
Our Village VOICE

A monthly publication of Clayton Valley Village March 2020 Edition



In this issue you will find our President's message, a message from our Executive Director, photos of our past events, news of our upcoming events, information about our interest circles and committee reports. Enjoy!

Welcome

to our New Member!

***** Alair Vanoutrive *****

Life Experience

Stories by CVV Members & Volunteers

The Curious Case of the Wilbar

By Gary Carr

When I lived in Houston in the 80s, I worked for a film production company that specialized in business and educational films. One assignment had me flying from Houston to Cumberland, Maryland, to conduct research for the script I was to write on labor-management relations. The client was the Appalachian Regional Commission and the film was to cover activities in Cumberland.

There are no direct flights to Cumberland from Houston (or probably from anywhere else). I got there on a 4-seater, single-engine plane from the Greater Pittsburgh airport. My traveling companion was a woman about my age who was not very talkative. But then, neither was I. Even though we were seated facing each other, our eyes rarely met. We kept our noses buried in papers retrieved from our respective briefcases, the better to try ignoring the deafening noise of "the little engine that could." *Oh, God, that motor is the only one we have, please let it grind on to Cumberland.*

The bumps and swerves and sudden dips grew more violent as we soon flew over taller mountains. Mountains in this part of Appalachia hardly rival the Rockies. Below were rounded, forested hills with deep valleys between them, isolated enough to hide an abandoned coal mine or a moonshine still.

The flight took less than an hour, *a very long hour*. My companion and I looked down as we circled the Cumberland airport. Our eyes met, mirroring each other's terror. To build the airport, hardy Marylanders, or perhaps the Corps of Engineers, had scraped off the top of one of these mountains just enough to squeeze in a runway. As we descended, I could only hope that the runway was long enough.

We made it, and I spent the next three days experiencing the sights and sounds of Cumberland. A fellow from the Appalachian Regional Commission took me on a tour, which included a stop on the outskirts of town to look at a canal boat. The historical marker next to the forty-or-so foot-long replica proclaimed that the boat was like those that plied the canal linking Cumberland to the Washington, DC suburb of Georgetown, 184 miles to the east. The Chesapeake and Ohio Canal was in its commercial heyday in the 1850s. Now it's merely a tourist attraction and hardly the job creator the canal once was.

The Appalachian Regional Commission was all about bringing jobs to places like Cumberland. To make Cumberland attractive to companies from outside the area, the Commission was working to ease relations between labor and management in the few factories that remained. I spent an entire afternoon observing a labor-management meeting at a glass factory.

The meeting went smoothly for at least an hour, with each side willing to make concessions on work rules. Yes, the union would allow a non-electrician to plug in the grinding machine after its daily maintenance, instead of waiting for a union electrician to come over from the next building to stick the plug in the socket. Until the compromise, non-union die-makers could plug in their personal portable radios by themselves, but not the grinding machine. All was humming along at the meeting until someone brought up the subject of the wilbar.

The head management rep explained that, since three wilbars had turned up missing over the past few months, management decided to keep them locked up in chain-link-fenced area at the far end of the warehouse, and only one foreman had the key.

Union workers from several different departments voiced their objections to this draconian rule.

"I need to use a wilbar every day," one complained, "and it's a waste of time to have to look up Charlie Steinburner to unlock the cage to the wilbars."

"Yeah," groused another, "y'all are demanding increased production, but y'all are standing in the way. Wilbars are just one piece of it."

I was befuddled. What the heck was a wilbar? Whatever it was, it struck a spark in an otherwise hum-drum afternoon.

I was about to ask for clarification, when suddenly the context revealed the nature of the "wilbar."

I hadn't been in Appalachia long enough to pick up on the slang and the accent. Here I was amongst men who said things like "I'ma fixin' to sit a spell 'fore I go down street."

When they said "wilbar," they were talking about what an outlander like me would call a "WHEELBARROW."

I made a note on my yellow pad: an economic infrastructure can collapse – for want of a wilbar!

Gary Carr and his wife, Kathy, are founding members of Clayton Valley Village.



President's Message

Sue Manning

One of the casualties of growing older can be isolation...BUT not if you're a member of or a volunteer with Clayton Valley Village! Would you mind if I say..."Holy Cow!" So far this year for me there were 8 opportunities for fun or education or contribution with CVV in January, 6 more in February, and so far for March, I've got 5 dates on the calendar. A good number of our members and volunteers have Clayton Valley Village-related activities much more often than that! The photographs of our events in the newsletter each month give you a glimpse of the connectedness available if you're feeling alone.

Gaining new friends later in our lives is a gift.

The people we get to know at our activities are interested AND interesting. They like to have fun and are also often funny (and I do mean humorous, not odd!) The group is very kind, considerate and caring of others. How lucky for all of us to have a means to get to know one another. If you're reading this message, and you're not really involved with our "village," give yourself a gift of enjoying this "way to live" either as a member or as a volunteer. To be contacted by one of our board members for more information, call (925) 626-0411 and leave your name and number, or send us an email to info@claytonvalleyvillage.org. We'll get back to you ASAP.



