VILLAGE CONNECTIONS AGING. BETTER. Together!

Volume 7, Issue 3

Official Newsletter of Conejo Valley Village

March 2023

CVV Board Celebrates Achievement and Change

We are happy to share these updates about our Board of Directors. By **Lois Barberio**

VALLEY VILLAGE

As part of their retirement plan, Danny White and his wife Mary recently moved into University Village. Danny and Mary are enjoying both the many opportunities their

new home offers and their new freedom to travel at a moment's notice. Danny now has less time to commit to Conejo Valley Village. And so, Danny decided to



Danny White

step down from his position on the Board of Directors. We are grateful that Danny is staying involved in our Village by facilitating the newly formed Advisory Council and continuing to oversee the statistics that guide our decisions and plans.

Danny joined Conejo Valley Village in April of 2017. I first remember meeting Danny as our master gardener, beekeeper, and travel buff. Danny continually helped members with their needs while at the same time taking on many financial responsibilities for the Village including statistical and financial reporting. Danny joined the Board in February 2020 for what was to be a six-month trial.



Three years later Danny has proven to be invaluable to the Board. I can speak personally to his expertise, wisdom, and quiet guidance. When passions would run high Danny's level-headed suggestions would get us back on track. Danny has never sought the limelight. Instead, he has given his time behind-the-scenes enthusiastically supporting the Board and our entire Village, and we are a stronger organization because of this time and efforts.

Recently, Danny facilitated the first meeting of our Advisory Council, a team of CVV volunteers and members who have been tasked with generating some ideas for long-term organizational improvements and succession planning for the Village. The team will investigate their ideas to test their feasibility, cost, and benefit to the Village. Danny has already brought the same caring, knowledge, and talent to his new position.

We are grateful for all that Danny has given to the Village. I will miss you at our board meetings Danny, but we are so happy that we have had the privilege of working with you. Wishing you and Mary the very best and from all of us here at Conejo Valley Village a giant and heart-felt THANK YOU.

Chris Jones arrived at Conejo

Valley Village via his mother Emerald. Prior to Emerald joining the Village Chris had been her primary driver and so, when Emerald stopped asking Chris for



Chris Jones

rides to her appointments, Chris became very curious about the Village people now driving her. Chris checked us out and being impressed with the organization and grateful for the help being given his mother, Chris joined the Village in 2019 as a Call Manager.

In January 2020 Chris was elected to the Board just as the pandemic hit. Chris was instrumental in getting the Board, the event leaders, and other villagers comfortable with Zoom. Chris was a major force behind our resiliency during this unprecedented time.

I think of Chris as the Village

Story continued on page 3

cvv@conejovalleyvillage.org

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See Insert for Upcoming Events

Gathered Together Around the Table





SAVE

THE

DATE!

Laurel U

Bunnie R

Karen V

Sandra C



Photos courtesy of Lori Bliss, Maryann Gitt and Stephen Hansen

When Villagers gather around the table, there's always great connection, sharing, and of course, food. Left side from top, left to right: Lunch & Learn with Rosa Lee -**Melinda, Nancy, Rosa Lee, Beth, Barbara, Rita; Rosa Lee, Nancy.**



Valentine's potluck partygoers: Right side from top, left to right: Sharon, Michaella, Bunnie, Nancy, Yvette, Toni, Billie, Bill, Lori, Natalie, Dinah, Rosa Lee, Catherine and Marilyn.



VILLAGE CONNECTIONS









Sybil N

Nancy H

Monika K

Joan C

It would be great if we could put ourselves in the dryer for 10 minutes and come out wrinkle free and 3 sizes smaller!

Happy March Birthdays!

Erik S

Brenda B

Janice J

Joan E

Barbara E

Jill L

Take the Challenge, Do Something BOLD Join the 2023 CVV Love Run Team

Do something amazing for your body, your brain, your spirit, and your community! Join Conejo Valley Village's second annual Love Run Team.

The Neftin Westlake Love Run benefitting Meals on Wheels is happening in Westlake on **Sunday, June 4**. No need to be an athlete and speed is not required. It is about showing what we are capable of doing, especially when we do it together. Choose from one, three or six mile routes.

If you are interested in joining the CVV Love Run Team, you will be provided with tips on technique, optional training schedules, and practice walks. CVV will even cover your registration fee.

