

# Our Village VOICE

## A monthly publication of Clayton Valley Village February 2024 Edition

A Message from our President. Our Events held in January, upcoming Events, and lots more. **Check out our Ads only \$25.00 and it goes out to 500 local residents.**

**Contact us at [village.clayton@gmail.com](mailto:village.clayton@gmail.com) to advertise in our newsletter.**

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**Happy Valentine's Day!**



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## President's Message



Joyce Atkinson

I hope you all have survived the rain. We sure had a lot and I notice lots of new plants peeking up in my yard - unfortunately many are weeds. Valentine's Day is coming and may you be showered with love, hugs and chocolate!

Hope to see you all at the Clayton Valley Village Annual Meeting on Sunday, Feb. 4th from 3:00 to 4:00 pm in Hoyer Hall at the Clayton Library. A door prize, coffee, tea and water plus cookies will be available. There will be an overview of what we've done in 2023 and plan to do in 2024. If you need a ride, put in a request and one of our volunteers will pick you up so you can attend. Hope to see you there.

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## February Birthdays

February 1<sup>st</sup> - Dale Oldford – Member  
February 14th – Mariana Behdjat - Member



February 19th – Peggy Hooper - Member  
February 28th – Carole Gardner– Member



**IN MEMORY OF  
BETTY ARMES  
1933-2024  
VALUABLE CVV FOUNDING MEMBER**



On January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the last of the Cast-Iron Generation and their spouses passed away, closing a chapter in a book of an amazing generation of people. Betty G. (Kuhn) Armes, born April 16, 1933, widow to George "Fred" Armes, mother to Barbara, Steve (deceased April 2017) and David, grandmother to nine grandchildren and great grandmother to five great grandchildren, peacefully passed away in her home surrounded by family. She had been suffering from a long-term illness the past year. Betty was married to Fred for a little over 58 years during which time they moved 7 times before settling in San Jose for nearly 50 years. She lived nearly 11 years after Fred's death on her own in a new home and new city, enjoying traveling, gardening, her family and her old and new friends.

In those 10 years, she adapted to learning how to live alone for the first time, use an iPhone and an iPad, set up and use an email account, paying bills and doing banking all online. She achieved all of that after the age of 80! She joined two clubs in her new hometown of Clayton, the Garden Club and Clayton Valley Village, both of which provided her with many activities and cherished new friends. Her very favorite place to be was the island of Maui with the family. She will be remembered and missed by so many.

She will be laid to rest in the family plot where Fred was placed in Los Gatos, California on the same date he was, 11 years later. She and Fred can now resume their love of cruising together once again.



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**IN MEMORY OF  
PETRONELLA COLEMAN  
1931-2023  
A VALUABLE CVV MEMBER**



By Fiona Hughes

Petronella Coleman was born on 4/27/31 in Amstelveen, the Netherlands. As a child she lived through the hardships of Nazi occupation, which shaped much of who she was throughout her life.

She met her husband in Utrecht, who lived in the same neighborhood, and they married in 1956. Because of the war, neither had finished school, though she was an excellent seamstress, and he a skilled machinist. Both were bright with dreams of making a better life for themselves and their two young children. In 1962 they emigrated to the US. to seek greater opportunities for their family. They spoke no English and had \$500 in their pockets.

Arriving at a migrant camp in Livermore CA, her husband got a job picking grapes, while Petronella cared for her family, and made valuable friends, who helped them move to a rented apartment in the Piedmont area. Before even buying furniture, they bought a TV! Petronella always credited learning English by watching General Hospital over the years!

She helped her husband get a job in Berkeley as a master tool and die maker, and she was a hard-working seamstress. Over her long life, Petronella was married twice and loved her independence, owning her own home in Clayton and enjoying her friends and neighbours.

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# Did You Know?

## Kaiser California Senior Advantage Plans offer a Quarterly Benefit for Over The Counter (OTC) Products

OTC health and wellness products delivered to your home.

