



May is Older Americans Month

May is Older Americans Month and this year's theme is *Age My Way*. Let us follow the many examples from the LGBTQ+ community and live *boldly, fabulously, and resiliently!*

Contents

- Announcing Village Movement California's DEI Institute
- Update: Budget Request
- Article Spotlights the Sonoma Valley Village
- Update: Village Movement California Conference
- Upcoming Events
- COVID-19 Information & Resources

From the Executive Director



Charlotte

One of the things I gained during the past two pandemic years is improved listening skills. Zoom meetings were a major teacher. The Zoom format permits only one person to speak at a time. It usually requires me to take myself off Mute, which compels me to be very intentional about saying anything at all. To be an effective speaker on Zoom, I must listen carefully to what is said before I unmute and share. Zoom slows communication down. This is helpful for someone like me who rushes to speak.

I was fortunate to be a part of two workshop series which further increased my listening skills. One of these was *UNtraining White Liberal Racism* which was comprised of 14 workshops over two years. Regular practice “check ins” were held at the beginning, during, and end of each session. We were asked to listen carefully to each other talk about important questions and learnings. Another was a workshop on compassionate caregiving taught by the San Francisco Zen Center. The workshops included time for

participants to share deeply about their caregiving experiences and challenges. Both workshop series emphasized the transformative power of deep listening for both the speaker and the listener.

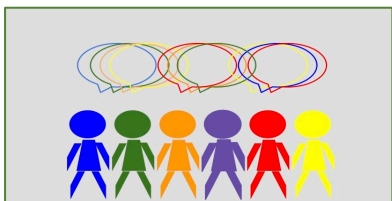
The art of listening is essential to high-functioning communities and societies. There's a social consensus that we don't listen to each other anymore. The media is partly at fault as online platforms create an echo chamber where we tune into the views we agree with. The pandemic cut off communication for many, and their listening skills are now rusty.

I'm excited that the conference planning team has invited two leaders from California's chapter of [Braver Angels](#) to present a workshop on June 22. Braver Angels is one of several organizations that is working to bring people together across generations and political divides to listen, learn, and find mutual ground. That mutual ground exists in the territory of values and mutual respect. Barbara Farmer and Michael Siegel have a story to tell about the deep friendship they have built through participation in Braver Angels. *Bridging the Divide: Building Understanding, Trust, and Respect* will include a presentation on Braver Angels and their methods, and an opportunity to practice the skills of listening.

I encourage you to check out Braver Angels online, and to sign up for the conference. We've set up registration to make it affordable for villages to send groups of four and more. Read more about the conference in *Upcoming Events*, below.

Announcing Village Movement California's DEI Institute

By Carol Haig, Editor



Village Movement California is launching the *Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Training Institute*, a 6-month program to advance California's villages as more inclusive communities of belonging for older adults. Our goal is for villages to reflect California's diversity more accurately.

Program Components

The Institute consists of six sessions that include training and skill building, creating communities of practice, and a series of projects participants will complete between sessions back in their own villages.

The Institute's sessions will:

- Build on the on participants' knowledge, awareness, skills, and competency in the complex issues of race, identity, social conditioning, and village culture

- Create a community of practice among attendees for sharing their experiences from their own villages
- Provide deep listening experiences and opportunities to respect different points of view

Projects will include:

- Holding a Community Dialog
- Developing DEI Policies and Practices in Villages
- Pursuing New Partnerships

Day 2 of the Annual Conference, June 22, will feature a presentation about the DEI Training Institute followed by an optional breakout room where you can ask questions and learn more.

Schedule

Sessions will be held from September 2022 – March 2023, on the first Wednesday, from 9:00am – 1:00pm except for the month of January. Dates are: September 7, October 5, November 2, December 1, February 1, March 1

First Cohort

We are recruiting village leaders who wish to participate in the DEI Training Institute’s first cohort. This group will consist of teams of two from up to ten villages. We will ask interested village leaders to complete a short application form and be interviewed. The application will be available in June and due in mid-July. The interviews will take place in August.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Sign up [here](#).

