



## **Rosemayne Thompson** **A Life in Music and Gardens**



The car was packed, the young couple just needed to add the prepared lunch and leave for St. Helena where Ruth Jenks Whitney has taken her nurses training. There in a familiar medical setting she would await the birth of her first born. However, this baby, not quite due, had other plans, and Rosemayne Whitney Thompson made her debut early that Easter Sunday morning, April 21, 1935, in a small cabin behind the Wawona Hotel in Yosemite, California.

Romayne Whitney had recently finished medical school at Loma Linda. It was during the Great Depression and with his internship behind him and the heavy debt of medical school on his shoulders, opening a private practice was not an option. He had accepted employment as the physician for personnel of the Civilian Conservation Corp camps in Yosemite Valley.

Sometime later the family moved to Yuba City in northern California, home for the growing family for many years to come. In time five more siblings joined the family. A purchase of property located east of Redding in the mountains toward Mt. Lassen provided the opportunity for the family to enjoy country rather than city life. Clearing the manzanita brush, developing the fields, driving the tractor, all was great fun (and work). Rosemayne took pride in the agreement with her brother – she would milk (something he disliked) and he would clean the barn regularly. Changing the irrigation pipes, working the very large vegetable garden, picking the welcomed peaches, apples and other fruits, gathering eggs, all became a routine for summer – life in the country.

*(continued on page 2)*

Rosemayne graduated from a high school in Lodi, California in 1953, and in 1957, from Pacific Union College, Angwin, California, north of San Francisco in the Napa Valley. Her four-year degree with a major in Secretarial Science and a minor in Music proved a valuable foundation for teaching opportunities through the years.

Following college, marriage took her to Washington D.C., Wyoming, Peru, Colombia and lastly to Portland. In Wyoming she welcomed three children and at 12,500 feet elevation living at Lake Titicaca, Peru, welcomed her fourth (she says in humor – an Indian to go with her three Wyoming cowboys).

Music and gardening continue to be lasting interests and rewarding activities. She sang with the soprano section of the Portland Symphonic Choir for 35 years and enjoyed singing many of the choral and symphonic major works with the Oregon Symphony. Retiring from that organization, she was invited to sing with the Bach Cantata Choir and had just completed 10 years of rehearsals and concerts with that organization when the Corona virus pandemic cut short the 2020 season.

Concerned that someday her singing would end because of age, she began handbells in order to always have music in her life. She has been ringing and directing for 30 years, including 10 years for Resurrection Lutheran Church, all bringing rewards never imagined. That too, was interrupted on March 14<sup>th</sup> with the last 5-octave handbell performance.

Happily, gardening has not been stopped by the pandemic and Rosemayne has enjoyed sharing with Gardens building residents who would enjoy lettuce, zucchini, tomatoes, etc. She could not leave all her favorite plants behind with her move to CWV, and a surprising number of ferns and hostas as well as a few flowering plants are enjoyed by anyone who passes by her raised patio garden at Gardens 103.

Other interests, hobbies and collections will have their turn for attention in the future. They include bells, baskets, flower arranging, pitchers, sewing, scrapbooking, shells, South America memorabilia, stamp collecting, travel and a large vase collection.

*Clara La Marche, Gardens*



## **WOODY'S WISDOM**

*Happy Holidays to all my  
friends at CherryWood*



Jack  
by  
Marilynne Robinson

This is the story of John Ames (Jack) Boughton, the prodigal son of the Presbyterian Minister of Gilead, Iowa as he lives an exile life in St. Louis and meets Della, the school teacher daughter of a well-known Black M. E. Church Bishop in Memphis. Several years after an up and down life in St. Louis, Jack has a chance encounter with Della. Later, at another longer chance encounter, they get to know each other, which leads to the beginning of a long-term relationship. In those days, inter racial relationships were illegal, and disapproved by both the white and Black communities, so their relationship consisted of intermittent meetings.

Much of the novel consists of Jack's introspective thoughts and feelings as he reflects on life with or without Della. As usual, Marilynne Robinson's writing brings out the depth and breadth of Jack's inner thoughts as he reflects on what should or shouldn't be done.

"Jack" is the fourth in Robinson's Gilead series of novels: "Gilead", "Home", "Lila", and now "Jack".

*Dick Sakurai, Gardens*



## Presidential Firsts

William Howard Taft, our heftiest president, was the only U.S. chief executive ever to get stuck in a bathtub – but he was also the only former president to be named to the Supreme Court. See how many of these other former presidents you can match with his unique "first".

