



THE HONEY BEE

NEWS AT HERITAGE HOUSE

APRIL 2026

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HAPPY EASTER!



happenings

Heritage House is known for providing a family-like environment and the highest quality of care to all our residents. The work we do is deeply fulfilling and meaningful. Each resident is unique, and the connection and special bond we build with them is incredibly rewarding. **We have come to realize that this is not just a job—it is part of our daily lives, our responsibility, and our passion.**

While this work is rewarding, it is also deeply emotional, especially as residents approach the end of their journey. As much as we try to prepare ourselves for these difficult moments, it becomes a little more manageable when we sense that the end may be near. It allows us time to prepare emotionally and mentally, to cope with the loss, and to say our goodbyes.

Each resident who leaves us carries a special place in our hearts. However, these past few weeks have been among the most difficult we have faced, **as we lost eight residents in a very short period of time—something highly unusual—and their loss has deeply impacted us all.**

This experience has led me to reflect on the importance of the present moment. Hug your loved ones and tell them how much you love them every chance you get. When they are gone, we remember them in the smallest things: in the way a certain song suddenly feels heavier, in a familiar laugh we hear in a crowded room that isn't theirs—but for a moment, we wish it were. In recipes we try to recreate but never quite get right, because it was never just about the ingredients—it was about them.

They were the ones who showed up—the ones who listened longer than they needed to, who heard our stories and shared their own without keeping score. **They had a way of making ordinary days feel meaningful, turning fleeting moments into something that now feels permanent in our memories.**

Loss does not arrive all at once; it unfolds slowly—in birthdays that are no longer celebrated the same way, in empty chairs at the table. And yet, within that absence, something else quietly grows: a deeper understanding of what it meant to have loved them at all.

Because that's the thing about special people—we don't just remember them for how they made us feel, but for how they lived. For the kindness they showed when no one was watching. For the courage they carried through difficult days. **For the way they made others feel seen, valued, and less alone. They become a part of who we are.**

We remember them not only with sadness, but with gratitude—for the time we had, however long or short, and for a love that does not end, even when their presence does.

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happenings (cont. from front cover)

You will be deeply missed....

In loving memory of:



Nora Eriksen



Rena Jaques



Dolores Becerra



Jerry Hennas



Phyllis Sax



James Perry



Mary Ann Manning



Ann Kwarcinski

(cont. on page 3)

happenings (cont. from page 2)

A warm welcome to Douglas Caldwell:

Douglas Caldwell was born and raised in Berkely. He attended Humboldt State College and UC Berkely and worked college summers in Yosemite. He became a



city planner with emphasis on open space and environmental planning and subsequently received a master's degree from the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, BC. He eventually started Country Walking Holidays, a tour company

that operated in the countryside of the UK, US, Canada Germany. He has been married to Nancy for 61 years and has two treasured sons. The delights of his life are his three grandchildren: a grandson and high school in Canada, a granddaughter who is a freshman at Queens University in Ontario, and another who is a sophomore at UC Davis.

A warm welcome to Jean Perrett:

Jean was born in Los Angeles, CA, and spent her early years moving to different places while her father served in the war. She even learned to drive at just 13 years old in South Carolina. For over 50 years, she



has called Santa Barbara home. She has served on the board at Valle Verde and volunteered as a docent at the Natural History Museum.

Jean loves dogs and is pictured here with her beloved companion, Pogo. If you see them around, be sure to stop and say hello! She is looking forward to meeting everyone at Heritage House.

A warm welcome to Rosalind Vanderhook:

Lin Vanderhook was born and raised in Glendale, California. At 17, she moved to Santa Barbara to pursue a career in nursing and attend nursing school. Soon after becoming a registered nurse, she married Case Vanderhook. The couple settled in Santa Barbara, where they raised their daughters, Tina and Susan.



Lin went on to have a long and fulfilling nursing career while continuing to prioritize time with her family, as well as travel and leisure. She still resides in Santa Barbara and enjoys having her daughters nearby. She also stays closely connected with her sister, Lee, who lives in Montana, through regular phone conversations. In her free time, Lin enjoys art, birdwatching, music, and movies.

happenings (cont. from page 3)

Employee Highlights

I'm excited to share the news that **Uriel Jeronimo** has been promoted to the role of **Lead Activities Coordinator**.



Uriel joined Heritage House close to two years ago as an activities assistant. Uriel was a little shy and timid when he first started but quickly learned the ropes and felt comfortable in his role. With his heart of gold and compassionate demeanor, allowed

him to build a special bond with our residents.

