



# PALM VILLAGER

A PUBLICATION OF PALM VILLAGE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY • SPRING 2007

## Happy 65th Birthday Palm Village!

On March 29th, over 300 folks celebrated the 65th birthday of Palm Village at a joyous party on the campus.

Guests were greeted in a white tent decorated in the evening's theme colors of red and white checks, and they enjoyed fresh lemonade poured directly from a garden spigot created just for this event. The h'ordeuves included miniature zwieback made by Barbara Friesen.

The styles of year's past were evident in the displays of memorabilia including nurse's uniforms and various other artifacts collected through the years as well as vintage cars.

Once all of the guests had arrived, everyone sang Happy Birthday as the three tier birthday cake was presented. Dinner of Tri-tip followed served at tables also decorated in the red and white theme with baskets of fruit, vases of fresh flowers and favors of homemade jelly at each place.

The program included a large screen presentation of the history of Palm Village depicted

through photographs of administrators, trustees, staff, and residents as well as the various stages of building additions from the very earliest years to current day.

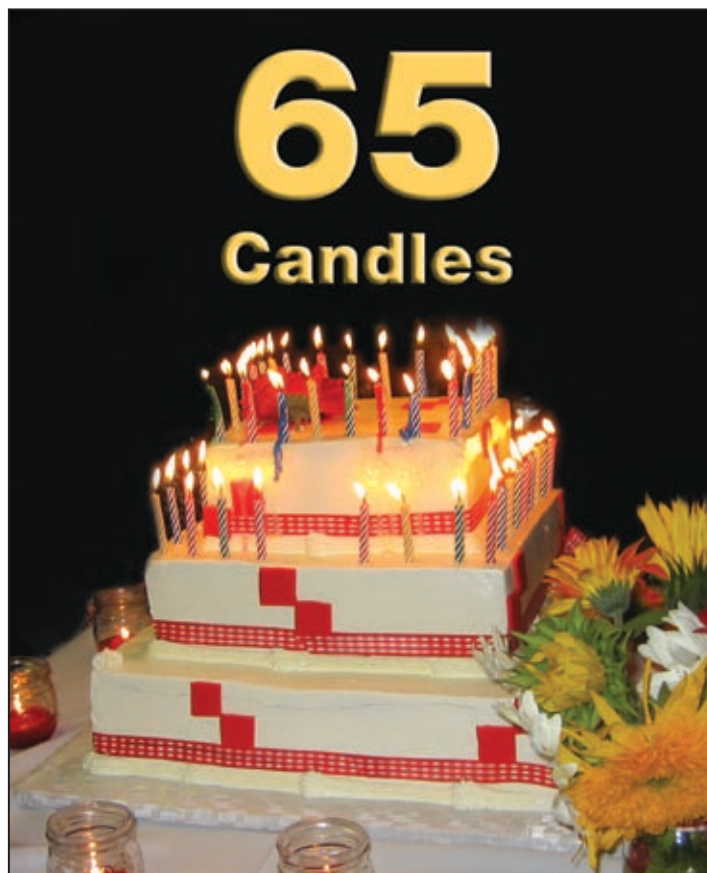
The singing groups Undivided Praise, Dinuba

MB mixed trio and resident Ruby Bowe entertained with song and then a brief oral presentation was made by senior staff. Residents, Neil and Francis Unruh stated, "David Reimer's overall perspective on Palm Village is excellent. We have never heard him put it so clearly."

As the evening ended with prayer, many lingered to chat with friends. Resident Egon Hofer was heard saying, "It was a good evening. It had life. You kept it moving. The singing was terrific and the spiritual tone was good. The Tri-tip was excellent. People really enjoyed themselves."

With the positive comments from all and the funds raised for

the Living Legacy Fund, the evening certainly has been deemed a success.



**A birthday celebration:** Residents and guests enjoyed the wonderful birthday cake at Palm Village's 65th anniversary party, and with its many candles lighting up the evening, the cake was the center of attention as everyone sang Happy Birthday!



## The 'Sandwichers' are being served well by Palm Village

By Charles Buller, M. Div

*Palm Village has recently hired Charles Buller, M. Div as Director of Planned Giving. Reverend Buller is responsible for developing the fund that will help Palm Village to sustain itself through an endowment fund of contributions from estates and wills.*

When I opened my internet home page today my eyes were drawn immediately to the feature article on what is being referred to as the sandwich generation - "those caring for an aging parent with one or more children under the age of 18 still at home..."

Apparently, there are millions of Americans facing this challenge. I suspect that in the history of humanity this is not a new challenge. What is new is the degree to which people face this challenge without enjoying the timeless structure of large extended families to help shoulder the burden.

Possibly, the most significant social change that has led to the need for retirement communities such

as Palm Village is that many families are now "extended" across various counties, countries and even continents. When it is time to support an aging parent and growing children the siblings often no longer live within geographic proximity to share this burden.

I know personally that reality was one of the factors that caused my sister and I to be especially grateful for a ministry such as Palm Village as our parents aged. Jobs had taken us to disparate ends of this continent from our home in Reedley, California. The knowledge that Palm Village was a continuing care community that offered various levels of support depending on our parents changing circumstances was most attractive - even essential. Most people who drive past Palm Village don't realize that we are only one of three facilities in the Central Valley that provide this level of support when a person over the age of 60 signs a continuing care contract with us. For families who benefit from this support they become part of another type of "sandwich generation". This "sandwich" consists of three layers-independent living, assisted care, and skilled nursing.

And I will tell you from personal experience it becomes the most delectable "sandwich" ever consumed!

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**Something for everyone:** Palm Village looked great for our 65th birthday celebration, with (clockwise) lemonade flowing from garden spigots, a large hospitality tent to welcome visitors, classic cars on display, and beautiful centerpieces on tables where guests dined on Tri-tip.



The Palm Villager is a publication of Palm Village Retirement Community, a mission agency sponsored by the Bethany and Butler Mennonite churches in Fresno and by the Mennonite Brethren churches of Dinuba, Kingsburg and Reedley. (559) 638-6933 • [www.palmvillage.com](http://www.palmvillage.com)



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