

# Our Village VOICE

## A monthly publication of Clayton Valley Village January 2022 Edition

A Message from our Past President and Present President. Check out our Events held in December, Upcoming Events, and more. Also in this issue, we present the 10th installment of the Girl with the Topaz Ring, a story by CVV member Gary Carr. Meet the 2022 Board and lots more.

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**CVV Wishes you the Happiest 2022 New Year!**





## Past President's Message

**Marilyn Wollenweber**

It's now 2022, where has the time gone! Happy New Year!! I hope the holidays were filled with peace and joy for you all. My term as president of the Board for Clayton Valley Village has ended. It's been a joy to serve as your president. I had a very hardworking and supportive Board that helped me, and I am grateful for them all.

It's now Kathy Geddes' turn to take the office. She has been on the Board as a member of our Member Services committee. She was instrumental in creating our Member and Volunteer Handbooks and keeping them up to date. She also helped our Volunteer Coordinator. She has been an invaluable member of the Board and I know she will make a terrific president. I now turn this message over to her.



## President's Message

**Kathy Geddes**

I am pleased to begin serving as your President of Clayton Valley Village in the new year. It has personally been very satisfying to participate in the development of CVV from its inception to having a village that actually provides assistance, activities, and social events for our members.

Under Marilyn's leadership we have seen the return of several of the events and activities that have been popular with our members. As we look ahead to this coming year and to a time when Covid restrictions ease, we are making plans to resume and grow many of the social events, interest circles, classes, and programs that we have enjoyed in the past. Increasing the number of village members and volunteers is always a priority.

I welcome your ideas and suggestions, so please don't hesitate to reach out to me. I look forward to seeing you soon and hope that you will participate and take full advantage of all that Clayton Valley Village offers you. Happy New Year!

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## CVV Welcomes the 2022 Board of Directors

### 2022 CVV BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Pres Kath Geddes



Pres Elect Sue Manning



Pres Elect Sonja Wilkin



Sec Arlen Lewandowski



Tres Joanne Wasak



Past Pres Marilyn Wollenber



Board-Diane Berger



Board-Pete Bardea



Board-Joanne Vanis



Board-Candy Negrete



Board-Kim Basil



Board-Linda Pinder



Board Margaret Bachman

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*Welcome*  
*New Members!*



Ralph Molnar



Barbara Molnar

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## 2022: The Year of The Village

Stay Tuned CVV will be Celebrating Too!



In January 2022, Beacon Hill Village (BHV) will celebrate its 20th anniversary. What started as an innovative concept among a group of friends in the Beacon Hill neighborhood of Boston has turned into a movement. Today there are 19 operating Villages in Massachusetts alone, and over 285 operating and over 40 in development in the U.S. and around the world. BHV has experienced much growth since our founding 20 years ago and today has over 350 members in several neighborhoods across the city of Boston. We believe we change the experience of aging and the lives of our members. In a recent meeting, members expressed the value they receive: 1) life enrichment for less than the cost of a latte per day, 2) psychological benefit of support services across the lifespan, 3) access to and support from other members and professional staff, 4) pre-pandemic enjoyable experiences; pandemic-a life saver, 5) in addition to social value, the Village enriches the whole person (mind, body, soul). We do this through a robust program calendar of social, cultural and educational events, fitness and exercise programs, assistance with essential services such as groceries and transportation, and information and referrals to professional service providers that enable members to successfully age in their own homes and neighborhoods. We hope you'll join us in celebrating 2022, as the year of the Villages, in honor of our founding and in honor of the hard work that has been done by all Villages in the past 20 years. We are working with Village to Village Network to create a special event celebrating the movement and to bring recognition to everyone. **First, we are planning to designate February 15, 2022 as National Villages Day and will host a virtual meeting looking back on how far the movement has come since 2002.** Stay tuned for more details. Second, we are working to secure a M.A. and congressional proclamation marking our success as the first Village and for the whole movement, similar to the proclamation we received in 2017 for our 15th anniversary. Please support us in this effort by also asking your local congressman to make a similar proclamation. Here is to more success!

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# Did You Know?

## Concord House Checks are Back



## Return of Vacation House Check Program

Beginning on December 6, 2021, the Vacation House Check Program will be offered again to Concord residents, free of charge.

Trained volunteers will perform a thorough inspection of your property at least once per week while you are away, paying close attention to the details provided by you on the online Vacation House Check Request Form. Vacation house checks include a perimeter check, physical and/or visual check of all doors and windows, verification of vehicles left on the property, and verification of any people found on the property.

Vacation House Check requests must be submitted online at least 48 hours prior to departure date and cannot be requested for longer than 60 days.

You can access the form to request a vacation house in the link below.

