A Double Celebration
By Sam Berman and Estelle Anshen

On Saturday, November 28, Fountainview was the scene of a double celebration for Eli and Lil Baker! Sixty guests, friends and relatives, from far and wide (New York, Chicago, Toronto, and Washington state) assembled to wish Eli well on his 95th birthday. And all were gathered to observe the couple’s 70th wedding anniversary, too! Among the guests were the Baker’s breakfast buddies: Paul and Tobie Treitman, Beverly and Irv Garfunkel, Estelle Anshen and Sam Berman. Sam Kremen, a second cousin of Lil’s, his sister Ethel Kett, and friend Arlene Cordova also enjoyed the festivities.

The story of Eli and Lil’s love story has many elements of a romance novel. What started out as Lil’s willingness to serve as a pen pal for a Canadian Air Force member in World War II, blossomed into a most charming and enduring love affair. Eli became an officer who served as a navigator on bombing missions. On one flight over Germany, the electrical system on his plane was burned out. Eli guided the plane back to England, navigating by the stars. For this he was awarded a Distinguished Flying Cross medal. On his last flight, his bomber was badly hit and Eli and his mates had to parachute. Eli was captured and sent to a German Prisoner of War camp for nine rough months. Eventually he was rescued by the British, sent to England and then back to Canada. After having exchanged love letters with Lil for five years, Eli traveled to Los Angeles where they finally met. Three days later he proposed, and here they are seventy years later, still very much in love and role models for all married couples.

Lil went on to become a teacher and then an outstandingly successful school principal at the Dublin and Valerio schools. Incidentally, she received her Doctorate in Education at UCLA. Eli was a very successful stock broker.

They lived in Beverly Hills, Westwood, and Sherman Oaks before settling down in Woodland Hills for 50 years, then moving into Fountainview. They have two daughters - one in Anaheim and the other in Friday Harbor, Washington. Plus five grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Lil and Eli enjoy the easy life at Fountainview. Both are active, friendly people. Both drive, read, participate in programs here and off grounds. Eli is a regular attendee at Monday meetings of Wings over Wendy’s, a weekly gathering of former pilots, navigators and crew members and mechanics. Lil is a faithful participant of the Tuesday sessions of the Sage program at CSUN. Lil is a member of the Creative Writers group here, the Book Club and Great Decisions. Eli is very active in the Synagogue and is an occasional visitor to the Yiddish Club. Both are regular movie goers at Fountainview.

All of us at Fountainview are privileged to have Lil and Eli Baker as friends and neighbors. And we say, “Mazel Tov – be well and keep up the good work!”

Warm Welcome to Our Newest Resident
Joe Mamelak

Don’t Cut it Out—Send the whole thing to your friends and relatives! The VIEW’s website is: www.fountainviewjha.org/fountainview-living/publications All four issues are available!
**Trivia**

By Evelyn Bauer

Definition of Trivia: unimportant facts or details.

Trivia Question: “What famous playwright had a daughter named Suzanna?”

The first time that I attended Trivia (meeting Wednesdays at 1 o’clock in the Creative Arts Studio), I was just ‘looking in’. There were two teams of about six people seated opposite each other. I sat in the back not planning to participate. For each correct response to a question, a team is awarded a chip. The chips are counted at the conclusion, but everyone wins as they are rewarded with chocolate candies!

There were answers to the question above ranging from Arthur Miller to Tennessee Williams, each team being allowed two guesses. To my delight - no one knew the correct answer. But I did! “William Shakespeare”, I timidly called out! Norma, who was reading the questions, said in a surprised tone, “YES! How did you know that?” All eyes were on me, a newcomer. I was ‘in’ and I was hooked!

Norma took a hiatus so I volunteered to lead and read. But I also missed being a contender - so now we alternate. Estelle and Zita have filled in as have Ruth and Allen. We may be subjected to lots of obscure information, but it’s a fine way to challenge our memories! Tobie has a fantastic memory and a wealth of information. Joyce is unstoppable when she knows the answer - no matter which team is up. We are kind to the hearing challenged, so don't let that deter you.

Trivia Question: “Who is buried in Grant’s Tomb?” If you know the answer, join in the fun on Wednesdays. The comradery is precious and the candy is great!

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**FYI (Translation: For Your Information)**

By Shirley Lazar

It’s the 21st Century – the year 2016. So many new innovations, new technology, new words and phrases have been popping up in the past few years. Realistically, I’m aware there is no way I can keep up with all that’s new, but wanting to be trendy and cool and not an old dinosaur, it’s necessary for me to start talking the lingo of the 2016 generation.

