



A monthly publication of Clayton Valley Village
April 2022 Edition

A Message from our President. Check out our Events held in March, Upcoming Events, and more. Also in this issue, we present Chapter 13 of the Girl with the Topaz Ring, a story by CVV member Gary Carr. Check out the flyer for the 2022 Hope Walk



Join or Renew Your Membership



If you are already a member, you will be receiving a member renewal email on April 1st. If you usually mail in your check, send your check to P.O. Box 1274 Clayton, CA 94517. If you need to update your profile, email your changes to [village.clayton@gmail](mailto:village.clayton@gmail.com) or call 925-626-0411.

Annual Membership Dues

Couple membership is \$660 and Single membership is \$480.

If you are interested in joining CVV call (925) 626-0411 to be sent an application, or download one yourself at <https://www.claytonvalleyvillage.org/member-application>.



President's Message

Kathy Geddes

A careful look outside shows an explosion of buds and blooms, birds and critters, warmer weather, and hopefully a bit of rain. Yes, Spring has arrived once again with lots of new beginnings and growth.

Clayton Valley Village is right in the thick of things with an increase in our membership and so many new and different ways that our "Villagers" can come together for their enjoyment and well-being. Our committees are planning new events and classes that are bound to be interesting and entertaining such as: new and different **Social Events**, new walking/hiking destinations for our **Village Explorers** group, viewing of new movies by our **Movie Group**, and "after Covid" trips for our **Out to Lunch Bunch** and **Romeo** Gents. We even play **Bocce**.

More details can be found below and in upcoming CVV newsletters and Weekly Updates. If you didn't see your favorite hobby or activity included above, and you are interested in helping to get one started for CVV, just contact our Interest Groups coordinator, Sue Manning, at suemanning121@gmail.com

A great event is on the horizon: **Clayton Valley Village's 5th Anniversary Celebration** on May 1st. Many plans have already been made with plenty left to be done. So much fun and good food—you won't want to miss this! More details will be coming out soon.

I hope to see you soon. Stay safe and be well.

Welcome

New Members & Volunteers!



Barbara Glass – Member



Ronald Mahlman - Volunteer



Members and Volunteers

April Birthdays

Apr 4th	Larry Solen
Apr 5th	Susan Kendall
Apr 5th	Roberta Powell
Apr 5th	Ken Studer
Apr 7th	Jeanne Boyd
Apr 9th	Doris Logan
Apr 16th	Betty Armes
Apr 16th	Mary Rogers
Apr 18th	Barbara Molnar
Apr 26th	Maria Xiaris
Apr 27th	Petronella Coleman



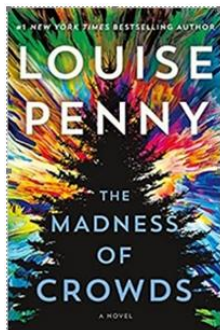
BORN IN APRIL

- Active and dynamic
- Decisive but impulsive
- Attractive and attention seeking
- Strong mind
- Diplomatic
- Friendly and solves people's issues
- Brave and outgoing
- Loving and giving
- Emotional and generous
- Easily envious

Favorite Movie/TV and Books From Members and Volunteers

A Book In Winter

by Barbara Molnar



I like the comfortable world Louise Penny creates: her Canadian village of Three Pines not shown on any map; the bistro serving the incredibly delectable food (warning: do not read on an empty stomach); the assorted characters including dogs and duck who inevitably become more real to you than your seldom-seen next-door neighbors. But in the post-Covid world Louise Penny creates in her novel "The Madness of Crowds", there is an underlying dark theme which seems to spring from those two dark pandemic winters when the book was created.

It starts innocently enough, just a request for Chief Inspector Gamache to provide security for a speaker at a university near Three Pines. However, the speaker, a female professor of statistics, has acquired quite a large social media following and the crowd that shows up overflows the small gymnasium. There is a shot and a near riot.

The book accelerates from that event, as Gamache and his crew seek the person or persons who arranged the attempted assassination. Later there is a successful murder, but the question then is, was the victim murdered by mistake? And if so, why?

