

livfun

Springfield Place

AUGUST 2020 · TOP OF THE CLASS

August Spotlight: Tore Liahjell

Time at Springfield: 5 years

Bio:

I was born in the northern part of Norway in 1934, in a city called Tromsø, which is the largest city in northern Norway. At six years old, the Second World War began. My father went to the frontline to fight the Germans, while my family evacuated into the countryside. Later on, when Norway gave up the fight, my family moved back into the city. The Germans occupied our home for the duration of the war. My father was a leader with the resistance, so the Germans took my father to a concentration camp and held him for three months. My youngest brother, who was born in 1944, is still living in Tromsø.

Elementary school was difficult for me because that was during the occupation. We studied in private homes for three hours, three days a week. After the war was over, I attended high school in a normal schoolhouse. I always wanted to be a structural engineer, but there was only one school of engineering in Norway, so I went to Germany to get my college education. I studied to become a structural engineer and majored in High-Rise Buildings and Bridges. Just as college ended, they started building the biggest bridge in Norway, and I was hired to work on it as a structural engineer. When I worked on that bridge, I started to apply for a green card.

At 26 years old, I was on a ship sailing to New York. I stayed at my uncle's house in Brooklyn until I got enough money to buy a ticket to Los Angeles, Calif. In 1960, I moved there and stayed with friends of my family who offered me room in their house. Later on, I met a Danish girl at a Scandinavian ski club. Shortly thereafter, I got into a very bad car accident. Afterward, she tried to take care of me on her own. In the end, she took me to her parents' house in Solvang, Calif. I stayed with them for three months, until I got back on my feet. We were married in 1963.

After, I bought a track house outside of L.A., and I worked in various engineering companies in L.A. One company offered me a manager position in Honolulu, Hawaii, so I moved there with my family. With that company, I traveled to Guam, Indonesia, and back to Hawaii. I continued to be the overseas manager for the engineering company, but when that company was bought by a large firm from Nebraska, I was let go because they had their own overseas manager. Another company in Saudi Arabia hired me to work on a university in Riyadh. After a couple of years, I got a divorce and later moved back to Hawaii, then to San Francisco to be closer to my daughters, who were going to college in San Francisco and Berkeley. I got a job with the firm Bechtel, one of the world's largest Architectural and Engineering firms. With Bechtel, I worked on many buildings and three bridges for BART. My daughters have since moved away from here and have settled in Montana, Nevada and southern California.

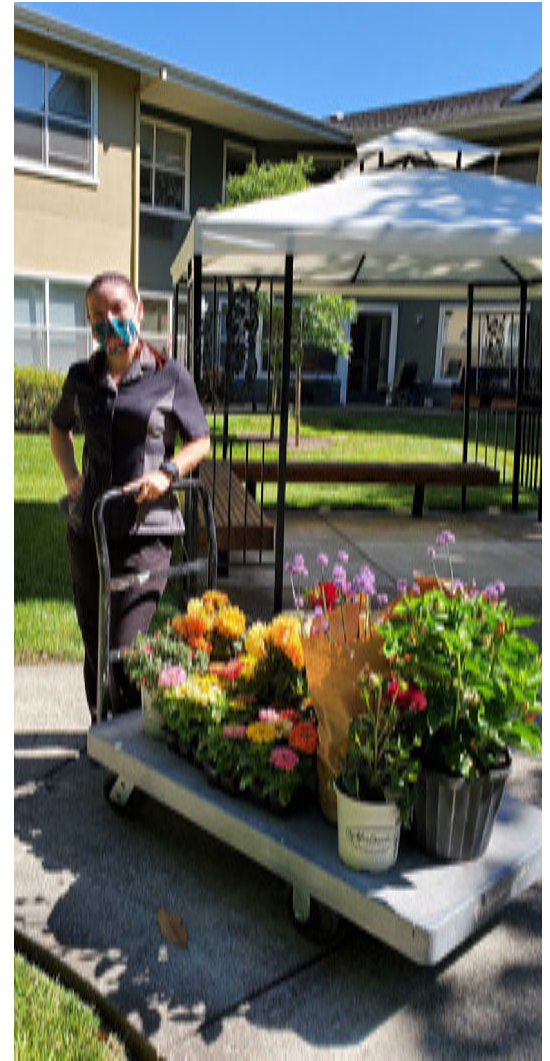


Tore hanging with Anne Frank



Gardening Club, Bingo and Virtual Meetings


Join us for Gardening, Bingo, or schedule a virtual meeting with a loved one! Please sign up at the front desk. If you are interested in scheduling a virtual visit, contact Josue Lopez.



Amanda's ready to plant! Are you?

(Continued on back page.)

(Photos continued on back page.)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		Locations Activity Room, AR Library, LB Bistro, B Lobby, L Dining Room, DR Lounge, LG Gym, G Private Dining Room, Health & Wellness, HW PD		Transportation Monday - Friday, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.: Essential Medical Appointments Only		9:45 Doorway Stretch Classes begin! * 2:00 <i>Bingo, DR</i> 4:00 Wine & Drinks for Mobile Social Hour Cart!
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9:45 Doorway Stretch Classes begin! * PF	9:45 Doorway Stretch Classes begin! * 2:00 Trivia!, DR 4:00 Wine & Drinks for Mobile Social Hour Cart! PF	9:45 Doorway Stretch Classes begin! * 2:00 Brain Crunches, AR PF	9:45 Doorway Stretch Classes begin! * 2:00 <i>Bingo, DR</i> 4:00 Wine & Drinks for Mobile Social Hour Cart! PF	9:45 Doorway Stretch Classes begin! * 2:00 Open Door Concerts with Vicki & Sarah! PF	9:45 Doorway Stretch Classes begin! * 4:00 Wine & Drinks for Mobile Social Hour Cart! PF	9:45 Doorway Stretch Classes begin! * 2:00 <i>Bingo, DR</i> 4:00 Wine & Drinks for Mobile Social Hour Cart! PF
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
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30	31	Birthdays Johnathan Thomas, 5th (Employee) Doris Gettle, 24th Evo Zepponi, 9th Dan Lee, 27th Magda Lopez Perez, 14th (Employee) Mary French, 30th Jane Silewicz, 17th Nancy Andrews, 31st				
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Employee Spotlight: Michael Sievers

