

# Charting Her Own Course

## Up Close...

**P**at Olson wouldn't call herself fearless. But her transition to the Gardens and the apparent ease with which she has become part of the community would indicate otherwise. Widowed for 16 years before she moved to the Gardens from Whittier, Pat was accustomed to charting her own course. But she is quick to acknowledge, "I challenged myself coming here, where I knew no one, and starting a new life. I wanted to make my own decisions."

"I felt in my bones that I just couldn't manage a house anymore," and she wanted to have a life centered around people. After touring retirement communities up and down the state, she settled on the Gardens. "I just had a gut feeling," she says, "that this would be an interesting place to live." She noted that the beauty of the campus, the genuinely happy people and their activities attracted her to the Gardens.

Once she'd made the decision, the next challenge was moving from a large home to a studio apartment. "To be honest, I wasn't sure about the space when I first looked at it," she says. Then her realtor, who had become a trusted advisor in this transition process, stated the obvious: Get rid of your stuff.

"I had accumulated 41 years' worth of belongings at my former home, and I gave most of it away." She'd decided early on that she didn't want possessions to be the focal point of



Resident Pat Olson practices a Yoga pose.



Pat enjoying the Gardens' resident cutting garden.

Pat cultivated new friendships with her neighbors and those she started to see regularly in the residents' walking group, in yoga class, at vespers, and in the cutting garden, where she loves to spend time.

her life, so downsizing was fairly painless, and the move into her apartment quick. "My kids insisted on helping. We were finished in under two hours, and I had no idea where anything was because they'd put it all away! My son even brought groceries to stock my cupboards," she laughs. "I'm thinking to myself, 'Doesn't he know I'm retired and I don't cook?' At least I haven't since the day I arrived here!"

The next hurdle was getting to know people. Pat applied the same determination that landed her at the Gardens in cultivating new friendships "A smile and a 'hello' break the ice," she learned, and they masked any signs of the anxiety she initially felt. She quickly built friendships with the neighbors in her building and those she started to see regularly in the residents' walking group, in the yoga class, at vespers, and in the cutting garden, where she loves to spend time.

"I feel on my feet here. I've created new routines and I'm settling in." Her family, who was initially leery of her decision to move, loves to visit. "At first, I felt guilty about selling the family home, which was the place my

kids always enjoyed coming home to. But they all love the Gardens." The grandkids think of it as a resort with all kinds of things to explore on campus and fun things to do in the local community. "We do breakfast at Cable Airport, and The Claremont Colleges campuses are custom-made for scooters!" Her Whittier friends are enthusiastic as well. "Everyone has been over for a visit," she says, some already eyeing a future move to the Gardens.

"In Whittier, I lived in a nest of friends, whom I'd known for years, so this move was a gamble, she admits. Now that she's here? "I'm so glad I made this choice."

To celebrate Harrison McIntosh's 100 birthday last fall, more than 200 well wishers feted him at a party at the Gardens. He and his work were also celebrated at the American Museum of Ceramic Art in Pomona, which hosted a retrospective of his work, and another birthday bash.

## Touching the World

Continued from page 3

concern for what sold or by prevailing trends. But the understated elegance of his work inevitably garnered increasing attention, when ceramics was just beginning to gain credibility as fine art.

Recognized as one of the craftsmen whose work defined California mid-century design, Harrison's ceramic pieces became highly prized acquisitions for private collectors and museums. Today, his work is in the collections of more than 40 museums, including the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, D.C., The Louvre in Paris, National Museum of Art in Tokyo, Boston Museum of Art, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and the American Museum of Ceramic Art in Pomona, Calif.

His artistic renown also led to commercial commissions. He was the first American ceramist hired by Mikasa to design dinnerware, in collaboration with Marguerite, for the international tableware company. The couple spent 10 summers in Japan developing designs in the 1970s.

"I never set out to make a mark," Harrison says modestly. "I enjoyed working with clay, and I always created pieces to please myself. The goal was never to become famous."



Shera Sheel Photo

Mt. San Antonio Gardens  
PO Box 728  
Claremont, CA 91711

Return Service Requested



Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Claremont, CA  
Permit No. 382



Official White House Photo by Pete Souza

# The New Leaf

February 2015

## Touching the World

## The New Leaf

Mt. San Antonio Gardens is a nationally accredited Life Care senior community in Claremont and Pomona, California.

The New Leaf is a newsletter for friends and family of residents, board and staff, as well as individuals who have inquired about life at the Gardens.

