



Residents In the Spotlight

Jerry Vogel

Written by Barbara Kellar

A glimpse into the “Wild and Wicked West” can be seen from various place names given by the first settlers. The January Spotlight shines on Jerry Vogel who was born on Brandy Creek Lane in Whiskey Town, California, ten miles west of Redding, California. The Place is now known as French Gulch. What Stories remain untold of those early pioneers! However, Jerry was raised there as an only child by his grandparents. His grandfather worked on the railroad, in and around San Francisco. After injuring his hand, Jerry’s grandfather moved the family to Redding, California where he worked as a hunting guide for game hunters.

Following his graduation from Shasta High in Redding, Jerry moved to Stockton, California for six months, where his mom, sister and step father lived, then moved to his own place, as he got a job working on the Sacramento Delta as a long shoreman. He often hauled 50lb. sacks of powdered milk, J.C. Penney toys and other merchandise destined throughout the world. He did this for about two years.

He had played music throughout most of his life, on the electric bass, when his hands developed problems. Events led him to playing in a band for several years, while also dipping in and out of various colleges in Stockton and Chico, California. He later did earn an Accounting degree

from Modesto College. He says that he disappointed teachers who wanted him to study music. However, he was sponsored by local musicians who needed more musicians in their bands and willing to pay for them.

Jerry was briefly married at age 28 while he was a band musician for ten years. He had no children. He states that his life was going where the music was.

He thinks of himself as “a priest or tool of music”, and music has never given him less than what he has put into it”. He loves making people want to dance and participate in the music.

Life took a turn when a mild birth defect, requiring him to walk on the outsides of his feet, caused calluses which became ulcerated, due to his diabetes. This resulted in the loss of one leg, in 2017, and threatened the loss of the other. Since he could no longer safely maneuver on the stage, he moved back to Stockton to care for his aging parents. He moved to Cornell Estates in September



Management Team

Mikayla Valencia
Administrator

Karen Fowler
Community Relations Director

Olivia Cardillo
Business Office Manager

Lee Reck
Health Services Director, LPN

Julia Solano
RN

Dylan Ferguson
Resident Care Coordinator

Jennifer Meabe
Dining Services Director

Peg Bussell
Activities Director

January Resident Birthdays

- 1/5 Arlene Judah
- 1/11 Barbara Kellar
- 1/24 Patti Hart
- 1/27 Nancy Allison



January Employee Birthdays

- 1/1 Alejandro Meabe
- 1/2 Megan Ahern
- 1/2 Genoveva Alfaro
- 1/4 Shea Witten
- 1/14 Olivia Villasenor Sauer
- 1/19 Amanda Bastion
- 1/24 Sandra Sandoval Leal
- 1/31 Skylar Richards

Cornell Connections

I was stopped in the hallway recently and was told a story about the Battle of the Bulge. Around this time 80 years ago, the battle was the largest and bloodiest, fought by the United States in World War II. This battle was pivotal because it marked the beginning of the Nazi retreat for the rest of the war. The resident who shared this story explained that he was just a child at the time, and his older brother was a soldier fighting in the battle. He recalled hoping that his brother would make it home safely. With tears in his eyes, he said that, by the end of the battle, his brother did return. The day his brother came home was one of the happiest of his life. I'm often stopped in the hallway while passing through our community and hear all kinds of stories, but moments like this one truly warm my heart. Not only did it teach me about history but also remind me to appreciate the husband and three sons that I get to be with every day.

The passing of time is a reminder of all the experiences that shape us, and as we look back on the year gone by, I know there have been countless moments of shared laughter, challenges met with grace, and connections made that have enriched all our lives.

At Cornell Estates, there is a spirit of togetherness that warms my heart. Whether it's a smile in the hallway, a conversation in the dining room, or the way everyone supports each other, it's clear that you all bring something special to this space. You create a home.

As we welcome 2025, I hope the year ahead is filled with new adventures, fresh opportunities for growth, and an abundance of love and joy. May you continue to find peace and fulfillment in the everyday moments and may the bonds you share with one another only grow stronger. Let's embrace the promise of a

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new year with open hearts and hopeful spirits. Thank you for being such an inspiring part of this community. Your stories, your kindness, and your wisdom are treasured more than you know. *Here's to a bright and beautiful New Year!*

With Warmest Wishes,

Mikayla Valencia

Editor, Cornell Connections



Spotlight Story, Jerry Vogel continued from front cover –

2024. He says that he is glad to be here and that he'd like to have 150 friends here! His interests are Science Fiction, Cribbage, Backgammon, watching sports and of course, music and singing. He smilingly says that he's a man who is happy with who he is.

