What’s New

On Saturday, October 8, about 60 Jubilee residents gathered at the Villa to enjoy a mid-morning “What’s New” event. Once we were all settled in, Karen Clary-Aragon formally introduced our new Lifestyle Director, Mary Morton, who continued on with the agenda of the day. Mary welcomed the people who have recently moved in. Of these, in attendance were Gail and Larry Duncan. Larry told us that he and Gail, living on Promenade Trail, originated from Oklahoma and New Mexico, and moved here most recently from Albuquerque. After the meeting, they were given a welcome bag. Jim Schnitzler was next on the agenda, and he introduced two members of La Vida Felicidad, who went on to explain a bit about some of the services their non-profit organization provides to people of all ages. Some of these services are home health care, cleaning, pet care, transportation, to name but a few. They gave out brochures depicting all phases of their work, as well as pens, writing pads, and other materials pertinent to their group. Additional brochures were left at the Villa for anyone to pick up. Jim indicated that this year’s 5th annual Dash on the Ditch will occur on October 15, and proceeds will go to benefit La Vida Felicidad. Forms were available to anyone who wanted to partake in the event or donate to the cause. Prior to the meeting, we all were treated to an amazing array of mid-morning treats. Utterly delicious pumpkin, banana, and other sweet breads, as well as cream puffs were homemade by Mary herself!!! Also donated and made to order by Brittany, an outside pastry chef, was a gluten-free fennel bread and other sweets. Fresh fruit, juice and coffee accompanied these wonderful treats. We give many thanks to Mary and her Social Committee for taking such good care of us! The Jubilation Barbershop Quartet wrapped up the event with their songs of welcome to our new neighbors.

Jeri Friedman
Dash on the Ditch
The “5th Annual Dash on the Ditch” Fund Raising Run/Walk was very successful. The event occurred on October 15 at the Los Lunas Heritage Park. This park is located across from Smith’s grocery store on Main St. The title of the event is “Dash on the Ditch”, because the run takes place on a combination of County Roads and Irrigation Ditch Banks. This is the only approved combination Road and Ditch Bank running event in New Mexico. This annual event is conducted to help raise funds for the local nonprofit organization, La Vida Felicidad, Inc. This agency helps provide early childhood services, community-based services for adults with disabilities, and in-home and day services for seniors. The agency is located near the Star Light Theater and Chili’s Restaurant. Currently, there are over 1,000 individuals being served in Los Lunas, Cibola and Socorro Counties by La Vida. The event was very successful with over 200 people participating in the 10k (6.2 miles), 5k (3.1 miles) run/walk and Family K (.5 miles) walk. We had great participation from Jubilee residents who ran and volunteered (Jeff Caldwell, Jean Davies, Elaine Mailer, Joe and Jacky Hilliard, and Mary Schnitzler). The financial results are being finalized. Jubilee/Avalon was a major financial sponsor, along with other local businesses and individual supporters. the tentative date for next year’s “6th Annual Dash on the Ditch” is October 14, 2017.
Jim Schnitzler

Jubilee Celebrates Halloween
On Saturday, October 29, many of us enjoyed a really fun evening, celebrating Halloween with friends and neighbors. The Villa was very festive, with all kinds of seasonal decorations - pumpkins, spider webs, skeletons and witch hats, to name a few. The great room was ready for our “Roadside 66” band to play their great music, following dinner. We were treated to meatballs, spaghetti, a gluten free spaghetti meal, salad, bread, and desserts. Many people wore costumes, which were very, very original. Others came dressed in orange and black, in keeping with the holiday. We visited, dined, and danced to our heart’s content. This was Mary Morton’s first large social event! She and her Social Committee did a fabulous job!
Jeri Friedman
**Veteran’s Day**

On November 11, Veteran’s Day in Los Lunas was commemorated at Daniel Fernandez Park, with approximately 300 people in attendance. Research has discovered that Valencia County has the largest numbers of veterans in New Mexico. On this day, 20 World War II veterans and 30 Korean War veterans were present. This is the second year that L.I.V.E., Inc. (Los Lunas Invested in Veteran Events) hosted the event, along with the Blue Star Mothers of Valencia County. Our neighbor, Jim Schnitzler, is a member of L.I.V.E., and he was this year’s event organizer. Following the welcome from Los Lunas Mayor, Charles Griego, Los Lunas’ Commander James Garley of Daniel Fernandez Post 9676, gave a very moving speech, regarding the POW/MIA. The main speaker at the event was New Mexico’s top general, Brigadier General Andrew E. Salas. He gave special thanks to all veterans and their families, including veterans of the Vietnam War, who were jeered during their return from duty. Next year, our L.I.V.E., Inc. group will give special recognition to all these Vietnam veterans, as well as the ones from WWII and Korea. Jubilee’s barbershop quartet “Jubilation” sang the very patriotic “Armed Forces Medley”. The very special ending included the playing of Taps and a surprise release of 30 Homing Doves. After being released, the doves circled the park three times before returning to their Belen base. This was an unbelievable sight and very emotional. Prior to retiring the colors. Jubilee resident Jean Davies gave the “Closing Prayer”. Her message was very appropriate for the occasion. Many Jubilee residents were in attendance. Photos were taken of the largest flag in Valencia County, the “Laying of the Wreath”, plus the symbolic POW/MIA dinner table.

