

Renaissance Lifestyle

WINTER 2020

A Message from the Vice President



Dear Renaissance Village Family:

With the holiday season upon us, I thought it appropriate to share that Renaissance Village Rancho Belago is celebrating its 5th year since opening! A huge and sincere thank you to everyone who has helped us reach this milestone.

We place a strong emphasis on providing employees with the tools they need to progress professionally. We strive to create exceptional working environments where employees genuinely feel part of the family. In doing so, we hope employees will work to the best of their abilities and grow with the company.

Great examples of this are LaTonya Davis, our new Executive Director, and Michael Turner, our new Assistant ED. LaTonya is a Licensed Vocational Nurse and joined our community in 2016. She was promoted to Wellness Director and a year later was promoted again to Assistant ED. Michael has a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies and joined the team in 2016 as the Memory Care Coordinator. After about a year, he began training with our sales team and assisted with transportation. In September 2017, Michael became the Move-In Coordinator and helped new residents and families navigate the move-in process. That year, Michael was awarded Employee of the Year and became the Director of Community Relations. We're proud of the growth we've witnessed in both LaTonya and Michael over the years and look forward to seeing the innovation they continuously bring to their roles. Be sure to congratulate these two on their recent promotions!

We'd also like to welcome our new Wellness Director, Alyssa Herron, and Housekeeping Supervisor, Crystal Hamilton! Alyssa and Crystal bring years of experience in the industry and we're thrilled to have them as part of the team.

We wish former Executive Director, Judith Pierfax, and Wellness Director, Silvia Alva, well in their new opportunities. We're also excited for the continued growth for Renaissance Village under this new leadership.

I hope you all had a joyful holiday season and I wish you a Happy New Year!

Lydia Percia, Vice President

Super Bowl Watch Party

Sunday, February 2 at 3 p.m.

Come Root On Your Favorite Team!

Don't Miss Out on this Fun Time!

Valentine's Day Candlelit Dinner

Friday, February 14 at 3:30 p.m.

Kick off the evening with Music by AJ

Speak with Concierge to RSVP!

Resident Spotlight: Irene K.



Irene during her Resident Spotlight Interview.

Irene was born in Norman, Oklahoma on March 19, 1920. She was the fifth child of six children. She had two older brothers, two older sisters, and one younger brother. Her older sister, Mary, took on the responsibilities of rearing her.

Her father was originally from Lebanon and came to New York when he was just 18. He didn't have any money and spoke Arabic and French. He began peddling and traveled around until he sold what he received on consignment. His first purchase was a gun so that he could hunt for food and protect himself. He worked his way up purchasing a horse, wagon, and ultimately, a grocery store in Tuttle, Oklahoma.

Irene's father worked hard to provide for his family. When the Great Depression hit, he also worked on a farm he purchased about five miles from his store. Her mother and the kids would stay in the living quarters at the store during the week and visited him on the farm each weekend. Her father refused to let them go to the one-room schoolhouses and did all he could to give them the best education.

Instead of going to college, Irene opted to work. She took care of a little boy named Larry during the week for \$5.50 while his parents attended the university. On Fridays, Irene would take him to the department store downtown and speak with the manager about Saturday help. If they needed help, she earned two dollars and paid one of her friends to watch Larry in the time that overlapped. They finally hired her on more regularly when their bookkeeper went on vacation. They taught

her how to keep books and she worked as a clerk until she moved to California.

Irene's sister was a school teacher in Imperial Valley. Her husband contracted tuberculosis and was in the hospital for over a year in San Diego, California. Irene lived with her until she married her husband, Joe, in 1941. He was her sister's brother-in-law, and he'd moved his parents down to San Diego due to his struggles with asthma. The two were married just as World War II broke out.

Joe worked for Consolidated Aircrafts in the wing department, and the company was under contract to build B-24s. The company was on the lookout for ideas to help improve production. They offered employees \$25 in cash or war bond for the best suggestions. Joe reaped the benefits of this. They moved him to another department that dealt with developing new and faster ways of production.

