

Meet Resident Yvonne Zubalik

Yvonne was born in Tacoma and attended school at Sheridan, McKinley, Gault and Lincoln. Not long after high school she married M/Sgt Stanley Zubalik, USAF, and began to enjoy traveling. Their first daughter was born on Guam, where they lived for a year. They next moved to Merced AF Base, CA. where they had three more daughters and a son.

They boarded a ship to France for a three-year stay at Chambley, close to Metz. It was an idyllic time where they were able to see much of Europe. They lived in a country home, sharing a yard with an Italian woman and her children. Yvonne bought beautiful French yarns and knitted sweaters for the family.

On returning to Tacoma, Yvonne went as a freshman to Pacific Lutheran University and majored in French and English. She taught at Bethel High School and during the next seven years as your children were growing up, she earned an MA at the University of Puget Sound in Comparative Literature. Then came a chance to go to Iran. Yvonne taught almost two years in an International school in Iran, then returned to Bethel High School to continue teaching until her retirement in 1986.

Yvonne and Stanley built a solar heated house on ten acres, and she was able to indulge in another interest - gardening. However, the work involved in keeping up a big house and yard began to be too much. They moved to a smaller home in the Proctor District in 1998. Yvonne had always been active in her church and in Associated Ministries and continues to be involved.

Quilting is another one of Yvonne's passions. She handcrafted quilts for her twelve grandchildren as infants, and is still working on adult-sized quilts for them. She spent seven years on a quilt project which was only completed recently, a white on white quilt worked by hand for her son's wedding.

Yvonne was widowed in 2001. The thought of an easier life at Franke Tobey Jones with more time for her leisure activities excited her. She has enjoyed several cruises, but perhaps this is the end of far-flung voyages. Now she reads and listens to her Great Courses tapes; is the FTJ Resident Garden chairperson and also tends a small garden plot; and enjoys music and plays. At FTJ she attends classes, especially music, genealogy, writing, and Tai Chi. Life is good.



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