

# Living Well

MASONIC HOMES OF CALIFORNIA SEPTEMBER 2019

## HONORING UNSUNG HEROES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DEMENTIA

*The Masonic Homes' Luminary Caregiver Awards recognize often overlooked caregivers providing crucial support in memory care.*

Every year, the Masonic Home at Union City honors the men and women who commit their lives to helping people with dementia, a disease that impacts 50 million people worldwide. In the United States alone, some 16 million people tend to those suffering from the disease—work that's often unpaid and often goes unrecognized. The Luminary Caregivers Award Gala aims to shed a light on these crucial caregivers and honor the compassion and fighting spirit of Tri-City residents living with this disease.

Joseph Pritchard, health services administrator at the Masonic Home at Union City, helped create the awards to raise awareness of Alzheimer's and dementia care. "I believe that the Luminary Caregiver Awards has provided much needed recognition and support for caregivers helping loved ones battling dementia," Pritchard says. The gala ceremony includes four awards recognizing the many stages and approaches to memory care.

Pritchard says dementia and Alzheimer's impact the lives of entire families and communities—not just those suffering from the disease. Providing support for caregivers, then, represents an important and overlooked part of a holistic approach to memory care. "We have not found the cure for Alzheimer's Disease and dementia," he says, "but we have found a way to provide compassion in a dark time."



Representing LIFE ElderCare from L-R: Deepa Chordiya, Dave and Jennifer Shively, Tammy Duran, Patty Eng, Patricia Osage, and Dr. Bernard Stewart.

On July 27, with well over 100 community members, care providers, and health care leaders in attendance, the Masonic Homes of California proudly presented the 2019 Luminary Caregiver Awards to the following recipients:

### LILY NGUYEN

*Homer L. Harlan Millennial Luminary Caregiver Award*

Nguyen, the director of the Performing Arts Institute and Seniors Reaching Out at the nonprofit theater company Stagebridge, was recognized with the Millennial Luminary Caregiver Award, given to a young caregiver who has sacrificed school, work, and other obligations to help

care for a loved one coping with dementia. Nguyen, who has a bachelor's degree in Dramatic Art from UC Davis, works with several Bay Area theater companies as an arts administrator, theater technician, and stage manager. A Union City native, Nguyen is passionate about making the performing arts accessible to people of all ages, abilities, orientations, and cultures.

### STAGEBRIDGE

*John A. Charland Jr. Innovation Luminary Caregiver Award*

Stagebridge, the nation's oldest and most renowned theater company for older adults, was given the Innovation award, recognizing caregivers who use technology in an innovative way to help ensure safety and improve quality of life for a loved one coping with dementia. Founded in 1978 by Dr. Stuart Kandell, Stagebridge provides award-winning Creative Aging programs, expanding opportunities for seniors to participate in the performing arts and engage in lifelong learning through performance, helping maintain cognitive wellness. As

a theater company comprised of older adults, Stagebridge provides the cognitive, social, and emotional engagement that is key to the prevention of dementia.

### LIFE ELDERCARE

*Inspirational Luminary Award*

The Inspirational award is given annually to a caregiver whose extraordinarily compassionate service is a source of inspiration to others. This year's awardee, LIFE ElderCare's mission is to empower elders to live with dignity, independence, and interdependence through integrative wellness, focusing on mind, body, spirit, and community. Providing services like fall prevention assistance, Meals on Wheels, transportation, and companionship, this local organization ensures that seniors and their caregivers in Alameda County have essential resources and support. With this well-rounded array of services and a commitment to empowerment, LIFE ElderCare inspires others to build connections in their communities so that caregivers and their loved ones can thrive in the face of challenges that can accompany aging.

## WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S

Saturday,  
October 26, 2019  
9:30 AM

2600 Camino Ramon  
San Ramon, 94583



The Masonic Homes of California is proud to be a sponsor of this important event.

Walk with us to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support, and research.

Join our team or donate at  
[masonichome.org](http://masonichome.org)