

Weekly

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Living Well

A monthly special section of news & information for seniors

BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY

OFF THE CLOCK, THESE AVENIDAS HONOREES LAID THE GROUNDWORK FOR A BETTER COMMUNITY



Each of this year's nine Avenidas Lifetimes of Achievement honorees has gone beyond the call of duty year in and year out for decades to create positive changes in the community by donating countless hours of hands-on service to local organizations and programs aimed at improving education, health care, the environment and services for seniors, among other areas.

From launching an innovation center aimed at providing cutting-edge resources for teachers and students, to raising millions of dollars for cancer research, to initiating programs to foster diversity and social justice in and out of the workplace, Fran Codispoti, Helen Gifford,

Gay and Bill Krause, Alma and Jim Phillips, Stephen Player and Eliane and Armand Neukermans have distinguished themselves as deeply committed to making their communities a better place.

To honor them, the senior-serving nonprofit Avenidas and the Palo Alto Weekly will host a virtual celebration on Sunday, Sept. 26, from 3 to 4:30 p.m. on Zoom.

"While the date and venue may have changed a few times due to COVID, the spirit of coming together and celebrating will carry on as we will all raise a glass to toast this outstanding group of achievers," said Kari Martell, Avenidas VP of Marketing and Communications.

Tickets for this public event are \$75 and gifts may also be made in honor of one or more of the honorees, with proceeds benefiting Avenidas' programs for older adults throughout the area.

Ticket holders may choose to have a box of savory snacks, dessert and a bottle of wine delivered to their home before the event. There also will be live guitar music, the chance to meet and welcome new Avenidas President and CEO Amy Yotopoulos and the opportunity to learn about the honorees' contributions, as presented by Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian.

To reserve a Zoom link for this festive online party, visit avenidas.org by Sept. 17. For more information, call 650-289-5445.

LIFETIMES OF ACHIEVEMENT

FRAN CODISPOTI

SHE'S RAISED MILLIONS OF DOLLARS AS AN ADVOCATE FOR PEOPLE YOUNG AND OLD

By David Goll

Los Altos Hills philanthropist Fran Codispoti isn't one to shy away from life's unexpected challenges. After recovering from Hodgkin's lymphoma, she decided to turn her attention away from a lucrative career in tech to focus exclusively on improving the well-being of people young and old who might be experiencing hardships.

Palo Alto's Amy Rao, who met Codispoti seven years ago while doing advocacy work, has a succinct description of her relationship with her.

"I tell everyone I want to be Fran when I grow up," Rao said with a chuckle. "She has incredible energy and passion when she is working for a cause."

Rao and Codispoti met through their activism in the Democratic Party and membership in the Silicon Valley chapter of Human Rights Watch, a New York-based non-governmental organization that conducts research into and advocacy for human rights causes worldwide. Codispoti is a member of the chapter's executive committee that targets causes and

plans events. Rao is on the international organization's board of directors.

'Feminism has been a continuous thread throughout my life.'

— Fran Codispoti

Human Rights Watch is just one of many nonprofit and charitable organizations where Codispoti has worked tirelessly for over many decades.

Among Codispoti's many talents are her formidable fundraising abilities, often the least popular duty in charitable or political campaign work.

"She has no problem asking people to open up their wallets and their hearts for a good cause," Rao said.

Among her most notable fundraising accomplishments is the annual Under One Umbrella event on behalf of the Stanford Women's Cancer Center. A survivor herself, Codispoti first got



Magali Gauthier

A survivor of Hodgkin's lymphoma, Fran Codispoti first got involved with the Under One Umbrella annual fundraising event in 2011. Over the years, she has raised more than \$1 million annually on behalf of the Stanford Women's Cancer Center.

involved with Under One Umbrella in 2011 — and helped raise \$800,000 for the Center by snagging none other than famed actress Nicole Kidman as the featured entertainment. Over the years since, the event, now held at Stanford's Bing Concert Hall, has raised more than \$1 million

annually, and Kidman has been joined on stage by her country-singer husband, Keith Urban; by fellow husband-and-wife country music luminaries Garth Brooks and Trisha Yearwood; and by another famous married duo — movie-industry actors and royalty Tom Hanks and Rita Wilson.

Codispoti credits her political awareness, dogged determination and large reservoir of empathy for others to her parents.

"I was raised in a family that greatly valued a strong work ethic," she said.

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BETSY GIFFORD

SHE'S SPENT HUNDREDS OF HOURS
LENDING A HAND TO NONPROFITS

By Sue Dremann

Betsy Gifford is finally getting used to the idea of being honored with an Avenidas Lifetimes of Achievement Award. She's not keen on the spotlight.

"I like to do things quietly in the background. I don't want any bugles," she said on a sunny August afternoon.

But Gifford's — and her family's — quiet imprint is on many things benefiting the Palo Alto, East Palo Alto and Stanford communities: Stanford athletics and arts programs; the YMCA in East Palo Alto; the Children's Hospital at Stanford; the Music Guild at Stanford University; Junior League of Palo Alto-Mid Peninsula; a local PTA, as well as numerous others.

