



AGING.  
BETTER.



Carol Haig, Editor

A publication of [Village Movement California](#)

February 2021

## Inclusion & Equity, Not Isolation

This is the third goal in the Governor's Master Plan for Aging. It gives us the opportunity to participate, broaden our vision as a movement, and expand our model to encompass diverse communities across our state.

### Contents

- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
- Tales From the Village: South Bay Village Vaccine Program, Marin Villages New Executive Director
- Village Request: SLO Village
- Volunteer Opportunity – Social Media Expert
- Proposed Repository for Sharing
- Anti-Aging Greeting Cards
- Upcoming Events: Webinars & Programs
- COVID-19 Information & Resources



*Charlotte*

### From the Executive Director

*"True community is based upon equality, mutuality, and reciprocity. It affirms the richness of individual diversity as well as the common ties that bind us together." Dr Pauli Murray.*

Dr. Murray is a renowned Black lawyer, author, Episcopal priest, civil and women's rights leader, and member of the LGBTQ community. Her quote embodies

values that our village movement strives to fulfill. We acknowledge that the independence we cherish requires interdependence on family, friends, neighbors, and systems of care. We share the common experience of aging, an inevitable fact of human life.

How well do we affirm diversity within our villages, our neighborhoods and cities, ourselves? This question is one that we will pursue with vigor this new year. It is one that our movement must answer affirmatively if we are to fulfill our vision to “ensure that all Californians have access to vibrant communities that enhance and expand the ways we can age well.”

I am thrilled that the Governor’s Master Plan for Aging includes villages as a strategy for advancing its third goal, “Inclusion and Equity, Not Isolation”. The language of our recommendation is both an affirmation of our collective work to raise awareness of the village movement, and a challenge to broaden our reach. It reads “Promote and adapt village models for older adult services and volunteerism, building on the strengths of California’s diverse communities.”

Adapting our model requires that we name its elements and then ask if and how these elements resonate with diverse groups of older adults. My list of elements includes place-based, intentional communities that engage the assets of older adults to foster health and human development. It includes opportunities for social connection and engagement, supports for healthy living in the places older adults consider their homes, and access to information and referral for the services villages don’t provide. Volunteerism is core to the village model, as are membership dues. What’s on your list that we should add? What should we re-consider?

We are planting many seeds to grow our movement’s awareness and inclusion of human diversity. Caregiving is a dimension of members’ diverse identities, and our caregiving workshop series is in full swing. Age and generation are aspects of diversity, and many of you are exploring and building intergenerational communities. We are hosting a quarterly call with leaders working in this area. Please read our *Upcoming Events* section below to see how you can join these conversations.

In California, race and ethnicity are front and center of the work to build an inclusive, equitable society. Please read the *Diversity Equity & Inclusion* section that follows to learn more about how we are addressing these.



## Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

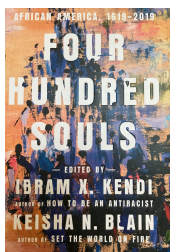
We start the year with a challenge from the Master Plan for Aging to promote and adapt our model to build on the strengths of California’s diverse communities, along with a grant from NextFifty Initiative to help us do that. We are working on several fronts. Executive Director Charlotte Dickson and four village leaders from around the state are participating in the [UNtraining](#).

“The UNtraining provides insights and tools for all levels of experience and activism to white people and people of color.” It is “...a provocative and compassionate approach to help people discover how to work together in extraordinary ways to end our collusion with racism and all forms of oppression.”

The five leaders will participate in Village Movement California’s Diversity Equity and Inclusion Team to share insights and to help shape our work to expand our reach. With a challenging approach that stretches participants’ thinking, combined with empathy and kindness, the Untraining methodology offers a powerful context for building a truly inclusive village movement

The Board of Directors will be meeting with Rita Shimmin, the [UNtraining’s](#) co-founder, to start their work to build a diverse, equitable, and inclusive village movement. Yvette Leung, Principal at Y’s Change and a trainer with the UNtraining, will help Charlotte and the Board craft an action strategy to guide Village Movement California’s work in this area.

