

New CEO assumes leadership of the Gardens

"Maureen is a great fit for the Gardens. She is a very transparent and honest person. She has a vision, and she loves what she does. People sensed that about her."

- Amy Fass, chair of the Gardens board of directors



Maureen Beith

Changing of the Guard

On a warm summer evening in June, Gardens residents, staff, board members, and community leaders gathered in the Gardens' Social Center to celebrate **Randy Stoll's** nearly 19-year career as President/CEO of Mt. San Antonio Gardens.

Although his retirement was long planned, because of his long tenure, his departure was a momentous occasion. During a program of wistful recollections, humorous stories, and heartfelt gratitude, resident **Bob Tranquada** spoke on behalf of the residents' Gardens Club. He described the organization's achievements under Randy's stewardship and described him as, "a creative genius, who managed a myriad of affairs so well, we weren't always aware we'd been managed or that something required management."

"Randy has been a great executive," said **Amy Fass**, chair of the Gardens board of directors. "Beyond management skills, what made him so successful were his personal qualities. He was extremely transparent. He listened very well and used that input to come up with better decisions. He was strong but flexible."

When Randy announced his retirement months in advance, the board formed a search committee, chaired by board member **Ron**

Bolding, to identify suitable candidates. One-third of the committee was comprised of Gardens residents; the balance were current and former board members. "We knew we weren't going to find another Randy," says Amy, "but one requirement that was essential was the 'emotional IQ' that Randy brought to the position. We needed someone who understood the Gardens and would listen well to residents."

The committee eventually narrowed the search to three outstanding candidates who all had excellent credentials. As a final step, each was invited to spend a day at the Gardens. "It was important for the Gardens community to coalesce around one strong person," says Amy. That person was **Maureen Beith**. "After her meetings with the management team, residents and board members - about 45 individuals that day - it was clear she was the right person."

"Maureen is a great fit for the Gardens. She is a very transparent and honest person. She has a vision, and she loves what she does. People sensed that about her," said Amy.

Maureen has a background in Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC) administration, and most recently managed operations for a retirement community, similar to the Gardens, in Colorado. She also spent 15 years managing retirement communities in the Pasadena area. She started her career in hospital rehabilitative services.

"The community I worked for in Colorado had a high degree of resident engagement, organizational transparency and intellectual curiosity on the part of the residents. I see that here, too, but to an even greater extent," says Maureen. "I've also been an advocate of culture change, reinventing what senior living and senior care is all about, and I saw how the Gardens has embraced that with the Evergreen Villas [Green House® homes for skilled nursing care]. Recognizing how many obstacles this organization faced in doing that, I realized there must be a strong commitment to those concepts. Those are some of the things that initially drew me

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Resident Dick Kirkendall and Randy Stoll share a private moment at Randy's retirement celebration in June. Before moving into the Gardens, Dick had chaired the Gardens' board of directors in the mid-1990s when Randy was the new CEO.



During his tenure as the Gardens' CEO, Randy Stoll was well-loved by residents. Here, Resident Fran Gilfry says her good-byes at his retirement celebration.

Changing of the Guard...

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to the Gardens." Maureen was also struck by the strong affection, and respect, the residents and staff share for each other, which, she says was "palpable" on the first day she visited the campus.

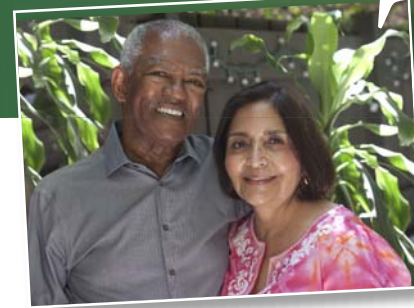
While embracing the Gardens' long-term strategic plan, Maureen has already begun to define some of her own priorities for the organization. Those include a more robust technology effort that encompasses equipment, infrastructure and staff utilization, and translating some of the culture change concepts that are working so beautifully in the Evergreen Villas to the Gardens Health Center (skilled nursing facility).

"Maureen is bringing her own personality and skills to the position that will take the Gardens even further," says Amy. We are in good hands."

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The New Leaf

September 2014

Settling In

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.

