



THE VILLAGE SQUARE

A monthly gathering place for all our news

October 2023



Pop-Up Thrift Boutique shines

We did it again—a huge thank you and congratulations to us! Over the past three months, more than 80 volunteers, collected, sorted, freshened-up, polished, priced, and displayed thousands of gently-loved items from so many donors, to make three (!) complete stores look permanent, enticing, and beautiful—and be immensely profitable: we beat our fundraising goal, by a lot! In October, we celebrate our volunteers. Let's start with these Pop-Up stars: Beth Livoti, Carmen Cespedes, Cherie Sorokin, Claudia Gardner, Joanne Sakai, Marilee Lau, Patti Flynn Boston, Sparkie Spaeth, and Sue Steele, who led us from start to another magnificent finish! *John Power, Marin Villages Executive Director*

...and makes the world a better place

Another benefit of this incredible, gorgeous fundraiser? Recycling and reuse. Reading the article below under Check This Out about the French government subsidizing clothing repair to minimize the amount of clothing being made and discarded reminded me that the Pop-Up Thrift Boutique was not only raising money for an excellent cause, but was also providing a major environmental service. Bravo and deepest personal thanks to all of you who had a hand in making this happen! *Danielle, Marin Villages staff*

MARIN VILLAGES NEWS

A very happy birthday to our September and October nonagenarians



With all eyes on the Pop-Up preparations last month, we neglected to include the September nonagenarians in the newsletter. Huge apologies, and as a result of the omission, here are the September and October 90+ Club all together. Starting with our 91-year-olds, happy birthday to **Peter Pompei** and **Hal Schmidt**. Turning 92 these two months are **Giovanna Pomilia**, **Jules Schindler**, **Helen Beck** and **Anne Zwagerman**. **Joan Bekins**, **Patricia Ernsberger**, **Mary Ann Orchard**, and **Sarah Haberman** turn 93. **Inna Mink** is 95; **Bettie Clark**, **Barbara Duttweiler**, and **Bruce Wrisley** are 96, and **Adrienne Johnson** and **Nida Devoto** turn 98. Happiest of birthdays (belated and early) to all of you!!

Assistance with heating bills this winter

LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program) is a federally funded program that helps low-income households pay for heating or cooling in their homes. It may be able to help you pay your energy bill. Qualified PG&E customers are on track to receive a record amount of LIHEAP financial assistance this year. LIHEAP funding is still available, and eligible PG&E customers who are behind on their bills are encouraged to apply today to receive the annual federal support. The average LIHEAP enrollee may receive a bill credit of nearly \$1,000 through the program, which is administered by the California Department of Community Services and Development (CSD). To find out more, visit www.csd.ca.gov/energybills or call (866) 675-6623.

DID YOU HEAR?

Stan and Joan Green on joining the Legacy Circle



Stan and Joan Green

Marin Villages Board member Stan Green has brought much in the way of time, expertise, and planning to our organization. He began volunteering for us a decade ago and says, “I love being a volunteer because I can volunteer as little or as much as I wish. It’s also very enjoyable to interact with the members; all of them have been interesting and gracious.” As a board member, he enjoys serving and dealing with the strategic issues Marin Villages addresses.

Stan is also a driving force in building our Legacy Circle. As someone who walks the talk, he and his wife Joan have set up their donor advised fund to donate to Marin Villages when they pass. While you might not have a donor advised fund, you can also name Marin Villages as a beneficiary in your estate plan or of your retirement fund. Talking to your estate planning attorney or retirement plan manager can help you sort through the details. Nonprofits rely on planned giving as part of their fundraising, and as Stan says, planned giving “demonstrates to the nonprofit that its efforts are appreciated.”

We’re incredibly grateful to Stan and Joan, as well as to all our Legacy Circle members. If you choose to designate Marin Villages as a beneficiary of your estate, you automatically become a member of the Legacy Circle and help ensure our future. There are many ways to do so, and no required dollar amount. If you’d like to find out more about our Legacy Circle, or legacy gifts in general, call Executive Director John Power at (415) 457-4633.