Position: Plant Operations Technician

Years held at Position: 1 Year, 9 Months

Bio:

Fourth generation Marin County native, attended San Francisco State University; studied Industrial Design. Now living and working in Petaluma. Just married, April 4, 2020

What motivates you?

I have a continuing desire for learning and knowledge. I strive to provide a good home for my family.

What do you like the most about your job?

Fixing stuff. Building stuff. Helping people.

If you can travel anywhere in the world, where and why?

I would travel to Portugal, Italy, Greece; The Mediterranean. I am drawn there for the art, architecture, climate and history.

Something special about yourself that our residents don't know?

Well, I play the trombone pretty well. I am reluctantly superstitious, despite my science based beliefs.

Message to the residents:

Take the time to do things well; enjoy the process; appreciate your accomplishments.



Michael Sievers

August Spotlight: Tore Liahjell (Continued)

What motivates you?

My family, and my children's and my own education. I like history, language and geography very much.

What do you like most about being retired?

Not having to meet schedules on budget.

No responsibilities for engineering design problems.

If you can travel anywhere in the world, where and why?

Right now, I would travel to France, more specifically, Omaha Beach, where the Allies landed on D-Day during WWII. We lost many soldiers there, but the landing resulted in the end of WWII. I would like to look for the grave of my cousin, who lost his life during the war in that area.

Something special about yourself that our residents don't know?

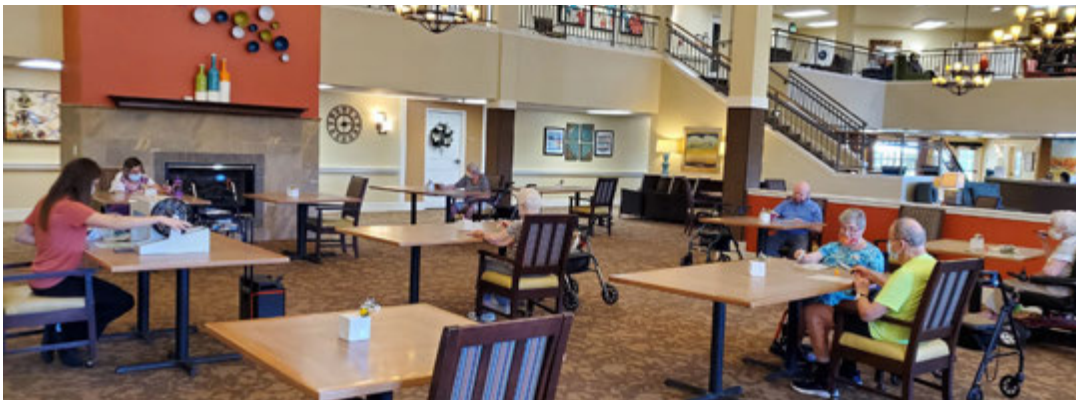
Two of my uncles and two of my aunts emigrated to the United States many years before me, so the United States has always been important in our family discussions.

My oldest cousin died a few weeks before the end of war during the Battle of the Bulge. My aunt, who passed away shortly after her son's death in France, sponsored my emigration to the United States.

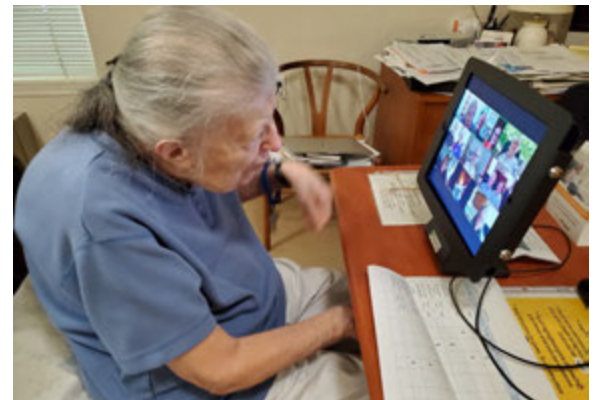
Message to the community:

This place has such a beautiful reputation in the Bay Area for having so many nice people and a nice building. Everything is just first class, with so many activities, such as going to the concerts and museums, and coordinated activities within our facility related to history and languages.

Gardening Club, Bingo and Virtual Meetings (Continued)



Social Distance Bingo



Gene having a virtual reality meeting

SPRINGFIELD PLACE

LIVING BETTER THAN EVER

101 Ely Boulevard South
Petaluma, CA 94954
707.769.3300

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Vicki Olivas-Navarro

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Sabrina Corral

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Health and Wellness Assistant Director

Barbara Clark

Bookkeeper

Laura Svindal

Administrative Assistant

Amanda Yanez

Programs Director

Josue Lopez Torres

PrimeFit Instructor

Vicki Olivas-Navarro

Housekeeping Supervisor

Amanda Summerfield

Plant Operations Supervisor

Joel Bruno