From being a Palo Alto Community Fund director emerita to being a 30-year member of the "Dirty Knees Brigade" at Elizabeth F. Gamble Garden, tending the flower beds, Gifford isn't shy about one thing: rolling up her sleeves. With privilege comes

responsibility, and that's how she was raised, she said.

Her mother and father were active in their community in Aurora, Illinois; son Peter is past president of the Palo Alto Community Fund and has been involved with the East Palo Alto Charter School;

'There's nothing better than to see the results of quietly contributing to the benefit of all. It fills your heart.'

— Betsy Gifford

son Jonathan volunteers with Canopy and Gamble Garden.

"It's a family ethic — that's all," she said.

Her father, Karl Grube, who graduated from Stanford University with a degree in aeronautical engineering, was a big supporter



Magali Gauthier

From being a Palo Alto Community Fund director emerita to being a 30-year member of the Dirty Knees Brigade at Elizabeth F. Gamble Garden, Betsy Gifford isn't shy about one thing: rolling up her sleeves. With privilege comes responsibility, and that's how she was raised, she said.

of the university. After returning to his hometown, he recruited many students for Stanford's admissions office, she said.

He also encouraged his own son, John, and John's friend, Jonathan Berry Gifford, to attend Stanford. Jonathan Gifford became an architect and later worked for Birge Clark's firm. Betsy eventually married him, and the couple settled in Palo Alto in 1966.

Settling into her new environment was challenging. The only people she knew were her husband and a high school classmate.

"I had to forge my own way," she said. In the uncharted territory of Palo Alto, she set out to find out "who she was" and how to be creative in her new environment, she said.

Gifford graduated from the University of Arizona with a

social sciences degree.

"It was my hook to learn about the community," she said.

She first volunteered as a "pink lady" at Stanford Hospital in patient services. Then she was invited to join the Palo Alto Auxiliary at Allied Arts, which benefited the Children's Hospital at Stanford. After their two sons were

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BILL AND GAY KRAUSE

THEY'VE SPENT DECADES WORKING
TO IMPROVE LOCAL EDUCATION

By Chris Kenrick

It felt like an enormous risk to Bill and Gay Krause back in 1981.

Bill quit his good management job at Hewlett-Packard — where his personal mentor was the legendary co-founder Bill Hewlett — to join an uncertain but interesting startup.

"There were months when there were no paychecks," recalled Gay in an interview with the Weekly.

The startup — 3Com — turned out to be wildly successful. As CEO from 1981 to 1990 and board chair from 1987 to 1993, Bill grew the data networking firm into a global, \$1 billion-plus publicly traded company.

The wealth created from that venture has since allowed the Los Altos Hills couple to pursue many other dreams.

In the case of Gay, a former schoolteacher and principal, she's been able to create and grow her own startup — the Krause Center for Innovation at Foothill College in Los Altos Hills. Under

her direction since its founding in 2000, the center has offered professional training to more than 23,000 educators in the effective use of classroom technology and more engaging, high-quality instruction in math and related subjects.

'Education, from our point of view, is really the foundation of all benefits to society.'

— Bill Krause

For Bill, his success at 3Com allowed him to execute on a three-part idea he'd hazily concocted as a 20-year-old, broke college graduate. The plan — which he calls "learning, earning and serving" — was to spend one-third of his career learning about business; another third building a business and the remainder giving back.

His learning phase took place at General Electric and then at



Magali Gauthier

Bill and Gay Krause's shared passion for education led them to create the Krause Center for Innovation at Foothill College in Los Altos Hills in 2000. Since its opening, the center has provided professional training to more than 23,000 educators in the effective use of classroom technology and more engaging, high-quality instruction in math and related subjects.

Hewlett-Packard, where on his very first day in 1967, Krause was introduced to company president Bill Hewlett in the cafeteria. He began accompanying Hewlett on sales calls for an early programmable machine they called a desktop calculator. Krause later went on to turn the money-losing HP 3000 computer into a \$1 billion business for the company and, still later, to manage HP's first personal computer division.

Intrigued by the then-novel idea of connecting PCs into a network, Krause embarked on his risky but ultimately successful "earning"

phase, joining Ethernet co-inventor Robert Metcalfe and others in the early days of 3Com. Among the company's first customers were the young Bill Gates, Steve Jobs and Sun Microsystems co-founder Andy Bechtolsheim.

Now in his "giving back" phase, Krause mentors young entrepreneurs through the venture capital firm Andreessen Horowitz and also is a senior adviser to the private equity firm Carlyle Group. Having served on boards of more than 15 publicly traded companies, he now sits on the boards of two startups, Forward Networks and

Smartcar, as well as the privately held Veritas. Gay currently serves on the boards of the YMCA of Silicon Valley, the Foothill-De Anza Foundation, Children Now, the Mountain View-Los Altos-Los Altos Hills Challenge Team, as well as the community board of the Palo Alto Medical Foundation.

