



New Year, New Partners

The New Year brings opportunities and new partners to help us reach our mission and vision. Read on about three new Board Members and the Mon Ami company and stay tuned to this year's newsletter editions to learn about the people and organizations joining our movement.

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From the Executive Director



Charlotte

In January it's our cultural norm to greet people with "Happy New Year." I love this tradition. I'll say it to friends and strangers until mid-month.

I am wondering what a "happy new year" means this January, when we are facing Omicron and making difficult decisions about village operations; when there's so much uncertainty about our national political situation; when there are so many older adults living in shelters and on the streets.

What I do know is that villages' intergenerational communities are reliable places of human connection, human development, and practical and emotional support. In short, belonging.

I am thrilled that the Rupe Foundation granted us a second round of funding to support a communications plan and two new initiatives to scale and sustain our movement! Beginning last Summer and Fall, a team of Village Movement California leaders and consultants started working on them.

The first is a Village Lab geared towards forming new villages and advancing the sustainability of established villages. The second is a Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Training Institute to deepen knowledge, skills, and practices to engage older adults not currently part of our movement. Both initiatives are intended to fulfill the Master Plan for Aging's objective to "promote and adapt the village model of volunteerism and services to reflect the strengths of California's diverse communities of older adults."

I send you my best wishes and intentions for a prosperous and meaningful start to the new year.

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion will return next month

Village Movement CA Board Changes

In December, we said good-bye to three Board members. Bea Kirkman, Director of AgingNext Village in Claremont, stepped down after serving on the Board and its predecessor, the Leadership Team. Dave Kuykendall, incoming Chair of SLO Village, will remain on the Data and Evaluation Team while serving on his village Board. Susan Kujawa, incoming Chair of Pasadena Village, stepped down after serving on the Board and its predecessor, the Leadership Team. They all assured us they will remain involved with our statewide coalition.

Three new Board Members join us this month. I asked each of them to tell us, "What are you bringing to Village Movement California, and what do you hope to learn?"



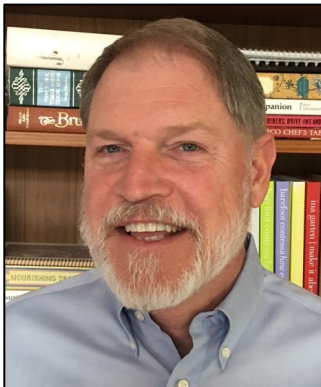
Avi Rose: I'm bringing my extensive experience as a nonprofit leader in health and human service organizations, including my current service as Interim Executive Director of Ashby Village. I'm also bringing enthusiastic interest in the big-picture question of how we mobilize multi-generations in all kinds of diverse communities to support people to age in place, and how we successfully advocate for public and private resources

to achieve that vision. I hope to learn a great deal from others who are engaged in these critical issues, including those who are steeped in Village Movement experience.



Carlene Davis: With over twenty-five years of leadership in the public and non-profit sectors, I bring a comprehensive portfolio of expertise in policy and advocacy, community engagement and capacity building, convening and facilitation, organizational development, participatory research, training and curriculum development, program design, and project management. I look forward to learning how Village Movement California can collaborate for collective impact and systems change that enables all of California's diverse elders, and particularly Black

women, to have the resources, supports, and caring relationships they need to age in place and community while thriving at every stage of the aging journey.



Erick Larsen: Through my career working with seniors, I have observed the isolation and depression that seniors often experience as their network of family and friends dwindles and their role within their community diminishes. I believe the Village Movement provides an opportunity for people to rebuild their social and support network. In doing so, they re-engage with neighbors and their community not only for support services but to discover new purpose and meaningful relationships as well. Through my participation on the Board of Village Movement California, I bring a network of senior

resource organizations and options as well as firsthand experience with many of the challenges we face in the aging process. I intend to use my experience and that network to help older people remain more secure, more informed, and more connected.

Working in the non-profit sector is new to me. I hope to learn more about how non-profit organizations, government agencies, and service providers can interface to provide better systems of support for seniors.



Annual Appeal

Thank you to all who have contributed to our Annual Appeal. Thanks to a generous donor, donations are being matched 100% until January 31. Help us meet our goal of \$30,000. There is still time to

make your gift.

[Donate Here](#)

2021 Influencers in Aging – Featuring Mon Ami

By Carol Haig, Editor

Each year the editors of the online publication [Next Avenue](#) select and honor the “thought leaders, activists, entrepreneurs and experts” who are changing the ways we think about aging.” Among the selection criteria for 2021 were two questions asked of the honorees:

- If you could change one thing about aging in America, what would it be?
- How has the COVID-19 pandemic changed your perspectives on aging?

Here at Village Movement California, we are delighted that among the 12 individuals and organizations named is [Mon Ami](#), one of our new partners. Mon Ami is a technology company that offers an aging and disability services operating system well-suited to village functions.