(909) 624-5061  
info@msagardens.org  
www.msagardens.org

- Tracey Stoll, Vice President of Marketing, Editor
- Penny Maines, Writer
- Sioux Bally-Maloolf, Art Direction and Photography

For frequent updates, "Like" Mt. San Antonio Gardens on Facebook.



State Licensed RCFE 191508496 COA #078

Please join us for a look at the future and the routes we might take...

## The Road Ahead

Tues., May 12, 2015

11 a.m. through lunch hour at Mt. San Antonio Gardens

Buffet lunch included

Reservations are required; please call (909) 399-1279

Please give names of attendees, your phone number, and mailing address.

Confirmation will be mailed within a week of your response.



# The New Leaf

February 2015



President Barack Obama embraces Gardens resident Myrlie Evers-Williams in the Oval Office on June 5, 2013. They were preparing to commemorate the assassination of her late husband, civil rights leader Medgar Evers. (Official White House Photo by Pete Souza)

## Touching the World

**O**ne of the great benefits of being a Gardens resident is getting to know and become friends with individuals with diverse interests and backgrounds. Another benefit is the freedom to pursue your passions. Here we feature three residents who, in the course of pursuing their passions throughout their lives, have touched people around the world in unique ways.

### Civil Rights

The importance of community service was instilled in Gardens resident **Myrlie Evers-Williams** at an early age by the two women who raised her: her paternal grandmother and aunt. "Their words and teachings have stayed with me through life," she reflects. Nightly prayers always included asking God "to make me a blessing."

"To this day I say it every day. It just became a part of me," she says. Even now, on occasions when she is bone-weary, facing a rapt audience eager to hear her speak, "I get to the lectern and simply ask God to put the words in my mouth, and 'make me a blessing.'"

In her young years, Myrlie could not have imagined the influential role she would have in the civil rights movement, first at the side of her husband Medgar Evers, fighting for desegregation and voting rights in Mississippi. After Medgar's tragic assassination in 1963, as a single mother to three children, she struck out on her own in politics, corporate America and volunteer organizations,

advocating for equal rights for all people. In 2014, she stepped down from a 30-year role on the board of the NAACP, earning the honorary title of chair emeritus.

The year after her husband's assassination, Myrlie moved to Claremont, Calif., for the welfare of her children and for the college town atmosphere. She enrolled in Pomona College and completed her bachelor's degree while writing her first book (with William Peters), "For Us, the Living."

Her contributions to the country have been recognized many times and in many ways. Perhaps the most visible was in 2013 when she became the first woman and first layperson to deliver the invocation at the swearing-in of an American president when she took the stage at President Obama's second inauguration.

"If someone had told me I'd still be working at 81, I'd have said,

Continued on pages 2 and 3



Myrlie at home at the Gardens.

