

Hillcrest Views

Spring 2010

Life at Hillcrest

Getting to Know Your Neighbors

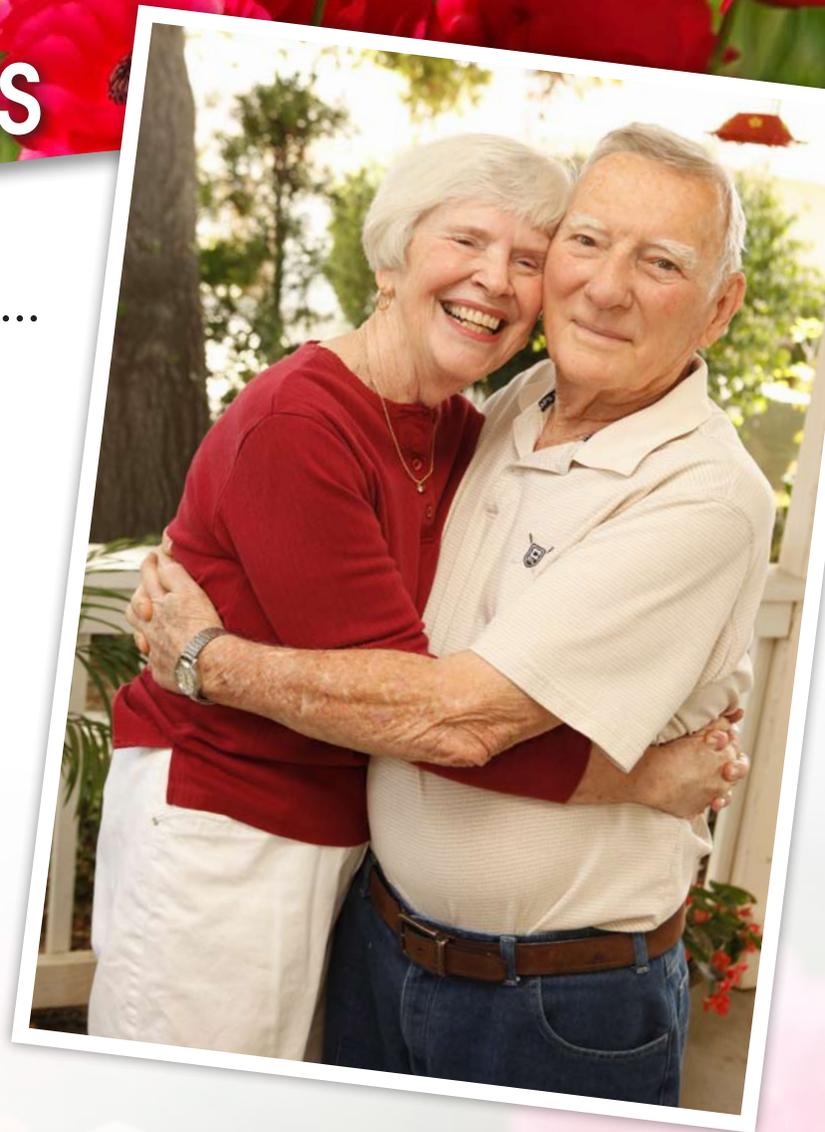
Joan and Jack Rosenbrock (*pictured here*) enjoy the quiet life at Hillcrest, especially their relaxing outdoor space, where they often have a glass of wine and chat with neighbors. "It's like having another room" says Joan.

Both native Californians, Joan was raised in Monterey Park, and majored in education at University of La Verne before teaching early elementary students. Jack was born in Pomona and worked as an aerospace engineer for 35 years for Rockwell, Boeing and Hughes. Joan and Jack have a daughter and son and three college-aged grandkids. They are RV travelers who regularly visit Yosemite, the Sierras, Zion National Park and Anza-Borrego Springs. Upon retiring, they traveled all over the world- Switzerland, Alaska, New Zealand, the East Coast and Hawaii.

Joan was very familiar with Hillcrest since she spent ten years as the Director of Assisted Living. Joan and her first husband lived locally in the same home for 53 years and signed up on the wait list for Hillcrest in 1979. After her husband passed away and she and Jack married, they planned to retire to a new, smaller home in Hawthorne but changed their minds and decided to move to Hillcrest instead. Joan has family here and lots of friends from college.

