



Gary Dibble's breathtaking photography incorporates skills and techniques that he shares with other resident-members of the Gardens Photography Club.



Clockwise from top left: Bald eagle landing, Alaska; Cheetah family, Kenya; Bruges, Belgium canal, Europe; Wildebeest migration, Kenya; Woman in yellow, India

"I consider myself fortunate to have traveled extensively," said Gary, "and to have captured the essence of my travels in images that I am proud of and that will forever remind me of those distant destinations."

See more of Gary's photography on the web at <https://garydibble.smugmug.com/>

## The *fine Art* of Inspiration: Jack Edwards

Continued from page 4

Although Jack teaches painting, his favorite art form is sculpting, he said, due to the time and effort it demands. His passion for sculpting grew from the excitement he found welding steel and working with fire to melt the material.

"Welding is pure volcanism," enthused Jack, a self-professed "materials freak." "Burning steel and sparks fly everywhere!"

Jack hopes to leave a legacy rooted in teaching. Another of his students, **Sherri Bode**, thinks Jack is a "wonderful teacher." She says, "Although he has an unassuming exterior, he's very creative and his suggestions are always on target. I've thoroughly enjoyed the classes I've taken from Jack."

"Teaching is a legacy," said Jack. "I really do think that art affects people, whether they know it or not. Artists are a peculiar form of people who do their best to connect. That's a form of teaching. That's the legacy I'd like to leave."

"Jack has vast knowledge of artists, both classical and contemporary," said Ardys, "which enriches our classes with him. I find myself grateful for his Thursday morning classes."

Jack hopes to leave a legacy rooted in teaching.



Jack's bronze sculpture titled *Patti*. He created his own foundry to pour the bronzes himself.



PO Box 697  
Claremont, CA 91711

Return Service Requested



The *fine Art* of Inspiration

## The *New Leaf*

Oct 2019

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Claremont, CA  
Permit No. 382



