



Villages and Belonging

Villages offer a range of connections and services to older adults seeking community and support and provides a sense of belonging that enriches the lives of members and volunteers. In this issue:

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From the Executive Director



Charlotte

As this newsletter goes to press, the country is reeling from last week’s mass shootings in Gilroy, El Paso, and Dayton. We have learned that two of the recent massacres were motivated by an extremism that makes far too many of us “the other.” In these two cases, categories of “other” were national origin, immigration status, and skin color – which is Racism targeted towards Latinos. Last year, we [addressed](#) the shooting of older Jews in Pittsburgh and Louisville that targeted “others” based on religion, race, and age – Anti-Semitism, Racism and Ageism.

At Village Movement California, we work with our member villages to create the “We.” As intentional communities,

villages open their doors and their arms to older adults seeking social connection, purpose and meaning, and support for navigating the transitions of aging. Our members and intergenerational volunteers come together to build common ground and reap the joys of being seen and heard by others. Villages provide a sense of belonging that offers an antidote to the social isolation and loneliness gripping modern life.

Our movement has started a conversation about diversity, equity, and inclusion in our villages. We already embrace members of different backgrounds, family constellation, sexual orientation, race and ethnicity, and income, to name a few. Village members and volunteers who share the backgrounds of people killed in these three cities, or whose friends and family members share them, are likely feeling traumatized and afraid. It's important that we reach out to hear how they are doing, ask how we might help.

Village Movement California joins the chorus of activists and organizations calling for an end to violence against others. We commit to re-doubling our efforts to build caring communities that strengthen our neighborhoods, cities and society.

Home Sharing – A Housing Option

Home sharing is a living arrangement in which two or more unrelated people share a house or apartment. Home sharing is an increasingly important component in the landscape of healthy aging in community. It provides homeowners with additional income, and renters with affordable housing options. Some homeowners offer lower rent in exchange for help around the house. Home sharing provides a partial solution to the economic dilemma faced by the “Forgotten Middle” (see article below), the epidemics of social isolation and loneliness, and needs for low cost help with chores. And of course, both parties can benefit from the personal relationship that is formed through the home sharing arrangement.



A home share program provides a service that helps match a person who has an extra room or separate available unit (a provider) with a seeker who is looking for a place to live. California has 14 [non-profit home share programs](#). These organizations are members of the [National Shared Housing Resource Center](#). Their programs follow the Center's best practices which advise in-person, professionally staffed procedures: intake, match-making, negotiation of home share agreements, conflict resolution, referral to social services and healthcare resources, and ongoing monitoring and coaching. Non-profit programs are often implemented by organizations with a long-standing history in the community and a rich network of agency relations and knowledge of local housing laws and regulations. They are free or very low cost and rely on grants, contracts, and donors to support their operations.

[Silvernest](#) is a for-profit home share company that sponsored our Age of Leadership convening. Silvernest offers a robust online platform for matching homeowners and renters. A monthly fee allows homeowners to list their property and provides unlimited

matching and messaging. They also receive access to a variety of tools such as a rent calculator and home sharing agreement creator. Renters sign up for free, but can pay a one-time fee for a background check to enhance their profile.

Silvernest is currently running a [pilot program](#) with Teach for America and Encore.org to place new teachers in homes throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. The three partners emphasize the intergenerational aspect of this program.

Village Movement California encourages its members to engage with home share programs and create opportunities for their members to learn more about the benefits of home share.

Village Movement California is interested in your thoughts, ideas, and experiences—whether direct or indirect—with home sharing. Please send a message to Charlotte at charlotte@villagemovementcalifornia.org.

Tales From the Village



Westside Pacific Villages Transportation Grant and Program

Westside Pacific Villages (WPV) uses a hub and spoke model to serve the cities and neighborhoods of Westchester, Marina Del Rey, Culver City, Playa Del Rey, El Segundo, Mar Vista, Playa Vista, Ladera Heights, and Venice with planned expansion into [Manhattan Beach](#). As in most villages, door-to-door transportation is a highly utilized service.

In 2017, WPV applied for and received a three-year federal grant to purchase one ADA compliant minivan and hire a driver, establish a mileage reimbursement plan for volunteers, and conduct community-wide education programs addressing seniors' transportation issues and solutions. The funding comes from the Federal Transit Authority (FTA) 5310 program and is administered by the local traffic public transportation management agency, the L.A. Metro Transit Authority. Since it launched in April 2019, the program, *WPV RIDES*, has served approximately 30 village members, supplementing WPV's robust volunteer driving program.

