



## 2021 – A Year For Hope

Welcome to 2021! With the upheaval in our nation's capital, and our concerns about the state of our country, the challenges of COVID-19, and our individual needs and wishes, we encourage everyone to focus on staying safe, staying well, and helping where you can. We will get through this.

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*Charlotte*

### From the Executive Director

I join the millions of people who welcome 2021 with a mixture of relief and hope. The Covid-19 vaccine is being administered in California as I write. Vaccination will ramp up over the coming months. Villages are helping plan for community-wide vaccination clinics and honing transportation plans to get members to vaccination sites. The State's "Vaccinate All 58" Campaign [website](#) has detailed information about vaccination in California.

We will continue to send you the latest information about how to protect your members and volunteers from vaccine scams (see *COVID-19 Information & Resources* below).

The Governor's final Master Plan for Aging was released last week, and it names the promotion and adaptation of the village model in its two-year implementation plan. This is good news for our movement! I will be speaking with the Director of California's Department of Aging about next steps later this month.

We are days away from the inauguration of President Elect Joseph Biden and Vice-President Elect Kamala Harris. Their platform includes expansion and innovation of supports and services that help older adults to age well in the places they call home. Initiatives to impact Medicare and Medical recipients will be forthcoming from the Department of Health and Human Services.

The January 6 insurrection was devastating in many ways, and the impact on our democracy is unknown. Like many of you, I have been dealing with fear and disorientation. I have turned to my communities to feed my hope and deepen my commitment to helping create our country's more perfect union.

Our village communities offer members and volunteers many gifts for navigating the fallout of recent events: loving connections, reliable programs, democratic processes, optimism, to name a few.

Village Movement California will continue to suggest resources to our members and friends to grow the village movement, deepen its impact, and ensure its sustainability. We are stronger than ever, and we look forward to this new year.

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## Tales From the Village: Welcome New Executive Directors!

### Introducing two new Executive Directors



#### Millie Anderson, Petaluma Village Network

Millie Anderson is the new part-time Executive Director of the Petaluma Village Network. Millie brings experience in marketing, community outreach, project management, and fundraising. Her career has involved many years of working with older adults and their families, and with several senior residential organizations. She is a member of the Marin Section on Aging, and a native Californian with roots in Petaluma. Millie says, "I am delighted to join an organization whose strongest values are aligned with mine: care, relationship-building, and community." Welcome, Millie!



## Katie Brandon, Pasadena Village

Katie Brandon is the new Executive Director of Pasadena Village. She was chosen for her broad experience in fundraising and volunteer management and her deep connections to the Pasadena community. Katie was attracted to Pasadena Village's mission to foster vital independent living in a spirit of mutual support, enrichment, and inclusiveness. She says, "I am enthusiastic to increase the visibility of Pasadena Village, welcome new members, and strengthen the funding relationships. Pasadena Village enhances the lives of those aging in place and helps them combat isolation which is so critical for all of us, especially older adults, as we continue to feel the widespread effects of pandemic." Welcome Katie!

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## Village Request



## Proposal for Villages to Work Together On Climate Change & Climate Action Issues

By Bill Haskell, San Francisco Village

San Francisco Village members are exploring what we might do, together with other villages in California, to participate in large, collective actions to slow and stop climate change and its resulting devastation.

Is your village formulating climate action strategies, either in a special interest group or as a village initiative? Is there interest in joining climate action organizations and following/participating in their work as a group?

This subject is right for villages at this time because:

- Climate change is a collective crisis and it requires collective, not individual, solutions
- Individual lifestyle changes are important, but our real power comes when we work together
- We need to focus on structural change in the form of new policies while at the same time continuing our individual commitments
- Women, young and old, are at the forefront of climate actions and solutions
- Older women are the core of the climate movement, working in collaboration with younger leaders like [Greta Thunberg](#)

These last two are particularly significant because, according to Village Movement California's 2018 member survey, 73% of our village members are women.

San Francisco Village members are considering joining one or two Bay Area nonprofits to follow their work:

- **1,000 Grandmothers Bay Area** – Elder women working to address the climate crisis. Auxiliary members are included - friends and relations, young and old. Particularly focused on climate justice.
- **350.org Bay Area** – Volunteers, working to:
  - Raise awareness and urgency about the climate crisis
  - Mobilize to demand action required to protect us all from the worst impacts
  - Support young people calling for a livable planet
  - Dig into policy options to get real emissions reductions actions passed.

And there are many other organizations working on climate change in California. Are you familiar with any in your area? Two that work across the state are:

- **Environment California** - A nonprofit political organization that lobbies for environmental legislation in the U.S. and California and is affiliated with Environment America and the Fund for the Public Interest
- **Nature Conservancy of California** - “We work to protect the ecosystems, species and natural resources that make the Golden State unlike anywhere else. From stopping mega-fires to restoring our coasts, we access the power of nature to protect what matters: our home.”