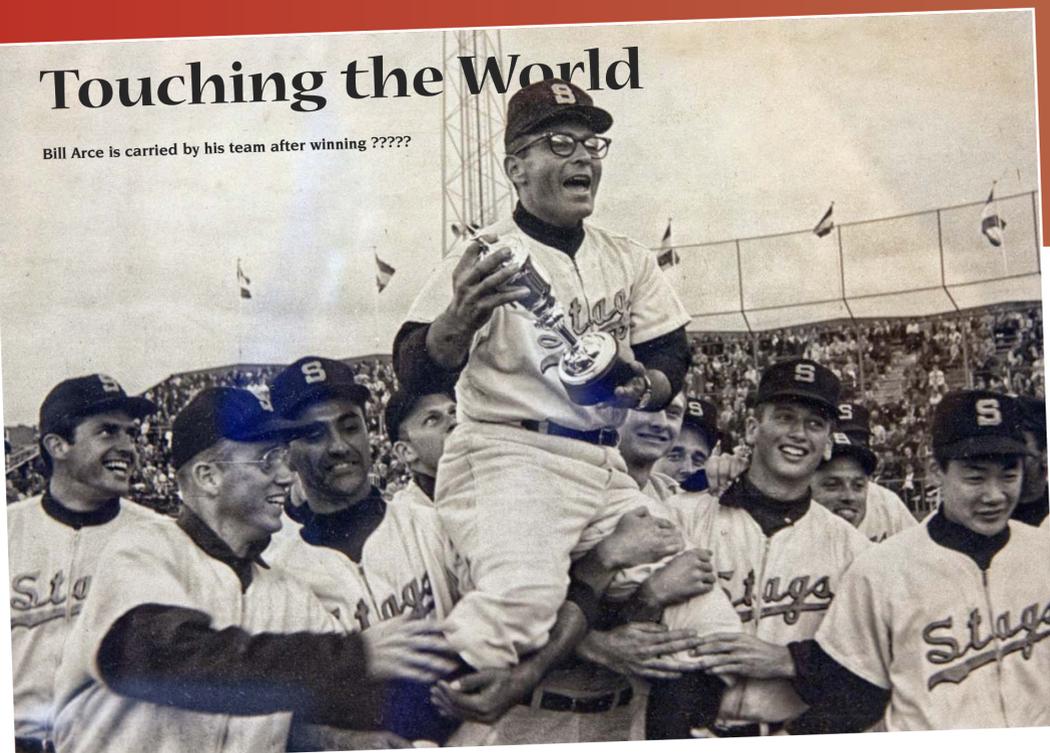


The Road Ahead  
See invitation on back page.



# Touching the World

Bill Arce is carried by his team after winning ??????

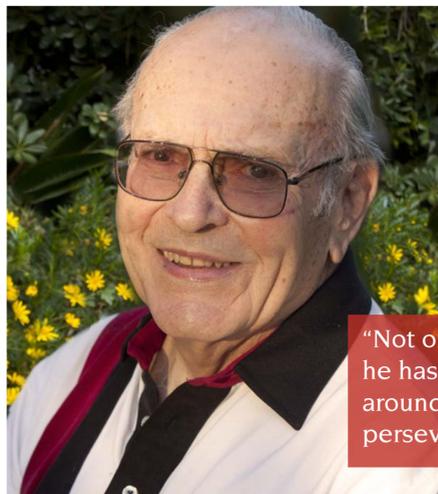


Continued from page 1

"You're out of your mind!" she laughs. But the work continues. "My years have been very fruitful; the history has been rich," she acknowledges. She is still asked to speak at colleges, conferences and other venues throughout the country.

Myrlie is also working with institutions and agencies wanting to acquire parts of her collection of historically significant papers, photos and tape recordings. She has had a hand in the development of two institutes. She founded the Medgar and Myrlie Evers Institute in Mississippi, created to imbue the next generation of leaders with knowledge, wisdom, and a commitment to civic engagement. The University of Mississippi founded the Myrlie Evers-Williams Institute for the Elimination of Health Disparities, aimed at improving the health of African Americans and others. In recent years, she served as distinguished scholar-in-residence at Alcorn State University, where she and Medgar met 63 years ago.

Late last year, she was invited to a special weekend in Santa Barbara hosted by Oprah Winfrey, celebrating "The Legends Who Paved the Way," and giving guests a special pre-screening of



Bill Arce

"Not only did Bill Arce shape my life, he has shaped thousands of lives around the world through his character, perseverance and compassion"

"Selma," Winfrey's recently-released film, which she produced and in which she has a role. Myrlie recommended the movie "Selma," saying it was "superb."

She described the weekend as a monumental reunion of civil rights pioneers and leaders, among them Sidney Poitier, Marian Wright Edelman, Quincy Jones and Julian Bond; as well their adult children. It was "a celebration of the civil rights movement, and its success, and the fact that we not only survived; we thrived." The experience left Myrlie feeling "so renewed. There were many hugs and tears," she related. "It was so good to see each other all at once. My heart, mind and soul are so full from all the remembrances."

Her achievements, Myrlie has said, required backbone and a willingness to fight for what she believes in. "Everything I've done has been based on a belief that you serve the community in which you live; that you owe it to that community. It is not for glory or recognition," she makes clear. "I'm one of many Americans who believe in building their community, and I've been fortunate in the sense that my work has been on a national, and even international, scale."

## Baseball

**Bill Arce** remembers knocking baseballs around the backyard as a young child with his father. Bill knew he had something special by the fourth grade when he, with his four best pals, soundly defeated the fifth and sixth grade teams to represent their elementary school in a cross-town competition where they reigned as champions. Playing baseball in junior high, American Legion, and high school followed – as well sneaking into the bleachers to watch the Oakland Oaks – with the prospect of college ball.

But WWII intervened and Bill landed in the infantry. And that's where his love of baseball crystallized into his life's purpose. In the throes of battle, facing sure death, Bill prayed, "Lord, get me out of here and I'll do something meaningful with my life." As he lay in a

hospital contemplating his future, he realized that baseball was his passion and that his greatest joy was sharing it with others. "It was a turning point," he recalled.

