



Carol Haig, Editor



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Reimagine!

As we emerge from what we hope has been the worst of the pandemic, villages will celebrate the creativity and resourcefulness they employed this past year even as they look ahead to the possibilities of the future. Our Annual Conference will explore the changing village and how it can evolve.

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From the Executive Director



Charlotte

Octavia Butler, the Black science fiction author, wrote, “All that you touch. You *Change*. All that you *Change* Changes you. The only lasting truth is *Change*. God is *Change*.” This tenet rings true for our times.

Last week, Governor Newsom announced that the State will be opening for business on June 15, as long as hospitalizations remain low. After working hard to stay connected through virtual platforms and physically distant services, villages will now be creating a “new normal”.

This will require creativity, patience, and hard work. What won't change is the power of your villages to support meaningful and healthy aging.

I am excited about our upcoming statewide convening, *Reimagine!* We will keep the Zoom format and plan to return to an in-person setting next year. We'll explore four topics, all of which have bubbled up from conversations and workshops I've held with you over the past year. We'll listen to excellent speakers and have plenty of time to interact with each other. Read about the details in this newsletter.



Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

The word *belonging* comes up frequently in conversations with village leaders and movement partners. They describe villages as communities of belonging. This word and concept is powerful! To belong is to be seen and welcomed for who you are – your gifts and challenges, the way you see the world and express yourself, your history, and your many identities. Successful villages offer a sense of belonging to their members and volunteers. This is especially valuable in an ageist society that excludes and discriminates against older adults.

Current events, like the trial of Derrick Chauvin for the murder of George Floyd, and an uptick in incidents of anti-Asian violence, force the question, “Who belongs?” The racial justice uprising that caught fire last summer is asking our nation to expand the circle of belonging.

The language of the California Master Plan for Aging asks our movement to expand the circle of belonging by drawing upon the strengths of California’s diverse communities. We can start by examining how we signal who belongs in our villages, and who does not. What kind of programs do we offer? Do they invite people with different aptitudes and interests? How do membership dues convey belonging? Other organizational features that build belonging are language, processes like membership enrollment, volunteer training, governance structure, and culture.

Our summer conference, *Reimagine*, will offer a workshop called *Building Communities of Belonging*. Two workshop goals are: increased awareness of the many identities that comprise us and our villages, and enabling greater ease in talking about our identities. When we can see and share our identities, we open up the possibility that others can do the same. From there, we can co-create a community that expands the sense of belonging to more people.



Annual Conference

June 15, 16 9:00 am – 12:00 pm via Zoom

As demonstrated during the COVID-19 pandemic, the value of villages as lifelines to the vital connections, services, and expertise that support healthy aging has only increased. How we do business has changed, and it remains to be seen what the “new normal” will look like. As we expand our scope and collectively harness our ingenuity and passion, let’s come together to both celebrate our resilience and reimagine our villages and our movement.

Join us for two days of learning and discussion about reframing aging, building communities of belonging, designing the post-pandemic village, and creating sustainability. Please download and share this conference flyer [here](#).

Sessions include:

- Reframing Aging
- Building Communities of Belonging
- Evolving the Post-Pandemic Village
- Sponsorship and Financial Sustainability

Two days - \$75 individual (one day registration not available)

Two days Group rate - \$200 for four people

Pro-rated for groups of 5 or more - \$50 per person

Register [here](#).

Please share this downloadable package describing opportunities for conference sponsorship [here](#).



Senior Rally Day

May 4, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Senior Rally Day occurs each year in May to coincide with Older Americans Month. It is designed to raise awareness among legislators and the Governor about senior issues at the time when the May revision of the Governor's annual budget is being finalized. This year’s theme is the California Master Plan for Aging. It is sponsored by the California Collaborative for Long-Term Services and Supports, of which Village Movement California is a member. And we will also be a sponsor.

Join with other older adults online to make your voice heard. Let our legislators know that programs for older adults are critical and that their support of the Master Plan on Aging is critical.

We will provide more details about the program as they become available. Register [here](#).



Introducing the Village Movement California Media Repository Pilot

By Carol Haig, Editor

In response to one village's request and the interest of several others, we are launching a pilot program to determine if a Media Repository is a useful resource that villages will contribute to and borrow from. Media can include articles, entire newsletters, photos, and videos.

Pilot Basics

The Media Repository pilot will run for three months: April – June. During that time we will monitor the interest and usage, make adjustments to improve the user experience, and determine whether or not to make the Repository permanent.

Basecamp

Are you familiar with the Basecamp app? We have chosen it for our Media Repository because it is already in use by Village Movement California and is well-suited to our need for uncomplicated, logical processes for depositing and retrieving articles and other media. Basecamp is designed for workgroups of all sizes. It has many capabilities of which we will only be using a few. All are straight-forward and intuitive.

