

## 1994-2024

## 30 Years of Harvesting & Sharing

### Marking 30 Years with a Donation Match

Senior Gleaners will end 2023 with a bold plan to celebrate its 30<sup>th</sup> birthday of the organization in 2024. We started observing the birthday early by launching efforts to buy a birthday present – a new or recent model second van to serve North County crews.

Donations totaling up to \$11,000 will be matched for the purchase. We are off to a good start with many people selecting Senior Gleaners for Giving Tuesday in late November. One active volunteer's family member who has donated generously in the past gave the campaign a big boost with a \$5,000 gift! The matching funds will come from a grant designated by the City of San Diego Council member Jennifer Campbell. (See related article – page 4.) Year-end letters to all resident donors and volunteers should spark additional donations. The group also will hold special events to celebrate this milestone during the year.



*Help fund the purchase of a van for a 30th birthday present in 2024.*

### “A Shot In the Dark”

Founding member and longtime board president Laurel Gray said, “I am thrilled and proud that we have stayed in business for 30 years.” He said that the group started small with just a few volunteers and no reliable funding. “This was a totally new concept with no other gleaning groups operating in the county. It was a real shot in the dark.”

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“I commend everyone who has given their crops, groceries, labor and funds to help Senior Gleaners thrive,” he said.

Find many ways to easily donate to this campaign and have your **funds doubled** by clicking the “Donate” button on our website: [www.seniorgleanerssdco.org](http://www.seniorgleanerssdco.org).

## **Second Van Will Serve North County Projects**

The need for a second van in North County has grown recently with the creation of a Far North County crew in the Fallbrook area and more grocery pickup routes. Crew leaders Nancy Chen and Joe Strasser report that volunteers are using their own vehicles to drive many miles to deliver produce and groceries throughout the area. This portion of the county often gleans large properties with thousands of pounds harvested in one day.

We intend to buy a late model or new vehicle to provide a package of safety features to aid drivers and to obtain good vehicle gas mileage. We are looking for individuals who will provide scheduling, secure parking and maintenance of the vehicle. To respond, see “Margaret’s Wish List” on page 6.

## **Welcome New Board Member Arlene Hasegawa**

Arlene joined Senior Gleaners in 2023 soon after retiring. Later in the year she said that she agreed to join the board as “a way of giving back to the community where I’ve lived all my life.” Her parents and husband grew up on family farms and she welcomed the chance to work with produce in addition to that in her own garden. “We live in one of the most productive farming regions in the country, but sadly have tons of food going to landfills annually while 25 percent of the residents remain food insecure,” she added.



After receiving a degree in physics from San Diego State University, Arlene filled program management positions that drove technology products and

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systems from concept to global markets with firms such as Dexcom, Qualcomm and Cymer.

Arlene has played on a softball team for more than 35 years. Other pursuits include tennis, swimming, surfing, cooking and resuming classical piano. She also serves as a mentor to women in technology careers. She is conversant in Japanese.

## Elaine Dlouhy Remembered...

Gleaner friends are mourning the death of long-time volunteer Elaine Dlouhy, known for her dedication and lively conversation. She died in late September after a battle with cancer.

For many years Elaine was a dependable volunteer to harvest fruit and for several years she also served as an assistant to grocery van drivers.

Barbara Pfoser, a Gleaner volunteer for 10 years, recruited her friend Elaine about nine years ago.

“She was always willing to try anything so I asked her to give gleaning a try and she immediately liked it,” Barbara said. “She was extremely dedicated and conscientious, always sure to let people know when she was going to miss a shift and usually finding her own replacement,” she added.

Elaine co-piloted the van with driver Jack Hoskin for the past six years – initially twice per week. “Since we were both Navy veterans, we enjoyed swapping ‘sea stories’ – some of them true,” Jack said. Both Jack and Barbara noted Elaine’s lively sense of humor. Prior to riding in the van with Jack, she rode with the driver and close friend Joe Hester.

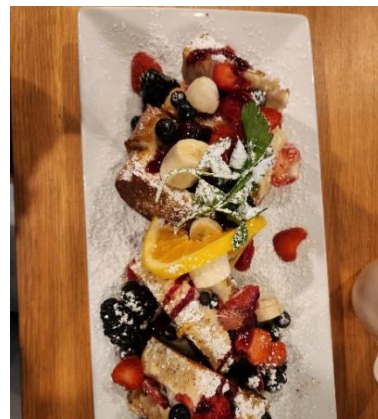
Elaine held a master’s degree in nursing. She joined the Navy Nurse Corps in 1966, retiring after 21 years of serving in several states and Japan. She then threw herself into volunteering with numerous organizations in addition to her work with Senior Gleaners (San Diego Zoo, Senior Volunteer Patrol, San Diego Convention & Visitor Bureau, theater groups) and received a Community Service Award in 2016 recognizing her service.



