



PLEASANT VALLEY HISTORICAL MUSEUM & GARDEN

Established 1964

Presents

2023 DONS AND DOÑAS



Saturday, September 16th, 2023

PV RECREATION & PARK DISTRICT COMMUNITY CENTER

Welcome

from PV Historical Museum & Gardens President,

Joy Todd



Welcome to the 2023 Don and Dona Celebration and Barbeque. You are fortunate people to know our honorees. Nominated by the community, they bring service that dates to before the City was a City. Each person has worked with local groups and organizations to serve our area. From Hospice, to Kiwanis, to Lions, to Rotary, the Camarillo City Council, Pleasant Valley Historical Museum and Gardens, and several religious organizations in the area, they have served and continue to serve. In their efforts to make Pleasant Valley a better place they have touched many lives, both human and animal. Please read the biographies in this booklet to become more acquainted with each honoree. We are grateful for each one.



HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF DON AND DOÑA

Originally a title reserved for royalty, select nobles, and church hierarchs, it is now often used as a mark of esteem for a person of personal, social or official distinction, such as a community leader of long standing. “Since Don Adolfo was one of the few Californio land owners still ranching on his property, which he kept intact during his lifetime, the title of Don was used for him, both in direct address while speaking directly to him, and in referring to him.”—Sherry Reynolds.

In 1965, Pleasant Valley Historical Society began the tradition of honoring community citizens. 538 men and women have been honored in the past 58 years.

We select from people nominated each year by the community based on:

1. An individual whose family and/or personal history is significant in the root history of the Pleasant Valley. and/or
2. An individual who has lived in the area for at least 20 years, and has provided outstanding service to the community and/or to the PVHS during that time.

THE NEED FOR EXPANSION OF THE MUSEUM SITE

We appreciate the flexibility of everyone with the long-awaited construction and expansion of our museum. It is a testament to our volunteers that we are here today and our museum is actively serving the community, even without a completed building. It still serves with speaking engagements, displays, events and school presentations..., anything we are asked to do, we try to do. The City refers agencies to PVHM&G for historic information and historical documentation. We still do it.

We are a museum looking forward. History moves forward. We do not stop at 1900, but look to the more recent past, i.e. the Olszewski display at the entrance today. Mr. Olszewski lived in Camarillo and was a Jr. High teacher at Haydock in Oxnard. He had a dream. He began making his miniatures in his closet in the late 1970s and by the 1980s became Goebel Miniatures of Camarillo. A local company that is now known the world over. A collector of his miniatures, Joyce Wallace, has given our museum over 200 of his creations.

Camarillo was incorporated in 1964, not that long ago in the time of history, but it has a great impact on those who live here. We could have been part of "Oxnard." We have that documentation. The student essay in your program is a report on Camarillo State Hospital, built in 1936 (and onward) and now is CSU-CI, a full University for Ventura County. This is relevant history. People came to our museum to learn about their history. Our class tours were such a success the students brought others on the weekend to tell them about "our" history. How things were done, and the people who made an impact become part of their interest.

There are number of facilities and programs in our communities that cater to children and students. We have found we cater to families. The new addition will allow us to have indoor meetings and programs. A children's corner will feature that classroom relic--a blackboard, and will facilitate our early American Classroom programs, which are loved. We will still focus on "hands-on" displays. Maps will be an important part with the wall space to view them.

We need your help to finish the construction.



Don Carl Anderson

Behind-the-scenes Volunteer

With his construction skills, he had a hand in numerous projects in Camarillo.

Arriving in Camarillo in 1955, for 18 years he rented his first cabinetmaker/woodworker located where the Metrolink/Amtrak parking lot is today from Adolfo Camarillo for \$100/month. At one time, that building was a stagecoach stop.

With friends and other civic minded citizens, Carl was instrumental in organizing the first Camarillo Christmas parades. Later, he recruited his friend, Hollywood western actor, Walter Brennan to be the Marshal for the 1967 parade. His woodworking skills were needed and appreciated for many float constructions.

During the years 1963-1973, when his four sons were young, he was active in the leadership of a 4-H chapter with Leo Vanoni, a legend in local farming. Carl helped Leo with signage and other construction items for Uncle Leo's Barn at the Ventura County Fair. He taught woodworking skills to 4-H members from all over the County at his shop in Camarillo.

Carl was a Knights of Columbus member for over thirty years holding several leadership positions. He was instrumental in the building of the kitchen/multipurpose room at the Los Posas St. Mary Magdalen Church.

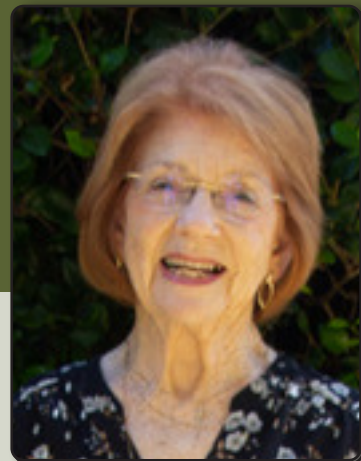
When Formica became popular as a counter top, Carl was the only one in town who could install it. Booths at Dorothy's Chuck Wagon Café and Ottavio's benefited from his skill.

After Carl's wife, Joan, passed away, he became active in the Camarillo Boys & Girls Club Auxiliary. He suggested that the auxiliary run a snack bar for the after school kids, and to be present as a kind older adult to talk with the kids. Carl purchased, delivered and set up beverages. He worked two or more shifts per month, and often would buy pizza for the kids anonymously. He also worked at the early bird bingo monthly.