You'll find instructions for using the applicable features of Basecamp in the document *User Guide: Basecamp for the Village Movement California Media Repository*. Any village interested in participating can request access to Basecamp and the *Guide* from our newsletter editor, Carol Haig at: carolhaig@earthlink.net. A copy is also stored in the Media Repository.

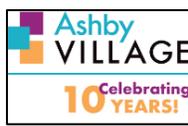
Site the Source

Basecamp makes it easy to determine where a piece of media you are interested in is stored and where to upload media you'd like to make available to other villages. There is only one rule for using an item from the Repository: please *cite the source* in anything

you re-publish in your newsletter or send to your members and volunteers. That is: Village name and/or author's name and title if available.

You are also welcome to contact the item's source—author or village—for more information.

Questions? Contact Carol: carolhaig@earthlink.net. Happy Sharing!



Let's Take Action on Climate Change Together – Next Steps

By Bill Haskell, San Francisco Village, Maryl Gearhart, Craig Griffith,
Ashby Village

The first large Climate Action Session hosted by Ashby Village and San Francisco Village was held on March 5. At that session, the following climate action organizations were presented:

- 350 Bay Area
- Active Allies
- Elders Climate Action/NorCal Chapter
- Sierra Club San Francisco Bay Chapter
- 1,000 Grandmothers for Future Generations Bay Area

We received lots of positive feedback. Check out the full summary of that first session [here](#).

What's Next – Friday Morning Climate Talks – April and Early May

With limited time for interactions with the presenters at the March meeting, and because some people weren't ready to join one of the small climate action groups, we have scheduled a series of *Friday Morning Climate Talks* in April and early May to provide additional opportunities to learn about each organization. Each Friday features a speaker from one of the five organizations—the first one was held April 9 with Nan Farley from [350 Bay Area](#). At the remaining four Talks, you will have an opportunity to learn more about each organization and consider what role you would like to play in climate action.

Presenters will describe:

- Their organization's mission, particularly in the Bay Area and California
- The activities and actions they are most excited about

- The role older adults can play in their organization's climate actions
- There will also be time to chat with the presenters and participants, and for Q & A.

Please come to one, a few, or all of the *Friday Morning Climate Talks!* All are from **11:00 am – 12:00 pm**

Friday Morning Climate Talks

Date	Speaker	Organization
April 16	Felix Kramer & Costanza Gonzalo	Active Allies
April 23	Todd Webber	Elders Climate Action
April 30	Jacob Klein	Sierra Club Bay Area
May 7	Carol Rothman & Rochelle Towers	1000 Grandmothers

Registration: Please RSVP for **each** *Friday Morning Climate Talk* at info@ashbyvillage.org. Your confirmation will provide you the Zoom link. You will also receive a reminder email on the morning of the event with the same Zoom link

Second Large Climate Action Session – Friday, May 14th, 10:00 to 11:30 am

We will meet for a second large climate action session on May 14th when a summary from each of the five Friday Morning Climate Talks will be provided. This will include:

- The organization's mission and what it does in the Bay Area and CA
- Activities the presenter is most excited about
- The role older adults can play in the organization's upcoming climate actions

Following these summaries, we expect all those who attended the five *Friday Morning Climate Talks* will return to learn what actions people have taken, and to share their own thoughts and plans for getting involved in climate actions. Every person's contribution to this discussion will be invaluable. We can learn from and motivate each other to act on the climate emergency that threatens us and future generations.

Please RSVP to info@ashbyvillage.org and indicate that you are registering for the second Climate Action session on May 14.

Need more information? Contact Bill Haskell: bhaskell@sonic.net

Upcoming Events



Defunding the Police: Why Now? – A Conversation with Jonathan Simon

April 18, 2:00 – 4:00pm

Ashby Village ELDER Action and Arts and Culture Present Dr. Jonathan Simon, the Lance Robbins Professor of Criminal Justice Law at the UC Berkeley School of Law. Learn more about the history and evolution of policing in America. RSVP [here](#).

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/88999218975>



Villages and Family Caregiving Webinar Series

10:00am – 11:00am

April 15 – *Love in the Time of Chronic Illness: Active Strategies for Caregivers and Care Receivers* – Barbara Kivowitz, San Francisco Village. Register [here](#).



Intergenerational Learning Cohort

April 21, 10:00am

For more information contact charlotte@villagemovement.org



Equity in Aging Webinar Series

May 5, 2021 – July 2021, Every 1st 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. Check [here](#) for upcoming information on the May webinar.



4th Annual Older Adult Mental Health Awareness Day Symposium

May 6, 10:00 am – 5:15 pm

May is both Older Americans Month and Mental Health Awareness Month. In this free virtual event we will discuss the efforts and innovations that are aiming to improve the lives of people with serious mental illness.

Register [here](#).

COVID-19 Information & Resources



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 and recorded [here](#).

Recent offerings include:

Post-Pandemic Anxiety: Navigating a 'Mixed Set Of Emotions' as You Enter the Real World Again [here](#).

Notices

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

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