After the war and graduating from Stanford, where he met his wife, Nancy, Bill founded the joint Claremont Men's College/Harvey Mudd College



Harrison circa 1958

Recognized as one of the craftsman whose work defined California mid-century design, Harrison's ceramic pieces became highly prized acquisitions for private collectors and museums.

athletic program, and coached the baseball team. (Claremont Men's College later became Claremont McKenna College.)

His coaching and leadership responsibilities expanded when he was asked to coach the Dutch national baseball team during a summer break. Thereafter, his career at The Claremont Colleges was punctuated by international trips during summer breaks and sabbatical leaves, helping to organize and coach national baseball teams all over the world. He was the first American coach to help teams in Sweden, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and the People's Republic of China.

In 2014, Bill was nominated to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom for bringing his baseball diplomacy to countries around the globe, helping young people worldwide excel on the baseball diamond, and off. The nomination, spearheaded by Gardens resident **Cathie Brown**, is filled with documents and testimonials chronicling Bill's contributions.

"I can't thank Cathie and the supporters enough. Being nominated was an unexpected honor," Bill said. "I was humbled by the letters of support from so many colleagues and friends." The letter of support came from an impressive group of admirers, including Congresswoman Judy Chu; former Los Angeles Dodgers owner Peter O'Malley; John Hennessy, president of Stanford University; the presidents of all of The Claremont Colleges; and William Crouch, General U.S. Army (retired).

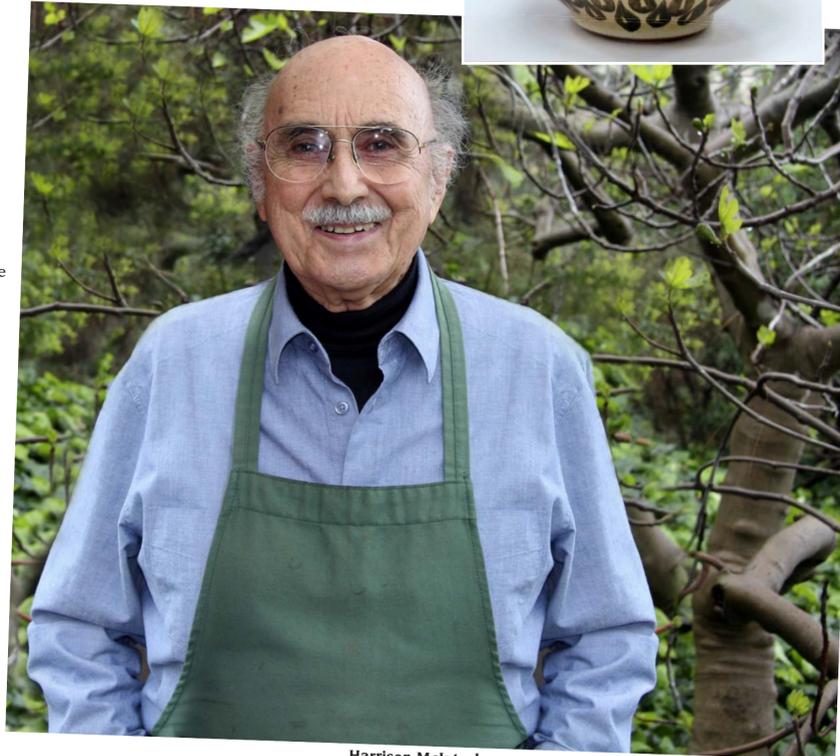
For Bill, the real satisfaction has come from the lives he's changed and the friendships he has made all over the world, especially the enduring bond with his former players. "I always believed in them," says Bill. The respect is mutual. One of his former players who sent a letter of nomination wrote, "Not only did Bill Arce shape my life, he has shaped thousands of lives around the world through his character, perseverance and compassion"

"I wouldn't trade any of this for the world," says Bill. "The experience has defined my life."

## Ceramic Art

Renowned ceramist **Harrison McIntosh** also discovered his passion, and talent, at a young age, growing up in a family that nurtured creativity. His interest in art was fueled by visits to an art museum in his hometown of Stockton, Calif., where he and his brother won recognition in student art competitions. The director took a personal interest in the boys and helped forge a mentoring relationship for them with a local painter. But Harrison found his true passion at the 1938 World's Fair on Treasure Island, when he visited the Japanese Pavilion and watched an artist throw a pot on a potter's wheel.

