



**A monthly publication of Clayton Valley Village**  
**March 2022 Edition**

A Message from our President. Check out our Events held in February, Upcoming Events, and more. See who has joined CVV as Members, our 2021 Volunteers of the Year and Bingo. Also in this issue, we present Chapter 12 of the Girl with the Topaz Ring, a story by CVV member Gary Carr.

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**President's Message**

Kathy Geddes

Our Annual Meeting took place on the evening February 15 via Zoom. It was a very enjoyable evening-- the mood was light, and people were friendly and engaged. There were 31 people who joined in—a very good turn-out. During this “State of the Clayton Valley Village” presentation, we watched a well-done video that highlighted our 2021 events and programs and heard about our membership growth and the services we have provided to our village members.

Our new board members (Margaret Bachman, Kim Brazill, Candy Negrete and Linda Pinder) were introduced, and our gratitude was extended to outgoing Board Member/Secretary MaryEsther Loranger and President Marilyn Wollenweber. Some of the committees (Events, Member Services, Outreach and Interest Circles) which keep our village vibrant with continued growth and interesting activities, shared about a successful 2021 and gave us a glimpse of plans and possibilities in 2022. There was the opportunity for questions and answers, and after the awarding of a door prize, the meeting was called to a close. All in less than an hour!

I am extremely proud of how Clayton Valley Village has become an important part in the lives of our members and volunteers. We look forward to gathering in person very soon and having the opportunities to meet new friends while reacquainting with (do I dare say?) the old ones. Keep a watch out for what's happening via our emailed weekly Clayton Valley Village Weekly Update, our monthly newsletter *Our Village Voice*, and by checking out what's new on our website: <https://www.claytonvalleyvillage.org/>

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# Welcome

## New Members!



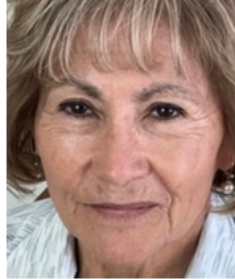
**Kathryn Olson**



**Aurora San Jeevey**



**Shelly Beardsley**



**Dee McCombs**

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**In Loving Memory of Andreas Xiari**  
**Clayton Valley Village Founding Member**  
**And Treasured Friend**



**May His Memory Be Eternal...**

**Andreas Xiari** passed away peacefully at home with his family on January 31<sup>st</sup> in Clayton, Ca. He was a beloved pappa, husband, brother, uncle, cousin, godfather, colleague, and friend. Andreas was a gift of love. He shined bright with affection and fun-loving spirit.

Andreas was born in Famagusta, Cyprus on October 5, 1960 to Sophocles and Artemoulla Xiaris. He was sent to live with his sister Eli and brother-in-law Panayiotis Tofini in the aftermath of the war in Cyprus in 1974.

Andreas attended San Leandro High School and graduated with double AA degrees from Chabot College in Business and Technology. His career was in Information Technology Management, with both AAA Insurance and Kaiser Permanente. He was actively involved in the local Greek church community, including serving on parish councils.

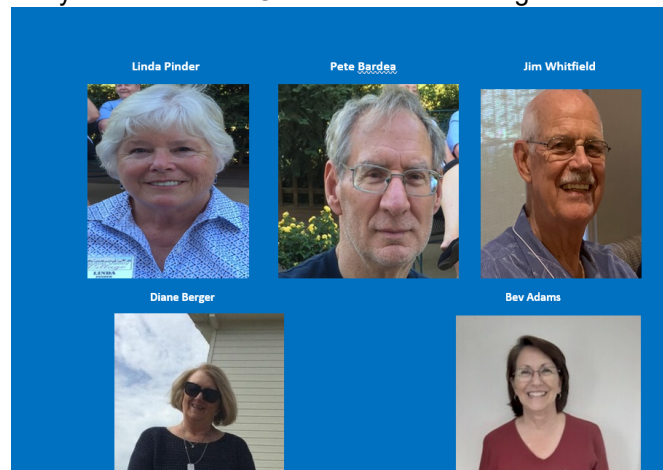
In 2000 he married Maria Kontras and started his family in the town he loved, Clayton, Ca. His favorite activities were hunting, fishing, and camping, biking and hiking. He expressed his love by making everything he did meaningful and fun for all and making his friends and loved ones feel well cared for.

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### **2021 CVV Volunteers of the Year**

The members of CVV voted Linda Pinder, Pete Bardea, Jim Whitfield, Diane Berger and Bev Adams as our 2021 Volunteers of the year. They went above and beyond to help our members and village. They were awarded Genova Delicatessen gift cards for their great work.