WPV utilizes the van to transport members to OPICA (Optimistic People In a Caring Atmosphere) and the WISE and Healthy Aging adult day care centers. The van provides morning and afternoon transportation to and from the day care centers and is then available to drive WPV members during the day. WPV RIDES transports members to grocery stores such as Japanese markets, Trader Joe's, and Ralph's on a weekly basis, and to Costco every other week. It is also used for events and field trips, and it fills gaps in the ride schedule.

One requirement of the grant is to provide education to the older adult community on a host of transportation options. WPV is excited about expanding its reach into the

community to share important transportation resources and to market the village to potential new members. The first workshop will be held on August 29.

A few WPV members have pointed out disadvantages of the van service. The fixed schedule for grocery shopping offers less flexibility than individual rides. The van ride is less smooth than a ride in a car. However, most enjoy carpooling with other members, with some making new friends and having lunch together at Costco. The van has ramp allowing for easier access for those members using walkers. WPV continues to offer individualized rides to grocery stores and assistance for members who need that type of support.



WPV recently submitted a second proposal for 5310 Federal funding as a continuation and expansion of its current volunteer driving and transportation services for seniors. They have requested two more vans, drivers, and related operational expenses. The proposal uses the framework of prevention of social isolation and loneliness, and it includes expanding the schedule to offer rides to and from local senior centers and WPV's own expanded social programming. For more information about the grant, contact Carol Kitabayashi, Executive Director of Operations, at carol@thewpv.org or 310-695-7030.

R.I.P. Patricia (Patsy) Thayer Barich

January 30, 1956 – July 20, 2019



This month we regretfully share very sad news. Many of you know or have talked with Patsy Barich, the founder and co-chair of the former Walnut Creek Village. Patsy passed away at home with her family at her side after a valiant battle with ovarian cancer. She was a huge proponent of the Village Movement and worked tirelessly to help us all succeed. Patsy's obituary was published in the San Francisco Chronicle. You may read it [here](#).

Richard Siegel Memorial Lecture

Sunday, August 25, 2019
3:00 – 5:00pm



Richard Siegel was a member of Village Movement California's Leadership Team. His vision for a grassroots movement of older adults and his deep experience in movement building shaped Village Movement California's vision, mission, values and strategies. His fingerprints are all over the organization! Richard was a founder of ChaiVillageLA. His memory will be honored on Sunday, August 25, with the **Richard Siegel Memorial Lecture**. Details and registration information are [here](#).

Hot off the Press

Welcome New Villages!

Two new villages are now open for business, the [Anderson Valley Village](#) based in Booneville (Mendocino County) and [Sierra Foothills Village](#) in Nevada City (Nevada County). They share some of the same characteristics and face similar challenges.

Anderson Valley Village says its main purpose is “to enhance the quality of your life.”



Among the reasons for joining is one that will likely resonate with all villages: “Contributing to the fabric of our community.” They have 53 members and 37 volunteers. The most frequently requested service is transportation, particularly to medical appointments. A potential concern is isolation as members live in a remote area, and the village is responding by providing a space for people to meet and connect.

Sierra Foothills is also located in a rural county and is experiencing significant growth in its retiree population. As in Anderson Valley Village, transportation is a priority issue for villagers and the older adult community. There are 53 members and 46 volunteers and they recently hired an Executive Director, Erin Nichols. The village is planning and hosting social and educational events, and a field trip to San Francisco to see Hamilton is coming up.



We welcome these new Village Movement California members and look forward to learning from them!

In the News: The Forgotten Middle

An April 2019 article about middle class older adults, [The Forgotten Middle: Many Middle-Income Seniors Will Have Insufficient Resources For Housing And Health Care](#), describes the economic challenge half of seniors will face by 2029. These same older adults do not qualify for publicly funded services like In Home Support Services (IHSS), and they are usually unfamiliar with services provided by the regional Area Agencies on Aging.



That’s where villages come in. They provide vital services like transportation, grocery shopping, technology support, companionship, social events, and other important activities that help members age safely in their homes. They educate members about the resources available in the community, often providing referrals to vetted or screened providers. Villages fill an important gap for people who don’t have the resources to pay for these supports long term.

The article summarizes the results of a study of U.S. middle-income adults who will be age 75 or older in 2029. The study explores the:

- Expected increase in this group from 7.9 million to 14.4 million
- Changes in their demographic characteristics
- Adjustments that will be needed to meet their health care needs

The study provides an important context for making the business case for villages by:

- Naming the group of older adults who are at risk of losing healthcare and/or housing
- Bringing attention to the needs of a group of older adults who are largely overlooked by public policy
- Sounding the alarm about the consequences of ignoring their situation

Villages can utilize this study and its findings to explain how the village is a vital part of the aging services network. Villages provide important social supports and care to thousands of older adults, helping them to maintain vibrant networks of friends, remain civically engaged, and age well in the places they call home. The care and opportunities villages provide prevent social isolation and its negative health impacts, delay unwanted moves and institutionalization, and preserve valuable financial resources.

