



President's Message

It's July, and the weather is beautiful. Everyone seems glad to be seeing friends and taking the opportunity to get out and about. That has been true here at the Village as well, where our picnics and excursions have been well attended.

We have some great activities planned for July. The July 14th picnic location is Jack London Park, at the top of Hastings at Rose Drive. On Friday July 23rd, the Glashoff Sculpture Garden in Suisun Valley will be this month's field trip.

When I first moved to Benicia, someone told me about Larry's Produce Market on Suisun Valley Road. On my first drive there, I kept having to pull over to check out the amazing whimsical metal mailboxes and sculptures. Later



I learned that those were all done by Phillip Glashoff! I have severe mailbox envy. Don't miss the opportunity to tour his sculpture garden and ranch and hear a special talk from the sculptor himself.

We continue to hold our monthly speaker series on Zoom. In June we had an informative presentation, "Steps to a Healthy Brain" by Dr. Katheryn Conde, PsyD. If you missed it, or any of our speaker series presentations, you could always watch it by linking to the YouTube recording posted on our website.

I wish everyone a wonderful 4th of July celebration!

– Susan Neuhaus



ASK THE VILLAGE - Service Request Hours

Recently one of our members mentioned that they were having difficulty getting to church on Sundays. When asked if they had tried putting in a service request, they replied they thought only rides Monday through Friday were available.

To clarify, there are no restrictions on the days of the week or hours that you can request a service. While it is true that some of our volunteers may choose not to volunteer on weekends or evenings, we also have volunteers who work during the week and hope to be able to volunteer on weekends and early evenings.

We do ask that you place your request as soon as possible. You can enter your service request on our website www.carquinezvillage.org at any time, and the service request notice will go out to volunteers the next day. That is why we ask that you place your service request a minimum of two days in advance—to give volunteers ample opportunity to respond.

If you have questions about your membership or how something works at Carquinez Village, you can always call our General Information Line 707 297 2472. We might even feature your question in the newsletter.



BOOK CLUBS

**“And what is the use of a book,” thought Alice,
“without pictures or conversation?”**

**(From *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland* by
Lewis Carroll.)**

Ah, these ubiquitous book clubs!! I’m writing this on June 16, known as Bloomsday. This wondrous day, commemorated by hundreds of book clubs worldwide, celebrates Leopold and Molly Bloom’s day long journey through the streets of Dublin, as described in James Joyce’s *Ulysses*. You can be sure each celebrant “Prosts” with a great and generous slug of Irish whiskey.

Now to the local Benicia book clubs! As I was asking around and discussing memberships, book selections, and meeting details, the answers were accompanied by faraway looks, reverent tones of voice—almost religious responses. Some people had been in book clubs longer than in their marriages. The Benicia Library has many varied, noontime groups. The Benicia Friendship Club sports five, and Bookshop Benicia, of course, has sponsored several. The Association of University Women (AAUW) and the Benicia Yacht Club meet monthly in their separate groups. The variations of club combinations, book selections, and structures are endless. Some meet for dinner, a luncheon, or just for a group discussion.

In one of my book clubs, we trotted to San Francisco to hear Billy Collins read his poetry. Another time we celebrated Ann Frank’s ninetieth birthday. We have experienced the losses of members, of members’ spouses and children, the births of grand and great-grandchildren. Perhaps these personal connections are the cement of the group. The exposure to the varied literary selections and the spirited discussions are frosting on the cake.

With the growing interest in book clubs, many publications now contain suggestions for discussion. Oprah’s book selections have long been prominent sources for selections by clubs. The Nobel Prize and the Pulitzer are others. I, myself, prize the Booker Awards. The selections seem so eclectic, but many become widespread choices of book clubs. A look at the weekly best sellers is a prominent

indication of book choices. Interestingly, three recent non-fiction books,—*Educated: A Memoir* by Tara Westover; *Caste: A Brief History of Racism, Sexism, Classism, Ageism, Homophobia, Xenophobia, Religious Intolerance, and Reasons for Hope* by Isabel Wilkerson; and *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind* by Yuval Harari—were very popular choices. Now with the interest in “Black Lives Matter,” we see another trend. In fiction, across the board, these titles occur and reoccur—*The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett, William Kent Krueger’s *Ordinary Grace*, *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins, *Where the Crawdad Sings* by Delia Owens, and *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng—alas, only to name a few. It would be so interesting to hear from you readers which book has been the special joy of your book-club experience. During this last year, for many, these books and our book clubs were healing experiences for our souls and our sanity.

– Carolyn Fallon

Speaker Series features: Jeannie Hamann

HOUSING OPTIONS DURING TRANSITION



On July 15th, at 10:30 am, our monthly speaker series will continue with a presentation by Jeannie Hamann, of Hamann Real Estate. Ms. Hamann will speak on various issues around home purchase or selling, such as deciding when you are ready or need to leave your home, and how working with an experienced Realtor as early as possible can help guide you through the process.

Preparing your home for sale or rental, parting with possessions you will no longer need, finding a mover, relocating, reverse mortgages and Prop. 19 will be topics for discussion.

With 34 years in the real estate business and many awards to her credit, Ms. Hamann is an ideal person to talk about buying and selling a home. She will also take questions.

If you are interested, please go to the Carquinez Village website, carquinezvillage.com, and register for the event. You need not be a member to attend.

CARQUINEZ VILLAGE BOARD MEETING



Tuesday July 6th

2:30 PM to 4:30 PM

Ever wanted to know what goes on at the Village Board Meetings? Join us for part or all of our meeting. Open to all members and volunteers.

Register for this important event by clicking [HERE!](#)

California



I know it's fashionable to bash California and certainly our beloved state has serious problems, but I want to share some good news from Bloomberg. In an article dated June 14, 2021, Matthew A Winkler writes:

“No one anticipated the latest data readout showing the Golden State has no peers among developed economies for expanding GDP (gross domestic product), creating jobs, raising household income, manufacturing growth, investment in innovation, producing clean energy and unprecedented wealth through its stocks and bonds. All of which underlines Governor Gavin Newsom's announcement last month of the biggest state tax rebate in American history.”

Winkler also notes that California added 1.3 million people to its non-farm payrolls since April of last year. A number equivalent to the entire workforce of Nevada. Its household income growth of \$164 billion was almost as much as the combined growth of Texas, Florida and Pennsylvania. Among the five largest economies in the world California's growth outperforms the U.S., Germany, and Japan, trailing only China.

All of this is good news coming off a very rough period of pandemic closure, death and destruction. The cherry on top for California is that so far we have done better than forty-one other states in handling COVID19 and keeping people alive. So, get your vaccination, encourage those you love to do the same, and get out there and enjoy the Golden State.

– *Joseph Athey*

Editor's Notes

I'm pulling together this newsletter while on a road trip. I'm in Williston, North Dakota at the moment, but by the time you read this I will likely be home. It's a bit more challenging getting the pieces in one place while traveling, but, so it goes.

The Ask the Village article will become a feature each month in the hope that it will help members better understand how the village works.

The usual thanks goes to Mary Eichbauer, who edits the articles, and all of those who contributed this month—Joe Athey, Carolyn Fallon, Susan Neuhaus, and Cynthia Helmuth for their input. If you'd like to write something for the newsletter, send me a note at lois@requist.com.

One final note: what do you think of this newsletter? What would you like to see added or changed? Any thoughts? Let me know at my email address lois@requist.com.

– *Lois Requist*