Uriel has consistently demonstrated outstanding dedication, creativity, and leadership in planning and executing engaging activities. His ability to connect with our residents, organize successful events, and support team members has made a meaningful impact on our program.

In this new role, Uriel will take on expanded responsibilities, including overseeing activity planning, mentoring team members, and ensuring our programs continue to deliver high-quality experiences.

Please join me in congratulating Uriel on this well-deserved promotion. We look forward to his continued contributions and leadership.

Congrats Uriel!!

Best,

Alejandra Nunez, Executive Director

April Announcements

Bill's Grill:



Join Bill's Grill this month on
April 17th at 5:00 PM
Please call Sara to RSVP.



Easter Celebration

April 4th 10:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Please call Sara to RSVP.



resident article frances vanetti

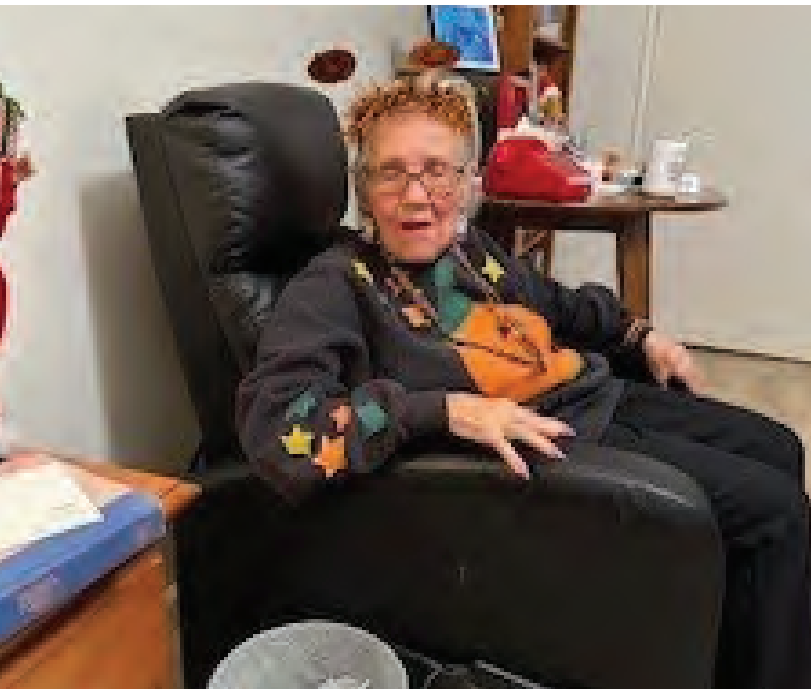


Frances Vanetti is a Santa Barbara native! She attended local schools and met the love of her life, Pete, at Santa Barbara High School. Months after her 1954 graduation, she and Pete married, and they had two children, a daughter, CarlaJo, and a son, Anthony, who each had two children. Now Frances is blessed with four great-grandchildren.

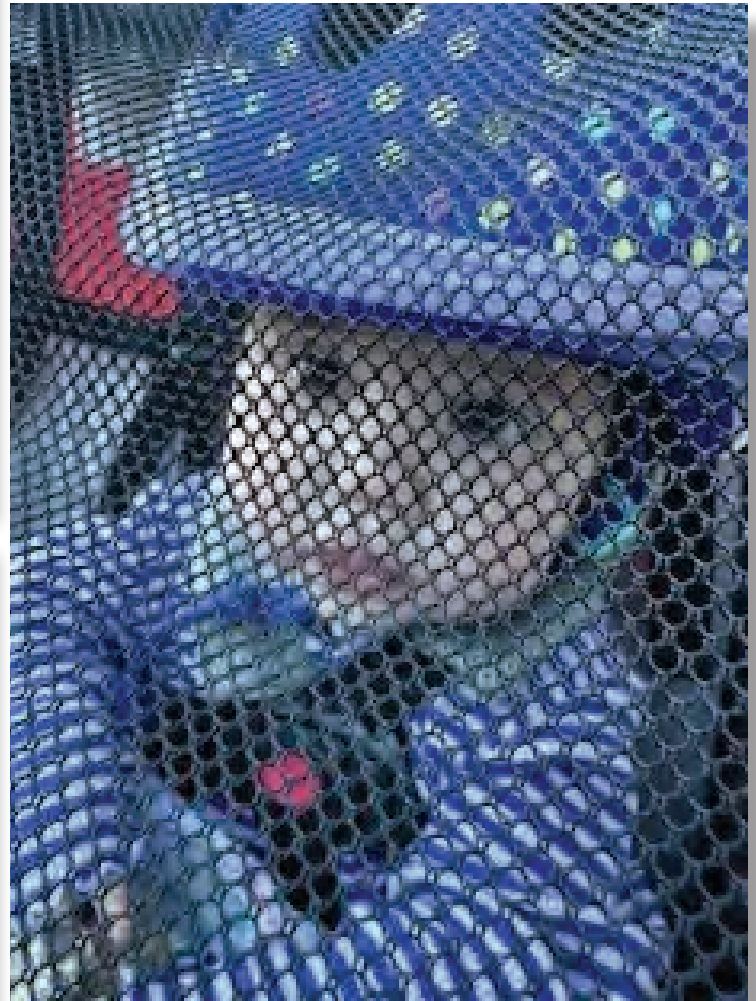
Holidays were always a special time for Frances; not only would she don the festive regalia, which her children referred to as Fran wear, but she would also make countless chocolate suckers individually wrapped with impeccable attention to detail. Her family was an extension of passing on her holiday cheer.



