



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

A Message from our President. Check out our Events held in April, Upcoming Events, and more. Also in this issue, we present Chapter 14 of the Girl with the Topaz Ring, a story by CVV member Gary Carr. It's CVV's 5th Year Anniversary, read our story.

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On Sunday, May 1, 2022 Clayton Valley Village will be celebrating its 5th Anniversary. The official launch was held on May 1, 2017 at Endeavor Hall in Clayton. That was an exciting and festive day for CVV with great attendance, support by the business community, local and state officials, proclamation of "Clayton Valley Village Day", and interest expressed by so many in the Clayton-Concord area for this great new concept that had arrived and would be a valuable future asset for all generations.

Leading up to that launch date, there were many individuals in adjacent neighborhoods who had put their time and energy for 3-4 years before then, organizing and stimulating interest in the Village Movement... the concept of helping Seniors stay in their homes as long as possible with the help of free and safe volunteer services. Those key individuals became the core and founding members and volunteers of Clayton Valley Village. This non-profit organization was formed, logo designed, promotional materials created and distributed, and at the same time became a member of the National Village to Village Network as a Developing Village. CVV started to participate in community events, had its 1st fundraiser at La Veranda in October 2014, (Sunday Supper & Silent Auction), gave presentations to civic and social groups, and marched for the first time in the July 4th parade holding its new banner and wearing new T-shirts.

Activities included Social Happy Hours, Lunch N Learn programs, Community Meetings, Bocce teams, and interest circles grew. When Clayton Valley Village received its 501(c)3 non profit status, the Launch Party was on!

CVV has come a long way in the past 8 years thanks to its members and volunteers.... it is a hard working group of people who have enjoyed being together and have supported each other with pride in what they have built. The future indeed looks bright!

# CVV Memories





## President's Message

Kathy Geddes

As Volunteers Week comes to a close, I would like to share with you a couple of my thoughts about **our** volunteers.

One of the primary “draws” in attracting and retaining our members is the promise to provide practical supports that help members stay independent at home. Clayton Valley Village would not be able to provide these services and support without our volunteers. They are the lifeblood of our community.

Our volunteers tend to be busy people, with busy schedules. They are actively involved with other organizations that are also in need of their support. They have families and/or friends with whom they continue to stay involved. They have varied backgrounds and experiences. They continue to participate in their own hobbies and interests. Yes, they are busy people. And yet, on an ongoing basis, they find the time, energy, enthusiasm, and interest to once again step up whenever a need arises. We are truly blessed.

### *Treasured Volunteers,*

On behalf of all our members, I would like to offer heart-filled thanks and appreciation for your dedication and all that you do.

Thank you for sharing so much of yourself with the members of  
Clayton Valley Village



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# Welcome

New Volunteers!



**Barbara Russell**

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## **Members and Volunteers**

### **May Birthdays**

#### **May Born**

You are always motivated and you are social if you are born in May. You can easily strike a conversation at a party or make new friends. You never look life with a negative approach and that's your plus point. Your dreams are big and you do your best to achieve those dreams. You have a very attractive personality.

May 3rd - Merwyn Powell

May 6th - Joanne Wasak

May 12th - Linda Pinder

May 19th - Walt Rogers

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

### INVENTING ANNA



**Watched by Diane Berger**

In Inventing Anna, a journalist with a lot to prove, investigates the case of Anna Delvey, the Instagram-legendary German heiress who stole the hearts of New York's social scene and stole their money as well. But is Anna New York's biggest con woman or is she simply the new portrait of the American dream? Anna and the reporter form a dark funny love-hate bond as Anna awaits trial and our reporter fights the clock to answer the biggest question in NYC: who is Anna Delvey? The series is inspired by the New York Magazine article "How Anna Delvey Tricked New York's Party People" by Jessica Pressler, who also serves as a producer.

