



OUR VISION:

A community of elders and neighbors supporting one another.

OUR MISSION:

To connect members to resources needed to maintain comfortable, dignified, vibrant lives in their homes and community by providing appropriate services, activities, and programs that will further this purpose.

A PROFILE IN COMMUNITY COMPASSION

Originally contemplated as an effort to put a human face to the sometimes anonymous recipients of TENT services, profiling Peter Chinni* seemed a natural. A much beloved world-class sculptor and visual artist, Peter was, with a little help from his friends (a.k.a. TENT), still creating art on a daily basis at age 90. Peter's sudden death has altered the arc of this earlier intent. It now seems most fitting to highlight TENT's critical role in helping to assure the high quality of his life right up until the end. For this case study in compassion and generosity, we may all be grateful.

Peter Chinni's creative faculties were still intact up until his death. But there was a significant snag in his capacity to realize his still emerging hopes and dreams. Peter could no longer independently manage the logistics of multiple Santa Fe and Albuquerque medical appointments and associated efforts required to sustain him. Though many loved and admired him, they were often limited in their ability to help by their own burgeoning frailties. Here's where TENT's quality of life sustaining capacity comes into view... and to the rescue. If not for TENT, Peter's potential plight might have been unresolvable.

True to its mission, TENT stepped in and provided the necessary resources that neither Peter nor his friends could reliably assemble and

assure on their own. The Volunteer, who prefers not to be named, regularly helped Peter sort his mail, pay bills, take out the trash, change lightbulbs, shovel snow off his walkway, clean his vehicle, shop for groceries, and take care of lots of other chores. He drove him to medical appointments a couple of times, and he

maintained contact with Peter's daughter, Christine, to help when necessary. The late former Vice President, Hubert Humphrey, famously asserted that

"the moral test of government is how that government treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the elderly; and those who are in the shadows of life, the sick, the needy and the handicapped." Despite being a celebrated artist still at work in his studio daily, the inevitable ravages of time had left Peter doubly challenged. At age 90, he clearly qualified as "elderly." A chronic cardiac condition certainly qualified him as "sick." With his advanced age and



increasing infirmity, came the inevitable frailties, diminished physical capacities, and increasing dependencies. Yet, there was TENT.

Though no government entity, TENT has unswervingly committed itself to plugging the gaps in our geographically isolated and under-resourced community's social safety net. Nowhere was this more evident than in its generous and reassuring response to the needs of my recently deceased, doubly challenged, much beloved friend, Peter Chinni. And in case you think that all benefits of the Member-Volunteer relationship accrue only to the Member, Peter's helper says, "I never knew anything about Peter until I became his Volunteer, and we became good friends. It was a very special relationship."

FROM THE BOARD



The TENT Endowment Fund will help ensure our future. The Taos Community Foundation (TCF) holds our Endowment Fund. TCF is set up to receive anonymous gifts, legacies from wills, financial donations, and donations of real property. Eventually, TENT will use the earnings of the fund for continued operation. Please consider donating today to the Endowment Fund.

TENT needs you! Spread the word, volunteer, donate, or recommend a neighbor who can use our services -- and many thanks to all who are active in our TENT community.

-- Jim Schultz, Board President

Marianne Furedi asks this:

Do you have a story to tell? Would you help a teen with a school project? TENT is exploring a project that would involve Taos students interviewing TENT elders on their experiences related to "historical" subjects. If you think you might be interested in helping out, please let us know by contacting us at taoselders@gmail.com

Sculptor, painter, singer, musician, chef, former athlete, indomitably curious, optimistic creative spirit, dear friend, Peter Chinni is mourned by many. He leaves an inspired, cherished legacy. Kudos to TENT for helping him live his final chapter in full!