COVID UPDATE

With the winter virus season approaching, Marin County Public Health has taken the step of requiring masks in hospitals and skilled-nursing facilities in all patient-care spaces, starting November 1. Matt Willis explains the rationale behind this decision in the video below. With Covid, flu, and RSV vaccines available now, talk with your doctor or find a facility and get vaccinated before the viruses really start to spread. If you need to find a location offering vaccines outside your normal primary care provider, use this link: <https://coronavirus.marinhhs.org/vaccinefinder>.

Dr. Willis: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mqQOToxWfJQ>

MARIN VILLAGES PROGRAMS

Men's Coffee

Wednesdays, October 4 & 18, 11:30am



This is an informal gathering with no particular agenda beyond the company of friends. We encourage you, whether a volunteer or member, to come join us. The group meets at restaurants and coffee shops around Mill Valley the first and third Wednesdays of the month. To get more information or to be put on the reminder list for upcoming meetings contact Irv Gubman (irvgubman@gmail.com or (415) 250-6155).

Technology/Computer Help Office Hours

Wednesday, October 18, 4:00 – 5:30pm

Zoom



Issues with your printer? iPhone not syncing properly? If so, join our volunteer tech support group for the answers to these and all of your other burning technology questions! We look forward to continuing to help solve your frustrating tech problems. This is a space where you can "drop in," ask questions, and receive personalized, individually focused, expert tech advice from some of our wonderful tech volunteers. Even if you'd just like to sit in to learn a little more about technology, we'd love to have you participate! So bring your questions about your computers, tablets, phones, etc., and our dedicated tech volunteers will do the rest. This opportunity is available to all Marin Villages members and volunteers. Please join us at this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89289995207>!

Bocce

Friday, October 27, 1:00 – 3:00pm

Bocce Federation of Marin, 550 B Street, San Rafael



What better way to spend a day than on the bocce court?! Wear comfortable clothing, sunscreen, and a sun hat if needed. No prior bocce experience necessary, just soft-soled shoes and your presence. Come for the company and watch others play if you prefer. Either way, join us! Bring a snack to share with the group. Questions? Call Larry Meredith. (415) 860-2535 Need a ride? Call Marin Villages' office. (415) 457-4633

Not Home Alone—Halloween early supper and costume party

Tuesday, October 31, 2:00pm

The Club at McInnis Park, 350 Smith Ranch Road, San Rafael



Join your hostess Donnalee Wells and other Villagers for the biggest Not Home Alone of the year! All Villages members and volunteers are welcome. Costumes are fun but optional. We'll be at one of our favorite venues, The Club Restaurant at McInnis Park Golf Center. Prix-fixe menu will include a set salad, dessert, and coffee service, with entree choice of pot roast, chicken breast piccata, grilled salmon, and penne puttanesca. Drinks may be purchased separately from the bar. First come, first served, space is limited, and RSVP is required. Please bring **\$35 CASH** for your meal, which covers the food, coffee, tax, and tip. No credit cards. All attendees must be vaccinated. Please RSVP to Donnalee Wells by email, phone, or text at donnaleewells@comcast.net or (415) 302-9244. Volunteer rides may be limited.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Mt. Olivet Cemetery Walking Tour

Saturdays, October 21 and 28, 10:00am

270 Los Ranchitos, San Rafael

Join Marcie Miller for the history, scandals, and spirituality of the founding fathers of Marin County. Walk canceled in the event of rain. Reservations required and cost is \$10; to reserve a spot, email Marcie@marinhistory.org or call (415) 446-8869.

Humanities West

Since 1983, Humanities West has been presenting the highlights of human history to Bay Area audiences through illuminating lectures and dynamic performances by scholars and artists that focus on the people, places, and events of the past which continue to influence our modern cultures. They have expanded their reach by livestreaming their programs from the facilities of The Commonwealth Club and posting them on YouTube for an international audience. In their new two-hour livestream format, they continue to provide their audiences with in-depth historical background to enhance our understanding of what we have accomplished in our pursuit of civilization—and how we have done it. To learn more and check out their events, visit <https://humanitieswest.org/>.

CHECK THIS OUT...