Several villages are focused on DEI initiatives: Ashby, ChaiVillageLA, Pasadena, and San Francisco, to name a few. Village Movement California will bring these villages together every so often for networking and learning. Please reach out to [Charlotte@villagemovementcalifornia.org](mailto:Charlotte@villagemovementcalifornia.org) if your village wants to participate in these group calls.



## Black History Month

Black history *is* US history. February provides an opportunity for a deeper dive into Black struggles, milestones, and accomplishments. A new book, [Four Hundred Souls: A Community History of African America 1619-2019](#), contains short essays covering five year segments of history by prominent Black intellectuals.

The California Department of Aging’s (CDA) recent workshop “*Culturally Informed Policies and Programs for Black Elders*” is now available as a [recording](#) and [transcript](#). The CDA recommends two videos to help all of us “...continue learning about how we can combat racism and build environments, policies, and programs with and for Black older adults”:

- American Psychological Association (APA): [Black Aging Matters](#)
- Stanford University: [Health and Healthcare of African American Older Adults](#)

# Tales From the Village



## Vaccinate South Bay Village Members

By Ghislaine (Ges) Davis, Executive Director

South Bay Village is based in Torrance and serves the city and the surrounding area in Los Angeles County. As in most communities, getting access to the COVID vaccine can be a frustrating and time-consuming activity filled with conflicting information, incomplete communication, and even cancelled appointments. Joan Day, an office manager at South Bay Village, had a great idea: have village volunteers help members make appointments for the vaccine. Here's how we set it up.

Village volunteers call all members to ask if they would like help making an appointment for the vaccine. Many members want this help and agree, up front, to accept any vaccination location in the area and any available date and time the volunteer can arrange.

- The volunteers call numerous area vaccination locations multiple times until they are able to make contact
- They provide the member's name, telephone, and other required information to the vaccination site
- The site then calls the member with the location, appointment date, and time
- The member calls our office to tell us they were contacted and provides the date, time, and location
- The South Bay Village office sends the resulting transportation requirements to the volunteers to secure a ride for each participating member to and from their appointment
- A volunteer accepts the assignment and calls the member to confirm
- On the scheduled day, the volunteer transports the member to and from the appointment

Members continue to call in daily and are overwhelmingly appreciative of this service. With such a positive response, we plan to expand this program to our volunteers and other seniors in the South Bay.

Want more information? Please contact Ges Davis at 424-271-2304.



## Welcome Marco Maina, Marin Villages

Marco is the new Executive Director of Marin Villages. He has been a collaborative leader at distinguished nonprofit organizations, most recently as Executive Director of the Sequoia YMCA in Silicon Valley. With 30 years of experience in Brazil, Canada, and the USA Marco has been serving senior citizens in their pursuit of happiness and quality of life. Building on the strengths of multigenerational and diverse teams, he has successfully created new programming concepts, leveraged community partnerships, and raised funds for the cause.

Marco is fluent in Spanish and Portuguese, and has a working knowledge of French. He says, “I’m delighted with the opportunity to contribute to the advancement of Marin Villages’ mission. I have seen the benefits of aging in place in my own family and believe many others can benefit from living independently. Marin Villages impacts the quality and quantity of life of senior citizens by creating community connections.”  
Welcome Marco!



## Village Request: Mandated Reporter Policies?

Has your village established policies and/or procedures for staff, members, and volunteers who are *mandated reporters*? Mandated reporters include social workers, health care professionals, educators, ombudsmen, and others required by State law to report suspected abuse or self-neglect they observe. In a village, activities such as intakes, support groups, and member services present opportunities for a mandated reporter to be concerned.

If you have protocols in place, SLO Village would like to hear from you. Please contact [Linda@slovillage.org](mailto:Linda@slovillage.org).



## Social Media Volunteer Needed: Village Movement California

Are you a skilled Facebook user or do you know someone who is?. Many of our members and prospective members are comfortable with Facebook and

use it regularly. We want to reach them. Village Movement California needs a person to set up our Facebook page and to post to it once per week. The Social Media volunteer will work closely with Charlotte Dickson and the Communications Team and. Please contact [charlotte@villagemovementcalifornia.org](mailto:charlotte@villagemovementcalifornia.org).

