

Rossmoor centenarian shares story of her life and faith

By El Nungesser
Resident correspondent

My good friend, fellow Rossmoorian and fellow Grace Presbyterian Church member Annie Toy turned 100 on Aug. 2. She has lived an interesting life in the Bay Area. This is her story.

Toy's mother and older sister arrived in the Bay Area from China in 1919 to join her father, who had immigrated to the United States three years earlier. She was born the following year in Oakland.

"I was raised by two very caring parents," she said. "My older sister and later a younger sister and I enjoyed a fulfilling life in Oakland and later in Crockett. Growing up meant a lot of helping a devoted, hard-working dad in a laundry with everything done by hand. I even learned how to iron a pair of socks and to fold them in the proper way."

The family moved around a lot, which meant attending several different grammar schools. In San Francisco, she attended Girls High School and lived in Cameron House



Annie Toy

on Sacramento Street.

"This is where I had the honor of meeting Donaldina Cameron, who was in her early retirement from her rescue work in Chinatown," Toy said. "She was a staunch Scottish lady, who served her Lord Jesus faithfully and had a firm belief in Christian upbringing, leading me to know Him with all of my heart."

Cameron was a pioneer in the fight against slavery as a Presbyterian missionary in

San Francisco's Chinatown, who helped more than 2,000 Chinese immigrant girls and women escape forced prostitution and indentured servitude. She was known as the "Angry Angel of Chinatown."

Living in Cameron House is where Toy's Presbyterian roots began.

"Even after Donaldina Cameron's retirement, while living in Cameron House, I was taught to love and be aware of all the chores to keep the place a shining example of a well-run home, where the girls were responsible for assigned chores," Toy said. "Much respect was practiced daily. It is still a home today, and is open to all who come to respect and know what Christian love is."

After graduation from Girls High School, Toy moved

back to Oakland during World War II. Soon after she went to work at the Alameda Naval Air Station as a civilian worker. Initially, she was employed as an aircraft mechanic apprentice, and later became an instrument technician.

"The experience working with air-craft instruments gave me extensive insight into calibration and precision work," Toy said.

"I was fortunate to be able to stay with the Naval Air Base for 28 years," she said. "That is where I was blessed to meet my husband, Carl Toy, a widower, and his two children, Brian and Janice."

They married in 1970 and enjoyed 22 years of marriage, until he died of cancer in 1992. Toy's family includes four grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Her hobbies are knitting, crocheting and quilting.

"Through the years my most enjoyable pastime has been quilting with many ladies at the Centerville Presbyterian Church in Fremont," Toy said. "This was a gratifying project, as we completed many quilts and the money earned was returned to the church for crucial needs."

When Toy moved to Rossmoor, she joined Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church.

"I again began serving in areas honoring Him," she said. "Now that I have moved to Waterford, I am fortunate to have transportation to Grace Presbyterian Church, where a warm family of worshippers greets me (when the church is open). I look forward to a time of togetherness serving a God of Grace."

SMITH: Life lessons explores discipline

Continued from page 11B

tary place, where he prayed." (Mark 1:35)

For centuries, the spiritual disciplines of meditation and prayer have sustained people of faith in their everyday lives. Prayer is simply pausing to listen to the voice of God who loves us. We engage in an intimate conversation with the Lord in ways that nourish our souls. In prayer, God molds our hearts into the likeness of Christ. Prayer changes us

when no one is watching.

Jesus spent time each morning with his Heavenly Father in prayer over his upcoming daily activities. What if we began each morning with the simple prayer, "Lord, as I look over the day in front of me, help me to see people as you see them. Let me be your encouraging presence to everyone I meet today."

My guess is, if we were to spend 15 minutes a day on the discipline of prayer,

we would notice a significant change in our daily lives. We would love more, laugh more, feel more and celebrate more all that God wants to do in and through us in this game called life.

Now, it's on to lucky Hole No. 13, a short par 4. This is one of those risk/reward holes. I think I will risk going for the green from the tee.

The Rev. Dr. Andy Smith is pastor of Hope Lutheran Church in Rossmoor.