Carl has been one of the best kind of volunteers—behind the scenes—doing whatever is necessary without fanfare or personal acclaim.

Doña Phyllis Brown Anderson

Active Community Advocate & Humble Benevolent Care Giver



Phyllis, and husband Bennie, came to Camarillo in 1962 where Bennie was employed as a teacher and coach of football and basketball at Hueneme HS. Friends from Oklahoma, Fred and Doris Phipps, enticed them to move here. Long-time friends, Bennie and Fred were in each other's weddings. Phyllis found a job right away as bookkeeper for the newly opened, "The Liquor Shop," owned by M. F. Daily, Jr.

As did many other mothers, Phyllis first started her volunteerism at the schools of their children. 1969 she served as the Block Parent Chairman & In 1972 she became President of the PV Elementary School PTA. 1974 her organizational skills brought her to be President of the Camarillo PTA Council serving all the district schools. She was on a roll.

Involvement didn't stop locally. Phyllis was President of the 12th District PTSA—Ventura County for 1981-1983. Then in 1984 she was elected President of Adolfo Camarillo High School PTSA. In 1984, she served as Parent Representative of the federally funded Teacher Resource Center for the Oxnard UHSD which received an award for its outstanding programs by the CA Educators' Association. While at ACHS, from 1981-2001 she was one of many parents who helped form the ACHS PTA Bingo Committee, and served as bookkeeper until it was dissolved—after raising thousands of dollars to assist sports, academics and its teachers.

Meanwhile, in 1972- 1977 Phyllis was involved with the grassroots Committee Against the Camarillo Airport, walking the streets to generate awareness of the critical situation. Mayor Stan Daily appointed her to the *Transportation Committee for the City of Camarillo* in 1975.

After the death of Bennie in 1985 she was bookkeeper at the Underwood Farms Road Side Stand and later being full time for AVTEK AIR, INC. at the Camarillo Airport until 2000. Hoping that someday the FAA would certificate the AVTEK 400 business Jet, she kept on working voluntarily out of her garage, while working part time as an assistant in the tax office of CKT & Associates well into her 80's. Since 2014, she has worked with the PVHM&G accession team meeting weekly with others.

Involvement with her church, St. Mary Magdalen Church, includes being a Eucharistic Minister, Secretary of the Bereavement Ministry. In 2016 she became a member of the International Society of St. Vincent de Paul, concurrently serving as President of the St. MM Conference and as President of the District which covers Ventura County.

She was the 8th of 10 children all born with red hair! [She still has it] Phyllis has three children—Sharon, Steven, and David and eight grandchildren—Nathan is head football coach at ACHS.



Doña Joni Berger

Active Community and Organization Volunteer

Coming from Michigan to Ventura, and now living in Camarillo for close to forty years, Joni has been highly involved in Soroptimist International of Camarillo for 35 years. In addition to serving in every board position and committee chair multiple times, she served as the club President four, non-consecutive terms. She also served the Camino Real Region of Soroptimist International as District Director to clubs in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. Soroptimist is known for their programs helping women and girls to live their best lives.

Since 1997 Joni served as chairperson for the Camarillo Soroptimist Enchilada Sale which her club raised over \$126,000 by rolling and selling 112,206 [but who's counting] chicken, cheese and beef enchiladas. Proceeds from this annual fundraiser helped support Soroptimist signature programs including: Dream It Be It; Live Your Dream; Stop Trafficking, and the Amy McAvoy CSU-CI scholarship.

Joni worked as the volunteer co-chair of the Camarillo Hospice Chili Festival where nearly \$50,000 was raised during the festival benefiting the Camarillo Hospice's volunteer recruiting, training, and placement services programs.

She is currently on the Board of Directors of Temple Adat Elohim (TAE), a synagogue based in Thousand Oaks which serves families in Ventura and LA Counties. She is one of the organizers of the largest event of the year when dozens of community volunteers team together for a Christmas Day dinner serving more than 250 underprivileged Ventura county residents.

Joni held numerous positions in the organization's Sisterhood. With the onslaught of the Covid Pandemic, Joni accepted the leadership position as President for two years, working to keep the organization viable and active while unable to meet in person. She learned new technology skills and encouraged members to stay connected and adopt the new procedures for monthly gatherings via Zoom.

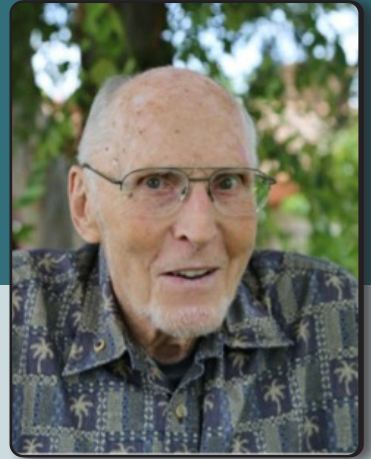
She currently works at Ventura Property Management as a Residential Leasing Agent. Joni enjoys her life as a wife to Jay, mother of Brian who lives in AZ, Kristine Folino Mayberry living in Orange County, and step mother to Micah, Hannah, Ethan, Jesse, grandmother of 9, sister and aunt.

Her personal statement is "the best is yet to be" as she continues living her best life in the City of Camarillo.

Don Lloyd Christie, D.V.M.

Veterinarian

with passion for Serving



Dr. Christie purchased the Camarillo Veterinary Hospital on Dawson Drive in 1976 from Dr. Josh Meyer. He became the owner-operator for 30+ years. Besides the regular practice, Lloyd offered free veterinary services to guide and service dogs provided by *Guide Dogs of America*, and *Guide Dogs for the Blind*. He sold the practice to Dr. Song Chong in 2005. He served one year as Secretary of *Santa Barbara-Ventura Veterinary Medical Association*.