For both Krauses, most of the other "giving back" flows from their shared passion for education. They've funded the Krause Innovation Studio at Penn State University — Gay's alma mater — and

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ARMAND AND ELIANE NEUKERMANS

TOGETHER AND INDIVIDUALLY, COUPLE IS DEDICATED TO SERVING LOCAL AND GLOBAL COMMUNITIES

By Heather Zimmerman

It's certainly not uncommon for long-devoted couples to have met in college, but a truly special partnership was forged some decades ago when an economics student met an engineering student at Louvain University in Belgium.

That meeting brought together Armand and Eliane Neukermans, who have been married close to 60 years, have four children and nine — soon to be 10 — grandchildren. But that meeting in college also brought together two people dedicated to being of service to others, whose numerous philanthropic projects make a difference in the lives of people both locally and globally.

Together and individually, the Neukermanses' philanthropic work takes a stunningly broad scope, from complex social issues such as education and accessibility

to the gnarliest of environmental challenges, with projects aimed at mitigating climate change.

"The only way to live is to share what you have with your family and community. We don't live for ourselves," Eliane said.

'The only way to live is to share what you have with your family and community. We don't live for ourselves.'

— Eliane Neukermans

Eliane holds degrees in economics and philosophy from Louvain, and Armand has degrees in both electrical and mechanical



Armand and Eliane Neukermans' philanthropic work takes a stunningly broad scope, from complex social issues such as education and accessibility to the gnarliest of environmental challenges, with projects aimed at mitigating climate change.

engineering, with a doctorate in applied physics from Stanford University.

The Neukermanses came to the Bay Area in the early 1960s after a short time in Arizona, and Armand, an engineer and physicist, worked for early Silicon Valley companies such as Hewlett-Packard and Xerox. He went on to create his own consulting firm and also founded a company based on a revolutionary optical switch.

Armand was named Silicon Valley Inventor of the Year in 2001 by the Silicon Valley Intellectual Property Law Association. He holds over 75 patents, and his

work has led to everything from the development of the inkjet printer to innovations in fiber optics, advancements in hearing aids to transdermal medical delivery systems.

For more than a decade, Armand has been one of a small group of engineers and scientists volunteering their time and expertise to tackle one of the biggest challenges there is: climate change. One aspect of their work focuses on a "geoengineering" strategy known as "marine cloud brightening," which aims to lower temperatures through a process that makes clouds denser and capable

of reflecting sunlight back into the atmosphere. It's being used experimentally to try to cool Australia's Great Barrier Reef, Eliane said.

"Other people who influenced Armand's work for two decades have been (Stanford professor) Steve Schneider and (scientist and futurist) James Lovelock who each in their own way promoted the need for involvement, action and research in climate change. We had several meetings with them. Armand's work with fellow engineers and scientists on climate change and geo-engineering is the

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ALMA AND JIM PHILLIPS

THEY'VE CHANGED LIVES THROUGH MORE THAN A DOZEN LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

By Jocelyn Dong

When Jim Phillips met Alma Howard at the University of Texas at Austin in the late 1950s, it was pretty much love at first sight, he recently recalled. But a year later, the soon-to-be graduates faced their first quandary: He was staying for graduate school at the university; she was thinking of moving to Houston to find work as an elementary school teacher since Austin's school district was so highly competitive.

But demonstrating a commitment to Jim, as she would for decades to come, Alma sought advice from her dean, who told her to go to the district office immediately.

"You're the best graduate of your year in your field. There's no question you'll get a job teaching in Austin," he said.

So Alma did. And she got the job.

Thus began the Phillipses'

partnership for life, which has taken them from Austin to New York to Palo Alto, where they and their two children set down roots in 1972.

'Put a lot of effort into doing things for others, and you will realize a richer life.'

— Jim Phillips

Theirs, Jim said, has been a lifetime of joy, built on mutual support and service to others.

As Avenidas Lifetimes of Achievement honorees, the Phillipses' contributions to the Palo Alto area have been broad, spanning education, diversity, housing, civic affairs and services to seniors. Their impact also has been deep, helping people in



Alma and Jim Phillips' contributions to the Palo Alto area have been broad, spanning education, diversity, housing, civic affairs and services to seniors. Their impact also has been deep, helping people in ways that have changed lives.

ways that have changed lives.

For Jim, the ethos of service to others was planted in him when he was young, as he observed his parents' volunteerism. His mother, a registered nurse, provided health education to the poor; his father once learned sign language to communicate with a deaf and mute couple in their town.

"I thought it was really remarkable," Jim said. "That kind of stuck with me through all of my years."

When he was 5, his family

moved to New York, where he witnessed stark economic inequality.

"I was exposed for the first time to African American people, and I could see ... how they were living differently, and that gave me thoughts way back then: 'Why is this difference going on?'" Jim said.

