

## A Great Team



Standing L-R: Marek Kiebasinski, Miguel Arriaga, Richie Hinojos, Desi Romero and Ed Heisey.  
Seated L-R: Ramon Ramirez, Bertha Estrada Aguilar, Steve Lopez and Jose Ramirez.

Wesley Manor and Liberty Tower are the lovely, well maintained and clean residences that they are primarily because of the varied backgrounds and skills of their maintenance, custodial, housekeeping and gardening staff. Each of the members of the nine-person group have blended into a solid well-performing team. Desiderio ("Desi") Romero is the most recent recruit, having joined the Foundation's

maintenance department in September. Richie Hinojos celebrates his 20<sup>th</sup> employment anniversary this year; Steve Lopez his 16<sup>th</sup>; Jose Ramirez his 14<sup>th</sup>; Marek Kiebasinski, Facilities/Information Systems Director, his 13<sup>th</sup>; Ed Heisey, his 11<sup>th</sup>; Miguel Arriaga his 8<sup>th</sup>; Ramon Ramirez his 7<sup>th</sup>, and Bertha Estrada Aguilar her 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Once these employees join the Foundation, they stay well beyond the norm for Silicon Valley. The low turnover rate results in a depth of knowledge of both the buildings and grounds and each other's strengths, which in turn makes the department meet its challenges so well. The members of this team are all very dedicated to sustaining Liberty Tower and Wesley Manor's long established high standards for appearance. Their exemplary efforts are not taken for granted and are frequently acknowledged by residents, visitors and staff.

## Resident Activities



The Liberty Tower Residents' Association meetings are held quarterly and are always enhanced by homemade refreshments, creative centerpieces and outside entertainment. Popular entertainment groups, the Aloha Nani ("Beautiful Love") Hula Dancers and the 4 Pennies and 1 Token Dance

Band, captivated residents at the June and October meetings respectively. Officers reelected in June were Bill Caro, President; Marie Johnson, Vice President and Entertainment Chair; and Mary Reagan, Secretary. Margaret Donovan was elected Treasurer. Ellagene Mayfield agreed to continue as Food and Decorating Chair.

The Wesley Manor Residents' Association held its annual Patio Sale in July. This year's event was a success because of residents' willingness to donate and collect clothing, jewelry and household items for the event. New Association officers will be elected in November to undertake the responsibility of planning and organizing social events and fundraising activities for the upcoming year.



Aloha Nani Hula Dancer performs at Liberty Tower.

### Santa Clara Methodist Retirement Foundation, Inc.

890 Main Street  
Santa Clara, CA 95050  
[www.scmrf.org](http://www.scmrf.org)



Carefree Living is published by the Santa Clara Methodist Retirement Foundation, Inc. Liberty Tower in Santa Clara and Wesley Manor in Campbell are housing facilities for low income elderly and disabled persons.

Alice K. Sutton, Executive Officer  
Geoffrey Lyons, Assistant Administrator  
Heather Boddie-Russo, Director of Resident Services  
Kathleen Betts, Administrative Secretary



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★ Thank You City of Santa Clara ★



Standing L to R: Rev. Sandra Hammett, Roger Millette, Richard Sheehan, Monica Smith, Christine Pham, Angela Corcoran, Rick Taylor, Martin Von Roesfeld, Marie Hill, David Parker and Augie Wiedemann.

Seated L to R: Kevin Kyle, Patricia Mahan and Gene Sawyer.

On Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, Liberty Tower residents and Board members honored the City of Santa Clara and its Police and Fire Departments. The gala event paid tribute to those in the Santa Clara community who have helped make it possible for the Foundation to continue to provide safe, affordable housing and other services improving the quality of life for residents of Liberty Tower.

After an opportunity to socialize, honored guests, speakers, and residents were invited into the dining room for a short program.

