



Morningside Monitor

A CONTINUING LIFE® RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

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A NEWSLETTER FOR AND BY THE RESIDENTS OF
Morningside of Fullerton, California

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Saint Patrick's Day

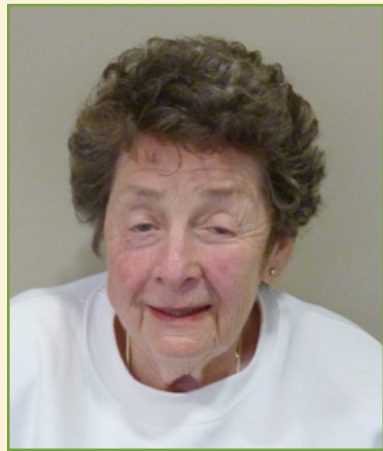
On the eighth day of March it was, some people say,
That Saint Patrick at midnight first saw the day.
While others declare 'twas the ninth he was born,
And 'twas all a mistake between midnight and morn;
For mistakes will occur in a hurry and shock,
and some blam'd the babby-and some blam'd the clock.
Till with all their cross questions sure no one could know
If the child was too fast-or the clock was too slow.
Now the first faction fight in old Ireland, they say,
Was all on account of Saint Patrick's birthday.
Some fought for the eighth-for the ninth more would die,
And who wouldn't see right, sure they blacken'd his eye!
At last both the factions so positive grew,
That each kept a birthday, so Pat then had two.
Till Father Mulcahy, who confessed them their sins,
Said, "Ye can't have two birthdays, unless ye be twins."
Says he, "Don't be fightin' for eight or for nine,
Don't be always dividin'-but sometimes combine;
Combine eight with nine, and seventeen is the mark,
So let that be his birthday." "Amen," says the clerk.
"If he wasn't twins, sure our hist'ry will show
That, at least, he is worth any two saints that we know!"
Then they all drowned the shamrock-which completed their bliss,
And we keep up the practice from that day to this.

*(Edited and adapted from Dick's Irish Dialect Recitations,
Wm. B. Dick, Editor, New York, Dick & Fitzgerald, Publisher, 1879)*



Friends and Neighbors

Elizabeth Christensen, affectionately known as “Libby”, was born in Indiana. Her husband, Elliott, was born in New Rochelle, New York. (He is now residing at Park Vista and Libby has dinner there with her husband every evening). They each grew up among siblings and had a normal,



happy childhood. They met and matriculated at Purdue University in Indiana, Elliott declaring his major in electrical engineering and she in home economics.

After graduation, they married and moved to Anaheim Hills, Ca. in 1951. There followed short stays in St. Louis, Missouri, Long Beach and Fullerton, where she had also done some teaching in her chosen field of home economics. She had seen Morningside during its construction and decided to become a resident.

The Christensens had two girls (one of whom is deceased) and a boy. A hoped for frequent visit is always in the offing since their son and daughter live not too far away.

As the years passed Libby was active in various fields, such as home economics in Long Beach and math in Fullerton. Elliott worked in

the arena of aerospace and defense at Rockwell in Anaheim and Hughes in Fullerton.

Among Libby’s favorite charities are the American Red Cross and the National Charity League. When traveling with her husband on business, Libby loved the accompanying royal treatment with its many perks. Australia was among her favorite countries to visit and she loved the “upside down seasons” down under.

She was an active and conscientious home maker while raising her children. Her respite from mandatory chores included golf, roller skating and especially the theater. How they both loved the famous Chandler Theater of the Performing Arts in Los Angeles!

The friendliness of the residents at Morningside greatly impresses Libby. Her love of her apartment looking out at the green tree tops is a great attraction. In addition, the superb food and the multiple activities offered make Morningside a wonderful place that fits the couple’s needs at this particular time in their lives.

By Hildie Sittig

Welcome to **Alan and Regina Esser**, who come to us from Fullerton. Both were born in Illinois, Regina in Chicago, and Alan in Aurora. Regina’s family moved to Aurora when she was very young. They met as teenagers at a high school dance. Alan attended Marmion Military Academy, after which he was appointed to West Point. Regina graduated from high school and

was employed by the gas company in Illinois. They were married in 1951, after Alan’s graduation and commissioning as an officer.

The Essers have five children, born in various places in the world. The first arrived in Germany, the next two in West Point, N.Y., the fourth in Alaska and the last one in Tucson, Arizona. Regina’s full time job was raising the children, while Alan was an Army officer for 24 years. During their marriage they lived in Japan, Germany, Alaska and Hawaii. They were together all that time except when Alan was serving in Korea and Vietnam.