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## Proposed Repository for Sharing

Linda Beck, President of SLO Village, has suggested that villages could share articles of common interest to reprint in their newsletters if we had a repository for collection and storage. In addition, the repository could contain video recordings of village workshops featuring experts in finance, long-term care, end-of-life, and other topics of interest along with other resources of value.

Does the idea of a Resource Repository sound like something that would benefit your village? Would your village:

- Consult such a repository and use the materials in it? Yes No
- Contribute articles and other materials to such a repository? Yes No

Please send your responses to [charlotte@villagemovement.org](mailto:charlotte@villagemovement.org) by **February 26**.

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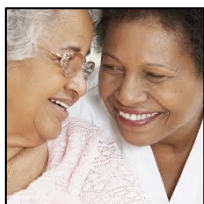


## Anti-Ageist Birthday Cards!

Tired of looking for just the right birthday card for a special older adult and finding that most cards present a negative image of ageing? [Changing the Narrative](#), a Colorado organization, has done something about this.

Twenty-two Colorado artists, ages 16 to 82, have created a set of anti-ageist birthday cards—all celebrating instead of denigrating aging. You can read more on their [campaign page](#), and purchase the cards online [here](#).

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## Villages and Family Caregiving Webinar Series

All sessions will run from **10:00am – 11:00am**

**February 18** – *How to Start a Caregiver Support Group* – Esther Gillies and Monica Hubbard, Pasadena Village Caregiver Support Group.

Register [here](#).

- March 18 – Caregiving for a Loved One with Dementia – Wayne April, Pasadena Village. Register [here](#).



- April 21 – Love in the Time of Chronic Illness: Active Strategies for Caregivers and Care Receivers – Barbara Kivowitz, San Francisco Village. Register [here](#).



## HFC CareCon

**February 19, 12:00pm.** This Alzheimer's caregiver event will feature 4 panels covering a range of informative topics moderated by celebrity guests Kimberly Williams-Paisley, Ashely Williams, Leeza Gibbons, Sean Hayes, and Sanja Gupta, MD. Visit the event page and register [here](#).



## Medicare Updates and Coverage Information Related to COVID-19

**February 25, 10:00am – 11:30pm.** We will discuss partner resources, Medicare coverage for related services, testing, and the COVID-19 vaccine. Register [here](#).



## Equity in Aging Webinar Series

**March 3, 2021 – July 2021, Every 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday, 10:00am – 11:00am**

Monthly peer-led webinars feature national, state, and local leaders exploring how we can help make our communities more just and build a California for *all* Ages. Sponsored by the California Department of Aging.

**March 3, 10:00am – 11:00am** – *Culturally Informed Policy and programs for Asian and Pacific Islander Older Adults* featuring Joon Bank from the [National Asian Pacific Center on Aging \(NAPCA\)](#) and Yvonne Sun of [Special Service for Groups Inc. \(SSG Silver\)](#). Register [here](#).



## Intergenerational Learning Cohort

**April 21, 10:00am**

For more information contact [charlotte@villagemovement.org](mailto:charlotte@villagemovement.org)

## COVID-19 Information & Resources



**Weekly AARP Tele-Townhall Calls** continue with helpful information during COVID-19. Calls take place every Thursday at **10:00am**. Find detailed information and topics [here](#).



## Ask an Expert

A daily COVID-19 feature on the San Francisco Bay Area all-news radio station, KCBS, each Q&A session has a pandemic-related subject and compiles listener questions into a 20-minute discussion with a subject matter expert. All discussions are available in recorded and transcribed formats [here](#). Recent offerings include:

- Clean Air Doesn't Have to Cost You Big Bucks [here](#)
- How is COVID-19 Vaccination Tracked [here](#)

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## Notices

Have an upcoming event you'd like to open to other villages? Send the information to the newsletter editor: [carolhaig@earthlink.net](mailto:carolhaig@earthlink.net)

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