I’ve paid attention the past few years and have picked up a few of the “hep” words and phrases, which I’m happy to share with you. Pay close attention, and you too can become cool and trendy.

First: This one’s a must. “Don’t sweat the small stuff”. That’s pretty self-explanatory. It’s my favorite, and has become my daily mantra.

Second: Forget “Hello, how are you?” It’s definitely passé. Use only “hey”, “hey man” or “hey, dude whassup?” Just the other day a young man greeted me with “hey, man”. So let’s assume that “hey”, “hey man” or “hey dude” can be used for either sex.

Third: Great, exceptional things are no longer “fantastic” or “super”. These words are so outdated. Just say “awesome”, which shows you’re really cool.

Fourth: Do you have a favorite friend or buddy? It’s proper now to refer to them as your “BFF”. (Best Friend Forever). Better explain this one to them, as they may think you’re calling them a nasty name.

Fifth: Are you doing a task every day, around the clock? Explain it by only saying: “I’m at it 24/7.” Not only trendy, but fewer words.

Sixth: I’ll bet you thought that you were living in Reseda, a suburb of Los Angeles. WRONG! Whether you like it or not, you’re now living in the “burbs”. (Suburbs.)

Seventh: Show how really cool you are by giving this advice: “Go with the flow’ (or just accept things as they are) and “watch your back” (or be very careful). Using these phrases will be very impressive. In case you’re getting “uptight” (or tense) with all this new information, just “chill out” (formerly known as relax), as there is still a bit more to come.

Now we'll try the new alphabet language:

1. OMG - Oh My God
2. TY - Thank You
3. FYI - For Your Information
4. DIY - Do it Yourself
5. LOL - Laughing Out Loud or Lots of Love
6. BRB - Be Right Back
7. NP - No Problem
8. TMI - Too Much Information
9. BFF - Best Friend Forever

Be sure to learn these for really good modern language skills. I hope I haven’t given you TMI (Too Much Information) in one lesson. TY (Thank You) for paying attention. Be sure to practice your new words and phrases on your family and friends. Ignore their comments, as they’ll all be jealous that you are so “in the know”. (Knowledgable.)

Well, I’m ready to “zone out” (quit) and get some ZZZZ’s (sleep). SYL (See You Later) or TTYS (Talk to You Soon)!
A Trip to the Stars

By Shirley Rosenberg and Joyce Edelman

On a crystal clear Tuesday in December, Fountainview residents and their guests got a double treat in an outing to the Griffith Observatory. Not only did we receive a private tour of the L.A. landmark, but we were also treated to views of Los Angeles only seen on picture postcards. Many of you will remember the old local newscaster, Jerry Dunphy, who opened his newscast with "From the desert to the sea, to all of Southern California..."; well, it was that kind of day.

The exclusive tour was put together by Joy Picus who, as President and Chair of the Board of Friends of the Observatory, was instrumental in planning and raising money for the Observatory's renovation. The renovation was completed in 2006. She arranged our private tour with Mark Pine, the Observatory's Deputy Director. Through Mark, we were given a personal guided tour of the famous Los Angeles attraction. In addition to the Observatory's regular exhibits, we were also led downstairs to a showing of jewelry, made exclusively from stones and minerals from outer space—a very different, yet fascinating array!

For Shirley Rosenberg, the outing brought back a flood of memories from her childhood. She recalled that as a 10-year-old girl, her father took her and her sister to the Observatory for the first time. It was 1935, the year the facility opened. An astronomy buff himself, her father took pride in pointing out the constellations, the most impressive of which were the Big and Little Dippers to two little girls.

A massive pendulum greets visitors as they enter the Observatory and Shirley recalls the impression it made on that first visit. Seeing it again evoked memories not only of the pendulum, but of a wonderful childhood, as well.

Mark Pine is younger than our group, and his "youth" and obvious love of the Observatory and his work rubbed off on all of us. It was a fabulous experience and we thank Mark and Joy for making it a special event.

At the end of the day, a tired but happy group boarded our bus and arrived back at Fountainview in time for dinner.

Thank you, Joy and Lauri, for a great day!

The Message of Purim

By Rabbi Mervin B. Tomsky

Purim is a story of reversals and redemption. While the historical authenticity is questionable, it reflects the experience of the Jewish People, living as a minority in the Diaspora.

We don't know the author of the Book of Esther, and God is not mentioned, but evidence of His presence is reflected in the empowerment of personalities and the corresponding events of redemption that take place. In the acting out of the Purim story, there is revelry, role-playing, costumes and masquerade. But it is also a vision of truth that can ennoble human society. The Book of Esther is one of high drama contrasted with relief and deliverance, with the promise for humankind that good will ultimately conquer over evil.

