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Carol Haig, Editor

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April 2022

## Spring: Passover, Easter, Mothers' Day

A time of rebirth, rejuvenation, renewal, and regrowth, Spring is an optimistic season—a welcome change from the limitations we've all experienced and are cautiously leaving behind. Our Village Movement is re-engaging and expanding as well. Read on for details.

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## From the Executive Director



*Charlotte*

The Conference Planning Team is meeting regularly to craft an enriching and celebratory event for our movement. The dates are June 21 and 22, and our theme is *Re-Engage*. I've heard from many of you that re-engaging members and volunteers is a challenge after two years of disruption. I know that non-profit organizations across the U.S. face the same challenge. That's because so much has changed. People have moved, changed or lost jobs, become caregivers to their loved ones, lost their health or their verve.

I asked Kate Hoepke, Executive Director of San Francisco Village and Board Chair of Village Movement California, to write about our *Re-Engage Conference*. This is what she shared:

“Together, we're emerging from more than two years of Covid-related stress and isolation. Our connections have been tested, losses have mounted, and grief has affected all of us in some way. At the same time, our bodies long for expressions of joy and an expanded sense of who we are in a world that has changed. How do we revitalize the relationships and connections within our villages to support a new vision for what we can become?

“Looking ahead, we see opportunities to engage our villages in the vital work of building a culture of care. Based on principles of reciprocity and interdependence, villages are a vehicle for re-imagining what is possible when we acknowledge our deep interconnectedness. This conference is designed to re-engage the members of your community with their sense of purpose and possibility.”

I invite you to spend some time talking about what re-engagement means to you and your village. Identify your personal thoughts and feelings and share them with your colleagues. That way you will be prepared to engage in the sessions we are crafting for you, and to come away inspired by joy, purpose, and meaning.

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## Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

By Charlotte Dickson



Village Movement California's annual survey results are in. Thank you to all who responded! Our completion rate was 84% (38 of our 46 villages).

Two survey questions asked villages if they are addressing diversity, equity, and inclusion, and if so, how they are doing so. Twelve villages (26% of respondents) answered that they are

thinking about, and taking action, on the topic. Actions include:

- Incorporating DEI into strategic planning
- Expanding the Board to include more diverse members
- Establishing an Inclusion Committee
- Creating Affinity Groups
- Educational programming about history of racism in the U.S.
- Relationship building with organizations serving diverse communities
- Revising language and images to be more inclusive
- Changing intake form to ask about race and ethnicity

- Reimbursing volunteers for mileage
- Grant writing with DEI in mind

Another survey question asked villages about the demographic information they collect. Here's what they reported: 92% ask about age and gender, 51% ask about partnership status, 43% ask about race and ethnicity, and 22% ask about sexual orientation. The percentage of villages asking about race, ethnicity, and/or sexual orientation increased between the 2018 and 2022 member surveys.

This territory is one we will be exploring together. What information about our members should we know so that we can better serve them? How do we ask questions in a manner that makes it clear we welcome older adults of many different backgrounds and identities? We may worry that it's offensive to ask questions about a member's race, ethnicity, or sexual orientation. Not asking risks sending a message that our village does not care about these parts of a member's identity. Let's think about how to question our fear and learn how to affirm these aspects of identity.

Village Movement California's Executive Director, two Ashby Village leaders, and Yvette Leung of [Y's Change](#) are working together to build an infrastructure to advance our movement's collective knowledge and skills about expanding our concepts and practices to better engage diverse groups of older adults. In the next few months, we will share our plans for a Village Movement California Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Training Institute.

We affirm we that we serve lots of different older adults – single and coupled people, older adults who do not have children, introverts and extroverts, baby boomers and the WWII generation, people with hearing and sight challenges, artists, and engineers. We already have some legs to stand on when it comes to diversity and inclusion. The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Training Institute will build on our knowledge and experience and advance our abilities to engage even more older adults in our communities and across California.

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## Conference Update



Save the dates for the fourth annual statewide convening: June 21 and 22, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm.