<https://survey123.arcgis.com/.../8f090eab9e3c4fd4a4615d41...>

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## Favorite Books/Movies from CVV Members and Volunteers

### Atlantic Crossing



Movie recommended by Jim and Marilyn

We highly recommend "Atlantic Crossing", a PBS 8 part series that follows the path of Norwegian Crown Princess Marta's efforts to convince President FDR to support Norway and the European countries prior to WW II.

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***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 Ten**

*The story so far:*

*Online, Myrna had found a thirty-year-old story in a Kalamazoo newspaper about a couple who had traveled to Oregon to adopt a newborn. Josh was so excited that the baby might be his half-sister that he made good on his promise to take Myrna to dinner. The evening grew romantic but didn't turn out the way either of them had expected.*

The next morning, Josh arrived at the radio station, whisked by Myrna's office, and went directly to his desk. The mixed signals he received from the previous night made him unsure of what to say to Myrna. The issue was forced an hour later when Myrna walked into his cubicle and set a mug of coffee on his desk.

"Here you go. No cream, no sugar."

Josh looked at her but stayed silent.

"It's a peace offering for last night," she said. "I didn't plan on getting so involved in the VR game."

Josh let her off the hook. "But you were committed. You couldn't let your team down."

Myrna stifled a yawn and said, "Yeah, my priorities suck, but you were smart not to stick around. We didn't finish until three a.m." She allowed herself a full yawn.

"How'd you do?"

"We lost. Now we're in third place."

"Sorry."

"But I have good news for you. Sort of, anyway. Your half-sister's adoptive parents, Janet and Philip Carter, moved from Kalamazoo three years ago. They live in Florida now. I'm going through Florida records."

She stifled another yawn.

"There sure are a lot of Carters in Florida, but so far not those two. The Florida DMV is stingy with their records. But I need a break before I get back on that. Besides, I have a job here, too."



"Yeah, I need to get back to mine. See you at lunch."

Later, Josh came into her office with two bags of Chinese take-out and his half-sister's graduation photo.

"Maybe we should focus on her photo. Could be a clue here," he said.

Myrna opened her bag.

"You forgot the soy sauce."

"Sorry," Josh grunted.

"No worries, I think I have some in my desk."

"You would, wouldn't you."

"Smart ass," she said and punched him on the arm.

"What about the cap and gown?" he murmured through a mouthful of chow fun noodles. "The colors could tell us something."

The young woman wore a blue gown with a blue and gold sash and a gold tassel hanging from her mortarboard, contrasting with her dark red hair.

"Blue and gold," Myrna sighed. "I bet half the schools in the country fight for the Blue and Gold."

Myrna googled "college colors blue and gold."

The online search yielded more schools than Josh would have liked - UC Berkeley, UCLA, Florida International, Notre Dame, Southern, Toledo, Pitt, West Virginia and Navy.

"We've got to narrow this down," he said.

Myrna squinted at the photo. "You can toss out Berkeley. They don't wear sashes. I know from my cousin's graduation."

"Navy, too. She isn't in uniform. Two down, seven to go." Josh jabbed his chopsticks into his chow fun.

Myrna pulled a magnifying glass from her desk and peered at the photo. "I'm not sure that color is gold," she whispered. "It's too light for gold. More like yellow."

"It's an old photo." Josh said. "It could have faded."

"But the blues are still blue. It's probably been kept out of the light for the last five years."

Josh tossed half his egg roll into the bag. "I got an idea," he said, perhaps too loudly for office protocol.

"Shoot, Dude."

Josh talked quickly. "I'll take the photo down to the lab and have them blow it up. Then I'll take the blow-up to a paint store and have them analyze the color. That should show whether it's gold or yellow."

"I like it," she said.

Josh retuned to his office, checked the newswire for breaking stories, and pounded out some copy for the afternoon news. Then he searched the internet for the closest paint store that would still be open after six o'clock. The winner was Reynolds Paints on Fillmore.

The next morning, Josh dashed Myrna's office with a list of colors.

"We just took a big step," he said. "The light color on her graduation outfit isn't gold, it's yellow, *light* yellow. The list of shades I got from the paint store were Morning Buttercup, Baby Canary, Buns 'n' Butter, and Amazing Maize."

"Baby Canary, how cute," she said, with heavy irony.

He ignored her sarcasm. "No, I went through that list of colleges online, and it has to be *maize*. Maize and Blue."

"I was hoping for Buns 'n' Butter."

Josh let that one pass and continued. "There's only two schools on that list whose colors are maize and blue – the University of Michigan and a little school in Minnesota." He looked down at his list again. "It's called, let's see, Carleton."

"Never heard of it."

"Me neither. But it's got to be Michigan. She grew up in Michigan."

Myrna let out a slow sigh. "You realize that there are, like, fifty thousand students at Michigan."

"We'll find her. We just have to contact the alumni department."

"I guess we better get started," she said and turned back to her computer screen.