From the
DESK
of our
Executive
Director

Carol Hansen Grey



Our Annual Meeting was fun and informative. Our new Board was introduced and we heard reports from President Sue Manning and Treasurer Joanne Wasak. Volunteer Fiona Hughes and Board Member Jim Whitfield presented an informative slideshow of what CVV has accomplished this past year. Past President, Sonja Wilkin presented Jim Whitfield with a gift card from REI in appreciation for his years of great work for CVV as a past-president, board member and volunteer coordinator. Treasurer Joanne Wasak gave a report on our financial status. A door prize donated by Dr. Keith Bradburn Dentistry of Clayton (*a Sonicare electric toothbrush along with various dental hygiene "goodies" valued at \$130*) was won by volunteer Margaret Bachman (*shown receiving the door prize from President Sue Manning in the collage below*).

I was introduced and gave a short talk about my responsibilities as Executive Director and my vision to help build recognition for Clayton Valley Village throughout the Clayton-Concord area and as a valued community asset. After attending the National Village to Village conference in Chicago and hearing about the many amazing

programs that are being offered by other villages throughout the country that are having an enormously positive impact on their communities, I came home with a burning enthusiasm to help implement some version of those programs in our community.

One of these programs called "Read2Me" involved village members reading with 2nd graders at an elementary school. That program was directly responsible for raising the school's ranking from the bottom in the state to number 3 in the state. Another program that touched my heart was a mentoring program called "When I'm 65." It was a mentoring program that paired Village members with college seniors who chose to be involved in the program. The students filled out a questionnaire indicating their professional goals and dreams. They were matched up with Village members who were (or had been) in a similar profession. The mentoring relationship ended up creating life-long friendships between the generations!

We are seeking CVV members, volunteers, and especially retired teachers from the Concord/Clayton community who may be interested in helping create and implement a Read2Me program in our community. We are also seeking people from our community who may be interested in implementing the "When I'm 65" mentoring program. If either of these programs speak to your heart and/or skill-set, please email me at carolgrey@claytonvalleyvillage.org or call our CVV number (925-626-0411) to let us know of your interest. Please leave your name and phone number and we'll call you back.

We are also seeking one or two members and/or volunteers to be part of a Mastermind Fundraising Circle to come up with innovative and FUN ways to raise money for CVV. Volunteer Bev Adams and Board Member, Diane Berger have volunteered. If you are interested, let us know by calling our CVV number listed above.



**February 19, 2020
ANNUAL MEETING**



President Sue Manning

**PAST PRESIDENTS:
Jim Whitfield
& Sonja Wilkin**

ED Carol Hansen Grey

TREASURER: Joanne Wasak



Do you have a **Favorite Recipe?**

Clayton Valley Village is putting together a cookbook of favorite recipes from members and volunteers at Clayton Valley Village and we are looking for a few members or volunteers who are interested in helping with this endeavor. This cookbook, when finished, will be sold as a fundraiser for Clayton Valley Village. So, we are soliciting your favorite recipes in the following categories: **Main Dishes, Soups & Salads, Appetizers, Breakfast Favorites** and **Breads & Desserts**. Each recipe submitted should include (in this order):

- Name of person submitting the recipe
- Name of Recipe
- Number of Servings
- Ingredients (with measurements)
- Instructions (including oven temperature and baking time if appropriate)

NOTE: Recipes should be your own (not copyrighted recipes from a published cookbook). If we get enough submissions in a certain category, we may choose to publish a series of cookbooks (i.e., Favorite Breads & Desserts from Clayton Valley Village, Favorite Main Dishes from Clayton Valley Village, etc.).

Please email your recipes to CarolGrey@claytonvalleyvillage.org with the subject line: Recipe for CVV Cookbook. **Note: Each recipe should be sent in a separate email.** In each email include your phone number in case we need to contact you with questions about your recipe. Your email address and phone number will NOT be published in the cookbook.

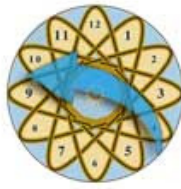
Carol is also looking for members and/or volunteers who are interested in helping with the project. If that is YOU, please email Carol indicating your interest with the subject line "Cookbook Project" and she'll get in touch with you.

Upcoming Events for March 2020

Tues, Mar. 3rd - CVV Board Meeting
Tues, Mar 10th, Writing Circle - **Members and Volunteers**
Wednesday, Mar. 11th - CERT Training - **Members/Volunteers**
Fri, Mar. 13th - "Out to Lunch Bunch" **Members Only**
Tues, Mar 17th - Movie Group - One and all invited
Tuesday, Mar. 24th - CVV Mixer La Veranda,
Thursday, Mar. 26th - BRAVO Meeting
Tues, Mar 31st - "Lunch & Learn"
Fri, Mar 27th - CVV Events Committee Meeting

For additional info about these events and more, click the link below:

https://claytonvalley.helpfulvillage.com/events/index_list



PAST EVENTS

CVV ArmChair Travels - Visit to Africa

Dorothy Bradt hosted the Armchair Travel Circle on Friday, February 7th at her home. The members and volunteers enjoyed the wonderful CD travelogue on Africa provided by the travel companions on a private 10-day-tour. In addition, special African desserts were made by Sue Manning and Fiona Hughes. Thanks to all for coordinating, refreshments, and to Pete Bardea for set up.



