



A monthly publication of Clayton Valley Village
August 2021 Edition

A Message from our President. Check out our Events held in July, Upcoming Events, and more. Also in this issue, we present the 5th installment of the Girl with the Topaz Ring, a story by CVV member Gary Carr. See what our Volunteers have been up to.

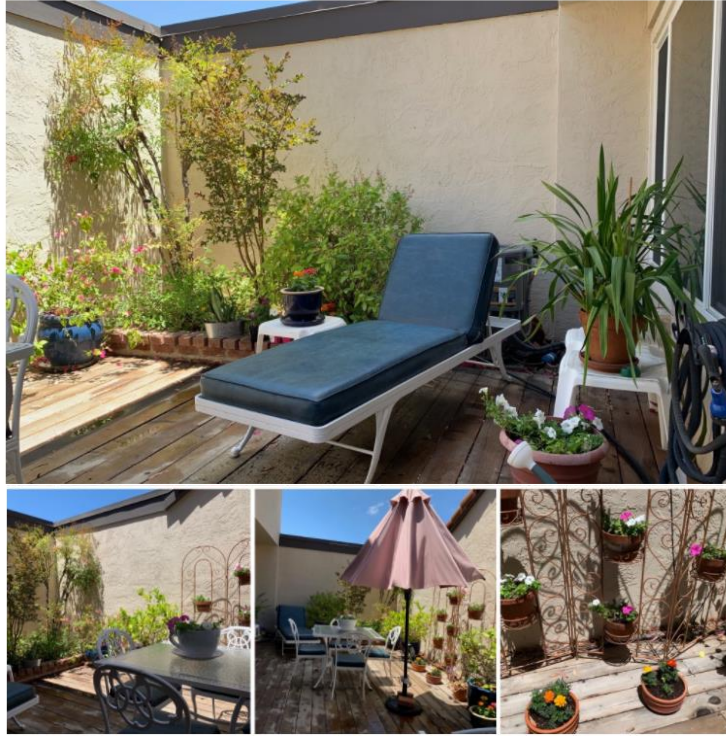


August 21st is
**Senior
Citizens
Day**

We should honor and respect our elders every day, but **August 21** is Senior Citizens Day, a day to commemorate them and show appreciation to those who are the pillars of the community. At some point in our lives, we have all turned to older people for life advice or learned something from the many life stories they have to tell us. Senior Citizens are also very generous and are always there to help us when we need it. This is why we have a day to celebrate them.

Clayton Valley Village Volunteer Services

Thank You to Ken Studer from Sonja Wilkin



Ken Studer, Master Gardener and CVV Volunteer, rejuvenated my patio on Monday, June 21... although the service request was originally for Thursday, June 17, I had not bought my new flowering plants due to the intense heat projected. Ken pruned and trimmed overgrown plants and repotted 15 pots with fresh flowers, giving my patio such a fresh look and my spirits soaring. He worked so diligently for 4 hours during the hot afternoon to make my patio a welcoming place for me to eat some meals, read, or even "entertain" again! A survey was sent out after the original appointment, but I couldn't really respond to the questions as the work had not been done. On Monday, though rescheduled, I did not get a followup survey to complete, and definitely wanted to acknowledge and appreciate Ken's hard work, expertise, and spirit of volunteerism in such a willing fashion. Thank you, Ken, so much! CVV is fortunate to have you as a volunteer not only for service requests to help our members but to share your vast knowledge with presentations for our programs.

Welcome

New Members!



Annie Hall



Susan Kendal

Did You Know?

Under 1% of all the world's water is actually usable.

It takes a lot of energy to process water for household use.

Challenge yourself to SAVE WATER

When you turn on the faucet, think "Can I use less water?"

A small stream of water can usually accomplish the same as running the faucet full blast.

Brush your teeth using 1 glass of water. Pour to wet and rinse your toothbrush as you go, then use rest to rinse out your mouth.

Fill a soap dispenser with 1/6 soap + 5/6 water. Pump the watery soap to wash hands, then use faucet, at a trickle, only to rinse.

While waiting for tap water to get hot, capture it in a water pitcher for other uses like watering your plants.

If you don't need much hot water, just microwave some in a Pyrex measuring cup.

Use hot water from boiled eggs, pasta to pre-soak dirty dishes.



