



## Friends of Lura Turner Homes

# NEWSLETTER

1432 N. 27th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85009

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Summer 2014

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## JUDGE STEVE GERST FETED WITH FOUNDERS' DAY AWARD

by Max McQueen, LTH Executive Director

On May 4th, long-time board member Steve Gerst received Lura Turner Homes' 27th annual Founders' Award. Not only was Steve surprised, he was visibly moved as his name was announced before 100-plus LTH supporters at Central United Methodist Church. "I'm honored to be this year's recipient of the Founders' Award," said Steve, a retired Superior Court judge now teaching law at Arizona Summit Law School. The award was handed to Steve by special guest "Sister" (actress Patti Hannon), an "old-school nun" who good-naturedly ribbed the honoree on the challenges of volunteering and serving on a board for a "really long time."



True to form, Steve offers keen and modest observations on his many labors of love on behalf of Lura Turner Homes: "This honor comes from serving so many years with dedicated board members, staff, volunteers and two extraordinary executive directors: Joyce Ridge and Max McQueen. Together, we've all worked hard to fulfill our sacred mission of providing our clients a safe, enriching, loving family environment. It's been a pleasure to be a part of helping so many special needs men and women reach their highest potential. In so doing, I know it's helped me reach my highest potential as well."

Steve's four decades of volunteering are marked by two signature involvements with LTH residents and the Phoenix Bird Civitan Club: along with his lawyer wife Toby, Steve conducts an annual "mock trial" to help residents understand courtroom proceedings; as a singing cowboy, Steve is renown for leading LTH residents and friends in country western songs, especially "Happy Trails."

Steve's first tie with LTH was through Phoenix Breakfast Civitan Club. This same club was a pivotal link to LTH for Rick Parizek, awardee of LTH's 2014 Individual Personal Touch Award. He was nominated by fellow Metro Civitans in recognition of the hard work and long hours he put in renovating two bathrooms in Joyce Ridge Civitan House's Apartment 5. "I met Joyce Ridge in 2000 through Bernie Strauss," says Rick, "I was so impressed with her and how her spirit never flagged. I figured if she could tackle something, so could I." With three brothers in construction, Rick learned early on to see "everything" as a project: "I'm good at sequencing. But lots of people helped on this - Andy and Lynda Wheeler, Deborah and John Maddox, and Chester Oakes. My brother Dan did the plumbing. I know doing projects such as this really helps the residents, but the camaraderie with Civitan volunteers is a plus too, even when you're down on your knees breaking cement."

(Continued on inside page.....)

LTH's 2014 Business Personal Touch Award went to Personal Touch Catering. Founder and president Lou Bauman was present, thinking he was there only to cater the Founder's Day event. Little did Lou know he'd be called to the stage so "Sister" could make a fuss over him. In response to LTH's heart-felt thank-you, the stunned caterer had this to say: "Community involvement in any charity is vital to their existence. Personal Touch Catering donates to Lura Turner Homes knowing that this organization cares for a significant segment of our society in a loving caring and Christian way. We're honored to be a part of helping meet this need."

Over the past decade, Litchfield Park First Baptist Church members have served LTH residents in a variety of ways. They host the yearly Valentine's Party. They've been escorts to the 4th of July concert. They've also painted the trimming at Joyce Ridge Civitan House, twice. In honor of these and other projects, the west-side congregation received LTH's 2014 Organization Personal Touch Award. Says Pastor Michelle Nairn, "Volunteering at Lura Turner Homes has blessed our church beyond measure. All the wonderful men and women who live there have become like brothers and sisters. At times, we may think we are blessing them. The truth is they bless us and remind us of the simple life God wants us to lead. Last year as we escorted the Civitan House ladies to the 4th of July celebration, Margaret said something that really got to all of us. She said, "That's what people are for, to love one another, care for one another and help one another." I think that says it all."



After North Phoenix Baptist's annual patriotic concert, JRCH resident Margaret pals around with Donna Allen, a volunteer from Litchfield Park First Baptist Church. The westside congregation received LTH's 2014 Organization Person Touch Award for its outstanding service to Lura Turner Homes.

Inspired by board member Steve Gerst's involvement with LTH, students and faculty from Arizona Summit Law School held a community service day at Lynwood House. Here law professors Tom Raine and Sandra Durant take a short break from cleaning the many windows at LTH's historic residence. The law school students also volunteer to host the "mock trial" conducted annually by Toby and Steve Gerst.

**SUMMER BOWLING LEAGUE SCORES WELL WITH RESIDENTS & VOLUNTEERS**

For five summers, LTH board member Becky Stingle and her husband Chris have coordinated a summer bowling activity for LTH residents and friends. On the third Saturday of June, July and August the Stingle's match volunteers from Hands on Greater Phoenix with LTH resident for a cool afternoon of strikes, spares and a few gutter bowls at Let It Roll Bowl. Want to volunteer? Please contact the LTH office. Want to help defray the cost? It costs about \$200 per Saturday (not bad for over 50 people!) Just make out your donation to Lura Turner Homes and designate it for Summer Bowling. Thank you!



A Hands On volunteer helps Peggy & Yvonne get ready for their turn.