– Robert J. Silver

* Peter Chinni died on February 5, 2019, at age 90, after a fall while rehearsing for a performance with the Taos Community Chorus. His presentation "Inside/Out" was part of the Harwood Museum's Winter Exhibition. Some of his pieces are in the Rockefeller collection, the Hirshhorn Museum, the Whitney Museum of American Art, and the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

NEXT PUBLIC EVENT:

https://taoselders.helpfulvillage.com/events/index_list

SIMPLIFY YOUR LIFE: DECLUTTER!

by Patti Sampson, 3:00 to 4:00 pm, (doors open at 2:30) May 13, Alcalde Room, Taos Civic Center, 120 Civic Plaza Drive.

Have you wondered what to do with Uncle Hans' Lederhosen or Aunt Ella's lace handkerchiefs? How about those 50 years of *National Geographic Magazines*? The dusty exercise bicycle? Recycle, sell, donate, or throw away? Treasure or Trash? Come and find answers to your questions.

Patti has been space clearing and organizing things her entire adult life; she loved having garage sales and assisting friends and family with her talent. This skill set developed into a viable business. Patti is also an artist and had a graphic design business, and she's skilled in feng shui and is a Reiki Master. Currently, she is a student at UNM Taos. To help us plan future events, let us know what you'd like to learn about or present to the group. catrinpm@yahoo.com or rhonda.wyche@gmail.com

A MAYBE: What about a weekend bus trip to Durango for our September event? Let us know by email if you are interested so we can start planning it with Marcia Winter!

SAY YES TO NEW ADVENTURES!



Did you know that Roger's dad attended the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis? Or that Ron reads Norwegian crime mysteries? Or that Elizabeth won a box of French chocolates? Of course you do if you were at the last TENT public event where Taos travel agent, Marcia Winter, encouraged us to "Say Yes to New Adventures," with timely travel tips for doing so. – *Rhonda Wyche*

TAOS LIBRARY PUBLIC EVENT

Thirty or a few more people met at the Taos Public Library on January 18 for a presentation by Director Kate Alderete. Two people brought fruit and cookies, so we were overfed.

Kate asked who in the audience had a library card, and passed out applications to the few who did not (yet).

The library has a lot of reference material, tax forms, and a reference staff, newspapers, magazines, and a whole children's section. Among other public programs, story-telling sessions are held on Thursday afternoons.

Resources include free Internet service and computers for public use; weekly knitting and crochet classes; and monthly yoga classes with different teachers. February events included a money management class, a career fair for volunteer positions (at which TENT had a table), and even a "fake news" class.

Online resources available through the library's website (TaosLibrary.org) include an online catalog, technical help, policy documents, and hours of operation. A platform called "Overdrive" allows users to get ebooks and audio books; it has checkout, hold, and return features, so you can read or listen offline. Because the material loaned through Overdrive is shared by libraries across the state, the Taos Library doesn't need to buy special books.

The complete *New York Times* is free online. "Mango," an online language trainer, offers 70 languages. "El Portal" offers a newspaper archive from all around the world, including *Taos News* back to 1959; it also has a resume review program, a homework review program, and auto repair books. For these facilities you must use the library's WiFi, but it is still free.

My impression is of a very well equipped library that includes reference facilities I never could have imagined.
– *Jim Ludden*

WHAT IS HOMESHARING?

Have you ever shared a living space with someone other than your immediate family? A homesharing program brings together a homeowner or renter ("provider") and a person ("seeker") looking for a place to live. In a February presentation for TENT Volunteers, Marianne Furedi used Power Point to show nationwide homesharing programs, including interviews with people who were enjoying the benefits of living together in the same home.

Why homeshare?

Reasons include allowing one to live at home with another's help; to have companionship (play games together, share meals and pets); to reduce living costs for provider and seeker; to increase safety; and to get help with chores such as gardening.

Would I let a stranger live in my home?

Most programs provide checks prior to moving in together, such as background screening and reference checks for both parties. It is suggested that the provider and seeker spend time together beforehand, with a list of issues to discuss, such as space available, kitchen privileges, pets, food storage, visitors, etc. In addition, a homesharing agreement is suggested that states mutual expectations and responsibilities, and how to dissolve the arrangement when it is no longer suitable.

