

April 2026

Grossmont Gardens

Grossmont Gardens Memory Care | 4960 Mills St., La Mesa, Ca. 91942 | Phone: 619.644.1100



Meet Our Team

Angela Scott-Kapiloff

Executive Director

Francis Medina

Activities Director

Lima Taiti

Lead Care Manager

Stacy Tinoco

Assessment Nurse

LaKeisha Gordon

Memory Care Director

Justin Ancheta

Food Service Director

Gemma Espinoza

Community Relations Manager

Ana Navarro

ALW Coordinator / Community Liaison

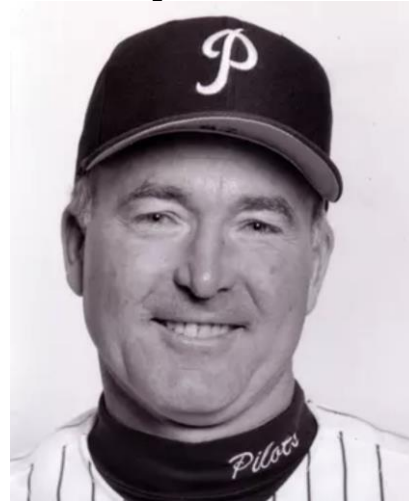
Marsha Terrell

Maintenance Director

Uma Stockhausen

Receptionist

Resident Spotlight Terry Pollreis



Terry Pollreis was born in Whitefish, Montana in 1947. He and family moved to Oregon when he was young. He is the oldest of three siblings. His two younger sisters are identical twins. Terry has two daughters, Kasha and Karlee. Terry also has four grandchildren, Isabella, Antonio, Dakota and Kai. You have probably seen Kasha, Isabella and Antonio visiting Terry at Grossmont Gardens.

Terry grew up playing sports. He went to University of Portland as a two-sport athlete, playing basketball and baseball. He was drafted by the New York Yankees and Baltimore Orioles. He played minor league baseball as a centerfield with Baltimore.

After Terry's playing career ended, he began his long career as a baseball coach. He started as a High School coach in Oregon. He went on to become the head coach for the University of Portland. After a successful career at the University, Terry joined the Seattle Mariners and moved to Phoenix, Arizona. Terry coached in the Seattle Mariner minor league system for over two decades. Baseball was the love of Terry's life.

Another of Terry's loves is fly fishing. At a very young age, his father would take him out on the rivers of Oregon to fish. Terry became very good at this craft. Later, Terry taught his daughters how to fly fish. He has many pictures in his room of the "big catch".



Inside the Human Blueprint



Over two decades ago, scientists completed a \$3 billion effort to understand and map human DNA—long strands of genetic material that influence traits such as biological sex, eye and hair color, ancestry, and susceptibility to certain diseases. That map of the human genome has opened new opportunities for doctors and researchers to better understand, prevent, and treat a wide range of illnesses. Since National DNA Day falls on the 25th, the month of April is a fitting time to learn about ongoing advances in genetic science.

Gene therapy requires scientists to find faulty strings of DNA that cause disease and replace them with normal ones. In this way, the body can stop itself from producing genetic ailments. The ultimate goal of researchers is for scientists to develop gene therapies that fight all kinds of DNA-based diseases, including some forms of blindness, muscular dystrophy, and even cancer.

Our DNA can reveal not only why we may become sick but also how our bodies respond to certain medicines. Francis Collins, former director of the National Institutes of Health, has suggested that genetic testing may one day become a routine part of medical care. By studying DNA, drug companies and doctors are already working to develop treatments tailored to groups of patients—and in some cases individuals—based on their genetic makeup.

Some promising advances also come from stem cells, which act as a body's internal repair system and can develop into many different types of cells. Researchers continue to explore how stem cells might be used to repair or replace damaged tissues, such as heart tissue affected by disease, vision loss from macular degeneration, joint damage from arthritis, or brain injury caused by stroke. Today, these DNA-based treatments are often complex and costly, but they remain an important and growing area of medical research.



A Perfect Pairing

Is there a more perfect sandwich than peanut butter and jelly? In celebration of one of the best food combinations of all time, April 2 is Peanut Butter and Jelly Day. When it comes to PB&J, many think, “If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it.” However, if you’re looking to expand your PB&J horizons, do what Elvis did and swap the jelly for fresh fruit. Bananas, strawberries, or even pomegranates fit the bill. More adventurous types opt for grilling their sandwiches in a frying pan, while others ditch the bread and slather their pancakes with PB&J. When it comes to food combinations, PB&J certainly tops the list. But is this humble sandwich tastier than bacon and eggs? Macaroni and cheese? Spaghetti and meatballs? A burger and fries? Cookies and milk? Dietician Katherine Brooking offers some insight into PB&J’s allure. “Humans have an innate predilection for salt, sweet, and fat,” she says. Add the creamy texture of peanut butter, and this sandwich becomes “one of the hardest foods to eat in moderation.”

