not only is it the time of year with the least sunlight, the most flu and the most extra activities to try to fit in, it is also a time when the expectation of how happy we should be can remind us of the loved ones we are missing, the relationships that are broken and the ways life hasn't shaped up the way we had planned.

What do we do about this dismaying reality? I suggest two things: First of all, push back against the false notion that our holiday has to look like a Hallmark movie and give yourself permission to feel the complex feelings that come with the holiday. If God has created the emotion, it is meant to be felt in its time.

Second, let us not confuse happiness with joy. Happiness is fleeting but there is a depth and stability to joy, which finds peace in a loving God that holds us wherever we are and however we are feeling. I wish you all the experience of defiant joy this holiday season. As James put it so eloquently, "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."

Caley Ortman, Chaplain