Co-housing and other varieties

Denmark developed a housing option called co-housing, which has spread across the U.S. Developers design a community, usually with small homes or condominiums with a community center, where residents gather for

meetings and social activities. Examples include Hearthstone in Denver and Valverde Commons, an adult co-housing development in Taos.

Some homesharing programs are nonprofit and some are for profit. In an interview with two people homesharing through a nonprofit Los Angeles group called Affordable Living for the Aging, ALA said, "We are rethinking what it means to age with dignity and independence, rather than institutionalization or isolation." Here in Taos, there is the possibility of partnering with the University of New Mexico for such a program. "Senior Homeshares" is a nationwide online service that matches elders who have too much space (empty-nesters, widows/widowers) with elders in search of safe, affordable housing.

Resources can be found [here](#) and a good outline is [here](#). *A Guidebook for Finding and Keeping Good Housemates* by Annamarie Pluhar is available.

In my last employment with Loudoun County Housing Services in Virginia, we operated a homesharing program called "Operation Match," which helped bring people together for the benefits of living together. We inspected the provider's home to make sure it had a separate and private bedroom and was generally suitable. Our office successfully provided assistance along the way.

Now that we have explored ideas, programs, and resources about homesharing, I think TENT has a head start to assist members who may need this help in the future. -- Barbara Berge

TENT FUNDRAISING

As you know, TENT is basically a volunteer organization, but we still have some expenses: the Volunteer Coordinator's salary, taxes, website, membership dues in the Village-to-Village Network, insurance, and rent for our

office. These expenses currently total about \$40,000 per year.

Membership fees cover a portion of that budget, and at present we have 30 dues-paying

Members, but the dues don't cover our budget. Consequently, we are soliciting donations.

In 2018 we received small grants from the Taos Milagro Rotary Club, the Lions' Club, the Unitarian Congregation of Taos, the Taos Community Foundation, the McCune Charitable Foundation, and several private donors. We are currently applying for grants from other foundations.

We received Sustaining Memberships of \$150 each from 25 individuals or couples. These are essentially donations, since these folks do not receive any services. We hope that they will continue to support us with this gift of \$150 per year until they are ready to become full Members who receive services.

Catherine and Alison Guynes kindly offered their home for two small gatherings at which Jim

Schultz and I presented what we are doing and asked for donations.

We have established a new category called Founding Donors. Three folks have each given us \$5,000, and now have their names listed on our website. We hope to expand this group to at least five and to keep this money as a reserve. We know that we will need it!

If you are interested in helping with individual solicitations or grant writing, or if you would like to give TENT a donation in any amount, please go to our website, www.taoselders.helpfulvillage.org or email or call me: bette@taosnet.com (575) 758-3376.

TENT is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation and all donations are tax deductible. Thank you!

– Bette Myerson

We're Growing (in Numbers and Services) and Glowing (with Praise)

We've outgrown our britches!! We no longer fit into the parking lot of the Dreamcatcher Building on Gusdorf Road. The last time we had a general Volunteer Meeting there, our landlord said, "There are so many of you! My tenants can't park."

Perfect timing! The original, larger groups of TENT Volunteers completed their "basic training" and will no longer be meeting every two weeks—for regular monthly meetings, we'll be able to use the available times at the Taos Community Foundation and Valverde Commons. We can also meet at the Don Fernando Hotel, which has graciously offered us space. We're fortunate to have such community support.

How are we doing? We're getting lots of thanks and praise: "Thank you so much—only because of you I've been able to do what I needed!" "The

TENT volunteer was wonderful, very helpful and kind." "So thankful for the service." "They were excellent—both guys! I couldn't have ordered the necessary part." "She was great!" "It was a wonderful service...felt like a gift." "Overwhelmingly appreciative of all the help." "My experience was stellar...she is a treasure. Great job! Thanks so much, TENT."