*Next Time: Sifting Through the Students*

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**It's a Small World After All Cast of Characters:** Mariana Behdjet, Kara Manning, Sue Manning.

**Background:** Mariana and Sue are Clayton Valley Village members; Kara is Sue's daughter. Kara works at Whole Foods Market just over the Ygnacio Valley Road hill at Oak Grove Road. Mariana's and Sue's two sons have known each other since high school.

**The Story:** Mariana ordered a raw brisket of beef and a variety of prepared foods from Whole Foods Market (WFM), and two weeks later went into the store to pick up the items, stopping at Customer Service where Kara was available to help her. As Mariana waited at the prepared foods department for those items, Kara went to the meat department to get the brisket, but the meat department had just sold its last brisket. Mariana was taken aback when Kara told her they had no brisket for her; she was to cook the brisket on Sunday for her family. But Kara asked Mariana where she lived, and when Mariana said "Clayton," Kara replied "great, I live in Clayton too, and I'll get a brisket from another WFM store and will deliver it to your home." Toward the end of the workday, Kara went to the downtown WFM, got a nice brisket, and delivered it to Mariana's home.

- When Kara was sharing her day's experiences with her Mom, she told the story of the snafu. Sue asked the name of the customer, and Kara told her, which caused Sue to gasp "Oh my goodness, I know Mariana! She's a Clayton Valley Villager. I'm going to call her!" Sue called Mariana and said "you know how we recently learned our two sons have known each other since high school? Well, now you know my daughter! She was the one who helped you with the brisket today!" Both Mariana and Sue were tickled to realize how connected they were, and Mariana was generous in her response to Kara's "customer service", especially by sharing her homemade chocolate-covered peanut butter candies.





## Upcoming Events

Saturday, January 1st - New Year's Day  
Wednesday, January 12th - Board Meeting  
Thursday, January 13th - Learn about Clayton Valley Village  
Friday, January 14th - Lunch and Learn "The Best is Yet to Come"  
Monday, January 17th - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  
Tuesday, January 18th - Happy Hour  
Friday, January 28th - Events Committee Meeting

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

# Save the Date!

**Thursday, Jan 13th - Come and Learn About CVV**  
(Open to the Public RSVP Required)

Date: Jan 13, 2022 - 2:00 PM 3:00 PM

Where: Clayton Valley Presbyterian Church, 1578 Kirker Pass Road



**We Welcome You**

Our volunteers provide transportation, social connections and at-home assistance to our members in Clayton and Concord.

As the only such service in Clayton and Concord for seniors, we're inviting potential new members and volunteers to learn more about our Village programs and benefits at an this informational event.

**Coffee and dessert will be served.**

**RSVP:** <https://claytonvalley.helpfulvillage.com/events/1869> - Call 925-626-0411, or email [village.clayton@gmail.com](mailto:village.clayton@gmail.com)

**Friday, Jan 14th - Lunch and Learn  
"The Best is Yet to Come"**

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***Lunch and Learn!***  
***Friday, January 14, 2022***  
***12 Noon – Via Zoom***  
***The Best is Yet to Come!***



**"Enjoy life as you age by being productive and vibrant through intentional living."**

Aging looks very different now than it did for our parents and grandparents. The kids are grown, you've had success, you want to be useful and enjoy the rest of your life but you don't have clear picture of what that means. You have a lot of productive and interesting years ahead. I'm here to help you get excited about your future.

As a certified life coach with over 15 years of experience in in weight loss and wellness, I've developed a unique practice with daily video coaching sessions you can access at your convenience.



If you're a person who knows what she wants but feels a little lost as to how to get it, you've come to the right place!

RSVP: <https://claytonvalley.helpfulvillage.com/events/1875>, Call 925-Phone: 626-0411 or Email: [village.clayton@gmail.com](mailto:village.clayton@gmail.com)

Zoom link will be sent a couple of days before event.

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**Tuesday, Feb 15th, CVV Annual Meeting**



Come and Meet the New Board and Meet some of our Members and Volunteers.  
Hear our Exciting Plans for 2022

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**HOLIDAY GIVING TREE SUCCESS!**  
by Fiona Hughes



A very big 'thank you' to our many CVV members and volunteers who kindly donated gift cards that provided local families in need with a helping hand over the holidays!

Thanks also go to Shirley Izard who faithfully liaises with me to execute this annual gift giving event. This year we supported the Giving Tree program at St. Bonaventure Church which distributes gift cards to 150 local families, enabling them to buy groceries, and home necessities.