When it came to the war, Joe kept getting deferred because of his mechanical ability. So, they didn't know whether or not to start a family. They finally bought a house in Pacific Beach. However, when his induction came up, they sold the house. Irene was expecting at the time, and they stayed with friends until they could find housing. Her delivery was difficult and she was not well after. The doctor wrote them a recommendation to the housing board and they received government housing. When Joe's draft notice finally came, he moved Irene to her mother's in Norman, Oklahoma so she could be close to family while he was away.

However, out of the 300 men who were taken at that time in Oklahoma City, he was one of two men who received a 4F as a result of his sinus problems. They contemplated staying in Oklahoma, but Joe needed work, so they moved back to California. Her sister was living in the Edgemont area and they lived in her extra bedroom.

Joe went back to Consolidated Aircrafts; however,

they wanted him to start at the bottom. He looked elsewhere, and started working as an automobile mechanic in Riverside. He later found a place to rent and opened Kendall Service. After the war ended, government housing was available for sale. Joe and his brother bought barracks for \$100. They purchased two latrines and a 5-man and 7-man barrack. They later converted these into apartments, which are still there to this day. Her husband also built a big house out front so that she'd always have a home.

Irene and Joe grew their family in the area and were married for 63 years. They had one boy, Wayne, and two daughters, Nancy and Carla. When they first arrived, there was only one school. They saw Midland Elementary, and then Edgemont Elementary come to be. Irene was part of the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA), and she was heavily involved in the Edgemont Women's Society.

Her son, Wayne went to junior college in Riverside and later graduated from San Diego State. After graduating he was drafted and sent to Vietnam for a

year. Irene shares that when he came back, he was a different person and that people don't realize the horrors that those who served in the Vietnam War experienced.

Irene's eldest daughter spent time working in the banking industry but didn't have a desire for sales. Later in life, she decided to make a change and became a nurse. Her youngest daughter also pursued nursing by getting a Ph.D. She also taught nursing at Azusa Pacific University. Both are now retired.

Irene has eight grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Irene considers a lot of the time she spent taking her kids to Boy and Girl Scouts and participating in PTA as her hobbies. She did love to paint; however, problems with her eyesight prevents her from doing so now.

Irene finds Renaissance Villages nice and clean, and that there's never a hesitation for staff to help you out. She shares that "you can make yourself satisfied anywhere you are, or you can make yourself unsatisfied." Irene doesn't find it hard to be satisfied in her new home.



Irene & Joe's Wedding Day.

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

November

Helen B., Caregiver

Helen is dedicated to getting the job done. She loves helping residents in any way she can, and enjoys that she and her co-workers work great as a team. Helen and her husband, John, were initially pen pals, and later married. They celebrate 18 years of marriage. Helen has one son, Alan, and she and John have two sons, Xavier and Vince.



October

Leanne M., Concierge

Leanne homeschooled her children, and enjoyed the time with them. She also housed 12 foreign exchange students over the years. She worked part-time as a coordinator and helped other families navigate the process. Leanne also worked in senior living as a caregiver and receptionist. Working with seniors is her first love. She enjoys learning their stories and getting to know their families. To her, Renaissance Villages has always felt like home, and she loves coming to work each day.



December

Carla M., Housekeeper

Carla is from San Antonio, Texas and moved out to Southern California to be closer to her fiancé. She's no stranger to assisted living. Her mother was a nurse at a nursing home. At 16, Carla began working in housekeeping and laundry. She also has some experience in care giving. She loves how honest residents are because they too know what hard work looks like. Carla works hard to glorify God through her work. When she's not working, she likes to go shopping at local flea markets. She also collects anything Hello Kitty related.

RENAISSANCE VILLAGE!



Wayne, Doris, and her daughter enjoying our Thanksgiving Dinner.



Irene rocking around the Christmas tree with her 12 Days of Christmas gift!



Residents enjoying our Happy Hour entertainer.



Thank you to the Lady Gent Car Club for the warm blankets!



Carolyn is in the Holiday Spirit!



Anne & Michael getting acquainted with the goat at the Fall Festival.



Residents enjoying the smooth stylings of our Frank Sinatra Impersonator.



Rosemary enjoying a delicious meal from Chili's.



