



A monthly publication of Clayton Valley Village
February 2022 Edition

A Message from our President. Check out our Events held in January, Upcoming Events, and more. Also in this issue, we present the 11th installment of the Girl with the Topaz Ring, a story by CVV member Gary Carr.





President's Message

Kathy Geddes

Our Annual Meeting will take place via Zoom on Tuesday, February 15, at 7 p.m. This "State of the Village" meeting provides all of us with the opportunity to recall what our village has been doing for the past year, hear about how we have served and met the needs of our members, meet our new Board, and see what 2022 might hold for CVV. Plan to join us. Despite our January activities and events being modified and/or postponed due to ever-changing Covid restrictions, Clayton Valley Village was able to hold a well-attended Neighborhood Informational Meeting, host an interesting CVV Lunch and Learn session entitled "The Best is Yet to Come!", and enjoy each other's company and delicious dinners at Incas Grill. Our great volunteers continued to respond to the member requests for services—transportation, tech and home repairs and assistance. I believe that even with the many pandemic restrictions, we have found an exceptionally caring and supportive community in Clayton Valley Village. There are very good things happening here!

I am optimistic that we will see a resurgence of many past activities and programs, with even greater participation, in the not-so-distant future. Now is a good time for us to dream and plan for upcoming events and projects, and to grow our community. We would love to have your help.

Welcome

to our New Member!



Carole Gardner

Carole is a retired Performing Arts Teacher.

She grew up in Rural Iowa, Pop.520, in the Heartland of America.

She lived in San Diego and Orange County before moving to Clayton in 2012 to be near her 2 sons and 4 grandsons.

Carole enjoys performing with the Diablo Women's Chorale, a Church choir, and a Handbell Choir. She also enjoys sports and plays Bocce Ball.



Members and Volunteers

January 17th	Joyce Atkinson
January 21st	Sue Manning
January 26th	Gloria Uttey
February 3rd	Gary Carr
February 3rd	Glendoris Sargent
February 19th	Peggy Hooper
February 28th	Carole Gardner



Interesting Stories Around the Bay



Kaiser wasn't only a Medical Facility

After World War II ended and Henry J. Kaiser's shipyards closed, he continued to be active in the shipping trade. One example of his support for sailors was the curious case of the freighter Pho Pho.

In 1950, members of the Sailors' Union of the Pacific picketed the Panamanian-flagged SS Pho Pho, owned by a Greek-American, at the port of Redwood City in Northern California. The Kaiser Gypsum Company had entered into a six-year shipping contract with the vessel owner because it was retiring its own ship, the SS Permanente Silverbow.

The sailors' union demanded that ". . . The owners of the Pho Pho negotiate an agreement bringing wages and conditions [of the foreign crew] to the same level as (that of) American vessels."

S.S. Permanente Silverbow was one of two steamships that carried bulk cement shipments to ports along the Pacific Coast and in Hawaii, Circa 1944.

Instead of digging in his heels and fighting the labor action, Kaiser saw the long-term value of labor peace and made a friendly bet with union president Harry Lundeberg. As the ship was idled for 10 weeks, Kaiser reportedly told Lundeberg "If you win this beef, Harry, I'll name the ship after you."

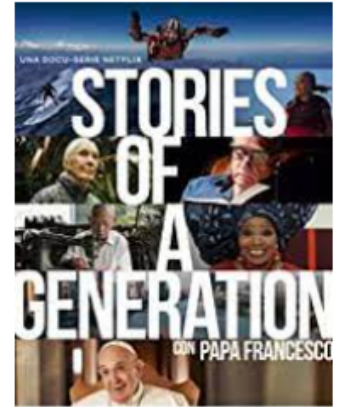
The union campaign was successful, and the vessel became the first to be crewed entirely by union members. Kaiser honored his word, bought the ship, and the SS Pho Pho became the SS Harry Lundeberg on July 20, 1950. She ran aground off the Mexican coast at Cape San Lucas (near San Marcos Island in Baja California, where gypsum was being mined) in 1955, and was replaced with a second ship in 1958.

After the Pho Pho victory, Sailors' union members also operated two subsequent Kaiser Gypsum ships, the SS Ocean Carrier and the SS Western Ocean.

Favorite Books/Movies from CVV Members and Volunteers

Movies Recommended by Mary Esther

Netflix "STORIES of a GENERATION with Pope Francis" is a remarkable 4-part global documentary about the older and younger generations of our world reaching out to each other with love, compassion, deep understanding and trying to teach each other what we need to share best. There are so many candid and heartwarming stories and poignant lessons to be learned. Pope Francis is interviewed throughout and shares his thoughts. Martin Scorsese is interviewed by his daughter. On and on. It is so full of history and inspiration.



"THE TENDER BAR" is an Amazon Prime movie which will warm your heart. It's about an aspiring young writer who literally grew up in his uncle's family's bar and is accepted in their colorful and humble lives. It is based on a true memoir. So good to watch!