After WWII, Harrison came to Claremont to study ceramics at Scripps College as a special student through Claremont Graduate



Harrison McIntosh

School. He subsequently started a ceramics studio with a friend and they worked side by side for more than 50 years.

With ceramics, Harrison had a natural outlet for his sense of beauty and design. "He does not express himself with words very easily," says his wife **Marguerite**, "so it flows through his pottery."

He loved working with his hands, meticulously shaping the clay. "With each piece I made, I learned something more about how I'd make the next one," he says. His work evolved naturally, without a conscious progression or plan. He created what he liked, without

Continued on page 6

Ed Babcock and Gloria Slosberg



When the couple took stock of the immediate and inevitable maintenance required by their 1930s-era home, they realized the scales were quickly tipping in favor of the worry-free lifestyle many of their friends were already enjoying at the Gardens.

# Weighing the Pros and Cons

**f**or **Gloria Slosberg** and **Ed Babcock**, the move to the Gardens last June was a quick quarter-mile trek from their Claremont home. But the process of getting there was decidedly slower. After all, this had been Gloria's family home for 47 years, and Ed's for the past 12. They were in good health, enjoying life and not necessarily ready for a lifestyle change. "I was starting to tire of the home maintenance," says Gloria, "but Ed was ambivalent about making a move." That is until the plumbing failed two days before the couple was set to host 13 guests for Thanksgiving. A temporary fix got them through the celebration, but a permanent solution required a \$5,000 repair to their sewer line. "That's when I turned the corner," admits Ed.

When the couple took stock of the immediate and inevitable maintenance required by the 1930s-era home, they realized the scales were quickly tipping in favor of the worry-free lifestyle many of their friends were already enjoying at the Gardens. "It was getting to be a pain in the neck," says Gloria. "We were constantly having to paint inside and out, repair or replace windows and screen doors, make sure the pool was cleaned, the yard maintained and the trees trimmed. And then we knew we had the big expenses – replacing the roof, solving our plumbing problems – on the horizon."

It is estimated that homeowners can expect to pay on average \$20,000 to replace a composite roof, \$10,000 for a new furnace and air conditioning system, and \$11,000 on replacement windows. Lawn care alone can total \$25,000 over a 10-year period. And it wasn't just the cost of the home maintenance that weighed on the couple. It was also the effort required to manage the repairs -- finding reliable service providers and living in the house while repairs were made. Taking account of those major expenses, "we realized it was a good time to make the move," says Gloria.

Like Gloria and Ed, **Jim and Barbara Heywood** weren't completely in sync when settling on the right time to move to a retirement community. "We had family and friends who had lived happily at the Gardens, so we knew it was a wonderful community. We had neighbors who had chosen to stay in their homes who now required in-home caregivers, and we knew we didn't want to live

like that." But still, Jim hesitated. "I finally told him that if I have a health problem, he'd have to learn to cook and do laundry," Barbara laughs. That did the trick.

Once they cleared that hurdle, they began to weigh the pros and cons of moving to the Gardens. "Our decision was the consolidation of all kinds of input," says Jim. But one of the most compelling was the prospect of simplifying their lives. Their list included the "biggies," like no more home and yard maintenance. But it ran to such simple things as no longer needing their own newspaper subscriptions since they'd have access to a vast array of daily

"Our move to the Gardens brought a lot of peace of mind."

publications in the Gardens library. "We also considered the convenience of having things like the Wellness Center (exercise and physical therapy

facility), beauty salon, gift shop, library, and banking services available right on campus," says Barbara. The dining options at the Gardens meant no more cooking, no more clean-up and no more grocery shopping. This led to the decision to downsize to one car. "And now, when we travel, there's no worry about security of our home, or finding someone to water the lawn."

Beyond the prospect of reduced expenses and added convenience, both couples were ultimately swayed by the security of Life Care". "We didn't have long term care insurance, and we didn't want our kids to have to take care of us," says Gloria.

"Our move to the Gardens brought a lot of peace of mind." Barbara agrees. "Life Care, and knowing that even if our health changes in the future, we won't have to pay any more, or move off-campus, is very comforting. There is no stress or worry about anything!"

**\*Residents who choose the Life Care option at the Gardens are guaranteed unlimited assisted living and skilled nursing care, if they need it later in life. If they need care, their monthly fee does not increase, other than periodic inflationary increases. This can result in substantial savings over a resident's lifetime, since Medicare does not cover long term nursing care.**

**The Gardens also offers a plan for individuals with long term care insurance that can also result in substantial savings.**



Jim and Barbara Heywood