



May-June 2021

# ACACIA CREEK JOURNAL

WRITTEN BY RESIDENTS, FOR RESIDENTS

[www.acaciacreek.org](http://www.acaciacreek.org)

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## Meet Acacia Creek's Canine Buddies!

It was Harvey McAninch's birthday and Karon decided he needed a dog for a present. She started searching the web and found this sad looking waif presently housed at the Monterey SPCA. So, off they went to be able to see the dog in person. After they arrived at the shelter, they all gathered in a small room to get acquainted. This smart dog immediately crawled onto Karon's legs and nestled there. The decision to adopt her was easy. The staff shared that she had been one of 30 dogs along with 40 cats that had been found at a pet hoarder's home. Plus, she had given birth to 6 puppies who had just been weaned. The staff helped in naming her by just coming up with names and when she said Dolly Madison, that was it, but shortened to Madison. On the trip home she slept in Karon's lap and was ready for grooming and incredible love.

Norma and Lou Werth adopted their dog from the Fremont Animal Shelter for their grandson. This was to help him get his wish, as his family members had very divided views on taking on a dog. Bolt, who was named by the grandson, is part terrier and dachshund and has lived with them since 2012. She wags her tail all the time and Norma thinks she must have a battery attached somewhere to keep it going. When their son and daughter throw a squeaky toy, Bolt will run after it, but has decided it is not part of her job to bring it back! Or maybe she thinks it is dangerous and wants to keep them all safe.

Bill and Bonnie Schoenemann used to have a retired Greyhound, racer, Biscotti, when they first

moved into Acacia Creek. After they lost Biscotti, they decided to go to the Poodle Rescue to see what they could find, since they loved having a dog. When they met her there, she came right up to them—she was very friendly and mellow. Her name was Tulip and they decided to keep that name. If you have ever met her, you know she still has these traits and LOVES being petted!!!

Two years ago, Laurel and Bill Quirk decided that they were ready to be dog owners again. They were interested in a Maltese as they had had one before and these dogs are hypo allergenic, plus they don't shed!! They started searching the internet listings on National web sites—this way you don't have to trek all over but can see what is available anywhere. So, a Rescue in Oakland had a brother and sister Maltese available—but they were a bonded pair and you had to take both. The dogs had been in a foster home and after the application process, the Quirks decided to take both of them home for a two-week trial. And you all know how that ended up. They came as Jaden and Jada but are now Milo and Millie. The Quirks, besides providing a wonderful home for them, also gave Milo his ability to walk again without a limp through much needed hip surgery.

David and Janet Seegers found their dog, Sam, at the Animal Humane Society in San Luis Obispo. He is very shy so when they met him, they sat on the floor so they could be near him. Right away he picked up a stuffed toy and brought it to Janet.



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Smart dog!! He has been an amazing traveling companion and has gone to New York, Chicago and Maui with them. At first, he didn't know how to run on beaches, but with recurring visits, he figured it out. He does have a heart problem, so he gets the added support of being carried by them when he needs it. But this lucky dog has been part of their family for the past 5 years.



Sandy and Jackie Kahn have a recent addition to their family—a Golden Doodle (Retriever/Poodle.) This breed has the very positive attributes of not shedding and being hypo-allergenic. He is the first dog they have had in 20 years. His name is Maddie and he loves everybody but wants to jump on you to show you how much!! So, he is always on a leash, and that makes it doable for everyone. He also has the added personality trait of throwing tantrums. As you could predict, he will be attending dog training weekly now for some time, and will no doubt become a well-behaved perfect companion once he is over the puppy/adolescent years.



Bea Corley and her daughter were on their way to North Carolina when the flight got diverted for a layover. A life changing event was about to happen during this time, as they met a woman who started sharing about her wonderful dog. She had a Mal-Shi (half Maltise and Shih-tzu). In addition she gave them the information about the breeder. After much discussion, including should we



really do this, they decided to contact the breeder when they reached their destination. So, as it turns out, the breeder had 2 females—one for each of them! So, LuLu Marie became part of the Corley/Acacia Creek family. She also got her training as an emotional support dog and has spent many hours comforting many residents at Lorber and other facilities here.

Rick and Sharon Murphy decided they needed something to give their extra love and attention, like a lap dog to cuddle and nestle. After looking around they found a breeder in Santa Clara whose specialty was Maltese/Poodles. So, the decision was made but unfortunately both Rick and Sharon landed in the hospital the week that the puppy was officially theirs. Fortunately, their daughter stepped up and Ava Gabor was taken in by their daughter.