You may also reach out to Donna Terazawa, an Ashby Village leader and member of the DEI Training Institute Leadership Team: donna@jma.com and keep your eyes on the newsletter and eblasts.

Update: Budget Request

By Charlotte Dickson



Village Movement California’s budget request for a one-time investment of \$3 million in a 3-year pilot project is making its way through the Spring budgeting process. The Governor released his revised 2022-2023 budget on May 13, and the legislature and its committees will now review and vote on budget requests and bills. They will negotiate a final budget with the Governor by mid-June.

The budget request is important because it sends the message that villages are a valued part of the State's aging services infrastructure. When villages are recognized, they will attract investment. Investment is essential to long term sustainability.

What's in the budget request?

- \$1 million for new villages to get started, and existing villages to expand
- \$2 million for Village Movement California's *DEI Training Institute* and the *Village Incubator* to support new and existing villages in their growth, deepen their impact, and ensure their sustainability

A big thank you to the 24 villages that have sent in letters of support and provided testimony. We will need to step up our advocacy over the next four weeks. If your village hasn't yet sent a letter of support for our budget request, please do so. A link to instructions and a sample letter is [here](#). Please also watch for eblasts and emails that ask you to take additional action.

Village Movement California will set up a transparent, fair application process for distributing the village funding.

Read the request [here](#). Read the fact sheet [here](#).

For more information please reach out to Charlotte Dickson at 510-600-6380 or charlotte@villagemovementcalifornia.org.

Article Spotlights the Village of Sonoma Valley

By Carol Haig, Editor



A recent article in the Sonoma Index-Tribune, *New Nonprofit Uses 'It Takes A Village' Concept To Help Seniors*, by Dan Johnson focuses on the needs of older adults in the Sonoma Valley and the founding of the Village of Sonoma Valley.

Sonoma Valley resident and philanthropist Whitney Evans wanted to help his wife have a good quality of life despite her dementia. With 1,000 people in Sonoma Valley faced with this condition, Whitney saw the huge need for support and established the non-profit *CarePartners Initiative* in 2019. Its first program was an educational forum for caregivers.

The advent of COVID-19 drew much-needed attention to the particular challenges older adults were facing. CarePartners won grants to explore how Sonoma County could best meet the needs of its older adults and its leadership explored the California Plan for

Aging. There they learned about villages and Village Movement California. When they were unable to find any information about implementing the Master Plan in Sonoma County, they partnered with several local organizations serving older adults to determine how to accomplish this.

With a focus on *Caregiving that Works*, the fourth goal in the California Master Plan, CarePartners established the Village of Sonoma Valley. With a shared focus on connecting older adults with services and resources, CarePartners then merged into the new village. The Village Resource Navigator service established by the Village of Sonoma Valley has launched and is providing needed links to services.

Says Whitney Evans, “A successful, impactful Village of Sonoma Valley will be the most significant accomplishment of my life. It’s that important.”

Read the full article [here](#).

Update: Village Movement California Conference

By Charlotte Dickson



The convening planning team, Marianne Propst of Palos Verdes Pacific Village, Dinah Frishling of Conejo Valley Village, Laura Peck of Ashby Village, and I are excited about this year’s annual event. The theme is *Re-Engage*. It takes place on June 21 and 22 from 9:00am to 12:00pm with optional breakout rooms available from 12:00pm – 12:30pm.

