



# THE HONEY BEE

NEWS AT HERITAGE HOUSE

JANUARY 2026

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*Happy  
New Years!*

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## happenings

As we say our goodbyes to 2025, I would like to share that this year has been full of exciting and meaningful events that brought our community together and gave us plenty to celebrate.



One of our recent highlights was our **Christmas Market event**, the first time we've ever hosted an event of this kind in our community. Even though this was our first time hosting a Christmas Market, we all shared one common goal: **to create an unforgettable experience for our residents and their loved ones**. Based on the wonderful feedback we received, we truly believe we accomplished just that. That evening, our community came together with great

energy and enthusiasm. **The atmosphere was filled with positive spirit, making it a memorable experience for everyone involved.**

We would also like to recognize everyone who contributed their time, effort, and ideas. Your involvement is what makes these events successful and meaningful. Whether you participated, volunteered, or supported behind the scenes, you helped create something truly special for our residents to enjoy.



**As we look ahead, we're excited about what 2026 has in store.** We look forward to continuing this momentum and creating even more experiences worth celebrating together.

From my family to yours, we wish you a peaceful, joyful, and prosperous New Year.

Best,

**Alejandra Nunez,**  
Executive Director

(cont. on page 2)



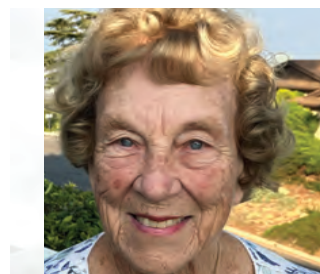
## happenings (cont. from front cover)



A warm Heritage House welcome to our new Resident, **Esther Gordon**



A warm Heritage House welcome to our new Resident, **Dolores Becerra**



In loving memory of  
**Mary Halleck**



## happenings

(cont. from page 2)

I am pleased to announce that **Sara Hernandez** has been promoted to **Staff Development and Business Manager**.



Sara joined Heritage House in April 2023, as our receptionist, new to this field, she quickly learned the ropes and became an essential part of this organization. **Her interpersonal skills, ability to learn, and her unconditional commitment** to continue

to grow and make a positive impact on our organization have allowed her to earn this advancement opportunity.

In this expanded role, Sara will continue to oversee the front desk business operations while also leading staff development initiatives, including training, professional growth, and organizational support.

Bella will be transitioning out her current role as an interim director of our activities department towards the end of February. With Bella's absence, Sara will step in and oversee the activities department with Michael taking more of a leadership role. In addition, she will also oversee our dining department in partnership with Chef Odin with the goal to enhance our dining experience.

Bella will work side by side with Sara to ensure she has all the tools and resources needed to be successful in overseeing these departments.

Please join me in congratulating Sara Hernandez on this well-deserved promotion. We're excited to see the positive impact she will continue to make in this new chapter.

I do want to take this opportunity to thank Bella for her commitment to making Heritage House a top priority, with countless hours of support, structure, and guidance to create and revamp our activities program to what it has become today.

Thank you, Bella, for all you have done and continue to do for Heritage House, you are an amazing and super talented person, who overcomes challenging situations like it's a piece of cake. Your ongoing and unconditional support is just priceless.

*congratulations!*

Alejandra Nunez, Executive Director

## January Announcements

### Bill's Grill:

Join Bill's Grill this month on  
**January 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM**  
Please call Sara to RSVP.





## resident article harriet ackert



A Santa Barbara resident for nearly 50 years, Harriet is a retired public relations executive having previously served as the head of community relations for a major Southern California hospital and later as the founder of her own public relations firm.

She is also a passionate writer of short stories and the author of the novel, *Prodigal Souls*.

Harriet's interests include classical music and oil painting. She and her late husband, Sid Ackert, are the proud parents of 3 grown children, 4 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.





resident article harriet ackert

(cont. from page 4)





**activity alley** bella garfias, activities manager interim + **michael jimenez**, activities coordinator

Hi Everyone,

Happy Holidays and cheers to a wonderful New Year!