You can use your **quarterly** benefit to order:

- Vitamins and minerals
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or call [1-833-569-2360](tel:1-833-569-2360) (TTY [711](tel:711)) Mon-Fri 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.



## How to Clean Out Your Closet

THE READER'S DIGEST VERSION







# The Best Time of Year to Buy Anything



THE READER'S DIGEST VERSION

## JANUARY

- Holiday goods
- Bed linens
- Humidifiers
- Fitness gear

## FEBRUARY

- Tax software
- Space heaters
- Winter clothes

## MARCH

- Vacuum cleaners
- Air purifiers
- Luggage
- Digital cameras
- Fine jewelry

## APRIL\*

- Carpet cleaners
- Leaf blowers
- Tires

## MAY

- Mattresses
- Blenders
- Air mattresses
- Spring clothing

## JUNE

- Sunscreen
- Outdoor gear
- Smartwatches
- Tools

## JULY\*

- Refrigerators
- Laptops
- Dehumidifiers
- Picnic supplies

## AUGUST

- Computers
- Headphones
- Office supplies
- Patio furniture
- Snow blowers

## SEPTEMBER

- Washers and dryers
- Air conditioners
- Grills
- Hot tubs

## OCTOBER

- Cookware
- Smoke detectors
- Thermostats
- RVs
- Houses

## NOVEMBER\*

- TVs
- Bakeware
- Small appliances
- Streaming devices
- Furniture

## DECEMBER

- Air fryers
- Multi-cookers
- Home security cameras
- Cars

### \*MEGA SALES

April: Wayfair Way Days

July: Amazon Prime Day, Target Deal Days, Nordstrom Anniversary Sale

November: Black Friday and Cyber Monday





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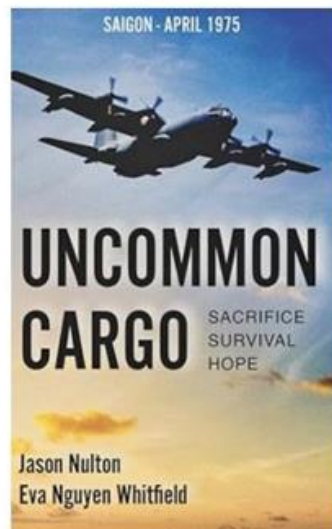
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## Book, Movie & TV Reviews



*Uncommon Cargo* is based on the true story of the Nguyen family's harrowing race against time to escape South Vietnam and reach freedom. It would not be without heartache, tragedy, and despair, but it is also a story of love, strength of family, and raw determination.



In April 1975, Saigon was a dangerous place. American forces had left Vietnam two years prior, and the northern and southern governments were functioning as two independent countries following the Paris Peace Accords of 1973. But peace wouldn't last. By the early months of 1975, northern communist forces had begun making their way violently southward to depose the American-backed South Vietnamese government and "unify" the country.

Knowing his family could face imprisonment or execution if they stayed, Chau Tan Nguyen, a 40-year old lieutenant colonel and C-130 pilot in the South Vietnamese Air Force, hatched a daring plan to save his family - his wife, Mai, their 3-year-old daughter Truc, 18-month-old son Trung, Mai's parents, Hong and Dat, and Mai's three younger brothers, Son, Dzung, and Tuan.

Much has been written about the American war experience in Vietnam, but precious little chronicles the lives of the Vietnamese families who survived it. *Uncommon Cargo* is the incredible story of one that did.

Eva Nguyen Whitfield, co-author of this book, is CVV Member Jim Whitfield's daughter-in-law. She has autographed this first edition. Jim has copies for sale @ \$25 - call 925 672-2250 if interested.



