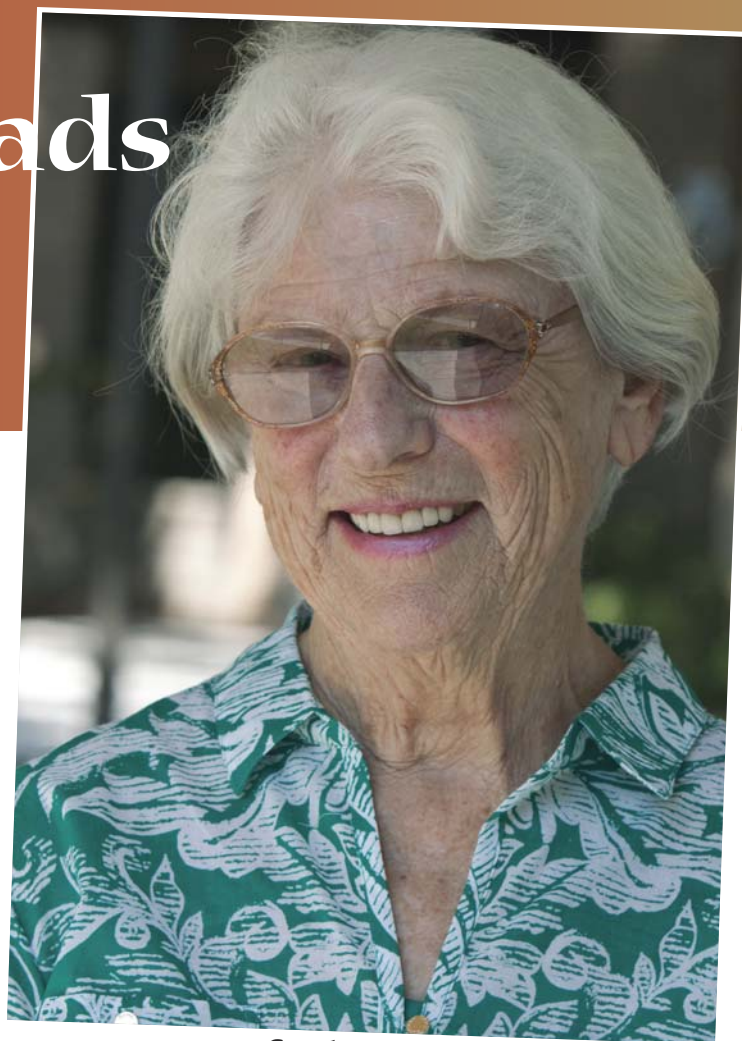


Resident Spearheads CLASP / see cover story



Carole Harter

Up Close...

When **Carole Harter**, and her husband **Hal**, moved to the Gardens in 2008, she was already into her fourth year on the board of CLASP (Claremont After School Programs, Inc.). She had been instrumental in starting the organization in 2005, which evolved from two predecessor programs, to provide high-quality after-school programs for at-risk elementary school children in Claremont. Reflecting on her initial involvement, "I remember my friend (and Gardens resident) **Leonard Munter** saying, "Have I got a deal for you!" Carole laughs. "I didn't want to give up my travel time in retirement to take on the responsibility of managing one of the existing programs but I told him I'd take a look at it." The rest, as they say, is history. Serving as CLASP's first director and setting up and running the program was "exactly what I like to do," she says "It was fun – chaotic – but amazingly fun!" This summer, Carole finally retired from the board after 10 years of service. But don't count her out.

Just as she turned her move to the Gardens into an opportunity to recruit a new generation, literally, of tutors for the after-school program – drawing on the rich pool of retired educators who live here – she jumped at the opportunity to expand the Gardens' involvement with CLASP when new Gardens CEO **Maureen Beith** expressed an interest in learning more about the program. "She wanted to explore ways to bring CLASP to the Gardens campus," says Carole. This spring, as the two women kicked around ideas, considering how to match the Gardens' assets – lots of talented



Carole helps out a Gardens summer camper with an art project.

volunteers and a campus full of amenities – with CLASP's needs, Maureen had a brainstorm. "She said, 'How about a summer camp?'" says Carole.

The prospect of organizing a camp in a few short months, Carole admits, was daunting, and she wasn't sure what kind of reception the program would receive from residents. "The response was overwhelming!" she exclaims. Planning and orchestrating every detail of the new summer camp program, she acknowledges, required all kinds of talents, and many, many hours. "It's been a wild ride, but Gardens residents and staff," she says proudly, "stepped right up." With the experience still fresh in their minds, residents are already talking about expanding the camp program next year.

"I think what we've done is unique," she says. "I am not aware of any other retirement community in the world that is doing this." The reward has been seeing the enthusiastic response from the kids, but equally so the "shining eyes" of everyone who worked on the camp. "That has been the true gift," she says, reflecting on the remarkable people she has met at the Gardens and the friendships she has built.

