



# Palos Verdes Peninsula Village

• Stay Settled • Stay Connected • Stay Engaged

We are a non-profit organization that preserves and enhances the comfort, security, dignity, social engagement and sense of community for older adults who want to continue independent living in the Palos Verdes Peninsula area. We accomplish this through educational outreach, social events and needed services provided by dedicated members and volunteers

## SPRING NEWSLETTER 2020

### IT TAKES A VILLAGE

#### From Dick Stark:



The high points of my Village experience have definitely been the two sessions of the Guided Autobiography classes my wife and I attended. Having always been a "work to the deadline" type, these classes gave me the discipline to think and write about a specific topic - branch points in one's life and

family --for reading to a small group. Without those constraints, I know I would never have put down and shared with even my family other than my wife many of the memories and details of my life. I am still in the process of putting together the outputs of the classes under the title: "My Life: A Journey Well Beyond Any Reasonable Expectations." Subtitle: "Not that I reached exalted heights, but that I had such an unpromising beginning."

The entire Guided Autobiography experience has made a significant difference in my life, especially in feeling that our children and grandchildren know more about us. Recently the Village has helped us get through many of the feelings of isolation that go with the current situation and given us confidence we have a backup to call upon if we need it. Thanks.

#### From Muriel Blatt:



Becoming a PVP Village member at its inception for me meant that I became an active participant in a community of local, forward- looking, lively minded, interesting people. I have not been disappointed.

#### From Harriet and Ken Servis:

The best part of our PVP Village experience has been the social gatherings, especially Dine around the World and News of the Month. The Upside of Aging annual lectures have been very informative and inspiring and provide PVP Village members a prime opportunity to connect with others and to share the Village model while promoting a positive aging experience.

Being a part of the PVP Village has provided an opportunity to interact with members of the Peninsula community and to assist other members to make it easier to continue to live in their own homes. We have "reconnected" with members and volunteers whom we had known in years past and have renewed friendships through the Village as a common bond. Our children's' families are very complimentary and appreciative of our level of activity with the PVP Village and are pleased that we are happy with our life and socially engaged in the PVP Village and the Community.



*continued on Page five*

#### From Zita Bar:

The joy of meeting such friendly and wonderful members and volunteers who have helped out in so many ways has been a high point of my experience as a member of the PVP Village. The many varied activities it offers have been significant factors in my enjoyment, and I look forward to a resumption of activities when social distancing guidelines are relaxed.



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## Message from our Executive Director, Marianne Propst



Before March, we had no idea what “sheltering in place” or “staying safe at home” would mean to us and our Village community. Despite the challenges this time has brought, I am grateful for the silver lining. I am now even more convinced of the importance of the Village concept and the resilience of older adults, especially those who had the foresight to be part of this community. We adapted fairly quickly to our changing needs. We are reaching out to each other with phone calls, and we have adjusted our thinking to Zoom get-togethers and other ways to stay connected with each other. Volunteers and members have stepped up to continue with essential service requests and

grocery shopping. Our tech volunteers have put in countless hours over the phone and on Zoom calls to trouble shoot problems – “Where is that mute button?” “Why can’t we see you?” “Why is my internet so slow?” This willingness to adapt and learn new ways of being a community is a positive sign that our Village is thriving and growing in spirit and enthusiasm.

We are a community that is learning, caring, growing and adapting in response to the current crisis. This is a good and healthy sign. I am so proud to be part of this effort, and I appreciate all the care you are putting into our Village – by reaching out to others, by organizing events, by helping to connect us, by shopping for needed groceries and for supporting one another. You all are making a difference!

## Message from our Board Chair, Fran Wielin



Greetings to all our PVP Village members, friends and volunteers from our secure lodgings for the past few weeks! I hope you are all safe and comfortable and adjusting to the new realities. We all will have memories and stories to tell about the Covid-19 Shutdown. Throughout the history of the PVP Village, we have sought to stay connected with our members, volunteers and the larger PVP Community. In 2016, before our incorporation, I traveled to Washington DC with Sherry May for the Annual Village to Village gathering.