For Alma, her desire to help others grew as she discovered her talent for relating to kids of all kinds, including those who were disadvantaged and others who were

considered trouble-makers.

"They're responsive. They're willing to learn — and they do, so it's rewarding," she said, her voice still carrying a faint Texas drawl.

Once the family moved to Palo Alto, Alma gave up teaching but tutored students over many decades. Witnessing their progress was deeply satisfying, she said. She's even saved a note from a teacher she respected, who'd written: "You

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STEPHEN PLAYER

HE LENT HIS LEGAL EXPERTISE
TO HELP LAUNCH STARTUP NONPROFITS

By Lloyd Lee

From the get-go as a fresh law school graduate, Palo Alto attorney Stephen Player spent much of his 30-year career lending his skills to help local nonprofits get off the ground all while working full-time representing some of Silicon Valley's biggest tech names.

Player was among those who helped form the Senior Coordinating Council of Palo Alto, which later became Avenidas. He also assisted with the launch of Center for a New Generation, an afterschool enrichment program in East Palo Alto, and Foundation for a College Education, which helps students in underrepresented communities pursue college.

Looking back on his accomplishments, Player, now 80, describes his life trajectory as a series of serendipitous moments, with one thing unexpectedly leading to another.

"It was just kind of a series of decisions, or non-decisions, that helped me through my career," he said.

From day one, Player said, his career as a lawyer started with a stroke of good luck. After graduating from Stanford University and University of California, Hastings College of the Law, Player said he took a gap year in England. When he returned to the United States, Player struggled for a few months to find a job. His prospects finally changed in 1967 when his former wife's uncle introduced Player to a close friend named Nathan Finch, who ran a small law firm in Palo Alto.

When the two met, Finch told Player, "Hey, we just terminated a lawyer. I happen to have an empty office; here's a pad of

paper and pen."

At the time, Player didn't know much about Finch or whom the firm represented. He was mostly happy for the opportunity to work as a lawyer in the Bay Area. Finch, it turned out, had been David Packard and Bill Hewlett's personal lawyer through the founding of Hewlett-Packard, and the firm also now performed corporate work for the tech company.

This association with HP led to the beginning of Player's foray into the nonprofit sector. Player said Packard approached the firm with a request from fellow Stanford University alum John Gardner — who at the time was serving as secretary of health, education and welfare in the Lyndon Johnson administration — to help establish a local chapter of the nonprofit Urban Coalition.

'It was just kind of a series of decisions, or non-decisions, that helped me through my career.'

— Stephen Player

The national program aimed to bring together leaders from businesses, local government and civil rights organizations to spearhead solutions to race and poverty issues following the 1967 Detroit riot, which spurred protests nationwide.

"Since we were (Packard's) lawyers, we got involved with setting up the local chapter," Player said.

His job involved a lot of the



Stephen Player spent much of his 30-year career lending his skills to help local nonprofits get off the ground all while working full-time representing some of Silicon Valley's biggest tech names.

grunt work necessary to establish a nonprofit organization: filing papers with the IRS to get a tax exemption, writing the articles of incorporation and by-laws, and offering legal consultation pro bono.

"It was a wonderful opportunity to really deal with some real life issues, and Urban Coalition was right on top of things," Player said.

Player's involvement with the Urban Coalition opened the floodgates for what would amount to several decades of volunteer legal work for nonprofits and a seat on more than a dozen nonprofit boards, including the Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce, Palo Alto Recreation Foundation and Palo Alto YMCA.

He was approached to help start Foundation for a College Education, a nonprofit by Christopher Roe and Glenn Singleton, who were interested in helping minority high school students get into college. He also was tapped by John Wesley Rice, the father of former U.S. Secretary of State,

Condoleezza Rice, to help start Center for a New Generation in 1991. The organization now operates as an extension of the Boys & Girls Club.

In his sole practice as a general business and real estate lawyer after he left Finch's law firm, Player became known as a friendly neighborhood lawyer, settling disputes between Palo Alto residents and the city. If a resident's fence was too high or their home was too close to someone else's, for example, Player said he would often step in as a mediator to help both sides come to terms amicably.

"The thing about law — sometimes it's about beating the other person," he said. "I was never that way. I always felt there had to be a meeting point somewhere."

In his 60s, Player's career took another unexpected turn.

While serving on the board of the Midpeninsula Hospice Foundation, which later became Pathways, Player called his friend Howie Pearson, Stanford's current senior philanthropic adviser

and development legal counsel, to ask him to give a talk about planned giving and how to raise endowments.

And in tune with Player's serendipitous world, when he called to confirm Pearson's appointment, Pearson's administrative assistant asked if Player would be willing to take a half-time job as the university's planned giving officer.

"I said, sure. ... That's why I talk about serendipity," he said.

Player lives in his longtime residence in the Leland Manor neighborhood with his wife, Nancy Player, who has been involved in much of his volunteer work since the '80s. Currently, Player's on a committee trying to get the Palo Alto Museum off the ground and raise money.