In the story, Haman can't tolerate Mordechai's (and symbolically the Jewish People's) challenging his authority by his very presence. So Haman goes to King Ahashuerus with a plot to annihilate the Jews of Persia. He tells the King: "There is a certain (different) people whose laws are different, and it is not for the King's benefit to tolerate them." So the King issues a decree to destroy the Jews on a date selected by Haman.

Through Mordechai's efforts, Queen Esther comes to realize she shares a common destiny with her people; and, though uninvited, approaches the King asking for protection for her people. After further manipulation by Esther, the King issues a second decree allowing the Jews to defend themselves. They are victorious and celebrate. Mordechai is elevated to high honor; and Haman meets his doom.

One of the lessons we learn from the Purim story is that people must take an active part in seeking to bring about their own redemption. And even more essential, we learn that we must respect differences, and not destroy people because of their being "different". What an important lesson we learn from Purim for our day!

As we celebrate Purim (March 23/24), let us send portions of "good will" to one another!
A Visit to the Getty House
By Evelyn Bauer

The Getty House in Hancock Park is the official residence of Mayor Eric Garcetti and his family. On December 9, 2015, eight Fountainview residents were invited to an outdoor reception by Kevin Taylor, of the Mayor’s staff, and West Valley coordinator. Carpools included Evelyn Bauer, Marvin Freedman, Lillian Gabriel, Joy and Gerry Picus, Sue Richter, Ruth Waller and Sally Wilk. There were about 150 seniors, representing all neighborhoods and ethnicities of our City.

The Mayor was the featured speaker; very articulate and charming. He visited all the tables being warm and friendly. Carolers dressed in Victorian costumes obliged our request for a Hanukkah song. Dance music came from a D.J. in the rear yard of the residence. The only dancers were we ‘live wires’ from Fountainview! When Joy introduced herself to the Mayor, he acknowledged that his daughter attends the Joy Picus Child Care Center in the Civic Center. Joy was instrumental in establishing that Center and we were all so proud of this accomplishment!

Thank you, Joy, for allowing us to represent Fountainview at this memorable outing.

Sam Kremen’s Magnificent Menorah
By Sam Berman

Residents of Fountainview who attended the candle-lighting ceremony during the eight nights of Chanukah were delighted to see the marvelous Hanukiah made available by Sam Kremen. The impressive candelabrum is large – standing 5 1/2 feet tall with a “wing span” of almost 4 feet. Made of brass, but looking golden, it has some interesting symbols, such as the four lion-head feet and the large lion’s head and shield on the top. Sam knows little about the background of the menorah other than it is believed to have come from a Polish synagogue from the 1840’s.

About forty years ago, despite his wife’s reluctance, Sam bought it at an auction for the then great sum of $3,000. When asked why, Sam’s reply is, ‘Because I like to look at it.” And that he did when he installed it in the library in his large home in Tarzana. It is no surprise. Sam was a Yeshivah bucker (student) back in Chicago, a Biblical scholar, and he is a revered and respected former President of Temple Ramat Zion. A graduate of University of Illinois Medical School, Sam went on to become considered as one of the finest pathologists in Los Angeles.

Although one usually associates pathologists with autopsies, Sam is especially noted for his astuteness in his diagnostic work. Sam is an excellent story teller, as you can observe when he speaks in fluent Yiddish at the meetings of the Yak in Yiddish group.

All of us were fortunate when Sam Kremen moved to Fountainview in September of 2014 to join his older sister Ethel Kett. May the association with them go on for a long, happy time to come!

In Memorium

This winter has taken its toll of our residents. We recall the names of our recently departed dear friends: Alex Weitz, Charlotte Brent, Cliff Nathan, Olga Lanet, David Horner, and Fay Pollock. May their pleasant memories remain with us.

Our Super Bowl “50” Pool Winners

Congratulations to our BIG winners - $25 each!
First Quarter — Evelyn Weinstein
Second Quarter — Irene Starre
Third Quarter — Lillian Gabriel
Fourth Quarter — Sam Berman
The Pictures Say it All!

By Cliff Levine

I’m talking about the New Year’s Eve pictures outside the Riverview Lounge. Look at those smiling faces: Fountainview residents having a smashing good time! Every year I’m at some sort of a party or event to welcome in the New Year. But never again am I and my lady leaving the ‘View’, not as long as we have Shelley and crew handling the arrangements. It was an outstanding evening filled with fun and warmth. It started with photos taken in the Lobby by a ‘pro’, then on to our magnificent Dining room with giant decorations as centerpieces on every table. The menu and service reached new heights - followed by casino games and dancing plus movies. The Private Dining Room for dessert was breathtaking! Thanks again, Shelley, it was truly a night to remember!