President's Message

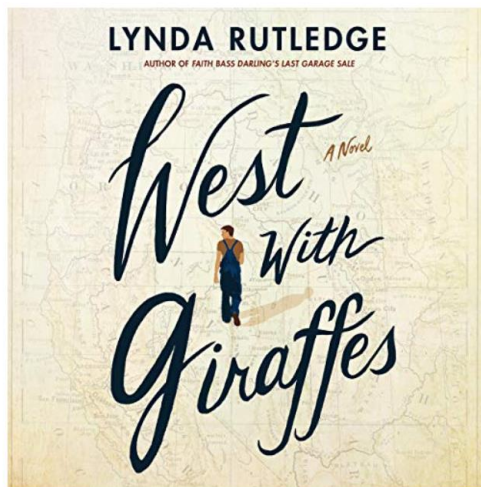
Marilyn Wollenweber

August is the month of calm and stillness, a time to reflect, and enjoy the soft summer evenings. It is the calm before the craziness that starts with kids returning to school, working out schedules for after school activities, trying to set up carpools, whew! It's a time to enjoy the summer bounty of fruits and vegetables and backyard barbeques.

Did you know the month of August was originally Sextilis until the 8Th century, during the early medieval times, when it was changed to August in honor of the first Roman Emperor, Augustus Caesar? It's also the month for the Perseids, a popular meteor shower that can be seen in the northern atmosphere. The best time to see the shower is after midnight in mid-August (12Th or 13Th)

There are lots of days to celebrate, too: August 2 is Dinosaurs Day (not us!), August 3, National Watermelon Day, August 4, Chocolate Chip Cookie Day (oh yes!), August 6, Wiggle Your Toes Day (ahhh), August 13, International Left Handers Day, August 22, International Tongue Twister Day, August 30, National Toasted Marshmallow Day, just to name a few! If these don't tweak your interest, check out our calendar to see if there is something you can go to or "zoom" into. Ashby Village offers some good programs that you can access through Zoom. We will be having another mixer in August, so keep your calendar open for that event. We had a great turnout at the last one at the Clayton Club. It was a perfect venue for a warm day and great company.

Happy August!



Book Recommend by Jeanne Boyd

Based on a true event. Author: Linda Rutledge

An emotional, rousing novel inspired by the incredible true story of two giraffes who made headlines and won the hearts of Depression-era America.

"Few true friends have I known and two were giraffes..."

Woodrow Wilson Nickel, age 105, feels his life ebbing away. But when he learns giraffes are going extinct, he finds himself recalling the unforgettable experience he cannot take to his grave.

It's 1938. The Great Depression lingers. Hitler is threatening Europe, and world-weary Americans long for wonder. They find it in two giraffes who miraculously survive a hurricane while crossing the Atlantic. What follows is a twelve-day road trip in a custom truck to deliver Southern California's first giraffes to the San Diego Zoo. Behind the wheel is the young Dust Bowl rowdy Woodrow. Inspired by true events, the tale weaves real-life figures with fictional ones, including the world's first female zoo director, a crusty old man with a past, a young female photographer with a secret, and assorted reprobates as spotty as the giraffes.

Part adventure, part historical saga, and part coming-of-age love story, *West with Giraffes* explores what it means to be changed by the grace of animals, the kindness of strangers, the passing of time, and a story told before it's too late.

The Girl with the Topaz Ring, a story by CVV member Gary Carr. Watch for more in succeeding issues!



The Girl with the Topaz Ring
by Gary Carr

Chapter Five

The story so far:

Josh goes to his grandparents' house for dinner and broaches the subject of the red-haired girl with the topaz ring. On seeing the girl's photo, they are visibly upset, but his grandfather pulls him aside to reveal a long-buried secret.

"Yes, you do have a sister. And she probably does have red hair like this girl."

"Probably?" Josh whispered.

"I've never seen her, and I have no idea where she is. She's five years older than you, that's all I know. You see – your mother was in high school, her junior year. She was going steady with the captain of the football team. She was beautiful, and the two of them seemed like the ideal All-American couple. You see where this is going, don't you?"

"Yeah, please go on."

"He was the quarterback, and he had red hair. One thing led to another, and your mother got pregnant. They were too young, and they both wanted to go to college, so it was your mother's decision to have the baby and give it up for adoption. Your Grandmother took her up to your Aunt Judy's in Oregon, and they stayed there until the baby was born. We told everyone that Jeanette had had a breakdown and needed therapy."

"So, mental illness is more forgivable than having a baby?" Josh asked.

"Your mother felt it was more forgivable than giving away a child."

John rubbed his eyes, and Josh could see a tear forming.

"Your mother came home, and by that time, Bill – that was her boyfriend – was off to college back East. They never had any contact after that. She graduated high school and got into Berkeley. Yes, pretty and smart, and she would have been proud of you."

Josh felt tears flowing from his own eyes.

"You know the rest. Your mother met Fred Williamson on a geology field trip. He was a visiting lecturer. She thought he was the one, and Bessie and I did, too. But as soon as he found out she was 'with child' as they say, he skedaddled. Last we heard he was in South America with an oil company."

"So that's how he made his money," Josh said.

"I guess so, but your mother was determined to get on with her life without him, and *with you*. But the Lord had other ideas. He took Jeanette and left you in her place.