Jim Schnitzler

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**2016 Thanksgiving Potluck**

Around 40 residents gathered at 4pm on Thanksgiving Day to enjoy our annual potluck dinner. Thanks to hosts Sharon & John O’Connell and their helpers, we had lots of turkey and ham (even enough for take home leftovers). The rest of us providing the side dishes and desserts, and like most potlucks there was a wide variety of delectable dishes. There was a lot to be thankful for, as we mingled with our neighbors, while enjoying the bountiful meal. If you did not go home more stuffed than the turkey, you have more willpower than I do. This was another wonderful Jubilee community event, thanks to Sharon & John and all the residents who were willing to set up, cook, and clean up.

Myra Barker
Holiday Time at Jubilee

Jubilee celebrates the holiday season in many ways, with dinners and gatherings, and lots of special events. In late November and early December, our community becomes decked out so beautifully. First of all, Amelia and Brett Crowther contribute and set up beautiful outdoor Christmas decorations, with the help of neighbors, such as John Cassel, Doug and Linda Lenehan, Jim and Carol Grossman, Tim Thorstenson, Tom Bunker, Steve Siera and J.O. Lopez. This consists of lighting many trees and bushes, and setting out all kinds of holiday features, which extends a very warm welcome to everyone who comes to visit our lovely community. Also, on December 3rd, close to 40 residents gathered to decorate the interior of the Villa, and to join in the Christmas Sing-A-Long. The Jubilee Christmas tree is always a beautiful sight; tradition has been that all residents are invited to donate an ornament specific to them. These can be anything from their former city or state, their favorite sport, bird, or whatever else is of a personal nature. These ornaments are hung first and, if there is still room, then the tree is further decorated with other ornaments to complete the picture. Mary, the Social Committee, and many neighbors, prepared a wonderful array of desserts and beverages for the volunteers to enjoy while decorating and visiting. As well, Eberhardt played a medley of seasonal songs on his accordion. Following that, several homeowners sang a very special version of “The Twelve Days of Christmas”, which has been adapted to many features of the Jubilee community, and is absolutely hilarious. Then we all got to sing many holiday songs, rounding out a perfect afternoon. Jeri Friedman

Making New York Pizza

How many Jubilee residents does it take to learn to make a New York pizza? Well, on December 6, it took 10 - eight students, plus the excellent teacher and his wonderful wife/helper. Great fun happened at Al Levine’s NY pizza making class. Al and his wife, Ellen, are native New Yorkers and used to have a catering business in Albuquerque. Al has held other cooking classes in the past at Jubilee, and will continue to do so from time to time in the future. The people attending had a lot of questions regarding the recipe, and learned a lot, especially about creating the perfect crust and the accompanying sauce. Toppings consisted of Italian sausage, black olives, pepperoni, salami, and mushrooms. Two pizzas
were made. When they were ready, they were enjoyed by all, amid all the fun of asking more questions while visiting. Everyone took their recipes home, along with some yeast, a pizza pan, and dough scraper. They are looking forward to making the pizzas at their leisure, whenever the occasion should arise.

Jeri Friedman

Jubilee Residents Raise Funds For Los Lunas Fire Department Equipment

The following tribute to Jubilee appeared, or will be appearing soon, in various Los Lunas publications: Residents of Jubilee, an active adult community, have donated $9,800 to the Village of Los Lunas Fire Department to upgrade its life-saving cardiac monitoring equipment. A ceremonial check was presented to Fire Chief John Gabaldon at the Los Lunas Fire Department on December 10th.

“We’re grateful to the residents of Jubilee,” said Los Lunas Fire Chief John Gabaldon. “This equipment purchase will allow us to upgrade our cardiac monitoring equipment, helping the survivability of heart attack patients throughout the community. It will provide assistance in early recognition of emergency situations and provide early access to definitive care.” The upgraded equipment allows emergency service personnel to view 12 areas of the heart at one time, as opposed to the previous three areas in the older equipment. Chief Gabaldon said his department responded to 2,626 emergency medical calls last year. Funds were raised as part of the 2016 Jubilee Arts and Crafts Fair in September, donations, and proceeds from resident Kellie Turner’s downsizing sale.