# The *New Leaf*

Oct 2019

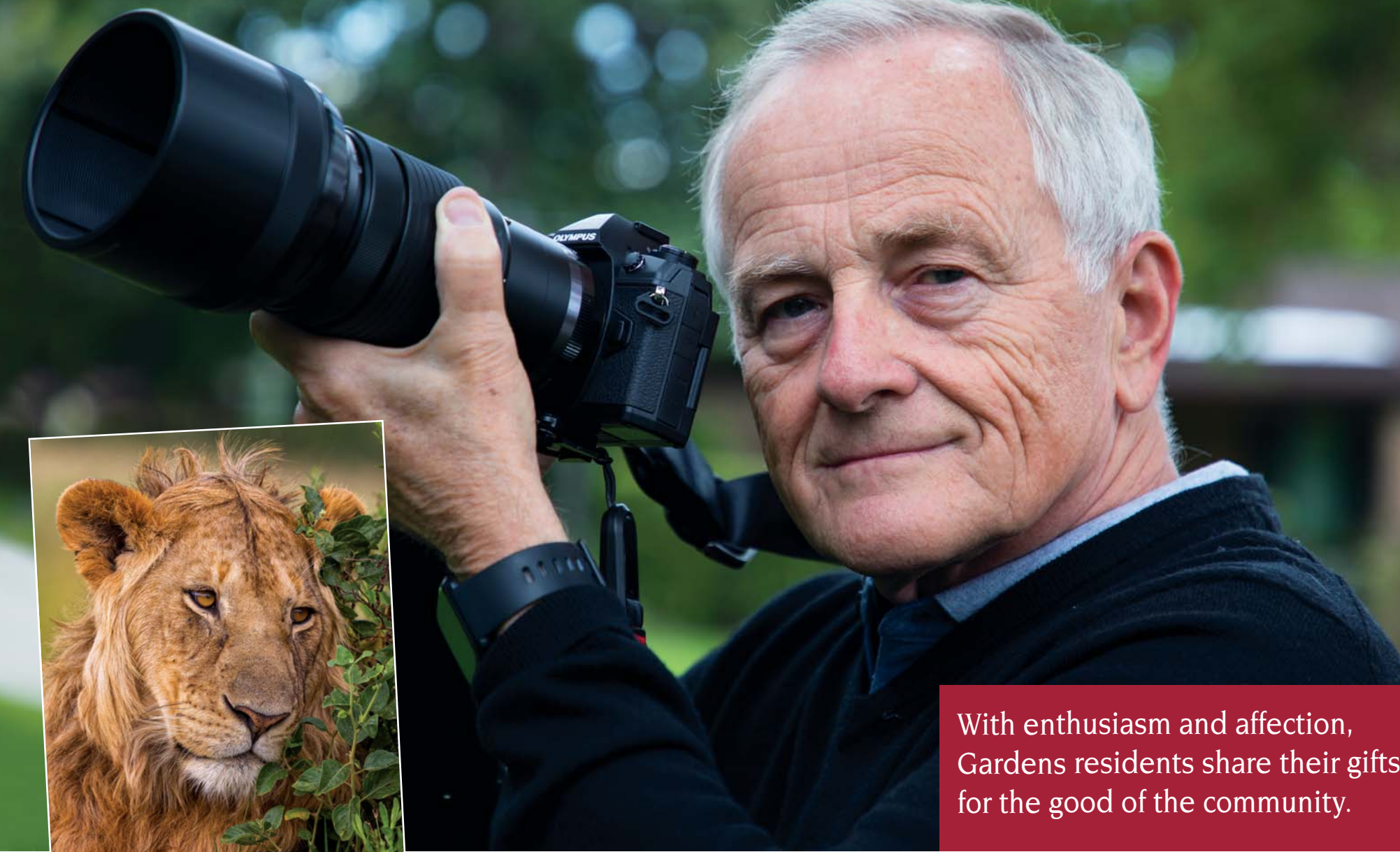


Photo by Gary taken on a trip to Kenya.

Gardens resident and adventurous photographer Gary Dibble

With enthusiasm and affection, Gardens residents share their gifts for the good of the community.

## The *fine Art* of Inspiration

Creative expression thrives at Mt. San Antonio Gardens, where residents may access a host of on-campus resources to explore artistic and aesthetic pursuits in the company of similarly engaged individuals.

"Mt. San Antonio Gardens attracts residents who continually seek opportunities to enrich their own lives and make meaningful contributions to the lives of others," said Vice President of Marketing & Community Outreach **Mary Jean Neault**. "Their interests, intellectual curiosity and initiative create a tangible sense of vitality at the Gardens that invigorates the entire community."

In this issue, we highlight five Gardens residents who have enriched their community simply by doing what they love: Poet **Betty Jean "BJ" Barnes**, composer **Karl Kohn** and choral director **Pat Kelly** collaborated to forward a message of conservation and peace, while photographer **Gary Dibble** and artist **Jack Edwards** share their talent through teaching.

### An Inspiring Message

BJ Barnes, who celebrated her 20th anniversary as a resident of Gardens in July of this year, earned her M.A. and Ph.D. in Education from Claremont Graduate University. She served on the faculty of California State University,



BJ Barnes

Fullerton, for 16 years. Beyond education, her interests lie in local art and history. She also is a prolific poet.

"I have a book full of writings, most of them just verses," said BJ. "I put them into categories, such as birthdays, anniversaries and holidays. All it takes is some kind of an event to inspire me to write a little verse for it."

Armed with passion and a rhyming dictionary – a thoughtful gift from her husband on the occasion of her youngest daughter's birth – BJ has written hundreds of verses, including "Now is the Time," a poem inspired by her quest to save the Earth's environment through peace and conservation. (See page 3 to read the poem in its entirety.)

As she approached her 98th birthday last March, BJ felt compelled to

Continued on page 2

You're invited to lunch and a look at...

## The Road Ahead

Please join us as we explore the paths available to us as we age.

Wednesday  
March 4, 2020

11:00 a.m. through the lunch hour at  
Mt. San Antonio Gardens.  
Seating is limited.  
Reservations are required.

Please call (909) 399-1279  
to provide the names of attendees,  
phone number and mailing address.

A confirmation will be mailed.

## The *New Leaf*

Mt. San Antonio Gardens is a nationally accredited Life Care senior community in Claremont and Pomona, California.

The *New Leaf* is a newsletter for friends and family of residents, board and staff, as well as individuals who have inquired about life at the Gardens.

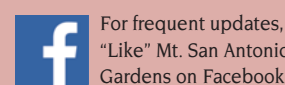
Katherine Juhl Griffiths & Karen Villaseñor, Tripepi Smith, Writing  
Sioux Bally-Maloo, Hearstone Arts  
Art Direction and Photography