Camarillo-Somis Pleasant Valley Lions Club became his volunteer passion. He has been a member of this club for 46 years. He served as Lions Club Secretary for 14 years, and Newsletter Editor for 15 years. Lloyd has also held positions in the *Lion's District 4A-3*, which serves the tri-counties.

Always active in club fund raising events such as Harvest Festival, Easter Festival, and Fair Parking, he helped serve the famous Lionburgers to benefit areas of sight conservation, hearing, diabetes, childhood cancer and environment.

Dr. Christie was a member of the team providing sight screening for elementary school children. As a certified "Guiding Lion," he was active in establishment of *Amber's Light Lions Club of Camarillo* and *Conejo Valley Lions Club*.

He has received numerous awards for his service in *Lions Club International*. He was awarded Life Memberships for the International Club, and *Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation*. Other awards were: Fourth District Student Speakers Foundation All Fellows Award, the Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow, Kay Fukushima CA Lions Foundation Fellowship—2 times, and multiple District Excellence Awards.

Lloyd grew up on a small farm near KS-MO border—before electricity! He walked to a 1-room elementary school house [claims uphill both ways in snow!]. Agriculture degrees were earned from Kansas State and Michigan State, with the DVM from Kansas State in 1963. He worked for the CA Dept. Agriculture Vet Lab Services as a Pathologist for 5 years, partnered in a small animal practice in Walnut, CA for 5 years, then came to Camarillo/Somis.

His hobbies are oil painting, woodworking, gardening, fly fishing, and world travel. His favorite animal just might be the cat!

Have you met Andy and Ann?



*Look for these two highlighting
what is new at the museum!*



Andy & Ann work with their cinematographer and director Eric Bergh to make sure you don't miss any new developments at the museum or with the expansion project on the PVHM&G website.

Siblings Raggedy Ann & Andy have been entertaining folks since 1920. They don't have the same strength in their bones that they did 80 years ago, but they are still devoted to sharing their lives and fun stuff they find at their home at 720 Las Posas Road in Camarillo, California.



**B & B EXTENDS
CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL
2023 AWARDEES!**



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Ann loves to take a break from Andy's energy and read a good book in the shade of the botanical garden.

*Bernie's congratulates
2023 Doña Phyllis Anderson!*

Bernie's

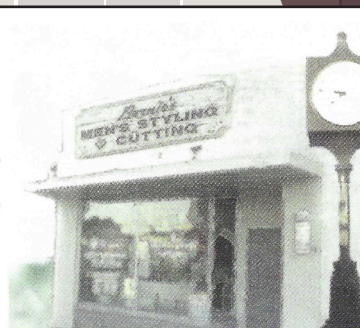
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Don Greg Farrin aka “Manny Hatz”

First, you must understand that his nickname, “Manny Hatz”, is so fitting because of his outstanding service to Pleasant Valley Historical Museum and Botanical Garden. Ever since retirement and his availability to PVHS, he has taken on more and more responsibilities—wearing many hats! His amazing willingness to see needs and jump in to fill them has been a Godsend to our organization.

Volunteering as the museum’s IT manager, the next logical step was to become a Museum Board Member and include volunteering as the museum’s website (pvhsonline.org) editor; growing and updating the website for museum news, events and accomplishments. He also is Vice-President. After receiving Docent Training, Greg also volunteered monthly as a Docent, and living less than a mile from the museum, was on-call to cover for a docent who was not able to work on a scheduled day, including cleaning, making sure the scheduled docent was able to get in, lock up and feel comfortable while docenting.

The museum’s quarterly newsletter, *The Echo*, previously had Betty Sullivan volunteering as the editor for many years, but at 95 years of age, she retired a couple of years ago. Since Betty’s retirement, Greg is now volunteering as *The Echo* editor. [Check out the back page of the *Echo* and you will see, not humble Greg, but “Manny Hatz” listed as Editor!] He has made many upgrades to the quality and readability of the newsletter.

Since 2019, the museum has added 8 buildings to the museum property; 5 display buildings and 3 storage buildings. Greg has volunteered as a carpenter on all 8 buildings, which requires buying and transporting truck-loads of lumber. Additionally, Greg is volunteering as the museum facility manager, responsible for the maintenance of the museum building and botanical gardens. He is “Tractor Technician” for the museum’s Allis-Chalmers 1952 tractor kept in our garden. Even now, with the museum closed to the public, he and Karin come up to oversee watering and cleaning the garden.

Greg, a native of Arizona, moved to Southern California in 1962. He graduated from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, in 1979 with a BS Degree in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. Until he retired in 2019, Greg worked in engineering, and engineering management positions, developing computer-based products and systems for commercial and military data processing and data storage applications. He married Karin in 1984 and settled in Camarillo in 1986.

Doña Karin Farrin

Helpful and Caring Volunteer



Karin has been a vital volunteer with the *Pleasant Valley Historical Museum and Garden*, since 2015. She really enjoys and loves being a part of the great group of people to work with and became a Board Member in 2020.

She helps with accessions weekly, but the most important responsibility is the daily monitoring and forwarding phone and email messages. When we were open, she scheduled docents and called for substitutes when needed. She is willing and happy to help with any other tasks that are needed...there is always something to do and learn about. Karin looks forward to the completed expansion of the Museum, so we can re-open again to the public with even more history and information to offer than before.