# Donations Received

Lura Turner Homes expresses appreciation to all the following who have made donations during the months of April, May & June 2014

## Individuals

Anne Butterfly  
Irene Davis  
John & Ann Dubasik  
Brian & Stephanie Espinoza  
Paul Estes  
Dr. John & Jean Farnham  
Ruth & Lynn Feyma  
Barbara Ficker  
Dr. Jeffrey & Mara Greenberg  
Maryann Guerra  
John & Deborah Maddox  
Jane Martin  
Tim Melton  
Chester & Mary Grace Oakes  
David Lee Peters  
Jeff & Julie Peterson  
Don & Marilyn Poppe  
Thomas & Anne Power  
Mary Price  
Marcia Rehm  
Joyce Rogers  
Rev. Floy Scott  
Marilyn Seese  
Donald Townsend & Nelda Prosser  
Lillian Turner  
Mary Alice Tuttle  
Barry & Pauletta Wilson  
Kathryn Woodward

In Honor Of  
Robert Borso  
Given by Richard Borso  
Charlotte Peterson  
Given by Harriet Stevens  
Wanda & Chris Zorkan  
Cancer Warrior William Simon  
Given by Camille Simon  
Her Three Daughters  
Given by Charlotte Peterson

## Memorials

Olive Amsbury  
Given by Les Clute  
Susan Hershberger & Donald Zoss  
Fred VanAller  
Rev Harold Byrn  
Given by Ethyl Byrn  
Muriel Carpenter  
Given by Harriet Stevens  
Wanda & Chris Zorkan  
Marilyn Clute  
Given by Les Clute  
William Dart  
Given by Lynn & Lorrie Nelson  
Eloise Farrell  
Given by Alpha Delta Kappa Lambda Chapter  
Walter Gura  
Given by United Methodist Men of Faith UMC  
Aaron Hagan (1985-2006)  
Given by Darlene Hagan  
Rev. Paul Hall  
Given by Harriet Stevens  
Wanda & Chris Zorkan  
Irmgard Hulstrom  
Given by Charlotte Peterson  
Helen Lerner  
Given by David Lerner  
Patricia Mack  
Given by Ronald Mack  
Ralph McClellan  
Given by Charlotte Peterson  
Jane Merritt  
Given by Charlotte Peterson  
Don Mnichowicz  
Given by Edward Reilly  
Kevin Ore  
Given by Michael Ore & Patti Bauman

## Memorials Continued

Brian Pence  
Given by Sharon Drufke  
Alberta Rezak  
Given by Harriet Stevens  
Wanda & Chris Zorkan  
Joyce Ridge  
Given by Alpha Pi Chapter 761  
Les Clute  
Harriet Stevens  
Wanda & Chris Zorkan  
Dan Schwartz  
Given by Harriet Stevens  
Wanda & Chris Zorkan  
Norma Shaw  
Given by Morrie & Phyllis Shaw  
Lura Turner  
Given by Harriet Stevens  
Wanda & Chris Zorkan  
Charis Wainwright  
Given by Bob & Jenny Schrum

## Churches, Businesses, Service Groups & Trust

Gannett Foundation  
Madison Baptist Mission Board  
Personal Touch Catering  
Phoenix Squaw Peak Rotary Club  
TJX Foundation  
Sun Lakes United Methodist  
United Methodist Women of Central

## Birthday Acknowledgements

Harriet Stevens  
Given by Wanda & Chris Zorkan  
Lori Stevens  
Given by Wanda & Chris Zorkan  
Shayna Stevens  
Given by Wanda & Chris Zorkan

## Epsilon Sigma Phi – Alpha Pi Chapter's Last Act Remembers Joyce Ridge

With sadness, Cora Lee Stanley tells us that Epsilon Sigma Phi Alpha Pi has folded. Says Cora: "We lost Susie and Virginia. We just couldn't go on without two key leaders." For over 20 years, this sorority hosted monthly bingo and birthday parties at Joyce Ridge Civitan House. Though "letting go" is hard, Cora says she and fellow member Theresa will always remember how much their efforts were appreciated: "Even now, when the residents see us, they say how much fun we had." In tribute to Joyce Ridge, the chapter's last members donated the balance of their funds to the planned JRCH remembrance garden. Thanks for the memories!

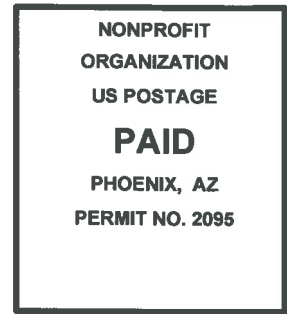
Sorority sisters Cora (seated) and Theresa (extreme right) flank past members of Epsilon Sigma Phi Alpha Pi as they admire their Founders' Day award from Lura Turner Homes.







Lura Turner Homes, Inc.  
1432 N. 27th Avenue  
Phoenix, AZ 85009



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**August 25 - 29, 2014 ~ LTH Camp**

**September 27, 2014 ~ 20th annual Golf Tournament**

**October 25, 2014 ~ Walk-A-Thon**

**November 8, 2014 ~ LTH Boutique**

**January 24, 2015 ~ Italian Dinner**

**March 7, 2015 ~ High Tea**

**May 3, 2015 ~ Founders Day - LTH 50th Anniversary Celebration**