When Alan retired, he continued his education, then was hired by a firm in California based



on his cold weather experience. He became a project manager for an Antarctic support service. He was sent there four times. As a support group leader, he supervised the maintenance and repair of equipment, and provided support for research groups in the field. These groups studied the geology, weather, glaciology and climate in the far south. The summers there are approximately from October through February, after which the stations shut down until the next season, with only skeleton crews at

Friends and Neighbors

each location. He added that there is a geographical feature, Esser Hill, named for him in Antarctica.

He explained that no country owns Antarctica, and all countries are able to explore the continent. There is a treaty outlining policies of peaceful research and openness among all the nations. Alan has just presented a program at the Morningside Men’s Club on his experiences in that area.

The Essers children all live within an hour’s drive of Fullerton. One is in Brea, the second works for the Orange County child welfare services. The third is a teacher and is home-schooling her three children. Their son is an architect, and the youngest daughter is a graphic artist who lives in Burbank.

Alan is an avid gardener, and is already working in the gardening section at Morningside. He is starting a new men’s poker club as well. Regina is very much involved in her church activities, especially the bereavement committee. The group helps with funeral and memorial services and receptions following, along with other related services.

The Essers love Morningside. They are very favorably impressed with the maintenance department and how accommodating they are when the residents need service.

Virginia White

Welcome **Dr. Pierce and Joan Conaty**. “Success in life—seems to me it’s a combination of luck and good decisions,” so mused Dr. Pierce Conaty at the recent New Residents Reception.

He pointed to meeting Joan as a great example of luck. They met on a blind date in Pearl Harbor. He was a medical officer on a destroyer, she a civil service employee. That date was followed shortly by a great decision—to marry!

Their marriage brought together a “Navy Junior,” who had lived all over the United States, and a third generation native of Los Angeles. Joan’s father was a career medical man in the Navy, thus her “junior” status. Eventually Joan landed in Washington, where she graduated with a degree in statistics from the University of Washington. Pierce entered the Navy right after high school graduation, serving in the V-12 reserves at Gonzaga University. Discharged in 1946, he entered medical school at the University of Southern California.



However, his residency was interrupted when the Navy recalled him as a medical officer, bringing him to Pearl Harbor just in time to meet Joan.

They married in the early 50s. After serving in Korea, Pierce and Joan returned to Los Angeles so Pierce could finish his residency in orthopedics. They moved to Boston when Pierce was named a Fellow at the Children’s Hospital, a Harvard University program.

Before the year in Boston was concluded, Joan had their second child and was expecting their third. Remarkably, she had a baby every year for the next three years, all born in Fullerton.

It was 1957 when the Conatys moved to Fullerton so Pierce could open the orthopedic practice here. He continued his association with Fullerton Orthopedic and St. Jude Hospital until his retirement in 1991. For 44 years he was the Chief of the Surgical Arthritis Service at Rancho Los Amigos Hospital in Downey, a USC program. For a time he served as head of the University of California, Irvine Medical School’s orthopedic department. Since retiring, he has continued to work several days a month in St. Jude’s Volunteer Community Clinic.

Meanwhile Joan was an active stay-at-home mom. She must have done quite a good job at child-rearing as her girls have all had successful marriages and careers. The Conaty girls include an educator who constructs curriculum for medical assistants, a research attorney, a chemistry Ph.D. who conducts research for Monsanto, a nursing instructor at Cypress College, and an Emergency Room charge nurse at UC Irvine. Fortunately all but one of them live nearby so Pierce and Joan can see their five grandchildren fairly often.

The Conatys consider moving to Morningside one of their best decisions. They already have many friends at Morningside, including people they know from their activities at the Hacienda Golf Club.

By Debbie Hancock

Residents' Council – What is It?

By Debbie Hancock



Back Row: Jim Young, Dick Kratz, Lola Scavo, Jim Richards, Don Kaplan. Front Row: Virginia White, Debbie Hancock, Nancy Pilkington, Shirley Edson

Ask about the Residents' Council and you get a variety of responses: "It's the voice of the residents." "It's a rubber stamp for management." "I have no idea." Let's hope that last one is from a new resident!

First, the Morningside Residents' Council consists of people--nine residents, two from each building and the villas plus one at-large member. They are elected for staggered three-year terms, beginning their service in January following their election. Council members meet monthly, working their way through an agenda developed by its Executive Committee.

Agenda items begin with an Executive Session presented by Morningside's Resident Representative and Alternate. They present an overview of topics covered at the management meetings which are held each month. Council members discuss items with the Representatives and raise issues to be considered at future meetings.

Action is then taken on agenda items, which include reports from the Treasurer (status of the Employee Appreciation fund) and the Vice-Chair (significant items reported at the Floor/Villa Representatives meeting). Every member of the Council then reports on the Morningside committee to which he or she serves as liaison. Although there are more than forty committees and volunteer opportunities, only eight have a Council liaison. These are committees which the Council supervises.

