

Vallejo is grateful for...

Lisa Gutierrez Wilson

Place of birth: San Mateo

Year arrived in Vallejo: 1955

Occupation: Retired deputy probation officer for Solano County (supervisor of the Vallejo adult division).

Language: English

What is your special talent? Listening

Special memory of Vallejo? Coordinating community events for many years with my good friend Maria Guevara (deceased this year) and helping to create the spirit of Thanksgiving by serving meals to our homeless community. Also, the special holiday dinners we serve to seniors at The Moose and wonderland experiences we



Aquatic adventure with Kayaking and Biking Vallejo

create for kids in need during the holidays.

What do you appreciate about your Vallejo neighborhood? My neighborhood is called Grant Mahoney. It's a tree-lined street, and neighborliness is what is so special about our area. I know 15 of my surrounding neighbors.

What is a favorite place to hang out in Vallejo? My backyard. It's a haven for friends and fellowship. Every year for the last 10 years I've held a Gathering of the Goddesses with up to 200 women coming to celebrate themselves and each other.

What is your favorite Vallejo community event? The Mad Hatter Parade, which is unique to Vallejo; our Vallejo Peace Project dancers have opened it up every year for the last four years.

What is your favorite food or drink at a Vallejo establishment? Ground beef crispy tacos with a mango margarita at Las Palmitas.

What do you hope for yourself in the next 10 years? I hope to still be above ground, healthy, dancing and actively involved in the betterment of my home and the Vallejo community.

What do you hope for Vallejo? I hope our city will have a more efficient and transparent government and that our police department will (finally) be run with integrity and accountability.

What have you done during the pandemic to help others? I encourage those who are on Facebook by posting a daily uplifting quote about kindness and/or taking care of each other and ourselves on the two pages I run: *Beginning Your Day* and *Vallejo Peace Project*.

What is one pandemic silver lining? I have learned to appreciate the simple things more: accessibility to those we love and the joys of nature.

What Vallejo organization do you really appreciate? I appreciate our own group, Vallejo Peace Project, founded by my son in 2015. In the past five years we have been involved in social justice, speaking up against excessive use of police force, and coordinating protests in addition to serving the needs of our homeless community and seniors (spearheading drives for socks, blankets, etc.). VPP has become a "broker," bringing organizations together to collaborate and strengthen local resources.