

Our Village VOICE

**A monthly publication of Clayton Valley Village
November, 2021 Edition**

A Message from our President. Check out our Events held in October, Upcoming Events, and more. Also in this issue, we present the 8th installment of the Girl with the Topaz Ring, a story by CVV member Gary Carr.

Happy Thanksgiving From CVV





President's Message

Marilyn Wollenweber

Can you believe that it's November? We've had a little taste of fall color and now we have been treated to some badly needed rain! I hope you're staying dry and warm!

I checked out some of the fun dates that occur in November. Remember Sadie Hawkins Day? It's on November 3. November 4 is Will Rogers Day. One of his quotes was, "I don't make jokes, I just watch the government and report the facts." Still current? Some of November's important dates are: November 7, Daylight Savings Time ends, so don't forget to turn your clock back; November 11 is Veterans Day; and, of course, November 25 is Thanksgiving.

We do have lots to be thankful. I so appreciate our CVV Board of Directors, our committee members, and volunteers who work hard to make our Village informative, fun, and useful for our members. We had a great Sunday Supper at La Veranda. Those of you who couldn't make it this year, try to do so next year. It is one of my favorite events that we have. It's fun and it's so good to see everyone enjoying themselves. There were some lovely door prizes this year that were artfully put together!

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving and don't eat too much!



Oldest Park Ranger Turns 100

Oldest Park Ranger Turns 100

Betty Reid Soskin turned 100 this week, but the California resident shows no signs of slowing down anytime soon. She was celebrated this week by the U.S. National Park Service, where she works at Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park. Soskin was 84 when she started with the agency, telling previously untold stories of Black Americans on the homefront during World War II. Today, she's the oldest living park ranger. By Michelle Rotuno-Johnson for El Cerrito, California. Patch

Did You Know?

CVV sends a Weekly Events Blast and a monthly Newsletter. If you're not getting it, check your Spam folder and add CVV to your contact list. It highlights upcoming events for the next two weeks and the newsletter gives you all of the month's happenings. Don't miss out on what is happening at Clayton Valley Village.




Ever wonder WHY we call it SPAM?

Find out at the following link:

digitaltrends.com/web/why-junk-email-is-spam/

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Favorite Books/Movies from CVV Members and Volunteers

The Girl who Wrote in Silk By Kelli Estes



Recommended by Jeanne Boyd

My book group just read this book and everyone found it fascinating, informative and engrossing ! Give it a try.

The smallest items can hold centuries of secrets.

Inara Erickson is exploring her deceased aunt's island estate when she finds an elaborately stitched piece of fabric hidden in the house. As she peels back layer upon layer of the secrets it holds, Inara's life becomes interwoven with that of Mei Lein, a young Chinese girl mysteriously driven from her home a century before. Through the stories Mei Lein tells in silk, Inara uncovers a tragic truth that will shake her family to its core - and force her to make an impossible choice.

***The Girl with the Topaz Ring, a story by CVV member Gary Carr.
Watch for more in succeeding issues!***



The Girl with the Topaz Ring
by Gary Carr

Chapter Eight

The story so far

Myrna has tracked down the red-haired quarterback who fathered Josh's half-sister, only to find that he had died in a motorcycle accident years earlier. Josh confesses to Myrna that he himself is the one looking for the girl and that she is his sibling. Myrna agrees to continue the search since she finds herself caught up in the mystery.

That night, before he fell asleep, Josh thought about Myrna. He found her enthusiasm attractive, unlike the aloof computer nerd he'd always considered her to be. And a lot more attractive, even under her baggy sweats and hair twisted into a top-knot, like ballet dancers that his friend Will referred to as bun-heads. He doubted Myrna was into ballet.

The next day, after work, Josh drove out to his grandparents' house. His grandfather had gone fishing, which gave him the opportunity to talk with his grandmother alone. They sat in the kitchen over cups of coffee.

Bessie apologized for becoming upset at the sight of the girl wearing a topaz ring.

"It brought back so many terrible memories of your mother and that baby. But it was the ring that shocked me."

Josh looked into her eyes, but remained silent, hoping his look would nudge her into continuing. Which she did.

"We gave your mother that ring for her sixteenth birthday. The only time she took it off is when she gave it to the nurse and asked her to make sure it would stay with the baby."

Bessie began sobbing, and tears rolled down her cheeks, and she was barely able to choke out her next words.

"I'm sure that girl is my granddaughter."

"And I intend to find her," Josh whispered.

Josh went over and hugged his grandmother for a long moment, then turned and walked to the kitchen doorway.

"I love you Grandma," he said, his voice cracking, and he turned and silently left Bessie to her memories.

On the drive back into San Francisco, Josh wiped away his own tears and mentally kicked himself for not staying longer with his grandmother. But he convinced himself that lingering would only have increased the elderly woman's pain.

The next morning at work, he popped his head into Myrna's office, but she was not there. As he started back down the hall, Myrna came out of the elevator and ran toward him. She flashed past him and nearly dropped the sheaf of files she cradled against her bosom.

"Can't talk now. I'm late and have to finish this. Come back in fifteen."

Josh sat down at his desk and checked the time on his computer screen. 7:43. Did she know something? The fifteen minutes dragged on as he looked for little tasks to pass the time. He had never organized paper clips by size and color before.

At 7:58, Josh bolted out of his chair and down to Myrna's office.

"Just in time, I'm done," Myrna said.

"You find out something?" Josh asked a little too loudly. He looked out into the hall to see if anyone might have heard him then carefully closed the door.

Myrna smiled at him, and he thought he saw a twinkle in her eyes that signaled success.