As we connected with other “Villages in Formation”, we learned that “every Village is different” depending on the community, the geography, and the population. We identified the unique needs and strengths of our own community and proceeded based on those findings. The generosity of our Charter Members covered startup costs and allowed us to begin operations on a sound financial footing. We enlisted talented leadership at the administrative and Board level and were enriched by dedicated volunteers. Now, four years later and despite these challenging times, we are strong and forward looking. We depend on continued donations from members and friends, as well as the generous sponsors of our major fundraising event, The Upside of Aging. Last year’s event brought in close to \$20,000 towards our operating expenses. However, with the precautions we must take for large gatherings this year, we may be unable to host the “Upside” event in 2020 but instead look for other ways to reach this year's fundraising goals.

The future of the PVP Village will depend on our success as we move forward. Best wishes for the summer. Fran Wielin



## Welcome New Members

PVP Village Welcomes New Members:  
Ronnie & Carlos Lemmi, Maureen & John Duffy and Joan Kraus.



## **What are Other Ways You Can Support Our Palos Verdes Peninsula Village?**

### **Staying at home could mean you are shopping more on-line.**

Please consider registering your Amazon account with Palos Verdes Peninsula Village and our non-profit organization will receive a small percentage of your charges. You must first go to [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) to register your account with us. Please call the office if you need help and thank you for supporting the Village while you shop!

Think about taking the time now to register your Ralph's grocery card with their program that will give a donation to the Village with every purchase! Just call 1-800-443-4438 to register your card with PVP Village or go to [www.ralphs.com](http://www.ralphs.com) and click "save" on the top left corner. Then click "Ralph's Community Contribution Program" for directions. Let us know if you need help!

### **Staying at home could mean you need more assistance from a volunteer.**

Have you considered showing your appreciation for a PVP Village volunteer who has helped you in a very special way by giving a gift to the PVP Village in his or her name? By doing so, you will give your heartfelt gratitude to the volunteer, and support the on-going mission of the PVP Village.

Thea Bower, Pat Sneller, Connie Davenport and Anne and Ray Destabelle have given donations to the PVP Village as a way of showing their gratitude for special volunteers who have helped them in a time of need.

### **Staying at home could mean you are remembering a loved one.**

Several PVP Village donors have given a gift to the PVP Village in memory of a loved one including:

Irene and Edmund Russ in memory of Jack Rudder

Marilyn Litvak in memory of Marvin Litvak

### **Staying at home could mean you are remembering with deep affection and gratitude Sherry May and Bill May.**

Karen May and Keith Shultz, Sherry and Bill's daughter and son in law made a donation to the PVP Village in memory of their beloved mom, Sherry May.

Others who have contributed in Sherry's honor include:

Zita Bar

Helen Dennis

Bonnie Cohn

Nancy Euler in memory of Sherry May and Marguerite Euler

Kathi Burke

## Village Golfers Coming Back Soon



The PVP Village Golfers is open to members and volunteers, men and women; no pressure just a lot of fun and the challenge of the game with lunch to follow.

Contact Steve Jordan for more information.



## PVP Villagers participate in Designs for Dining



Three PVP Village members, Joni McIntyre, Constance McBirney and Kathy Swank, participated in the 20th Annual Designs for Dining event held at the St. Francis Episcopal Church on March 6, 2020. Designs for Dining is an annual fundraiser for the Saint Francis Outreach Scholarship

fund, and all proceeds benefit SFOSF.

Joni was honored for her role in creating the St. Francis Outreach Scholarship Fund in 1998. She was in her 70s when she came up with the idea that helping just one promising student each year to achieve a college education would be worth the effort. Her dream has resulted in the fund to date

helping over 30 young people and has graduated ten through four years of college.

Joni McIntyre was not the only PVP Villager featured at the event. The Silver Spur Garden Club sponsored a tablescape titled "Dining with Pickard: Through the Eyes of the Artist". The table was designed by Constance McBirney, a member of the Silver Spur Garden Club, and Kathy Swank, President of the Pickard Collectors Club, and displayed china featuring twin peacocks hand painted by Kathy's mother, Ester Samuelson, who painted china for Pickard for about 12 years, from 1929 through 1941. As Kathy remembers, her mother loved nature and always was painting or drawing beautiful flowers.