"I was really blessed as a young lawyer to have a chance to meet all these people," he said. "As I get older, I look back and think, 'I was a lucky son of a gun.'" ■

Email Staff Writer Lloyd Lee at LLee@paweekly.com.

Codispoti

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"As a kid, there was one Christmas when I needed money to buy gifts, so I went door to door in my neighborhood selling Christmas cards. I made enough money not only for gifts but to buy a savings bond, too," she said.

Codispoti said that, because of her father's employment in the military, her family moved every two years when she was growing up. Along with such domestic locations as Washington, D.C., North Carolina, Florida and California, her father also was stationed in Santiago, Chile, where she and her sisters learned to speak Spanish.

But it was the move she made after accepting a position at Time

Life Co. in New York City following her graduation from Syracuse University in 1965 that ended up having a profound effect on Codispoti's life. When her father accepted a military assignment in Japan, she decided to leave the Time Life job and join her parents and sisters in the Far East. While working as a social studies teacher in a school for the children of American military personnel in Japan — despite lacking a teaching credential — Codispoti befriended a fellow American teacher.

Though her new friend eventually had to return home to Ohio due to the death of her mother, Codispoti forged a now 54-year friendship with Judie Wolken, which included the latter introducing the former to her future husband, Kenneth Schroeder, at a

party she hosted a few years later in California.

"We have developed an amazing friendship over the years," said Wolken, who also resides in Los Altos Hills. "Fran and I really consider ourselves to be sisters."

A friend of Wolken hosted the outdoor wedding of Codispoti and Schroeder at their home in Portola Valley.

Their friendship grew ever stronger during the ensuing years, as Codispoti juggled starting her own family — having a son and daughter — with working as a scheduler at Hewlett-Packard during the 1970s. Channeling her own mother, whom she described as a mid-20th century feminist, Codispoti advocated and agitated for her own career advancement, as well as for other women, not only at HP, but in

a high-tech industry generally that is still struggling with misogyny nearly five decades later.

"Feminism has been a continuous thread throughout my life," Codispoti said.

In the midst of working, having children and pursuing an MBA at Santa Clara University, Codispoti had to undergo six months of chemotherapy after discovering a lump that led to a Hodgkin's lymphoma diagnosis.

Emerging from that health scare after several years of treatment, Codispoti became involved in charitable work for many different schools and organizations, including Gunn High School and the Palo Alto Unified School District. Becoming acutely aware of issues involving aging, since her mother was in her late 80s at the

time, Codispoti also became active with Avenidas, the Palo Alto-based nonprofit that provides programs and services for Midpeninsula seniors.

Among the projects she led for Avenidas was the capital campaign to remodel the organization's aging headquarters at 450 Bryant St.

All in a day's work for Codispoti. Her unique talent, according to her legions of friends and fans, is dedication.

"This is her gift," Wolken said of her dear friend's devotion to charitable groups and causes. "Fran is fiercely dedicated and loyal to her causes, her family and all the people in her life." Wolken said. ■

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Gifford

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born, she volunteered with the Junior League and PTA in Palo Alto.

When her husband died — Gifford was in her early 40s — her volunteerism and giving intensified. Leonard Ely conscripted her to join the Palo Alto Community Fund in 1993, and she began directing her attention to East Palo Alto.

“It was a ticket for me to learn about the community on both sides of Bayshore Freeway,” she said.

Gifford wanted to continue her family legacy of involvement with the YMCA, so she and her family contributed to the building of the Lewis and Joan Platt East Palo Alto Family YMCA.

Gifford met her husband, Jon, at a YMCA in their hometown; in the Bay Area, he was a past-president of the YMCA of the Mid-Peninsula; her father was president of the YMCA in Illinois and her mother also was involved with the YWCA in her hometown, she said.

When Gifford visits East Palo Alto’s YMCA and sees the community enjoying the programs, she feels satisfaction.

“There’s nothing better than to see the results of quietly contributing to the benefit of all. It fills your heart. Money can’t build those feelings,” she said.

Volunteering and donating “gave me the opportunity to expand my curiosity. The curiosity of my surroundings has taken me on this journey of community involvement. It’s wanting to know

the whys and the hows. You can’t let yourself stay stagnant. It’s the pleasure of seeing — to give where you live — while you’re alive. There’s the pleasure of seeing the accomplishments of what has been quietly underwritten, of seeing the rewards of the investments in the community,” she said.

Gifford is animated by this excitement and energy. But she laments what she feels is a general disinterest today among those who have the most to give.

“It’s hard to recruit board members for important nonprofit institutions. Somehow, people feel entitled, and they feel they don’t have to contribute. It’s a conundrum. How do you get people to engage?”

Everyone has something to offer. Growing up in Aurora, a community in the Chicago metropolitan area, Gifford was around “a wonderful mix of different types of people,” she said.