Here’s a tasty idea: We now have a new Director of Dining Services (Angel) and what a hurdle he has to clear. Can you imagine preparing a menu for 100 Jewish women who ran their own kitchens? He should get the ‘Distinguished American Food Award’ and a ‘Silver Dreidel!’ But seriously, let’s give him a little breathing room so he can set his own table.

Now, if I may, it’s time for a little smile. If you’ve heard this one before, it’s worth re-telling. There’s a major flood along the banks of the Mississippi and an elderly Jewish man is on the top of his roof - the entire house is under water. A speed boat comes along side and the driver says, “Sir, I have room for one more, jump aboard.” The man on the roof says, “Thank you, but the water will go down, I don’t want to abandon my home.”

It’s still raining very heavily. Just then a man in a rowboat comes by and says, “I can save your life, come aboard” and again the man on the roof replies, “The water will recede, I don’t want to leave my home.” The water is lapping at his feet when a small canoe approaches and the paddler says, “Jump! I’ll get you to shore.” And still the man on the roof says, “I don’t want to leave my home.” The rain gets heavier, the water covers the roof, and the man is swept away and drowns.

He’s now at the ‘Pearly Gates’ and says: ‘Lord, how could you do this to me? I’ve lived a good life, went to Temple every Friday and Saturday - supported the Temple’s education fund.

How could you do this to me?” And from the sky, a voice booms out and says “SHELMIEL!! I sent you a speed boat, a rowboat and a canoe, and still you wouldn’t get off the roof!”

See you next edition!

Top Players of the Month: DAKIM

The following residents reached the top of the list for the most number of games played. CONGRATULATIONS!

November: Lea Swidler
December: Irene Nathan
January: Irene Nathan
Profile of Robyn Samuels

As told to Mickey Mandell

Fountainview residents are once again preparing to showcase their talents with the help of Robyn Samuels, this time in a storytelling salon – with two performances! – on March 6 of this year.

Robyn, daughter-in-law of Harry and Yetta Shragg, first got involved with Fountainview when Harry mentioned over Shabbat dinner that he and a few other residents were working on some sketches about life at Fountainview in hopes of sharing them with the community. Robyn has a background in Theater, with a B.A. in acting and an M.F.A. in directing from Harry’s alma mater, the University of Minnesota. Among her many theater credits, she was a founding member of At the Foot of the Mountain, a groundbreaking feminist theater company in Minneapolis in the 70’s and later helped form the feminist comedy foursome, “Hot Flashes” which was based in San Diego and toured throughout California in the 80’s. After her move to Los Angeles, Robyn became a full-time teacher and later married Bruce Shragg and became mother of twins, Lily and Shira. With her girls now independent teens and a flexible part-time job as a substitute teacher, Robyn offered to help facilitate the Fountainview Follies. Along the way she also consulted on the Fountainview production of “The Trial of FDR” and got hooked on volunteering with residents here. “I am inspired by the intelligence, humor, energy and camaraderie I find at Fountainview. No question about it, I get back more than I give.”

Fountainview Follies was a hit, but also an ambitious undertaking. For a new project, Robyn proposed a different idea: how about holding an evening of storytelling, modeled after the latest storytelling craze exemplified by NPR’s series “the MOTH?” Robyn herself is an experienced storyteller. “One of my favorite stories to tell is about how I came to be a storyteller--I’ll just say my mother unexpectedly paved the way.” She appears regularly at the Story Salon on Laurel Canyon Boulevard in Studio City and at Moth events around Los Angeles. Now she is trying to impart some of her knowledge to a group of about 14 enthusiastic residents, coaching them on how to craft and tell a story to an audience. “There is a gold mine of stories here at Fountainview,” says Robyn, “and it is a joy to be involved in drawing them out and into the spotlight.”

Introducing Cary

By Ruth Orbuch, Editor

I am pleased to introduce to our readers, the creative force behind the design and production of our quarterly newsletter, the VIEW. Cary Haskin holds a degree in Journalism from Cal State Northridge and completed his MBA courses at UCLA.

His work experience includes careers in publishing and advertising. Presently he is a Cruise/Travel Agent. Shirley Rosenberg, his mother, suggested his talents be utilized by us here at Fountainview, in developing our paper. We are forever grateful for his volunteering in this capacity. “Thank you, Cary!”