

PARK PLAZAS

Community Connections

Reid Michaels, Man of Many Talents

A LIFE OF LOVE, LOSS AND THANKSGIVING

If I had to choose one word to describe Reid Michaels, that word would be “multi-talented.” Here are a few examples of things he has done during his decade in Park Plazas:

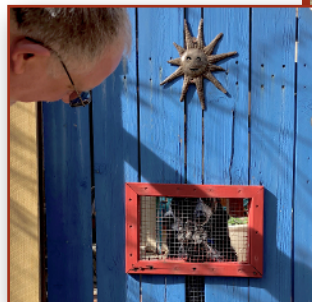
- Professional chef
- Restaurant owner
- Avid gardener/landscaper
- PPCSA board member
- Accomplished woodworker
- Patient-focused hospital staffer

In our recent interview, Reid tells me he started teaching himself how to cook at age six. At 13, he was working in a cousin’s Chicago-area restaurant, moving from dishwasher to prep cook in just months and becoming a sous chef before he turned 18.

At 20, he took an additional messenger job to augment his wages. That’s where he met Lynn, to whom he would be married for 37 years. Reid’s challenge was getting her to agree to a first date. “She turned me down for six months,” he remembers. But once they went out, Lynn and Reid were inseparable—in Illinois, in Louisiana and ultimately in New Mexico. (Sadly, Lynn died this past February. Keep reading for more of the love story they shared.)

Eventually, they moved to New Orleans, where Reid worked as an executive chef. After six-plus years, the couple relocated to Albuquerque, where Lynn had a big-time hospital job and Reid intended to open his own restaurant. But instead of ABQ, he wound up with the Over Easy Café in Rodeo Plaza. After several years of commuting, Lynn took an equivalent healthcare position in Santa Fe and the couple rented their first house in Park Plazas.

(Please continue reading on Page 2)



With dogs Molly and Eddie, Reid shows off his back gate, one of more than 30 he’s made over the years.



For 25 years, Reid and Lynn celebrated what they called “Orphan’s Thanksgiving,” gathering up friends who would otherwise be alone for the holiday. This year, for the first time, Reid will be hosting the event by himself. When we ask for a Thanksgiving tip, he has just one word: **ORGANIZE**. “The less you do at the last minute, the better off you’ll be,” he says. “Plan a menu that can be prepped ahead. You’ll be much more successful if you have only one or two last-minute dishes. Write up a detailed schedule, starting at least a few days before Thanksgiving, and stick to it.” That’s his advice — and from our small Park Plazas kitchens, we think Reid knows what he’s talking about.

Happy Thanksgiving to us all!



The cactus garden was one of Reid's projects on the PPCSA board.

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Two year later, the lease expired and they started looking at other neighborhoods—20 homes over a three-month period, Reid recalls. "Soon we were asking, where are the walking paths? Where are the trees? Where is the dog park?" Luckily, Carolyn Lamunière had become a friend when she spotted Reid gardening and invited him to join the PPCSA Landscape Committee. She helped them negotiate for a townhouse in Molino Plaza—and the Lamunières welcomed Lynn, Reid and two beautiful Greyhounds as next-door neighbors.

Reid is still an enthusiastic gardener, growing vegetables in his own backyard beds as well as in the community garden. The day we talked, he was harvesting arugula and the last of his beets, which he was planning to purée for ravioli filling.

Reid served on the PPCSA board of directors for about five years. When I ask about this time, Reid says: "We wanted to stay in Park Plazas because of our dogs,

so I was happy to help make a real dog park from what had been an abandoned tennis court." Using his woodworking skills, Reid even helped Oscar and crew build the new pergola structure.

Speaking of woodworking, Reid tells me he has made more than 30 gates, including two for his Molino house but mainly for folks outside of Park Plazas. He also mentions a table designed to seat 10 that he recently finished. Currently, he is winterizing his garage so he can comfortably do his woodworking year-round.

After he closed the Over Easy Café, Reid followed Lynn into the hospital business, becoming a patient advocate for CHRISTUS St. Vincent's emergency room. "Basically, I was the voice between the patient and the staff," he explains, "and I also worked with the family at death." Several months ago, Reid moved to become patient care coordinator for the hospital's outpatient wound clinic. It's an ideal position, at least for now, he believes, using both his organizational skills and his patient-focused experience.



Reid harvests the last of his squash at the community garden.

Knowing that I've also lost a spouse (five years on October 16), Reid tells me about the night of February 6. After a long workday, he and Lynn were in bed, where she was talking while snuggled up with their pets, Australian cattle dog Eddie and shelter mutt Molly. Suddenly, in mid-sentence, Lynn's voice stopped. Her death happened very quickly, without warning. "Thank God, she didn't suffer," Reid says, adding that he now visualizes Lynn walking the Greyhounds who were waiting for her in heaven.