The Planning Team is dedicated to creating two mornings of laughter, learning, and networking that will advance your villages' work to *Re-Engage* a sense of joy and purpose for your leaders, members, and volunteers.

So far, the agenda includes a *World Café* that will connect your village leaders with others from around the state in a lively, deep conversation. Two workshops will touch on ways to engage village members in open conversation about the things that matter to them, and on ways to tap into creativity. We will share specifics in the days to come. We'll also hear from Village Movement California leadership, and have opportunities to meet and speak with [ElderAction](#) leaders, sponsors, and each other in breakout rooms.

We encourage your village to tap its current, new, and potential leaders for this event. They will come away feeling excited about being part of the village movement.

Registration is open, and you may go to this link to [register](#). The flier is [here](#). Please download it, share it with your leaders, and post it in your newsletters.

If you have questions or suggestions, please reach out to Planning Team member Dinah Frisling, [frishdin@gmail.com](mailto:frishdin@gmail.com).

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## State Budget Request

By Charlotte Dickson



Village Movement California's budget request to the State of California is a giant step towards sustainability of our movement. The question that led to the formation of Village Movement California was, "How do we sustain villages over time?" The answer was California villages must come together and position their collective membership and volunteer corps to attract investment from deep pockets. And who has those deep pockets? Government and Healthcare.

Our efforts to be included in the Governor's Master Plan for Aging laid the foundation for requesting government investment in California's village movement. The budget request is a powerful step towards advancing Village Movement sustainability over time. All of our villages have a stake in its outcome. The request, described in this [fact sheet](#), is making its way through the legislature's budget process thanks to the work of more than a dozen village leaders across the state.

On March 31, we learned that Representative Marc Levine of District #10 will be the request's champion in the Assembly. Having a champion is a requirement for budget requests advancing in the Assembly. Representative Levine's district is home to nine villages – the six Marin villages, Village Network of Petaluma, Sonoma Valley Village (one of our newest villages), and Anderson Valley Village.

We continue to work on finding a Senate champion, but our request can move forward in the Senate without one.

## What can you do to support the budget request?

1. Each village can send a letter supporting the request during the month of April. A package with the sample letter and instructions is [here](#).
2. Ask your partners to send a letter of support. The sample letter and instructions are [here](#).
3. Write down two anecdotes describing how the village has changed the lives of a member and/or a volunteer. Such stories are powerful ways to communicate our movement's value. Please see the *Request for Anecdotes from Village Members & Volunteers* below.
4. Attest through email and live comments at upcoming public hearings about the budget request. Email [charlotte@villagemovementcalifornia.org](mailto:charlotte@villagemovementcalifornia.org) to be notified of public hearings.
5. Include an article in your village's newsletter about the budget request. A sample is [here](#).

These materials are housed on the [Member Dashboard](#) at Village Movement California.org. You will need to use your username and password to get access. Please reach out to [charlotte@villagemovementcalifornia.org](mailto:charlotte@villagemovementcalifornia.org) for help with this if needed.

It's thrilling to work towards fulfilling Village Movement California's purpose and promise: *At Village Movement California we believe in the power of community to achieve society-wide change in the way we age. Every day, we lead the way with proven tools, connections, and visibility so that villages, and in turn all Californians, can thrive. Because when we join forces, we ensure that all Californians have access to vibrant communities that enhance and expand the ways we can age well. Together we can make so much more progress than we can ever achieve alone.*

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## Request for Anecdotes From Village Members & Volunteers

By Charlotte Dickson



As the Master Plan for Aging is implemented, Village Movement California is in communication with our stakeholders in the California legislature and the aging services system.

Part of the work we're doing is helping our stakeholders better understand what our villages provide. Examples of the

kinds of support members experience through village volunteers and staff will help clarify the value of villages to communities in California. Please ask your members and volunteers to tell us, in their own words, how the village helped a member:

- Stay in their home longer than expected
- Find a needed service
- Stay connected and mentally healthy during COVID-19
- Improve their quality of life

Brief is better—one paragraph or less, please. Send anecdotes to [charlotte@villagemovementcalifornia.org](mailto:charlotte@villagemovementcalifornia.org).