*By Herm Albright*

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| 1. Abraham Lincoln.....    | A. First president born in a hospital                |
| 2. Woodrow Wilson.....     | B. First to ride in an airplane                      |
| 3. Herbert Hoover.....     | C. Only president to earn a PH.D.                    |
| 4. Andrew Jackson.....     | D. Only bachelor president                           |
| 5. Jimmy Carter.....       | E. Had an asteroid named after him                   |
| 6. James Buchanan.....     | F. Was a prisoner of war                             |
| 7. Theodore Roosevelt..... | G. First West Point graduate to be elected president |
| 8. Ulysses S. Grant.....   | H. Received a U.S. patent                            |

Answers on page 7

*Doris Gutsche, Orchards*

The **Generations Distinguished Service Awards (DSA)** are held annually in recognition of exceptional performance, achievement, or demonstration of supreme qualities of character and culture so extraordinary as to set the individual Generations employee apart from his or her peers.

We know how much you appreciate our employees and want to celebrate them. This is a great way to do so. Some previous winners from the last five years from CherryWood Village: Elizabeth Reining (Independent Living Resident Relations), Kathy Morrison (Housekeeping), Mike Crockett (Maintenance), Lyubov Artemenko (Royale Anne Wait Staff), and Kimberly Clampitt (Royale Anne Med Tech). Please pick up a DSA nomination form today at the reception desks and submit it to the VSG Front Desk or to the HR Director, Olivia Peneyra. The deadline for 2020 DSA nominations is December 31, 2020.



**From your GFF and EAF committees:**

We want to thank all the generous residents for their contributions to both the Generations Family Fund and the Employee Appreciation Fund. Donations to the GFF help residents and employees in emergencies. And during the Covid 19 season, there were many applications for help from the GFF. We have shared some of those with you throughout the year.

Because of your generosity, we met our goal of \$20,000 this year for the Employee Appreciation Fund. The employees work very hard during the year and we are happy to say that they will be receiving those gifts on December 21 this year. Due to the Covid restrictions, the committee cannot be at their celebration to hand out the gifts, but staff will see that each person receives one. The fun event we had in September also supported the EAF fund. Residents and staff alike had a great time that day out in the sunshine and having fun.

We also want to thank the committee members who sent out the letters informing you of each CWV department and how they help us all. Also, thanks to the committee for the work on the fun event. We felt blessed by the number of people who came out to participate and share in the fun. We would also like to thank our sponsors for their generosity: Home Instead, Managed Moves, and Consonushealth who provides the medications for the Royal Anne residents.

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year**

**From the President's desk:**

The year 2020 will be remembered as one of the most extraordinary periods in our lifetime. Covid-19 pandemic brought worldwide loss and suffering to many. It is exponentially increasing in many areas including around us, making it imperative for all of us to follow precautionary health restrictions to contain its progression. There will be less options for in-person contact but we have alternatives like phone calls, letters, emails, e-cards and face time. They offer an escape from the lockdown sensation we are all experiencing.

Elections created an upheaval putting this country through something unprecedented. There is so much needed to repair unity and to maintain necessary avenues of cooperation. We must work together to find answers to these challenges and pave the way to a more harmonious future.

We should not forget to send our profound thanks to all veterans and current members of the Armed Forces for their service, past and present, and, to their families, should be sent our profound thanks for their service and sacrifices.

A special recognition and thanks to all our heroes, especially medical professionals, caregivers and teachers, and all those who have worked to help our communities survive the COVID-19 crisis.

The end of the year holidays is the time when people seem to reach deep inside them to see the best of things. It is when we take moments to share time and well-wishes with others. It gives people a sense of happiness and goodwill toward others as the New Year approaches.

*Claudio Lima. BOD President.*



**CHAPLAIN'S CORNER:** "The person who doesn't fit in with our notions of who is worthy of our love—the bag lady at the corner, the strange old man who rides through town on his three-wheeled bike all strung up with flags—is just the person who, by not fitting into our patterns, insists that we expand not only our views but also our capacity to love. Today, see if you can stretch your heart and expand your love so that it touches not only those to whom you give it easily, but also to those who need it so much."

*Daphne Rose Kingma*



It's time for holidays associated with December. If you are a Christian, Christmas is the major holiday. If you are Jewish, the major holiday is Hanukkah. Contrary to popular belief, Hanukkah is **not the Jewish Christmas**. It is not even a regular holiday in the Jewish faith but a festival of actual history and the first real battle for religious freedom.