## Upcoming Events

**Thursday, Feb 1<sup>st</sup> – Tai Chi – Clayton Library**

**Friday, Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> – Ground Hog Day**

**Saturday, Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> - Seeds of Connection - Community Day**

**Sunday, Feb 4<sup>th</sup> – CVV 2023 Annual Meeting**

**Friday, Feb 9<sup>th</sup> – CVV Q1 Birthday Celebration**

**Monday, Feb 12<sup>th</sup> – CVV Explorers Hike**

**Wednesday, Feb 14<sup>th</sup> – Happy Valentine's Day**

**Wednesday, Feb 14<sup>th</sup> – CVV Board Meeting**

**Thursday, Feb 15<sup>th</sup> – Tai Chi – Clayton Library**

**Saturday, Feb 17<sup>th</sup> – Dementia Prevention and Treatment**

**Sunday, Feb 18<sup>th</sup> – 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Silver Camellia Tea**

**Tuesday, Feb 20<sup>th</sup> – CVV Happy Hour**

**Thursday, Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> – Chair Yoga & Meditation – Clayton Library**





**CVV Happy Hour at Rocco's Ristorante Pizzeria - Tuesday, Jan 16th**







# *Save the Date!*

CVV 2024 Annual Meeting

When: February 4, 2024, 3:00 to 4:00

Where: Clayton Library, Hoyer Hall

Public Welcome - Door Prize





# Clayton Valley Village **HAPPY HOUR**

**When: Tuesday, Feb 20th - 4:00 PM**

**Where: Love Thai**

**5434 Ygnacio, Concord**

**Limited Space! So, please register by Sunday Feb 16th!RSVP:**

**<https://claytonvalley.helpfulvillage.com/events/3125>**

**Call/Text 925-626-0411 or Email [village.clayton@gmail.com](mailto:village.clayton@gmail.com)**



Join us for our fun-filled February Mixer, socialize with members and volunteers and if you are new to the Village Movement, discover how you can benefit from becoming a member and/or a volunteer. We invite you to join Clayton Valley Village for a memorable dining experience at Love Thai.

Join us at "Love Thai" for our Happy Hour. There will be delicious fresh Thai food cooked separately and served buffet style from items on the menu preordered with the manager. Beverages (wine, beer, others) will be handled at each table.

Since dishes are prepared individually, we have to give a count one week ahead by Feb. 14 to ensure they have the correct food supplies and staffing.

Please bring CASH to pay for your meal - est. \$20-25 - to help with the payment process and minimize time required by staff. Drinks will be handled separately at the table.

Check out our web page <https://www.claytonvalleyvillage.org/>



## CLAYTON VALLEY VILLAGE EXPLORERS

**CVV Hike on Mon Feb 12th @ 10:00 AM**  
**Lafayette Reservoir**



Monday, February 12. Meet at Grove Park in Clayton near Bathroom 10:00 to carpool to Lafayette Reservoir Parking lot. There is a fee of \$1.50 per hr. (2 hr. maximum) which should be enough for our hike of the Nature Lakeside Trail of 2.7 miles. This trail is a blacktop with rolling hills and views of the reservoir. Those driving directly should arrive at the bathroom at the reservoir 10:45. You will see it as you approach the parking lot on the right.

If there is interest, we can have lunch on the way home at The Orchards at Walnut Creek. There is either the Fish Grill or Burger Lounge.

RSVP: <https://claytonvalley.helpfulvillage.com/events/2697>, email [village.clayton@gmail.com](mailto:village.clayton@gmail.com) or call/text [925-626-0411](tel:925-626-0411)

**Rain will cancel**

**Leaders:**

**Dorothy Bradt** [925 890-7195](tel:925-890-7195)

**Kathy O'Toole** [925-348-1151](tel:925-348-1151)





## Clayton Historical Society Museum

*Presents*



### Clayton Valley Area Photographs & Artwork

*For this exhibit, we have an impressive collection of photographs of the Clayton Valley area from two talented photographers, with a few other surprises mixed in.*

**Dick Ellis:** One of the original founders of the Clayton Historical Society. Hired by Clayton Valley High School in 1961 to develop their graphic and photographic arts program, where he taught for 30 years. His photos range from the 1970's to the 2000's.