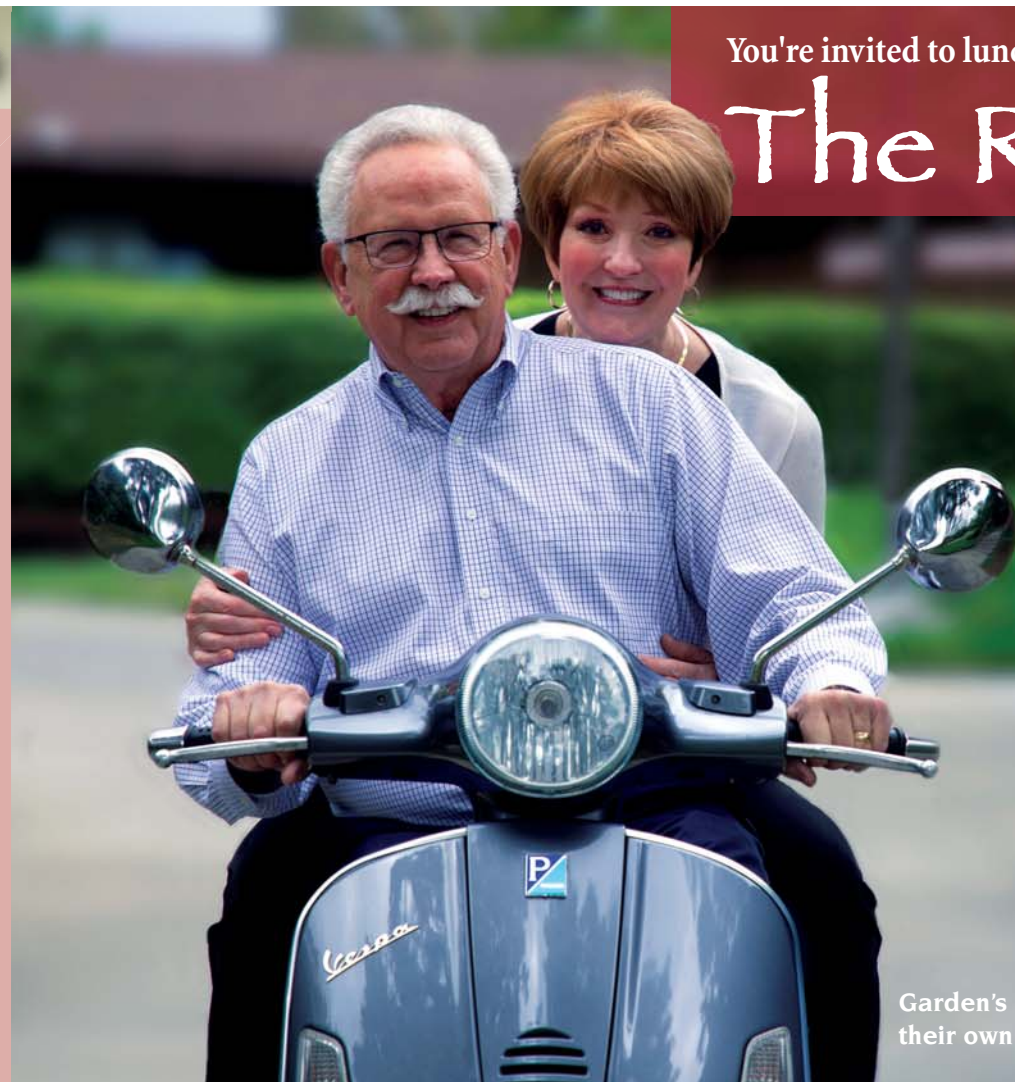
(909) 624-5061  
[www.msagardens.org](http://www.msagardens.org)



State Licensed RCFE 191500496 COA #078



For frequent updates, "Like" Mt. San Antonio Gardens on Facebook



Garden's residents Margie and Tom Beal navigate their own "Road Ahead" in style on their Vespa.

# The fine Art of Inspiration...BJ Barnes, Karl Kohn and Pat Kelly



World photo courtesy of Wikimedia on Pixabay

"I was delighted that Karl and Margaret appreciated the poem and its potential," she said. "When Karl subsequently gave it an unparalleled gift of music, it left me weeping. I was incredibly impressed and so grateful for his reverential approach to the poem."

Score in hand, BJ then contacted Gardens Chorale Director Pat Kelly, who agreed to have the chorale learn the piece despite having formulated her spring concert program three months prior.

"We squeezed 'Now is the Time' in," said Pat, "and, as it turned out, the piece was a good bookend to 'Homeland.'" Much to BJ's delight, the chorale debuted the piece on her 98th birthday.

"When you surprise someone on their birthday," said Pat, "you're very excited about how the person's going to react. We could tell that BJ was quite moved by the song; she was wearing her trademark Mona Lisa smile but her voice got all teary."

"These lyrics and music are the result of a lot of work and collaboration between many talented Gardens residents," said Mary Jean during her introduction of the public performance. "It is truly a testament to the determination of one person, the kindness of her fellow residents and the remarkable sense of community that exists among residents here at the Gardens."

