



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION LUNCHEON 2013 REPRISE



The Volunteer Appreciation Lunch is always a high point of the Senior Center year. It recognizes the selfless work of hundreds of volunteers without whom the Senior Center could not function. This year was particularly inspiring as we honored Vivian Freeman, our Volunteer Coordinator for 18 years, on her retirement at the end of fiscal year 2013. And we aren't even losing her as she will return in the Fall as a volunteer. Vivian summed up our thanks to our volunteers beautifully in a speech at another Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon a few years ago:

"I always look forward to this day. I get to talk to some of you from time to time, but now I can see all of you at once. It's like a big family reunion, and I can, tell you in person how appreciative we are for everything you do.

Your contribution of time and caring adds a new dimension to helping provide the best possible service to our elder population. We can enrich and supplement services through devoted and experienced volunteers like you.

There are as many reasons to volunteer as there are people who do so. Some people recognize needs and want to satisfy them. Others just want to have fun. Retirees offer their professional expertise to the community. The young provide energy to the elderly, while receiving the benefit of their wisdom.

Not only do you help others, but being a volunteer helps you in many ways:

- Satisfaction from accomplishing a goal
- Teamwork
- Improved self-esteem
- Numerous opportunities to meet new contacts and friends"

And the John and Molly Dolen Volunteer of the Year Award this year went to two recipients this year—Corinne Long and Sarah Rossi—both truly deserving of recognition for many hours of devoted service to the Senior Center.

Corinne: "I don't deserve this. I only contribute what every other volunteer does every day here."

Sarah: "I owe so much to the Senior Center. It really saved me after my husband's death."

There were so many nominations this year, and all of them were highly deserving of being given the award, so certificates of recognition were given this year to all the nominees: Jean Doherty, Carol Fullerton, Nancy Johnson, Corinne Long, Charlotte Millman, Agnes Rogers, Sarah Rossi, Ted Shamitz, Vera Sharma, Vicki Schnoes, Muriel Stark, Brenda Tankard, and Sonia Wong.

And Ted Shamitz was also given special recognition for his Herculean work as coordinator of the Senior Center Theater Club.

Some of our volunteers sent thank you notes: "...I thoroughly enjoyed the Volunteer celebration...especially...the Senior Center Chorus....Thank you for providing this very special event." and "As always you and the staff gave a beautiful and festive lunch....Thank you for this wonderful occasion and for all you do all year long."