## Interesting Stories Around the Bay



The **Giants** professional baseball franchise was founded in 1883



**Baghdad By The Bay San Francisco**

**Warwick Grant**

The Giants professional baseball franchise was founded in 1883 as the New York Gothams, becoming the New York Giants in 1885. For 74 years the Giants played in New York before then owner, Horace Stoneham, decided to relocate the team to San Francisco in 1957. The move was predicated on declining attendance, the dilapidated condition of the Polo Grounds, but mostly on the Brooklyn Dodgers moving west to the sunny climes of Los Angeles. Thus, it was that on April 15, 1958, the San Francisco Giants made their debut at Seals Stadium, ushering in a new era of Major League baseball to the city by the bay. It was only fitting that the newly ordained, and longtime rival Los Angeles Dodgers, would be their counterpart for that day - and for the ensuing 64 seasons. As it happened, the Giants got off to an auspicious start behind the complete game, six-hit pitching of Ruben Gomez, shutting out the Dodgers 8-0. Shortstop Daryl Spencer connected for the first homer for the Giants, a solo blast in the fourth inning off Dodgers' ace and losing pitcher Don Drysdale, and Orlando Cepeda launched his first in the fifth inning, helping to spark the Giants win. The Orange and Black went on to end the season 80-74 in the National League, finishing third, but ahead of the Dodgers with a 71-83 record. The Giants would spend one more year at Seals Stadium before moving to Candlestick Park in 1960, where they would spend the next 40 seasons before returning to Mission Bay in San Francisco at Pac Bell Park in 2000...Long time San Francisco Giants fans have fond memories of Seals Stadium and of seeing Willie Mays, arguably the most exciting player to ever play the game, roaming center field with an oversized glove, making the basket catch look easy, or racing around the bases (losing his hat) after launching the first of 536 round-trippers he would hit as a San Francisco Giant. Then there was Willie McCovey's 4-4 debut with two triples and two singles on July 30, 1959, defeating Phillies ace Robin Roberts 7-2. When Big Mac uncoiled and launched his powerful, low trajectory drives, he struck fear in most major league pitchers. These and other enduring moments are deeply etched in the collective memories of the Giants Faithful. And it all began on that beautiful Tuesday afternoon at Seals Stadium on April 15, 1958.



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### Art-Jewelry & Gift Gallery



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## Proven Leadership When Contra Costa Needs It Most

ON JUNE 7th PLEASE VOTE FOR

**Carlyn Obringer**

for Contra Costa County Supervisor, District 4

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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 Fourteen**

*The story so far:*

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

*Josh and Sarah had a tearful meeting at a restaurant with Josh's sister Krissy. The half-brother and half-sister met for the first time ever! Accompanying Krissy was her good friend, Tommy (Thomasina) also a member of Krissy's professional soccer team. The two siblings exchanged brief summaries of their lives so far. Krissy and Tommy invited Josh and Sarah to the soccer match the following day. Josh drove Sarah home, where they enjoyed, in the words of Shakespeare, "a consummation devoutly to be wish'd."*

*Josh woke up with sunlight streaming through Sarah's bedroom window. Sarah rolled over to him and planted a kiss on his forehead.*

*"That was nice," she said as she ran her fingers down his cheek.*

*"I think I love you," he said.*

*"Only 'think'? Because I know I love you."*

*"Let me rephrase that," he said and pulled her closer "I am one hundred percent sure I love you."*

*"It wasn't just the costume then?"*

*Sarah growled and began to tickle him until he begged her to stop.*

*"O.K., O.K. It wasn't the costume. He pulled her to him and whispered, "It was the real wonder woman inside."*

*They melted together in a long embrace.*

*As Josh's hand slid up her thigh, she sat up.*

*"Now who's ticklish?" he asked.*

*"No, look at the clock. It's noon, and the match starts at one."*

*They jumped out of bed and scrambled for their clothes.*

*"You wearing the tiara?"*

*"No, stupid, that was just for you."*

*"I am honored," he said, still looking for his left shoe.*

*Krissy had wrangled excellent seats for the game: midfield, right behind the Barbies' bench. The match bounced back and forth, as the Microchips were able to fend off the Barbies' aggressive style.*

*Josh was mesmerized seeing his sister sprint up and down the field, her long red hair flying out behind her. He wondered what life would have been like if they'd grown up together.*

*Krissy's adept ball-handling allowed her to score both the Barbies' goals. He had read about her on the Barbies' web site and realized she deserved her nickname – "The Red Menace."*

*Near the end, a defensive lapse enabled the Microchips to answer with a goal of their own. The Barbies' lead was cut in half, now at 2 to 1. The Microchips' fans came alive with cheers and foot-stomping. Someone in the crowd was blowing a vuvuzela.*

*With only seconds to play, a Microchip midfielder stole an errant pass and headed straight for the Barbies' goal.*

*Josh was hoarse from cheering and was only able to mouth the words, "Stop her, she's going to score."*



*Maybe it was ESP or the special bond between siblings, but Krissy appeared out of nowhere and stopped the would-be scorer with a slide that cut the Microchip's legs out from under her.*

*"That's not good," Sarah whispered in resignation. She looked at Josh, biting his thumb in frustration. She pulled his hand away and gave it a squeeze. `*

*Good and bad. Krissy thwarted the Microchip's last-second chance to end the match in a tie. But her aggressive tackle gave the fallen Microchip the opportunity to grab her own leg and howl in pain.*

*"Crap, she's faking," Josh muttered. "She flopped like a Frenchman."*

*Fake injury or not, the referee flashed a red card at Krissy and tossed her out of the match. The hometown crowd went wild with anger as the target of Krissy's tackle was helped off the field.*