resident article frances vanetti (cont. from page 5)



resident article frances vanetti (cont. from page 6)



activity alley **uriel jeronimo**, lead activities coordinator

Happy April, everyone! It is always such an honor to chat and connect with everyone here at Heritage House. Spring break is among us, so you know what that means—more outdoor activities this month! We want to make it a goal for our residents to get some nice fresh air and to brainstorm more outdoor activities.

Another goal of ours is to do more exploring with our residents, like visiting the Earl Warren Showgrounds, which hosts amazing events such as flea markets, the circus, and, of course, the fair, which is just around the corner. Even though our residents are limited to certain activities, there are still community stages featuring music, illusions, dancing, magic, and the Racing Pigs. More details will be shared as soon as we finalize the plans and activities.

I would like to thank **Dr. Stephen Jones** for his charisma and for always encouraging residents to try the VR headset—and oh boy, they love it! It is such a fan favorite, and even some of the staff enjoy it. Since March was all about St. Patrick's Day, Dr. Stephen Jones took our residents on a virtual trip around Ireland. It's amazing how far technology has come, allowing us to visit places we dream of.



A bit about my personal life: my family and I got together to celebrate my mother's birthday. She deserves the world. Celebrating her birthday is always special because our family rarely gets together, as we are all so busy. So having everyone together for once was the best.

I am so excited to announce our Easter event on Saturday, April 4th! We always love hosting big events like this—last year was a success. The best part of these events is seeing everyone together with their



activity alley uriel jeronimo, lead activities coordinator

(cont. from page 8)

families and hearing the laughter. It makes it all absolutely worth it.

Thank you all for taking the time to read these updates. It is truly an honor to bring joy and excitement to your loved ones. This new role is going to be challenging for me, but I am always up for the challenge!

Warmly,

Uriel Jeronimo, Lead Activities Coordinator



activity alley uriel jeronimo, lead activities coordinator



april health news

sofia vasquez, cna, clinical director + tony warn, clinical care coordinator

March is coming to a close, and with it the start of baseball season, I was lucky enough to make it out to a game on the second day—nothing like that energy to kick things off right.

Now it's time for another adventure—heading out on a week-long road trip to Las Vegas and Reno with my girlfriend! Bowling trip is finally here, and I'm ready for it.



It's been an incredibly busy month at HH, so I'm really hoping April brings a little more balance and calm. Easter is here as well, and while I'll still be out of town through Sunday, I'm wishing the kiddos a beautiful day with their moms and hoping we can all create some special memories in our own ways.

Here's to a great Dodgers season, a healthy and love-filled April, and good times ahead for everyone.



Take Care,

Tony Warn, Clinical Care Coordinator

business blog

sara hernandez, staff development & business manager

Happy April everyone!

With the arrival of spring, we're reminded of fresh starts, brighter days, and the joy that comes with a new season. I hope everyone is adjusting well to daylight savings and enjoying the extra sunshine.

It's a wonderful time here in our community as we begin to enjoy more sunshine, blooming flowers, and opportunities to connect with one another.

This season is also a great reminder to appreciate the little things—a walk outside, a warm conversation, or a simple moment of laughter. These are the moments that make our community feel like home. If this year brings April showers, I hope everyone stays safe and takes extra care.

Warmly,

Sara Hernandez,
Staff Development & Business Manager



I'd like to take a moment to say thank you to all of our residents and families for your continued trust and support. We truly appreciate the opportunity to serve you and be part of your journey.