“We were taught that everyone comes to the table and has something to contribute.” ■

Email Staff Writer Sue Dremann at sdremann@paweekly.com.

About the cover:

The 2020 Avenidas Lifetimes of Achievement honorees include, from left to right, Betsy Gifford, Stephen Player, Eliane Neukermans, Armand Neukermans, Fran Codispoti, Gay Krause, Bill Krause, Alma Phillips and Jim Phillips, shown here at Avenidas in Palo Alto on Jan. 23, 2020. Photo by Magali Gauthier. Cover design by Douglas Young.



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Living Well
SEPTEMBER
2021
Calendar of Events

JOIN US FOR A VIRTUAL CELEBRATION!

2021 Avenidas Lifetimes of Achievement

Sunday, September 26, 2021
3:00-4:30pm on Zoom

Celebrate with music, good friends, outstanding honorees, and even food and wine all from the comfort of your own home!*

Tickets: \$75
*Delicious treat boxes and wine delivered locally.

2021 Honorees
Fran Codispoti
Betsy Gifford
Gay & Bill Krause
Eliane & Armand Neukermans
Alma & Jim Phillips
Steve Player

To reserve your Zoom link for this festive online party, please visit www.avenidas.org. For questions, please call (650) 289-5445. Your response prior to September 17 is appreciated.



Sept 1
Short Story Club – Irish Stories, Old and New, via Zoom.
10:30am-12pm, every Wednesday. Email tmcloud@avenidas.org to join. Free.

Sept 2
Avenidas Village Coffee Chat, 10am via Zoom.
Email dgreenblat@avenidas.org to register. Free.

Wonder Women Lesbian Social Group, featuring Jane Fleischman, via Zoom
3-4pm via Zoom. Email jenn@seniorshowerproject.com for info and to register. Free.

Sept 3
Workshop series: Creating a Lasting Legacy, 3-part workshop with Liza Hanks
10-11am via Zoom. Dates: 9/3, 9/24, and 10/29. RSVP required for log on info. Email: register@avenidas.org. Free.

Sept 6
Money Mondays Explore Tech Lectures
2-3:15pm, on Mondays. For info or to register email rspv@seniorplanetavenidas.org. Free.

Sept 7
Techie Tuesdays Explore Tech Lectures
2-3:15pm, on Tuesdays. For info or to register email rspv@seniorplanetavenidas.org. Free.

Sept 8
Worthwhile Wednesdays Explore Tech Lectures
2-3:15pm, on Wednesdays. For info or to register email rspv@seniorplanetavenidas.org. Free.

Book Club: The Sixth Extinction by Elizabeth Kolbert
2:30-4pm, Avenidas@450Bryant. Space is limited. RSVP required. Email register@avenidas.org. Free.

Sept 9
Info Session: ClearCaptions Advanced Telephone Captioning
11am-12pm via Zoom. RSVP for log on info to register@avenidas.org. Free.

Song Appreciation Group “Songs that Make You Cry,”
4-5pm via Zoom. Email tkingery@avenidas.org for more info and to register. Free.

Sept 10
World Suicide Prevention Day
If you’re concerned about someone, reach out and ask “Are you OK?” It can make a difference.

Sept 13
Bilingual Workshop: Telemedicine – An Option for My Care presented by Alice Mao, MD via Zoom
12:30-1:30pm. Presented in English and Mandarin. RSVP for log on info ACCC@avenidas.org. Free.

Webinar: Introduction to Nonfinancial Retirement Planning via Zoom
1-2 pm. RSVP for log on info register@avenidas.org. Free.

Sept 14
Wonder Women Lesbian Social Group via Zoom
7-8m via Zoom. Email jenn@seniorshowerproject.com for info and to register. Free.

Sept 15
Mindfulness Meditation, every Wednesday
2-3pm, via Zoom. Visit www.avenidas.org for log on information. Free.

Bilingual Event: Moon Festival Virtual Food Tour Celebration
2-3pm via Zoom. Register by 9/3 to enter raffle. Email ACCC@avenidas.org. Free.

Sept 16
Avenidas Village Coffee Chat, 10am via Zoom.
Email dgreenblat@avenidas.org to register. Free.

Bilingual Event: Moon Festival Cultural Learning Event
10-11am via Zoom. Register by 9/3 to enter raffle. Email ACCC@avenidas.org. Free.

Tinnitus Support Group
5:30-7:30pm via Zoom. RSVP for log on info to register@avenidas.org. Free.

Sept 17
National Apple Dumpling Day
Yes, please!

Sept 20
Book Discussion: The Stonewall Generation with author, Jane Fleishman
2:30-3:30pm, via Zoom. Register by 9/13/2021 to get your free copy of the book. Email LGBTQ@avenidas.org to register. Free.

Sept 21
Apple Tech Tutoring
1:15-3:30pm, on Tuesdays. RSVP required. Email rspv@seniorplanetavenidas.org. Free.