Peggi Simmons
Jubilee Holiday Dinner Party
On the evening of December 17, Jubilee celebrated the holiday season with a very, very lovely dinner party. About 160 residents enjoyed a buffet consisting of pork, chicken and tilapia, along with mashed potatoes, mushroom risotto, veggies, and rolls. The caterers personally served the salads to each person; a very sweet plate of desserts was set up at each table, as well. Before dining, a chorus of neighbors sang Jubilee’s very own “12 Days of Christmas”, which always delights us. The Villa was set up with tables and chairs to accommodate everyone. The initial plan was to have a tent outside to seat people, but the weather turned very windy making it not feasible to do this. A very smooth, last minute transition saw more tables brought inside, and it worked out well. Following dinner, door prizes were given out consisting of gift cards to local businesses, bottles of wine, products from Home Depot, Garden Gate Spa, and other great gifts. Brett Crowther then paid tribute to all the residents who helped him and Amelia set up the beautiful exterior decorations lining the entrances to Jubilee and the Villa. We thank Mary, the Social Committee, and all the people who made this evening such a treat. Attendees also took advantage of Ron Vance’s gracious offer to have their photo taken for their own individual pleasure. The Garden Club and other residents put together the beautiful centerpieces that adorned each dinner table. It was truly a joyful evening!

Jeri Friedman

Jubilee Astronomy Observatory
The Jubilee community has been given an amazing new amenity. Nelda and Tom Lobb have donated an observatory, which is located behind the Villa near the tennis and pickle ball courts. Tom is an avid amateur astronomer, and is eager to share his knowledge of the night sky with his neighbors in a very grand manner. As a child, Tom had a telescope, and loved looking mostly at the moon with it. He became more seriously interested in astronomy around the year 2000. For him, it is a semi-intellectual hobby, requiring dedication, stamina, and motivation, as most of his other hobbies do (photography, trombone playing, and learning Greek). Some of the most interesting things Tom has seen in the night sky are Saturn with its rings, Jupiter and its moons, the Ring Nebula, the Pleiades Cluster of Stars, the Andromeda Galaxy, and many constellations such as the Tea Pot, the Orion Constellation/Nebula, the Dippers and sunspots, to name a few. Among the most spectacular night sky appearances we can expect to see at Jubilee are meteor showers, several galaxies, planets, comets when viewable, and the moon in all its glory. Tom is hoping to hold about 8 astronomy nights a month at Jubilee. He will man the controls of the observatory and telescope for all residents to visit, and he encourages people to bring guests, including grandchildren. In order to give everyone the opportunity to learn a lot, he wants to hold classes at the Villa to acquaint people with astronomy. During the winter months the observatory will
Christmas Eve Soup Night
On Saturday evening, December 24th, the Christmas Eve soup night tradition Kellie and Vern Turner started a few years ago was enjoyed once again at the Jubilee Villa. Betty McKeehan and Belina Avner were fabulous hostesses for the event, welcoming all residents who attended, and making sure everyone had what they needed, and were enjoying themselves. These ladies really did a spectacular job. Kellie arrived later in the evening, and was so glad to see 60+ people having such a good time. The food spread was a sight to behold; there were 16 soups, all different to please any hungry palate. Snacks, pies, breads, salads, appetizers and Christmas bakery delights completed the menu. Truly, another successful Christmas Eve Soup Night was enjoyed by all at the Villa, which was so beautifully decorated for the holidays. So very glad so many people took part in another very fun Jubilee social event!

Carol Salvagios

Christmas Day Potluck
On Christmas Day, Pam Witt and Donnelle Goplen hosted the annual potluck dinner. Around 30 residents and relatives got together for an evening of good food, conversation, friendship and laughter. Appetizers, Christmas pot pies (traditional chicken and some with a new twist) and salads were made by Pam and Donnelle, while others attending brought an appetizer, salad or dessert. As occurs every year here at Jubilee, it was a very easygoing, friendly way to have Christmas dinner with neighbors. Thanks again to Pam and Donnelle for coming forward to host this event, and for making those delicious pot pies. No hungry urchins at Jubilee, that’s for sure.

Myra Barker

be heated, but Tom encourages us to still wear a winter jacket for optimal comfort. The night sky at Jubilee is perfect for viewing - cloudless most of the time, with very little exterior light interference. In recent years, Tom Lobb and Jim Sorenson have held astronomy nights, using excellent telescopes in the most appropriate neighborhood spots. Residents truly enjoyed these evenings - saw and learned a lot. The observatory will expand this visual activity. We extend much heartfelt appreciation to the Lobbs for making it possible for us to experience this in such an amazing way.

Jeri Friedman
New Year’s Eve Party
Jubilee’s New Year’s Eve party was co-hosted by the Grossmans and the Sieras, and attended by about 50 people at the Villa. There were finger foods and desserts aplenty for all. Tables were set up with various games for people to play, including “Yahtzee”, “Trivial Pursuit”, and “Scrabble”. The great room TV was on for folks to watch football, as well as New Year’s Eve activities across the country. Our very own “Jubilation!” Barbershop quartet sang “Auld Lang Syne” and “Let There Be peace on Earth”. A warm welcome to the new year was enjoyed once again at Jubilee, as it is every year.

John Trestrail

Submissions to Newsletter
Articles submitted to the Jubilee Journal are welcome, and will be subject to editorial review and ultimate HOA approval. Please submit to

jerijubilee@comcast.net

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