Sandra Simon to head Institute on Aging Philanthropy Committee

Institute on Aging (https://www.aging.org/), one of California’s largest nonprofits dedicated to health and community programs for older adults and adults living with disabilities, recently announced an agreement that Piedmont resident Sandra Simon will lead the organization’s critical philanthropic efforts as head of the all-volunteer philanthropy committee. She will also spearhead its annual fundraising dinner in 2021.

A supporter of Institute on Aging for the past 36 years, she is a lifelong Piedmont resident who attended Piedmont schools from K-12. “Institute on Aging does important work, including touching so many facets of our community so that go unnoticed or hidden from view,” said Simon. “It has brought seniors into the spotlight, and I love being a part of that. It’s such a sense of accomplishment to help direct dollars to keep the organization’s programming moving forward.”

Her mother, May Shane, was part of the group of supporters who first created Dinner à la Heart in 1982, a dinner/fundraising event that matches IOA’s supporters with their favorite Bay Area restaurateurs for an inimitable dining experience. Her mother encouraged Sandra to establish her own East Bay grantee to participate in the fundraising event, and after many years, Simon decided to carry on her mother’s legacy by joining the auxiliary board that works together to produce the event. Dinner à la Heart and the yearlong work of the philanthropy committee have become a key part of the success of the non-profit organization, raising significant funds and building relationships that services in the Bay Area, to include dementia care, home care, and community living services.

“The Institute on Aging is very lucky to have someone as dynamic as Sandra leading the charge for our philanthropic initiatives from the donor side,” said Jonathan Bernstein, Vice President of IOA. “And also a Piedmont resident. She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the board, as well as a deep passion for helping older adults and adults with disabilities who need what IOA offers.”

Seniors are really cool and have great stories that should be listened to and shared,” added Simon. “I remember my grandmother in her late 90s would light up from a simple visit or phone call from a friend or family member. I think we should ask (what did you have for lunch today?)! It made her feel included and reinforced that someone cared.”

“Institute on Aging does that for all its participants, and it’s so important,” added Simon.

De Young Museum

De Young Museum where she began to cultivate her now-iconic Tehuana style and her identity as a painter. Members of the museums will be able to enjoy exclusive access to Frida Kahlo: Appearance Can Be Deceiving every Wednesday throughout the exhibition.

Uncanny Valley: Being Human in the Age of Artificial Intelligence is an exhibition exploring the increasing human dependence on artificial intelligence, will reopen in an expanded version: Pierre Huyghe’s bronze sculpture Exomind, with a bee-like head, will greet visitors at its head, will greet visitors as the entrance to the museum’s European collections, as well as explore its vast and varied permanent collections of American art, including its famous Pop Art and Conceptual Art collection. The museum also offers a chance to experience its vast and varied permanent collections of American art, as well as exhibitions that go beyond the Americas, among other holdings on view throughout the year.

The Museum Store will be open.

The Legion of Honor

The Legion of Honor will reopen to the public in mid-October. Prior to the museum’s general opening, members will be invited to visit for pre-opening member days.

Napa Valley ALS Ride this Saturday

By Paul Lettieri and Debra Dryden

Once again, the bicycle team Linda and Marvin will be riding in memory of Linda Lettieri and Marv-in-Stein, both of whom passed away from ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, better known as Lou Gehrig’s Disease). July 9 marked the 15th anniversary of Linda’s passing and the 15th year our bicycle team, Team Linda and Marvin, will be participating in the Ride to Defeat ALS.

This is truly a science fiction-like disease in its progressive reduction of your ability to move, speak and eventually, breathe. Since ALS is currently not well understood, there is no cure or effective treatment path, we are working hard to fund-raise to find cure through the ALS Association, Golden West Chapter. Finally, there are some glimmers of hope that some of the genetics of ALS are being discovered, although we are a long way from effective treatments and the eventual cure.

The ALS Association is the only non-profit organization fighting Lou Gehrig’s Disease on every front. By leading the way in global research, providing assistance for people with ALS through a nationwide network of chapters, coordinating multidisciplinary care through certified clinical care centers, and fostering government partnerships, The Association builds hope and enhances quality of life while aggressively searching for new treatments and a cure.

Team Linda and Marvin will be riding this Saturday, September 26, in their memory and we are soliciting your support to help our team exceed our fundraising goal for ALS research. Last year, through the amazingly generous donations of friends, family, and clients, we raised over $70,000 for ALS Research. The timeline for a cure or even a treatment for ALS may be very long, and we may not be around long enough to see it, but the goal is worthy of our effort and hopefully your dollars.

Any contribution, no matter how small (or large!) will be appreciated and will help fund research into the causes and cures of ALS. Your tax-deductible gift will make a difference in the lives of many! It is faster and easier than ever to support this great cause. You can make your donation online by simply clicking on the link at the bottom of this message. If you would prefer, you can also send your tax-deductible contribution to the address listed below. Please write the name/Team Linda and Marvin in the memo line.

Due to the Coronavirus, the ride is going virtual this year, but some of us will be riding from Oakland to the top of Mount Diablo and back, a distance of 80 miles and 7,500 feet of vertical climbing. That’s our challenge to defeat this horrible disease. A link to Linda Lettieri Memorial Website, which has been updated this year with more compelling photographs, is at: http://www.diveinsideby.com.