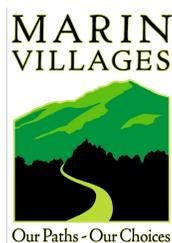


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## TWIN CITIES VILLAGE VOICE

### JANUARY 2021

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Should old acquaintance be forgot? If the old acquaintance is 2020, yes.

The quintessential Scots phrase, "Auld Lang syne," means *old long since*, or *olden times*, or *in the old days*. It became a Robert Burns (1788-ish) poem that became a song, that became the essence of New Year's Eve with some mellow tones of Guy Lombardo, a kiss, and the drop of a ball. Today, the band leader is gone, we had to kiss through a mask (if at all), and the ball dropped piteously alone in the cold a few days ago. But a turn of the year did happen, no matter what. Remember the woeful fears of Y2K? Computers were supposed to crash, security systems were to have blown up, and the lights everywhere were expected to dim? Instead, we watched Times Square flare up and flip over gloriously from 1999 to a blazing 2000, with few glitches.

So, yes—we slogged through 2020 and are gingerly stepping into a new year. People thought, "Oh, if only this year could be *over*," and eventually it was, but that doesn't mean an automatic switch to all things positive and good. I remember a childhood book about a young girl who was eager to turn ten so she could be in her "two numbers" and, thus, a big girl. At the dawning of her tenth birthday, she ran to a mirror to see the transformation. Dashed with disappointment that nothing had changed, she ran to her consoling mother, who quelled her sobs by saying that they're only numbers, that the growing comes from within us.

We have begun a new year, as well as a new path in America. Things didn't automatically change on January 1 because it's not about the numbers. We have a lot of work to do to get back on track, and we can do it—together definitely is a plus, but the growing comes from within

each of us.

Wishing for all contentment, safety, good health, and peace.  
Sue Sommer, editor

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## THINK ABOUT THIS

What do the following have in common: a tube, a sand dune, a torn \$20 bill, a red ballgown, the phrase, "I said that would happen!?" You tell us! Check out the Writing Challenge below...

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## WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS!

**Volunteers:** Fran Rondeau, who jumped in with spatula in hand! See below for more on that; and Andrea Dyer, whose bio also appears below.

Welcome to TCV, Fran and Andrea! Thank you for stepping up to give your time and talents to our village. We can't wait to see you all at an event soon.

**Birthdays:** Happy birthday to Tage Hansen, January 8

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## LOCAL VILLAGE EVENTS (open to all, unless noted)

All the events below are offered on Zoom. If you are not yet comfortable with Zooming, we can provide one-on-one help. Just let the office know you would like a volunteer to work with you. [info@marinvillages.org](mailto:info@marinvillages.org) or (415) 457-4633.

### Food & Drink

#### Men's Coffee Group

Wednesdays, January 6 & 20, 11:00am

Join the group for informal and free-ranging discussions with no agenda, including current events, respective activities, health issues, or whatever lands on the table. Men from other local villages beyond Twin Cities are invited to participate. Check with Alan Hayakawa, [alan.hayakawa@gmail.com](mailto:alan.hayakawa@gmail.com) for information, and watch for the Zoom link.

### **Sip and Chat**

Tuesday, January 12, 4:30 – 5:30pm (continuing the new time, better suited to a happy hour)

Join in for lively conversation and games and prizes. This may be the first party on your 2021 calendar! Get comfortable, click the link, and Zoom in. Catch up with Village friends, tell stories, and talk. An email will be sent to all Villagers before the event with the Zoom link.

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## MARIN VILLAGES EVENTS

Update your new calendar with a look at the *"Things to Do"* weekly mailing from Marin Villages. You will find many suggestions for films, books, concerts, events, and activities that are available. As events and openings become more plentiful, you will find some new ideas.

**Also, check out other websites:**

**Library** ([marinlibrary.org](http://marinlibrary.org))

**Buck Center** informational lectures and events ([buckinstitute.org/events](http://buckinstitute.org/events)),

**Age Friendly Corte Madera** ([agefriendlycortemadera.com](http://agefriendlycortemadera.com)), and the **Parks and Recreation** departments of our sister cities.