As we talk about the grieving process, Reid notes that he's decided not to make any life-altering decisions for at least a year, maybe longer. He is having some remodeling done to his townhouse, both as an investment and a way to make the place more his own. But he's really not sure that he'll want to live, long-term, in a home where Lynn's spirit is omnipresent.

Having moved to Park Plazas within months of my husband's death, I understand. That being said, I'm not prepared for the anguish in Reid's voice as he asks, "Does it ever get any better?"

I'm afraid my answer wasn't as reassuring as it might have been. So let me conclude by emphasizing: Yes, Reid, it does get better. Slowly, often imperceptibly, healing takes place. From all of us at Community Connections, we extend our continuing sympathy and our well wishes for this new "solo" chapter of your life.

- Jane Morris



Two artistic collaborations: Lynn painted Reid's wood pieces.



Judy Tormoen - In Appreciation

Now in her third year living in Park Plazas, Judy Tormoen (Lirio) recently coordinated our Artists Studio Tour. She is a talented artist herself, having experimented in a wide variety of materials and mediums, including weaving, stained glass, pottery and calligraphy.



During winter months, when her garage studio is too cold for comfort, Judy knits afghans for family members. (She and her husband Joel have two daughters and four college-age grandchildren.) They have lived in Minneapolis and Tucson, where Judy joined a group of 10 women artists who met weekly. "It was fun to learn and watch," she says. In the Studio Tour, her pieces ranged from large acrylic paintings—such as this one, inspired by a photo Joel took—to the small pastels she currently favors. "They're easy to store," Judy explains, "and I enjoy giving them as gifts."



SPOTLIGHT
on your neighbor

Helpful TIP Beware of Holiday Scams!

As we enter the festive season, it pays to be vigilant, avoiding scams or slip-ups that could put a damper on your celebration. For information from AARP on how to lessen your risk, helping ensure a happy holiday, go to <https://states.aarp.org/beware-holiday-scams/>.



CREATING CONNECTIONS

PARK PLAZAS RESIDENTS OPEN THEIR HOMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS

As part of its annual Holiday Home Tour, the Santa Fe Woman's Club is showcasing the homes of Kathy Hargrave (Junipero) and Trudy Eiron (Chamisa). A total of six Santa Fe homes will be on display.

Kathy's theme is "Fun for the Whole Family!" with a teddy bear tree, lots of Santas, a table set for a formal holiday dinner, and a Christmas village with city and country homes, a carousel, train, stores, skating rink and ski slope. There's also a quirky toy Elvis singing "Blue Christmas."

At Trudy's home, she shares her celebration of the eight-day holiday of Hanukkah. You'll enjoy samplings of traditional foods while you learn more about the Festival of Light and the symbolism of Menorahs. Dreidels and their connection to gelt will also be featured.

The holiday spirit will be evident in the remaining homes. One has whimsical angel sculptures, such as "Dog-Walking Angel" and "Butler Angel," even "Pope Angel." Theme-decorated Christmas trees are highlights in other homes. Proceeds from the Holiday Home Tour will benefit the Woman's Club scholarship program.



Date: Saturday, December 8

Time: 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Tickets: \$25 (self-guided tour)

Contact: For more information and to purchase tickets (cash or check) contact trudy.eiron@gmail.com. Or [CLICK HERE](#) to buy tickets online with a credit card.

Your Business Is Our Business!

We will be creating a page on our website for Park Plazas homeowners/residents to list their businesses. These listings will **not** represent an endorsement by *Community Connections*, but will simply provide information. If you would like to have your business included, please send information via email to:

ParkPlazasCommunityConnections@gmail.com.

PPCSA Board Vacancy

If you're interested in getting involved with the Association at the Board level, there is currently an open seat. According to president Richard White, "We want to appoint someone to finish the balance of this seat's term as soon as possible." For more information, contact Richard via email at rwhite@rkwenterprisesnm.com.

COMBATting SHORT-TERM RENTALS IN PARK PLAZAS

For the past few months, PPCSA board members and concerned residents have been discussing the issue of short-term rentals (STRs) in our community. Under Santa Fe law, a short-term rental or vacation rental is any dwelling unit rented for less than 30 calendar days and must have a business permit. Our discussions here in Park Plazas have centered around the impact of STRs on both property values and quality-of-life issues. Discussions have also focused on the City of Santa Fe's permit and enforcement requirements. Finally, discussions with the board have addressed language in our current CC&Rs that should help prohibit STRs and enforce an STR restriction, as well as the future need to update our governing documents to specifically prohibit STRs and high turnover monthly rentals.



