“Spring is nature’s way of saying, ‘Let’s Party!’”
Robin Williams

Well, we are coming on 6 months of being open and so far things are going very well! We have opened 3 of our 4 centers and are slowly increasing our numbers. We have found some great new staff members and our outside teachers and some volunteers have found their way back to us! We are so grateful for you all! In this Newsletter, we highlight lots of activities, new staff, and our historic property. Come party with us!

Happy 101st Birthday,
Bin Yuan Li!

Find us on Facebook!
STAFF UPDATES

We are in a time of renewal at Live Oak! We have said our goodbyes to Junelle who took a job as Activity Director on the Memory Care unit at Westmont Milpitas, and to Nicole who followed Junelle in February—they didn’t want to break up their team! Diane Murillo is the new Program Director at our Willow Glen center. She is assisted by Bereneice and Rachel. Moana Blandford is our new front office Administrative Assistant taking the place of Elias Masri who left for an Army mobilization. In Cupertino, Martin Escobedo joins Lisa, Liz, and Larisa. Surprising that his name doesn’t start with an “L”! In Gilroy, Gloria’s granddaughter, Yanessa, has joined to help out with administrative duties taking the place of MaryLou Mazzone who so graciously filled in to help Gloria get the Gilroy center up and running. We expect more changes as we still have more open positions.

WELCOME DIANE!

We are really excited to welcome Diane Murillo as Program Director at our Willow Glen Center! Diane comes to us with many years working with seniors in the Community. Most recently, she was both a case manager and later, an office manager at Source-wise maintaining contact with Community Based Organizations helping seniors. She has also worked as an activity coordinator at Gardner Adult Day Health and MACSA Adult Day Health Centers. Her range of skills have already proved to be invaluable to Live Oak and she loves coming to work with our seniors every day!

ART FROM AROUND LIVE OAK

Reminiscing, thinking about Spring, and wishing everyone a Happy Easter!
PAUL AND MAY CLARK HOUSE

Did you know that Live Oak owns a historic house? Back in 1997, with financial assistance from the City of San Jose, Live Oak renovated this property in Willow Glen. It’s now the site of our administration offices and our Willow Glen Center. We feel privileged to work in such a beautiful building!

Paul and May Clark moved from Nebraska to California in 1912. Paul had been the Speaker of the House of Representatives in the Nebraska state Legislature. In California, he became active in local civic affairs, became the first and only mayor of Willow Glen and was responsible for the city’s incorporation in 1927. He served as mayor until his death in 1932. May Clark was a student of Archeology and Anthropology at the University of Nebraska and did her field work in Alaska. In California, she became a civic leader, poet, and amateur painter.

The Clarks commissioned the local architectural firm of Wolfe & Wolfe to design a home on Minnesota Avenue in 1913. The architects were students of Frank Lloyd Wright and the house has many elements of Wright’s “Prairie” style. Currently, the house is painted with original coloring and still has the original stained glass windows. As an historic property, we are obligated to give tours if anyone is interested. Stop by some day and we can show you around!
If you register on Amazon Smile and appoint Live Oak your charity, each time you buy something they will send us a small donation!

amazon smile

ZOOM Program Still Running!

DON’T FORGET! Our remote programming is ongoing through the summer. If your center closes down or even if you just want some way to engage your senior on days they don’t come to a center, you are welcome to log into the Zoom program each day from 10am to noon. Right now we have 5 charming students from San Jose State running the daily program. For a small fee, we offer 2 hours of fun, music, exercise and games (including Bingo!) via computer. We also have some small tablet computers to loan out. This program is available to any senior attending Live Oak and any senior in the community! This is especially useful if we have to close down due to a Covid exposure. Speak to your program director or call the main office for the link!

COVID Update

As expected, we have had some COVID exposures at our centers. I suspect that we will have more in the future. Because our clientele is in a high risk group for having adverse reactions to COVID, we will continue to be very careful. For now, our staff will continue to wear masks while working closely with clients, we will still require everyone in the center to be vaccinated, and we will probably require another booster when it’s needed. If someone at a center has COVID, our current protocol is that we need to close down for three days. (it’s nice when it’s over a weekend!). On the third day, everyone, staff and clients alike, must take an antigen test and anyone testing negative is welcome to return (as long as we have healthy staff!). If someone tests positive they can not return until they test negative or get clearance from a doctor. Also, we need to report these exposures to the County Public Health department. I know these events and subsequent center closures are extremely disruptive to our clients and caregivers alike. Yet, remember how far we’ve come!