There is an eventual resolution, but this book has introduced ideas and forebodings that have no resolution. Louise Penny asks if the world surviving the pandemic would have changed in ways that would allow this fictional professor's message to become part of our future reality. Would nations and societies, reeling from the physical and economic carnage of the pandemic, be tempted to adopt deliberately what the pandemic accomplished: a new eugenics, where the old and infirm, the physically and mentally disabled, would be willfully eliminated in order to ensure a productive and economically viable new world.

This book makes you think. This is not a comfortable book.

Note: Eight episodes of the series "Three Pines", produced in 2021, are to be released sometime in 2022 by Amazon Prime.

Interesting Stories Around the Bay



The Way It Was-Main Street, Walnut Creek, Ca. 1953



Heavy traffic generated by the opening of Broadway Shopping Center, along with outdated street designs, prompted the Walnut Creek City Council to adopt a "Little Master Plan" resulting in the development of Broadway and California Boulevard, plus the extension of Cypress and Duncan streets.

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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 Thirteen

Myrna's name has been changed to Sarah. (Author's decision.)

The story so far:

*Josh phoned the main number for the Baltimore Barbies and left a message for his sister, explaining his relationship to her but with little confidence that she would return his call. But she did call back and **NOTE** was overjoyed to be found. Since her team would be playing in Santa Clara the following week, they made plans to meet at a restaurant there.*

Josh and Sarah were sitting at a window table at Opa-Opa, a popular Greek eatery, waiting to meet Krissy. Sarah suggested his sister would be more at ease not meeting Josh for the first time in a dark corner of a nearly deserted restaurant.

"It's like a first meeting you get from an online dating ap, she told him. "They always tell you to meet at a public place with a lot of people around. Safer to meet a stranger that way."

"What do you know about dating aps?" he had asked her.

"It's just what I hear," she had said, trying not to smile.

That's what Josh liked about Sarah, how something would bubble up to the surface unexpectedly.

Two tall women walked by the window and turned into the restaurant. They stopped inside the door, and the one with the curly red hair looked in their direction, it had to be Krissy.

Josh waved, and the redhead started over to the table, followed by her companion, a slim woman with a blonde ponytail.

"She's brought a friend, just to be safe," Sarah whispered.

"Stop it," Josh hissed through clenched teeth.

Josh stood up and Krissy grabbed him in a hug and held him tightly. Sarah and the other woman smiled at each other.

Krissy let go of Josh, and both of them were in tears.

"I know it's you, I just know it," she said.

"Looks right to me," her friend said.

The four of them sat down opposite each other, and Krissy introduced her companion.

"This is Tommy – Thomasina Chilton – she's our all-star goalie and my very best friend." Krissy reached over and squeezed Tommy's hand.

Josh hugged Sarah and followed suit. "This is my BFF, Sarah Coughlin. Without her, I never would have found you."

The conversation continued through alternating laughter and tears. Krissy asked Josh where he had gone to college, and he explained his six-year trek through San Francisco State.

"I was lucky to graduate in four years, thanks to my mystery benefactor. My parents couldn't have afforded Carleton."

"We love mysteries," Sarah said. "Do tell."

Krissy explained that after she had been accepted, she received a letter from the Williamson Foundation, along with a check for her first year's tuition. An accompanying letter stated that if she sent copies of her semester grades each year, along with a photo of herself, her tuition would be paid for the following year.

Krissy leaned across the table to Josh.

"Now I want to know how you got my graduation picture."

Josh felt his mouth and throat go dry.

"Where was this letter from? Who signed it?" he croaked.

"They were never signed personally, just 'Cordially, The Williamson Foundation'. And every year they came from a post office box in Houston. At first, my parents thought it was a joke, but the checks always cleared. I sent thank-you letters along with my grades, but I never heard from them. Only the checks."

"Pretty amazing, right?" Tommy said.

Josh looked at Sarah as he spoke. "I think those checks came from my father. Fred Williamson. He lived in Houston, and I visited him before he died. He gave me the photo and said, 'You have a sister.'"

Krissy let out a gasp. "Fred Williamson! Fred Williamson was a friend of my parents in Kalamazoo. He must have known who I was, but he never let on."

"He tracked you back to the orphanage through your parents," Sarah said. "Reverse engineering."

Krissy sat motionless, as if she were hypnotized.

"He never paid your tuition, did he?" Sarah asked.

"Are you kidding?" Josh snorted, "He sent me a check for one hundred dollars every birthday – or birth month – I don't think he knew what day I was born."