(Hooray). Ava is now home with Sharon and to quote her, "She is the Puppy from Hell!). However, she is extremely friendly and smart. Her favorite hobby is to take rides all over in the stroller, plus ENERGETIC walks with anyone willing to take her on. She also loves to chew anything and has shredded many of Sharon's

belongings. As you might have guessed Puppy Kindergarten is necessary!

By Martha Crowe



## This Year's Plant Sale June 24, 2-3pm, Room 1441

All of the plants are donated by Acacia Creek residents. So come by and pick a plant to beautify your living space. Whether you need a large plant or a small one, we will have the right one for you.

Betty Chiang



## Mikey and Genie

Keith and Karen Moody share the same hillside view as I. Upon arriving at Acacia Creek a few years ago they began walking the territory around Acacia Creek. They began walking with our dear Edith

Ecklund, now sadly passed away. Keith took the picture of the cat I call Mikey in January, 2019. From another photo it could be seen that Mikey is still productively intact.



This means Mikey probably did not come from the Seven Hills residential development across the dry creek from us. Cats who live there have been bred to fit into a family. The males are surgically civilized at birth. It is more than likely Mikey came from the farm up top of O'Connell Lane where a cockcrow wakes the morning. A cat's job on a farm is to keep the rats and mice out of the grain for the cattle and a horse or two who are raised there. Those cats feed themselves. This is an ancient relationship. This is where Felix the desert cat and Homo sapiens the farmer learned to live together in the Near East and North Africa. To each their own.

I took the photo of Genie (the ground squirrel) as she settled down to munch on thistle seeds and for a little dust bath on the top of the concrete retaining wall that runs down to the bottom of the hill. She beds down at night in the underground portion of the drainage system where none of her predators can go except snakes. Keep on your toes as they say. "It's fine," says she, or relaxed postures to that effect. Genie and her mob of friends use our hillside as their field of dreams. They come up Squirrel Highway in the morning to feast on nuts, insects, fruits, seeds, and legumes. At first they fill their cheeks with food and rush down the highway to their underground home to store it. Now



they save a trip by digging into the hillside to leave caches of food. Now they have to remember where they put it. Ground squirrels such as these have been labeled by the State of California as a serious pest. They burrow into earthen dams to nest and to nap away the ferocious daytime sun in the Great Central Valley. So many become engaged in this activity, it can threaten the integrity of such dams. Therefore, the state allows ground squirrels to be killed and eaten at any time. "Whatever!" Say I.

During the 2020 Covid year Karen began to develop camera eye as a creative tool: the framing of a picture, the balance and aspect of a picture, the story line of a sequence of pictures. In January this year she alerted Keith to record a dramatic encounter between Mikey and Genie with his camera. It occurred in the dark-green, scrubby patch of rosemary located on the left side of the photo above. Using the movie function on his camera Keith captured a flat-out life and death struggle between the two: flight or fight hormones, hair flying, tails enlarged and flaying. Genie was able to twist and squeal her way out of the jaws of death whereupon she dove directly into a burrow located down in the root system of the rosemary. Too tight for Mikey to follow as he hisses and squalls in vain. "Your facts may be right but you are still wrong," she implies. I say, "Jimini Cricket!"

The frequency with which I see Mikey suggests he has a hunting territory around 50 acres or so while avoiding coyote country. I see him 4 or 5 times a year. Two months after the Moodys had their sighting, I am privy to another attempted predation by Mikey that has an interesting wrinkle built in. The hillside above the rosemary was occupied by at least a dozen busy squirrels. Mikey makes his presence known by a loping gait from the eucalyptus trees unseen to the left side of the photo down to the trunk of the live oak tree out of sight on the right side. The ground squirrels give their little warning call. Mikey pays no attention. All the squirrels need is a few feet of advantage to vanish into their food burrows unscathed. As he disappears the squirrels relax a bit. Suddenly Mikey turns and retraces his path at full speed. He approaches the corner at the tree stump. The stump is obscured in the picture by two dried-out thistle plants illuminated by the lowering sun. The suddenly shocked squirrels explode in all directions like fish escaping a grazing whale; like doves confusing a stooping red-tailed hawk into futility. As Mikey makes the turn a runaway squirrel runs directly into his waiting jaws. Now we know what "squirrel" really means. Once again Genie escapes. We can be sure that Mikey does win on occasion, but for the rest of this day all is peace and quiet on our hillside.

By CJ Becker

# Resident Spotlight

Amiable Joyce Davis grew up in Bakersfield, as the oldest of four. When Jerry Davis moved to the neighborhood, he met Joyce Mitchell on the high school bus. They became sweethearts and married soon after graduation



Joyce Davis

when Joyce was 18 years old, and Jerry was 20. That began a close and caring and supportive life together. Within three and a half years three baby boys came along. Joyce says that she spent her life raising babies.