## Clayton Valley Village Volunteer Services



Minor plumbing, home repairs, landscaping, transportation

### Member Testimonials for our Great Volunteers!

As always, my sincere gratitude to Bev for taking me to my appointment. Also, I'm so thankful to you, too Diane for your dedicated help with all requests. THANK YOU!! SK

Pete not only was willing to tackle the cleaning of my vacuum at my home but reviewed my printer ink cartridge problem from another service call and updates on it (very lengthy phone calls). SW

Pete called me and came the same day. Was able to break down the tree and bag it. Move all my decorations to my shed, including the tree bags. He also put in some salt for my water softener that I bought because I knew he was coming. Always good to see Pete. MH

Jim was right on time to pick me up which I appreciate! SM



### Members and Volunteers

Mar 4th	Judy Disbrow
Mar 9th	Joseph Gerhards
Mar 17th	Carol Herrington



### Favorite Movie/TV and Books From Members and Volunteers



#### "LIVES WELL LIVED"

Celebrating the Secrets, Wit & Wisdom of Age

A film by Sky Bergman

Viewed by Mary Esther Loranger

Another TV movie to watch: "LIVES WELL LIVED 75-100" on Amazon. This documentary celebrates the incredible wit and wisdom of people, aged 75-100, who reveal their secrets for living



a meaningful life. It is fascinating, insightful, inspiring and often delightfully funny! I highly recommend it.

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## Interesting Stories Around the Bay



### **The Clayton Historical Museum presents**

### **Clayton Farms**

**A new exhibit that tells the story of our local  
farming history (and so much more!)**



### **Before suburbia struck, Clayton was all about farming**

Many Clayton homes sit on land that was once used for farming. A special exhibit on the history of Clayton farming runs at the Clayton Museum through June 2022. Visitors can learn about how the early farmers dealt with pests, irrigation, labor and more.

From the mid-1800s through the 1950s, the Clayton Valley was primarily farmed for wheat and later for wine grapes. "Both crops did well in a climate where there is no rainfall in the summer," explained Nancy Niemeyer, creator of the temporary exhibit at the Clayton Museum.

Clayton was home to many wineries, including Mt. Diablo Vineyards and Paul DeMartini Vineyards. Most land eventually transitioned to fruit and nut orchards and row crops.

The exhibit includes photographs, newspaper quotes and artifacts, as well as well-researched history spanning 100 years until housing developments replaced much of the farmland.

Niemeyer, a volunteer who retired from her work as an agricultural biologist with the Contra Costa County Agriculture Department, spent four months putting together the exhibit. Her research took her to the Concord and Clayton Historical Societies and the Contra Costa County Agriculture Department, as well as many online sources.

In the adjacent room of the museum, called the Town Room, there are additional artifacts in the permanent collection that complement this temporary exhibit, including farm tools and old wine bottles.

While there, you can also learn about the first inhabitants of Clayton Valley and early pioneers like Joel and

Margaret Clayton.

The Clayton museum at 6101 Main St. is open 2-4 p.m. Wednesdays and Sundays and by appointment.  
Email [museum@claytonhistory.org](mailto:museum@claytonhistory.org) or 925-672-0240).

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## PATRONIZE YOUR ADVERTISERS



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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 Twelve

**NOTE: The Character name Myrna has been changed to "Sarah." (Author's Decision) Also, the next chapter will not be the final one. The story will end with Chapter Fourteen.**

*The story so far:*

*Using the maize and blue colors of the half-sister's graduation robe, Josh and Sarah track her to a small Minnesota school named Carleton. They learn from the student records clerk that the girl is a well-known graduate, Krissy Larson, who was a soccer star at Carleton, now playing professionally for the Baltimore Barbies.*

Josh took a deep breath and dialed the main office of the Baltimore Barbies.

Sarah grabbed his hand and held tight.

A recorded voice gave detailed instructions for purchasing Barbies' tickets, followed by a listing of the team's home games for the rest of the season.

Josh made galloping-horse sounds on the desk with his fingers.

Finally, the voice said to stay on the line if you want to speak with an operator.

Sarah slapped Josh's hand to stop the galloping.

"Baltimore Barbies. What do you want?" said a human voice.

Josh explained that he wanted to speak with Krissy Larson because she was his long-lost half-sister.

"Well, that's a new one," the voice answered. "Look, if you want free tickets, tell your story to PR, maybe they'll give you half a ticket."

The voice snorted out a laugh but went on. "Leave your name and number, and if she wants to call you back, she will."

Josh spelled out his name and slowly recited his number.

"Don't hold your breath, Half-Bro," the voice said, snorted again, and hung up.

"I bet she calls," Sarah said.

"Hope so," he sighed.

That night, Josh lay awake wondering if Krissy would call.