Sept 22
Care Forum: What’s new in palliative and hospice care? with Drs. Ellen Brown and Rita Ghatak via Zoom
11am-12:30pm. RSVP required. Email register@avenidas.org. Free.

Sept 23
Book Club: Circe by Madeline Miller 2:30-4pm
Avenidas@450Bryant. Space is limited. RSVP required. Email register@avenidas.org. Free.

Song Appreciation Group “Songs that Make You Want to Dance,”
4-5pm via Zoom. Email tkingery@avenidas.org for more info and to register. Free.

Sept 24
Workshop: POLE Walking for Balance, Exercise & Maintaining Mobility with Jayah Faye Paley
9-11:30am, Avenidas@450 Bryant. Space is very limited. RSVP required. Call 650-289-5400. \$45/\$60

Sept 27
Tech and Innovation Discussion Group via Zoom
12-1pm, on Mondays. For info or to register email rspv@seniorplanetavenidas.org. Free.

Sept 28
Flu Shot Clinic
Avenidas@Cubberley, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. RSVP required. Call 650-289-5400 for reservation and time. Free.

Sept 29
Hosting A Zoom Meeting
11am-12pm, on Wednesdays, Senior Planet @Avenidas. RSVP to rspv@seniorplanetavenidas.org for log on info. Free.

Sept 30
Mandarin Multilingual Technology Program
9:00-10:00 am, on Thursdays. RSVP required. For more info or to register email ACCC@avenidas.org. Free.

Krause

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the Krause Center for Leadership and Ethics at The Citidel, Bill's alma mater.

An early agenda for the Krause Center at Foothill College sprang from Gay's observation, as a local school principal in the 1980s and '90s, that computers and printers in many classrooms were gathering dust because teachers didn't know how to use them. She set about helping educators master the new machines to improve student outcomes. Today's young teachers are well-acquainted with technology, and the focus of the Krause Center for Innovation has shifted.

"We still do a lot of the technology-based training, but that isn't the driver now," Gay said. "One of the things that most concerns me is that, here we are, a math-driven society (where) computer science is so big in our valley, and yet most of our teachers only have had one semester of math in college so they aren't really well prepared to teach students.

"So, we're trying to give them some of the basics and make them more highly engaged in robotics and computer science — to make them more excited about teaching and excite the students about learning."

The center operates five state-approved certificate programs in areas such as technology, online and blended learning and STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math).

When the coronavirus pandemic closed schools last year, the center was well-positioned to work with teachers who needed intense help in online and blended learning.

Both Krauses are particularly enthusiastic about the Krause Center's bright and airy, state-of-the-art makerspace at Foothill, which is equipped with laser cutters, 3D printers, sewing machines, vinyl cutters, soldering irons, hand and power tools, and more.

Bill Krause believes 3D printers will become to manufacturing what microprocessors were to computing, making it possible



Each of this year's nine Avenidas Lifetimes of Achievement honorees have donated countless hours of hands-on service to local organizations and programs aimed at improving education, health care, the environment and services for seniors, among other areas. The honorees, who will be recognized during a virtual celebration on Sept. 26, include, from left to right, Betsy Gifford, Stephen Player, Eliane Neukermans, Armand Neukermans, Fran Codispoti, Gay Krause, Bill Krause, Alma Phillips and Jim Phillips.

to bring many processes back to the U.S. The Krauses thus feel it's critical to educate students in the skills available in the MakerSpace.

"Given Gay's involvement, education has been a natural focus for

our philanthropy," Bill said. "Education, from our point of view, is really the foundation of all benefits to society. An educated person is fundamental to a successful society, to a peaceful society, to a

successful economic environment so the Social Security checks can keep coming." ■

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Neukermans

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product of this," Eliane said.

The couple have been longtime leaders in the fight against climate change, including helping to lead the early adoption of home solar panels in 2006 in Portola Valley Ranch, the neighborhood where they still live. That project became the model for Solar City's Community Solar program.

For her part, Eliane has taught at Arizona State University's Thunderbird School of Global Management and Sacred Heart Preparatory and Castilleja schools.

Her volunteer work has touched numerous community organizations: Palo Alto Community Fund, Foothill College, Environmental Volunteers, Avenidas, the Big Sur Environmental Institute, Human

Rights Watch, the Thomas Merton Center, St. Elizabeth Seton School, Portola Valley Ranch, Global Women's Leadership Network, the Jaipur Foot Organization and Amici Lovanienses.

It was a social entrepreneurship project at Castilleja School that introduced the Neukermanses to the Jaipur Foot Organization, a project based in Jaipur, India, and led by D.R. Mehta, that provides prostheses to the very poor.

"His example of giving dignity and help to those people was very influential for us," Eliane said.

When Mehta came to Castilleja to share his work with students, faculty and parents at the school, he stayed with the couple, and Armand introduced him to researchers at Stanford and hosted their meetings at the Neukermanses' home — meetings that led to the development of a low-cost

prosthetic called the Stanford-Jaipur knee.