As we move into April, we're excited to see our community come alive with springtime energy. From friendly visits and shared meals to upcoming events and activities, there are so many ways to stay connected. We encourage everyone to take advantage of the beautiful weather, join in on activities, and enjoy time with friends and loved ones.

facility facts

ernesto guerrero, facilities and transp. manager

March came in fast and didn't let up. It was one of those months that tested patience, energy, and focus, but in the end, it gave us something we'll carry for the rest of our lives. **My wife and I officially purchased our first home, and even now, it still feels a little surreal to say that out loud.**

The process itself was a lot more involved than I ever expected. There were moments of stress, questions that didn't always have immediate answers, and plenty of back-and-forth. But through it all, we learned so much. From understanding the paperwork to navigating timelines, it was a crash course in home ownership.

What made it even more special was getting to watch the house come together from the ground up. Seeing it go from a foundation to an actual home, piece by piece, gave us a whole new appreciation for the process.



It wasn't just a purchase; it felt like we were part of building something from the very beginning.

In the middle of all that, we made sure to set some time aside for what matters most to us, family. We managed to sneak away for a weekend filled with good food and even better company. **One of the highlights was visiting Brickbarn Wine Estate, a spot I hadn't been to before. The setting was great, but more importantly, the wine definitely lived up to the hype.** It was the kind of reset we didn't realize we needed until we were there.



Now, as we head into a new month, we're looking forward to slowing things down just a bit and enjoying this new chapter. Hope to see you all at our Easter festivities this month.



Thank you,

Ernesto Guerrero, Facilities & Transportation Manager

operations news

morgan e. randall, operations director



Over the weekend, Jesse and I played a round of golf at The Mission Club, enjoying clear skies, mild temperatures, and a light breeze, which was a welcome change after last week's heat wave.

The Mission Club is an 18 hole, par 72 championship course designed in the 1960s, spanning more than 6,500 yards through the rolling hills of Lompoc. Known for its dramatic elevation changes, fast and well maintained fairways, and serene setting, the course offers both challenge and enjoyment. The course offers multiple tee options to suit different skill levels. Conveniently, it is located just five minutes from our home in Vandenberg Village.



As we head into April, we are looking forward to our Easter celebration and spending time with loved ones. Don't forget to RSVP with the front desk for this special event and hop over to The House on April 4th!

Warmly,

Morgan E. Randall, Operations Director

bill's grill

bill mcgeever

A number of years ago (more like a decade or so), a couple, **Tom Banks and his wife, who were friends of my parents, moved into Heritage House.** During their stay here, my dad would come by when we had our 4:05 Cocktail Hour and Bill's Grill.

In addition to that, the Banks three sons would stop by when they were in town. Between the elder and younger Banks, we got to know and enjoy each other here. The Banks sons sponsored a Bill's Grill and provided beverages that were appreciated by all.



It's been a while since they were here, so I've decided to throw this Bill's Grill in the memory and honor of their family. I hope that the brothers get wind of this and stop by.

I have been really fortunate to get to know both the parents and the family members during their stays here. I have so many good memories of everybody and I would like to let you all know how much they mean to me.

Now, I don't know if the Banks brothers are staying current on their taxes, but it is Tax Day coming up and we'll have to

add that to our celebration. **One final reason to come out on Friday, April 17th, is that thanks to the Banks and April 15th Tax Day, this Bill's Grill is FREE!**

Enough, let's get on to the food:

Dry Rub Brisket

Mashed Potatoes w/Sharp Cheddar & Sour Cream

Broccolini w/Yogurt dressing

Homemade Biscuits

Apple Pie



Don't be late,
Bill

dining delights

odin macias, dining services manager

Hello, Everyone!

Throughout March, we enjoyed celebrating the birthdays of many residents and staff. I had the opportunity to prepare a variety of cakes and participate in our cooking class, which was a wonderful experience. It was especially rewarding to see how much our residents appreciated their celebrations.

Congratulations to everyone who celebrated a birthday this month, and we look forward to continuing to create meaningful moments together.



Thank you,

Odin Macias, Dining Services Manager

important dates

405 Cocktail Hour- Every Friday

Bill's Grill April 17

April Birthdays

Residents

Patricia Wall	April	17
Marilyn Hochhauser	April	18
Frances Vanetti	April	20
Vassiliki Mujahed	April	24
Caroline Peakin	April	29

Employees

Odin Macias	April	03
Angelica Castorena	April	22

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