It would be powerful to have statewide participation in this vitally important climate change action movement by any or all California villages. We could definitely be stronger together and we could have significant impact: older adults across California, working on actions to make a difference in the climate crisis.

Please note that even as the incoming Biden administration confronts the immediate task of accelerating the pandemic recovery, the longer-running climate challenge is at the center of the administration’s economic priorities. The time is right for action! Is your village, or special interest group interested in exploring participation in larger, collective actions to slow and stop climate change/devastation? Please contact: Bill Haskell at: [bhaskell@sonic.net](mailto:bhaskell@sonic.net)

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## New! FTC Fraud Reporting Site

The Federal Trade Commission has a new website to make it easier to report potential frauds/scams to federal authorities and receive quick advice on what to do. Making such a report helps protect your community.

The types of scams and bad business practices you should report to the FTC include:

- Identity theft

- Romance scams
- National Do Not Call Registry violations
- Computers, the internet and online privacy issues
- Telemarketing scams
- Credit scams
- Immigration services
- Sweepstakes, lotteries, and prizes
- Business opportunities and work-at-home schemes
- Health and weight loss products
- Debt collection, credit reports, and financial matters

Be sure to watch the video about how to make a report. Visit the [FTC website](#) to report fraud.

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## Old Folks Laugh

By Maya Angelou

They have spent their  
content of simpering,  
holding their lips this  
and that way, winding  
the lines between  
their brows. Old folks  
allow their bellies to jiggle like slow  
tambourines.  
The hollers  
rise up and spill  
over any way they want.  
When old folks laugh, they free the world.  
They turn slowly, slyly knowing  
the best and the worst  
of remembering.  
Saliva glistens in  
the corners of their mouths,  
their heads wobble  
on brittle necks, but  
their laps  
are filled with memories.

When old folks laugh, they consider the promise  
of dear painless death, and generously  
forgive life for happening  
to them.

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## Upcoming Events



### Master Plan for Aging: Five Bold Goals Virtual Summit

**January 13, 1:00 – 4:00 pm**

The California Health & Human Services Agency and the California Department of Aging will be joined by several key State partners, stakeholders, and legislative leaders for a discussion of the Master Plan's vision for building a California for all ages. [Click here to access via tablet, phone, or computer.](#)



### Statewide Zoom Call – The Intergenerational Village

**Jan 14, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm** – Kate Hoepke

A number of villages are working on intergenerational programming. Kate Hopke will lead a networking call for those interested. We will share information, questions, concerns, and plans for building and expanding intergenerational components of the village. Register [here](#).



### COVID-19 Vaccination: It Matters in Saving Black Lives

**Jan 16, 9:00 am – 12:30 pm**

The [Minority Health Institute](#) and [UCLA BRITE Center for Science, Research and Policy](#) invite you to attend a virtual town hall with some of the nation's premier COVID-19 experts and historically Black institution and organization leaders to address facts, fears and myths about COVID-19 vaccination as we fight to protect and save Black lives.

To register and participate in the FREE virtual town hall, click [here](#) or visit [www.mhinst.org](http://www.mhinst.org)







## Villages and Family Caregiving Webinar Series

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

**January 28** – *Family Caregiver Challenges and Opportunities* – Dr. Donna Benton, USC Leonard Davis School of Gerontology  
Register [here](#).

- Feb 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, Alzheimer's Assn (TBD). Register [here](#).
- April 21 – Caregiving and Couples – Barbara Kivowitz, San Francisco Village. Register [here](#).



## Hearing Loss and its Effect on the Brain, Cognitive Function and Social Relationships

**January 26, 2:00pm – 4:00pm**

Ashby Village Member Support presents Professor Meg Wallhagen, PhD of UCSF to learn about the many ways hearing loss can be corrected.

RSVP: [Info@ashbyvillage.org](mailto:Info@ashbyvillage.org) or 510.204.9200

Although this event is FREE, Ashby Village relies on donations to bring programs like this to our members and friends. We thank you for any contribution.

Join at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89280528638>



## Equity in Aging Webinar Series

**February 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.

Join us for the next webinar: *Culturally Responsive Services & Care With and For Black Elders* **February 3, 10:00am – 11:00am** Register [here](#).

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## COVID-19 Information & Resources



## COVID-19 Scams Continue to Increase

Learn about the most recent COVID-related scams and how to report them [here](#).



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](#).

Get the latest information about COVID [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:

- How COVID-19 Mutates [here](#).
- What Happens if You Miss Your Second Vaccine Dose [here](#).

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## Notices

*Diversity Equity and Inclusion* will return

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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