Carol Lee DeWitt Stockbridge

December 25, 1931 – March 29, 2020
Resident of Walnut Creek, CA.

Carol Stockbridge was born on Christmas Day, 1931, in Elgin, Illinois. She lived most of her early life in Davenport, Iowa and moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico in junior high. As a young girl, she was bedridden for a year with rheumatic fever, which left her with a weakened heart for the rest of her life. After high school, Carol moved to San Francisco and graduated from the University of California Medical School with a degree in nursing. While living in San Francisco, she discovered a love for ballet, taking classes for years and eventually teaching ballet herself in Santa Rosa.

Liberty Mutual Insurance hired Carol as a rehabilitation nurse, and it was there she met Bill Stockbridge. They married and lived on Newell Avenue in Walnut Creek. Bill and Carol loved gardening, growing delicious vegetables, and caring for their animals. They owned several dogs and cats in succession, including three rescued greyhounds. Carol and Bill were very happily married for 31 years. Carol worked at the Hospice Thrift Shop, volunteered with the Food Bank and donated blood regularly. Carol was an expert cross stitcher and produced many exquisite pieces that often took months to complete. She belonged to the Embroidery Guild of America, serving as president of her local chapter, and later as treasurer. After Bill's passing in 2002, Carol moved to Rossmoor. Carol continued with her stitching as long as her eyesight allowed, and also joined a group of tap-dancing Rossmoor ladies. Carol Stockbridge was blessed to have had a wonderful husband for 31 years who shared a home to live in and the time to enjoy her favorite things: stitching, dancing, gardening, her friends, and her beloved greyhounds. She had many dear friends and family that loved her.

A remembrance of Carol's life will be held on Sept. 9th at 10:00, in Sportsmens' Park, at 3400 Golden Rain Rd, in Rossmoor.

PAID OBITUARY



George Rene Heuga, husband, father, grandfather and friend, passed away peacefully at his home on Wednesday, August 5, 2020. George was a proud and extremely hard-working man, with an endless list of projects underway at all times. He had a huge heart and loved his family deeply. George was an excellent listener; his way was to be quiet and let others around him speak. But he could also confidently lead a conversation with a group of any size, including a classroom of students in his many teaching roles over the years. He was very generous, fair, and accepting of others.

George was born and raised in San Francisco. He loved the City, and enjoyed sharing San Francisco stories to anyone who would listen, including his experiences working at Playland at the Beach early in his college years. After graduating from George Washington High School in 1958, he attended City College of San Francisco and then San Francisco State University, where he earned a BA in Radio and Television Broadcasting and pursued a master's degree in Audio/Visual Media & Broadcasting Operations.

After college, George held a few jobs in San Francisco in the media and broadcasting field, including as a cameraman at KQED and Technical Director at Far West Laboratory for Educational Research and Development. His big break came in 1974 when he started

his career at UC Berkeley, where he worked for 31 years as a lead A/V Media Consultant. During retirement, George dedicated himself to numerous volunteer roles – including driving instructor through AARP, senior tutor at the Byron Boys Ranch, and technician for the Rossmoor Computer Club – and participated in the Sons in Retirement and the Mt. Diablo Genealogy Society. In addition to family, George's passions included listening to music (his favorites were big band and jazz), traveling, photography, camping, swimming, gambling, and dancing.

George married his dear wife on July 22, 1967, and was a caring and devoted husband for 53 years. He was a devout Catholic who never missed a Sunday Mass, and who was enthusiastically involved in his churches over the years, including St. Bonaventure's in Concord and St. John Vianney in Walnut Creek.

George is survived by his wife, Maureen; five children – Michelle O'Connell, Michael Heuga (Julie Cochrane), Danielle Wilson (Larry Wilson), Nicole Heuga (Brian Morrissey), and Julieann Pettitt (Steve Pettitt); and six grandchildren – Amber, James, Ian, Shane, and Corinne O'Connell, and Abigail Heuga. George will be dearly missed. He loved his family and friends and we all loved him.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to one of his favorite charities, the Hanna Boys Center (<https://www.hannacenter.org/>).

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