

Greetings from our President



Welcome to a brand new year! As I write this, El Nino has arrived, it has been raining for days, and a bit of post-holiday slump is still hanging on. Not to worry! Marin Villages is bright and chipper with a very successful year-end fundraising campaign under its

belt (thank you all!), four talented and enterprising new Board members and exciting plans in the works for new community partnerships and in-depth programs. We all are looking forward to the unfolding of 2016 with great enthusiasm.

Have you all checked out our website lately? I am continually impressed with the variety of activities our Villages generate. I found movie groups, book groups, fitness groups, Dominoes, walks and hikes, memoir writing, movies, luncheons, museum trips, birding, guys' group – and more! Also, on our website you'll find a section called Members Only, where our carefully vetted service providers are listed. My long-time electrician let me down right after Christmas, and on this list I found a wonderful replacement who responded immediately and did an excellent job. A very Happy New Year to everyone! I look forward to seeing you around the Villages. *Loulie Sutro*

Around the Villages

Welcome to our Newest Board Members –

We are very excited to welcome our newest members to the Board of Directors – Larry Meredith, Jane Matthewman, Cheryl Sorokin and Sue Steele (Village Rep). These new members bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to our organization.

Larry recently retired as Director of the Marin County Department of Health and Human Services. Jane's background includes institutional management consulting and project management expertise. Cheryl retired from Bank of America NT&SA and BankAmerica

Corporation where she was the Group Corporate Executive Vice President and Corporate Secretary – the first woman holding this position at the bank and its holding company. Sue continues to run her marriage and family therapy practice in Mill Valley. Their expertise in public health, operational management, corporate governance and family dynamics will be invaluable as we continue to grow and build the organization.

The New Voice at the Office - Please join us in welcoming Rita Jones as our member/volunteer coordinator. Rita loves Marin, so much so, that she has moved here twice from the Midwest! Rita lived here from 1998 to 2011, working as an office manager for a gift company, Eco Express. She then moved back to Iowa to care for her mom for a few years and returned in 2014. Rita lives with her girlfriend, Kathleen, and 11 year-old rescue dog, Wally. In her spare time, she can be found hiking, dancing, playing cards, walking, and most recently honing her archery skills. *Welcome Rita!*



Village News – The Archstone Foundation of Long Beach recently funded a grant to understand the viability of a California Village Coalition to help build greater public awareness of the positive impact Village membership is having for older Californians. Lisa Brinkmann, Ginni Saunders (Novato Village) and Sue Steele (Mill Valley Village) participated at a regional meeting to explore how the 60+ Villages in California may benefit from a statewide coalition and where we fit into the larger landscape of aging services in California.

While participating in the state and regional coalitions, we continue to focus on strengthening our 'Village' community within Marin. Last year we launched Novato Village and expanded into San Rafael. We are now working with interested members of the community to develop the Rainbow Village, serving

older adults in the LGBT community, and widening our footprint in Corte Madera/Larkspur with an evolving Twin Cities (Ross Valley) Village. We recently made a presentation to the Fairfax Town Council in an effort to increase awareness of our services and recruit interested volunteers.

Executive Director Corner

In a recent version of *AgingToday*, I read 'organizations are searching to address solutions to keep pace with the future costs of serving America's growing elder population' and how this scenario 'dictates the need for a new framework for how organizations in the aging services network serve and support older adults'.



Marin Villages is building a framework to support older adults' desire to remain independent in their communities. The simple concept of connecting neighbors with neighbors to keep community members healthy and active is resonating and our impact is being felt – and appreciated. Building community and trust takes time. As we start our sixth year, we are seeing (and hearing) the positive impact and value our services and programs are bringing to the community! I'm excited and encouraged.

Lisa Brinkmann

What Are our Members Doing?

Marin Villages receives 375+/- requests each month for services – from rides to appointments to help with water leaks; from dog walks to setting up TV remotes. Services are only a part of our community-building efforts. Also key to staying active and connected is having fun and being involved. The following is just a glimpse of some of what our members are doing:

Jackie Kirk (Ross Valley Village) has launched a new website jackiekirk.com and announced her latest exhibit *More than a Selfie*, which will be showing at the



NUMU museum in Los Gatos from January 21 to May 15, 2016. Jackie will be displaying select pieces from her *The Face*

of Aids collection. Congratulations Jackie!

Buck Institute Tour - Recently a group of Marin Villagers enjoyed a docent-led tour of the Buck Institute of Research on Aging hosted by Ross Valley Village. As one member noted: "It was just great today - my first time . . . when a science department

head asked what Marin Villages was, 3-4 villagers chimed in and very well covered it."

Rosie the Riveter – Both San Rafael and Mill Valley Villages took field trips to the Rosie the Riveter WWII Home Front National Historic Museum in Richmond. It was a treat to have heard first hand, the experience of a real 'riveter', Betty Soskin, the oldest National Park Ranger in the United States.



Pelican Dreams on a Sunday Afternoon - "What a wonderful event at the Sweetwater. There must have been at least 120 people at the standing room only showing of the movie. Congratulations on a great event." Thanks go out to Mill Valley Village and filmmaker, Judy Irving for the fun afternoon.

Happy Birthday to Mozart – Homestead Village presented a *Happy Birthday, Mozart!* lecture-recital by Dr. Kayleen Asbo, a faculty member of the San Francisco Conservatory and Dominican University.

Kayleen explored the lesser-known works of Mozart's genius using keyboard, violin, images and stories. It was a true blend of passion, humor and scholarship.



Happy Hour Social – San Rafael Village hosted its first *Happy Hour at the Range Café* at the Peacock Gap Golf Club. Good company, great conversation and a lot of fun!



Donor Salute!

A hearty thank you to all the individuals, foundations, businesses, and civic organizations whose contributions enabled Marin Villages to fulfill over 4,000 service requests last year. Your financial and in-kind support strengthened the scope and quality of our programs, broadened accessibility of our services and helped Marin Villages fill a major gap in senior services in the county. We salute and thank you for your ongoing support.

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