We have designed the agenda to energize you and your leaders to re-engage in your village, with Village Movement California, and your local aging services network. We guarantee you will make new connections with leaders across our state. Here is the agenda:

Day 1

- Remarks from California Department of Aging Director Susan DeMarois
- Community conversation on *How Villages are Re-engaging*—you will meet your peers and build your network
- *Creating Joy Together in Your Village*—you will learn about Creative Aging and come away with exercises to create joy back at home
- Thoughts from Village Movement California Board Chair Kate Hoepke about what’s at stake for villages in this post-COVID era in California
- Sponsor Breakout Rooms
- ElderAction Breakout Room and Discussion

Day 2

- *Bridging the Divide: Building Understanding, Trust, and Respect*--you will come away feeling more confident about having difficult discussions in your village
- Presentation about the new DEI Training Institute
- Presentation about the state advocacy process with Leza Coleman, CA Commission on Aging Legislative Director and Village Movement California Board Member
- *The State of California's Village Movement* with Charlotte Dickson
- Sponsor Breakout Rooms
- DEI Training Institute Breakout Room

We suggest you identify four or more current, new, and potential leaders from your village to enroll in the convening as a team. Then they can share what they learn with each other and with your village's Board and committees. These shared lessons can inform new programs or ways of doing things.

The registration fee schedule discounts teams of four and more. The fees will increase on June 1, so please register now. You may pay online with a credit card or pay later with a check. We prefer a credit card. Register [here](#)

Please contact Dinah Frishling with any questions at Frishdin@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing you on June 21 and 22!

Upcoming Events



Village ED Roundtable

May 25, 2022 1:00pm – 2:00pm

Village Executive Directors (paid and volunteer) are invited to a regular gathering with EDs of fellow villages. Members bring relevant and timely topics to learn from each other and create meaningful conversations.

To participate at the Roundtable email Katie Brandon, ED Pasadena Village: katie@pasadenavillage.org . She will send you the Zoom link.

Additional dates for this group:

July 27, 1:00pm

September 28, 1:00pm



Weapons of Fraud Webinar

May 26, 2022 10:00am – 11:30am

How do fraud criminals work their crimes? We all share the ability to be persuaded by appeals to our human nature. Learn how criminals use social influence as a weapon. Presented by Anthony R. Pratkanis, Emeritus Professor of Psychology and a career-long investigator of social influence and persuasion including their use in fraud and propaganda. Register [here](#). This webinar is free of charge.



Thriving Together Beyond COVID: Preparing for the Aging Journey Ahead of Us

May 26 5:00pm – 7:30pm via Zoom

Let your Black village members and volunteers know that they are welcome to join Sistahs Aging with Grace & Elegance and California Black Women's Health Project for a virtual evening of conversation, caring, and sharing. As we continue to navigate the uncertainties of COVID, it's ever more important to stay connected and grounded in community. Help us create a space that supports Sage Sistahs with prioritizing their wellbeing and empowers them with knowledge and resources for thriving along every stage of the aging journey.

Sage Sistahs is a partner organization of Village Movement California. Registration is [here](#).



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

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 4th Annual Conference

June 21 and 22, 2022 9:00am – 12:00 pm each day, with
optional breakout rooms from 12:00 – 12:30

The conference is designed to re-engage your village and its members in your village, with Village Movement California, and your local aging services network. It will be held via Zoom.

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.

Workshops include:

- *Community Conversation* on how villages are re-engaging members, volunteers, community partners, programs, etc. Led by Laura Peck, Ashby Village Leader and Organizational Consultant
- *Creating Joy Together in Your Village*, presented by Creativity Leaders at Front Porch
- *Bridging the Divide: Building Understanding, Trust, and Respect*, presented by Braver Angels, Southern CA

The flier is [here](#). Please download it, share it with your leaders, and post it in your newsletters. Register this month! Prices increase on June 1.

Register [here](#).

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 topic discussed how the emergence of new variants globally can help protect surges in the U.S. Read or listen [here](#).

Notices

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

All articles and notices published here are available for use in your village newsletter.
Please include this citation: *Reprinted with permission, Village Movement California*

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN!](#)

All newsletters are archived [HERE](#)

Copyright © 2020 Village Movement California, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

3220 Fulton Street San Francisco, CA 94118

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