I want to begin by sharing my deepest gratitude for all the heartfelt donations we received — they truly mean so much, and I'm incredibly thankful to be here. I also want to thank everyone who joined us at the Christmas Market. It was such a joy, and I'm glad I was able to bring my



**3-month-old baby, Eli, to meet you all.** His sweet smile lit up the day, and while I know not everyone had the chance to see or hold him, I hope to bring him back soon so he can meet more of you. We're excited to make the Christmas Market a yearly tradition here at Heritage House, and we're already looking forward to next year's event. **I'd also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to my fellow activities team member Uriel, who led the planning and decorating of the market, as well as Alejandra and**



**Bella, who brought the story of the Grinch to life with their wonderful display.**

Looking ahead, my resolution for the new year is simple: to spend more time here at Heritage House, to connect more deeply with our wonderful residents and families, and to continue bringing the most joyful and engaging activities possible. **We're already planning for upcoming holidays like Valentine's Day, making sure we have decorations and activities ready in advance.** I also love being able to design our daily and weekly schedules with creativity — making them festive, seasonal, and filled with photos of your loved ones enjoying activities together.

Before I close, I want to thank everyone again — residents, families, and our amazing team here at Heritage House. Starting the new year in this role fills me with gratitude. This doesn't feel like a job to me, but more like a second home where I get to laugh, be silly, and share joyful moments with your loved ones.

Thank you once again. Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Warmly,

**Michael Jimenez, Activities Coordinator**

(Cont. on page 7)



**activity alley** bella garfias, activities manager interim + michael jimenez, activities coordinator

(cont. from page 6)



(Cont. on page 8)



**activity alley** bella garfias, activities manager interim + michael jimenez, activities coordinator

(cont. from page 7)





## january health news

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

Happy New Year, everyone!

The year 2025 has come to an end, and we now welcome 2026 with open arms. This past year brought us countless memories—both good and bad—but memories nonetheless. **As we step into this new year, may it be one filled with happiness, excitement, and love.**



I'm especially looking forward to the **World Cup this year!** After four long years, the beautiful game returns to unite fans around the world. **I'm hoping to catch a game or two myself.**

Here's to a wonderful 2026—let's continue creating amazing memories together. Cheers to the year ahead!

Thank you,

Tony Warn, Clinical Care Coordinator





## business blog

sara hernandez, staff development & business manager

As 2025 comes to an end, we step into the new year with inspiration, positivity, and fresh beginnings.

I hope everyone enjoyed a peaceful and happy Christmas.

We closed out 2025 with a wonderful final event—our Christmas Market—and what an amazing turnout it was! It was so special to see so many guests and family members join us and create meaningful memories together. In my eyes, this will always be one of my favorite events here at HH. Thank you to all the staff who helped make it such a success. We truly hope to continue this tradition in the years ahead.



I would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our residents and to family and friends who donated to our Holiday Fund. I truly love what I do, and your kindness and recognition mean so much to me.

Lastly, I want to thank my co-workers who continue to support me, encourage me, and push me to grow as I step into new and exciting roles. I am very grateful to be part of such a caring and dedicated team. Thank you all for your continued support throughout the challenges throughout this past year.



Wishing everyone a very happy and prosperous New Year!

Here are a few of this year's pictures for you to enjoy!



Warmly,

Sara Hernandez,  
Staff Development & Business Manager



## facility facts

ernesto guerrero, facilities and transp. manager

I can't quite believe I'm writing this, but **2025 is already over**. It feels like I blinked and the year packed its bags. The final weeks of 2025 didn't exactly slow down. I spend some time with my nephews at **Six Flags**, which was equal parts fun and exhausting. In between the Christmas chaos and celebrations, I also discovered a new favorite dinner spot **Toma in Santa Barbara**. It's one of those restaurants that reminds you why good food matters simple, fresh ingredients and done right. If you're looking for a recommendation to kick off the new year, put Toma on your list. It's worth the stop. Also special thank you to all of you who contributed to our Christmas Employee Holiday Fund!