Check out our Christmas Socks!



Mishi is one of our favorite visitors among Villa Lago residents.



Sweet Mary with her gift from our 12 Days of Christmas Giveaway!



Jessica & Margie with their holiday hats.

BRAIN TEASERS

Are you great at puzzles? Give these riddles a try!

1. What word begins and ends with an E but only has one letter?
2. First, I threw away the outside and cooked the inside. Then I ate the outside and threw away the inside. What did I eat?
3. What can be seen once in a minute, twice in a moment, and never in a thousand years?
4. What's full of holes but still holds water?
5. What belongs to you but other people use it more than you?

1. Envelope 2. Corn on the Cob 3. The letter M 4. A Sponge 5. Your name

Employee of the Year: Maria G.



Renaissance Villages lives by its mission of creating great days for its residents. We couldn't accomplish this mission without the amazing people who make up our team, and ultimately our Renaissance Villages Family. We appreciate

the hard work each employee puts in every day and the care and love they show our residents.

Each year we select one special individual as our Employee of the Year. This employee is chosen for their outstanding performance, service, dedication and the hard work they put into upholding the Renaissance Lifestyle. Our 2019 Employee of the Year is Maria Garcia, Move-In Coordinator.

Maria is honored to receive this award, and did not expect it. She's worked with the company for a few years, starting as a caregiver and moving through the ranks as a Med Tech, Wellness Director Assistant

and now our Move-In Coordinator.

"Working with Renaissance Villages has given me a chance to learn more and care for residents in a different way, but always having interaction with them and making sure they are receiving nothing but the best care," Maria said. "I love my job. I love making a difference in our residents' lives. We have such a great team here, and we all work together to make that happen."

Michael Turner, Assistant Executive Director, enjoys working with Maria. "In the past year she has proved herself invaluable to myself, the team and most importantly, our residents," Michael said. "She's exceeded my already high expectations. Our families

love working with Maria. I never get tired of hearing families sing her praises. She works diligently while always putting the well-being and happiness of those who we are so blessed to serve first."

LaTonya Davis, Executive Director, is also pleased with Maria's dedication to residents and helping out fellow co-workers. "Maria is always willing to lend a helping hand when anyone needs help," LaTonya said. "Her love for her job and residents is evident in everything she does."

Maria, thank you for the wonderful example you are in upholding the Renaissance Lifestyle. You are a valued member of the Renaissance Village Family and we truly appreciate everything you do to create great days for residents.

DOC TALK: Hand Washing to Fight Flu

by Dr. Kamran Qureshi, Medical Director, Hope Hospice & Healthcare

The single best way to prevent seasonal flu is to get vaccinated each year, but good health habits can help stop the spread of germs. The tips below will help you learn about steps you can take to protect yourself and others from flu and help stop the spread of germs.

1. **Avoid close contact** - Avoid close contact with people who are sick. When you are sick, keep your distance from others to protect them from getting sick too.
2. **Stay home when you are sick** - If possible, stay home from work, school, and errands when you are sick. This will help prevent spreading your illness to others.
3. **Cover your mouth and nose** - Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. It may prevent those around you from getting sick. Flu and other serious respiratory illnesses are spread by cough, sneezing, or unclean hands.
4. **Clean your hands** - Washing your



Getting vaccinated each year is a great way to prevent the seasonal flu.

hands often will help protect you from germs. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.

5. **Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth** - Germs are often spread when a person touches something that is contaminated with germs and then touches his or her eyes, nose, or mouth.

6. **Practice other good health habits**- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces, get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids, and eat nutritious food.

SUDOKU

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SOLVE THE PUZZLES? CHECK WITH CONCIERGE FOR THE SOLUTIONS.

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RENAISSANCE
Village

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SAVE THE DATE!

Ring In The New Year

Wednesday, January 1 at 1:30 p.m.

Super Bowl Watch Party

Sunday, February 2 at 3 p.m.

Valentine's Day Candlelit Dinner

Friday, February 14 at 3:30 p.m.

**Call (951) 379-0100 or speak to
the concierge to learn more.**

OUR TEAM

Executive Director

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