SENIOR OF THE YEAR
STEPHEN ELSTEIN

The Culver City Senior Citizens Association is pleased to honor Steve Elstein as our “Senior of the Year” for 2014.

Stephen Elstein stands tall in our community as a Senior who exemplifies the true spirit of volunteerism and he is being recognized by the Culver City Senior Center for his dedication to service in our community in addition to years of service at the Senior Center. Helping others has been a “way of life” for Steve since he retired 12 years ago. Also, he fits perfectly with this year’s theme for the Older Americans Award, “Safe Today, Healthy Tomorrow.”

Steve reports that when he retired, he didn’t know what to do with himself. He realized that he and his wife Sharon are lucky to have everything they need and perhaps it was time give back to the community. His first volunteer job was teaching literacy at the Culver City night school for two years. He then signed on to help out with the Culver City Meals on Wheels program and started delivering meals five days a week. He also joined the Culver City Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), becoming very involved and was soon on the Board as the fundraising chairman. Steve also started delivering meals for the Culver City Senior Center and is proud of how he has helped to improve and streamline some of the procedures. Several years later, he became aware of the S.A.V.E.S. food bank program in Culver City and helped them every Friday as well.

Then came Hurricane Katrina. Steve and his wife volunteered at the Red Cross office on Wilshire Blvd. five days a week to help people who were being sent to California from Louisiana, also helping prepare meals for them. From this experience, Steve was motivated to become very involved with the Red Cross. He took some courses, enrolled in their Disaster Action Team and was certified to help get the team together whenever people are in need of immediate services, such as lodging, food, clothing etc. during a disaster. These days, in addition to delivering the Home Delivery meals for the Senior Center Nutrition program, Steve volunteers nearly full time for the Red Cross. He has been an active and dedicated volunteer for over eight years and has been promoted to one of only five logistics leads in the Los Angeles Region, which covers the Antelope Valley to Long Beach to Inyo County. He is proud to say he is the oldest person on the team and loves what he does. Steve is very proud that he is able to help other people in need and is able to fulfill his wish to give back to his community. The community of Culver City is proud to honor him as our “Senior of the Year,” recognizing his generous contributions to the wellness and safety of our citizens. Congratulations, and thank you, Steve, for all you do!

May is Older Americans Month, a tradition dating back to 1963 to honor the legacies and ongoing contributions of older Americans. This year’s theme for Older Americans Month is “Safe Today, Healthy Tomorrow.” My mother used to say: “What a wonderful time to be a senior, there is so much for us.” Today, I embrace “seniorhood” as her words ring so true. We are living longer, healthier, more active lives, certainly due to advances in medicine, but also because of places like our SENIOR CENTER. How lucky we are to have this beautiful senior center in our own community! We can come here to make friends, be entertained, learn something new, get healthier or volunteer. There is something for everyone! Personally, I love to volunteer, coming from a long line of volunteers going back to my grandmother. Regardless of what we choose to do, it’s all here for us. How wonderful it is to recognize the diversity and vitality of today’s older Americans who span three generations. I am so proud to be a member of the Culver City Senior Citizens Association, and as its current President, I join you in celebrating our “Seniorhood!”

Sharon Hyland-Elstein, President of CCSCA

IN MEMORIAM

Mae Oczachowski
(92 years of age)

Sol Sigall
(94 years of age)

Hodur Ladislav

Mary Kamimura
(93 years of age)

Don Perllick