



## President's Letter

First, let me introduce myself: my name is Jane Keene and I have the privilege of being the President of Carquinez Village this year.

I know that I have some big shoes to fill and I hope, with everyone's help, to build on the incredible work that has been done by past presidents, board members, committees, members, and volunteers.

**Jane Keene**, President  
Carquinez Village

I would like to begin by wishing you all a very happy New Year! December sure slipped away quickly, and we had some really great events.

The Holiday Party was so much fun, with great food, thanks to Manny's Catering. We were entertained by our own Village Singers, and we had time to visit and catch up with members and volunteers. Many thanks to all who organized it!



The debut of the Village Singers  
at the Holiday Party

I was not able to go on the ferry ride because of a family commitment, but I hear it was a huge success.

I am looking forward to all the good things coming up in January!

-Jane

*Life has moments.*

*Moments so delicate in their beauty*

*That you're almost scared to breathe*

*In case you alter them in some way.*

*....Wait for them.*

- Ranata Suzuki





Jenn Hanley,  
Executive Director

## Jenn's Views

As December comes to a close, I find myself reflecting on the incredible journey that the past six months have been with Carquinez Village.

I want to take a moment to express my sincere thanks for the warm welcome the Village has given me, and to the various Village leaders that have extended their time, patience, and kindness as they've worked with me to help me become the Village director.

I am so grateful to each one of you for contributing to an atmosphere that has come to feel more like a supportive, loving family, as opposed to a place of employment.

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Attending this year's holiday party was the perfect way to conclude the year! I was able to attend with my husband, Josh, and our 12-year-old son, Logan. I was so proud of Logan for behaving like such a gentleman as he was greeted with hugs and compliments, kindness, and conversation.

On our way home, he let me know how much he enjoyed the evening and said he felt like he was "surrounded by sweet grandmas and grandpas." Hearing this warmed my heart, as three out of four of his own grandparents live out of state and he rarely sees them. Thank you, Cynthia Hellmuth and the Programs Committee, for working so hard to create such a beautiful and joyous event for all.

As we approach 2024, I look forward to working diligently with our organization's leaders to help our village grow, evolve, and continue to be a community that members can lean on for years to come.



Thank you for making my initial months memorable and for setting the stage for what promises to be a fulfilling and successful journey ahead.

Wishing you all a warm holiday season and a fantastic start to the New Year ...

*-Jenn*

**CV SF Ferry ride to see the lights:** Gary Vostry, John and Barbara Feth, Dan and Sally Radigan and Kathi Cardin



**Cynthia Hellmuth**, CV Program Chair  
Solano County November  
Volunteer of the Month

## **Cynthia Hellmuth** **Solano County Volunteer of Month**

Carquinez Village's Cynthia Hellmuth has been recognized as Solano County's November Volunteer of the Month by Solano Volunteers. The Center for Volunteer and Nonprofit Leadership elevates and honors the work of volunteers.

Jenn Hanley, CV Executive Director, said, "Cynthia, your dedication and hard work is appreciated more than I can express. You are the definition of a volunteer rockstar."

Cynthia heads our Program/Activities Committee and organizes and often leads our monthly outings.



## **CV Movie Club Reviews!**

Like movies? Our Carquinez Village Monday (4pm) movie review group, on zoom, encourages all CV members to join us to discuss/review movies. Email Alan Plutchok at [aaplutchok@gmail.com](mailto:aaplutchok@gmail.com) to get the zoom link. We score movies from 1 to 5 (best); here are recent reviews:

“**American Symphony**” (5+) starring Stephen Colbert’s bandleader Jon Batiste, and his struggle to compose a symphony when his partner learns her cancer is back. This is a portrait of two artists at a crossroads, a meditation on art, love, and the creative process. On Netflix.

“**Crip Camp**” (an example of how good documentaries can be—a 5+)—graduates of a summer camp for disabled youth successfully advocate for disability rights legislation. On Netflix.



## **More Lifelong Learning in February**

Another Lifelong Learning class is planned for February 7, 14, 21, 28 from 3:00 - 4:30 pm. It is “An Armchair Travel Adventure in Lifelong Learning” coordinated by our CV member **Cynthia Seguin**. This

zoom class features a series of prerecorded programs: “World Heritage Sites: Exploring the World's Greatest Places,” with discussion afterwards.



## Sign Up to Write Your Memoir!

Carquinez Village is offering a free six-week class in memoir writing called “Sharing Our Stories.” The class will meet for two hours on Zoom on Tuesday afternoons starting in February.

Teacher Debbie Weiss invites up to ten students to participate so there is enough time for giving feedback. There should be a minimum of four to have a “writing-group” feel.

In the first class, Ms. Weiss will give class parameters like confidentiality and positive feedback, and such memoir-writing basics as theme, voice, and distance. The class then will exercise in coming up with writing ideas.

Classes will include voice, elements of a good narrator, finding the heart and themes in a story, creating scenes, and different ways to approach a topic.

The final class will be open, with volunteer short readings and discussing influential books, how to keep writing, and how the class feels about writing.

Ms. Weiss said, “I really want to make this approachable and enjoyable for new writers who want to capture memories for their families.” Sign up online at our website or phone our Info./ Registration number: (707)297-2472.



## Village Gardeners

Do you love plants? Do you like to visit other gardens, learning gardening tips like starting seeds or exchanging cuttings?

For those interested in starting a Village gardening group, new member Libby Lai will host an exploratory meeting at 236 El Camino Real, Vallejo, on January 16 at 1 pm.

What a great and “green” way to start the new year!

If you are interested but can’t meet that day, call Susan Neuhaus at 707.373.6879.



## We LOVE our volunteers!

We have the most amazing volunteers! We all know how great they are at giving rides to doctor appointments and social events. This month they also have hooked up computers, set up a new TV, hung curtain rods, taken stuff up and down in attics, raked leaves, hung Christmas lights, assembled a shoe rack, and done errands for members like going to the post office and shopping. Hurray for our wonderful volunteers!

- Susan Neuhaus



## Joy for ALL Seasons

By Greg Plant

What's in a name? For **Joy Innes**, "joy" is her love of decorating for and celebrating holidays; the smile when she thinks of all the babies she helped birth as a labor and delivery nurse; her family, living nearby and far; her beautiful house. "I love decorating!" she admits.

Joy is planning to bring us her special happiness by giving time to Carquinez Village, which helped her after the loss of her husband a year ago.

Joy, originally an Iowan, moved to California at 12 and has lived in Los Angeles, Napa (for many

years), and San Francisco.

While working as a nurse she also taught birthing classes to pregnant women. She also traveled, in retirement, as a missionary to Africa and the Far East to teach and practice nursing to poor communities. "I would like to do more," she says.

Her activities including music—playing piano...and harp!—and singing with the Golden Gate Symphony Choir. (Quick, CV choir, sign her up!)

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## Carquinez Village CLASSIFIEDS:

### Hablas Espanol?

¿Hablas un poco de espanol? I am a beginning Spanish speaker and would love to practice simple conversations with others. Open to doing this in person or via Zoom, once a week. If you might be interested, call or email [susan@carquinezvillage.org](mailto:susan@carquinezvillage.org) or 707.373.6879.



### Elder Initiative Group

Are you interested in researching and advocating on issues that affect elders, such as utility increases (but NOT partisan politics!)? Do you want to act on this together with other members of our community (on zoom)? Let's take Elder Initiative! Contact Greg or Pat Plant ([greg43.plant@gmail.com](mailto:greg43.plant@gmail.com); [Pat.plant@gmail.com](mailto:Pat.plant@gmail.com)) for more information.