"Living at the Gardens has been more than I could have ever expected," says Carole. Several years after moving in, her husband had health challenges that required him to move into the Gardens' Health Center (skilled nursing facility), and then to The Evergreen Villas, when that ground-breaking, residential-style skilled nursing alternative opened on the Gardens campus. "I cannot even dream of what it would be like if we weren't living here where this wonderful care is available and I'm surrounded by my friends. "Friends," she says, "who always have my back."

Inside Out

Continued from page 4

women who have come before," she is quick to point out, including some who have led other Philharmonic affiliates. "We try to not just take music to people. But to help them understand it and enjoy it as much as we do," says Sue. The group presents a Music Mobile program "The Magic of Music" to local third grade students, organizes community music education programs, and sends local students to symphonies for youth, among other programs. "When we go out with the Music Mobile, we have so much fun. The children get so excited and the teachers do, too." In addition to supporting the Music Mobile Program, the Foothill Philharmonic provides buses that transport Disney Hall "concert-goers" to the Friday and Sunday afternoon concerts.

Fun also is at the heart of the Claremont Older Women's Soccer group that resident **Gigi Fossum** has been part of since 1977. "We call ourselves the COWS," (Claremont Older Women's Soccer) she laughs. Besides being at least 26 years old and healthy enough to exercise, there are no requirements except having a good time. "I'm the last remaining original COW," says the 85-year-old. "I feel so lucky I'm still physically able to play. I don't do much," she admits, "except stand in the goal and pray the ball just hits my foot!" The younger women, who range in age from 30 to 60, she says, "take care of me." The point isn't winning or losing – in fact they don't keep score. Mostly they laugh, and build lifelong friendships.

"The beauty of the Gardens," says Stuart, "is that there are so many ways to connect to the community."



Resident Cathy Henley-Erickson has been a member of the Claremont Chorale since the early 70's.

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



The New Leaf

September 2015

First ever
Gardens' Summer Camp

Gardens resident Gigi Fossum helps Isabella Gonzalez learn to swim in the Gardens pool at the CLASP summer camp that brought at-risk kids to the Gardens campus for a host of events and learning experiences.

First ever

Gardens' Summer Camp

For four glorious weeks this summer, the Gardens campus was buzzing with the unbridled energy of a whole new generation. Residence lounges were chock full of storybooks, and colorful swim "noodles" and beach balls filled the normally placid waters

of the swimming pool, as residents welcomed 17 six- to nine-year-olds to the Gardens first-ever summer day camp.

"I knew in my heart of hearts that this was going to work," says resident **Carole Harter**. She brought lots of experience, having served previously as director and board member of CLASP, an after-school enrichment program benefiting the same at-risk children she proposed to serve with the day camp program. But figuring out the myriad details and finding the right people to undertake each task, "required many hands making things work," according to **Debby Griffin**, who along with Carole and **Evelyn Diaz Brown**, evolved into a steering committee for the camp program.

"We did our recruiting on the best night of the week," Debby says, laughingly attributing the unexpected outpouring of volunteers – 90 in total! – to the Gardens' always popular weekly prime rib dinner. It may have been the best time to capture the attention of many residents, but

what sold them was the prospect of sharing their time and experience with the children. "Young kids bring energy, and Gardens residents have so much to offer, that matching the two groups together was what everyone was excited about," says Debby.

There was a job for everyone. "We tried hard to match the skills, and the time people were able to invest, to our needs," says Debby. Those roles included transportation, general logistics, class programming, and, of course, conducting the daily sessions in language arts, music, science and math, swimming and general enrichment projects. Team leaders were responsible for accompanying groups of campers throughout the day.

"We tried to plan for every 'what if,' but there is always some risk," says Carole. Like hosting young campers in the Gardens' dining room. "It could have been a disaster," she laughs, but it wasn't. "Our designated "Lunch Buddies" were the perfect hosts, and people kept telling me how much fun it's been to eat

with the kids." The feeling was obviously mutual, with campers reveling in the excitement of consuming curly fries and grilled cheese sandwiches on white table cloths with – and they say this

Continued on pages 2 and 3



The kids' enthusiasm was palpable.

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

• Penny Maines, Writer
• Sioux Bally-Maloolf, Art Direction and Photography

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



Downsizing... Is the very thought overwhelming?

Please join us for an informative and interactive seminar

The Ups of Downsizing

With a special presentation by Greg Gunderson of Gentle Transitions, Inc. Learn helpful tips and strategies and be inspired as to what to do with all that "stuff."

Continental breakfast will be served.

Wednesday, October 14, 2015

10:00 a.m.
Reservations are required.
Please call (909) 399-1279 with the names of attendees, phone number and mailing address.
Your confirmation will be mailed.

www.msagardens.org



The Ups of Downsizing

See invitation on back page.