Josh shook his head before continuing. "One hundred dollars and always with the same note, 'Stay strong, don't go soft.'"

Krissy reached over and grabbed his hand. "I'm devastated that he treated you so coldly when he was treating me well – moneywise, I mean," she said.

"No, don't beat yourself up," Tommy said. "Josh was his son, and you were his step-daughter. He gave you money because you're a girl. Girls need a leg up. Josh got nothing because the Old Man knew that dudes have the advantages in this world as long as they stay strong and don't – what was it?"

"Don't go soft," Josh answered.

"Tommy, do you think I'm soft?" Krissy asked.

"Hell, no, not the way you kick ass out on the pitch."

"Well," Josh said, I guess the Old Man did us both favor. I'm happy for you, Sis."

They had been drinking ouzo, and Sarah proposed a toast.

"Here's to an amazing reunion and a happy ending for all of us."

The four of them exchanged hugs like it was New Year's Eve.

Krissy invited them to come to the next afternoon's game against the Microchips. Josh proposed that he and Sarah take Krissy and Tommy to meet their grandparents in El Cerrito after the game.

"Hey, great," Sarah said. "They get to ride in your car."

Josh gave her a punch on the arm.

Josh and Sarah fell silent as he drove her home. She leaned her head on his shoulder.

"I owe you everything. I never would have found her without you," he said.

"I'm happy for you," she said and snuggled closer.

When they parked in front of her apartment, Josh turned and kissed her. They lingered for a long minute before she pulled away.

"Come on in. There's something I want to show you," she whispered.

Josh followed her inside, and she waved toward the couch.

"Have a seat and I'll bring it out."

Josh sat on the couch. Sarah called from the bedroom.

"You can turn on the X-Box. It's set for Road Warrior Two."

"Do you have Pac-Man?" he said.

"LOL," she yelled back.

A few minutes later, she appeared in the bedroom doorway. Josh blinked and squinted at her. Sarah was wrapped in a red-and-blue star-spangled cape. She had let her hair down, and on her head was a gold tiara with a red star in the middle of the front. A pair of red boots showed from beneath the bottom of the cape.

"You called me Wonder Woman once, and here she is."

After Josh found his voice, he stammered, "Well, I meant it. I still mean it."

"Thanks, Josh."

"But what did she – Wonder Woman – call the cape?"

"This is My Cape of Invisibility," she said and suddenly spread the cape open.

"Now you see me."

Josh felt his heart race. Sarah was wearing red knee-high boots and the tiara. And nothing else. Just as suddenly, she drew the cape around her.

"And now you don't," she giggled.

Josh nodded slowly. "You're a wonder, all right. But not that good at invisibility."

He strode quickly toward her, and as the romance novels would say, gathered her in his arms as she pressed her lips against his.

"Lose the boots," he whispered. "But keep the tiara."

Next: In Sarah's bedroom and the soccer match

The challenges of being a family caregiver have generally been viewed as a private, personal matter. But in a noteworthy shift, a new report to Congress lays the groundwork for a much-needed national strategy to assist the over 48 million Americans who care for a parent, spouse or other loved one.

But there are steps that political leaders can take to support them. For example, AARP worked with leaders in Congress to create the Assisting Caregivers Today (ACT) Caucus in 2015, to bring greater attention to family caregiving and helping people live independently, to educate Congress on these issues, and to engage legislators on a bipartisan basis to help lead to solutions. AARP also strongly advocated for and led a group of national organizations supporting the Recognize, Assist, Include, Support, and Engage (RAISE) Family Caregivers Act, introduced by Sens. Susan Collins (R-Maine) and Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.), along with Rep. Kathy Castor (D-Fla.) and former Rep. Gregg Harper (R-Miss.). The new report from the Family Caregiving Advisory Council brought together by RAISE spotlights a national approach to recognizing caregivers' critical role.

The report lays out the following five overarching goals to guide policies to improve the lives of family caregivers and their loved ones.

1. Increasing awareness of family caregivers The diverse needs and challenges of family caregivers are not sufficiently recognized. Caregivers themselves may not stop to think of the support they need. Greater awareness can spur solutions and strategies to help.

