

# Love Is The Answer

# LITA SUMMER NEWS 2021

LITA of Contra Costa, Non-Profit Public Charity since 1980

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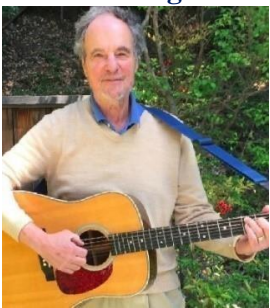


Margarita Ronquillo, Activity Assistant above, receives gift from LITA for residents at Bayberry Skilled Nursing in Concord Named Best Activity Director, Fridays Margarita (story inside) makes sure patients get their tablets for LITA Music hour.

When quarantines are lifted for skilled nursing facilities in Contra Costa County, **Love Is The Answer** hopes to return again with opportunities year-round for volunteers to socialize, share live music, pets visits, group singing and a variety of shows and seasonal events with hospital residents. Individuals, foundations, clubs and corporate donors have helped LITA to provide electronics, tablets & iPads, connecting patients with family, physicians and entertainment. LITA COVID programs and zooms currently serve mainly West County Skilled Nursing Facilities

*The Bartkes made a donation in Memory of their good friend Kathleen Berner and their cohort Pet Berndt  
Stacy Berndt Lawn donated to LITA in Loving Memory of her mother and father, Patricia and Kenneth Berndt  
Ken Berndt donated in Loving Memory of former LITA president Kathleen Berner and Patsy and Ken Berndt*

**One full year on April 23, 2021 a variety of Music Volunteers zoom on Fridays to LITA served SNF Hospitals  
Below are originators and just a few of our long-time regulars who perform for LITA month in and month out**



**John Gruenstein, Host**



**Victoria Ryan, Host**



**Suellen Primost**



**Rory Snider**



**Hali Hammer**

Dear Volunteers, Donors and Friends of *Love Is The Answer*,

LITA's Musical Compassion Project continues in strong demand. Since last summer LITA donated more than sixty tablets, plus accessories to Legacy Nursing Rehab, Martinez Convalescent Hospital, Greenridge Senior Care, Lone Tree Convalescent in Antioch, Pittsburg Skilled Nursing, Bayberry Health Care & CCRMC. All are all using tablets & iPads for vital, safe and precious family facetime, plus an average audience of 30 residents enjoy a mini-bonus of LITA's weekly live zoom show. Thinking of Christmas 2020 at Pittsburg Skilled Nursing still brings tears. Mona Silveira invited a large number of families, zooming from as far as the east coast. As the party went on, more family members dared to get on camera & sing carols from their hearts, laughing and calling out love to one other.

Your donation to LITA goes directly to improve quality of life for the especially lonely, isolated individuals living in skilled nursing facilities. Budgets for things like electronics to stream activities are still being cut back, at for-profit SNF. Delivery of LITA's iPads and services at those facilities is more valuable than ever. Your gift today will make a substantial difference for disabled, frequently quarantined senior's quality of life.

Ellen Kelly donated her Casas Grandes Olla (vase) by *alfarero* Ismael Flores that she won on July 4, 2015. Ellen's plans to scale down benefitted LITA when she asked us to put it up as a 2021 gift item. We are calling all this year's gift offerings a **Silent Auction** and extending beyond the old **July 4** donation deadline, to allow mail delivery time. **On your check, make a note of which item you fancy most.** If yours is the largest donation toward that item, you will get a call from LITA director, Victoria Ryan to arrange a delivery time and date very soon after **July 30**.

With gratitude and wishes for your safety, health and long and happy life.

LITA of Contra Costa Director

**Olla by award winning Ismael Flores**

10"(on stand) 25" diameter  
Mata Ortiz art Valued at \$350



gifted from the collection of Ellen Kelly

**Amazon \$100 Gift card**



from Mike and Bunny Daly

**Joan Finton's "Stinking Rose"**

dimensions: 16"x 20", matted  
Etching Valued at \$200



gift from the artist

**A Nicolas Silveira traditional Casas Grandes Olla**

(3 views) 11" tall and 34" in diameter  
Valued at \$200



gifted from the collection of Victoria Ryan

**Gift card \$100 Safeway**



from Barbara Schneider

**Gift Card \$50 TJ's**



from Linda Daniel

## May 2020 - 2021 LITA Appreciation Awards



### **Mae Wygant Award**      **Best Activity Director Margarita Ronquillo**

started at Bayberry in 2009. In spite of an overwhelming ratio of patients to staff, she faithfully sets up many residents to enjoy LITA donated iPads and tablets, for family visits, enjoyment of YouTube and entertainment like LITA's live Friday musical variety shows on zoom. LITA Loves Margarita! Activity Director Isaac Silva and Margarita are making sure fun things happen around Bayberry Health Care!



