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Montecito

NEIGHBORS

An exclusive magazine serving the residents of Montecito



**MEET JANE AND KAY DE VEER:
THE APPLE DOES NOT FALL FAR
FROM THE TREE**



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Cover photo by
Linda Blue



Meet Jane and Kay de Veer

By Marina Satoafaiga
Photos by Linda Blue

THE APPLE DOES NOT FALL FAR FROM THE TREE:

It's safe to say, the apple does not fall far from the tree. The de Veer tree that is. Meet Jane and her youngest daughter, Kay de Veer. An alum of California State University, Fresno with degrees in Sociology and Music, Jane started her State Farm insurance agency in Santa Barbara in 1980. "We (Jane and her husband Karel) originally moved to Goleta in 1974 after meeting in San Francisco and moved to Montecito one month before Kay was born, Dina (Jane's eldest daughter) was four years old. We moved into our home on Eucalyptus Hill in 1988, the year that Kay was born. We did an extensive remodel to the home to make room for Kay, as well as Karel's mother, who lived with us until her passing." One of the first women to own her own agency at the time, it was her daughters who had front row seats as she championed effort after effort for her community. "My sister and I have always admired our mom as an amazing business woman. When I was younger, she did it all! She ran a successful business and was still at every single one of my basketball games. I've been inspired by her passion and drive as I've started my educational therapy practice. She helped so many people in Montecito and Santa Barbara

over her 35 years as an insurance agent and I hope to be able to do the same" gushes Kay. Following in her mother's entrepreneurial footsteps as a business owner in Santa Barbara, Kay is thrilled to be back. After relocating to Santa Barbara with her husband Ryan in August, she has started her own Educational Therapy and consulting practice named Key Learning. An organization that specializes in providing support for students of all ages navigating learning challenges. Kay received her teaching credential and Bachelor's degree at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. Kay also holds an Educational Therapy Certificate and a Master's in Education. She worked as an elementary school teacher for 6 years before becoming an educational therapist. Kay shares, "Montecito is the most wonderful place to move back to! The mix of the Eucalyptus trees, the view of the Channel Islands, and the winding, limestone lined neighborhood roads- Montecito is a special place to call home. The community has been so warm and welcoming to us in our move." Kay remembers the Eucalyptus forest being her backyard and the basketball court in

the driveway being her front yard. She and her friends would climb down in the creek and build forts all day in the summer or shoot hoops in the front of the house. "The basketball court still comes alive when everyone is here! Even at Kay and Ryan's engagement party, everyone was out in the front yard playing basketball," says Jane.

As one de Veer enters an exciting season of life with her husband by her side and their Key Learning business on the horizon, another shifts gears towards retirement, grandmother duties (to her 17-month old grandson, Rocky) and continues to champion her community. "After selling my business, it is so amazing to have time to give back to the community with focus, time and energy" shares Jane. In fact, she and Karel have traveled extensively and just returned from a trip to Spain and Porto, Portugal. Kay, her husband Ryan, sister Dina, Dina's husband and son Rocky and baby Rocky joined them. Jane's free time has also allowed her to sing again with the Santa Barbara Master Chorale. "A true highlight of 2018 was a pilgrimage with parishioners and friends from Montecito to Israel with Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church. It was an unbelievable trip with

current and new neighbors. The bonding and experience with the group was an amazing adventure and I look forward to traveling again and reunions with our group. We sang a lot on the tour!" Don't let retirement fool you, Jane remains committed to several causes including the Transition House Auxiliary as a member of the fund development committee and a screener at the Transition House. She and her husband are also active in the Eucalyptus Hill Improvement Association which achieved many neighborhood projects including underground wiring. Jane has been an active member of Santa Barbara Associates as the Philanthropic Chair and serves on the Board of Directors. Jane also serves on the Advisory Board for Women's Economic Ventures and has been closely affiliated with WEV's mission for over 25 years.

When probed about the neighborhood in which she belongs, "Our neighbors are so kind and dependable. Our neighbors next door and across the street have both lived here for over 30 years. We all take care of each other in one way or another and it is great to be active in our Eucalyptus Hill Improvement Association," says Jane. The Association has block captains throughout a large area of Montecito and has an Emergency Radio Network. The Association holds an annual meeting in the neighborhood which is well attended. The Board of Directors of EHIA consistently focus on emergency preparedness, communication and education. She then shifts to some of her four and two legged neighbors, "Over the years we have seen such a variety of wildlife in our backyard: deer, rabbits, owls, falcons, squirrels, coyotes, parrots, pigeons and doves of all sorts, quail families and once a bobcat and yes, rats and skunks. And birds that make their nests outside the doors and regularly fly in, thinking that it's their home." Jane continues "Thank you to Montecito Neighbors for letting us share about our story and love of Montecito! A special shout out to the Mental Wellness Center, Transition House, Women's Fund Santa Barbara and Women's Economic Ventures. Our family and I are deeply grateful to be involved and active with these incredible nonprofits which are well run and make a significant difference in the lives of all of us in Santa Barbara." We have no doubt that Kay, much like her mother Jane, will too leave a legacy worth dotting over.



Porto, Portugal, July 2018
From Left: Kay, Ryan, Karel, Jane, Rocky, baby Rocky and Dina
Photography Credit: Courtesy of de Veer Family



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