



Hi Everyone,

I can't believe that over 52 years ago I was president of my teachers training college student union in the East End of London UK. Now here I am embarking on being president of Carquinez Village in Benicia USA!!

Susan Neuhaus, as you know, has been doing an amazing job, and she will be a very hard act to follow, but she will still be on the Board, thank goodness. I will need all the help I can get, so all our members need to work together to make Carquinez Village a success. I look forward to seeing you at all our activities, lectures, and events this year.

We start off with "A Matter of Balance," a class let by two of our members— Susan Neuhaus and Sally Radigan. The class is in given conjunction with the City of Benicia Parks and Recreation Department. It is free to our members and will be presented over an eight-week period. Call 707-746-4285 to see if any spaces are still available. Also, there is a Volunteer Orientation in January. Call Kathy Monroe at 908-334-7024 if you are interested in volunteering in any way.

HAPPY NEW YEAR to you all. I look forward to seeing you for coffee, picnics, potlucks, etc. once the rain (which we really need) stops. Please keep yourselves safe as the various COVIDs continue to spread. Wear that mask when you are out and about!

Finally, I want to introduce my new Board of Directors for 2022. We are all here to make Carquinez Village the best volunteer organization ever.

Cheers,
Helen

Carquinez Village Board of Directors 2022

Helen Hughes
President

Diane Choquette
Secretary

Gerry Forcier
Treasurer

Susan Neuhaus
Membership Chair

Cynthia Hellmuth
Program Chair

Leslie Lessenger
Governance

Linda Chandler
Marketing

Barbara Fredericks
Marketing

Janice Magner
Member Services Chair

Kathy Monroe
Volunteers & Services Chair

Jeanne Ekdahl
Steering Committee Coordinator
& Virtual Office Manager

The Village Honors its Volunteers!



Although many of our members thank their volunteers each time they provide a service or a program, nowhere was gratitude more evident than in the roar of applause at the joint holiday dinner! it was especially wonderful to see, since many of our volunteers were members first, and some of our members were volunteers first!

Carquinez Village has three categories of volunteers, and some wonderful people offer their talents in two or even all three categories. First are the organizational volunteers, much of whose work is done behind the scenes. These are Board members; folks who contribute their time as chairs or members of committees; and people who

work on communications, record keeping, finances, fund raising, outreach, and technology.

The second group of volunteers are those who work on programs or events where they interact with members as a group. These are the folks who plan, organize, and run weekly or monthly get-togethers, lectures,



happenings by Zoom, craft events, discussions, field trips, and yearly special events.

The third group are our direct service providers, the ones who answer your request for an individual service. We appreciate every single service that our direct service providers give, especially when there are limitations on their availability, but who volunteer, nonetheless. As representatives for all our direct service providers, five individuals were honored at the holiday dinner for the huge amount of time and energy they expended in the service of our members: Diane Delaney, Sharon Emes, Dennis Dellaroca, Pete Vaughan, and Lisa Reep.

Many of our sixty-six volunteers express personal satisfaction

and joy in being a part of the wonderful organization that you know Carquinez Village to be. We welcome all three types of volunteers, but we are particularly in need of direct service providers, those who can offer rides, do errands, make friendly phone contacts, do simple household tasks or repairs, or help with technology issues or personal organization. All our volunteers are vaccinated, vetted, trained, and given an orientation.

Please consider whether someone you know or you yourself could step up and realize the wholesome benefits of helping others. Applications and a phone number for questions are on the website. Or call 707-297-2472.

Our next volunteer recruitment event is on Jan 13 at the Florence Douglas Center, Vallejo, from 11:00-12:00. We will run a volunteer orientation in Benicia on January 20 for those who have signed up by January 17.

Kathy Monroe
Chair, Volunteers and Service



Volunteer Recruitment and Training

By Helen Hughes

The volunteer recruitment event will be held at the Florence Douglas Center, 333 Amador St, Vallejo, on Thursday, January 13, 11:00 am to 12:00 pm.

The Orientation Meeting for those who have sent us their volunteer forms is at the Heritage Presbyterian Church, on the corner of East Military and East 2nd Street, Benicia, on Thursday, January 20, 1:00 to 3:00 pm.

