

Fall Newsletter

November 2022

Our Creative Legacy

This quarter we celebrate the creative legacy of ECS. From the creativity of Deaconess Sophie Miller that inspired ECS's mission in the early 1900s through today, ECS has thrived because of our ability to create colorful experiences that bring out the best in all who call our communities home.

Our 100 years of experience has taught us that seniors thrive when they have access to tailored housing and services, are socially and spiritually engaged, and find purpose in their activities. Creating housing for seniors is the first step and over this past quarter our efforts have been rewarded:

- Through ECS's leadership and consulting services provided over the past six years, Blessed Sacrament Church broke ground on an affordable senior housing community in the city of Placentia.
- Pre-marketing activities for MonteCedro's expansion are yielding tremendous results. There are more interested seniors than there will be new residences.
- More than 100 of The Canterbury's residents joined leadership in gaining approval from the city of Rancho Palos Verdes for an essential outdoor gathering space.

We greatly appreciate your participation in our Resident Survey. Your engagement directly affects our decisions about programs, services, and community enhancements.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the fall all-resident and team meetings in November.

James Rothrock
President and CEO, ECS



Highlights

The Covington

A creative legacy fulfilled.

Twelve Oaks

Vintage automobiles:
History that inspires.

The Canterbury

Long-time resident
continues to find her
creative spark.

MonteCedro

Live theater returns to
the stage.



The Covington

The Art of Generosity

A creative legacy fulfilled.

John Dilkes was one of the first-ever residents to move into The Covington. Of British heritage, he was a dapper gentleman with impeccable manners and a merry attitude. He was also the epitome of a man who lived creatively.

John loved the arts of all kinds, was a great dancer and a talented painter. When John passed at age 99 in 2010, his memorial service was overflowing with people he had touched during his lifetime.

Today, John's creative spirit continues to inspire residents through the John Dilkes Memorial Fund. Created by his family to celebrate John's legacy, it provides funding specifically to enable The Covington to hire a professional art

instructor for our Drawing and Acrylic classes.

Over the years, John's legacy has provided 100s of hours of instruction, bringing enjoyment and creativity to so many residents. All of us at The Covington are grateful for this generosity.

TwelveOaks

Vintage Automobiles

History that inspires

Time has a profound way of changing the way we see things, and ourselves. Recently, residents of Twelve Oaks, their families, and



members of the greater community experienced this firsthand when our community's parking lot was the location of a vintage car show.

The cars, courtesy of the local Early Rodders Car Club, numbered more than 30 and included a variety of makes, models, and eras. There was also a BBQ, ice cream, and live music, says Denise Gotto, Executive Director of Twelve Oaks. "It was a real, community event."

For Denise, one of the most meaningful outcomes of the day was that residents in Twelve Oaks' memory care program—some of whom rarely speak—were suddenly talking with family members and car owners about their first car or friends who had cars like the ones at the show. "To see the way these cars inspired our residents was something special," she says.

The Canterbury

Capturing Inspiration

Long-time resident has a keen photographic eye.

Carolyn Davis has always appreciated a good story. Professionally, Carolyn was a Librarian, and her love of reading was sparked at a young age. Carolyn's

nickname growing up was 'Jo'. When she discovered that a character in the novel *Little Women* had the same name, she was hooked. Carolyn's love of photography came later in life. To stay active, she joined a Volkswalking club and brought along a camera to document their walks. "Eventually, I participated in a walk in all 50 states, and I have the photographs to prove it," she laughs.



Since moving to The Canterbury in 1999, Carolyn has remained active and creative, including taking up painting. Her love of photography also continues and for many years she has been the community's 'unofficial' official photographer. "I have always loved to document history," Carolyn says. "Every picture tells a story and there are so many wonderful stories to be told here at The Canterbury."



MonteCedro

Live Theater is Back

This past October saw the triumphant return to the stage of the MonteCedro Theatre Group. Performing for two nights, the group presented *Murder on the Nile*, Agatha Christie's lesser known but equally dramatic river murder mystery.

The ambitious production saw the community's auditorium transformed into a cruise ship lounge with groupings of chairs around small tables. At these tables sat the audience who were asked to come in their best 'cruise' attire.

MonteCedro resident Jane Schlegel, an experienced theatre person, directed. "It was a big moment to be back in front of a live audience, especially for some of our first-time actors," she says. The lead character in the play, Canon Pennyfather, was played by Laurence Pretty, a retired attorney. "Litigators are naturals on stage," Jane says wryly.

For Jackie Stevens, Regional Director of Creative Living, the production was just another example of the amazing talent of the community's residents. "It is all about opportunity," Jackie says, "and our residents are always eager to seize the moment."

Why Creativity Matters

At its essence, creativity is about the art of possibility. It is not bound by expectation, knowledge, or even convention. By being creative, we give ourselves the opportunity to see something in a new light. When we enjoy the creativity of others, it fosters the kind of social connection that binds us together as human beings.

Creativity comes in many forms, from individual artistic pursuits to group activities. Be it painting, cooking, photography, gardening, or even Tai Chi, all provide opportunities for creative expression and fulfilment. Most importantly, creativity brings us together, and that is a possibility worth pursuing.

Our Stories



A Foundation for Creativity

Charlie Rahilly, CFO of ECS has been in his role for more than three years. Prior to his current position, he was a Vice-Chair of the ECS Board of Directors and Chair of the Investment Committee. His knowledge and experience

have given him important insight into the positive role a Life Plan Community can have on a person's legacy.

"The discipline and transparency of our nonprofit status and our industry-leading Fitch Rating provide a foundation for residents' peace of mind," Charlie says. He adds that as a nonprofit organization, ECS has no shareholders, meaning it continually reinvests in its communities to renew and improve infrastructure, amenities, and services.

"This confidence and security means residents are able to focus on enjoying all that life has to offer," he says.

The seeds of this financial legacy were sown 100 years ago and are borne out today

in residents' desire to flourish, pursue their passions, and even try something new.

"Every ECS community offers daily opportunities for continuous growth, learning, creativity, and connective experiences," Charlie says, "all supported by the organization's financial strength and capacity."

Charlie is grateful for the foundation that ECS's financial and creative legacy offers residents. "Our residents take pride in calling an ECS community home," he says. "And we are proud to provide homes and communities that help residents be their best, no matter how they choose to travel on their journey."

Upcoming Events

Webinar - A Guide to Life Plan Communities

Nov 30 (Wed) @ 2:00 pm + Q&A

The Canterbury: Future Neighbor Event

Nov 29 (Tue) @ 2:00 pm

MonteCedro: Future Neighbor Event

Dec 12 (Mon) @ 12:00 pm

The Covington: Future Neighbor Event

Dec 14 (Wed) @ 2:00 pm

For more details, please visit:
ecsforseniors.org/events