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VILLAGES**

Our Paths - Our Choices

Empowering older adults to be active,
connected and independent in the place they
call home



TWIN CITIES VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

JULY 2020

SUMMER IS IN FULL SWING! SORT OF.

We trod on through possibly the quietest Fourth of July ever, with no parades, no fireworks, no Marin County Fair—and yes, it seems no fair, but we’ve survived worse, and there will always be next year. If you’re stuck for something to do, how about a game of homemade, garden grown pool? The ingenuity of this player should bring a smile. And a look at the bright side...



glad i didn't
waste my money
buying a planner
for 2020

Remember:

Noah was six hundred years old before he knew how to build an ark—
don't lose your grip!

-- Elbert Hubbard

Signs of the Times, by Sue Sommer

Who could have imagined there'd be no traffic on Memorial Day Friday? Who could have imagined that jellyfish would undulate in the waters under Venice's Rialto Bridge? Who could have thought that wolf packs would traipse across urban highways, no cars in sight? That watches would sit idle in jewelry boxes? That earlobes would ache at the insertion of earrings after twelve weeks of being free? That birthday gifts might be jazzy masks and a bottle of Lime Margarita Mix Hand Sanitizer? That temperatures would be read with a swipe across the forehead? That there'd be no magazines in waiting rooms?

And who could have imagined every niche and neighborhood in the world connected by a program with a kitschy name: Zoom? Or that students of every age would abandon classrooms and adopt the new routine of "distance learning"? And that teachers would have to adapt lessons from their home, their enormous tasks finally appreciated? Or that parents would be with their children 24/7, their dogs loving the idea (I'm not so sure that cats give a fig). That gas would be historically cheap, but since nobody's driving, so what? Or, for that matter, that expensive cars would sit dirty and laced with cobwebs, as their batteries die.

Who ever thought news anchors and reporters would home-broadcast from makeshift studios in closets or basements, their makeup too much and their hair becoming more and more scraggly—as viewers judge how their houses are decorated, and wonder if they're dressed only on the top? Or that toddlers and teenagers and toy poodles would video-bomb their presentations, or that cats and guinea pigs would tromp across their keyboards in view—and that broadcasters would become all the more human because of it?

Who could have predicted that global warming would decelerate and that earthquakes would tempo down, that skies would become a deep cerulean, more lucid than in decades, or that eastern Indians could see the Himalayas for the first time in three generations? That allergies would be less annoying with the clear air and the use of masks?

Who could ever have imagined that in staggering calamity, families would become closer, that truck drivers and grocery clerks, along with

nurses and delivery personnel, would become heroes? Or on the darker side, that people would scam others with phony cure-alls? Or that more than 8 million people would lose their jobs and, in the process, their health insurance as well?

But who in the world would have imagined that all this would only be half the unfolding, that people would have space and time to absorb and act against our dark history because of the pandemic, eclipsed by a racist's white knee crushing a black man's neck, and pulling out his final breath?

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS!

Members: Henry Black

We look forward to seeing you at a (virtual) event soon!

LOCAL VILLAGE EVENTS (open to all, unless noted)

Food & Drink

S.I.P. and Sip

Tuesday, July 14, 3:30pm

Join our virtual cocktail party with Zoomtails. Bring your favorite beverage to your computer or device and sign in with the link. Watch for an email with the Zoom information.

Chat and Check-In

Tuesday, July 21, 3:30pm

Time to catch up with other villagers. Relax with your e-device and join the conversation. Zoom information will arrive by email just before the event.

MARIN VILLAGES EVENTS

Be sure to read the Marin Villages newsletter, chock full of information and ideas for keeping busy and healthy during these curious times.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Check out the following:

Library websites (marinlibrary.org)

The Buck Center informational lectures and events
(buckinstitute.org/events)

Age Friendly Corte Madera (agefriendlycortemadera.com)

Parks and Recreation departments of our sister cities

There is truly so much available out there, and now that you have the time, jump in; virtually, of course!