Joyce studied Diet Therapy and Nutrition for 2 years at Bakersfield Community College. She and Jerry liked the medical field and spent time reading journals, discussing various medical findings, and continued to do this all their lives, always living and working as a team. Joyce, as well as their sons, always worked to help Jerry in his research.

Jerry enlisted in the US Navy as a medical technician, where he received an excellent education. After discharge, he graduated with a BS in Physiology from San Diego State College, then went on to UC Davis to earn a PhD in Physiology. His dissertation was devoted to exercise and blood system relationships. As a hematologist, he taught biology and physiology at Northeastern University in Boston and then was Dean of Bioscience at the Michigan State University for 22 years. The couple had a wonderful life with their affectionate family. They loved to dance, and they travelled to Europe on a well-deserved vacation.

Sadly, Jerry was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 1997. He began working on a treatment with stem cells, participating in

Parkinson research at the VA Hospital. He exercised, as this was an important treatment protocol.

Joyce collapsed during the move-in to AC in 2014 and spent 6 weeks at Lorber due to water on the brain. She recovered slowly with exercises and a brain shunt.

She now has 11 grandchildren, and 20 great-grandchildren, with more babies on the way. She heads the Relax and Color group and writes for the AC Journal. She enjoys the Bible Study with Chaplain Joel on Channel 1-15. Joyce looks forward to the Acacia Creek in-person group resumption, to enjoy the interactions with the leader and classmates. On Easter day, Joyce was presented with a large azalea plant for her service as a Deacon to First Presbyterian Church in San Leandro. Joyce wants everyone to know that she is glad to be here at Acacia Creek!

By Clarice Hill

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## The 90s Society

You've probably noticed this unusual pin worn by some residents. Although some say the design looks like a cat, but not so. At the bottom of the pin, the two spirals

denote growth and evolution. As the stems grow, they reach the acacia leaves at the top. The design contains the Letters X (crossed branches) and C, which together form Roman Numeral XC representing the number 90.

The pin was designed by the late Bessie Gish who founded the Acacia Creek 90s Society and her collaborator, Garrett Moore. The pin is presented to a resident on their 90th birthday.

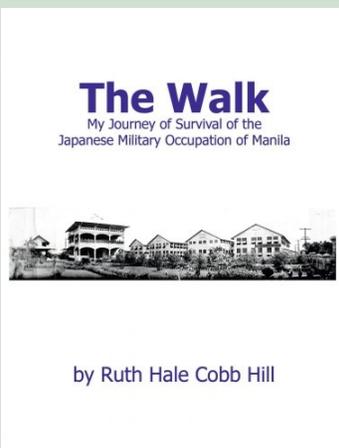
The 90s Society will be having a sit-down luncheon in the Dining Room on June 23, 2021. For more information about the luncheon, or if a resident's 90th birthday slipped by unnoticed, please contact:

Carol Hough, President, The 90s Society

# Acacia Creek Authors – Book Signings



**Ruth Cobb Hill**



Dr. Ruth Hale Cobb Hill is a Filipino-American who spent a quarter of her life in the Philippines and three quarters in the United States. She is a clinical consultant specializing in cross-cultural psychotherapy. Ruth's book "The Walk" was published in 2016 and contains pictures from the family archives of life in the Philippines during World War II

Ruth was invited by the Bataan Historical Society to be part of a panel asked to present life experiences during WWII in the Philippines. She came to a realization that she always found it difficult to write about the war. She states: "From the time we were liberated in 1945 from the clutches of the Japanese Military, I would jot down notes about incidents I recalled. The thoughts in these notes were usually without beginnings or endings. Then I would get rid of them, not knowing why. They seemed important at the time. When I was teaching Tagalog at Berkeley, I found myself rewriting those "beginnings" in the Tagalog language. I was surprised to find myself producing streams of thoughts that had coherent beginnings and endings. All of them were about the war. I realized that the Filipino side of me was the active speaker. I am half Anglo-American and half Filipina. What did the Filipina side have that made her able to speak? I have decided it is time to write about that of which I had not been aware."

By Ruth Hill

## Like to Write?

All authors are welcome at the  
Acacia Creek Journal. x3807



**Chet & Sally Ward**

So, you think you want to write a book. Well take it from me there is a lot of work in that venture. Over the years we have had folks say to us; you need to write a book, especially after a session of Chet's and my stories of our White House experience. Our comment always was we don't know how to write a book.