Mon Ami was founded in 2018 by Joy Zhang, left, and Madeline Dangerfield-Cha, right, as a technology platform that paired college students with older adults. Initially, the students provided caregiving respite and companionship. Through partnerships with nonprofits and local government agencies, the platform evolved further during the pandemic lockdown to serve those populations

suddenly facing greater isolation and need. To date, Mon Ami is in 12 states, including California, Oregon, and Utah.

"Our technology is being used by nonprofits and public offices serving seniors across the country," says Dangerfield-Cha. "They've implemented direct-service delivery of prescriptions, groceries and emergency assistance when it's been needed most during the pandemic. It's allowed them to work more efficiently and add a lot of outcomes focused on the way they track and record their services."

Here are Mon Ami's answers to the two questions asked of the honorees:

If you could change one thing about aging in America, what would it be?

"We've volunteered in hospice and dementia care. We've interviewed hundreds of caregivers. We've cared for caregivers. We are forever changed by bearing witness to the severe pain and isolation that Alzheimer's and other dementias create. If we could wave a magic wand, we would of course wish for a cure. In the meantime, though, these families deserve all the support, both emotional and practical, that our society can muster."

How has the COVID-19 pandemic changed your perspective on aging?

“Even though we started a technology company, COVID-19 has reinforced the exclusionary nature of today's apps and devices to people with cognitive impairments. The switch to virtual did not bring everyone along. We must not leave them behind when it comes to new programs and services developed in the next decade.”

Today the Mon Ami platform is being used by San Francisco Village and Next Village. It provides a highly flexible and inclusive database that supports specific village functions. The system includes:

- Volunteer/member matching software that tracks every activity by the hour and includes a mobile app
- An event management system that captures member attendance at all activities and an events calendar that can interface with a village website so members RSVP through the system, reducing the number of RSVP calls
- The centralized telephone system tracks every call made by volunteers and staff, producing critical data for potential funders
- The system houses all resource and referral data—a valuable feature for a village
- An administrator can pull up a member file and see everything they have engaged in: who they volunteered for, who volunteered for them, which activities they participated in, the referrals given them, calls they received from village staff, etc.
- There is capability for accepting payments such as membership dues and reimbursements to a volunteer who shopped for a member
- The only function Mon Ami won't address is donor management and villages can use a separate system for that

Both villages are highly satisfied with the Mon Ami platform and with the responsiveness they experience from the technical staff.

Village Movement California is continuing to explore ways for villages to use Mon Ami as they set up their operations. To discuss possibilities with Mon Ami contact Joy Zhang at joy@monami.io for more information. Read the full article [here](#).



Annual Village Survey

Village Movement California is kicking off 2022 with our fourth annual survey. Its purpose is to stimulate networking across villages, update our movement profile, and provide input for Village Movement California's 2022 programs. The Data and Evaluation Team kept it as simple as possible.

We ask you to identify a survey point person for your village who will complete and submit it by January 26. Follow this [link](#). Dave Kuykendell is available to answer your questions: dave@slovillage.org.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Support National Village Recognition Day!



Village to Village Network is calling on all villages to support a U.S. House of Representatives proclamation of **February 15, 2022**, as **National Village Day**. With more recognition for Villages comes more opportunities for funding, and the ability to help thousands more older adults thrive where they choose to live with meaningful connections to their communities. Let's advance the Village Movement so that millions more older adults can benefit.

Please click [here](#) for a sample letter that you can customize and send to your representative. You can find your representative by clicking on this link, www.house.gov and typing in your zip code.

Village to Village Network encourages everyone to get involved in this national effort as it will take all of us to get the recognition that Villages deserve.

UPCOMING EVENTS



The Master Plan for Aging One-Year Anniversary Summit

January 21, 2022 10:30 am – 12:00 pm

With its Five Bold Goals and 23 Strategies, the Master Plan for Aging has inspired unprecedented levels of coordinated action across California's growing network of aging and disability providers, policy makers, advocates, and experts. Join us online to celebrate what we've been able to accomplish together in this first year and learn about what's planned for the year ahead. Register [here](#).



Advancing the Science: The Latest on Alzheimer's and Dementia Research

February 14, 2022

10:00 am – 11:30 pm

This Valentine's Day, join Village Movement California and the Alzheimer's Association in a webinar as we learn about the latest Alzheimer's and dementia research, updates on dementia risk reduction, and hands-on tools to help you incorporate these recommendations into a plan for healthy living. Please download and share the promotional [flyer](#). Register [here](#).

COVID-19 Information & Resources



Ask an Expert

This daily COVID-19 feature on the San Francisco Bay Area all-news radio station, KCBS, continues with in-depth discussions that keep pace with COVID-19 developments. Each Q&A session has a pandemic-related subject and compiles listener questions into a 20-minute discussion with a subject matter expert. Recent topics include the Omicron variant, the efficacy of various in-home rapid tests, and the likelihood that all of us will get some form of COVID in the next ten years.

All discussions are available and recorded [here](#).

Notices

Have an upcoming event you'd like to open to other villages? Send the information to the newsletter editor: carolhaig@earthlink.net for publication in our Current Events Monthly (deadline is the 25th of the month) and/or our Monthly Newsletters (deadline is the 10th of the month).

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