One Last Powwow



On April 24 and 25, Albuquerque, New Mexico, will host one of the largest gatherings of Indigenous Americans in the world when more than 700 tribes from the United States, Canada, and beyond arrive for the Gathering of Nations Powwow. First held more

than 40 years ago, the Gathering of Nations has grown into the premier Native American cultural event in North America. Sadly, organizers have announced that the 2026 powwow will be its final year—"The Last Dance."

What makes the powwow so special? It is a shared celebration of traditional Indigenous cultures—a feast for the eyes, ears, and mouth. With more than 30 judged categories, spirited competition in Native music, singing, and dancing involves everyone from children to elders. It is a remarkable sight to see men and women perform many different dances in their traditional regalia adorned with feathers, beads, and colorful clothing. Visitors should not miss the Grand Entry, when thousands of dancers in full costume enter the arena with great fanfare.

Another highlight is the Miss Indian World competition, where young Native women compete in public speaking, traditional talents, interviews, and dance, sharing their tribes' cultures and histories. Winners traditionally serve as cultural ambassadors and educators.

In the spirit of community, all are welcome to attend the powwow. Tickets grant access to the powwow grounds, Stage 49 (a live music stage featuring Native performers), the Indian Traders Market with hundreds of artisans and craft workers, the Native Food Court, and the Horse & Rider Regalia Parade. Events take place at the Powwow Grounds at Expo New Mexico, centered around the Tingley Coliseum in Albuquerque.

Please join us for

Family Night

live performance
by the Sophisticats!

Wednesday, April 15th at 4 pm

\$10 a meal

rsvp in person or call (619)644-1100 or email
francis@grossmontmemorycare.com

Drawn to Birds



Draw a Bird Day, celebrated on April 8 each year, dates to 1943, when seven-year-old Dorie Cooper visited her uncle, a wounded war veteran, in the hospital. He was in poor spirits, and Dorie tried to cheer him up by requesting he draw a bird for her. Dorie couldn't

help but laugh at the resulting picture, but she did, indeed, boost her uncle's spirits. With each subsequent visit to the hospital, Dorie was greeted with pictures of birds drawn by the soldiers, some good and many bad, but all of them evoking smiles. On April 8, put your talents to work drawing a bird. And don't feel too bad if your work isn't quite as beautiful as the paintings of famous ornithologist John J. Audubon, whose birthday is celebrated on April 26.

Across Faiths and Time



April 1–7 may be Golden Rule Week, but the message of doing unto others as you would have them do unto you is timeless. While many know the Golden Rule to

come from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, it might be a surprise to hear that a version of the Golden Rule appears in almost every major religion. The Bible tells the story of how Jesus, in order to better address the great crowds following him, ascended a mountainside. His moving proclamations became known as the Sermon on the Mount. As told by his apostle Matthew, Jesus said, "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets."

Jesus, in this teaching, was actually summarizing the Jewish Torah. Elsewhere in the Talmud, Rabbi Hillel taught, "What is hateful to yourself, do not do to another." This is a sentiment that echoes other religious teachings. The Chinese philosopher Confucius said, "Do not do to others what you would not like yourself." The Buddha preached, "Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful." It is written in the Hindu text Mahabharata, "Do naught unto others what you would not have them do unto you." The Quran advises Muslims, "None of you has faith until he loves for his brother what he loves for himself."

Though many now call these teachings the Golden Rule, it was never called that in the Bible or elsewhere. The term originated in the 17th century in reference to the courts of old England, where golden law implied that judges could be bought with gold. From this cynical view of law sprouted a more optimistic and common-sense golden rule, which implied the sharing of good deeds between citizens in order to sidestep corrupt courts. The Golden Rule is found in so many different cultures that some believe it to be the fundamental quality of human nature.

April Birthdays

In astrology, those born between April 1–19 are Rams of Aries. As the first sign of the zodiac, Arians charge out of the gate with energy, confidence, power, and zeal. As pioneers, Arians are unafraid of the unknown. As eternal optimists, no odds are ever considered insurmountable. Those born April 20–30 are Bulls of Taurus. Bulls show a steady persistence in endeavors both professional and personal, and after working hard, are not shy about rewarding themselves for a job well done.

Manuel S. – 4/2

Victor B. – 4/5

Angela K. – 4/9

Vilma G. – 4/20

Trang N. – 4/23

"Wishing you an April Birthday as beautiful and inspiring as the spring flowers" - Unknown

Rocking Broadway



The year 1968 was a turbulent time of social and cultural upheaval in the United States. The Vietcong launched the Tet Offensive in Vietnam.

In the midst of the Civil Rights Movement, Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy Jr. were assassinated. Then on April 29, 1968, the countercultural musical *Hair* debuted on Broadway.

Hair marked a radical break from Broadway musical tradition. It was Broadway's first rock musical. The subject matter threw light on the hippie subculture with many overt references to drugs and sexuality. Indeed, the end of the first act boasted a completely nude scene. To the surprise of many, audiences loved it. *Hair* became an instant smash. For so many, it finally "Let the Sunshine In."