SENIOR OF THE YEAR
HARRY M. SANTO

The Culver City Senior Citizens Association Board of Directors is pleased to honor
Harry M. Santo
Senior of the Year for 2012

Harry Santo is a treasured volunteer teacher at the Culver City Senior Center. For 20 years, Harry has instructed countless Seniors in 4 languages: French, Italian, German and Spanish. Four classes per week, times 20 years, have 'translated' to 3100+ lifetime service hours!!! Harry's dedication and service to our senior community is an outstanding example of the 'true spirit of volunteerism.'

Harry was born in Hamburg, Germany in 1923. Hitler's rise to power and the ensuing Nazi tyranny followed by WWII made his youth turbulent, affecting him and his family severely. Harry's autobiography, "My Journey: From the Third Reich to the New World", published in 2002, gives a vivid personal and historical account of the difficult years he spent in different countries of Europe. After the war, the American Forces in Paris hired Harry as an interpreter and paymaster for civilian personnel. After leaving Europe at 23 years of age, Harry M. Santo, a proficient linguist and unceasing observer of the human scene, spent his working years in foreign trade in New York, Miami, Venezuela and since 1958, in Southern California. He learned the export business in New York and later spent five years working for General Motors in Venezuela, where he became fluent in Spanish. Upon returning to the U.S. he followed a friend to Los Angeles and fell in love with sunny California. Here he met his lovely wife Anne on a Sierra Club outing to Anacapa Island. For 32 years, Harry was the export manager for Overseas Operation, Inc., a local export company.

The Culver City community has also benefitted from Harry's years as a volunteer English teacher with the Adult Basic Education Program and his years volunteering at the Airport Marina Counseling Service.

After retiring in 1992, Harry joined the Culver City Senior Center. Assisted by his wife, he has shared his international experience and his proficiency in languages by leading groups in German, Spanish, French and Italian, teaching the languages and encouraging understanding of the different cultures. Discussions involve current affairs, health, travel and other subjects of interest to seniors. With over 3100 hours of teaching languages and encouraging multiculturalism, Harry has truly made a difference here at the Senior Center. Harry and Anne have devoted their retirement to cultural pursuits, travel and community service. We are so grateful the Harry chose the Senior Center and we thank him for his service to our senior community and congratulate him on being named "Senior of the Year."

Harry will be honored as our Culver City "Senior of the Year" at the 47th Annual Older Americans Recognition Day Awards Program at the Music Center Grand Hall on May 23, 2012. The Honorees will be recognized for their dedication to community service by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. Harry will also receive a commendation from the City of Culver City. Please join us in honoring Harry at the Older Americans Month Party on Friday, May 25 at the Senior Center!

IN MEMORIAM

Jeanette Block
Carl Starbeck
98 years of age

Helen Metz