



Meals on Wheels and Senior Outreach Services

1300 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek, CA 94596 Phone: (925) 937 8311 Fax: (925) 946 1869 info@mowsos.org www.mowsos.org

Leonard Snyder – A Story from the September 2016 MOWSOS Newsletter



Meals on Wheels



C.C. Cafés



Care Management



Fall Prevention



Home Care Referral



Friendly Visitors

Leonard Snyder (Len) who recently celebrated his 96th birthday, is a WWII veteran and two-time Purple Heart recipient. He has received meal deliveries from Meals on Wheels (MOW) since 2010, as did his wife, Louella, until she passed away in 2012. “I miss her horribly,” says Len.

Len and Louella’s story would make a best-selling novel. An Air Force pilot in WWII, Len’s Horsa Glider was shot down with twenty-three crewmembers onboard. Len successfully landed the plane in a tree to avoid as many fatalities as possible. He and the survivors were rescued by the 442nd Regimental Combat Team (comprised mostly of American soldiers of Japanese ancestry).

Badly injured, Len was flown back to a hospital for recovery in Springfield, Ohio. The chief surgical nurse in charge of his ward declared, “I’ll be running the show here, and my name is Louella.” “I had to compete with colonels, majors and five other captains for Louella’s attention in the ward,” says Len proudly.

The two were happily and deeply in love for over sixty-five years. Len was attending art school (after receiving two scholarships) when he was drafted and had to cut his college life short. When he was shot down, his right index finger had to be amputated. It didn’t affect his artist skills, though; he was hired on the spot by Mr. Packard of Hewlett Packard and drew the cover of the very first Hewlett Packard Journal.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr. Michael M. Cohen
Chairperson

Cathie Ramey
Vice Chairperson

Lauren Smykowski
Secretary

Gabrielle Comfoltey
Treasurer

Christine Scimia
Craig Cheslog
Wayne A. S. Francis
Emily Hopkins
Dr. David Levien
Arlene Phillips
Scott Rafferty
Linda J. Weihofen

Meals on Wheels and Senior Outreach Services is a nonprofit 501(c) (3) organization (IRS #68-0044205)