



Welcome George Ball - Our Newest Call Manager!

By *Kathy, Loretta and George*

George Ball joined us at CVV last fall. He first volunteered as a driver until his son needed a car. Once he loaned him his car, he was driving a large truck, which is not a good vehicle for CVV transportation. In looking other options to help us, he started training to become a Call Manager and had his first solo shift Thursday March 28th.



George was born in Arizona, and grew up in Paradise Valley, a part of Scottsdale. While today Scottsdale is a busy popular tourist attraction, George recalls the area as a peaceful place where a child could be free to explore. He attended the local schools graduating from Saguaro High which is named after the protected cactus found only in Arizona and parts of Mexico.

After college, George did not want an office job. Instead, he got involved in the Arizona film industry doing many different jobs in the small community. He fell into Set Lighting and never looked back. Years later with many countries and interesting jobs under his belt, he started to explore the other side of life – non work

interests! On most Sundays, you can find George up in the Channel Islands area kayaking. He loves this sport. The Ball family also has a home in Maine which allows George to paddle on both coasts.

He met his wife Dale while talking a class in photography. They have two children, a son Camden, 28, and a daughter April who is 25. Camden graduated from USC and did investment banking for a while with RBS but found it was not for him. He now works for Oracle and lives in the Bay Area. After graduating from Stanford, April received a Fulbright Scholarship to research in Spain, following second generation Moroccans living there. He credits his wife Dale for raising such wonderful kids as work seemed to

consume those earlier years. Calling Dale a “perfect woman,” she has created a niche assisting students with finding the best college fit for them, then helping with the laborious task of applications.

George also volunteered for the “Call Sheet,” a program within the Motion Picture Industry, making calls to retired folks who had become disconnected from the community. Then he befriended a 93-year old who sat in his garage and watched folks go by with an occasional conversation here and there. When he heard of what CVV was doing for people to keep their lives full and connected, he was hooked.

We welcome George to the Call Manager Team and thank him for being part of CVV.

You're Invited...CVV's 7th Anniversary Party!

Tuesday, April 16
4:30 - 6:30 pm
North Ranch Center



In 2017, a determined group of community members with a vision to support local Seniors launched Conejo Valley Village. Join us for our 7th Anniversary Party to celebrate the growth and success of CVV, and the many meaningful connections we enjoy being part of the CVV community.

CVV will be sponsoring a scrumptious dinner and entertainment. Full members should request a ride by 4/9/24. Sign up online or call a Call Manager at (805) 372-1826.

See Insert for Upcoming Events

Meet & Greet & Support Local Businesses



Meet & Greet @ Mikey's Restaurant: Our CVV Events team keeps an eye out for new eateries that Villagers will enjoy and help us at the same time support local family-owned businesses. In March, we gathered at Mikey's in Newbury Park for good food and conversation. Top row from left: Bev P and Cheryl; Barb J, Deb and Catherine; Bunnie, Susan and Billie; Vickie and Lori. Middle row from left: Marv and Geri; Sheryl, Barb B, Arlene and Melinda; Sherry; Lillie and Barb S. Bottom row from left: Bobbie and Rosa Lee; Gisela and guest, and Steve.



Photos courtesy of Stephen Hansen

Happy April Birthdays!!

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|-----------|-----------|
| Lauren S | Michael G |
| Renate L | Masayo H |
| Thelma W | Del M |
| Mark M | Susan A |
| Barbara J | Pete D |



Set a New Goal!
JUNE 2nd
More info coming soon

Thank you to all of you who have voiced an interest in joining our CVV Love Run Team! I will soon be sending out information on Love Run participation, so watch your emails.

For those of you who are thinking about participating, the Love Run is one of those marvelous win-win experiences for everyone. As a participant you will receive a groovy medal and a free pancake breakfast while raising funds for Senior Concerns Meals on Wheels. Great way to spend a morning!

If you're not sure that you can walk the distance, please email me with your questions and concerns. I might be the coach now, but it was not that long ago that I was an unsure beginner.

I know that walking is not everyone's idea of fun, but just as CVV needs members and volunteers, a fun run needs both participants and supporters. So, why not be a member of CVV's cheer squad? You could help host our booth or cheer on our Team in blue as everyone crosses the finish line.