This [video](#) tells a story about this population and their financial challenges.

Update: California Master Plan for Aging

On August 1, Village Movement California was at the State Capitol to hear We Stand With Seniors (WSS), the campaign of SCAN Foundation, and WestHealth, announce that [73% of voters](#) approve of a Master Plan for Aging. These voters span political parties, geographic regions, generations, and racial and ethnic identities. This level of support for a government initiative demonstrates a unity of commitment to build a better life for older adults and their communities. A detailed report about the findings is available [here](#). Details about the poll are [here](#).

Village Movement California members and leaders attended meetings around the state to advocate for the village model and its inclusion in the Master Plan for Aging. Nearly 20 representatives from REAL Connections, Sierra Foothills, Greater Niles, Eden Area, North Oakland, and Ashby Villages attended three of five Master Plan design sessions sponsored by the SCAN Foundation to speak about villages’ services and supports that contribute to health and well-being. The SCAN Foundation will compile the findings and submit them to the



Governor’s office as a set of recommendations. The design sessions were not part of a formal, state sponsored process – that process is yet to be designed and publicized – but they were one piece of the larger advocacy effort to stimulate a high quality, relevant, and actionable plan.

Village Movement California is laying the groundwork for villages to educate our communities, aging services partners, and state officials about the village model, and to

advocate for its inclusion in the Plan. An Advocacy Team is forming and will meet via video conference call in August to contribute to our advocacy plan. Seventeen village leaders have already signed up – please let us know if you want to [join](#).

We are developing a simple fact sheet describing the village model and its impact, and showing Village Movement California’s footprint. The fact sheet will be available by early September to help you tell the story about our movement.

Programming Update

At the core of Village Movement California’s purpose is building capacity among villages to stimulate growth, deepen impact, and ensure sustainability. A variety of programs aimed at sharing expertise, best practices, challenges, and successes will take place over the coming months.

Webinars

Now that our very successful convening, The Age of Leadership, has taken place, we will resume webinars. Over the next six months (August 2019 – February 2020), we plan to host these three webinars:

- How Villages Build Connections and Address Social Isolation and Loneliness
- Making the Business Case for Villages
- Master Plan for Aging: What You and Your Village Need to Know



Each webinar will include subject matter experts and village leaders. Each will be recorded and posted on the website, along with slides and materials.

We are looking for people to join our Program Team to help plan and implement this webinar series. See **Village Movement California Needs You!** below for more information. Please contact Charlotte if you are interested: charlotte@villagemovementcalifornia.org, 510-900-6380.

Conference Keynotes and Breakout Sessions



Village to Village Network [Annual Gathering](#), Chicago IL, September 18 – 20, 2019

- Opening Keynote, “Villages: Staking A Claim”, Kate Hoepke
- Breakout Session, “How Villages Build Connections and Combat Isolation”, Charlotte Dickson

League of California Cities 2019 [Annual Conference, & Expo](#) Long Beach, CA, October 16 – 18, 2019



“Villages and Resilient, Age Friendly Cities”, Charlotte Dickson, John Hall (SLO Village), Aisha Jasper (City of Fremont), Steve Lustig (Ashby Village)

Please invite your city manager and city council members to attend.

California Association of Area Agencies on Aging [Annual Meeting and Allied Conference](#), Glendale, CA, November 19 – 21



“Village Movement California: Scaling the Village Model and Ideal”, Charlotte Dickson, Tony Gitt (Conejo Valley Village), Carol Kitabayashi (Westside Pacific Villages)

Village Movement California Needs YOU!



We are your organization, fully dedicated to stimulating your village’s growth, deepening your impact, and ensuring your sustainability. We operate on a shoestring, with one full time Executive Director and a handful of teams made up of village leaders across the state.

We need some help! The following positions are open and waiting for you to step up:

Webinar Team – Are you experienced at designing and running successful workshops and other interactive programs? Interested in learning webinar skills? Team members will work closely with the Executive Director and the Program Team to plan and run webinars on topics that address the needs of our members.

Website Administrator – Do you know WordPress? Using content we provide, the website administrator will update the website (Village Movement California) bi-monthly, adding visuals and ensuring the website follows our branding guidelines.

Annual Convening Planners - You will work closely with the Executive Director to plan the 2020 annual gathering. The gathering will take place in Northern California. We have a successful set of templates and lessons learned to guide the work of this team.

Do any of these positions interest you? Please contact Charlotte: charlotte@villagemovementcalifornia.org, 510-900-6380.

All newsletters are archived [here](#)

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