Karin worked for SCE in Ventura from 1982 to 1986, married Greg in 1984, and enjoyed a series of part-time jobs, including offering pet-sitting services. She worked for the *Camarillo Ranch Foundation/Museum* in 2004, retiring in 2015. She enjoyed learning about the history of the Adolfo Camarillo family and home, plus working with all the wonderful docents. She helps out on a volunteer basis sending out emails for the docents, when necessary, and helping occasionally at an event or with a project.

She became an active member of the *Camarillo Antique Club*, in the mid-1990's, which was always informative and interesting. "Rita Faulders got me involved which I appreciated." The Club closed during COVID, so instead of regular monthly meetings, they try to have quarterly lunch get-togethers.

Besides history, Karin has an interest in historic homes, museums, 'antiques', animals, nature and art. She also enjoys books and reading, movies, gardening, cooking and baking. She and Greg enjoy the outdoors and traveling.

Their son, Mike, and his wife Debbie, recently moved from California to Michigan for a job offer he received. Big change from here, especially regarding the weather.

She states, "Camarillo is a great place to live with its small-town feel, wonderful people and lovely weather."



Don Allen Grizzard-Paul

Community and Soccer Volunteer

Paul was born in England, the youngest of 4 children. He attended a technical college and became an Electronics Engineer, but his spare time was taken up with refereeing soccer [or football, as it is known in England]. In 1982 he volunteered to take a team of 12-year-old boys to play soccer in Camarillo. This was a soccer exchange program between the county of Surrey and Camarillo where the kids stayed with the families for two weeks. Allen immediately fell in love with Camarillo. Two years later on his second tour, the family he was staying with was invited to Mary Grizzard's farewell party when she sold her Somis house.

He soon found out about Mary's willingness to volunteer as she started volunteering him to work for the Ambassadors and of course the Kiwanis Club, where he is now their secretary and advisor for two high school Key Clubs. His love for the game of soccer made it impossible not to volunteer as a referee for AYSO and had the opportunity of coaching the Camarillo team against the Brits (we won). Once he started finding it difficult to keep up with the kids refereeing, he took over coaching the VIP Special Needs kids and adults in soccer and basketball. Allen always says that he did not move to America, he moved to Camarillo and will never leave.

In 1992 Mary was the first female to join the *Kiwanis Club of Camarillo* where she has served as President four times, each time making the club distinguished. The *Camarillo Kiwanis Club* was started in 1966 by Don George Thayer. His wife, Doña Betty Thayer could not join because at that time Kiwanis was strictly an "all boys" club. In 1987, delegates at the 72 Annual Kiwanis International Convention voted to end the ban on women members. Mary couldn't wait to become a member and 5 years later she started her active involvement.

She served as the Regional Advisor for High School KIWIN'S Div. of *Key Club*; started two *Key Club* youth groups at the California Youth Correctional Facility where she also served on their Advisory Council. Represented the club at many international conventions including in Taiwan and Tokyo.

Again, a trend-setter, she was one of the first women Deputy Sheriffs to be on patrol in the Ventura County. After she received her BS from Cal Lutheran, she became a Financial Planner and an active member of the Camarillo Chamber of Commerce. After marrying Allen in 1986, she became the Dean of the *West Coast University* extension in Camarillo.

Doña Mary Grizzard-Paul

Kiwanis Club Trailblazer



Volunteering for many City events, along with Allen, she joined the Camarillo Ambassadors who represent the City. She still is a very active Kiwanian, loves to read, attend fun events, and going to the opera.

Mary was born in New Jersey, number 2 of 10 children. Her family moved to CA in 1959 and lived in the SF Valley, Simi Valley, and after marriage, built a house in Somis. She had three sons, Shawn, Mike and Ryan and is blessed with five granddaughters.

As far as service to the community, Mary and Paul were jointly involved in the same activities. They married in 1985, and the rest is a joint story.

Allen and Mary's involvement with Kiwanis includes organizing food drives to support local food pantries and a variety of events. They assisted in providing breakfasts for participants of *American Cancer Society Relay for Life* and *Ventura County Autism Society Aut2Run* events. The couple has worked with students in the KIWIN'S Clubs at Adolfo Camarillo, Rio Mesa, and Rancho Campana High Schools. With their participation in these clubs, the students learn valuable leadership and team skills. They have also raised funds for the annual George M. Thayer Memorial Scholarship for students at these three high schools.

Two major community projects which are important to Allen and Mary were raising funds for playground equipment and their support of kidSTREAM. They learned that children with special needs could not always enjoy the equipment at the Community Center Park. They partnered with other organizations to raise funds for the design, purchase and installation of playground equipment for children with special needs which opened in 2016.

They also enabled the club to purchase five Magic Spun Chairs that will help children especially those suffering from Autism. Allen, Mary, and members of the KIWIN'S as well as at Camarillo Kiwanis have spent countless hours assisting the kidSTREAM staff with organizing the space and helping with their events.

For many years, Allen has coached AYSO VIP soccer players and teams. This program provides a quality soccer experience for children and adults whose physical or mental disabilities make it difficult to successfully participate on mainstream teams.

Allen and Mary continue to show their commitment to our community. Allen always says that he did not move to America, he moved to Camarillo and will never leave!



Don Chuck Spence

Various Volunteer Jobs

After growing up in western Pennsylvania and spending six years as a pilot in the Air Force, Chuck and Jo moved to Camarillo in July of 1979, as a pilot with American Airlines. For the first years, they were growing their family of two daughters, and settling into the California lifestyle. These years also included a three-year furlough from American Airlines, when he worked for an aerospace company in Oxnard.

His first volunteer involvement was with *American Youth Soccer Organization Region 68 Board*. Chuck was Treasurer of this board from 1987-1994. He was also a co-founder of the *AYSO Camarillo Strawberry Cup*. This is an annual Invitational tournament for boys ages 10-14, and girls 10-19 that meets for two days on two different weekends. Large event!

