

Blackhawk Homeowners Association bestows Outstanding Citizen award

By Georgia Lambert Columnist

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Congratulations to Constance "Connie" Wolfson, who received the 2015 Blackhawk Outstanding Citizen and Humanitarian Award from the board of directors of the Blackhawk Homeowners Association at their Aug. 10 annual meeting. She served for 11 years on the Blackhawk Annual Food Drive for the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano and served in several capacities on the Blackhawk Hospice Tree Committee in planning and in working the annual tree-lighting event, said Mark Goldberg, community manager.

The award is granted as warranted, but not more frequently than annually, to outstanding individuals who have provided exceptional service to the Blackhawk community and other parts of the world. Also considered are longevity of service to the community, contributions that have enhanced the quality of life for Blackhawk residents, and consistently demonstrating the ability to lead and/or willingness to work tirelessly in pursuit of the goals of the board of directors and its committees. This is the 11th year of the award presentation.

"Prior recipients have set a standard for service and commitment to the community that raised the bar on the meaning of the word 'volunteer,' " said Goldberg. They include Linda Appleton, founder of the Blackhawk Food Drive; Diane Gilfether, founder and director of the Blackhawk Chorus; and the 2014 recipient, Vincent Burgos, for his work on the Architectural Review Committee.

"I'm a forever 'bag lady,' " said Wolfson of her work on the food drive. She organizes volunteers to deliver grocery bags to half the doorsteps of the Blackhawk Country Club community and has worked the 6 a.m. shift as a Santa's elf at the west entrance for the last 11 years. "It's always dark during that first shift," she said. "Last year it was pouring down

rain. They set up a tent for us, and it caved in from the rain. We were soaked, but lots of people brought food by, including many of the gardeners who come in that early."

Wolfson's work on the Hospice Tree Committee includes making arrangements for the Diablo Vista Middle School Choir to perform during the tree-lighting ceremony each year, working the event and providing publicity about the event to the San Ramon Valley Unified School District. She has also helped raise funds for Hospice through the sale of tree ornaments.

Wolfson and her husband, Michael, and children, Martin and Rachel, moved to Blackhawk in 1996 but have lived in the Bay Area since 1989, when they left Memphis, Tennessee, for work at Visa in Foster City. Wolfson said she retired in 2010. Her husband fell ill several years ago and passed away on Christmas Eve last year.

"Michael would have been so proud of me," Wolfson said. She was happy that Martin, 25, attended the ceremony with her before his departure for law school in New York.

The homeowners association board of directors consists of Ron Banducci, president; Hank Schultzel, vice president; Tom Stumpf, secretary; Burgos, treasurer; and Amanda Kuiper, member-at-large.

"The incumbents were the only ones who submitted their names for re-election," said Goldberg. "We are fortunate to have the same dedicated group of volunteers."

Contact Georgia Lambert at arounddanville@yahoo.com.