

Affordable . . . Innovative . . . Inspiring
The Redwoods: 50 Years Young



MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF MILL VALLEY WHO WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN FOUNDING THE REDWOODS. From left to right: Paul Hewitt, Board President; Millie Young, board member; Florence Vickery, board member; Roy Abbott, administrator; and Dick Atwood, board member.

THIS YEAR MARKS the 50th anniversary of the Redwoods. Founded by the Community Church of Mill Valley as a non-profit to meet the needs of area seniors—regardless of their income—the first two residents crossed the threshold and called The Redwoods home on December 3, 1972.

Since that day, The Redwoods has expanded its programs, revitalized its campus, and served literally thousands of seniors and their families. We became known for our relaxed environment, diverse and plentiful programs, classes and activities, as well as our connections with the surrounding community. Extensive outreach efforts, part-

nerships, close working relationships with families, students and community volunteers, and support of social justice causes have made The Redwoods part of the fabric of the community.

Last December 3rd—the first day of our 50th year—we had a wonderful birthday kick-off reception at the Mill Valley Community Church. We'll be celebrating all year and are thrilled to be planning several events leading up to our Anniversary Gala. These include a Mill Valley Sings Choir event at the Throckmorton Theater in late April with our very own Rock the Ages Choir, and the return of the Senior Prom for the residents the evening of November 4th.

THE REDWOODS
CELEBRATING
50
YEARS

Save The Date!

Join us at our
Anniversary Gala

**WHEN: Saturday,
November 5th at 5pm**

**WHERE:
Theological Seminary
campus in Strawberry**

The fundraising event will include a cocktail reception with live jazz, sit down dinner, music and dancing—and a few surprises along the way! The evening will feature a special tribute to honor founders and supporters who make The Redwoods the gem that it is today.

This year's fundraising focus will be on the last phase of our revitalization efforts: the Creekside (Assisted Living) apartments which will modernize The Redwoods to meet the needs of residents for a long time to come.

If you are interested in joining the Gala Committee and for information on sponsorship opportunities, please contact Christian Mills, Director of Fund Development at (415) 383-1600 x267 or cmills@theredwoods.org. Thank you for your support!

LETTER FROM J. HUNTER MOORE, CEO



IT IS TERRIFIC to be writing this as health officials are talking about the likely end of the pandemic. I congratulate the team, residents, and families for managing to keep the residents safe from the ravages of COVID. Although we are not yet out of the woods, the vaccines and available treatments make the future a lot more promising today than it was a year ago.

While we remain vigilant about the pandemic, we are making advances in several areas: revitalization efforts will soon be complete in the Headlands (independent living) and the Health Care Center. Plus, work has started on the emergency generator and significant strides have been made updating the Creekside (assisted living) buildings.

Our Programs and Volunteers Department has changed its name to *Life Enrichment* to better reflect all that it does, and we are delighted that **Lindsay Hirata** has been promoted to lead it. As part of our continuing efforts to update the programs and excursions that are offered, we are actively surveying residents for their input. We continue to partner with like-minded, local service providers.

Most of all, we are very excited to celebrate with you throughout this 50th anniversary year. Hoping to share good times in person with you soon.

J. HUNTER MOORE
Chief Executive Officer



WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS!

Left: **Vera Meislin**, Community volunteer, Board of Directors of the Marin Theatre Company, Advisory Board of the Mill Valley Library Foundation. Co-chairing The Redwoods' 50th anniversary gala.

Right: **Margaret Chu Lucaccini**, Architect, Chemist, Marin Master Gardener and Sculptor.



IN THE FALL issue of *The Review*, I noted that we were becoming more comfortable with our ability to respond to COVID and that we expected soon to refocus on long-term planning. I'm pleased that we have achieved those expectations, and to share with you some of our results.

We recently completed a restructuring of The Redwoods' debt that will reduce our interest rate, generate significant long-term savings, and reduce current expenses. This development will make us debt-free eight years sooner than anticipated. Thanks to our fundraising efforts, we now have plans to complete the updating of our entire campus, including the installation of an emergency power generator (see back page). We also are exploring ways to serve more seniors through outreach efforts, partnerships, planning, and management opportunities.