In the mid-to-late 1990s, his volunteer efforts were extended nation-wide as the Chairman of a national committee with the *Allied Pilots Association*, which is the national union for American Airline pilots.

With the schools, Chuck was President of the *Camarillo Heights School Site Council* from 1986-1988. He was Treasurer of the *PVSD Camarillo Academic Olympics Board* from 2006-2012.

He was a volunteer tax preparer from 2007-2009, and then became the Administrator for the entire *Ventura County Volunteer Income Tax Assistance [VITA]* from 2010-2015. Chuck started in 2017 and continues to volunteer for the *AARP TCE Program [Tax Counseling for the Elderly]*.

The *Friends of the Camarillo Library Board* also has benefitted from his expertise with money. He became Treasurer in 2008 and still serves in that role. He says that “when you look after the money, you know what is going on in an organization.”

Chuck retired as a pilot from American Airlines in 2007. In the 44 years of living in Camarillo, Chuck and Jo have had the opportunity to move almost anywhere – but why would a person leave here?

Doña JoAnn “Jo” Spence

Multi-organization Volunteer



Jo recalls that much of her volunteer time revolved around their two daughters' activities. Church was a natural start for her as she taught Sunday School and served on the *St. Columba's Preschool Board*. Both Chuck and Jo had early volunteer positions in AYSO. She helped chair the snack bar for several years and also as Treasurer until she realized her husband was much more suited for that job!

Then as their older daughter, Erin, became disenchanted with playing soccer, they joined Indian Maidens and became involved with leadership there. Finally, both daughters were little maidens and she served as Big Chief of the *Camarillo YMCA Indian Maidens*. Then their younger daughter, Lindsay, became the soccer player and they continued to support and be involved with AYSO and All-Stars well into her junior high years.

Jo served on several committees with the Pleasant Valley School District and become very interested in, and volunteered to be the School Coordinator for *Camarillo Academic Olympics* (CAO) from Camarillo Heights Elementary School. She coached numerous Super Quiz Teams at Camarillo Heights and Monte Vista and went on to chair the Super Quiz portion of CAO for some years. Jo taught 6th grade at Camarillo Heights for 5 years and then was chosen to transition the 6th grade to the Monte Vista. She completed her teaching career as Supervising Teacher of Community Home Education for Pleasant Valley School District for 10 years where she assisted students and parents in Camarillo to navigate learning from home.

Her daughters and she participated in *National Charity League of Ventura County* and they volunteered together at numerous venues throughout the county and in Camarillo. She credits NCL also with paving the way for another passion with membership in *Las Patronas Auxiliary of Assistance League of Ventura County*. Las Patronas was an organization that supported the philanthropies of Assistance League by honoring exceptional young women as seniors in high school by presenting them as Debutantes. Jo served Las Patronas in multiple capacities for twenty years and eventually served as Chairman of the organization for two consecutive years.

The logical transition for her was to join the parent organization of *Assistance League of Ventura County* (ALVC). Her most recent past position with ALVC was Scholarship Chairman where she served as liaison between *California State University-Channel Islands* and ALVC where they sponsor 4 scholarships for students majoring in science or math. Currently Jo serves ALVC as 1st Vice-President Membership.

Daughter, Erin Spence lives outside of Barcelona, Spain. Lindsay Spence McAllister lives in Ventura with husband, Justin, and their two granddaughters, Teagan and Matilda.

Bruce is catering today's BBQ!

Bruce's Barbeque

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Bruce Jochums

Owner

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brucesbarbeque@gmail.com

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Don Tony Trembley

Public servant, Health Care, and Youth



Tony and Kathy specifically chose Camarillo over many other locations in the state in 1983 when they moved here after finishing postgraduate educations at UC Davis. Tony states, "We love the friendliness and the family focus of our Pleasant Valley community, its geographic beauty and our wonderful climate."

He has been involved in helping advance health care in our community through the *St. John's Pleasant Valley Hospital Foundation Board*, where he was past chairman, and as a director for the Community Boards for *St. John's Pleasant Valley Hospital* and *St. John's Regional Medical Center*, and for *Camarillo Hospice*.

He has been past Chair and/or board member of a variety of organizations, including *Camarillo Chamber of Commerce*, *Ventura County Catholic Healthcare West*, and *United Way of Ventura County*. He is currently a *Director, Common Spirit [Dignity Health] Ventura County Community Board*, and a member of the *Rotary Club of Camarillo*. Tony is also a *Volunteer Attorney for the Ventura County District Attorney's Office*.

His service in youth activities includes past Council Commissioner of *Ventura County Boy Scouts of America*; Assistant Scoutmaster in Troop 225, Camarillo; AYSO Region 68; and the *Camarillo Eagles Soccer Club*.

He attended *Trinity College*, Dublin Ireland and received a BA degree in Political Science/Public Service with highest honors from *UC Davis*. He earned a Juris Doctor degree in 1983, also from *UC Davis*. Tony was a postgraduate Assembly Fellow in the California Legislature. He is a member of the California State Bar and has been a practicing attorney since 1983.

Tony currently is Vice Mayor for the City of Camarillo and was first elected to the City Council in 2016. Elected from District 4, his current term expires December 2024. He served as Mayor in 2020. As Regional Representative for Camarillo, he serves on eight committees, agencies, commissions, and authorities, including the Metrolink Board of Directors and the *Ventura County Transportation Commission* (past Chair).

