



Upcoming Engagement Opportunities

Our Re-Engage Convening lit a fire under many of us and we are feeding those flames as we look ahead to our DEI Institute, engagement with local legislators, and upcoming workshops.

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From the Executive Director



Charlotte

Thanks to all who joined us last month for *Re-Engage*, our fourth annual convening. The evaluations are coming back with high marks. We asked what participants gained from the convening. The top two answers were: “Learned something new to take back to my village” and “Feel part of a movement.” That’s success!

For me, the convening is an annual milestone. We’ve made it through another year when we tried on new ideas and reached new goals. We pause to celebrate and reflect,

learn, and turn toward the next year. Over the next 12 months we will advance the village model through local and state advocacy, the Village Incubator, and our Diversity,

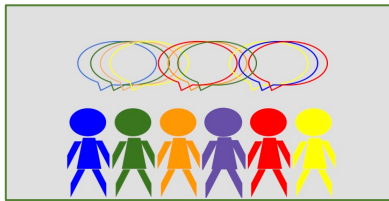
Equity, and Inclusion Training Institute. A generous grant from the [Picerne Family Foundation](#) allows us to expand our staffing, a benchmark in our organization's development. We are currently advertising the position of Director of the Village Incubator. The Director will lead development of the infrastructure to seed and support new villages in California, and to build capacity within existing villages. The job announcement is [here](#) – scroll down-- and the full job description is [here](#).

Collectively we have welcomed six new Executive Directors to our statewide movement. Kate Hoepke and I met with them last week for an orientation to Village Movement California. We were wowed by their professional experience, vision, and passion. The infusion of new talent will nourish our movement over this next year. We will publish snapshots introducing them in our next few newsletters.

We are all working to co-create our beloved village movement. I'm so glad to be on this journey with you!

DEI Training Institute

By Charlotte Dickson



We are excited about the upcoming launch of our Diversity Equity and Inclusion Training Institute. A group of four, Yvette Leung of [Y's Change](#), Laura Peck and Donna Terazawa of Ashby Village, and I have planned the four-part series to move California's villages forward as more inclusive communities of belonging for older adults.

The series will support participants' personal growth, build community across villages, and facilitate conversations about race and ethnicity so that our movement reflects California's diversity. There's still time to apply! Please submit your application online by July 22. There is no cost to attend.

The flier is [here](#). Click on the thumbnail to download. The application is [here](#). Please reach out to Laura Peck with questions, laura@laurapeckconsulting.com. She welcomes your emails!

Re-Engage Convening Follow-up



On June 21 and 22, over one hundred villagers and sponsors came together to build new connections, learn new content and skills to support community building, and hear about what's next for Village Movement California.

Susan DeMarois, California Department of Aging's director, spoke about the Master Plan for Aging and villages' role in implementation. She invited participants to the statewide Day of Action on September 20 (see Upcoming Events below).

Staff and volunteers from [Creative Spark](#) and [Braver Angels](#) offered outstanding workshops on creative aging and communicating across political divides.

Leza Coleman, Village Movement California Board member and Legislative Director of the California Commission on Aging, shared her expertise about local and state policy advocacy. She invited participants to join upcoming efforts to gain government investment in villages.

Yvette Leung of [Y's Change](#) shared plans for the DEI Training Institute. Village Movement California's Board Chair, Kate Hopeke, and Executive Director, Charlotte Dickson, shared thoughts and insights about the current context for villages and the work ahead. Several sponsors offered break-out sessions.

Video recordings of the key presentations and workshops are now available. Please share them with your villagers. They are housed on the website [here](#). They are also on Village Movement California's YouTube channel:

[Remarks by Susan DeMarois](#)

[Remarks by Kate Hoepke](#)

[Remarks by Charlotte Dickson – State of the Village Movement](#)

[Creating Joy Workshop](#)

[Bridging the Divide Workshop](#)

[Diversity Equity and Inclusion Training Institute](#)

[Villages and State Policy Advocacy](#)

Learn more about the convening sponsors [here](#).

2022-2023 State Budget Request to Fulfill Master Plan Objective #90 February – June 2022

By Charlotte Dickson



We made tremendous progress with our first budget request for state funding but failed to get into the final California 2022-2023 budget. We will be back again next fall with a revised request.