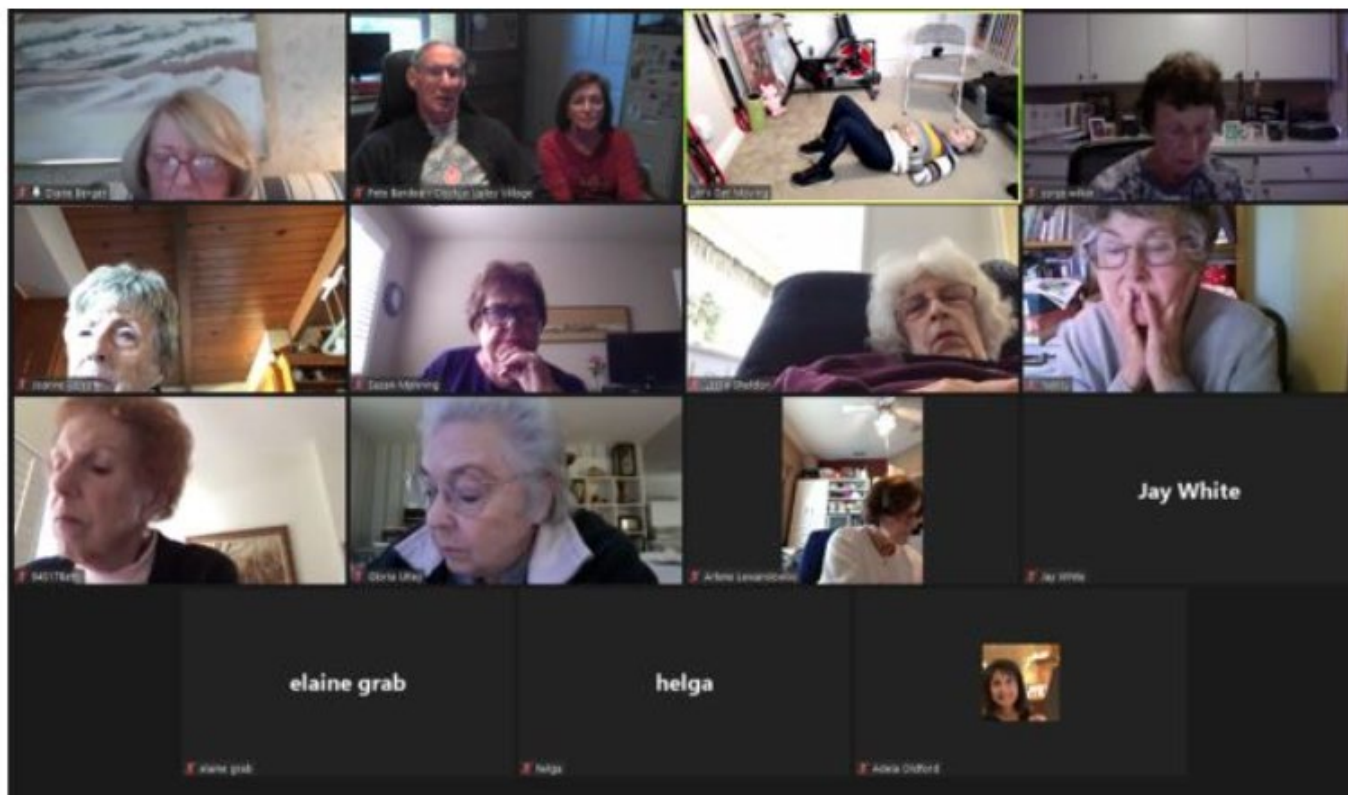
Our own little Clayton Valley Village tree of contributions is seen here, being assembled (*photo attached*). We collected and delivered a whopping \$785 for this cause, and received the following message from Jeannie Ligouri, the Giving Tree coordinator:

"Dear Fiona and Clayton Valley Villagers - Thank you so very much for your generosity. During these difficult times your donations will be so appreciated by our parishioners. Wishing you all a Happy Holiday Season and an amazing 2022. Thank you again, and God bless".



## Lunch and Learn (Dec 10) - How To Get Up From A Fall

Lupe Labourdett demonstrated how to get up from a fall. She shared important information to know, not only if you are the one who fell, but also if you are trying to help a loved one who has fallen.



## CVV Members and Volunteers were treated to beautiful Poinsettias



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### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right.

- Oprah Winfrey

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**Standing & Ad Hoc Committees**

**2022 CVV Board of Directors**

**Executive Committee:**

Kathy Geddes (President), Sue Manning & Sonja Wilkin (President Elect),  
Marilyn Wollenweber (Past-President), Arlene Lewandowski (Secretary),  
Joanne Wasak (Treasurer)

**Members-at-Large**

Diane Berger, Joanne Vanis, Candy Negrete

**Volunteer Representative Members**

Pete Bardea, Linda Pinder, Kim Brazill, Margaret Bachman

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

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The editors welcome all submissions and reserve the right  
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Clayton Valley Village is a 501c3 Nonprofit: 81-3858223

Donations are tax-deductible and welcomed.

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