John looked Josh in the eyes. "You are your mother's boy, and we couldn't be more proud."

The two men sat in silence as Bessie rumbled around in the kitchen.

"I wonder when that pie is coming," said John.

Josh cleared his throat. "So, my sister is my *half*-sister, then. Well, thank god Frederick wasn't her father, too."

"I have to agree with that," John said.

"And you have no idea where the red-haired girl in the cap and gown might be? Look at the photo. I'm told that the ring she's wearing is topaz. Does that mean anything to you?"

"I wish it did."

"Please help me here, Pops. She's my mother's child, you and Grandma's granddaughter.

Josh's voice cracked in desperation. "Forget all the half-sister rigamarole, she's my sister, my blood. I have to find her."

"Let me talk with your grandma. It'll be hard for her, dredging up those old memories, but she'll come around."

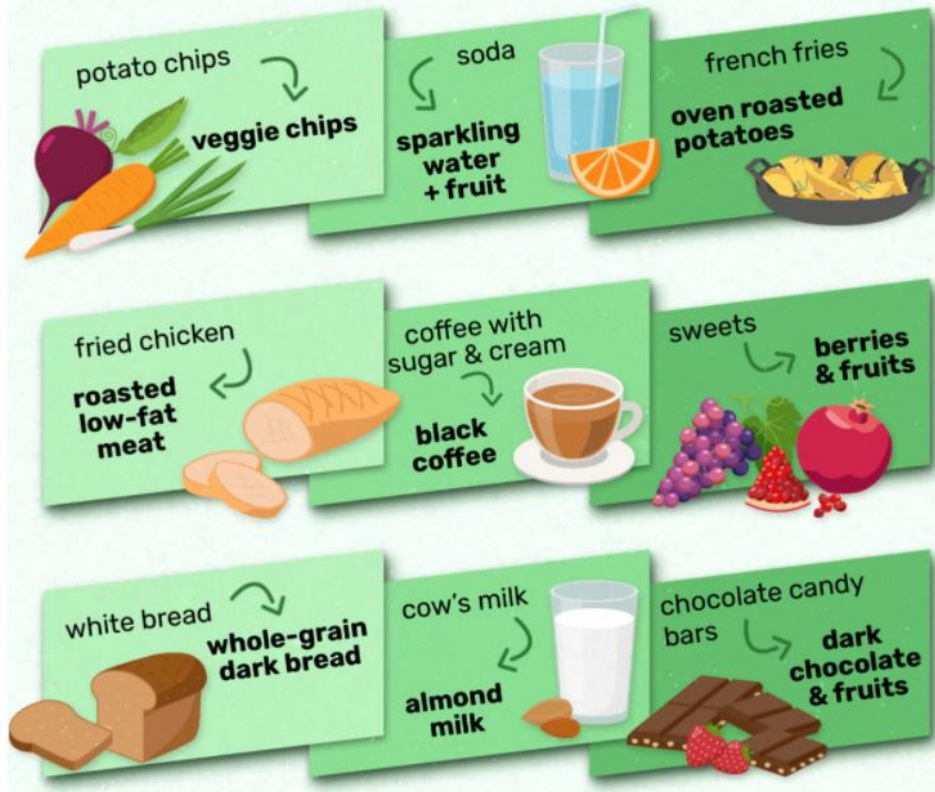
John leaned over to his grandson and gave him a hug.

"This is important for all of us. We'll help you any way we can."

Coming up: Josh recruits a fellow sleuth.



ALTERNATIVE FOODS TO JUNK FOOD





Upcoming Events

Tuesday, Aug 3rd - Board of Directors Meeting
Saturday, Aug 7th - Bocce Party (Members & Volunteers)
Tuesday, Aug 17th - Happy Hour (Members and Volunteers)
Saturday, Aug 21st - Explorers Hike
Tuesday, August 24th - Movie Group (Members and Volunteers)
Friday, Aug 27th - Events Committee Meeting

Here is the link to all Events

<https://claytonvalley.helpfulvillage.com/events>



PAST EVENTS

Happy Birthday Members



Fiona hosted a scrumptious Afternoon Tea celebrating members with birthdays Jan – July



We learned about Water-wise Plants

CVV's Program Committee started off our morning with Arlene's delicious homemade muffins and biscotti. So good with piping hot coffee courtesy of Peet's Coffee.

Then, Nicole Hackett of R&M Pool and Patio, affectionately known as the Garden Girl, showed us a variety of water-wise plants perfect for our area, and shared a wealth of information on where to plant, how to care for, and what to expect from each plant.



Did you know Nicole posts pictures of available plants every week on Facebook!