For the Rosenbrocks, the best thing about Hillcrest is the sense of community and the opportunity to be as involved as much or as little as you desire. Joan enjoys having a smaller house with less upkeep and maintenance. Active in water aerobics, Joan raves "the Aquatic Center alone is worth moving to Hillcrest for!" She also enjoys gardening and trying out new recipes on Jack. For those considering moving to a senior living community, Joan and Jack suggest "Make sure you have a realistic and good attitude about community living and that you're truly ready to make the move."

Just inside the front door of **Ann Doty's** home is a plaque with the German phrase *bauernstube*, which refers to the traditional German table reserved for guests held in high regard. Ann's entire home feels like a welcome embrace to



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visitors. From her charming German folk furnishings and her beloved books, to her delightful backyard oasis, every aspect of Ann's home welcomes guests to sit, relax and have a good conversation.

"The Aquatic Center alone is worth moving to Hillcrest for."



Born and raised in Bay City, Michigan, Ann attended Mercy College and Eastern State University and began a lifelong career in education teaching deaf students. She later moved to California, where she continued teaching, primarily gifted 5th and 6th grade students. After being involved in several innovative teaching programs, Ann decided to branch out

and took a teaching position at Sembach Air Force base in Germany. Ann taught for 47 years before retiring.

Wanting to make her own decisions about her health and her future, Ann began researching and visiting retirement communities. After many tours, drive-bys and lunches, Ann decided to move to Hillcrest in September 2009. She'd often run into Hillcrest residents in Old Town La Verne who spoke highly of the community and Ann liked seeing so many active residents when she drove through the Hillcrest neighborhood.

The neighborhood feel of Hillcrest appeals to Ann and she truly appreciates the helpfulness of the staff. She also enjoys how involved residents are in the decision-making process at Hillcrest. Ann raves about how lucky Hillcrest is to have Chef Christian Laire. Friends at another local community have been trying to get their chef to incorporate fresh fruits and veggies into the menu without luck, so Ann enjoys the variety and healthiness of the dining options at Hillcrest.

Ann's advice on making the move to a retirement community is to be realistic and remove sentimentality from the decision-making process. "Think of joining a community as a new chapter in your life. Make the decision about your future for yourself- don't wait and leave the decision to other people. Remember that nothing is certain, everything changes and we don't know what the future holds- so look at it as an adventure!"

DL Smeltzer married the girl next door- just a few months ago at Hillcrest! DL and **Beryl Fordyce** lived two houses away from one another but didn't really get to know each

other until they attended a grief counseling seminar held by Hillcrest's chaplain after both lost their spouses in 2007. DL and Beryl became friends, attending theater events and going to dinner. In January 2010, they were married at La Verne Heights Presbyterian Church and held a cake and punch reception for friends and family at Hillcrest.

DL grew up in La Verne and attended Chaffey College before serving in the army in Japan and Korea. He was actively involved in education as a teacher, principal, and Superintendent of Schools as well as being active in Boy Scouts and Little League until his retirement in 1981. DL and his first wife moved to Hillcrest in 1994 and things got off to a shaky start with the Northridge earthquake happening on their first night! They chose Hillcrest because DL's brother, Maury Smeltzer, was CEO for 23 years and his father and many friends from college also lived at Hillcrest.

"Think of joining a community as a new chapter in your life."

Beryl was born in Harrow, England, near London, and moved to California at 23 when the British Tourist Office transferred her to its LA office. She met and married her first husband, who was also a British travel agent, and traveled all over the world. Together she and her husband ran a travel agency in Pasadena for 20 years. They sold their home and moved to Hillcrest in April 2006 upon the recommendation of a church friend.



After marrying in January, DL and Beryl moved into a larger home at Hillcrest together and are still unpacking boxes. DL jokes that he had to get married twice to get a two car garage! Between the two of them, DL and Beryl have seven children, ten grandkids and four great grandchildren. Much to everyone's delight, the kids are very happy for their parents and everyone gets along!

DL and Beryl enjoy the interesting mix of people at Hillcrest, the kindness and caring of their neighbors and staff and the community feel of Hillcrest. Beryl loves the lack of worry- simply writing a monthly check and having everything taken care of. DL likes the independence but is comforted knowing there is health care right on campus if needed. They encourage anyone thinking about making the move to Hillcrest to talk to the marketing staff, take a tour and have lunch in the dining room to enjoy the excellent food and variety of choices.