## A Facegroup for Members, Volunteers and Families



We now have a (relatively) new PVP Village Facebook Group. This is in addition to (and different from) our PVP Village Facebook page. This group is just for PVP Village members, active volunteers and members' families. Please join our PVP Village Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/pvpvillage>. Click on "Join Group" and wait a little bit until our administrators let you in. Our group is set to Private, so only group members can see who's in the group and what they post. Volunteers Kathy

Christie and Paul Lasman already have shared some good information and articles in the group.

## PVP Village Responds to the impact of the Coronavirus.

Harriet Servis has been busy sewing masks for Ken and their family.



canine  
companionship in  
elderhood (especially  
during a crisis)

Suzanne Weitz produced a PowerPoint presentation for her Omnilore class that included pictures of her dog, Henry, at the Gardena Library with students in a truly comfortable setting reading to him.



## Getting to Know Fran Wielin, Board Chair



A hearty welcome to Fran Wielin, the new President of the Board of Directors of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Village. Fran was instrumental in the creation of the PVP Village and has been a member of the Board since its inception in 2015, serving both as President and Secretary.

A life-long Californian, Fran attended Occidental College where she received a BA in Biology. After graduation, she trained and ultimately worked at St. Vincent's Hospital laboratories in Los Angeles where she met and became friends with Maria Ashla. Fran and Maria continued their friendly relationship through the Palos Verdes Branch of the American Association of University Women, and ultimately, the PVP Village where both became Charter Members and now Board members.

An avid outdoor enthusiast, Fran met her husband, Sid, on a ski trip to Alta, Utah. They have been biking, skiing, traveling, and enjoying the beauty of the Palos Verdes Peninsula together ever since. After Fran retired, she found her calling in community outreach. She has volunteered with KUSC and the Peninsula Land Conservancy. She has been active

with the PVP Coordinating Council serving as Calendar Editor. She also participated as President of the Friends of the Library and a trustee of the PV Library District. And, if all of that were not enough, Fran joined the Palos Verdes Peninsula Branch of the AAUW in 1985 serving as President and editor of their newsletter.

Fran and Sid while enjoying the social events offered by the PVP Village also have contributed to its success in many ways. They are dedicated charter members. They volunteer their home for movie and television events including hosting Super Bowl Parties; they offer a venue for larger social events in their club house. Fran has provided transportation to members in need; she is the Chair of the PVP Village Board and on various committees, including the Nominating Committee that, as she aptly pointed out, is seeking creative and caring Board members from the Community. She also is encouraging fundraising opportunities for the maintenance of PVP Village into the future.

Fran's many skills move the PVP Village forward in a positive way. Her spirit of volunteering, up-beat attitude and warm smile are a prescription not only for how to add years to your life but also to add life to your years. Thank you, Fran, for all you do.

### Ken and Harriet's thoughts continued from page one:

While Ken looks forward to meeting and talking with PVP Villagers at social gatherings and on Zoom, Harriet enjoys being creative and participating in event planning and other activities for the benefit of Village members and volunteers. We had found our circle of friends contracting after retirement and were looking to form new friendships and to contribute more to the community. It has been a joyful experience to meet folks who have lived on the Peninsula as long as we have and to realize we had not met them earlier during our other community activities.

Harriet observed that the joy of meeting such friendly and wonderful members and volunteers who have helped out in so many ways has been a high point of her experience as a member of the PVP Village. The many, varied activities offered have been significant factors in her enjoyment, and she looks forward to a resumption of activities when social distancing guidelines are relaxed.

### Zita Bar's thoughts continued from page one:

Not having siblings or family here in California, the PVP Village has filled a space in my life. I have appreciated getting to know the warm, caring members and the ongoing support they offer. In addition, the Events Calendar is chock-full of educational, social, humorous, and thought-provoking activities from which to choose. The choices could keep you busy just about every day.