Master of Ceremonies, Roger Millette, introduced the speakers. The program began with Board President Richard Sheehan's brief history of Liberty Tower, followed by Santa Clara Mayor Patricia Mahan, and continued with Monica Smith representing Assemblymember Sally Lieber. A warm commendation to the City of Santa Clara was read by Christine Pham from Congressman Mike Honda. A State Assembly Resolution from Sally Lieber and Senator Elaine Alquist was presented to Mayor Mahan and Santa Clara Councilmember Dominic Caserta. Also speaking were Angela Corcoran, Chief of Asset Management for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and Rick Taylor, Associate Director of Public Policy for Aging Services of California (formerly California Association of Homes and Services for the Aging). Reverend Sandra Hammett of the Foundation's Community Relations Committee and Liberty Tower resident Marie Hill concluded the program with the presentation of commemorative plaques honoring the City of Santa Clara and the Police and Fire Departments.

Following the program, apartment tours conducted by resident volunteers were offered, and residents and guests enjoyed a lovely champagne buffet provided by ARAMARK Corporation and the music of Glenn Weberg on the electronic keyboard.

### ★ And Thank You Event Underwriters!

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Above is a list of "Friends, Patrons and Benefactors of the Foundation." We welcome each and every person into this distinguished group. The names of contributors to the Foundation are published during their year of donation. The Santa Clara Methodist Retirement Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization making all contributions tax deductible.

Recognition is given to the following contributors to the Trust Fund since the last issue.

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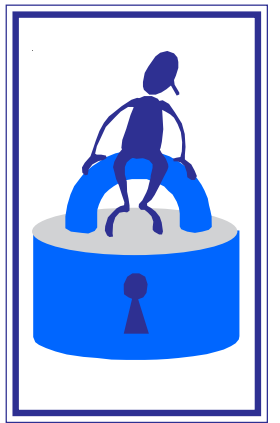
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## New Faces at Wesley Manor



Dorothe Minter



Roberta Robinson

On Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, Wesley Manor now has on duty staff from an outside security agency. Richard Huff, Wesley Manor live-in House Manager, continues to provide facility coverage on the other four nights, as well as hosting the monthly Birthday Party.

Dorothe Minter and Roberta Robinson of Command Security, Inc. (CSI) are the two enthusiastic "guards" that are enjoying their work with the Wesley Manor community. They make their rounds around the perimeter of the building during the night to ensure that all of the residents are safe and sound. If you haven't met these ladies yet, do stop by the front desk and say "hello."

## Heart of the Valley News

On February 27, 2007, Heart of the Valley, SERVICES FOR SENIORS, Inc. (HOV) will be celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> year of providing assistance to the older adults in our community. We especially want to thank the Santa Clara Methodist Retirement Foundation for creating this valuable agency and for their support over the years.

Recently, the Mission City Community Foundation awarded Heart of the Valley a grant for \$12,000 and the City of Santa Clara provided \$3,479 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding to subsidize the rides of seniors who live in Santa Clara. On October 25, 2006, members of our Board went to the Ferry Building in San Francisco to receive the Doris W. Kahn Accessible Transportation Award from the Mission Transportation Commission. We are honored to be recognized for our escorted transportation program for seniors. As part of our fundraising efforts, HOV volunteers are getting ready to wrap books at Barnes and Noble for the holidays. If you would like to help, please call our office at (408) 241-1571 for a list of available times.

As always, if you need help or would like to help, call our office at (408) 241-1571.

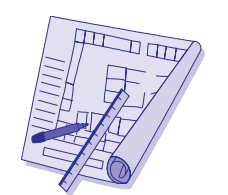
Glenda Cresap, Director

## A Note From the Executive Officer

The launching of the Foundation's first website [www.scmrf.org](http://www.scmrf.org) and its new brochure on September 29<sup>th</sup> coincided with Liberty Tower's Community Salute, which celebrated the support and service of the City of Santa Clara's employees and Commission and Council members toward the well being of Liberty Tower's elderly residents. The website and brochure represent the time, energy and artistic talent of some of the members of our talented administrative staff, as well as the clever and innovative ideas from our website designer Jennifer Varno. All of the photos are of "real" people currently residing at both Liberty Tower and Wesley Manor! And if you're seeking information regarding the Foundation's expansion plans in Santa Clara, the phone number to get on the interest list is (408) 243-0032. It's on the website!