"I did, but it took a while," she answered. "I spent a couple of hours diving deep into a Google rabbit hole. You know how one thing leads to another, and I found a newspaper story in a local Michigan paper from thirty years ago. It told about a couple who had adopted a baby."

Josh felt a door slam on his hopes. "A lot of people adopted babies thirty years ago."

“Yes, but this baby came with a tiny gold bracelet with an adult-size ring attached to it. A topaz ring.”

Josh felt his heart pound as he reached for the words. “In Michigan? Where in Michigan?”

“Kalamazoo.”

Josh looked at her in disbelief.

“You’re saying my sister was adopted in Oregon by a couple from Michigan?”

“People come from all over to adopt. Think of the parents of kids from Korea. Or Siberia.”

Josh reached out and hugged Myrna and planted a kiss squarely on the bun on top of her head.

“Myrna, you are truly Wonder Woman.”

Myrna slowly pulled away from him. She smiled and straightened her hair.

“Glad you think so. Now how about that dinner you promised.”

Next time: A dinner brings an unexpected turn.





Upcoming Events

Tuesday, Nov 2nd - Board Meeting
Wednesday, Nov 10th - Lunch & Learn - Post Covid Travel (Zoom)
Tuesday, Nov 16th - CVV Happy Hour (Members and Volunteers)
Thursday, Nov 25th - Thanksgiving Day
Friday, Nov 26th - Events Committee Meeting
Monday, Nov 28th - Hanukkah Begins

See all Events <https://claytonvalley.helpfulvillage.com/events>

Save the Date!

Lunch and Learn: "POST COVID TRAVEL" VIA ZOOM
Date: Wed Nov. 10, 2021
Time: 12:00 to 1:30

Lisa Mittone - Travel Center Tours & Travel, Pleasant Hill



After 18 years in the health care field, I felt like it was time for a career change, having grown up with the travel industry at my fingertips it felt appropriate to move into a career that I love and am passionate about. For me, TravelCenter is a family business as I am walking in my mom's footprints. I am married with 2 daughters, and we all love to travel. My husband and I are both very active in our community, I have sat on my children's Education Fund boards and was a Girl Scout leader for my oldest daughter's troop. I have been on many cruises, traveled to Europe, Asia, Africa and visited many locations in the United States. I look forward to helping you plan your next adventure; whether it's a family friendly vacation, a romantic getaway or a day trip for you and your community members on a motorcoach adventure. I look forward to working with you.

TravelCenter is here to handle your travel needs from start to finish. We attend travel seminars so that our travel knowledge is continuing to evolve and grow with the industry. Our knowledge regarding latest non-stop flight service, new resorts and cruise ships is something we are ready to share with you. Our staff is here to customize your group travel plans, specific to your requests, whether it's a one day local tour, multiday extended tour or a sightseeing day in the city, we handle all the details. We are here to make sure your travel experience is enjoyable from start to finish. TravelCenter offers professional follow through to ensure a hassle-free memorable day or vacation.

RSVP: <https://claytonvalley.helpfulvillage.com/events/1778> **or call, 925-626-0422**
or email Village.clayton@gmail.com



**Clayton Valley Village 7th Annual Sunday Supper
Oct. 10, 2021 - La Veranda Clayton**



Judy Disbrow, Fiona Hughes, Gloria Utley, Adela Oldford, Arlene Lewandowski, Sonja Wilkin, Candy Negrete, Bev Adams, Pete Bardea, Bhishma Lashkari, Gary and Kathy Carr, Eshyah Selig, Dorothy Bradt, Sheila Driscoll, Betty Armes, Neil Brennan, Carole Gardner, Lynn Hadley, Linda Pender, Jim Whitfield, Marilyn Wollenweber, Laurel Madel, Sue Manning, La Veranda Café Ristorante.

7th Annual Sunday Supper ... by Sonja Wilkin

After an absence of two years, Clayton Valley Village members, volunteers, and their guests were able to gather once again at La Veranda on Sunday, October 10th for the Annual Sunday Supper. This year it was not a fundraiser but rather an opportunity to gather as a community to enjoy being with each other and enjoy a delicious dinner, wines, and possibly win a door prize!. We did not have the usual Silent Auction as did not want to go to our local merchants for donations during a most difficult year. Instead, our own talented and generous Members, Volunteers and others donated a variety of items for our beautiful door prize gift baskets.

La Veranda has always provided a welcoming venue with delicious food and excellent service. They have supported us right from the beginning 7 years ago.

The pandemic changed our lives and our routines, but not the desire to gather as best as we could, as safely as possible. The 35 who attended were fully vaccinated and had a wonderful evening!

A BIG THANK YOU to all the donors for the door prizes listed as well as those who gave wines, and to the Events Team and others who coordinated the event. It was a definite SUCCESS!



Bocce Villagio enjoyed its final game of the season on Sunday afternoon, October 17th

Capo Jeanne Boyd kept us on our toes with extra practices and making sure we had a good time! Many celebrated at Skipolinis after the game, grateful for the camaraderie and opportunity to be outdoors with each other during the pandemic!



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

The best way to cheer yourself
is to cheer up somebody else.

- Mark Twain



Standing & Ad Hoc Committees

2021 CVV Board of Directors

Executive Committee:

Marilyn Wollenweber (President), Joanne Vanis (President Elect) Sue Manning (Past-President),

Mary Esther Loranger (Secretary), Joanne Wasak (Treasurer)

Executive Advisory Committee:

Jim Whitfield (Past President)

Sonja Wilkin (Past President)

Members-at-Large

Diane Berger, Arlene Lewandowski, Kathy Geddes,

Volunteer Representative Member

Pete Bardea

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<https://www.claytonvalleyvillage.org>

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Clayton Valley Village or Our Voice Newsletter**

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