*Krissy walked back to the Barbies' bench and looked up at Josh. Her right eye was swollen on its way to black and blue.*

*Josh raised both arms in a "what happened?" gesture and pointed to his own eye.*

*Krissy slapped her elbow, pointed to her eye, and gestures toward the Microchip bench.*

*"Had to be deliberate," Sarah shouted. "I hope she's O.K."*

*"Probably not the first time." Josh said.*

*The Microchips hastened to assemble in front of the Barbies' goal, ready for the penalty kick. With only seconds remaining, a successful penalty kick would end the match in a 2-2 tie.*

*Tommy, the Barbies' goalie, sidled back and forth at the mouth of the goal. The tallest of the Microchips, a dark-haired girl well over six feet in height, took her time placing the ball for the penalty kick. She stepped back, then moved forward to reposition the ball barely an inch to the left. It was a ploy to rattle Tommy, who was hunched over, ready to spring. A breeze swept across the pitch and caused the net to billow to the right. Tommy rocked back and forth on the balls of her feet.*

*Josh hugged Sarah around her shoulders. "She's going to Tommy's right, lower corner," he rasped. "Come on, Tommy."*

*"I can't look," Sarah whispered. Josh's hug, added to the tenseness on the field, sent her heart racing.*

*Krissy stood on the sideline with fists clenched. "You got this, Tommy," she shouted into the breeze.*

*The Microchip jogged toward the ball. The silence of the crowd was broken by the thud of boot on leather, and the ball twisted high towards the left corner.*

*Josh had guessed wrong about the direction of the kick. But Tommy had not. She dove high to her right, arms outstretched. The ball struck Tommy square in the face and bounced clear of the goal. Her instincts preserved the Barbies' 2-1 win. The crowd groaned, Josh and Sarah jumped into the air and exchanged a kiss, and Krissy ran onto the field and wrapped Tommy in a victory hug. The rest of the Barbies ran in all directions, screaming and pumping their fists.*

*Krissy looked down at her jersey and saw it was covered in blood. Tommy was bleeding from her nose and mouth.*

*"I think they broke my nose," Tommy said, wiping her face on her sleeve.*

*The stadium parking lot was now nearly empty. The Barbies' team bus had already left for their hotel but without Krissy and Tommy. Josh and Sarah leaned against the Toyota, waiting for the two remaining Barbies to join them.*

*The door of the players' entrance opened, and Krissy and Tommy walked out. When they got to the car, Tommy sported two black eyes and a wide white bandage taped across her nose. Krissy's right eye was now a real shiner.*

*"Great game, you were spectacular." Josh said. "But if you don't feel like you could make it to Grandma's, they will understand."*

*"No, they won't," Krissy shot back. "You found their granddaughter for them, and we've got to show up. I'm dying to meet them,*

*"Me, too." Tommy said.*

*"What about your nose and your eye?" Sarah asked.*

*"Not the first time I broke it. It'll heal. Sorry I look like a raccoon."*

*"I feel like a cyclops. And it was my bad. My red card caused this whole mess."*

*"It was a clean tackle," Josh said. You were robbed."*

*Krissy hugged him. "Thanks, bro, I already love you so much."*

*It was a long drive through traffic to get to Ben and Lois's in El Cerrito. Being the shortest, Sarah had volunteered to sit in the back of the Toyota. Tommy joined her, telling Krissy to sit up front with her brother.*

*"You two have been apart forever. You need to sit together," Tommy said. She settled back in the seat and promptly fell asleep.*

*Josh knew his grandmother would have dinner prepared, so he warned them about the canned pear half suspended in lime jello and topped with a dollop of mayonnaise.*

*Questions flew back and forth: where did they live, what were their jobs, how often did their team practice, what were their college majors, was anyone into gaming? The conversation moved to what they wanted for the future. Sarah said "gaming design," Josh wanted to produce documentaries, Krissy said law school after soccer. But first, she wanted to play in Europe.*

*Without opening her eyes, Tommy said, "South America. They are more passionate than Europeans. And I want to live in Buenos Aires."*

*"No, Brazil is where the real passion is," Sarah piped up.*

*"Actually, we'll go wherever we get the best offer," said Krissy. "And, Josh, you can document our rise to the top."*

*"I'll design an immersive VR program that provides the total soccer experience, and Krissy and Tommy will be the stars."*



*Josh found it hard to tell whether Sarah was serious or joking. Her idea ran through his mind until Krissy interrupted with a question out of the blue.*

*“Josh, do you know who my father was?”*

*His brain whirled to catch another train of thoughts – how would he tell her?*

*How would he start?*

*“I do,” he said., “But...”*

*“But what?” There was an edge to her voice that he had never heard before. He felt like she was playing the Big Sister card, and he wondered what their life might have been like if they had grown up together.*