### **Kathleen Berner Award**      **Best Individual Volunteer Michael Domagalski**

As of yet, nursing facilities are not open to volunteer events like LITA produced prior to COVID, but without Michael, we couldn't have kept LITA open and moving this past year. No fees asked, he gave LITA hours of tech support, set up a new HP and printer we had to buy, applied current data updates on mailing lists and even pitched in with the newsletter folding sealing, stamping and mailing. What a good brother!



### **Patsy Berndt Award**      **Best Holiday Events Volunteer Mona Silveira**

is Activity Director at Pittsburg Skilled Nursing. COVID rules allowed only virtual celebrations. Mona and her assistants do a remarkable job of getting dozens of patients all hooked up for the weekly LITA zoom. For Christmas Day she invited families to be guest stars on the Friday afternoon LITA Music Zoom. Cameras on, "unmuted", loved ones sang carols to their resident patients, many crying joyful tears.



### **Iris Suhl Founder's Award**      **Generous Donor and volunteer Jenny Lin**

first volunteered with daughter Katie, then age 7, caroling & making cards for LITA served nursing facilities. Jenny & Katie (now nearly 15) organized card making in December 2020. Photo is Jenny (right) delivering cards made by Katie's class mates to Sharon, Activity Director for Legacy Rehab residents. Jenny has been a valued top donor to LITA of Contra Costa for several years running.



## MUSIC AWAKENINGS IPAD & TABLET COMPASSION PROJECT CONTINUES

**Love Is The Answer's iPad & Tablet Compassion Project** helps enhance quality of life and maintain connection with life "outside". Music has proven to reduce anxiety, connecting patients for vital Encouragement with family, friends, volunteers and even care providers.

Studies from National Health and Geriatric Institutes repeatedly claim, spontaneously singing along to beloved melodies can create pathways to restore speech and lift moods. LITA has donated personal electronics for patient use since 2014. LITA provided such support for Contra Costa Regional Medical Center long stay patients program "**Music As Medicine**". LITA enhances activity hours for Greenridge Senior Care in El Sobrante, Lone Tree Convalescent in Antioch, Rosewood Care Center in Pleasant Hill, Bayberry Health Care in Concord, Shields Nursing Centers in El Cerrito and Richmond and Pittsburg Skilled Nursing. LITA's Director brings her 20 year experience to support skilled nursing activity staff.



LITA will continue, in times of quarantine and beyond, to lift patient's spirits by donating tablets and iPads and phones for zooming facetime family visits, entertainments, doctor meetings and patient information and media access. Activity Directors: Sharon at Legacy in Martinez, Margarita at Bayberry in Concord, Belinda at Rosewood in Pleasant Hill, Harjot at Greenridge in El Sobrante, Mona at Pittsburg Skilled Nursing and Rose Angeles at Lonetree in Antioch have all earned LITA's praises for all that they do to improve the quality of life for the resident patients under their care.

***Since 1981 LITA of Contra Costa has been incorporated as a 501©(3) Public Charity***  
**MISSION STATEMENT**

***LITA of Contra Costa involves youth, families, pets and aspiring artists to play their unique part as community member volunteers, fulfilling our mission to improve quality of life for disabled and senior persons living full time in skilled nursing facilities and hospitals in Contra Costa County.***



**LITA OF CONTRA COSTA LOVE IS THE ANSWER**

Website [www.litaofcontracosta.org](http://www.litaofcontracosta.org) Mail your donation to **LITA CC PO Box 121 Port Costa CA 94569**  
Start or contribute to a fundraiser for LITA on Facebook

Write us at [info@litaofcontracosta.org](mailto:info@litaofcontracosta.org) or give us a call at **925 212 4573**