Responding to the devastating environmental impact of fast fashion, the French government has launched a program to **subsidize tailors, seamstresses, and cobblers** repairing clothes and shoes instead of tossing them when something breaks. <https://reasonstobecheerful.world/france-subsidize-clothing-repair/>

Someday I'd love to take a **fall foliage trip**, but in the meantime, I'll soak up the photos and imagine vacationing among those colors. <https://www.cnn.com/wbd/americas-best-fall-foliage-road-trips/index.html>

Speaking of color, the close-up images of these insects are breathtaking. This is **art and science in one!** (To view, click on Explore in the upper left corner and then click on each individual insect to see enlarged—you can zoom in and out with the plus and minus buttons) <http://microsculpture.net/>

Georges Brassens was part of the soundtrack of my childhood—one of the few non-classical-music composers/singers my dad could abide. A new version of this song in particular, *Les Copains d'Abord*, takes me back to that time. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=igNe4l_svLU

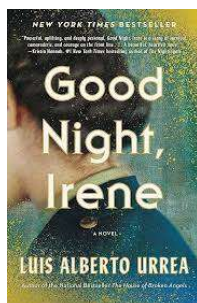
I love this story of a penguin returning every year to visit the man who saved his life. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oks2R4LqWtE>

This performance is mesmerizing. How on earth do they get that synchronicity? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ekibVX3gK5Q>

Derek and Julianne Hough are a brother-sister duo who found fame on *Dancing with the Stars* but went on to have successful careers in choreographing and dancing in their own shows. Here is a new take on a favorite: *Singing in the Rain*. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xMeggQus6bM>

BOOKS, MOVIES, OR TV WE CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT

Books



Goodnight, Irene, Luis Alberto Urrea

This month I will let author Kristin Hannah summarize the book. “*Good Night, Irene* is a beautiful, heartfelt novel that celebrates the intense power and durability of female friendship while shining a light on one of the fascinating lost women’s stories of World War II. Inspired by his own family history—and his mother’s heroism as a Red Cross volunteer during the war—Luis Urrea has created an indelible portrait of women’s courage under extreme adversity. Powerful, uplifting, and deeply personal, *Good Night, Irene* is a story of survival, camaraderie, and courage on the front line.” I devoured this book, and learned about a part of World War II and women’s roles in morale-building that I knew nothing about. I’m recommending it to anyone who will listen! *Danielle, Marin Villages staff*

Movies



In the Heights, Amazon Prime

Lin-Manuel Miranda’s musical debuted on Broadway in 2008 and the film adaptation was released in 2021. It tells the story of the Washington Heights neighborhood and the many characters who work, survive, strive for more, and experience the highs and lows of being such a connected community. The beats are infectious and the characters relatable, and it’s impossible not to cheer for all of them, warts and all. This is pre-*Hamilton* Lin-Manuel Miranda, but you can see his genius shining brightly already. I watched this on a plane recently, and hated that I didn’t have room to dance around. *Danielle, Marin Villages staff*

TV



Cunk on Earth, Netflix

This mockumentary features Philomena Cunk (actor and comedian Diane Morgan) explaining the history of humankind, from prehistory to today. Cunk visits historical sites and sits down with actual leading academics to ask questions, many of which are cringe-worthy and delivered with perfect seeming naïveté. It's laugh-out-loud and hide-under-the-pillow funny both. Irreverent and unapologetic. She covers everything from the first human societies to the Renaissance to the birth of industry and science to the Cold War, the Space Race, and social media. *Danielle, Marin Villages staff*

HUMOR

Halloween characters are back...





BEFORE WE GO

This two-year-old dancing to Jailhouse Rock is what we didn't know we all needed today.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xvrnp9Ult4>

If you know someone who might be interested in Marin Villages or this newsletter, please forward it on to them. Word of mouth is one of our biggest sources of new members and volunteers! And, as always, if you have ideas for the newsletter, please send them to communications@marinvillages.org.

If you know someone who could use our services or is interested in volunteering with 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.

We always welcome donations to support our work! Please use the button below to contribute. Also consider joining our Legacy Circle of donors who have designated Marin Villages as a beneficiary of a gift of cash, real estate or personal property in their estate planning. There are many ways to do so, and no required dollar amount. If you'd like to find out more about our new Legacy Circle, or legacy gifts in general, call Executive Director John Power at (415) 457-4633.

Marin Villages 4340 Redwood Highway, Suite F-142 San Rafael, CA 94903
(415) 457-4633 www.marinvillages.org