



Twin Cities Village Voice

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

April 2021

APRIL ABSTRACTIONS

Editorial by Sue Sommer

"A-april, come she will, when streams are ripe and swelled with rain..."

From 1964—Simon and Garfunkel's most poignant, and shortest, song. It's based on a nursery rhyme that was recited to Paul Simon in England by a young woman with whom he was having an affair. It speaks of the capriciousness of a young girl (does that make us wonder who ended the relationship?). Some, however, interpret that it reveals the changing of the seasons, or is an allegory for the growth, life, and death of a brief love affair, or the passage of time. Some say it's about a bird or the life of a butterfly. The duo leaves us no answers, only to forge our own interpretation; but no matter—the passage is a lovely reflection of spring.

So now that you have an earworm for the day, let's continue with the fourth month. April rain, we hope, will make *our* streams swell, assuaging the drought. Nobody wants to be an April fool, so be cautious of the twinkle-eyed on that first day. And doesn't it sound downright magical to ponder April in Paris just about now? Didn't we dance to Pat Boone's "April Love"? It's for the very young, which we were. And even before that, Al Jolson crooned "April Showers." Well, maybe not crooned; it was Al Jolson, after all.

Here's one for you: If March winds bring April showers, and April showers bring May flowers...what do May flowers bring? No, it's not pollen. Or May winds. It's Pilgrims.

Presenting some April thoughts from the masters:

"It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen." – George Orwell
Certainly this past year clocks' striking thirteen may have been taken in stride, along with myriad other weird occurrences.

"OH! To be in England now that April's there!" – Robert Browning

Oh, to be anywhere besides our Zoom room, the garage office, our now well-formed cushion in front of the TV, in the kitchen staring into the refrigerator...

"April is the cruelest month, breeding lilacs out of the dead land, mixing memory and desire, stirring dull roots with spring rain." – T.S. Eliot, *The Wasteland* epic poem

I never know why he labels it the cruelest month, then cites lilacs pushing their purple way out of dead ground, and watering of roots. Perhaps it's the *mixing of memory and desire*, which, indeed, can be cruel.

Here is a thought we can lavish some hope upon:

"April is a promise that May is bound to keep." – Hal Borland

This, however, is the one I'm clinging to:

"April prepares her green traffic light and the world thinks, 'GO!'" – Christopher Morley

I'm ready to "GO!" Aren't you? Let's envision the green light as that promise due in May!

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS!

Member: Pati Stoliar

Pati is a new member, and a voice on the Steering Committee. A former OB/GYN nurse, she volunteers for Age Friendly and the Disaster Council for CM and Twin Cities Disaster, as well as the NRGs program. She'd like to find buddies to walk with and enjoys taking photos.

Thank you for giving your time and energy to our village!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

April 4 – Laurel Feigenbaum

Many happy returns of the day, Laurel!

LOCAL VILLAGE EVENTS (open to all unless noted)

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 or (415) 457-4633

Zoom-use reminder: For Zoom events, you will get an email inviting you to click the link. Tap on the line that says Join Zoom Meeting. It will ask "Do you want the page to open Zoom.us?"; tap "allow" and you're in. If the host isn't there yet, just wait. When you get in, check the bottom of your screen and find the little microphone icon; if it has a red line through it, you're muted. Just click on it and watch the line disappear, and you're ready to talk.

Food & Drink

Men's Coffee Group

Wednesdays, April 7 & 21, 11:00am

Join the Men's Group for informal conversations of open topics and no agenda. Men from local villages beyond Twin Cities are invited to participate as well. Watch for the Zoom link and click in. For questions or to be added to the mailing list, please contact Irv Gubman, irvgubman@gmail.com.

Sip and Chat—Cozy Cocktail Hour

Tuesday, April 20, 4:30 – 5:30pm

Depending on how things open up in society, this may be one of our last virtual cocktail hours, so don't miss it. Check emails for the Zoom link.

Save the date

May Day giveaway!

Saturday, May 1

Stay tuned for further details, but save the date of May 1 to get a special gift, courtesy of the Rotary Sunshine Club and Marin Villages. Details are being worked out for distribution, depending on COVID restrictions, but one way or another, members will receive a very cool present on the first of May!

MARIN VILLAGES EVENTS

Many interesting events and ideas appear as part of your Marin Villages weekly update and Things to Do emails. You will find 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 local websites:

Library (marinlibrary.org)

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

Age Friendly Corte Madera (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.

TWIN CITIES VILLAGE ANNOUNCEMENTS

The stay-at-home order has been lifted in Marin County. What it means for us? Well, by the time you read this it may have changed again, but here are some thoughts: just because things are open doesn't mean they're safe. Suggestions are to wear two masks because of new virus strains that are entering the scene, and social distance, of course, stay home much of the time, and check with the Marin Health and Human Services department about updates and accessibility of getting the vaccine: <https://coronavirus.marinhhs.org/vaccine/status>

Check out the CDC guidelines as of March 25 to learn what's new after you receive your vaccination! https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html#anchor_1615143336158

Meet Your Steering Committee

Sue Sommer, Twin Cities Village Voice editor and communications volunteer

I have been, and still am, a worldwide traveler, teacher, tutor, and writer—with memories from throughout my journeys and life in both Southern and Northern California. I was on the vanguard of the Boomer era when “The Theme from A Summer Place” was a *dreamy* hit, and Johnny Mathis reigned as king of the love songs.

I was born in Chicago, but when I was not yet two, my dad boarded the Santa Fe Super Chief for a January business trip to Los Angeles. After three days of palm trees and sunshine, he called my mom (long-distance!), and said, "Pack up the girls and everything else; we're moving to California." And we did.