He is married to Kathy, a retired public elementary school teacher. They have 3 children, Chris (wife Lauren), Alison (husband Matt), and Stephen (gf Laura), and one grandchild (Ian).



Don Russ White

Lion of Service

About 2003, his friend, Lion Tom Blattel, invited Russ to join the Pleasant Valley Lions Club. That decision brought him many new friends and opportunities volunteering with this wonderful organization.

Russ has held several Lion Club offices during the past 20 years, such as Vice-President, President, and Secretary, as well as "Chief Cook and Bottle Washer" working to raise funds for their many charities.

He has a true "can do" attitude and has participated in numerous club projects related to vision, hunger, environment, pediatric cancer, youth and diabetes. You may have seen him doing vision screening in local schools, in the *Camarillo Christmas Parade* with the PV Lions float, at the Ventura County Fair parking lot serving meals to those displaced by the Thomas fire, helping with the low water landscaping the fire department in Somis, or at Underwood's festivals.

The main club focus is Knights of the Blind and benefiting thousands of people needing vision screening, glasses, and even seeing eye dogs. They were #1 club many times based on the members ability to raise funds and work with so many charitable organizations, and local community service organizations.

Russ and wife, Dale, have lived in Camarillo since December 1972, moving here from Hawaii where he had been drafted by the Army. Russ met Dale at Fort DeRussy in Waikiki where she also worked. In 1967, he worked as an agent for *Emery Air Freight*. Soon after, they visited Dale's brother, Ed, who worked at Pt. Mugu and they really liked the Ventura County area. After transferring to LAX as the International Freight Export Manager, they moved to Camarillo. Russ retired in 2003.

Their children both now live in Portland, Oregon leading very successful lives. Son Phil owns his own business and Debra Burgess is a music teacher and co-conductor of the *Portland Symphonic Girlchoir*. They have 3 granddaughters and 4 grandsons, in various professions, including working at Nike headquarters, a doctor, a music composer, art teacher, Administrator at University of Washington, and Manager for a non-profit, also one great-grandson. All are doing well.

My dear Russ, you have been an inspiration to me every day of my life and such a beautiful father. The inspiring work you have done for Camarillo all these years shows in its excellent community and our whole family is so proud of you! This award is well deserved, my dear dad, and we are so thankful for you as is Camarillo, obviously!
Congratulations and so much love, your Debbie

Thank you, Russ, for being there for us and your community!! We know how much you love what you do there and they couldn't have picked a better person for this award, congratulations!!
Love, Randy

Congratulations, Grandpa Russ! The leadership, dedication, enthusiasm, and service you've shown to your community blows all the other grandpas out of the water and inspires me every day. We are so proud and sending you love!
- Amy & Alissa

our Grandpa, Russ white, is laugh-out-loud funny, even-keeled and of stalwart moral character, and we are overjoyed though not surprised he has received this honor. He has shown us that a man's strength can be found in how he treats those he loves, and in how well he cooks tri-tip beef.
Love, Joey and Nishi

Congratulations Grandpa Russ!
You have always been such a great inspiration in my life and I remember all the hard work you have given to your community since I was a little boy. You deserve this award and I am so proud to be your grandson!
Love you, Ryan

**CONGRATULATIONS, GRANDPA RUSS! WHAT AN AMAZING, WELL-DESERVED ACHIEVEMENT. WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU, INCLUDING GREAT GRANDSON KELLEN. SENDING LOVE AND CHEERS FROM OREGON!
LOVE JASON, LEAH & KELLEN**

Congratulations, Russ, on this momentous achievement, honoring your many years of service, dedication, and commitment to the Camarillo community! Your generous spirit, leadership, and willingness to help are hallmarks of your many contributions for the benefit of others. Your family shines because of you,
- Roberta

Congratulations Gpa Russ!!! You don't think of Camarillo without thinking of Russ White and I'm so glad that the community you have given so much to is giving you the recognition that you deserve. So proud of you and lucky to have you as a role model! Love,
Bethany



**ROBBIE
MCDONOUGH**

*2023 Daily
Scholarship
Essay Winner*

History of Camarillo State Mental Hospital “HOTEL CALIFORNIA”

by Robbie McDonough

Plates clatter in the kitchen, smell of bacon sizzling, a 78 year old woman wakes and doesn't know where she is. Her walls are white, she is confused, "where is my baby?" A foul stench of urine fills the hallways. Nurses hustle down the corridors, with no time to spare, patients need to be showered, medicated, and fed. Sounds of moans and groans fill the air, sadness floods the rooms, and screams of terror chill the bone; a new day has begun at Camarillo State Hospital, it is 1962.

The present California State University Channel Islands (CSUCI) was once a psychiatric hospital, which was established in 1936. It was known as Camarillo State Mental Hospital and treated patients with developmental disabilities and mental illness.

The California Department of Institutions built the hospital as refuge for local hospitals because there was limited federal funding, poor living conditions, overcrowdedness, institutions and prisons were weak and failing. Why Camarillo? Farmland was ample and fertile, land was cheap, easy access to large mental hospitals, and institutions in Los Angeles County.

In 1929, \$1,000,000 was offered to buy the land and buildings by the California Legislature to build a state hospital in Camarillo. Joseph P. Lewis and Adolfo Camarillo, both Agriculturists, owned 8600 acres called Lewis Ranch and sold 1500 acres of this for \$415,000.

Once news broke out in Camarillo that an "asylum" was going to be built, protesters spoke out. They were worried about their houses

depreciating and the proximity of insane people near their wives and children. Supporters of the institution argued the hospital had the potential to create a large and consistent payroll for members in the city of Camarillo. Over 1,000 people would be given employment as a result of the hospital.