*Elaine and driver Jack Hoskin display their load of groceries.*

# What a fun morning!

The North County group had a breakfast get-together on September 26 at Hoorah Breakfast Café in Rancho Bernardo. It was good seeing everyone there and the food was fabulous (as you can see with my “Stuffed French Toast”). Obviously, we Gleaners enjoy being together whether it is to collect food for others or to feed ourselves!



*[By District Lead Nancy Chen]*



*Follow the example of Senior Gleaner crew leader and board member Joe Strasser who just donated his Prius.*

## Follow Joe's Example

Support Senior Gleaners as other volunteers and family members have done while taking care of that unwanted vehicle. We take most any type of vehicle—running or not. Donors pay no fees and receive credit for tax deductions. Start the easy process online or by phone: Toll-free at (855) 500-RIDE or (855) 500-7433 and [www.careasy.org](http://www.careasy.org).

## San Diego Council Earmarks \$11,000 for Gleaners Van

We are excited (and honored) to announce a recent donation to Senior Gleaners by the City of San Diego. Although the grant still must be voted on by the city council at the beginning of the next year, city staff has announced that they plan to donate \$11,000 to Senior Gleaners for the purchase of a van.

Senior Gleaners will use the funds to match donations to purchase a second van to help us transport fruit and groceries in the North County area.

Gleaners learned about this source of funding when Board President Margaret Burton and Vice President Daryush Bastani visited with City Council Member Jennifer Campbell at a summer event. Margaret and Daryush apparently impressed Campbell with our work. Many thanks to volunteer Tracy Ream who assembled the necessary documentation to apply for the funds designated through Campbell's office.

## Valley Center Joins Citrus Quarantine Area

The California Dept. of Food and Agriculture recently declared a third quarantine area for San Diego County in the Valley Center area. The action followed detection of the deadly citrus plant disease Huanglongbing (HLB) in five trees located on a residential property. HLB is transmitted by the Asian citrus psyllid—a tiny insect that is present throughout the county.

Due to concern about the spread of the disease, the Senior Gleaners Board in November voted to confirm that Senior Gleaners will not pick citrus in any HLB quarantine areas.



*The Asian citrus psyllid is spreading a disease that is killing citrus trees worldwide. You can help slow the spread in San Diego County.*

### Pickers: Stop the Spread

The spread of HLB makes it all the more important for picking crew members to clean tools, returned boxes and vehicles hauling fruit at the end of each glean. Wash gloves and clothing

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soon after picking. Bag all spoiled or damaged fruit and clippings and dispose of it in the garbage—not green waste bins. Crew leaders should leave brochures about the disease with all resident donors.

As of later November, a total of 56 residential citrus trees have been confirmed positive for HLB in San Diego County with a total of 6,790 confirmed statewide.

To learn more, visit: <https://californiacitrusthreat.org/>

## Margaret's Holiday Wish List

Board President Margaret Burton hopes that the spirit of the season will inspire you to step up to help with these jobs that are being done by a handful of people already working many hours to support Senior Gleaners. We are an equal opportunity organization: Your **family member, friend or neighbor** could do this work for us regardless of age . . . or location in some cases.

Reply to Monte Turner at [montesdgleaner@gmail.com](mailto:montesdgleaner@gmail.com) or call (503) 364-1542.

1. Talk about Senior Gleaners to groups like garden clubs, service organizations such as Rotary, county supervisors, etc. We provide the talking points and handouts.
2. Provide space to securely park a Senior Gleaners van for use by North County crews. We need this same person or someone else to schedule use of the van, plus keep it clean, fueled and serviced.
3. Drive your own vehicle or assist a van driver to pick up groceries and deliver to a food distribution agency.
4. Help prepare this newsletter quarterly by writing articles, interviewing volunteers and assembling text and photos in Word or a newsletter app.
5. Distribute periodic group email messages using a mail distribution system such as ConvertKit or MailChimp.
6. Update the distribution list of about 50 agencies receiving produce and groceries by calling or emailing listed contacts.
7. Help plan a 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary party and perhaps other events to mark this achievement during 2024.

# 2023 Volume Drops

Annual totals	Pounds gleaned
2019	161,317
2020	141,478
2021	239,984
2022	222,481
2023	129,324

District	Pounds	Gleans	Hours
South	2,934	15	192
East	43,250	116	918
Clairemont	7,582	53	1,112
North	35,491	56	1,543
Far North	22,996	20	918
Groceries	17,071	29	
TOTAL	129,324	289	4,683

## Why the Drop in Volume?

## What Can YOU Do to Help?

Several gleaners have speculated about the drop in produce harvested; there are perhaps several reasons. We had a full month without sunshine in the Spring.

We lost some properties within the North County HLB quarantine areas. Some long-time donors have sold their homes and the new owners are not using Senior Gleaners. Some property owners are no longer watering their trees or are taking them out due to the cost of water.

All of these factors require everyone to help promote our service to new customers. Help spread the word to family, neighbors and friends. You are our best form of advertising to get new volunteers and donors. Call or email Administrative Assistant Trixxie Land (619-633-9180) to get brochures to hand out as you glean and travel.

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