As time has passed, BJ has remained a stalwart advocate for her poem's original message and function: to inspire immediate action on behalf of life and the planet that sustains it.

"Now the message has been recorded," she said, "in the hope of being passed along via friends, family and social media, with interest growing exponentially."

To listen to an audio version of the chorale performance of the song, please visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8plC5MfDvA>.

In hopes of spreading the message of her poem, BJ Barnes, left, called on fellow residents, composer Karl Kohn and Chorale Director Pat Kelly to convey her message in song.

## An Inspiring Message *Continued from page 1*

share the message of "Now is the Time" as an urgent call to action to care for the planet before it's too late.

Firmly convinced that setting the poem to music would improve the message's chances of being shared more broadly, she called on fellow resident music professor and composer, Karl Kohn, for advice.

"When I wanted the poem to be put to music," said BJ, "it was not primarily to enjoy music; it was because I believed the message could best be delivered through music."

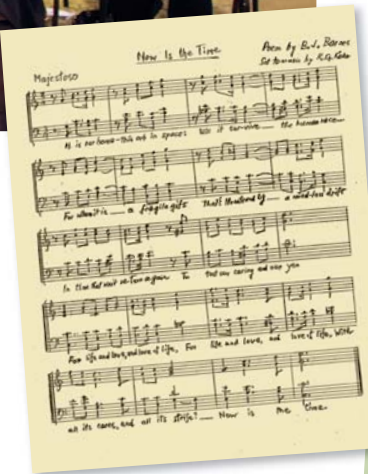
"Now, it's not what I usually do," said Karl, whose works, which include all major musical genres, have been performed by the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra and the San Francisco Symphony, "but I thought, Why not?"

After meeting several times with Karl and his wife, Margaret, also a distinguished musician, BJ was elated to receive a hand-written musical score for the poem, which Karl played for her on the piano.

As time passed, BJ remained a stalwart advocate for her poem's original message: to inspire immediate action on behalf of life and the planet that sustains it.



Left to right: Pat Kelly, conductor of the Gardens Chorale; Resident Karl Kohn's original hand-written sheet music written for BJ's poem; BJ's inspiring lyrics.



Resident Michael Lamkin read BJ's poem aloud to a packed audience.

## From Poem to Performance

The Gardens Chorale, under the leadership of Director Pat Kelly, presented their spring concert, *Curtain Up! Music from the Stage*, this May.

The performance began with two pieces by Giuseppe Verdi, followed by a series of popular show tunes including "Sunrise, Sunset" from *Fiddler on the Roof*, "Seventy-Six Trombones" from *The Music Man* and three songs from *Les Miserables*.

Each piece was introduced by a Gardens resident or staff member. "There's quite a story behind this song," began Mary Jean Neault, as she presented "Now is the Time" – lyrics by resident BJ Barnes and music by resident Karl Kohn – and described its path from poem to performance.

The composition was performed in unison with accompaniment. Resident Michael Lamkin also read the poem aloud during an instrumental interlude.

"I thought it was done so well," said BJ. "I was very happy with the way it turned out. The best thing was the way Michael Lamkin read the poem in his beautiful baritone voice."

"Homeland," also a poem set to music, provided a fitting follow-up to "Now is the Time," with its concurrent message of love and peace, and a conclusion to the concert.

## Now is the Time

It is our home – this orb in space:  
Will it survive the human race...  
For whom it is a fragile gift  
That's threatened by a mindless drift  
In time that won't return again  
To test our caring, and our yen  
For life and love, and love of life  
With all its cares, and all its strife?  
Now is the time.

The sea of life that gave us birth  
Has nurtured all that share the earth –  
That veiled sapphire in eons of dark,  
One spark! And it is lifeless, stark –  
With all cares ended forever more:  
No more striving, conflict, war.  
We will use this way to end all strife  
Unless we banish war for life.  
Now is the time.

We have one home, its needs we share:  
It needs our nurturance our loving care,  
For we're the caregivers, and we are one:  
In eternal darkness past fusing sun?  
No! We're one in time to change our ways,  
To think new thoughts that set ablaze  
A common purpose, a vision drawn  
From our need to see tomorrow dawn.  
Now is the time.

—BJ Barnes

BJ listens to the reading of her poem during the performance.



# The fine Art of Inspiration...Gary Dibble



Expert photographer Gary Dibble, fields questions from resident-members of the Gardens Photo Club. From left are: Ada Mok, Gary, Arthur Bode, Dave Bedell and Adnan Aswad.