Additional topics covered at the meeting grow out of Council members' work as liaisons, their interaction with residents, and the action of Council subcommittees. At times staff members bring issues to Council meetings requesting input before decisions are made. The Council also requests information from management regarding future plans and policies, including meeting with staff as the budget is developed and refined.

Perhaps the best way residents can come to a conclusion about the Council is by reviewing the minutes which are distributed monthly by the Floor and Villa Representatives. For further information contact any member of the Council.

Floor/Villa Reps for 2011

CANYONSIDE

First Floor RepresentativeEva Van Ginnekin
AlternateJohn Klein
Second Floor Representative.....Lucille Warkocki
AlternateMary Galea
Third Floor RepresentativeAnne Riley
AlternateMarian Heck
Fourth Floor Representative.....Lynn Nankivell
AlternateIris Brown
Fifth Floor Representative.....Alice Arana
AlternateMarilyn Clark

GARDENSIDE

First Floor RepresentativeGloria Rice
AlternateAudrey Ball
Second Floor RepresentativeMargaret Rikel
AlternateClaudia Polley
Third Floor RepresentativeBetty Nelson
AlternateAlma Wood
Fourth Floor Representative.....Hazel Weitkamp
AlternateEunice Tuthill

MOUNTAINSIDE

First Floor Representative.....Marjorie Thurman
AlternatePeggy Martin
Second Floor Representative.....Ahny Sevier
AlternateAlwine Obergefell
Third Floor Representative.....Jean Lowe
AlternateMeg Carlson

VILLAS

801-827
Representative.....Nina Johnson
AlternateEdith Jacobsen
 828-856
Representative.....Allene Morse
AlternateLiz Stiles

The Ides Of March

By Lenelle Cittadin

Have you ever heard of the "Ides of February, or the Ides of August?" They do occur once each month. The Early Roman Calendar is said to have been devised by Romulus, the mythical founder of Rome. The term "ides" named the middle day of the month in the Roman Calendar. Kalenda was the first day of the month. Nones was the seventh day after Kalenda and Ides was the name for the middle day of the month. This day usually fell on the 13th-15th day of the month and often coincided with the New Moon.

Thus, the term, Ides was an auspicious time in Roman Society. The "Ides of March" was a festive day dedicated to Mars, the God of War, and a military parade was usually held on that day. It did not forebode tragedy until Julius Caesar entered the scene.

The system of Kalenda, Nones and Ides used in the first Roman Calendar and the Julian Calendar (established by Julius Caesar in 45 B.C.) continued to be used to varying degrees throughout the Middle Ages and well into the Renaissance.

Many auspicious events of history occurred on the Ides of March. Check out some important events which occurred on March 15, the Ides of March:

- 1593 – Christopher Columbus returned to Spain, concluding the first voyage to the New World.
- 1776 – The U.S. Congress resolved that authority of the British Crown should be suppressed.
- 1875 – The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York City is named the first American Cardinal by Pope Pius IX.
- 1913 – U.S. President Woodrow Wilson held the first open presidential news conference.
- 1916 – U.S. force of 12,000 soldiers ordered to Mexico to capture Pancho Villa.
- 1919 – The American Legion was founded in Paris.
- 1937 – The world's first blood bank was established at Cook County Hospital, Chicago, IL.

Be aware of the Ides of March. It has the reputation of being an ominous day, but, also can be an auspicious day. What do you think about this day in 2011? Auspicious or ominous?

Saint Patrick's Day, March 17

By David Lowe

Saint Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland (387-461). The celebration of his day started as a Catholic holiday, but morphed into a secular celebration of Irish culture. The day is a public holiday in the Irish Republic, Northern Ireland, Newfoundland, Labrador, and Montserrat, and celebrated in every land to which Irish have migrated. This day is not of his birth, but of his death, March 17, 461.

St Patrick is probably buried in the town of Downpatrick; some say in the cathedral, and some say in the cemetery. Parades to honor St. Patrick are held annually throughout the world. The shortest parade route is in Dripsey, Cork, Ireland. The route is just 100 yards long, between the village's two pubs.



St. Patrick's Day parades have been held in Montreal, Canada since 1824. The largest parades are held in Dublin, New York City and Birmingham, England. Green is the color and shamrocks are the flower of the day. In 2008, London's Trafalgar fountains sprayed green water. Each year the Chicago River flows green.

Boston has held a St. Patrick parade since 1737, long before Paul Revere's ride. There are twenty seven other major cities in the United States where parades are staged. Morningside of Fullerton is not expected to parade, but residents of all ethnicities who attend the social on the Promenade may see the sun rise on the 18th of March.