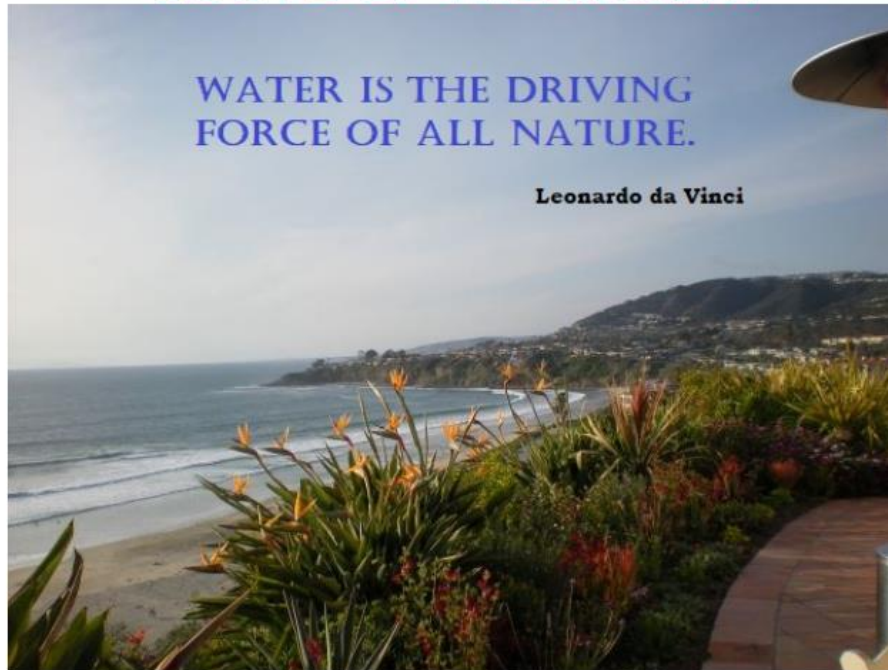


July Happy Hour at Clayton Club Saloon

Another great Happy Hour at the Saloon. Their shady patio is a favorite! CVV's Events Committee outdid themselves with a great selection of appetizers.



QUOTE OF THE MONTH



WATER IS THE DRIVING
FORCE OF ALL NATURE.

Leonardo da Vinci

Advertisers



THE PIONEER
www.PioneerPublishers.com
Delivered free to 38,500 homes and businesses in Concord and Clayton
6200 Center St., Ste F
PO Box 1246, Clayton, CA 94517
News: Editor@PioneerPublishers.com
Advertising: Tamara@PioneerPublishers.com 925-672-0500

Your
reliable local
news source



Nails Naturally
1026 Oak St #203
Clayton
(925) 239-3035
Book online
[@nailsnaturally3](https://www.instagram.com/nailsnaturally3)
 

Movie Group Review



Eleven members/volunteer's from the Movie Group went to see "In the Heights" on Tues July 27Th.

Review of "In the Heights" written by Lin Manuel Miranda

Lovers of Latin Music thought it was great. Everyone enjoyed the production but 2 hours 23minutes seemed too long for many. The sound in the theater was too loud so if you have sensitive ears get your ear plugs out. Lots of singing and dancing from a large talented cast. The acting was well done.

LMM wrote this work well before he did "Hamilton" and it is very different story.

CVV Spring League Bocce Team



Clayton Valley Village and other community members play Bocce on Wed nights at the Clayton's Bocce courts in Clayton. A fun time had by all.

Players

Joanne Vanis - Capo
Joanne Wasak
Gary Carr
Walt and Mary Rogers
Helene Billeci
Pete Billeci
Kim Bernal
Shirley Eisberry
Maria Xiaris



Standing & Ad Hoc Committees

2021 CVV Board of Directors

Executive Committee:

Marilyn Wollenweber (President), Joanne Vanis (President Elect) Sue Manning
(Past-President),

Mary Esther Loranger (Secretary), Joanne Wasak (Treasurer)

Executive Advisory Committee:

Jim Whitfield (Past President)

Sonja Wilkin (Past President)

Members-at-Large

Diane Berger, Arlene Lewandowski, Kathy Geddes,

Volunteer Representative Member

Pete Bardea

Our Village Voice is a free, electronic publication of
Clayton Valley Village.

Co-Editors: Diane Berger and Bev Adams

Email: CVVBusines21@gmail.com

The editors welcome all submissions and reserve the right
to include or edit all material. Unless otherwise specified,
other publications may reprint any material herein with proper attribution.

Clayton Valley Village is a 501c3 Nonprofit: 81-3858223

Donations are tax-deductible and welcomed.

<https://www.claytonvalleyvillage.org>

Submissions, Questions or Comments about

Clayton Valley Village or Our Voice Newsletter

Email: Village.Clayton@gmail.com or **Phone:** 925-626-0411