There is truly so much available to participate in, and now that you have the time, jump in; virtually, of course! We'll let you know what's available to members as things change.

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## SPECIAL EARLY CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR TCV

Twin Cities Village members got a welcome visit from the Cookie Santa, who left a luscious gift of homemade cookies for them, created by chef and new volunteer Fran Rondeau and her daughter Christie Bernard. The packages were painstakingly labeled with ingredients to allay any allergy fears and were packed COVID-carefully by Steering Committee members Marti Schwartz, Madelon Thomson, and Mary Wood. They were delivered personally by members. Thanks so much, Fran and elves.



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## MEET YOUR STEERING COMMITTEE

I like to think of the national village movement as a big loving, helpful ship, with the individual local villages as the lifeboats that rig the ship and crew to pilot them. Here's the first of the introductions of those who guide our little TCV boat, in their own words.

### **Andrea Dyer**

I live in Corte Madera with my husband, three teenaged sons, a very loyal (retired guide-dog breeder) yellow lab "Lainey," and sometimes aloof, sometimes affectionate adult cat "Buster." As a local realtor, I enjoy stewarding housing transitions for homeowners in Marin County. I was inspired to get involved with Marin Villages as I learned about the opportunities the local villages create for the elders in our community

to live independently, while also staying connected and engaged with other wonderful people. Personally, I've experienced the gift of learning with others during key phases of my life and can't imagine life without a close community of smart, caring, compassionate people around me! Fun fact: I grew up in Hawaii, spent time living in France and South Africa, and have called Marin "home" for the past 20 years (the longest I've been in one place!). I enjoy meeting new people, exploring new places and finding myself in a great conversation.

### **Alice Joyce**

Alice moved to Marin County after her working life as a sculptor in Chicago was transformed by the publication of her first book, *West Coast Gardenwalks*. At her new home in San Anselmo, she created a garden from scratch, planting arrays of rare species in what had been a rubble-strewn back yard. Alice's turn to full-time garden writing and photography included her *Garden Walks* column, which inspired San Francisco Chronicle readers to visit verdant locales around the Bay Area.

Since resettling in Larkspur, Alice learned about Marin Villages from friends who volunteer and enjoy member benefits. "It's been rewarding and enriching to be a Twin Cities Village volunteer," Alice shares. "I'm feeling a stronger sense of connection within the community and appreciate the new friendships that have formed."

Before the shelter-in-place, Alice put together a memoir writing workshop, a special project offered to members. "Each time our group gathered together," she says, "it was a wonderful experience to listen to each other's personal stories and pass along treasured memories."

(Let's get some of those writers to share their work!)

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## **INVITE CHALLENGE TO WRITE**

How are you at putting puzzles together? Here's one you can concoct with words—your invitation to write a funny, mysterious, poignant, avant-garde, children's, or other genre short story or vignette (around 1000 words) that in some way contains each of the following:

- a tube
- a sand dune
- a torn \$20 bill
- the phrase, "I said that would happen!"
- a red ballgown

Let your imagination fly; what else is there to do these days? And I know from cocktail parties we used to have that some of you love to tell stories, so here's your chance to write your own. Stories are due to [ssommertime@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ssommertime@sbcglobal.net) by February 19. Winning stories will be published in a future Voice

Also, do you have any new COVID vignettes? Or reflections on the 2020 year? Write them and send them in.

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## BITS AND PIECES

**TCV has been awarded** a grant from the Sunshine Rotary Club, and we want your opinions about how to use it, so we will be sending a (SHORT, we promise) survey soon regarding that, and about some other issues for your input.

**Cloth masks** are once again available through the main Marin Villages office, (415) 457-4633, in case you didn't get enough in your stocking.



**Age has its benefits:** For those over 70 who need to renew their driver's license, you can now do it on line ([www.dmv.ca.gov](http://www.dmv.ca.gov)). It's still unclear, however, whether you must go to a DMV office to take the written test.

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## 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](http://www.marinvillages.org)) for application forms and online donations.



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