The groundbreaking ceremony took place on August 15, 1933, with Mr. and Mrs. Adolfo Camarillo, Josephine Lewis, Governor Rolph, and Dr. Toner in attendance. The new hospital project was a result of an agreement between the Public Works Administration and the State of California.

The task of constructing the building was given by state architect, George McDougall. The hospital was expected to house 7,000 patients and 700 staff, homes for superintendent and officials. The main focus was designing the hospital with dormitories, administration buildings, a dairy, treatment facilities, shops, roads and landscaped gardens. McDougall wanted a cottage-style setting whereby the proposed children's unit held over 150 adolescent youths in four separate duplex cottages, with each cottage holding over 36 children. They constructed a receiving and isolation unit adjoining the administration building and the central dining room. The school, domestic space, chapel, gym, and therapy center, would each be housed in separate buildings.

McDougall wanted the design to blend in with the historical



architecture of Ventura County, and chose the structure of San Buenaventura Mission showing red tile roofs and white pueblo walls. It was important to McDougall that the hospital setting would be surrounded by the natural beauty of rolling hills, flowers, and greenery and would result in a more tranquil resort rather than a stale-looking hospital with no life. This eliminated a dark cloud over the hospital.



On October 12, 1936 the Camarillo State Hospital administration hosted the opening ceremony. Members of the community sat in chairs on the beautiful lawns that faced the Spanish-style building to celebrate this wonderful moment. Doctors, therapy workers, nurses, and volunteers all clapped at the announcement of the opening. The total amount of hospital cost was approximately \$10,000,000 and, at completion, was the largest mental hospital in the world.



The first patients were adult men and in 1937, 300 women patients were transferred to Camarillo from other hospitals. In

1947, the hospital opened a ward for children with developmental disabilities. Later, a Children's Treatment Center was constructed and occupied in 1955.

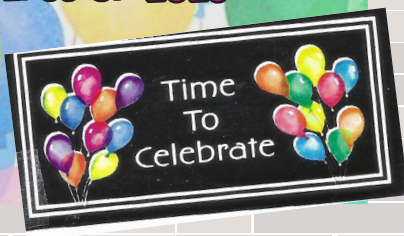
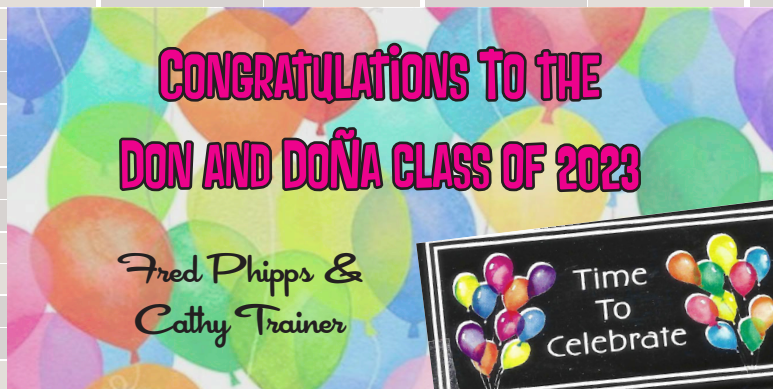
The hospital closed down in 1997 for two reasons. In 1967, Governor Ronald Reagan, signed the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act, which impacted state hospital populations. In 1996, Governor Peter

An aerial photograph of a coastal town, likely in the Netherlands. The town features a mix of residential buildings with red-tiled roofs and larger commercial or institutional structures. A prominent, large, rounded hill (a dune) is situated behind the town. The foreground shows a grassy area and a road. The background includes a body of water and a distant city skyline under a blue sky with scattered clouds.

[illegible]



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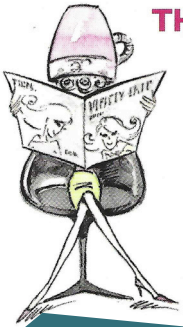
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Andy is proud of himself for unearthing some old pipes. Ann was just too busy reading a book in the garden to join.



IT'S ANN & ANDY'S PAGE!



The old PV school house bell hangs in the garden, Ann has not had a quiet day since Andy learned to climb it.



While Andy climbs poles, Ann gets to work on the tractor!



Ann evaluates the best cooking tools to make Acorn soup!



Andy won't be kept down when it is time to see the medicine buggy!



Don't forget to follow PVHM&G museum and Garden
You will find Andy's adventures and much more!.

CHECK OUT WHAT THEY'VE FOUND!



Ann has been learning about being a "Brownie Scout." Do you know where that term originated?



Andy is wrapped up in "giggle water." Just smile back and don't ask questions.



Ann nearly fell out of her chair while waiting for the building permits from the city. It has been over 100 years of waiting so far...



Camarillo-Somis Pleasant Valley Lions congratulates two of our lion members, Dr. Lloyd Christie and Russ White for receiving the honorary title of Camarillo Don. Both Lions have made a huge impact on the community as individuals and as Lions donating many hours in support of Lions global causes including diabetes, vision, hunger, the environment and childhood cancers. They deservedly join a long list of PV Lions as PV Historical Society Camarillo Don and we are proud to have them in our club.

Chicks and ducks and geese start to scurry when Ann and Andy
get the keys to mom and Dad's 1939 Packard!
Yea, it has a little rust but hey! its still fun!



CONGRATULATIONS DON & DOÑAS CLASS OF 2023!