"I could try calling again, but how long should I wait? Have to be careful she doesn't think I'm stalking her."

His phone pinged with a text, and he grabbed for the nightstand. His phone said 3:00 am.

It was Sarah.

"U up? Hear anything? She's three hours ahead of us." she texted.

"Thanks for the tip on the Time Zones," he texted back. Yes, I'm up, and no, she hasn't called."

"Don't be fussy. I'm as nervous as you are."

"Sorry."

"That's OK. We should hear something tomorrow. If your message got passed on to her."

"Now I've got THAT to worry about."

"Oops, sorry. I'm no help."

"Yes, you are. I'll go get a glass of wine."

"Good idea. G'night."

The next morning, Josh leaned into Sarah's office and held up two pairs of crossed fingers. Sarah gave him a thumb's-up.

They went down the street to a Thai restaurant for lunch. They had just ordered when Josh's phone buzzed. He wrenched the phone out of his pocket and fumbled to answer.

It was Krissy Larson.

"I'm looking for the guy who says he's my half-brother."

The waitress came by, and Sarah waved her away.

"That's me. I'm Josh McDonald. We've been trying to contact you. I'm calling from San Francisco."

Josh took a deep breath. "We share the same birth mother."

Silence at the other end.

"Look, Krissy, I'm sure you're my half-sister. You were adopted in Oregon by Janet and Phillip Larson. You graduated from —"

Josh suddenly drew a blank.

"From Carleton College," Sarah whispered loudly.

"From Carleton College in Minnesota. You were on the soccer team, a star, and you broke your ankle in your final game. You grew up in Kalamazoo, and your parents moved to Florida two years ago."

"What did you do, hack into the DMV?" Krissy asked.

Josh decided to play his trump card. "When you were adopted, you had a topaz ring on a gold chain around your neck."

Krissy let out a gasp and an "Oh, my God, I want to meet you."

Josh summarized their common past – their grandparents in El Cerrito and their mother who died when he was three.. He was solemn when he mentioned her father, a student athlete who had red hair. He left out any mention of his own father, figuring that could come later – if at all.

Through her tears, Krissy said she would be on the West Coast the following week when The Barbies played the Santa Clara Microchips.

Josh suggested they meet at a restaurant near the stadium in Santa Clara, and he would text her the address.

"I can't wait to meet you," she said, "But I'm elated and scared all at the same time."

"Same here, Sis, same here," he said.

*Next: Josh and Sarah meet Krissy...and her friend.*

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## Upcoming Events

Friday, March 4th - Jan-Feb-Mar Birthday Celebration  
Wednesday, March 9th - Board Meeting  
Sunday, March 13th - Daylight Savings Time Begins  
Tuesday, March 15th - CVV Happy Hour  
Thursday, March 17th - St. Patrick's Day  
Friday, March 25th - Events Committee Meeting  
Monday, March 28th - Member Services Meeting

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

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**Village Explorer's Hike on the Iron Horse Trail - Monday, Feb 14<sup>th</sup>**





Dorothy Bradt, Kathy O'Toole, Anita Stranik, Fiona Hughes, Barbara Molnar, Bev Adams, Adela Oldford, Don Stranik. Pete Bardea took the picture.

Barbara Molnar was intrigued by the Iron Horse Trail and shares her thoughts:

## On Trains and Carbon Footprints

by Barbara Molnar

Strange things happen when you are on the Internet! While looking up info about the Iron Horse Trail, where I'd just completed a CVV Explorers Group hike, I inadvertently ate my husband's portion of the orange-glazed scone I'd saved from our post-hike lunch at Panera. When my husband asked for it, I discovered the plate contained only a few remaining crumbs!

I learned that the Southern Pacific Railroad was the basis of the Iron Horse Trail, hence its name, as they'd owned the track from 1891 to 1978 when it served Concord and Pleasanton, along with numerous other railroads in this area. Transporting people to San Francisco and plying agricultural products throughout the area, it was a sort of pre-Amazon convoy of delivery vehicles, though not quite door-to-door.

Yet on our hike, here we were, still a train, albeit a small one, of mere individuals, (neither encased in tons of steel or carefully engineered impact resistant plastic) simply walking and talking.

Pre-Covid there was a resurgence of this walking trend, when reportedly young adults no longer rushed to buy their own automobile upon obtaining their drivers' licenses. The financial aftermath of 2008 and the expense of owning and maintaining one's personal one-pod 'train' contributed to this – and a bicycle or public transit became a more appealing alternative.

But then came Covid - and that trend dissipated, except for the hard-core cyclists. Back to the personal bubble-pod of an automobile to safely carry the family where they needed to go. BART and buses kept running with only a scattering of occupants. They may never regain their ridership, and may perhaps gradually restrict services, raise rates, or disappear. What then for the marginalized, with no cheap and available transportation to jobs and shopping areas?