Legislative advocacy work, in this case the budget request, does two things:

- Changes policy to meet the needs of residents
- Builds organizational clout

We made great progress toward both ends. The request distilled our thinking about the investment needed to expand our movement and got us in front of legislative staff who did not know about us before. We built a strong relationship with Susan DeMarois, the Director of the California Department of Aging. We engaged 22 villages in letter writing, ten meetings with , and participation in one live legislative hearing.

Other highlights :

- We secured an Assembly sponsor, Mark Levine
- We secured letters of support from five stakeholder organizations, including the California Association of Area Agencies on Aging, Caregiver Resource Center Association, the California Collaborative for Long Term Services and Supports, and San Francisco Disability and Aging Services
- We learned that the missing middle is a population of concern to the state and to stakeholders, and could support coalition building

During *Re-Engage*, Leza Coleman, Legislative Director of the California Commission on Aging and a Village Movement California Board member told participants that Village Movement California accomplished two years worth of work in just one year! She emphasized the importance of early foundation building and expressed great optimism that we will succeed in the future. Her 15-minute presentation is [here](#).

The Master Plan for Aging and the State Policy Team will work together to create an action plan for villages to build relationships with their local and state policymakers. This will put us in a better position to succeed. To join this team, follow this [link](#).

New! Dial 988 for Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crises



988 is the new universal three-digit dialing code for suicide prevention and mental health crisis. It went live nationwide on Saturday, July 16, 2022. [SAMSHA](#) (the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services) will administer the new [988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline](#), replacing the current toll-free National Suicide Prevention Lifeline's 1-800-273-TALK (1-800-273-8255). And yes, the pre-existing 10-digit number will remain active and will connect callers to the new 988 Lifeline.

The 988 Lifeline was established to reduce the use of 911 for suicide and mental health crises. Calling 911 in such situations too often results in inadequate or inappropriate intervention by the police, or unnecessary hospitalization or incarceration. Calling 988 instead will direct the caller to representatives specifically trained in the management of suicide risk and other mental health crises.

This new, simplified tool is critical for older adults and those living with a disability because such individuals are at greater risk for mental health crisis and suicide. As SAMSHA pointed out in its [Appropriations Report for 988](#), suicide rates are higher among older adults. Likewise, [a recent study](#) found that people with disabilities were significantly more likely than those without to report suicidal ideation, planning, or attempt.

Tips for Using Lifeline

- After dialing 988, press “1” for the Veterans Crisis Line
- Press “2” for assistance in Spanish
- Interpretation is also available in over 250 other languages
- People who are deaf or hard of hearing can access TTY by dialing 711 then 1-800-273-8255 or using their preferred relay service
- Lifeline is in the process of expanding to video phone service
- Lifeline also offers services through chat and text (in English only)

For more information, please see the following resources:

- SAMSHA, [“988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline”](#)
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline [general information](#)

- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, [“988 Planning Grants: A funding opportunity by Vibrant Emotional Health and the Lifeline to plan for the implementation of 988”](#)
 - Health Affairs, [“Implementing The 988 Hotline: A Critical Window to Decriminalize Mental Health”](#)
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Take the Virtual Dementia Tour

By Carol Haig, Editor



Dementia is a tremendous challenge for people who have it and for their caregivers. It is an isolating illness that takes a huge toll on patients, families, and friends. [Second Wind Dreams](#) is an organization that offers unique insight into the dementia experience with their [Virtual Dementia Tour](#).

“Then she gave me special dark glasses, headphones, one big and awkward glove for my dominant hand, and a less awkward glove for the non-dominant hand. She put into my pocket a small device containing the soundtrack for my headphones, and then she walked me a short distance to the room,” writes Melanie Bishop of her experience in this program.

While every dementia patient does not have every symptom included in the Tour, the opportunity to feel the confusion, helplessness, frustration, invisibility, and pain of this disease provides extraordinary insight into the experience of dementia.

Read the full article from *Next Avenue* [here](#).

