Claudia’s good life

Many in Martinez have known Claudia for decades as a popular retired educator of 35 years, and an active member of the community. She first became known to Meals on Wheels as the dedicated caregiver for her neighbor and best friend Silva, another retired school teacher and a Meals on Wheels participant until her passing earlier this year.

Born and raised in Berkeley and a 1941 graduate of Berkeley High, Claudia received an Associate Arts Degree from U.C. Berkeley where she was editor of The Pelican, a campus humor magazine. She then transferred to New York University, receiving her Bachelor's Degree in Philosophy in 1945 while living in a cold water flat with her brother, a Broadway song and dance man, and 6 others for whom she did the cooking and shopping. “It was a very exciting time,” Claudia says.

Her brother was then appearing in “Bloomer Girls” on Broadway. He had previously appeared in “Something for the Boys” with Phil Silvers and Ethel Merman, and was good friends with such stars as Celeste Holm and Betty Garrett. One Easter Claudia recalls her brother throwing a party with Gene Kelley and his brother, Celeste Holm, and Cy Colman “while I just sat there with my mouth open.” It was hard sometimes to study or type a term paper with the comings and goings including Broadway and Hollywood notables. Claudia also worked for Life Magazine at the time, doing rewrites for the overseas edition for $27.50 a week.

Homesick for California, Claudia returned to receive her Teaching Credential from S. F. State and began teaching Kindergarten in San Pablo, her hardest job ever. She then taught in Antioch and West Pittsburg, before coming to Martinez to teach 6th grade for the next 27 years until her retirement in 1982.

Claudia and some friends became avid whitewater rafters on the Class 3 Electra Run of the Mokelumne River for many years until they nearly lost one of the group when a raft overturned. They decided to give it up.

Since retiring Claudia taught humanities at Martinez Adult School for ten years, served on the Civil Grand Jury in 2007-08 and then as Parliamentarian for the Grand Jury Association. She has served on the Board of the Martinez Historical Society and is a member of the Martinez Lioness Club. She enjoys her two dogs, reading, listening to music and until she became too unsteady on her feet, gardening.

With her mobility now limited, Claudia has become a Meals on Wheels participant.

“It was hard sometimes to study or type a term paper with the comings and goings including Broadway and Hollywood notables.”

—Continued on page 4
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Friends and loved ones remembered: July 2010–June 2011

Show how much you care with a tax-deductible gift to Meals on Wheels in tribute to a special person or organization, to commemorate a special event, or in memory of someone important in your life. Meals on Wheels will send an appropriate card per your wishes to whomever you specify, expressing your sentiments and announcing receipt of your gift (but never the gift amount) and you will receive an acknowledgement letter.

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Ruth Zabkenber     Ruth Zabkenber
Florence Tiscareno  John & Kathy Pagnini
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Jane Wilson        Stan Pierott
Elida Rios         Jean Wilson
Willie Tuzman       My husband, L. H. Hughes
Natividad Garcia    L. Hughes
Karen Chinn        William Tuzman
Margaret Peterson  Kathleen Pattaccini
Victoria Fughadou, my mother
Joe Greer          Viola Hines
Barbara Blankenship  My husband, John
Victor Stephens    Rachel Zeilinger
Joyce Thompson     Margaret Cingolani
Mavis Wilkinson    Victoria Fughadou, my mother
Josephine Giroux    Mavis Wilkinson
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Meals on Wheels of Contra Costa is the newsletter of Meals on Wheels of Contra Costa, Inc.

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You don’t have to donate names or information with any other organization.
We try to respect donors wishes about how often you want to receive appeals from us.
Meals on Wheels Legacy Circle members are an exclusive group of caring individuals who have made a Planned Gift in their Will or Trust to ensure that Meals on Wheels will be here for all the frail homebound elders who will need us in the years to come. Your planned gift may be in stocks, bonds, mutual fund shares, real estate or cash. Such assets can be gifted immediately with many tax advantages, or as Planned gifts and bequests in the future.

Meals on Wheels of Contra Costa is partnered with the East Bay Community Foundation for their 75 years experience in assisting charitable nonprofit organizations such as ours in receiving a variety of gifts. To join the Meals on Wheels Legacy Circle simply let us know of your intention to make a Planned Gift to Meals on Wheels. Please contact Paul Kraintz, Secretary/Treasurer of Meals on Wheels of Contra Costa at 925-646-9143 to discuss other planned giving options.

Remembering Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels Legacy Circle members are an exclusive group of caring individuals who have made a Planned Gift in their Will or Trust to ensure that Meals on Wheels will be here for all the frail homebound elders who will need us in the years to come. Your planned gift may be in stocks, bonds, mutual fund shares, real estate or cash. Such assets can be gifted immediately with many tax advantages, or as Planned gifts and bequests in the future.

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Claudia’s good life —— continued from page 1

participant herself in recent months. Her attitude towards life remains positive and forward looking, announcing at age 86 that the whole town will be invited to her 90th Birthday Party.

As Claudia summed it up, “It's been a good life. I have enjoyed myself a lot and still do.”