



October 2020

Presidents Message

By Susan Neuhaus

Whew, I’m sure glad to see some clearer skies. The days of smoky skies and poor air quality were so hard to bear. In September despite the weather there was a lot going on in the Village. Our first Annual report was developed, it is posted on our website. I know we have the most amazing volunteers, but I was bowled over when I saw that in the last year 68 volunteers provided 4614 hours of service to our 107 members! We continue to have amazing programs. September Speaker Series - Brenda Crawford talk “From Mississippi to Vallejo She knows why black lives matter” gave us a lot to think about. We had the last of the COVID preparation presentations on Advanced Health Care Directives, a Fall gardening talk by the Master Gardeners, and the very popular member DIY presentation on masks and cooking with gadgets.

In June 2019, when Governor Newsom signed an Executive Order calling for a Master Plan for Aging. Village Movement California members, which Carquinez Village is part of, have diligently worked to secure recognition for villages as a best practice for building livable communities where older adults are socially and civically connected, and experience purpose and meaning in their lives. We are still working on getting villages listed as a best practice in the health and wellness section of the plan. Advocacy will continue through October. The Master Plan’s Stakeholder Advisory Committee will submit its recommendations to the Governor on September 22. The Governor and his cabinet will incorporate the recommendations, add their own, and approve the final plan in December. This is the link. <https://www.engageca.org/the-master-plan-english>

Election Day is less than two months away. In the last two elections Carquinez Village has Adopted a polling place. We choose not to due to COVID concerns; these are anything but ordinary times. Plan, all registered voters will receive a mail in ballot. Closed polling places and post offices, COVID-19 risks, even Election Day rain, may make us want to avoid Election Day lines despite new safety precautions now in place. Fortunately, there are other safe and easy choices. *No one must choose between their health and their right to vote!*

Key Election Dates

- 10/19/20 California’s Voter Registration Deadline Vote by Mail Application Deadline
- 10/27/20 Vote by Mail Submission Deadline
- 11/03/20 Provisional Ballot Deadline
- 11/03/20 Election Day 7am – 8pm



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Non-Partisan Live Stream Candidate Forums for Solano County

For one hundred years, the League of Women Voters (LWV) has been all about the vote—voter registration, public policy pro and con studies—work that preserves our democracy, a government of, by and for the people. We encourage all to take advantage of our services and join us as members.

In keeping with our mission and tradition, the League of Women Voters Solano County (LWVSC) will once again present a series of non-partisan Candidate Forums throughout Solano County. All forums are open to the public and available via live stream on the *League of Women Voters Solano County* YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKsWzzfO8WOe8GB1HCn6FvQ>. Full recordings of each forum will be available on the YouTube channel after the live events.

BENICIA – Thursday, October 8th, 6-8 pm **Mayoral and City Council Candidates**

Co-Sponsors Benicia-Vallejo Branch AAUW and Carquinez Village

VALLEJO – Saturday, October 3rd 10am-Noon **Mayoral Candidates**
Saturday, October 10th 10am-Noon City Council Candidates, **Districts 1, 3 & 6**
Co-Sponsors National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Oakland/Bay Area Chapter

Other LWVSC Election Resources

- **Election Resources – local regional, state, and federal**
<https://my.lwv.org/california/solano-county/article/2020-lwvsc-election-resource-central>
- **Voters Edge** <https://votersedge.org/en/ca> is a comprehensive, nonpartisan, easy to understand, online guide to elections covering federal, state, and local races in the state of California and is a joint project of MapLight and the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund.



Helping to Make Your Vote Count

By Sharon Emes and Diane Choquette

Your signed vote by mail ballot must be in a ballot drop box by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day, Tuesday November 3. If you mail in your vote by mail ballot, it must be postmarked by November 3 and received by November 20 to count.

Ballot drop boxes are in the city Clerk's Offices in Benicia and Vallejo, at the Solano County Fairgrounds in Vallejo, in the Masonic Temple in Vallejo, as well as inside your polling place. Your polling place is noted on the card that you will receive in the mail.

If you would like your vote by mail ballot delivered to a ballot box, volunteers will be available to pick up your ballots on the following dates and times: October 15, October 22, October 29, between 10:00 a.m. and Noon. Please call the general information number, (707) 297-2472, by 3:00 p.m. the day before you would like your ballot delivered to a ballot drop box.

Although some volunteers continue to offer rides for NECESSARY services, such as required medical visits, at this time of continuing pandemic, we are NOT offering rides to the polls, ballot boxes, or post offices for safety reasons.



