

Avenidas Unveils Names of Community Contributors for the 2018 Avenidas Lifetime of Achievement Awards

Palo Alto, CA (February 12, 2018)—After an intense selection process, the staff at the non-profit Avenidas is excited to finally announce to the public the two couples and three individuals who make up the 2018 Avenidas Lifetimes of Achievement Honorees. They will be feted at an evening reception on Thursday, February 15, from 5-7pm at the Crowne Plaza (Cabana) Hotel. The productive lives of these community leaders will be further celebrated at an afternoon Garden Party on Sunday, May 20, from 3-5pm in Palo Alto, an event open to the public. It is the main fundraising event for Avenidas, and ticket sales (\$75 each) go toward supporting Avenidas programs for positive aging.

“When you think of power-houses in the local community, these new Avenidas Lifetimes of Achievement Honorees are the ones that first come to mind,” states President & CEO Amy Andonian. “It is a privilege to be able to give these deserving individuals the attention and accolades they truly deserve at our annual Garden Party event,” Andonian concludes.

The 2018 roster of honorees includes John and Kristine Erving, Jim Gibbons, Christy Holloway, Ellie and Dick Mansfield, and Nancy Mueller.

John and Kristine Erving: “Creative New Community Service and Hands-on Support”

Kristine started as a teacher in the Belmont school district but gave up her career when she started her family. Ever since, she has been a volunteer in our community. She started by serving as President of the PTA, the Junior League, and the YMCA. Then Kristine took a different path. While acting as a Community Relations Coordinator for Stanford Hospital, she became one of the founders of the “Stanford Health Library “and later its director. This entirely new entity brought much needed medical information for patients who were just diagnosed with a serious disease and were bewildered by their condition. Kristine also currently serves as Chairwoman of “Bring Me a Book,” a preschool educational organization founded by Judy Koch, a recent Avenidas Honoree. The Avenidas organization benefitted greatly from her participation on its Board for seven years.

John was a successful real estate developer who got involved with Habitat for Humanity after he retired. For 15 years John was either on the Board or Chairman of Habitat, and his energy and initiative, coupled with his professional real estate expertise, made him the driving force of the organization as it grew rapidly during his tenure. After he timed out on its Board, he took a strong interest in landscaping, educated himself in the art, and reinvented himself as a landscape designer. Since then, he has been volunteering his considerable expertise in numerous places to redesign or create new gardens for schools, public projects and nonprofit organizations.

Of course, while each one of them had their own projects, they pooled their talents in many of them. Kristine was responsible for major drives in Habitat, and John was a key contributor to Her Heritage Park Playground project. Their innovative, gracious and enduring service to our community is a sterling example of our society at its best.

James (Jim) Gibbons “Tech Visionary”

Jim, the former Dean of the School of Engineering at Stanford, is known internationally for his important achievements in education and for his development of fabrication technologies that were foundational for the modern semiconductor industries in Silicon Valley and around the world. Less well known is the fact that his work has also contributed significantly to the social well-being of our community at large.

Jim also served on no less than 13 boards in the Valley (among them Cisco, Raychem, SRI, Lockheed Martin, PARC, and more). In the educational field, he vastly expanded and improved the Stanford Instructional Television Network, which provided topnotch education via television to thousands of engineers at local companies. Again, this provided a crucial piece of “infrastructure” to the Valley, and was a forerunner of present internet courses.

His engagement with the Santa Clara Juvenile Hall in 1996 led him and his colleagues at SERA Learning to develop a successful program that teaches at-risk youth how to manage their anger and walk away from fights. SERA’s “Skills for Managing Anger” course has since be used in 355 schools and juvenile justice applications across the country, including Columbine High School and NYC after 9 /11. It included new student-centered teaching methods that Jim had developed for the Stanford Video program. Jim credits his wife Lynn who supported him in all his endeavors. He says: “She encouraged me to do things that would serve the needs of others.” Avenidas is thrilled to celebrate Jim’s amazing contributions and success.

Christina Holloway (Christy) “Environmental Activism & Organizational Leadership”

Christy has been described as “a champion and steward of open spaces and environmental education” and has dedicated her energies for decades to land preservation and educating the next generation of stewards of our environment.

With husband Chuck, she moved to Washington, D.C., where she completed her degree at George Washington University. They now live on the Stanford campus where Chuck is a much-admired professor of entrepreneurship at the Business School.