"D.R. Mehta was a true inspiration on how to go about philanthropy," Eliane said. Armand is now supporting research for a hand prosthesis with Santa Clara University following the retirement of Professor Thomas Andriacchi, Stanford's lead researcher on the project.

Eliane counts many nonprofits and schools among her philanthropic projects, but she notes that her focus is introducing others, bringing people together.

"Often people refer to me as more of a facilitator with all the projects that we have done together. I know quite a few organizations, and one thing that I really do like to do is try to bring them together so they can work on projects. I like bringing different interests and different talents together. That's very

satisfying," she said.

One such symbiotic project grew out of inviting Judy Koch of the children's literacy nonprofit Bring Me a Book Foundation to visit Palo Alto's St. Elizabeth Seton School. Koch, in turn, brought a friend, Deborah Mudd, the Stanford Dean of Education on the trip.

"This developed into a training program for teachers offered by Stanford in collaboration with principals as well as a Stanford tutoring program for preschool-aged children," Eliane said. She notes that when visiting scientists, academics and nonprofit leaders come to town, she is frequently organizing the visit — especially because as she says, "They often become houseguests."

Though the couple happily discusses the projects they support, it's clear that they both prefer to shine the spotlight on

the efforts of others — and not on themselves. For instance, Armand was knighted several years ago by the king of Belgium but is modest about the honor.

Looking at their impressive philanthropic resume together and individually, the Neukermanses' long list of accomplishments inspires — and with so many needs in the world, may lead to wondering how to possibly take the first step in voluntarism.

"To get started, support the people you know that are making a difference. Don't stand by the sidelines. (Justice advocate) Bryan Stevenson says it well: 'Get proximate. Change the narrative. Do uncomfortable things. Stay hopeful,'" Armand said. ■

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Phillips

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are amazing. I wish you knew how many children are better readers because of you."

"The kids love Alma," Jim said, sitting at the kitchen table of their Eichler home recently as birds chirped outside. "I think it's her strong understanding of education and her way of connecting with children that makes such a beautiful combination."

Alma also lent her teaching skills to nonprofits including Environmental Volunteers and Deer Hollow Farm. She made an impact on civic affairs, too. Concerned about nuclear arms proliferation, she wrote educational mailers for Physicians for Social Responsibility in the 1970s. Closer to home, she chaired the successful City

Council campaign of Ellen Fletcher, who won a seat in 1977. She got involved with Midpeninsula Citizens for Fair Housing and League of Women Voters along the way.

For his part, Jim pursued a career in the aerospace and defense industry. During his career, he was a development engineer, adjunct professor, technical manager and managing executive responsible for a third of the business in Lockheed's Space Systems Division.

It was as a Lockheed line executive that he started taking an interest in employees' well-being, noticing in his daily walkabouts that many people were unhappy and disgruntled, he said.

Groups formed in the company to support gay and lesbian workers, mentor Black staff members and advocate for Hispanic employees.

When Jim saw an opportunity in the 1980s, he invited a diversity

speaker from Apple to talk to the management, and afterward, Lockheed's president decided to form a president's advisory committee for diversity.

"I said, 'That's a great idea. I'll form one in my department,'" Jim said.

Jim then decided that the diversity movement was so powerful, it should be shared with the broader community. He spoke with Kay Phillips, the head of the YWCA in Palo Alto, and with fellow Palo Alto Altan Ray Bachetti launched "Commitment to Diversity" annual conferences in the 1990s, which were well-received. Next came "study circles" — discussion groups in which members actively listened to one another talk about difficult issues of race.

He and other diversity advocates then turned to supporting young people through a school district

program called Camp Anytown, donating thousands of dollars to enable youth to attend. Jim and Alma went to one of those camps and recalled an activity in which students stood in a line.

"Everybody is asked a question: Did you ever get into a fight to prove your manhood? Were you ever attacked with a knife? Did you ever lose a family member to violence? That kind of stuff," Jim said. "And the kids could see what was going on with the other kids, and they really did develop a lot of empathy across racial and economic lines. It really was worthwhile."

Beyond diversity work, Jim's commitment to lifting others up led him to the nonprofits Avenidas, Palo Alto Kiwanis Club, Peninsula Habitat for Humanity, YMCA and YWCA, Palo Alto Community Child Care, Foundation for a College Education and

The Global Uplift Project (formerly One Dollar for Life) — including serving in leadership roles.

The decades of coming alongside others have made him humbler, Jim said, and taught him that the key to living a life of achievement, meaning and joy lies in serving others.

"Don't just concentrate on your own success and appearance. Put a lot of effort into doing things for others, and you will realize a richer life," he said.

Alma offered her own words of wisdom: "Follow your talents and where your interests lie."

"That sort of says, 'Be yourself,'" Jim said to Alma, "and don't try to be somebody else!"

Now silver-haired and decades from their coed days, they looked at one another and laughed. ■

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