December Employee of the Month

Daniela Gregorio Morales, Housekeeper

Our Employee of the Month is Daniela Gregorio Morales, a valued member of the housekeeping team since September of this year. Residents frequently request her services due to her outstanding



performance and dedication to excellence in her role. Team members praise Daniela for her consistently positive attitude, always wearing a smile and offering help wherever it's needed.

New Birthday Bell Ringers

Carol Digman will bring an element of spontaneous surprise to the role of Birthday Bell Ringer. Jerry Vogel will join Carol to help celebrate your birthdays! Thank you Carol and Jerry.

Lunada



Thank you Lunada for your all this time that you have been honoring the residents on their birthdays here at Cornell Estates as a Birthday Bell Ringer! Well done Lunada!



Annie & Eloy will walk Cornell Estates halls one time in the afternoon of January 9th to pick-up Goodwill donations. Place a sack or a box outside your door and label it for Goodwill. **Donations must be clean. Please no shower chairs, walkers or oversized items.**

A note from Lois:
Thank you Santa for the gift!



January Shopping Trips

- | | | |
|------|--------|---------------------|
| 1/7 | 1:30pm | Fred Meyer* |
| 1/14 | 1:30pm | Dollar Tree* |
| 1/21 | 1:30pm | Walmart* |
| 1/28 | 1:30pm | Bi-Mart* |

**Remember your money for these outings!*

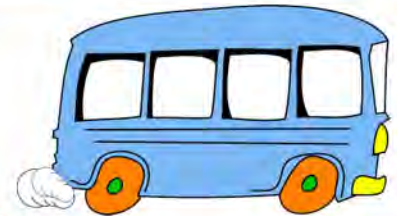
January Outings



- | | | |
|------|---------|---|
| 1/2 | 10:00am | Visit Brookwood Library |
| 1/9 | 10:45am | Lunch The Meating Place* |
| 1/23 | 10:45am | Lunch Reedville Café * |
| 1/23 | 1:45pm | Trip to Assistance League Thrift Shop* |
| 1/30 | 10:00am | Scenic Drive |

About Shopping Trips and Outings

- Sign up for shopping trips & outings at the front desk.
- Cancel if you are not able to attend.
- Please arrive 10-15 minutes before bus departure time.
- Please **empty your walker** so it can be folded up on bus trips.



Is Your Information Up to Date?

- **Resident Data Form** - This page contains your emergency contacts and is kept at the front desk. You can ask to review your page or fill out this form.
- **Photo Release Form** - This page states whether you “do” or “do not” give permission for your photo to be used on Cornell Estates website, Facebook page or in the newsletter.
- **Emergency Information, Medication List & “POLST”** - Do you want your emergency information, current medication list, and “POLST” (*Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment*) posted on your refrigerator? This information is extremely helpful to Emergency Medical Technicians. Please remember in order for your POLST to be valid it must be signed by your doctor.
- All of these forms are available at the front desk.

Thank you!

Resident Council Members:

Lois Ashe, Jeanette Weverka, Roger Ensrud,
John Van De Graaf & Marcia Harrington

Playing the Piano:

Patti Hart

Taking Care of Cornell Estates' Gardens:

Arden Sheets, Shirley Osborne, Shirley Van Dyke,
David Cliffe, Sharyl MacDonald,
Roger Ensrud & Lazaro Pichardo

Reading to the Residents: Anne Cliffe

Sunday Worship Service: David & Anne Cliffe

Spanish Through the Arts: Cyndi Turtledove

Taking Care of Cornell Estates Library:

Debbie Pentkowski

Taking Care of Cornell Estates Sewing Room:

Mary White

Writing the Residents Spotlight: Barbara Kellar

Birthday Bell Ringer: Lunada Stuart

For Being so Helpful: Jeanette Weverka,
Janice Sticka, Billie Crandall, Irene Mathern,
Lexie Richey, Teresa Heysler, Nancy Allison,
Naomi Mendelson & Laurie Van De Graaf