*He blurted out the answer. “He died a long time ago.”*

*Josh recounted what he and Sarah had learned about Krissy’s father, the red-haired quarterback killed in a motorcycle crash.*

*Krissy sat back in her seat and remained quiet for the rest of the drive.*

*NEXT: Dinner with the Grandparents.*

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## Upcoming Events

**Friday, May 1st - CVV's 5th Anniversary**

**Thursday, May 5th - Cinco De Mayo**

**Friday & Saturday, May 6th & 7th - Clayton Historical Society's Garden Tours**

**Saturday, May 7th - Clayton Valley Garden Club Plant Sale**

**Sunday, May 8th - Mother's Day**

**Monday, May 9th - CVV Explorers Villagers Hike (Members and Volunteers)**

**Wednesday, May 11th - Board Meeting**

**Tuesday, May 17th - CVV Happy Hour**

**Friday, May 20th - Downton Abby Movie**

**Saturday, May 21st - Cancer Community Hope Walk**

**Sunday, May 22nd - The Diablo Women's Chorale Spring Concert**

**Friday, May 27th - Events Committee Meeting**

**Monday, May 30th - Memorial Day**

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



## Out to Lunch Bunch



After two years, the CVV "Out to Lunch Bunch" went out to the Cooperage in Lafayette, Ca for an enjoyable lunch. There were 16 of us having fun and enjoying each other's stories and company.

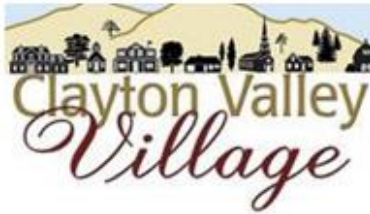


## Happy Hour - April 19, 2022 at The Pavillion Bar and Grill

What a great turnout. We were happy to be joined by 5 invited guests.







**CANCER SUPPORT COMMUNITY**  
**2022 HOPE WALK**  
*Walk from anywhere!*

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](http://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

## THE DIABLO WOMEN'S CHORALE - SPRING CONCERT

**When: May 21, 2022 @ 3:00 PM**



[Click here to purchase advance tickets online](#) or call 1-800-838-3006.

# Clayton Historical Society's 30th Annual Clayton Gardens Tour

Friday & Saturday, May 6 & 7, 2022

10am to 4pm – Rain or Shine

*Please, no children under age 12*

## 5 Great Gardens for \$35\*

**\*Prepaid tickets are \$35 ☼ Day of tour price is \$40**

**Payment with check or credit card preferred to minimize handling of cash**

**Self-guided tour begins at the Clayton Historical Society Museum  
6101 Main Street, Clayton ☼ All transactions will be outside in the garden**



For more information, call the Clayton Museum 925-672-0240  
Or e-mail [museum@claytonhistory.org](mailto:museum@claytonhistory.org)

Proceeds benefit The Clayton Historical Society –  
[www.claytonhistory.org](http://www.claytonhistory.org)  
The Clayton Historical Society is a 501(c) (3) organization

Ticket(s) will NOT be mailed to you – They will be held at  
the Museum for pickup on the day you choose to tour.  
Please enclose your email for verification of your order.  
Pick up your ticket(s) at the Museum.

☼ All activities will be outdoors; please allow adequate spacing for all guests to  
enjoy these lovely gardens. ☼

**\*For advance purchase of \$35 tickets, purchase online at [www.claytonhistory.org](http://www.claytonhistory.org)  
Online ticket sales will close at 5pm Thursday May 5.**

**OR return this form and payment by May 5 to:**

**Clayton Historical Society, Gardens Tour 2022, P.O. Box 94, Clayton CA 94517**

# \_\_\_\_\_ Gardens Tour Ticket(s) \$35 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed

*I am unable to attend, but enclosed is my donation to the Clayton Historical Society for \$ \_\_\_\_\_*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**RSVP: CLAYTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S - GARDEN TOURS**



## CLAYTON VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

### PLANT SALE

May 7TH, 2022 9A.M.—1 P.M.

ENDEAVOR HALL PARKING LOT

6008 Center Street, downtown Clayton



**\$3 for 4" plants or 2 for \$5**

**\$6 for one gallon**

**\$10 for two gallon**

Other items priced as marked

Taxes are included in price.

Clayton Valley Garden Club grows plants near  
downtown Clayton.

For more information go to

[www.ClaytonValleyGardenClub.org](http://www.ClaytonValleyGardenClub.org)

Or call 925-276-2299

A wide variety of plants including Vegetables, Natives, Perennials, succulent gardens, Color  
Bowls for Mothers Day Gifts and Garden Corner section with gently used items.



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

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## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

The world's favorite season is the spring. All things seem possible in May.

- Edwin Way Teale

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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>

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