Responding to a one-sentence survey on the PPCSA website, 89.1% of the 101 participating homeowners stated that the Association should not allow STRs of less than 30 days. There were 90 votes against STRs, with just 11

votes for allowing them (at press time).

In an effort to bring more information and clarity to the discussion, Kathy Hargrave (Junipero) has written a white paper, *Short-Term Rentals and Homeowners' Associations – Finding Legal Ways to Enforce a Restriction*, which has been posted on the PPCC website at ParkPlazasCommunityConnections.org/str-issue.

We hope homeowners and residents will take some time to familiarize themselves with the complex issues and the solutions various communities around the state and country have identified.

BYLAWS STUDY GROUP IS WRAPPING UP ITS WORK

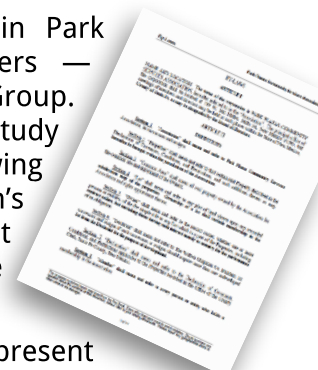
At the PPCSA annual meeting back in March, a number of attendees expressed interest in reviewing and updating the current governing documents, especially the bylaws. (Adopted in 1975, as the community was being formed, the bylaws have not been changed since then.) Copies of these governing documents, including the bylaws, can be found on the PPCSA website at <http://www.parkplazas.com/info.php?pnun=6>.

Eight individual residents here in Park Plazas — all of them homeowners — have convened a Bylaws Study Group. For the past six-plus months, the Study Group has been focused on reviewing and updating our Association's bylaws, to reflect current best practices and ensure compliance with New Mexico law.

The Study Group is planning to present its final report and recommendations to the Board in January 2019. At that point, the Study Group believes the Board must assume responsibility for implementation, including a possible membership vote on changes to the bylaws.

During October, the Bylaws Study Group organized two discussion groups and invited members of the community to share their ideas, concerns and recommendations. In all, 30 residents participated in facilitated discussions, which focused on governance issues such as board structure, communication, decision making, election process and finances.

If you have any additional input for the Study Group during its remaining months of deliberation, please contact Laurie Glaze at laurieglaze@gmail.com.



OCTOBER BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Board Member(s) Absent: Stan Holland

Number of Residents in Attendance: 11

- **Short-Term Rentals** – Discussion among residents and Board continued regarding solutions to short-term rental (less than 30 days) issues. Board stated that they are waiting for recommendations from attorney before adopting policies. Discussed City permit regulations and processes for identifying whether or not a residence has a permit to operate a short-term rental. [See article above.]
- **Architectural Committee** – Re-inspections have been completed.
- **July Flood Repairs** – Management stated that remediation work is continuing.
- **Tennis Courts** – A company to stripe the courts for pickleball has been identified.
- Board went into Executive Session.

**NOVEMBER
Board Meeting
Wed., November 28
6:30 pm**

Residents are encouraged
to attend.

2018 Park Plazas Artists Studio Tour

A TRADITION IS BORN

At the recent Studio Tour, did you see a piece of artwork you really liked but didn't buy?

And have you been kicking yourself ever since?

Don't despair, it may not be too late to make the purchase — either for yourself or for the best holiday gift ever. **CLICK HERE** for artist contact information. You'll be able to deal directly with a number of the artists who participated.

Saturday, October 20, was a picture-perfect fall day—wonderful weather for our 2018 Artists Studio Tour. In nine different cul-de-sac locations, including home studios and “garage galleries,” 15 Park Plazas artists displayed their work. The tantalizing choices ranged from paintings and sculpture to handcrafted furniture and wearables.

Feedback from the artist participants was highly positive. “Great idea,” said one, “and I know it will only get better and better!” Another reported that she sold six paintings out of the 35 she had chosen to display. And a third artist put it this way: “I was very pleased with my sales and also having the opportunity to meet some people and hand out a few business cards.” On behalf of the planning team, thanks to everyone for their contributions to the Studio Tour. It's gratifying to think we all made some new friends, had a chance to visit with our neighbors, and ended the day feeling that our time and energy were well spent.

We look forward to making the event even more successful in 2019!!



NEWS to share? Let us know!

ParkPlazasCommunityConnections@gmail.com.

Sharing News/Creating Connections/Building Community

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Thanks to our additional photo contributor this month - Pat Harrison. And a special thanks to Jane Morris for all her work to create the printed materials for the Artists Studio Tour!