ROUND HOLE

(a short story - episode 3)

by Molly Barr

“We were a day or so out of Gerlach with a full load of freight for the miners up that way when I spied this sorry heap of humanity in a gully ‘long side the trail. The dust was thick as tulle fog and I wasn't sure I'd seen anything till it moved.”

“Meg was wearin’ a tattered red bandanna across her face. Didn't know she was a woman till we'd been married a year.” Grandad hooted and thumped the wooden floor of the porch with his cane.

“Well, his leg was broke pretty bad, and no sign of a horse”... said Grandma.

“Jake, damn his hide, ran off and left me there in the desert ... Ah, well, horses have a brain ‘bout the size of a mouse turd,” Grandad added.

“Ain't that the truth!” Grandma tipped her chair back and planted one dusty boot on the redwood stump.

“It looked like he'd come a fair piece, draggin’ that leg behind ‘im,” Grandma continued.

Grandad scratched the gray stubble along his jaw with one thumb.

“He was a sorry sight!” Grandma patted Grandad's knee affectionately. “I managed to get him up onto my wagon and lay 'im out on top of the freight..”

“There I was spread-eagled amidst the bags of flour, pickaxes, and shovels, when Meg pulled the bandanna up over her nose, reared back her whip arm and bellowed ‘HAAWW!’ She was wearin’, a bleached-out yellow plaid shirt rolled up to her elbows and her hair, carrot-colored back then, curled up around a sorry excuse for a hat. The horses lurched forward and off we went hell-bent-for-leather with me rattlin’ around like loose change in the back.”

“I figured on takin, ‘im on in to Gerlach. They had a horse doctor there. But we hadn't gone more’n a mile or so when the dust began to whip up like a storm at sea. Off in the distance I could see a great wall of sand rollin' across the desert swallowing everything in its path. Sand spewed hundreds of feet in the air and the sky was a muddy blue. I’d seen sandstorms before, and I knew better than to tangle with one.”

(TO BE CONTINUED)

What ARE Those Wines?

By Greg Plant

It seems endless, the number of wines from all over the world, and when you enter a wine shop it can be disorienting! On the other hand, it's an exciting adventure trying out wines to see which fit your taste buds and your budget.

Here, then, is a primer for those interested in learning more about wine. But first: a few words on the *types* of wines. Wines are named for the grape that goes into it—or sometimes for the region where the wine is made. For example: in California it is the "Riesling" grape; in Germany it

can be the "Mosel" *region* -- but the same white-wine grape. A California wine called "Burgundy," though, could be anything!

Here are the major wine-making white grape types (called *varietals*).

WHITE WINES

Chardonnay is usually dry, with an apple, lemony, or tropical fruity flavor. When aged in oak barrels it becomes very complex, with butter and toast flavors in the mix. It also is used in Champagne and in French White Burgundies.

Riesling can be dry to sweet wines that smell like lime, honey, and apricots and are tart (high fruit acidity).

Sauvignon Blanc wines smell like freshly mown grass and are lemony and tart, very much a food wine.

Chenin Blanc is usually a slightly sweet wine that smells like flowers and lemon.

Gewurztraminer is a flowery wine that smells like roses with a slight spiciness; often slightly sweet. A good aperitif wine!

Pinot Grigio is a very light-bodied, tart white wine also often used for an aperitif.

Next month—red wines

Remembering Nani

As told by Joe Athey



In the early 1980's Carlo and I were returning from Los Angeles when he suggested we stop in a small central valley town to visit his Italian grandmother. His "Nani". She was widowed during the Great Depression and raised nine children alone. These kids were Carlo's aunts and uncles on his mother's side.

We drove to Nani's house where a neighbor told us she was at the Church Hall celebrating the Feast Day of Our Lady of Mount Carmel (a big event for Italians). Not being religious, I was a little nervous about going there. But Nani was always sweet to me, so we drove over. When we entered the Hall, the ladies were sitting in a semi-circle with their backs to us around the statue of Our Lady. They had just stopped reciting the Rosary and were on a break. Carlo said, "Joe, I see someone over there I want to speak to, you go say hello to Nani."

I approached the semi-circle from the back and leaned in to say "hi" and give Nani a kiss. I noticed she was sitting beside her sister-in-law, a very uptight person whose beautiful grey hair was always coiffed perfectly. Nani said, "hi Joe!" Then she turned to her sister-in-law and said, "This is Joe, Carlo's boyfriend. They live together in San Francisco." Her sister-in-law jerked to attention as if she'd been electrocuted. And I reacted by giving Nani a kiss and retreating. As we walked down the steps out of the Hall Carlo said, "Joe, you look like someone just hit you with a two-by-four." So, I told him my story.