Recently I began to wonder about the real reason for Hanukkah and the oil, and why is it for eight days. Who were the Maccabees and why were they hated so much? Hanukkah follows the Hebrew calendar and this year it will start on December 10<sup>th</sup>. The Hebrew calendar follows the moon, similar to the way Easter is calculated. At the bottom of this article I am providing a very scholarly link to the Wikipedia pages I found.

Growing up Jewish, and coming from a family of both Jews and Christians, it was always a puzzle to me why my mother and father, and especially my grandparents never celebrated Christmas. When Hanukkah came around my grandfather would hand me a fifty cent coin, and say "Happy Hanukkah." I was taught that Hanukkah lasted eight days and was a miracle. In honor of this miracle we would eat potato pancakes and applesauce and/or sour cream and light a candle each night for eight nights and play games with dreidels.

At Christmas we would go over to my Uncle Nat and Aunt Gladys' home and there would be a beautiful Christmas tree with all the trimmings. Aunt Gladys was Methodist and her mother lived at their home. Uncle Nat and my mother were siblings and Jewish. The food was decidedly different also. The rest was church for Aunt Gladys and her mother, and the mailing of cards to other members of families in their lives.

After the end of World War II and the end of the horrors of the Holocaust, a trend started and Jewish children would say, "but so and so gets a lot of presents at Christmas" and the festival turned into a holiday of sorts. It's not even mentioned in the Torah (aka The Old Testament) nor not a whole lot in the other Hebrew writings. But we are fortunate to have Wikipedia and just searching the word "Hanukkah", I found a treasure trove of information.

In the meantime I will polish my Menorah with the Shamus on top and decorate my door starting December 10. Our very own Chef Adrian makes great potato pancakes and you might even find a dreidel on your table when you eat.

*Donna Winkler, Royal Anne*

The Wikipedia link is: [www.Wikipedia.org](http://www.Wikipedia.org)



**NEEDED** – Items for the Cherry Pit. Any poetry, prose pieces fewer than 400 words, classified ads, stories, letters, recipes, jokes, puzzles, etc. must include your name and telephone number in case we need additional information. Hand items in at the Front Desk and ask that they be forwarded to Editor Joan Walborn. Deadline for small ads for the January issue is 3pm Monday, December 21<sup>st</sup>.



**Chapel Services** continue at 11 o'clock on Saturdays and Sundays. Please sign up at the front desk to reserve your seat.



Many thanks to all those who have been saving egg cartons for me. PACS says we are their major contributor, and the egg cartons are much appreciated. Remember we can only take the 12 and 18 egg cartons.

*Chaplain Mick*

The Chess Club is looking for new players – all levels!  
3pm Tuesdays, currently Greens 2<sup>nd</sup> floor elevator lobby.



**FREE:** If you want a push button (not remote) recliner, please call Judy Keiper at 503.703.7789. A picture can be sent by text.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

**MANY KUDOS** to Editor Joan Walborn and the entire staff for putting out a beautiful COLOR issue of the Cherry Pit. It is one of the things that help to brighten our days during these trying times. Keep up the good work.

*Dick Barry, Orchards*

**A VERY GRATEFUL NOTE OF THANKS** to all of the kitchen and wait staff and a tip of my hat to all who help feed us and keep us healthy.

*Donna Winkler, Royal Anne*

**Presidential Firsts answers:** 1-H; 2-C; 3-E; 4-F; 5-A; 6-D; 7-B; 8-G.

**CWV T-shirt Spirit Days are December 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>.**

**WELCOME NEW RESIDENTS**

Jack Bobst, Wynridge 508

Richard &amp; Helen Fearing, Orchards 319

Beverly Gramms, Wynridge 212

Barbara Hand, Orchards 216

Bob Trappe &amp; Betty Watkins,

Royal Anne 117

**CHERRY PIT  
Staff**

Joan Walborn, Editor  
Karen Arendt, Proofreader  
Susan Howard, Art Editor  
Clara La Marche, Reporter  
Bill Sanjour, Reporter

The purpose of the Cherry Pit  
is to get news to the residents,  
furnish some entertainment,  
provide little-known facts of  
CherryWood, and have fun.

Deadline for ads for the next issue  
is 3pm on 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month.

*The pit is the heart  
of the cherry.*

Remember that the most  
valuable antiques are dear  
old friends.

H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