As January settles in, I'm hoping this year goes well for me and for everyone reading this. **Here's to steadier days, fewer headlines that make us sigh, and more meals around our loved ones.** May 2026 be kinder, calmer, and just a little more generous with its time.

**Happy New Year Everyone!**

Thank you,

**Ernesto Guerrero, Facilities & Transportation Manager**



## operations news

morgan e. randall, operations director

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

I hope you all had a joyful holiday season, sharing laughter and love with those closest to you, and creating memories to hold onto forever.



On December 19th, HH hosted its very first Christmas Market—a festive celebration that brought together family, friends, employees, and our community. Guests were delighted by

appearances from Santa Claus, the Grinch, and even a few toy soldiers, adding a touch of magic to the event.



Twinkling lights lined every pathway in the garden, guiding visitors to cheerful booths brimming with homemade treats and crafts—tamales, pozole, enchiladas, jewelry, baskets, hot cocoa, and more.

Overhead, bold red-and-white ornaments glistened among strands of sparkling lights draped across the main patio. The event was a beautiful celebration of community. Walking through the market, I was struck by the smiles, the laughter, and the sense of togetherness that filled the air.



A big thank-you to everyone who made this celebration possible and to all who joined us in creating an unforgettable first Christmas Market!



Cheers to 2026!  
May your year be filled with laughter, success, and unforgettable moments.  
Happy New Year!

Warmly,

Morgan E. Randall,  
Operations Director





## bill's grill

bill mcgeever

OK, 2026, right? I was born in 1953. Doing the math or, in my case, using the calculator, it would appear that I will be 73 years old in February. Where did the years go? Well, for me, I have been fortunate in most all of the years and my only complaint would be that they go by faster and faster now.



While I don't dwell on it, I do miss some folks who are no longer present. **My parents, some friends, some cousins, some uncles and some of my dogs.** While not missing them so much, I do think about them, especially because I'm not getting younger and there are more of them to think about each year. I hope that they know that I do think about them.

I am living in the present and I'm lucky to have the people that I do in my life. **Julie, Alex and his family, my family members, my friends, coworkers, residents and resident family members. Oh, not to forget Ty and Cleo.....**

**Bills Grill will be on January 16th**, in honor of my dad's birthday. Ernie will be pouring Jack Daniels & OJ, a drink that my mom used to like. **My dad liked his JD on ice, no OJ.**

Here's what will be served:

**Splatchcocked Cornish Game Hens**

**Grilled Sweet Potatoes**

**Seared Green Beans**

**Pecan Pie w/ice cream**



**Happy New Years!!!!!!**

**Bill**



## dining delights

odin macias, dining services manager

Hello everyone, this is the last article of the year 2025!

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone that has made this year exceptional. We did have our challenges, but we were able to solve them. Every single person has had an important role in the success of our every day activities and has worked very hard to make sure our residents

have a great dining experience. This December we celebrated the birthday of one of our own, Berenice, and together we celebrated her birthday with her. Thank you all for your hard work. I want to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from my family to yours.

Thank you,

**Odin Macias, Dining Services Manager**





## important dates

## 405 Cocktail Hour- Every Friday

Bill's Grill Jan. 16

## January Birthdays

## Residents

Edda Hayes	Jan.	03
Carolyn Elliott	Jan.	07
Rena Jacques	Jan.	13
Jean Perotte	Jan.	22
Eileen Neels	Jan.	24

## Employees

Bertha Rodriguez	Jan.	04
Silvia Mora	Jan.	05
Miriam Jerez	Jan.	12
Ivette Reyes	Jan.	17
Patricia Cisneros	Jan.	19
Alexis Zavaletas	Jan.	27

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