**Hugo Steccati:** Born in Oakland in 1916, Steccati obtained his B.A. degree at the California College of Arts and Crafts in 1938. The photos we have of his are from 1937-1939 and are of the greater Clayton Valley area.

***Location: 6101 Main Street, Clayton***

***Open Hours: 2pm to 4pm, Wednesdays and Sundays***



At our latest **CVV Happy Trails Travel Group** meeting, held January 13<sup>th</sup>, we discussed places we would like to visit in 2024 or 2025, including

- Costa Rica
- Mississippi River Cruise
- Great Lakes Cruise
- Cruises that leave out of San Francisco
- Safari West – Sonoma County
- Yosemite

Check YOUR bucket list ! We want to hear your ideas.

Then email [CVVHappyTrails@gmail.com](mailto:CVVHappyTrails@gmail.com) to be notified of our next meeting.

We will also be on the lookout for last minute deals on websites like Vacations To Go, Caravan Tours, etc.



For Members Only



Coordinated by  
Sue Manning

Dying or reborn? Too soon to tell... Trip to Cincinnati

by Barbara Molnar



City-scape: Cincinnati 2023

In October 2023 my husband and I had come to Cincinnati to attend a conference. This was my first visit to the city and it was a bit of a shock. I still am unsure if it is a city dying or a city being reborn. Almost all retail stores except for a few restaurants and coffee shops (most of which closed at 2 pm) had fled or been displaced by construction - mostly due to the conversion of old, non-internet-wired buildings into condominiums and the tearing down of multi-level parking structures. The seamier part of the city was being gentrified and had already displaced many residents. There was some new city transport that had been planned to take students from the bus transit hub to the university but that plan fell apart due to expense and the new trolley-bus now runs in a circle through the inner city - parts of which are still populated - and up to the sole urban grocery store. The major development plan appears to stress money-making weekend sports events along the river frontage which has been transformed with a number of new arenas and visitors to a small but growing art gallery/theatre section. The three major hotels are set up to cater to the weekend sports attendees and, seemingly, to conference-goers. Decent prices for meals and edible dinners were difficult to find - nothing much between lunch take-out and elaborate menus with elaborate prices and non-memorable food.

The one amazingly different place I discovered was a "boutique" hotel called Hotel Museum that had an art gallery as part of it. And some of the art was moving art. You would see a landscape, trees blowing in the wind and gradually the trees would become streaks and blurs of color, still moving, until there was an abstract painting which would gradually fade back into a different landscape which would then become a new abstract. Or an animal walking or swimming across the screen and gradually the background would start to blur and you would be looking at a different animal before you and that too would gradually morph into another animal. I discovered that there are currently four such hotels to date, each with art exhibits, mostly from local artists. The chain started in St. Louis and was so popular that it is expanding. Plus, it had a dining area attached which I found too late to sample.



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## Quote of the Month

**“Listen to the wind—it talks.  
Listen to the silence—it speaks.  
Listen to your heart—it knows.”**

**— Native American Proverb**

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## 2024 CVV Board of Directors

**Executive Committee:**

Joyce Atkinson (President), Marilyn Wollenweber (Past-President)  
Arlene Lewandowski (Secretary), Joanne Wasak (Treasurer)

**Members-at-Large** Anita Stranik & Maria Xiaris

**Volunteer Representative Members**, Linda Pinder, Margaret Bachman

**Our Village Voice is a free, electronic publication of Clayton Valley Village**

**Co-Editors: Diane Berger and Bev Adams Email: [village.clayton@gmail.com](mailto:village.clayton@gmail.com)**

**The editors welcome all submissions and reserve the right to include or edit all material. Unless otherwise specified, other publications may reprint any material herein with proper attribution.**

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