

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR: SUE NASIR

Treemont's unofficial goodwill ambassador

My first day at Treemont I met a woman at the elevator. She introduced herself as "Sue" and told me she was born in Jerusalem. She was smiling and friendly and assured me I would like it here, and we would be friends. She was right on both counts.

Sue Nasir is a sort of unofficial foreign-resident-goodwill-ambassador. She probably would be quick to tell you, however, there is nothing foreign about her other than her accent — that she is an American, and Treemont is her home.

Before the formation of the Jewish state in 1948 Suhella (meaning friendly) Nasir (pronounced Nasser) was born in BirZeit, a village on the outskirts of Jerusalem. She has fond memories of growing up there with loving parents, three brothers and one sister nearly 20 years younger than she.

Her family had been Christian for several generations; in fact her great-grandfather was an Anglican priest.

She was educated in private schools and taught briefly in elementary school before she married Aziz Nasir, a distant cousin whom she had known all her life. Since he had the same surname as her own she didn't have to change last names.

After a few years during which they became parents of two little boys, Aziz went to work for Aramco, and the little family moved to the Aramco compound



SUE
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in Saudi Arabia, a sizeable city in itself. It was a whole new kind of life, and they were very happy there.

Aziz worked in public relations, and Sue went to work for a group of women doctors, helping the Arab patients by translating for them and helping procedures unheard of to them. With the birth of two more boys, however, she devoted full time to homemaking and mothering, with volunteer work when she could find time.

For 30 years, the Nasir family lived in this international community, and when retirement time came Sue and Aziz settled on the United States as their home of choice.

Except for some earlier years at American University in Beirut, their four boys had been educated in the U.S. and had launched their careers here. Moreover, Aziz had a number of relatives scattered around the country including a brother who was a professor at the University of Houston.

After a short time on the East Coast, they went to San Francisco to be near two of their sons, but when Aziz fell and broke his hip it was necessary to find a place where he could receive specialized care, and Treemont was their choice.

They moved in 2000, and had eight contented years together here before Aziz passed away.

Since then Sue has found outlet for her inborn instinct to help people by lending a helping hand to older widows.

Time after time I have seen her get up and leave her breakfast to carry a tray or bring juice, butter, or some other forgotten item to someone in a wheelchair. Many call her "Sweet Sue" for good reason.

Sue and Aziz traveled the world in their Aramco years, and she continues to keep up with her large family at home and abroad. Of her sons, the oldest is a business executive in California, the second is a pathologist in the Houston area, No. 3 is an electrical engineer working for Aramco in Saudi, and the youngest is an ophthalmologist in Santa Barbara, Calif., noted for his advanced vitreoretinal research, surgery and treatment. Among their uncles and cousins there are 17 additional doctors.

Aside from her travels and her practical help for her neighbors, Sue manages to take advantage of almost everything Treemont offers in the way of activities.

She starts every morning with exercise class, attends Bible study on Monday afternoon and Tuesday mornings, worship services on Wednesday evenings and Sunday afternoons, and plays Bingo on Tuesday and Friday evenings.

She is an enthusiastic audience of almost every feature entertainment, and an encourager of every performer.

Sue Nasir is a woman with a zest for life, and she seems to jump into it eagerly with both feet, not wanting to miss anything.

May her tribe increase! She's off to a good start on that with four granddaughters and one grandson.

Lois McCall, Treemont Tattler



PHOTO COURTESY OF TREEMONT

"SWEET SUE": Sue Nasir has lived at the Treemont Retirement Community since 2000, when she moved there with her late husband, Aziz Nasir. She and Aziz traveled the world while he worked for Aramco in Saudi Arabia.