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Friends for 80 years

A gentleman I don't know — though certainly know of, for his excellent work for Pasadena — dropped a line after I eulogized **Ted Behr** in this space.

"Thank you for your warm goodbye," **James D. Fullerton** writes. "Ted was my closest friend. He and I knew each other for over 80 years."

I paused with pleasure after reading that line. What an extraordinary thing to be able to say in this life: to have been that close to someone for eight decades.

In a California in which people move around on a whim, in a time when I frequently hear people say that they no longer are close — or even in touch with — their oldest friends, if they have any old friends, it is glorious to know of such a friendship.

"Do you know," he continues, "that after his 90th birthday, Ted took a date (whom he'd known for 60 years) to the 100th anniversary of the Los Angeles Bachelor's Ball? They stayed till one o'clock, and came home only when the second orchestra of the evening

took over."

That's life the way it was meant to be lived.

And I am simply fascinated, by the way, by the professions listed under Mr. Fullerton's name on the letterhead of his office stationery.

"Lion Tamer & Piano Tuner," it reads. Class assignment: I think we should all work on what we want to go on that line in our wonderfully ripe old age.

Patt Diroll mentioned it as well in her Celebrations-section celebration of **Art Center's** 75th birthday party at the magnificently scaled Wind Tunnel on South Raymond last month, but I dig that the evening raised over \$1 million for the new **Art Center 100 Endowed Scholarship Fund**. Honoring **Art Center's** longtime key supporter **Alyce Williamson**, the evening and the fund will support an **Art Center** education for many of the country's best students of design.

The college's new south campus was bright-white-gorgeous, thanks to a **Christo**-wrapping in stretchy cloth, not to mention a half-dozen slender wandering Escada models also tightly wrapped in dark pastels. So gorgeous that I think I

will make a point of declining to attend such parties unless they are also planned by the inestimable **Jim Watterson**.

But down in the Wind Tunnel right now through Dec. 19 is the flipside of fancy, "Action: **Art Center** and the United Nations." It highlights design collaborations between several U.N. agencies and designmatters @ **Art Center**, the initiative focusing on social and humanitarian applications of design and responsible business practices.

The project is aided by the United Nations Association Pasadena Foothills Chapter. From 6 to 8 p.m. Dec. 1, a panel of faculty, students, alumni and UNA reps will talk about "Nurturing Active Leaders and Citizens of the Global Community" at the Wind Tunnel, 950 S. Raymond Ave.

Visitors to the exhibit are asked to continue these sentences: "Action is about ...," "Change happens when ...," and "The world needs ..."

It's when work like this goes on for the greater good that Pasadena really soars.

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