VISIT AFRICA Feb. 7, 2020





CVV Village Explorers

Dorothy led us on a delightful hike Monday, Feb. 21st. The weather was sunny and crisp, and after the hike the six of us enjoyed coffee, chocolates and cookies! We even went through the tunnel under Ygnacio Valley Road.



CLAYTON VALLEY VILLAGE



FEBRUARY 21, 2020 HIKE

If you are interested in joining the Hiking Circle, please email CVV at village.clayton@gmail.com to reserve your spot.

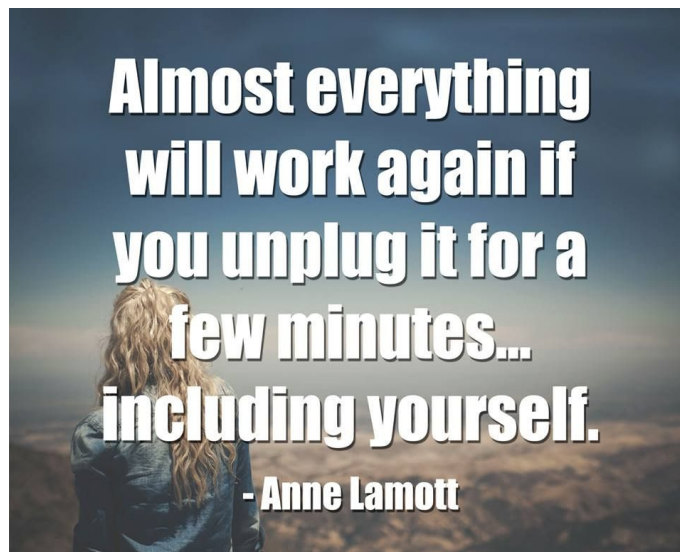
Clayton Valley Village February Mixer

Clayton Valley Village held its February 2020 Mixer at Fiore Restaurant on Clayton Road in Concord. Everyone who attended enjoyed great food, wonderful service, joyous atmosphere and meeting new and old friends. ***We hope you'll join us for our next Mixer on March 24th at La Veranda in Clayton.***





Quote of the Month!



CVV members and volunteers have many interests, hobbies and skills, so we invite you to start an "Interest Circle." It's a great way to meet, share and learn from others in our village who share common interests. Suggestions include: walking/hiking, arts & crafts, book club, creative writing, woodworking, doll making, card making, painting, quilting, sewing, photography, dining in private homes, conversations on various topics, attending musical events and/or local theater, travel. What it comes down to, however, is the willingness of our Members and Volunteers to lead and coordinate these Interest Circles. If you'd like to share ideas and discuss further, please contact by email Kathy at <kgeddes@astound.net>.

CVV Movie Group



In February CVV members and volunteers went to see the movie "1917." It was very interesting (*not too gory as war movies go*) and well worth seeing. The group also saw the Oscar-winning movie "Parasite" on February 25th. The next Movie date is March 17 (time and movie selection to be announced). ***If you are interested in joining the movie circle please email Jeanne at msbrooks2@comcast.com to reserve your spot.***



Standing & Ad Hoc Committees

2020 CVV Board of Directors

Executive Committee:

Sue Manning (President), Jim Whitfield (Past-President), Mary Esther Loranger (Secretary),
Joanne Wasak (Treasurer)
Carol Hansen Grey (Executive Director)

Members-at-Large

Diane Berger, Marilyn Wollenweber, Kathy Geddes, Joann Vanis

Volunteer Representative Member

Pete Bardea

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- The CVV **Events Committee** meets on the last Friday of the month between 1-3 pm and we welcome anyone to our hardworking team! We enjoy our meetings and the satisfaction of pitching in to make sure our events run smoothly.
 - The CVV **Tech Committee** meets on the third Tuesday of the month, participates in the HV Users Group and handles Database Management.
 - The CVV **Communications/Publicity Committee** interfaces with the Tech Committee and handles Website Development, Newsletters, Printed Promotional Material, Calendar Management, Social Network Outreach and Email Notifications. (No regularly scheduled meetings.)
 - The CVV **Outreach Committee** gives presentations to various organizations, organizes periodic community gatherings; joins other Bay Area Villages at resource fairs & programs; attends public meetings of various local, state and national government agencies; represents CVV at National and State Conferences; continuously promotes CVV wherever the opportunity occurs to increase membership. (Meets as needed.)
 - The CVV **Member Services Committee** meets on the second Thursday of the month. The committee processes new member applications, schedules new member in-home visits, creates, edits, and distributes the Member and Volunteer Handbooks. The committee also provides and monitors the call managers who are assigned days to answer calls and respond to emails sent to the Village. It receives members suggestions for service providers and adds them to the service provider list on CVV's website after review.

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

Editors: Carol Hansen Grey & Diane Berger

Email: Village.clayton@gmail.com.

The editors welcome all submissions and reserve the right
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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



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