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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 Eleven

The story so far:

Josh and Myrna track down Josh's half-sister's parents from Kalamazoo to Florida, but the trail turns cold. They turn to tracing the girl through the color of her graduation robes and discover that it's not gold and blue, but maize and blue, and narrow the list of colleges with those colors to two, the University of Michigan and a small Minnesota school named Carleton. They realize it's a daunting task, given that Michigan has more than fifty thousand students. Nevertheless, they begin the search.

Myrna went online and found the number for the University of Michigan student records department. Josh made the call and was placed on hold by the robotic voice at the other end.

"Damned artificial intelligence," he muttered.

They spent the next several minutes listening to a tinny recording of "Ode to Joy" until Josh hung up in frustration.

"Hey," Myrna said, "Now you've lost your place in the queue."

"That's enough joy for me, let's call the other school. The one in Minnesota."

Myrna found the number for the Carleton College student records department, and Josh punched the numbers into his cell phone.

The voice at the other end was human and sounded cheerful.

"Student Records, this is Olga."

Josh explained that he was trying to reach his adopted sister whom he had never met, and he needed a way to contact her.

"We suspect that she graduated from Carleton somewhere between 2015 and 2018 and that her last name was Larson."

Olga responded with a standard answer - the college didn't provide such personal information about their students.

Myrna whispered to Josh that she'd heard this answer a thousand times and told him to sound more desperate.

Josh nodded and jumped into the story of how his ageing grandparents were searching for the granddaughter whom their daughter had given birth to - a baby girl who was tragically given up for adoption and later this granddaughter died giving birth to a son, their grandson, who was desperate to find his sister and gain some small connection, through his sister, to his deceased mother and bring closure for his beloved grandparents.

Josh thought he heard Olga let out a sob.

"Oh, Sweetie, that's so sad. What is your sister's name?"

"All I know is that she was adopted by a couple named Larson."

Oh, my goodness, can you imagine the number of Larsons who come to this school every year. We're in Minnesota, doncha know? But let me try a search."

Olga put him on hold, and Josh and Myrna exchanged a high five.

When Olga came back, she asked, "Is that Larson with an "O" or an "E"?"

"I'm pretty sure it's an "O", Josh answered. "I have a photo of her in her graduation robes. She has red hair and was wearing a walking boot."

Olga brightened even further. "Oh, you're looking for Krissy Larson. Everyone here remembers her. She was a soccer star and led us to the D-three national Championship. She's wearing that boot because she broke her ankle scoring the winning goal against St. Olaf. Poor girl had to limp across the stage to get her diploma. She turned pro and she doin' real well."

Olga's voice went fuzzy as she called to someone else in the office.

"Hey, Louann, what's the team Krissy Larson plays for? The soccer team"?

Olga came back with the answer. "She plays for the Baltimore Barbies. You could google her."

Josh and Myrna filled the air with fist-pumps.

Josh thanked Olga for her help, and Myrna jumped back onto her computer.

"Baltimore Barbies, here you go."

Josh leaned over Myrna's shoulder and their cheeks touched.

She scrolled down the list of team members until – and there she was – "Krissy Larson, Striker, WSL First Team All Star 2020, 2021, Highest Total Goals, 2020, 2021." But not mentioned was the detail that meant more to Josh than anything else - his mother's child and his half-sister. And there was her photo - even at postage-stamp size, her red hair was unmistakable.

Further down the page was a paragraph about the Baltimore Barbies: "Established 1999, President and CEO, Franz Guttman. Owned by Tomashita Toys, a Division of WorldCo Group Enterprises, Ltd. Team name "the Barbies" derived from Tamashita Toys' signature product, the Barbie Doll."

"So, your sister's a Barbie," giggled Myrna. "I guess that makes you a Ken."

"No, it makes me happy. Ecstatic. Over the Moon."

He put his arms around Myrna and hugged her tightly.

"And I've got you to thank for it."

Next Time, the Final Chapter. "Reunion."



Upcoming Events

Wednesday, February 9th - Board Meeting
Monday, February 14th - CVV Explorers Hike (Members and Volunteers)
Monday, February 14th - Valentine's Day
Tuesday, February 15th - CVV Annual Mtg - Zoom
Thursday, February 17th - Tech Committee Meeting
Monday, February 21st - Presidents' Day
Friday, February 25th - Events Committee Meeting
Monday, February 28th - Member Services Meeting

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



Jan 14, 2022 "Lunch and Learn"

The Best is Yet to Come

Speaker - Lanette



Presenter Lanette Hopkins, a life coach, shared lots of good tips on how to get your day started.

HAPPY HOUR at Inca Grill - Tuesday, January 18th.

Thumbs Up on the extensive menu
and festive cocktails.



We were delighted to have Concord
Councilmember Carlyn Obringer join us.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

The public was invited to Learn about CVV at Clayton Valley Presbyterian Church in Concord on Thursday, January 13th.



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Love is Forgiving.

That's one word and it's two.

- Wayne Dyer-



Standing & Ad Hoc Committees

2022 CVV Board of Directors

Executive Committee:

Kathy Geddes (President), Sue Manning & Sonja Wilkin (Co- 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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