2. Engaging family caregivers as partners in health care and long-term services and supports Caregivers should be treated as members of the health care and long-term services and supports team. Such policies and practices are most effective when they consider the impact on caregivers and the role they play in assisting their loved ones.

3. Improving access to services and supports for family caregivers Counseling, training, peer support and practical services like transportation and respite care are all needed. This assistance should be culturally relevant and accessible to everyone.

4. Strengthening financial and workplace security for family caregivers AARP researchers found that family caregivers spend an average of \$7,240 a year to help their loved ones, often causing them serious financial strain. In addition, many face great difficulty in juggling their duties at home and in the workplace, a challenge for women in particular. Flexible scheduling and other workplace policies to support these efforts can make a difference.

5. Generating research, data and evidence-informed practices To address gaps in service, we need a better understanding of how to help caregivers in all communities, including the underserved. This calls for building a meaningful knowledge base to document best practices, to promote person- and family-centered interventions and to track progress.



Upcoming Events

Friday, April 1st - April Fool's Day

Friday, April 8th - Out to Lunch Bunch (Members Only)

Wednesday, April 13th - Board Meeting

Sunday, April 17th - Easter Sunday

Tuesday, April 19th - CVV Happy Hour

Friday, April 22nd - Events Committee Meeting

Saturday & Sunday, April 23rd & 24th - Clayton Art & Wine Festival

Monday, April 25th - Member Services Meeting

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

Save the Date!

THE DIABLO WOMEN'S CHORALE - SPRING CONCERT

When: May 22, 2022 @ 3:00 PM

Where: Hillcrest Covenant Church, WC





1st Quarter 2022 Birthday Celebration - a delightful, happy, in person gathering!



Happy Hour at Black Bear Diner - March 15th



Great Turnout
Great Conversation
Great Food



We will
be back
!!!!

What's Happening

Community Events

Cancer Support Community - 2022 Hope Walk



Please join CVV Members and Volunteers as we support the 2022 Hope Walk, by the Cancer Support Community (CSC). Raising awareness and funds that provide FREE support to Bay Area cancer patients and their families for over 30 years.

REGISTER TODAY!
HOPEWALKBAYAREA.NET



WALK FROM ANYWHERE:

SUNDAY, MAY 15 - SATURDAY, MAY 21, 2022

VIRTUAL HOPE WALK WEEK - JOIN PARTICIPANTS FROM ACROSS THE GLOBE!

IN-PERSON* WALK:

SATURDAY, MAY 21, 2022, HEATHER FARM PARK, WALNUT CREEK

HOPE WALK WEEK WILL CULMINATE IN AN IN-PERSON 5K WALK AND CELEBRATION!*

Join CVV, whether in-person, or virtually!

- CVV's Walking Team Captain: Sonja Wilkin, sonjawilkin@gmail.com
- CVV will have a Vendor table at the in-person walk at Heather Farm Park
- Donations gratefully accepted (www.hopewalkbayarea.net)



There are two options for donors:

a. **As registered walkers.** To register, go <http://hopewalkbayarea.net> and click "Register to Walk", and pay \$25. Only registered walkers will be official members of our CVV walking team. They'll receive a personal fundraising page, a T-shirt and swag bag. All are encouraged to share Hope Walk participation with family and friends online. Use the hash tag #WhyIHopeWalk to share your story and inspire others to participate.

b. **By donating.** While not participating in the walking event or receiving the swag, much appreciated donations will count toward the team's fundraising total. To donate, click on <https://cancersupportcommunityhopewalk.rallybound.org/Donate>. Choose "Fundraiser" and select Sonja Wilkin's name (as CVV's team captain) so that our team gets credited. Donations can also be made by check to the following address, and should also reference 'Sonja Wilkin, CVV Team'. Cancer Support Community

Attn: Hope Walk
3276 McNutt Avenue Ave
Walnut Creek, Ca. 94597

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Always do right. This will gratify some people and astonish the rest.

- Mark Twain



2022 CVV Spring Bocce Team



Kim Bernal, Helene Billeci, Peter Billeci, Gary Carr, Shirley Elsberry,
Mary Rogers, Walt Rogers, Joanne Wasak, Maria Xiaris and Capo Joanne Vanis



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

Our Village Voice is a free, electronic publication of
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Email: CVVBusiness21@gmail.com

The editors welcome all submissions and reserve the right
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