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our story

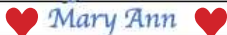
We are happy to open our doors to you! Our name originates from the last names of our family: (LO)-Lopez and (Ru)-Rubalcava. Loru's Cafe is proudly family-owned and ran. Loru's Cafe's vision is to provide our customers with high-quality California inspired food options, with great customer service in a clean and safe environment. Our family has over 30 years of restaurant experience in many well known establishments. We serve fine American dishes from early in the morning for breakfast through the dinner hours at your convenience.



*Congratulations to
My Friends and Fellow Lions*

Don Russ White & Don Lloyd Christie

You Make a Difference in Our World



Mary Ann



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Andy & Ann are so grateful the bench was not put in storage while they wait for the museum expansion to be completed.

kevin.kildee@gmail.com www.kevinkildeclothing.com

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Sun 10:30 am - 1:30 pm



**Congrats from the Fam to our dear Russ White!!
Father and Grandpa, you are our HERO!**



Andy is excited the museum expansion has started...or is the smile because he locked his sister inside on purpose?



Ann & Andy are first in line at the PV Mercantile opening soon. Joy Todd has just delivered fresh jam!



Congratulations!

Allen and Mary Grizzard-Paul

Your hard work and dedication to
our community is greatly appreciated.

Kiwanis Club of Camarillo

Congratulations to

DOÑA PHYLLIS
ANDERSON

DOÑA KARIN AND
DON GREG FARRIN

*We appreciate all
you do for our community!*

THE PVHS ACCESSIONS
TEAM

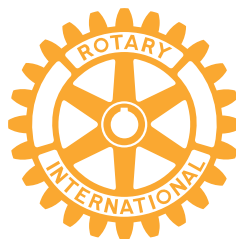


Congratulations!

**Don Tony Trembley
& Doña Joni Berger**

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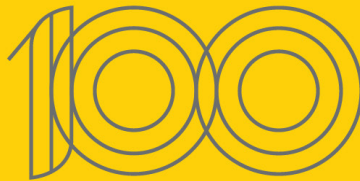
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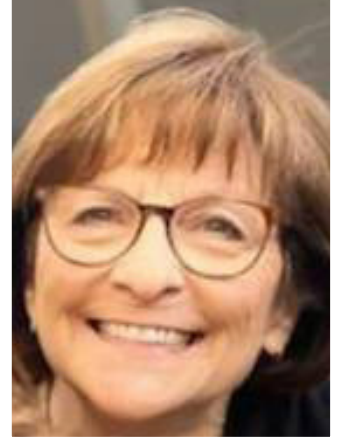
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1969 – 1983 JACK FULKERSON [14]
1983 – 1992 BETTY RUTHERFORD [9]
1992 – 1994 FRED ROLLYSON
1994 – 1996 LIZ DAILY
1996 – 1998 RON FRANZ
1998 – 2002 ERIC DAILY [4]
2002 – 2005 IRA GROOMS [3]
2005 – 2006 PAIGE HIBBITS
2006 – 2008 DAVID HIBBITS
2008 – 2010 LIZ DAILY
2010 – 2011 PAIGE HIBBITS
2011 – 2013 STAN DAILY
2013 – 2015 FRANKLIN ROTH
2015 – 2018 MAX COPENHAGEN [3]
2018 – 2020 JOY TODD
2020 - 2022 BOB BURROW
2022 - 2024 JOY TODD

2023-2024 Board Members are:

Eric Bergh, David Bratz, Bob Burrow,
Max Copenhagen, Liz Daily, Gail DeWolfe,
Mike Elias, Greg & Karin Farrin,
Bob Fierro, Mary Goldberg, Ira Grooms,
David Hibbits, Bill Manzer,
Betty Jo McDonald, Beth Miller, Mary Ann Novak,
Beverly Pearson, Rick Pena, Paul Rockenstein Bob
Rust, Valerie Tackett, Debra Thiessen,
Bill & Joy Todd, Renee Whitlock Higgins

Dates of Interest:

March, 1986 – PVHS signed contract with the City of Camarillo for our present building—formerly the Camino Water District offices, well, and reservoir.

November, 1988 – PVHS opened to public at 720 Los Posas Road after extensive modifications to its interior by members of the society.

November, 1993 – Amish Garden Gazebo opened to public for intimate events such as small weddings, luncheons, and parties.

April, 2017– Mural painted by muralist, Lisa Kelly, on entire east wall of museum.

March, 2020 – “The Barn” built

August, 2021 – Diane Ellias Painted mural in east garden area

August, 2021 – “Back Porch”built

May, 2022 – “Medicine Buggy Barn” built

July, 2022 – “Smithy” built

October, 2022 – “PV Mercantile” built

2023-2024 Expansion Project Proceeds!



Sincere THANK YOU to:

Pleasant Valley Recreation and Park District
for the continuing support of our Don and Doña Event.

Joe Erickson and **Pacific Beverage** for their
contribution of drinks

John Hayes Graphics who continually excels in printing all
of our yearly printing needs.

Bruce's BBQ for catering this event, as well as "BBQ Pick-
up" throughout the year.

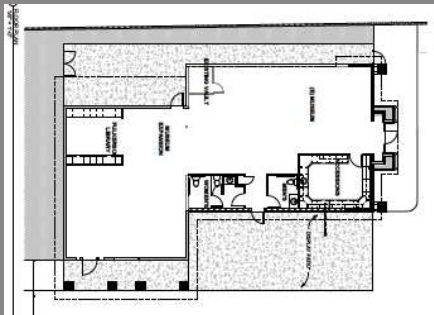
Heidi Hoover who has designed the Don & Doña
booklet for many years. Her design, humor and
understanding of our honorees makes us all proud.

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Architect's drawings of proposed expansion



Front entrance--faces Las Posas



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Pleasant Valley Historical Society Museum