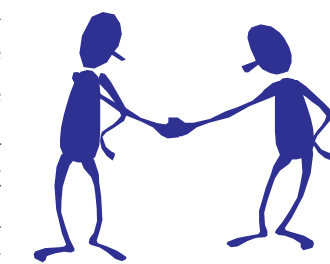
For those that are following the progress toward our goal of building an additional 162 affordable housing units for seniors, we are hard at work. Many more meetings have taken place since last summer with neighbors and with Santa Clara City staff and with our own "team" members. Landscaping and program ideas for indoor and outdoor activities, as well as our application to HUD for "mixed" financing of the improvements on the property, are being developed. At this time, the City and the State are responding to public comments resulting from the recirculation of portions of the Draft Environmental Impact Report. It is looking promising that the Planning Commission and the City Council will make a final decision on site development by early next year in time for the Foundation to submit a formal application for financing from HUD. After three to four years of working on this project, all of our dreams may be coming closer to fruition!

Alice K. Sutton, Executive Officer



## Physical Plant Improvements

Liberty Tower's original 33-year-old emergency pull cord system has been replaced with a state-of-the-art wireless system. The funds to pay for this important upgrade was provided by the Santa Clara City Council in the form of a HOME grant from the federal government. This modernization follows a similar replacement project that took place several years ago at Wesley Manor. Replacement of the old wired system at Liberty Tower now allows an on duty staff person to be paged no matter whether he or she is on, or just outside of, the premises. Plans are also in the making to replace common area corridor carpeting in the facility with the remainder of the grant funding. Over the 33-year lifetime of Liberty Tower, the City of Santa Clara has helped fund over a million dollars of physical plant improvements for the facility in order to preserve existing affordable housing for its seniors.



## Foster Grandparents



Wesley Manor resident Betty Arslanian.

Each morning, Monday through Friday, Liberty Tower resident Angele Bagley and Wesley Manor resident Betty Arslanian make their way to a local elementary school. Both are participants in the Foster Grandparent Program. Developed nationally in 1965, the Foster Grandparent Program was a cooperative effort between the Office of Economic Development and the Department of Health, Education and Welfare to recruit income-eligible seniors to work with children that have

special needs. Santa Clara County's Foster Grandparent program was started in 1972 and is administered by Catholic Charities. Currently, foster grandparents serve in twenty-two locations across the county. These seniors work 20 hours per week in settings ranging from public schools and child development centers to hospitals and juvenile correctional facilities. In addition to the intangible rewards that come with working with special needs children, foster grandparents receive a modest stipend, daily hot meal, transportation allowance, ongoing training and a yearly physical examination.

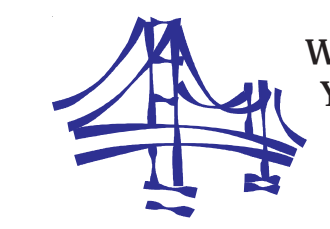


Liberty Tower resident Angele Bagley.

Angele Bagley and Betty Arslanian heard about the program through presentations given at Liberty Tower and Wesley Manor. Angele is volunteering in a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classroom at Haman School in Santa Clara, providing individual attention and encouragement to five students with special needs. Betty spends her time in a 1<sup>st</sup> grade classroom at Bagby Elementary School in Campbell, offering support to the teacher and all 20 students. Being a Foster Grandparent is rewarding and enjoyable for both residents.

## Van Trips

Warm weather this summer and early fall beckoned Liberty Tower and Wesley Manor residents to venture out on the facility vans for several full and half day trips around the Bay Area. Capitola remained a popular locale for groups from Liberty Tower, which took in the sights of this seaside village in both August and September. Residents from Liberty Tower also arranged full day trips to San Francisco and Monterey, as well as a half day trip to Shoreline Park in Mountain View.



Wesley Manor van riders took time to enjoy the exhibits at the new De Young Museum and lunch at the Cliff House during a full day trip to San Francisco. Two half day trips to Santa Cruz to enjoy clam chowder and shopping on the Pier also took place.

Residents of both facilities may reserve the Foundation's vans for one full day and one half day trip each month. For more information, contact Heather Boddie-Russo, Director of Resident Services, at (408) 374-9511.