Fortunately, I had kept a hand-written daily diary of our lives during the White House Years. My intent was to SOMEDAY type it up for our daughters. During all our nine moves after the White House tour I kept track of where that binder with the notes was. Fortunately, I never lost it.

Someday finally arrived thanks to the Pandemic. When we went on "lock down" March of 2020, I pulled the binder out and started to transfer the information into a Word document. My nephew in Texas has a friend who is a small publisher. I sent her a rough draft of the transcript. She thought it had possibilities for a book but wanted me to expand it by introducing the author (me). I then showed what I had to our daughters and they wanted to add photos and historical events. From there it grew into "On Call at The White House". I did not show the script to Chet as I did not want to have him add changes. I also told the girls that this was a diary and not an English paper. I did not want to lose the intimacy of my recollections of the time. Fortunately, when Chet read the drafts he really liked it. So off to the printers it went and the rest is history.

The pictures were all the property of our daughters and our own collections. Some of the historical events were written at the time. Other events were researched at the Nixon and Ford Libraries and of course Google. The project took a year due to everyone's time schedules to proof-read. There were many rewrites and expansion of information. At one point we had to stop and say, "it is done". The problem with memories is that one leads to another to another.

By Sally Ward

# Staff Spotlight



**Alice Feng** is a new face on the Concierge Desk. She grew up in Union City and always wondered what it might be like to work at Acacia Creek. Alice just graduated from Occidental College in Southern California and hopes to begin work next year on her Masters degree as a Physician Associate.



**Ekta Sandhu** is also a new face at the Concierge Desk. She was born in Redwood City but now lives nearby in Union City. While in high school, she volunteered in the kitchen at the Masonic Home. Ekta commutes to San Jose State University where she is a Junior majoring in Health Administration.

## Team Member of the Quarter



**Sylvia Sandoval**

Congratulations to Sylvia Sandoval for being selected as the Team Member of the Quarter. I have always appreciated her work ethic, attentions to detail, and friendly attitude. She is well loved by the residents who are lucky enough to have her as their housekeeper. So

much so that I have received several written notices from several residents singing her accolades. Thank you Sylvia for all you do. You are a well-valued and loved member of the Acacia Creek family. By Thys Marsalis



Dear Residents,

With summer just around the corner and the restrictions of the Pandemic loosening, it is more than appropriate to resume our annual BBQ Block Parties! I would like to encourage all of you to come out, have a cheeseburger or hot dog with all the fixings and enjoy your neighbors and team members in the Pickle Ball Court. Great conversations, laughter and fun will be had for these great gatherings. Please look for your invitation arriving in your mailbox soon.

Summer is a great time to get outside to enjoy the sun and reap the benefits that good weather can bring. Here are a few examples of how to get the most out of the warm days that lay ahead and the benefits that go along with them: Enjoy the sun. In moderate amounts and with proper protection against sunburn, the benefits of the sun are significant. The warmth of the sun increases our body temperature which also gives us more energy during the day and promotes a better, deeper sleep at night. Vitamin D received from the sun helps our immune system and provides many other health benefits, such as pain relief. Many seniors are deficient in vitamin D, so this is a natural way to increase the level of vitamin D over and above any supplements.

On a personal note, I would like to wish all men a wonderful Father's Day! Here are a few more words about Dads:

“My father gave me the greatest gift anyone could give another person, he believed in me.” - **Unknown**

“I cannot think of any need in childhood as strong as the need for a father's protection.” - **Sigmund Freud**

“Son, brother, father, lover, friend. There is room in the heart for all the affections, as there is room in heaven for all the stars.” - **Victor Hugo**

Cheers,  
Martin Herter

# In Memory of Our Friends

Who Passed on During the last 12 months



*George Adams*



*Donna Baird*



*Lee Boyle*



*Gloria Cornett*



*William Cutler*



*Edith Ecklund*



*Don Keysor*



*Art Kimber*



*Pamela Lacey*



*Barbara Lewis*



*Jerry Miller*



*Bob Powers*



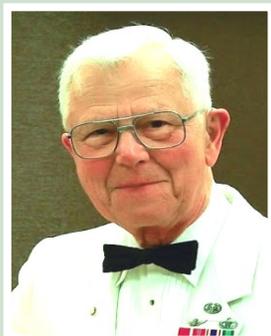
*Bonnie  
Schoenemann*



*Hung-Lin Swei*



*Mae Swei*



*Chet Ward BG,MD*



*Gil Ward*



*Anna Wong*

# Living It



Macarena Practice



Library Reopened May 25, 2021



Pool reopened April 1, 2021