Participant or Cheer Squad: There is room for everyone on the Team, and everyone is welcome. To join the Team or to get additional information just email me at outreach@conejovalleyvillage.org. ~ Coach Lois



Nancy's Adventure - Lake Havasu Balloon Festival

By *Loretta Allen*



The Goebel Center offers so many excellent excursions. Recently CVV member Nancy Healey went on a four-day trip to Lake Havasu to see the Balloon Festival, visit the London Bridge and the towns of Kingman and Oatman, Arizona. What a wonderful time she had.

They stayed in Laughlin, Nevada at the Aquarium Hotel and Casino. The next morning they watched the colorful and captivating display of the balloons rising against the backdrop of Lake Havasu, the surrounding desert landscape and the London Bridge.

Then off to Oatman, a Route 66 highlight, where

donkeys "run the town." This stop was a favorite of Nancy's since she is such an animal lover.

The next morning, they traveled to Kingman to tour the Route 66 Museum.

They then returned to Lake Havasu to see the Balloon Glow after dark—a spectacular explosion of colors when the hot gas is fired into the balloons. As often occurs in the desert, weather conditions modified the display but it was still a beautiful event.

Nancy commented on the professional narration by the tour guide and the very comfortable accommodations. We are so fortunate to have these trips sponsored



by our Goebel Center - check out the Goebel Gazette so we can report on more adventures by our CVV members.



How to Recognize and Avoid Tax Season Scams!

By *Judy Krasnow*

It's tax season and scammers are ready to take advantage of every opportunity to trick you into thinking you have a problem that doesn't exist with the Social Security Administration and the IRS. You could receive a phone call, text, email or letter that is intended to scare you into believing that you are in serious trouble that must be resolved immediately or you could face hefty fines, a lawsuit, arrest, or blocking your Social Security or tax refund.

Keep in mind that any logo, name or voice can be copied, thanks to technology capabilities and artificial intelligence, known as "AI". If you receive any such communication, stop, take a deep breath, and try not to panic. Here is what you should look out for to recognize you are being scammed:

1. Is this the first time you have been advised there is a problem with your taxes or social security?
2. Does the communication tell you that you must act IMMEDIATELY or they will seize your bank account or file criminal charges?

3. Does it tell you specifically how you must resolve the problem by sending a gift card, cryptocurrency, Western Union, Venmo or other online money transfer service (100% a fraud)?



4. Are they requesting personal or account information to verify your identity so they can fix the problem?
5. Do you need to move your money to a "safe account" so it won't be taken by a dishonest employee?
6. Are they willing to send you a picture of their ID or Badge to confirm their identity (Federal crime)?

What you Need to do:

1. Hang up the phone
2. Report the call to the IRS at 800-829-1040 or the SSA at 800-772-1213. Do not call any number or click on any link given to you by the caller or within the communication.
3. Forward the email or text to phishing@irs.gov.



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

Guys - Join CVV's Men's Breakfast



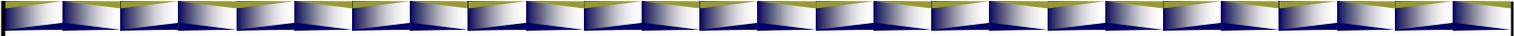
April 24th, 10 am
@ Side Street Cafe
See insert for details

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 Page 4

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

More Info

Save the Date!

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION EVENT!

Thursday, June 27, 4 pm



More details in next month's issue

Do you know someone who enjoys helping people and would be a great CVV volunteer?



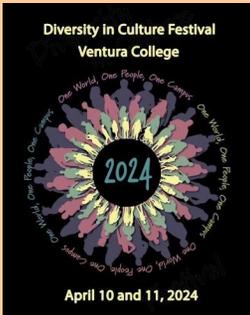
Suggest they contact our Call Manager at **(805) 372-1826** to learn more!

THERAPEUTIC HARPIST MASAYO HONJO



"YES AND...Delve into Your Own Creative Potential" with Therapeutic Harpist Masayo Honjo

If you're looking for a new musical experience, harpist and CVV Member Masayo Honjo will be performing at the Diversity in Culture Festival at Ventura College on **Thursday, April 11.**



For more information, go to [2024 Diversity in Culture Events | Ventura College](#).