When retired physician Gary Dibble joined the Gardens Photography Club in November 2018, he found a true home. When fellow resident and across-the-hall neighbor, Tom Beal, met Gary and learned of his expertise in photography, Tom spoke with several other resident shutterbugs suggesting they form a photography club. His suggestion met with enthusiasm and now each month ten resident photographers meet with Gary to discuss photography, share and critique photographs and tell stories. According to club members Ellen and Roger Heymann, Gary has been instrumental in moving the nascent group forward.

"When we watch videos of photography lectures," said Ellen, "Gary will interject what he's experienced on his extensive photography trips. His expertise really has enriched our meetings."

Gary's peripheral interest became an active avocation in 2008, during a family trip to Tanzania. "Armed with a new digital camera," said Gary, "I

was amazed at the images that I was able to capture. It was then that I decided to take photography more seriously."

Since then, his love for photography has grown exponentially, nurtured by the acquisition of increasingly "serious" cameras and affiliation with the RC Photo Club, in Rancho Cucamonga.

"I wanted to put myself in the company of more experienced photographers and to learn as much as I could from them," said Gary. "In retrospect, this was a wise decision and one that helped launch a new and amazing hobby, as well as an opportunity to meet new friends."

In 2012, he took an inaugural photography trip to Alaska's Lake Clark National Park, where photographing coastal brown bears, he fomented his interest in not only wildlife photography but also stewardship of the endangered creatures at the other end of his lens. Since then, he has embarked on photo safaris in exotic locales including Kenya, Peru, Japan, Botswana, India, Chile and, most recently, Brazil, where he photographed the elusive jaguar in the wild.

Gary remembers a trip to Kenya's Ol Pajeta Conservancy as being particularly impactful. There, he had a chance to visit a northern white rhinoceros named Sudan, who was known worldwide for

being the last remaining male of his subspecies. Gary explained that this magnificent animal, who was then 42 years old, "was in a pen, and guarded 24/7, because there was a fear that he would be poached. It's shameful to see the pressures that humans place on these animals."

"You can't help but come back from these trips feeling very protective of the animals that are out there," said Gary, who has connected with many like-minded neighbors who share his love for animals. "I'm glad that I've had the opportunity to see some of these animals and photograph them in their natural habitat."

Although he is grateful that people enjoy his photographs, he says the skill is a passion, not an identity. While that may be Gary's feeling about his current avocation, Tom Beal, a member of the Photography Club, says, "We decided to keep the group more informal by not selecting officers, but because of Gary's expertise and experience, he's the natural leader when we meet. We can always count on him to give good advice."

"For me," said Gary, "photography is the perfect blend of art and technology – an ongoing process of learning and discovery."



Above: Glacier detail, Juneau, Alaska. Inset: Gary gets up close and personal to a Kodiak Island bear with the help of a very long lens.

# The fine Art of Inspiration...Jack Edwards



Jack Edwards teaches watercolor to fellow Gardens resident, Ardys Hunter, in one of the art rooms on campus. Detail from a painting by Jack, *Untitled*, is above.

"Jack always tells us, 'Yes, you can do it,' and finds something to praise in our work. This provides wonderful incentive for us!"

Every Thursday, educator and sculptor Jack Edwards, who holds an M.F.A. in sculpture from the University of Colorado, practices his passion by teaching a painting class for his fellow Gardens residents.

"The interplay between student and teacher is always satisfying," said Jack. "Initially, we talk about the basics. Next, the student starts to work from their own ideas. Then you can engage in interesting conversation."

One of Jack's students, Ardys Hunter, said, "Jack always tells us, 'Yes, you can do it,' and finds something to praise in our work. This provides wonderful incentive for us!"

Shortly after moving into the Gardens in August 2012, Jack acquired a studio in Pomona and painted throughout the winter. The following spring, those paintings – as well as other early work created in his native Colorado – were featured in an exhibition at the Gardens.

Inspired by landscape, his work is representational with a degree of abstraction. He begins the process with an acrylic wash and finishes in oils.

"Acrylics are fascinating because the colors can be layered like oils," says Jack. "You can teach oil painting by teaching acrylics." Lola Taylor, one of Jack's students agrees, "We are so lucky to have a resident professional artist like Jack teach us watercolor and acrylic painting. I am loving it and learning new things each lesson. It is so much fun!"

*Continued on back page*

## The Rainbow Fountain

In 2012, Jack Edwards's sculpture, *Rainbow Fountain*, was installed at the Gardens on the grass island located on Padua Drive. The piece now welcomes visitors entering from Harrison Avenue.

Named for the multicolored arc created when spray from the fountain catches the sunlight, the fountain was inspired by the minimalist art movement that influenced American visual arts in the 1960s and early 1970s.



Jack in front of his sculpture, *Rainbow Fountain*, located on the Gardens campus.