Soon we'll ask TENT Volunteers and Members for opinions about *inTENTions*. Tell us what you think of the format, the content, and what you (and the Members you'll be talking to) want to see in future issues.

As always, thank you for making my job so incredibly enjoyable and rewarding. It is an honor, a privilege, and oh so much fun to work with you! -- *Marianne Furedi, Volunteer Coordinator*

PERSONAL ARTICLES INSURANCE – AREN'T THEY ALL PERSONAL?

In previous newsletters, we've talked about insurance for homeowners, condo unit-owners, and renters. Once we have the

appropriate policy, it's easy to breathe a sigh of relief and assume that all our personal property is insured by the policy we just

bought. Dig deeper into that policy with your agent, and you'll find that there are certain types of items that have limited coverage for theft and other less likely perils.

Some examples of those types of items are jewelry, silverware, and art/antiques/collectibles. So, if your house burns down, there's probably no coverage limit for your jewelry, for example, except for the total coverage on your policy. But if your jewelry is stolen, there may be a separate coverage limit for that event. It might be possible to increase that limit, but (1) you may have more jewelry than the maximum value to which the limit may be raised, and (2) it's still subject to the deductible you've chosen for your policy. If this is jewelry that you would like to replace if it's stolen, have it appraised (a good idea anyway), take the appraisal to your agent, and insure the jewelry with a separate policy: a personal articles policy.

The personal articles policy will be priced according to the amount of coverage you require, and it's typically not very expensive. It has other benefits, too. First, it typically has no deductible! Second, it's an all-risk policy, meaning regardless of what happens to your jewelry (e.g., mysterious disappearance) and where it happens (e.g., on your around-the-world cruise), it's covered!

CIVIL LEGAL RESOURCES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

Of the legal resources for senior citizens in New Mexico, many are free or free to those who meet income requirements. Each has ample information available on its website. Check out the following.

State Bar of New Mexico – Legal Resources for the Elderly (LREP) Phone: (505) 797-6000 or 1(800) 876-6657 or click [here](#).

So ask your agent to tell you all the types of items that have theft limits, and find out the limits and how high they can be raised. Decide whether those limits are adequate for your needs. Consider whether these items are vulnerable when you take them on trips. Also consider whether they're vulnerable to other strange things happening, e.g., a painting falling off the wall and being scratched by broken glass or a sculpture or your favorite Indian pot being broken by a guest.

I mentioned getting appraisals on jewelry. That's likely to be a requirement for anything you insure with a personal articles policy. In addition, it's smart to keep a record of all your personal property. You might take pictures or a video, save receipts, and keep them somewhere accessible if you have a fire. Do not assume that in the chaos after a fire, or even a theft, you'll remember everything you owned. You will not. And it will be very difficult to estimate replacement costs for everything you lost. So invest a little time in record-keeping now so that you don't pile on the stress if the worst happens.

You'll be so glad that between your homeowners and personal articles policies, you'll have great coverage! – Nancy Ewing

LREP is a joint project of the New Mexico State Bar Foundation and the New Mexico Aging and Long-Term Services Department. Call the State Bar's free legal hotline to speak with an attorney for assistance with civil legal problems. These attorneys provide legal advice, in English or Spanish, in most areas of civil law. LREP also offers Legal Workshops statewide and Informational Legal Publications. Its "Senior Legal Handbook" is a 130-page manual, published in cooperation

with the State Bar, with information on the areas of law most affecting New Mexico seniors. [Senior Legal Handbook](#) or [Senior Legal Handbook \(Spanish\)](#)

The New Mexico Long-Term Care Ombudsman: This organization advocates for the civil and human rights of residents of long-term care facilities in New Mexico. Call 1-505-476-4790 for more information on services such as health care, transportation, assisted and independent living centers, legal assistance, and home delivered meals. Or call

toll free in New Mexico at 1-800-432-2080 or 1-866-451-2901.