If you are interested, send me an email at <u>out-</u> reach@conejovalleyvillage.org or call a Call Manager at (805) 372-1826. Looking forward to walking with you. ~ Coach Lois

VILLAGE CONNECTIONS

CVV Board Celebrates Achievement and Change (cont'd)

Story continued from page 1

Renaissance Man as he brings to the Village a multitude of experiences, skills, and talents. He has a great sense of humor and strong people skills. He is also an excellent writer, as evidenced by his many contributions (past and present) to the newsletter.

He is willing to step in wherever there is a need. For example, when the Village unexpectantly found itself without a treasurer, Chris stepped up and took on the financial responsibility. After Jacqueline Blade was elected treasurer, Chris pivoted to another leadership role, Director of Volunteers.

Due to personal commitments Chris left the Board in late 2021, but he continues to offer great ideas, support and guidance. Through his varied responsibilities Chris has learned the Village and its operations inside and out. Chris' expertise and willingness to stepup allows leadership to ask for extra help when needed. So, thank you Chris not only for what you have done for the Village in the past, but also for everything you continue to provide on a daily basis.



Danny & Chris

Thank You For All You Do for the Village!

CVV Book Club Going Strong

By Vanessa Renna

Four years ago, a group of avid Village readers decided they would like to start a CVV Book Club. Barb Balke was familiar with the TO Library "Bookclub in a Box" program and took the lead arranging the first gathering in March 2019 at Sandra Cherry's home where attendees shared their thoughts on the first book selected, "The Art of Racing in the Rain" by Garth Stein.

The last book box Barb received before the library closed due to the pandemic in March 2020 was



"Ahab's Wife" by Sena Jeter Naslund which is more than 500 pages. Being the adaptable Village group they are, they moved the meeting to Zoom, picked up the book at the library's curbside delivery and discussed the lengthy novel at their next two meetings. The club has been going strong on

Zoom for the last three years, expanding their book selection through the LA library system and with about 10 Villagers generally attending each meeting.

Asked what they have enjoyed about the CVV Book Club, members shared that being part of our club was enriching to their lives by expanding their horizons and gaining deeper understanding and appreciation about their own and others' unique perspectives.



Nancy normally chooses mysteries, but through the club discovered a "wide variety of books that I would have never tried, and I have enjoyed all of them in different ways." Lois appreciates how the book club forces her out of her comfort zone saying "we have discussed some hard truths about our history that I would normally shy away from." Dinah found another level to literature where the shared exchange of opinions and ideas has led to new friends and new thoughts.

Through this sharing of ideas about different books (47 so far!) and learning about each other over the years, many of the club members have developed great friendships. Congratulations on the Book Club's 4-year anniversary!

Barb emphasizes that everyone is very respectful of each other's opinions and says some of the best discussions are when they don't all agree about a book! The CVV Book Club meets on the third Monday of each month, 5:30 pm on Zoom – see the Events Calendar or newsletter insert for details. New members are always welcomed.



P. O. Box 3162 Westlake Village, CA 91359

Phone: (805) 372-1826 Email: cvv@conejovalleyvillage.org Website: www.conejovalleyvillage.org The mission of Conejo Valley Village is to help seniors remain independent in their homes and stay active in our community.

Place Stamp Here

Reminder: Turn Your Clocks AHEAD one hour Sunday, March 12



Neighbors Helping Neighbors Stay Independent, Active and Connected



Place	Address	Label	Here

Conejo Valley Village is a nonprofit tax-exempt organization under IRS Code Section 501(c)(3). Donations are tax-deductible.

VILLAGE CONNECTIONS

Volunteers: Please email your volunteer hours (other than Service Requests) estimated through month end by the **25th** to <u>volunteerhours@conejovalleyvillage.org</u>. Thanks for all you do for CVV!

CVV's "Ready or Not" Series March Topics

Friday, March 3 - 2:00 pm Topic: What I Wish I Knew & Palliative Care/Hospice Discussion

Friday, March 17 - 2:00 pm Topic: Death with Dignity

See the Events insert for details or call a Call Manager at **(805) 372-1826** for more information.

More Info

See Insert for Details

SENIOR CONGRESS XIX

EMBRACING YOUR CHANGING WORLD

Wednesday, March 29

Sessions on financial, physical and mental health, engagement and learning

> St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic Church

REGISTER AT WWW.CLVFF.ORG

See Insert for Details FREE INCOME TAX PREPARATION

In cooperation with the IRS, trained and certified CSVP volunteers are again offering free tax assistance to those:



Tage 4

- Age 60 and over, or
- Any age, with income of \$57,000 or less

Service is provided through mid-April on a first-come, first-served basis with no appointments. For more info, call CSVP at **(805) 381-2742**.