January Better World Event

By Pat Plant



Join us for a Zoom event, January 26 at 7 pm, focused on *Prisons and the Campaign to End the "Three Strikes" laws*, featuring **Jean Ciani**, Bay Area SURJ (Stand Up for Racial Justice) leader.

There is a movement to repeal the "Three Strikes" law, which seems to have unfairly imprisoned black people, filling prisons with black prisoners, some of whom committed very minor crimes. Monthly Better World events are organized by Carquinez Village member Pat Plant as part of the community outreach program of Heritage Presbyterian Church.

To get the Zoom link to this event, email betterworldbenicia@gmail.com.



Memorial Mass for Will Emes, Jr.

Carquinez Village joins together in support of our valued volunteer Sharon Emes, who is mourning the passing of her husband Will. Please hold her in your thoughts and prayers.

There will be a Memorial Mass on Tuesday, January 18, at 10 am at St. Dominic's Church, 475 East I St., Benicia.

A light reception will immediately follow the service in the Rectory Hall.

Member Spotlight - Meet Marilynn Roberts

Born in Michigan, new Carquinez Village member Marilynn Roberts was named for her two grandmothers. (“Mary” and “Lynda” combined to become “Marilynn.”) At the age of three, she contracted rheumatic fever and lost a significant portion of her hearing. At that same age, Marilynn moved to California with her family. Her fondest memories are growing up as a child in La Jolla and Mission Beach, where she first discovered her love of the ocean. It was there, while playing in her backyard of sand, that she learned to play creatively to compensate for her hearing loss.

The roots of Marilynn’s artistic nature were formed by that creative play. Today, a tour of her home reflects her eye for color, detail, and design. She doesn’t call herself an artist, but her paintings surely say that she is one.

Marilynn credits her mom and dad and stepdad and stepmom with giving her a strong, loving be-

ginning and feels blessed to have had four good parents in her life. She learned how to be giving from her mother, how to smile and to live below your means from her dad. Her stepmother always had her back, and her stepfather taught her about being humble.

Marilynn’s first job was working in a theater as a candy girl, but her job at Disneyland was the most fun. In 2002, she received an award in appreciation for her excellence in support services from the CCAE, California Council for Adult Education. After retirement, she volunteered for Amtrak as an ambassador, making sure everyone was okay and having a good time.

After traveling to many countries in Europe and living in sixteen cities in the U.S., Marilynn’s traveling spirit eventually brought her to Benicia. As for her life here in Benicia, she says, “It’s like a mini dream where I’m living now!”

The Village Offers a Course to Prepare for End-of-Life Issues

Carquinez Village is starting off the year by hosting a program that was designed specifically for our members. Entitled “Being Prepared to Address End-of-Life Issues,” this eight-session course will cover topics that range from strategies and preparations we can undertake now, to understanding the responsibilities that fall to our loved ones after we die. The course will meet from 1:30 to 2:45 pm on ten Wednesdays from January 19 to March 23.

Other sessions address the financial cost of illness; strategies for seeking help when you need it; approaches to talking with your doctors; understanding how hospitals work; the importance of being your own advocate (or of having an advocate) and understanding your rights as a patient; learning from an attorney about the work of your executor; learning from a mortician about traditional funerals, cremations, eco-burials, and willing your body to science; California’s Right-to-Die law; and more.

The purpose of the program is to ensure that we are all as informed as possible about issues and situations that we may encounter as we approach the end of our lives. It is based on the belief that being informed will enable us to make wise choices and be at peace with the choices we make.

If you have questions about the course, contact Judie Donaldson at 707-771-1217.

Welcome to 2022

by Lois Requist, Editor

I've enjoyed putting the newsletter together this past year. We've been publishing for about a year and a half now. It takes teamwork. Mary Eichbauer does a final edit after I put it together from what village members send. Barbara Fredericks does the formatting, which must work across a number of platforms, from paper to all the various devices we use these days. Rachel Ann Latosa Brown, whom I was pleased to meet at the holiday party, takes the newsletter to Facebook, and Barbara posts it to our website.

I'm hoping in the New Year we can be kind to one another and gentle with the earth. It has suffered and needs care. Happy New Year!