Christy developed her skills as a professional volunteer at The Junior League of Palo Alto where she served as president. She gave structure to the newly formed Environmental Volunteers as their first board chair and led the effort to take Hidden Villa from a private, family philanthropy to a viable non-profit that thrives today. Christy was the first Co-Director of the new non-profit Trust for Hidden Villa. She took her experience on to serve both POST and Yosemite National Park through The Yosemite Association and the Yosemite Conservancy over a 28-year period. Christy provided

leadership, raised funds and helped build the community support network and brand for these organizations. During her years of volunteering for Yosemite she was one of the leaders of the successful effort to merge two non-profits serving the park, the Yosemite Association with the Yosemite Fund, into one cohesive entity that is now the much admired Yosemite Conservancy.

She is admired and thought of as a friend by POST, the Yosemite Conservancy Board and its Council, the National Park Service and the greater Yosemite community. Thank you, Christy for being such effective leader and for your remarkable contributions to the world we live in.

Ellie and Richard (Dick) Mansfield “Political, Environmental and Historical Volunteerism

Ellie has been described as “a consummate volunteer” who has served on many organizations in a variety of ways. She is a lawyer by training (Stanford Law School), was on the Board of the County Bank of Santa Cruz and continued on the board until it became the California branch of Co-America Bank. She was the first female member of the board of the California Branch, and she served as on the loan Committee.

Ellie sang in the Stanford Chorus and to this day belongs to a group of female singers who give 24 concerts a year at health centers and senior communities. Ellie was the PTA president when their three children went to P.A. Schools, was a girl scout leader, an active member of AAUW, the P.A. League of Women Voters, the Pacific Stroke Association and was an Avenidas Board Member for three years.

Helping organizations fulfill their purpose has been Ellie’s life work, her ever willingness to share her expertise by generating handbooks, using calligraphy for invitations and mailers, creating the well know story boards for Avenidas’ Lifetime of Achievement Garden Party, repairing needle work, and even acting as a seamstress for projects such as mattress covers for the Manzanar National Historic Site. Ellie is also well loved throughout the community for her long-time work with the Sempervirens Fund.

Together, Ellie and Dick make a formidable team. Dick attended the Phillips Exeter Academy, Stanford Undergraduate School where he was Editor of the Stanford Daily and Stanford Law School where he was president of the Law Review.

He was a distinguished lawyer who spent his career first in private practice and then served for 19 years on the judicial staff of the California Court of Appeals. He was president of the Palo Alto Bar Association and a member of the Santa Clara County Bar Association. He was Chair of the Committee on the Administration of justice for the CA State Bar. Dick was also a scoutmaster for troop 57 and led several 50-milers.

For over 15 years Dick has been a dedicated volunteer at the Manzanar National Historic Site, one of the ten “relocation centers” that incarcerated a large number of Japanese Americans during WWII. Manzanar is located on the other side of the Sierras. Both Dick and Ellie work as docents at the facility and as an accomplished woodworker and a keen photographer, Dick has been involved in several of their projects.

It has become very obvious that both Dick and Ellie are true pillars of our community.

Nancy Mueller “Philanthropic and Non-profit Relationships”

Nancy started her career as a chemist for Syntex while her husband Glenn studied for his MBA at Stanford. In her free time, she volunteered with Bay Window Restaurant which benefitted the Family Service Association.

Nancy has two children, Gregory and Carin, and when they entered grammar school, Nancy founded Nancy’s Specialty Foods. Over 22 years, Nancy became the largest processor and marketer of frozen quiche products in the world.

Sadly Nancy was widowed in 1994. She and Glenn had enjoyed sailing and racing, so in 1999 after she sold the company, Nancy turned a dream into a reality by commissioning a super yacht and travelling the world’s coastlines. Even with such a busy lifestyle, Nancy spent from 1966 on to current times offering her business acumen and support to many local non-profits including six years on the Avenidas Board. Nancy lives in Palo Alto with Bob Fox, a retired successful consumer product CEO.

As you can gather, Nancy is un-stoppable and her philanthropic interests are varied and fruitful.

About Avenidas

Avenidas is a non-profit organization that offers tools for positive aging to people and their families on the mid-Peninsula. Avenidas runs a community center in Palo Alto, a dual-licensed facility in Mountain View that provides adult day care and adult day health care called Avenidas Rose Kleiner Center, and an aging-in-place membership program, Avenidas Village.

Through the Avenidas Lifelong Learning & Leisure program, people can participate in brain and fitness activities, foreign language classes, creative arts workshops and more. The Health & Wellness program offers health screenings, lectures and personal services such as podiatry. The new Avenidas Generations Lab helps older adults explore and shape new technology. Avenidas Care Partners helps families work through conflict by providing counseling, support groups and geriatric care management. The Avenidas Door to Door program provides transportation, while Handyman Services offer home repair services. For more information, please visit www.avenidas.org or call (650) 289-5400.