Also, take care not to watch too many negative TV shows or movies. Try the Hallmark channel, or the Disney channel, or, as I have done, binge The Big Bang Theory—nerdy, intelligent comedy!

For a breath of fresh culture, try “Poems in a Pandemic,” local bard Dale Biron’s online series of poems by various poets befitting our times: www.dalebiron.com, or check out his blog at <https://dalebiron.com/section/blog/>.

TWIN CITIES VILLAGE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Felicitations and birthday greetings to this month’s 90s and 100s!

July 8 – Brian Kiernan and Mary Stiehm

July 10 – Lee Smith

July 20 – Peggy Byrne

July 21 – Zvi Danenberg

Note that masks are still available from the office. Just call and the fabulous staff will send you one—free! (415) 457-4633

INVITE TO WRITE

Express your creativity in writing! Here's a prompt to get you started: "My most memorable birthday ..." Or create a short story, a paragraph, a poem, a memory or incident, an editorial of your own choosing—but please no political topics (we've had enough of those!). Make it around 650 words. Submit to ssommertime@sbcglobal.net with "Invite to Write" in the subject line. Have fun!

This month's remembrance is from Mary Wood

When asked to write about changes I've seen in Marin County in the fifty years I've been here, I focused on Corte Madera, where I've lived since 1973 in a townhouse I bought when my son was five years old. It was near Grenada School, and he could walk to kindergarten without even crossing a street.

The school was designed for open classroom instruction, the latest thing in education, and for four years it was a wonderful neighborhood experience, with parent involvement that brought families together in a community setting. It even held an overnight family campout that filled the large playing field with tents and sleeping bags, giving parents a chance to mix and get acquainted over dinner and a glass of wine.

Some of the people I met then have remained my friends to this day. I have seen our kids grow up, graduate from college, get married and have families of their own, some even sending their kids to the same schools the parents attended. Sadly, when my son was in third grade, declining enrollment closed the school, and students were transferred to Bel Aire in Tiburon. The closure of the school brought a loss of community feeling, and was definitely less convenient; buses were not provided, so families had to scramble to arrange transportation.

Two other factors in my choice of location were the easy access to the freeway for my commute to San Francisco where I taught, and the convenience of a small shopping center a block from my home.

Paradise Shopping Center consisted of the original Paradise Market, a Rexall drugstore with a compact post office, Mike's Barbershop, a small bakery, a café, a fabric store, a bike store, and a gas station. There was nothing fancy about the shopping center, but it was a neighborhood hub. At Christmas the market owners would invite the local customers to step into the back room for a glass of holiday cheer. We knew owners and staff by their first names.

Mike, the barber, gave kids free haircuts before special events, such as the high school prom. Mike set up a station in the back of the shop for his daughter Julie to give women haircuts, and she remained my hair dresser for years, even after her father passed away. The gas station was handy for any necessary repairs on my VW Bug. When the market closed, Bev Mo wanted to take over, but a community outcry about a big liquor store going into our neighborhood led instead to a gym filling the space. Major remodeling came with Aegis replacing the gas station, along with a new gourmet Paradise Market and dry cleaner. (To be continued in August)

HELP US HELP OTHERS

For more than two decades the belief that it takes a village to raise a child has become embedded in our culture. Not as embedded but equally important is the village it takes to provide a comfortable, nurturing, and safe environment for people as they age. You can help.

We need more caring volunteers to be part of this thriving nationwide movement, a movement that's dedicated to strengthening bonds between generations and building strong, vibrant communities that provide continuity to all ages.

Marin Villages is looking for volunteers to provide a variety of support to older adults. Our goal is to match skills from volunteers with the needs of members. Volunteers sign up for visits that fit their life and lifestyle, but we ask for a commitment of two assignments a month.

If you know someone who is interested in volunteering, could use our services, or would like to donate to an organization serving older adults in Marin, please have them call the office at (415) 457-4633, or visit our website (www.marinvillages.org) for application forms and online donations.

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