I grew up in Arcadia—aptly named, as peacocks roamed the streets and yards of our neighborhood—then moved to Orange County, working for and taking classes at Chapman University. It was then that I secured the job of bookstore manager for Semester at Sea, the World Campus Afloat. I sailed on five separate voyages to ports around the world on the unique adventure of a university aboard a ship sailing the ocean, with five hundred students and staff, and a superior faculty. Needless to say, those days shaped my life and gave me an unquenchable wanderlust—or, as one close friend quipped, I had developed "barnacles on the butt"!

In 1976 I moved to San Francisco and worked for Laurel Burch and est, eventually moving to Corte Madera, where I got my teaching credential from Dominican University. I joined the

faculty of Novato High School, teaching English during the nascent days of Marin School of the Arts, giving me the opportunity to direct and structure, then teach the creative writing program for that entity.

In my early days of teaching, I compiled a packet of "heinous grammatical errors"(!) that students made, and then taught the corrections each year—to, too, two; there, their, they're; its and it's, and many more. One day the publisher from New World Library visited the classroom, saw the stapled packet, and offered to publish it; thus, *The Bugaboo Review, A Lighthearted Guide to Exterminating Confusion about Words, Spelling, and Grammar* was conceived (I'll add sheepishly, available at Amazon.com).

Ever the nomad, I conducted summer tours for teens to Europe, year after year through WorldStrides Educational Tours. I was always astounded at how much the students absorbed and grew in those weeks away—as I was during the semester-long voyages—and I'm convinced there's no better way to mend the rifts among countries than to visit and interact with those of other nations.

I treasured my teaching days, but the advanced technology I needed to learn signaled it was time to retire. Now, beyond working with the esteemed colleagues of the Twin Cities Villages and what's listed in my first sentence above, I have the "usual suspect" hobbies of gardening, painting greeting cards and making jewelry. I also am active at Unity in Marin, and seem to get involved with whatever my Gemini/monkey spirit wants to take on, making life an extraordinary voyage, indeed.

MARIN VILLAGES ANNOUNCEMENTS



Matt Dawe has joined Marin Villages as our new volunteer coordinator. Matt has experience in fundraising, has done event coordinating, conducted media campaigns, and has an extensive background in teaching. Happy to have you with us, Matt!

INVITE TO WRITE

Member Lee Smith submitted this terrific loop poem about a time he recalled. He admitted that it was fun, and a bit of a challenge, but it turned out to cover all the "rules" and is perfect for the season. Anyone else brave enough to try? The last word of each line begins the next line,

and the first and last words of the poem are the same. Send it to ssommertime@sbcglobal.net with the subject line "TCV Poem."

Spring in Nebraska, 1936

by Lee Smith

Spring was coming on the plains
Plains of America and winds of March
March roared across blowing the snow away
Away it went and the rains came
Came bringing flowers in May
May blossomed with colors many
Many emotions and love filled hearts
Hearts beating with the joy of spring

Can you see that Lee remembered a moment in time? Time to try your hand; I'll bet you can!
After all, poetry is in the...gut of the beholder?



BITS AND PIECES

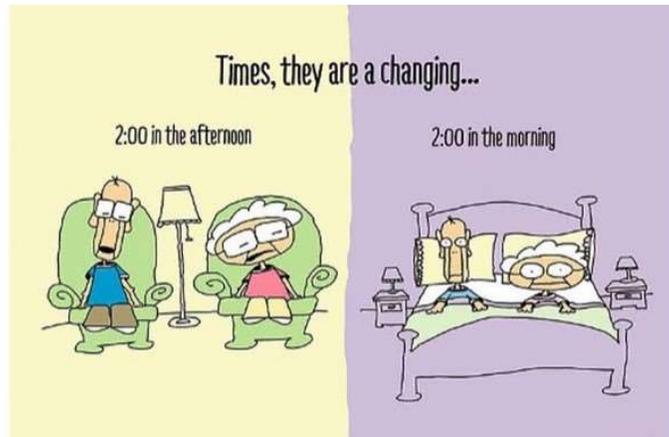
Take care of that COVID vaccination card you got when you were vaccinated! Take a photo of both sides, make two copies and keep one with your passport, in your car, and anywhere else you might need to show it. Laminate the copy you carry, though, not the original in case you need it for any further booster shots we'll need.

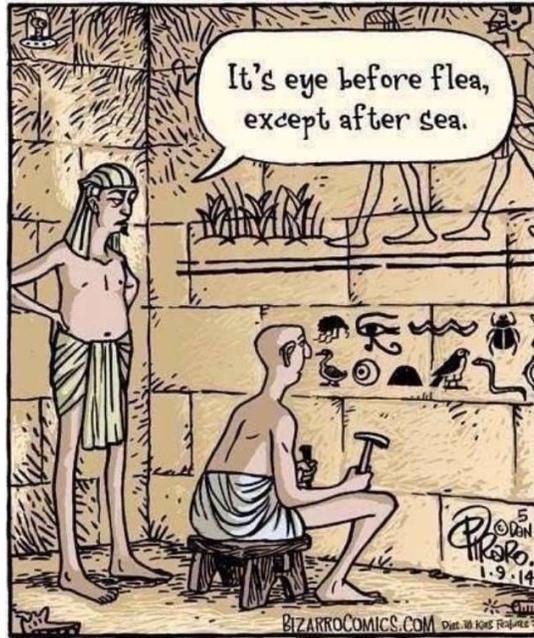
Some annoyingly wise advice for those over 55!

- ~ No more flip-flops—even and especially if you're working in the garden
 - ~ Always hold onto an available handrail
 - ~ Slow down! After all, what's your hurry?
-

AND MORE...

Humor





Clever ads





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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