



## *North Star Yacht Club: The Company We Keep*

### Sharing a moment with the Henrys



In addition to beautiful riverfront views and a fantastic host of amenities, North Star Yacht Club is *the* place to meet some of Southwest Florida's nicest people. Paul and Barbara Henry, residents since November 2009, are the perfect example.

#### *A walk on the beach*

After living near Louisville, KY for more than 46 years, Barbara started thinking that wintry, blizzard-like conditions were no longer her cup of tea. No sooner did she say to Paul, "You know, we could be taking a walk on the beach right now," than they were on a plane to visit friends in Southwest Florida. For Barbara, moving to a new place had to meet three criteria: good medical services in close proximity, a nearby airport and a home

on or near the water. Used to living on more than an acre, they first looked around at single-family homes, but within five minutes of visiting the fourth floor condominium, Paul said, "This is the place." Less than two months later, the Henrys were calling North Star Yacht Club home.

### *A new lifestyle*

For Paul and Barbara, life at North Star Yacht Club means more time to do the things they love. They can be found walking the beaches of Sanibel, enjoying friendly get togethers with neighbors and friends, or tasting the culinary delights at one of the many nearby local restaurants.

With her quiet, genteel manner, it's hard to imagine Barbara as a busy ICU nurse. At long last, she has renewed her interests in playing the piano and plans to dust off her palette and paintbrushes very soon. Paul, a former banker and avid reader, has more time to relax and enjoy his books.

### *A look ahead*

Incredibly busy every day, Barbara says she and Paul are "very happy." With children and grandchildren living in California, Arizona and Toronto, they have more time for each other and after nearly 52 years of marriage are still "great friends."

"We're looking forward to doing even more once we've

completely settled in," says Barbara. "We want to go to theater, explore the arts and continue trying all the great restaurants in Fort Myers and Naples - there is just so much to do."

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Reflections on the Artist Deena Gu Laties



As our condominium community begins to grow and thrive, we are delighted to get to know the unique, diverse and interesting people who reside at North Star Yacht Club in North Fort Myers, Florida. One of our homeowners, Deena Gu Laties, is an accomplished artist who cherishes her Chinese heritage and has a passion for nature's beauty. She sparkles with warmth and intelligence, and it is a pleasure to know her. We would like to introduce Deena to you:

*Birth of an artist*

Under the name Gu Ting, Deena studied with the famous painter Cheng Shifa, president emeritus of the Shanghai Chinese Painting Academy. Apprentice to famous Chinese painter Tse

Chen-Na, Deena spent four years copying great Chinese paintings from the Song Dynasty (960-1279). Then, she was ready to see the world.

### *Life in the U.S.*

Completing the four-year curriculum at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in only three years, Deena has spent the last two decades becoming a well-known artist covering all subjects from landscape to portraits and flowers to birds. Her art has been displayed in a number of shows throughout the U.S., and Deena is currently preparing for a 30-35 piece exhibit at Washington and Lee University from September 1 through November 30, 2010.

### *North Star Yacht Club.... the artist's inspiration*

For Deena, her condominium at North Star Yacht Club is the ideal artist's studio. The combination of panoramic water views, spacious rooms and perfect lighting has resulted in some of her finest work. Deena explains that she is so focused when she is at North Star Yacht Club - it is her quiet alone time. She revels in the beautiful reflections on the water, and for her, local Southwest Florida nature is a rich and varied subject for her paintings. "Every day I wake up and feel so lucky to be here," says Deena.

### *Giving back to the community*

Wherever Deena spends her time, she is an avid contributor to the art scene – from teaching master classes at various artists' guilds to teaching children. She devotes two Sundays each month to teaching painting to Chinese girls adopted by American families. Calling them “my girls,” Deena loves helping them carry on their own cultural traditions and has even taken four girls back to China to visit their ancestral roots. Deena's artistry carries over into the music world as well – her interests in the Curtis Institute and the Philadelphia Orchestra have led to in-home concerts where she shares her appreciation of the arts with others. She also plans to bring these efforts to the Southwest Florida community in the near future.

### *Blending the old and the new*

Although she has been in the U.S for many years, Deena says that her soul is still purely Chinese. Her words of advice: “Always remember who you are. And where you are from.”

To learn more about Deena Gu Laties, visit [www.deenagu.com](http://www.deenagu.com)