
Our Village VOICE

A monthly publication of Clayton Valley Village
June 2021 Edition



Welcome
New Members!



MILDRED (MILLIE) L. GRAHAM



President's Message

Marilyn Wollenweber

Can you believe June is here? We are halfway through the year! Time sure does fly. I found some interesting celebrations that occur in June. **June 1:** World Milk Day · **June 2:** National Rocky Road Day **June 3:** National Egg Day · **June 4:** Hug Your Cat Day · **June 4:** National Donut Day. We've got some good snacks there! We can get some warm fuzzies hugging our cats, too. We also celebrate Flag Day, June 14, and Father's Day, June 20, which also happens to be the Summer Solstice this year. **Juneteenth** commemorates the effective end of slavery in the United States. **Juneteenth** (short for "June Nineteenth") marks the day when federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas in 1865 to take control of the state and ensure that all enslaved people be freed. We do have a lot to celebrate and days to reflect – what we are thankful for and how we can make our world a better place to live for everyone.

We are now able to get together in person once again. We had a great turnout for our Monthly Mixer at Moresi's. It was so good to see faces without masks! Don't forget to put June 15 on your calendar for our next mixer. I hope to see you there. Call the Village number (925-626-0411) if you need a ride.

Advertisers



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

The story so far:

Josh flies to Houston at the request of the father he has never met. Elise, the old man's caregiver, drives him to the hospital where his father lies dying. The old man gives Josh a photo of a young woman whom he says is Josh's sister, a girl whose existence has been unknown to Josh until this very moment.

"A sister," Josh thought, as a wave of disbelief passed over him, followed by the sobering thought that nothing the old man did should be surprising. Josh whispered his father's name, but the old man fell back asleep. A nurse came in and waved Josh and Elise away. They walked down the hall to the visitors' lounge and sat opposite each other on chairs covered in green faux leather.

Josh waved the photo toward Elise.

"You know anything about this?"

"First I heard of her. And she's not mine, if that's what you're thinking. I have two boys. One's in the Army and one drives for UPS."

Josh examined the photo. A girl in a blue graduation cap and gown. The yellow tassel on the cap contrasted with the long red hair flowing to her shoulders. She held a rolled-up paper in her left hand, obviously a diploma. She wore a ring with a yellow stone on her left middle finger.

"Elise, what kind of gemstone is yellow?"

"Topaz. It's my birthstone. November." She grinned at him. "But don't ask me the year."

Josh handed her the photo.

"Any idea who this might be?"

"Not a clue. Pretty, though."

Josh took back the photo and stood up.

"I'm going back in there and see if he can explain this."

Josh walked back down the hall to his father's room, with Elise following. The nurse appeared at the door. The look on her face told them all they needed to know.

Josh stood at the foot of his father's bed. The tubing and oxygen mask had been removed. Josh was sure he saw his father's face frozen into a smirk. "You old bastard," Josh thought. "you were never a part of my life, and now you leave me with a sister as a good-bye gift."

"He looks peaceful," Elise said.

"No, he doesn't."

"You're right, she admitted, "Just smug, as usual. If you're worried about the funeral arrangements, he had everything planned out. You should see the monument he designed for himself – a twelve-foot granite shaft with a moose head halfway up."

"I'll pass."

Josh and Elise hardly spoke as she drove him back to the house, except for the Caregiver-with-Benefits mentioning the will.

"He promised me the house, but the rest of the assets will probably go to you," she said.

"I don't want anything of his," Josh spat out, but immediately felt ashamed at his own rancor.

"I can understand how you feel," Elise said in a motherly tone. "But he did give you a sister."

They continued to drive in silence until Elise broke through.

"Aren't you curious?"

"Yeah, I am. I really am."

"You find out anything, you'll let me know, OK?"

Elise dropped him off at his rental car, gave him a hug, and he drove back to the airport.

On the plane ride back to San Francisco, Josh fingered the photo of the girl with the topaz ring, the girl who was supposedly his sister.

"You did it, Old Man, you've hooked me into hunting for her," he thought, "and I know where I'm going to start."

Coming up: Josh begins his search.



Upcoming Events

Tuesday, June 1st - CVV Board Meeting

Thursday, June 3rd - ROMEO - Members and Volunteers

Monday, June 14th - CVV Explorers Hike

Tuesday, June 15th - Monthly Mixer Clayton Club

Friday, June 25 - Events Committee Meeting

Learning Local History - Part 2 of 2: Pacheco, Galindo and the Founding of Concord

By Fiona M. Hughes



In the summer of 1846 a small group of American settlers in California rebelled against the Mexican government and proclaimed California an independent republic, and raised the Bear Flag.