Such was the demise of many intercity trams following the onslaught of cheap buses and fuel, which left generations to waste hours in traffic-jammed streets.

**CVV's Annual Meeting was held on February 15th with our new President, Kathy Geddes presiding.**



## Highlights

1. Marilyn announced the 2022 CVV Board of Directors; Kathy Geddes (President), Marilyn Wollenweber (Past President), Joanne Wasak (Treasure), Arlene Lewandowski (Secretary), Sonja Wilkin (Pres Elect), Sue Manning (Pres Elect), Diane Berger (Board), Pete Bardea (Board), Joanne Vanis (Board), Margaret Bachman (Board), Candy Negrete (Board) and Kim Brazill (Board).
2. Kathy Geddes talked about one of CVV goals is to grow our member and volunteer base by reaching out to Concord.
3. Fiona Hughes presented a pictorial "year in review" showing members and volunteers at activities and events. She noted growth in service requests and volunteer hours as well as accomplishments in 2021. The video will be available to view on our website.



R&M Pools Patio & Garden Gifts

Clayton Valley Village would like to thank Nicole of R&M Pool and Patio for the donation of a \$40 gift certificate for our CVV Annual Meeting door prize. The drawing was awarded to our very surprised outgoing President, Marilyn Wollenweber, who then donated it to one of the CVV well deserving volunteers after the meeting. Thank you Nicole!! And if you stop in to see her at 6780 Marsh Creek Road, say HI to her and thank her for her support to CVV!

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On Friday Night Feb 11th Diane, Bev and Pete went to play Bingo at the veteran's hall on Cowell Road. While Bev was able to experience the joy of victory (she split a \$12.00 pot), Diane and Pete suffered the agony of defeat - but we were oh so close.

Here is the information about the Bingo – Check it out on Friday Nights!  
**Help us help our homeless veterans by joining us each Friday for a good game of BINGO.**

You can win money, prizes and just have fun while helping to build homes for our veterans to whom we owe so much. To learn more please visit [V1ST.ORG](http://V1ST.ORG), or [V1STBINGO.com](http://V1STBINGO.com) We look forward to seeing you soon.

**Where:** 4349 Cowell Road

**Who:** V1stVets

**Time:** 7:00 PM

**When:** Every Friday Night

**Cost:** Your first Buy-in-Pack cost \$10 (Required to play)

Each additional Buy-in-Pack (after the first required one) is \$5

**ADDITIONAL GAMES**

Flash Bingo Cards \$1

Lucky Split Tickets \$1 - 6 for \$5

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**GARDEN CLUB - DIABLO FOOTHILLS DISTRICT -  
FLORAL COUTURE FASHION SHOW**

**When:** Saturday March 26, 2022

**Where:** Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Dr. Danville, Ca.

**Time:** 12:30 to 2:30

**RSVP:** <https://dfdinc.org/events>





# *Diablo Foothills District*

*Presents*

*Floral Couture Fashions by*



Fashion Show and Luncheon Fundraiser Event

Crow Canyon Country Club  
711 Silver Lake Drive, Danville

**Saturday, March 26, 2022**

Come early, 11:00 AM  
View "One of a Kind" art, quilts, etc. Items available for purchase

Lunch and show 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

**\$65 per person**

**\$500 Table of Eight**

**Reservation's deadline March 14, 2022. No refund after this date.**

Crow Canyon CC requires attendees to be fully vaccinated and boosted  
or have proof of negative virus status 72 hours prior to event date.

- 1.Menu choices: Sunburst Salad** (Baby Greens, seasonal berries, candied pecans, mandarin oranges, blue cheese, grilled chicken breast, creamy balsamic vinaigrette)
- 2.Blackened Salmon Salad** (Spinach, watermelon, fresh berries, red onions, candied walnuts, feta cheese, raspberry vinaigrette)
- 3.Vegetarian Salad (Sunburst Salad – no chicken)**

Credit Card Reservations: see <https://www.dfdinc.org>  
or (preferable) Make checks payable to DFD and mail to:  
Audrey Marlovits., 2141 Belford Drive, Walnut Creek, CA 94598-3310

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## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

We have a choice every day  
regarding the attitude we will  
embrace for the day. Life is 10%  
what happens to us and 90% how we  
react to it. Our attitude is everything.

-- Charles R. Swindoll



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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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<https://www.claytonvalleyvillage.org>

**Submissions, Questions or Comments about  
Clayton Valley Village or Our Voice Newsletter**

Email: [Village.Clayton@gmail.com](mailto:Village.Clayton@gmail.com) or Phone: 925-626-0411



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