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## Free COVID-19 Tests for Medicare Beneficiaries



A federal program offers every household in the U.S. two orders of four COVID-19 tests each. We hope everyone has signed up for these at the designated government [website](#). Now, Medicare enrollees can get additional free COVID tests.

As of April 4, 2022 each Medicare enrollee can get eight free tests each month at no cost, without a prescription, from any [participating pharmacy](#). Both Original Medicare and Medicare Advantage plan participants qualify for this benefit. Medicare Part B covers these tests if you have Part B. Just bring your Medicare card, even if you have a Medicare Advantage Plan or Medicare Part D plan, to a participating pharmacy. Medicare Advantage Plan members do not have to use their network pharmacy. This benefit continues each month until the end of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.

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## Age-positive Image Library



Have you struggled to locate photographs and other visual images of older adults that show us in a positive light? You are not alone. The [Centre for Ageing Better](#) in England recently studied how older people are depicted and found that stock image libraries often use images that are unrealistically positive or negative. They believe that the media should communicate realistic and diverse representations of older adults rather than using stereotypes and caricatures.



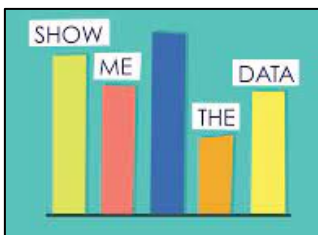
Their concern has produced an age-positive library of images that are free to use. You can learn more about this library [here](#), access it [here](#), and search for images in these topics:

- Age-positive Icons
- Picture Yourself Active
- Aging in Society
- Work
- Housing
- Health
- Communities
- Digital Inclusion
- Finance and Planning

The photographer above is an image from this library.

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## Upcoming Events



### Show Me the Data: Leveraging Qualitative Data for Impact

**April 27, 2022 10:00am – 12:00pm**

Hosted by the [NorCal Coalition for Older Adults' Social Connectedness](#) (COASC). A walk-through of qualitative data

gathering basics, how to make sense of what you already have, and hear about key learnings from a collaborative evaluation project.

Learn about speakers and see agenda [here](#). Register [here](#).



### Older Adult Mental Health Awareness Day Symposium

**May 16, 2022 7:00am – 1:00pm**

The [National Council on Aging](#) is co-sponsoring this event with the [U.S. Administration for Community Living](#), the [Health Resources and Services Administration](#), and the [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](#). Registration is free and includes a full day of

sessions on how to best meet the mental health needs of older adults. Continuing Educations Credits will be offered.

For the agenda, additional information, and to register, click [here](#).



## The Stonewall Generation: LGBTQ Elders on Sex, Activism, and Aging

**Tuesday, June 14, 2:00 - 3:15 PM**

Sponsored by Village Movement California, Ashby Village, Pasadena Village, and San Francisco Village

In the Stonewall generation, coming out took courage. It was a turbulent time, a time of fear, a time of secrecy. Intimate lives hidden in the shadows. And yet, in the midst of it all, the Stonewall Generation has continued to fight for freedom, for rights, for love, and, yes, for sex. Author of the book, *The Stonewall Generation*, Dr. Jane Fleishman will be joining us with Dr. Imani Woody, an African American Same Gender Loving woman who has been at the forefront of LGBTQ elders rights for decades.

See the flier [here](#) . Register [here](#).



## Village Movement California Annual Conference

**June 21 and 22, 2022**

**9:00am – 12:00 pm each day**

The conference is designed to re-engage your village and its leaders with Village Movement California. We encourage your village to tap its current, new, and potential leaders for this event. They will come away feeling excited about being part of the village movement.

Registration is open, and you may go to this link to [register](#). The flier is [here](#). Please download it, share it with your leaders, and post it in your newsletters.

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## Special COVID-19 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 in recorded and transcribed formats [here](#).

A recent program discusses endemicity as it applies to the latest strain of COVID-19 [here](#).



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