We have much to be grateful for regarding the accomplishments of those who served The Redwoods before us, and are delighted to enhance The Redwoods' success for years to come. At this moment I can think of no greater way to celebrate the achievements of our 50th year than to join you at our Anniversary Gala in November.

With great appreciation for all you do and have done.

JIM LYNCH
President, Board of Directors

❧ The Upside of the Pandemic ❧

THIS IS NOT A MISPRINT. Although we have all been focused on the downside of the pandemic (limitations, masks, illness), there were some wonderful upsides.

One of the most notable changes was that all of us had the chance to get more comfortable with technology. Virtual meetings/visits with loved ones, Facetime, WhatsApp, and Zoom have allowed us to not only call, but see relatives and friends no matter where they are. Our Connected Living app was expanded so that residents could check out programs, events, meals and more on their TVs, computers and cell phones. We also expanded our YouTube channel with Good

News Updates, Resident Association Meetings, classes, and fun resident music videos!

We can truly say we are a stronger and better community as a result of COVID-19.

The pandemic enabled us to be better financial stewards. We can't thank community members and foundations enough for their tremendous outpouring of support. We received federal funds to help retain team members, support the Health Care Center and keep the annual rent increases below targets. Furthermore, the drop in interest rates allowed us to refinance our debt, resulting in significant savings. All of the

above will help The Redwoods continue to fulfill its mission to provide affordable options for all.

Perhaps one of the most important outcomes of the pandemic was that it helped bring us together more than ever before. Everyone helped keep their friends and neighbors safe. We celebrated with courtyard concerts, outside socials and even vaccine clinics. Residents were especially generous with contributions to the Holiday Fund to thank team members.

The sharing and caring behind all of this support creates goodwill that will last a long time. We can truly say we are a stronger and better community as a result of COVID-19.

WE'RE EXCITED to introduce our new Life Enrichment team. **Lindsay Hirata** has taken the helm of what was formerly the Programs Department. The team has been busy enhancing our schedule of programs and getting residents engaged and active.

Resident Lisa Jaros loves the Splash Program run by Sarah Quick. *"It gives me a reason to get up because it oils my skin, loosens the pains of aging, and makes me smile."*

"I think the range of activities matches the wide and diverse interests of residents and is the best of any senior community."

—Liz Small, President of The Redwoods Resident Association



LIFE ENRICHMENT TEAM, left to right: **Denise Acain**, HCC and Creekside Life Enrichment Program; **Betty King**, HCC Activity Assistant; **Sarah Quick**, Fitness Coordinator; **Girija Balasubramani**, Life Enrichment Administrative Assistant; **Laura Boles**, Life Enrichment Activity Assistant; **Lindsay Hirata**, Manager of Community Programs; **Jackie Katz**, Personal Wellness Coaching. Not pictured, **Bilkis Bharucha**, Garden Coordinator.



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Help Us Power Up



IN THE FALL Review, we shared our efforts to acquire a new emergency generator that will provide a long-term answer to meeting the electrical power needs of our entire campus. We are delighted to report that the new generator, along with a refillable tank that will hold four days of fuel, has been approved, purchased and is being installed.

“This emergency generator will go a long way in providing security and safety for the moderate and low-income residents we serve, as well as provide a safe haven for residents in the surrounding community, in the event of planned outages during wildfire season and other emergencies,” explained CEO Hunter Moore.

Originally estimated at \$500,000, fundraising efforts are underway



Groundbreaking for new generator. Pictured left to right: Rezvan Jorshary, Project Manager, dsk Architects; Geoffrey Massa, COO, Nelson T. Lewis Construction Co.; Lynette Clark, CFO, The Redwoods; Jim Wickham, Vice Mayor of Mill Valley; J. Hunter Moore, CEO, The Redwoods; Stephanie Moulton-Peters, Marin County Supervisor for Southern Marin; Taylor Kelly, Director of Facilities/ EVS, The Redwoods; Christian Mills, Director of Fund Development, The Redwoods.

to raise the balance needed to purchase and install the generator, the cost of which has increased to \$1.2 million due to regulatory requirements, supply chain challenges and increased demands for emergency power in our area.

“We’ve been fortunate to have

raised a significant portion of the difference to date, but the bulk of the remainder is still to be raised,” reported Christian Mills, Director of Development. To donate, please contact Christian at cmills@theredwoods.org or (415) 383-1600 ext. 267.