Free Food Resources in California



As food prices soar across the country and food banks report a surge of first-time visitors, L.A. Controller Ron Galperin released a new [statewide map](#) of free food resources available to Californians. The only resource of its kind in California, Controller Galperin’s map shows more than 1,400 food banks, food pantries, emergency distribution centers, and other community resources providing free access to food across the Golden State.

Each dot on the map indicates the location of a separate resource site. Find resources by typing your address into the search bar and choosing a search radius, or by clicking on a location near them on the map. Contact prospective sites before visiting to confirm hours and eligibility.

Remembering Stonewall and Celebrating Pride!

By Avi Rose, Village Movement California Board of Directors



On June 14 Village Movement California, joined by co-sponsors Ashby Village, Pasadena Village, and San Francisco Village, was proud to present *The Stonewall Generation: LGBTQ Elders on Sex, Activism, and Aging*. We were honored to be joined by presenters Jane Fleishman, PhD, author of the recently published book, *The Stonewall Generation*, and Dr. Imani Woody, a nationally recognized thought leader and advocate for women, people of color, and LGBTQI/SGL (Same Gender Loving) people.

Our presenters spoke passionately about the significance of the 1969 Stonewall Rebellion, which marked a turning point toward militant resistance among LGBTQ people, nationally and ultimately globally. Those of us who were part of the Stonewall generation gained tremendous strength from that event and the movements it spawned. As one speaker put it, we became “bolder, more ‘out,’ and less compliant.”

Stonewall launched a new era, but by no means ended homophobia, which for many of us was compounded by sexism, racism, and other forms of institutionalized hatred. We still faced overt discrimination, rejection, invisibility, and shame. But we also got to experience our own beauty and resilience, and over time, came to deeply experience community – we were not alone.

Some LGBTQ elder adults are now re-experiencing old concerns about coming out. They may be in care facilities or receiving services from institutions that make false assumptions about their history and lives. They are again forced to consciously make themselves visible and known, sometimes in situations where they are extremely vulnerable.

Whether LGBTQ older adults are in these challenging situations or are living fully “out” lives in the community, we all have many stories to tell! Some are painful, some are joyful. Whatever these stories are, being heard is deeply powerful and healing. The *Stonewall Generation* program provided one opportunity for reflecting and sharing. Let’s all make sure there are many others.

Village Funding Opportunity



Social Health Labs gives \$1000 each month to individuals in the U.S. for projects that connect people locally. Your village could benefit from this micro-grant. Learn more and apply [here](#).

Upcoming Events

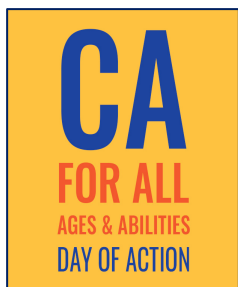


How to Convey Village Messages Using an Evidence-Based Process With Kate Hopke

August 9, 2022 11:00am – 12:00pm

The *Village Brand Toolkit* recommends compelling and relevant messages for seven different village audiences. It also contains a helpful rubric for delivering these messages. Kate Hoepke, Board Chair and Executive Director of San Francisco Village will lead a workshop to help you use the rubric to make your case.

The Village Brand Toolkit is [here](#). Register [here](#).



CA For All Ages and Disabilities: Day of Action

September 20, 2022 8:30am – 4:30pm in Sacramento

You are invited to be part of the process as we envision 21st century readiness for the Golden State. Join the [California Master Plan for Aging](#) partners to elevate Aging, Disability, and Equity in statewide cross-sector planning to achieve the Governor's vision of a California for ALL.

Activities will include conversations with national and state leaders in aging and disability, presentations by the Master Plan for Aging stakeholder committees, as well as interactive discussions and a call to action as we enter years three and four of the Master Plan for Aging.

Register [here](#).

2022 End Social Isolation and Loneliness Action Forum



October 11th, 12th, and 13th, 2022

The [Foundation for Social Connection](#) presents this free, virtual event to publicly raise the visibility of the social isolation and loneliness crisis, identify key innovations, promote federal and state policy solutions, and spur nationwide organizational commitments to action. A roster of extraordinary thought leaders and innovators will explore culture, religion, technology, policy, philanthropy, and more. 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](#).

Considering the increased numbers of COVID-19 cases, some areas of California are once again mandating masks in crowded public spaces. Learn more [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*

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