Disability Rights: Disability Rights New Mexico provides several basic legal services for persons with disabilities, including advocacy to resolve specific problems; advocacy to improve service systems and to promote, protect, and expand their rights; and training to increase both awareness of disability rights and empowerment.
info@drnm.org 800-432-4682 – Lois West

RESOURCES

TENT Members and Volunteers have suggested a number of resources about aging. These include a book review on Amazon: *Borrowed Time: The Science of How and Why We Age (Bloomsbury Sigma)* by Sue Armstrong, which "tells the story of society's quest to understand aging through the eyes of the scientists themselves, as well as through the 'ordinary' people who exemplify the mysteries of aging . . ." Search for it on amazon.com.

Talking Books for the Visually Impaired: by the New Mexico State Library in Santa Fe, Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped. People in NM who send in a form signed by a medical professional stating they are unable to read

books because of visual impairment or other disability can receive audio books at no charge. For further details call: 1-800-456-5515 or click [here](#).

A "little old lady" is asked to give the invocation at a "Caregiver of the Year" dinner for the HomeInstead senior care facility. This is a transcript of her humorous prayer, which you can watch on YouTube [here](#).

Grace Paley on the art of getting older: "The main thing is this — when you get up in the morning you must take your heart in your two hands. You must do this every morning." Click [here](#).

OUR STORIES: Spotlight on Honore Maloney

Volunteering isn't new for Honore Maloney. Since moving to Taos in 1998, she has been a regular volunteer at the Millicent Rogers Museum and, at times, dug in at the Native Plant Society Greenhouse. She saw an article about TENT in the *Taos News* last spring and attended a meeting. "I had always volunteered for fun stuff," she said. "This sounded like a good opportunity to help people."

Born in upstate New York, Honore met her late husband, John, at MIT where she was a technical assistant in the Dept. of Nutrition and Food Science. The couple lived in Nova Scotia, Boston, and Minneapolis before settling in Taos, which they had visited frequently. They had traveled extensively in a motorhome and especially liked staying at Navajo Lake. John was an avid fisherman, and he and their son loved fishing the San Juan River.

Taos was a perfect fit for the Maloneys, who enjoyed the ski slopes and hiking trails. John passed away just under two years ago and Honore continued

to ski until last year. Her time is now filled with volunteering, bridge, TCA movies, reading, and walking her dog near her home in Upper Las Colonias. “It’s a beautiful walk,” she said. “The Rio Arroyo Seco



comes through here and there’s a creek at the end of my road.” Travelling to visit her daughter and three grandsons on Vancouver Island and two sons in Halifax and Massachusetts is also on the agenda.

Since joining the TENT crew, Honore has been surprised by all that she’s learned. “I’ve been to all the educational meetings,” she said. She was

especially impressed by the medical meeting facilitated by EMTs, which emphasized the importance of not touching someone, and by the one on privacy issues. “I’m a very private person and Caryle Zorumski’s counsel, ‘Keep it to yourself all the time,’ was my take-away from that.”

She was intrigued by the recent discussion on shared living. “I think it’s coming. I live alone and love it, but I would consider homesharing at some time—just having someone in the house who is not a caregiver. And Taos has a history of communal living, like New Buffalo.”

Most of Honore’s TENT services have involved driving Members to doctor appointments and on errands. “Many have recently stopped driving and they’re really appreciative of getting door-to-door service. This time of year it’s especially difficult if you have to wait outside in the cold. I like to drive and don’t mind the snow—I have all-wheel drive. I always feel good after I’ve helped someone,” she said. “It does not take a lot of your time to help someone out.”

– Helen Rynaski

TENT (Taos Elders and Neighbors Together)

Membership Levels

Individual Full services
\$350/year or \$32/mo.

Household Full services
\$450/year or \$40/mo.

Sustaining No services
\$150/year

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