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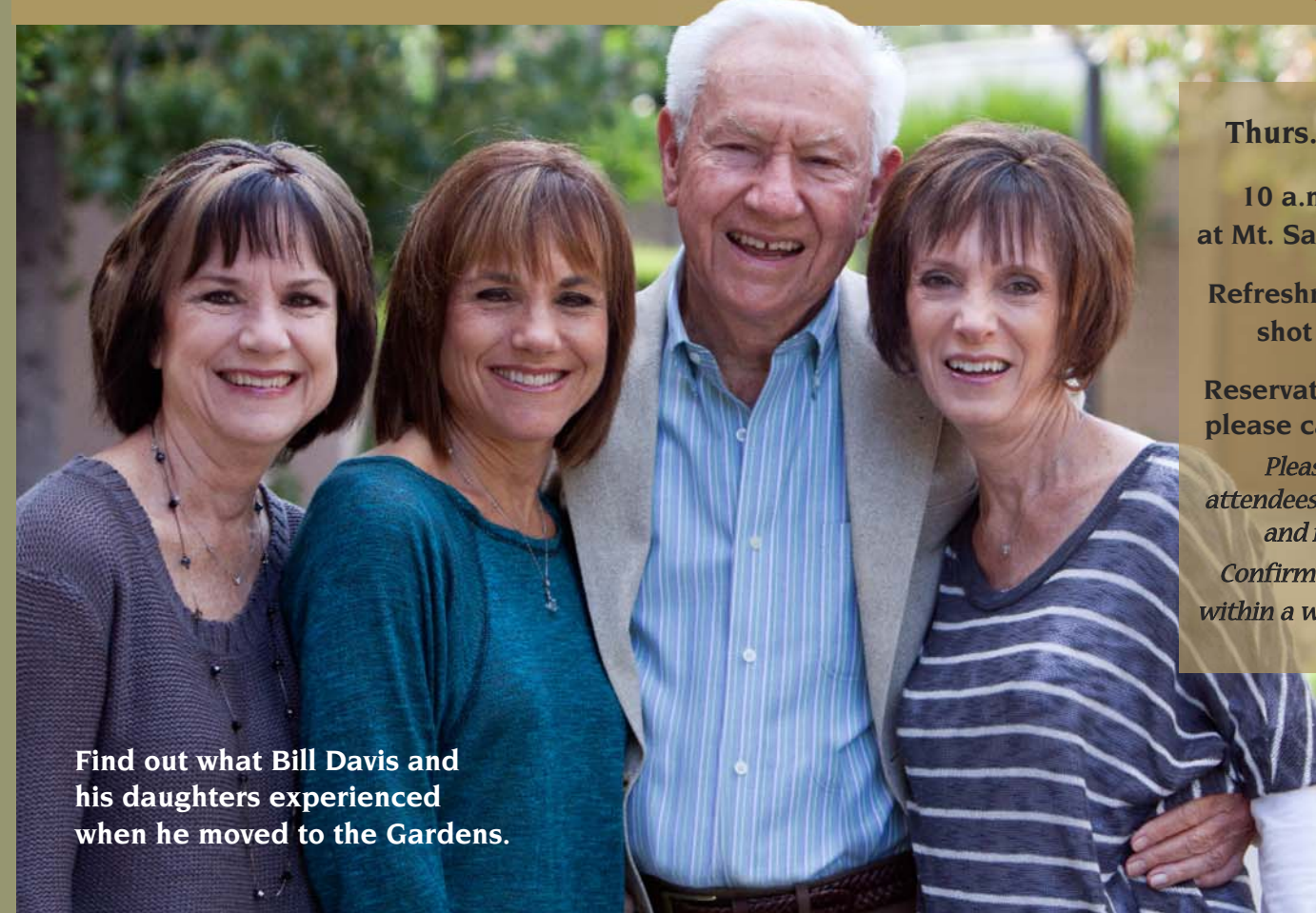
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The New Leaf

September 2014

Performance arts at the Gardens



Resident Gania Trotter leads the Garden Belles during a performance.

Talent, wit, and creativity take center stage

Talent comes in many forms at the Gardens. For those with a passion for performing arts, the opportunities have never been more plentiful.

When **Jean Korf** moved to the Gardens in 2009, the staff, she says, took one look at her resume and encouraged her to start a theater group. A Fellow of the American Theatre, who has spent a lifetime acting, directing and teaching, Jean discovered a whole new outlet for her creative talents at the Gardens.

With the exception of a few "pros" like **Mary Cavena**, a graduate of the Pasadena Playhouse, Jean mostly found at the Gardens a lot of wonderfully talented people who had absolutely no experience in theater. "It is very gratifying when someone comes along without any experience, and they're really quite good," she says. While Jean helps them with techniques, the talent is typically natural.

The troupe's first performance in 2010 was "You Can't Take It With You." Later they



Alan and Cherie Carlisle dance the tango on stage for the "Fabulous, Frivolous Follies."

performed "12 Angry Jurors" (changed from "12 Angry Men," since the Gardens' "jury" included women), and "Harvey." Next on the docket is the French farce, "The Imaginary Invalid."

"Residents who have never acted are sometimes frightened at the prospect," she says. "But these are very intelligent people, and most are quite willing to try." Jean carefully nurtures her actors but keeps the bar set high. She laughs about some of the realities of working with mature actors, including herself. "We can't always remember our lines!" So she encourages them to find creative ways to "cheat." Lines written on a prop that the actor uses in his or her role, for instance. "It's a very equalizing experience. It doesn't matter what their background or achievements. We all have the same trouble memorizing lines!"

They improvise in other ways, too. Actors, who Jean insists build character studies for their parts, source their own costumes. Plays

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The Road Ahead
See invitation on back page.

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