Have You Ever Heard of an Elevator Speech?

By Judie Donaldson

Someone recently said her writing completely changed—and improved—when a professor encouraged her to realize that “...she could draw pictures with her words.” I appreciate when a writer does this well. I quickly thought of a good example in front of me, the “elevator speech.” That evokes a picture for me.

The “elevator speech” is a tool urging people to be clear and succinct in their description by being able to explain it when riding up in an elevator. It is a surprising challenge.

We started thinking about this at Carquinez Village when a couple of volunteers indicated they didn't feel clear and confident when they

tried to describe the Village. They took too much time, were jerky in their description, and uncertain if key information was included. They wanted to be accurate when they met people who might be candidates for the village.

Simultaneously, at Carquinez Village, we wanted to encourage members to feel free to refer prospective members to us and grateful that volunteers had alerted us to their dilemma. Here is our elevator speech:

“A nonprofit membership organization, Carquinez Village was founded by older adults for older adult to connect, support, and inspire one another. Not a building or a place, but a virtual organization that offers a range of supportive services to assist

members in times of need and a calendar of stimulating activities to engage members' minds. Our goal is to assist seniors to live in the place they call home, with meaning and peace of mind, and as a part of a vibrant community of older adults.”

Our initial thought was to invite all our members to have a few village brochures on hand so that they could distribute them to prospective members and have an elevator speech.

We encourage all our volunteers and members to modify and practice the “elevator speech.” If any members or volunteers want brochures to keep on hand as well, contact Judie Donaldson at 707-297-2472.

Notes from the Editor

By Lois Requist

Thanks again to all our contributors! Joe Athey and Molly Barr contribute monthly. I love the colorful language in Molly's ongoing story. Judie Donaldson always has a contribution and Susan Neuhaus updates us. This month, Sharon Emes, Diane Choquette, and Greg Plant had news for us. Quite a bit about the election in this edition—the League of

Women Voters of Solano County are giving us sources and information.

Barbara Fredericks formats and sends out the newsletter, while Rachel Brown posts it on our Facebook page.

Read the weekly updates that you receive each Sunday for all our ongoing events and look at the website for our more complete

story. A reminder—if you'd like to go to an event on Zoom but are unsure of the technology, just let us know. Someone will help you. Call 707-297-2472 with any questions or comments.

Correction

In last month's story about new member, Christa Shannon, it was incorrectly stated that she received her graduate degree from Indiana University. She earned it at the University of Cologne in Germany.

Carquinez Village Member, Flo Cooper, Makes the News

At 98, Flo Cooper gave up her driver's license. This was so unusual that it made the news. Channel Two sent Claudine Wong, who lives in Benicia, to film Flo's last drive. She started driving in 1940 when she was 18, an 80-year record that Flo said was "perfect." She doesn't remember any tickets or accidents. Recognizing that her hearing and sight were deteriorating, she chose to give up the license.

"Good attitude," Flo said is part of aging well, along with a variety of interests. She also likes a Sapphire martini. Congratulations, Flo for living long and well!



Sapphire Martini: A Delightful Blue Gin Cocktail

The sapphire [martini](#) is an absolute delight, adding a little color and orange flavor to your classic [gin](#) martini. It is a nice way to switch up your [martini routine](#) and the blue color is a fabulous addition to any affair.

The color of the sapphire martini comes from the use of blue curaçao. It is an [orange-flavored liqueur](#) that has a beautiful blue.

Ingredients

- 2 ounces gin (Bombay Sapphire or other [premium gin](#), frozen)
- 2 dashes [dry vermouth](#)
- 2 dashes blue curaçao
- Garnish: [lemon twist](#)

Steps to Make It

1. [Chill](#) a cocktail glass.
2. Add a couple of dashes each of dry vermouth and blue curaçao to the glass.
3. Pour in the gin.
4. Garnish with the lemon twist.
5. If you like, [stir](#) the ingredients in a cocktail shaker filled with ice and strain it into the frozen glass.

Choose Your Gin

Only a dash of vermouth and curaçao are used in the recipe, so they are merely light accents to the gin. That is why it is important to choose a [high-quality gin](#), just like you would for any other martini. Your choice of gin will make or break this drink. Recipe courtesy of the Spruce Eats www.thespruceeats.com