Following a nasty encounter during this 'Bear Flag Revolt', Don Salvio moved his family up from San Jose to join his eldest son, Fernando, who had built a fine two-story adobe home in 1835 in what is now downtown Concord. Timbers for the window frames were brought around the Horn, and hauled inland from San Francisco by local Indians. The home boasted a ballroom, bullring and a brick-lined swimming pool!



Adobe House in Fernando Pacheco's day.



Adobe House as it is today.

This adobe home was the first building in Diablo Valley, and you can see it to this day, (currently conveniently located opposite Swagat, my favorite Indian restaurant!) at 1870 Adobe Street, Concord. The home became a cultural, business and social center, and hosted visitors, bullfights and church services conducted by a priest traveling up from Santa Clara. A long-time associate of Pacheco's, named Francisco Galindo, (whose grandfather had also been in Anza's expeditionary party), gained the hand in marriage of Pacheco's daughter, Maria Dolores Manuela. In 1856 the newlyweds were gifted cattle and 1000 acres, and built the first wooden-framed house in Concord. It was called the Galindo House and their design choice of the newly popular, Victorian European building style (versus traditional adobe style) was apparently regarded with some reproach by the family.

However, the father-son team of Fernando and Don Pacheco, now joined by son-in-law, Francisco Galindo, further energized the family's ambitions to develop a town, and in 1868 they surveyed, planned and developed a town, offering merchants and residents lots for free. The town would cover 20 acres, prudently positioned on the road between Clayton's coal mines and the nearby Pacheco docks.

In 1869, Don Salvio Pacheco named the new town, Todos Santos, meaning "all saints", and insisted that a fine central plaza and park be forever maintained.



Pacheco plaza, as it was envisioned in 1866.



A map laying out the town's streets and business locations.

As we look at the familiar layout and streets on this early map, it's interesting to see how the Spanish family names (like Bonifacio, named for Don Salvio's deceased son), melded with the new USA-influenced names, such as Grant Street, after the recently-elected President, and his VP, Colfax. Indeed, within months of the town's founding, a petition was swiftly initiated to change the name from Todos Santos to 'Concord'. And according to the Galindo docents, even drunks on the streets were pressed into providing their vote, which resulted in the town's name being changed to the harmoniously named, Concord, much to the Pacheco/Galindo family's disapproval.

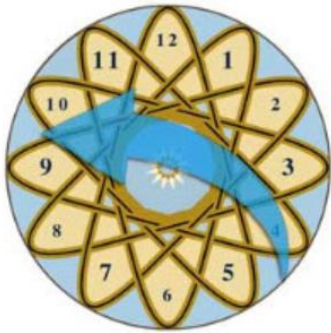
Incidentally, the nearby town of Pacheco had prospered early, with its deep waters for ocean-going vessels, it flourished as a shipping port and a key center for grain that had been grown in the Ygnacio, San Ramon and Tassajara valleys.

However, fires, floods, and an earthquake in the late 1860's destroyed the town and silted up the waterways, causing residents to relocate to Concord. Generous as ever, Pacheco gave land to Pacheco refugees to begin their lives over.

By the time Don Salvio Pacheco died, in 1876, he had sold or given away all but 425 of his original 17,921 acres of his Rancho del Diablo.

His extended family continued to live in and contribute to the thriving Concord area, and today this statue of Don Salvio Pacheco (with his land grant documents firmly in his hand!) proudly surveys his beloved Todos Santos Plaza.





PAST EVENTS

ROMEO (Really Old Men Eating Out)



A new CVV Circle has been formed named 'Really Old Men Eating Out' (ROMEO). It's a group open to men who are members or volunteers of Clayton Valley Village. They met on Thursday April 29, at Ed's Mudville Grill in Clayton. They will be meeting semi monthly to share stories and help each other out with various projects and tasks.

CVV Supported Hope Walk 2021



Sonja's CVV
team raised
\$530
for
Cancer
Support
Community

Total raised by CSC was \$182,600!!



Carole Gardner and Sonja Wilkin



CVV's May Mixer was held Outdoors



Happy Hour outdoors. NOT Zoom!



May 2021 Happy Hour
at Moresi's Chophouse
in downtown Clayton.

It was so good to see
everyone in person.

A bluebird feeding her
babies provided great
entertainment.



LUNCH AND LEARN – How to make a CHARCUTERIE BOARD



Joann Vanis' daughters Laurie and Michelle gave an excellent demonstration.



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

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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

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