### Welcome Mari Ashla, New PVP Village Board Member

Maria brings a wealth of experience and commitment to her new position as a Board Member of the PVP Village.



Check out her bio in the Summer 2019 issue of the PVP Village Newsletter. When Maria's interest is piqued, she becomes one hundred per cent involved. As a member of the American Association of University Women, PVP, she served as Chair, Co-Chair, Treasurer, and Chair of Special Projects. She is a charter member of the PVP Village and played an integral role in its creation and ongoing success. Currently, she is utilizing her technical talents to help Pat and Marianne streamline office procedures and designed the 2019 PVP Village Annual Report. As a leader and a team player, Maria embodies the mission of the PVP Village. The PVP Village enthusiastically welcomes Maria as a member of the Board of Directors.

## In Loving Memory of Bill May



Our good and dear friend Dr. Bill May passed away on February 23, 2020. Bill was a strong advocate for the Village and supported our beloved founder, his wife Sherry, as she developed and led her Village team - all beginning around the May family dining room table. We will miss Bill's smile, his humor, incisive

intellect and humanity.

Karen May, Bill's daughter, shared her thoughts and memories about her dad.

Born and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Bill was one of four children, the third and only boy of Mae and Ernest May. He attended Columbia University and even though he became a city boy, he still, as Karen said, sent his laundry home on a train to Milwaukee. After college, Bill enlisted in the Army and was stationed in Germany. Returning to the states, Bill became an ordained minister after earning his doctorate at Drew Seminary in New Jersey, a very memorable place as he met Sherry there.

In 1967, Bill and Sherry moved to Southern California, and Bill joined the USC School of Religion where he studied and taught several courses in ethics. He developed and taught a weekend-long medical ethics seminar for physicians (and eventually pharmacists) who were "sentenced" to special classes in order to keep or regain their licenses. His family called it "traffic school for doctors" or simply his "bad docs" class. Bill continued in this program for 25 years, retiring in 2018.

Bill and Sherry loved to entertain, loved stimulating conversations and hearty laughter. He is fondly

remembered for the exuberant "hello" that greeted all who came to his door.

Bill pursued his many interests with enthusiasm: sailing, scuba diving, golf, running, hiking, photography, jazz and current events.

Both Bill and Sherry loved to travel, and their adventures circled the globe. Among their most memorable adventures were likely their two trips on *Semester at Sea*, a study abroad program, where they taught classes and traveled the world, and Switzerland where he and Sherry celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary.

Bill was very active in the Palos Verdes Peninsula Village, supporting Sherry at every turn. He led the pro-con sessions, participated in the Salon, Men of a Certain Age outings, and the Monday Readers to name a few. When his hiking became limited, Bill took up photography. He attended classes and developed an amazing skill. His photos are wonderful, according to Karen, and help both Karen and Steve see what he saw when he looked at the world, especially the faces.

Bill and Sherry had a very special marriage; they loved and respected one another, and truly enjoyed the world with each other, learning together, and enjoying life.

Karen describes her dad as a person who was curious, quick to laugh, loved to tease, loved his strong coffee, and loved to share a glass of wine (the Bill May pour). He was quick to meet people and make friends, curious about everyone and easy at making conversation. She believes that if there is a heaven, her Mom and Dad are together, hand-in-hand, exploring the far reaches of other worlds.

## Remembering Sherry May



Sherry was the inspiration for the Palos Verdes Peninsula Village in 2013 and our leader through its successful initiation. She was passionate about the concept of bringing people together in a strong community as they aged, a village that enabled remaining at home while fostering fulfillment, enrichment and support to its members.

She is remembered as a truly gifted and generous person, involved and a source of strength to those close to her.



For those of you who would like to donate to the PVP Village in Bill's memory, please go to [peninsulavillage.net](http://peninsulavillage.net) and click donate, or you may send a check to PVP Village, 916 Silver Spur Road #302 Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274.

The PVP Village Tax ID for our non-profit is #47-1928681 for your records.



## PVP Village ZOOMS

### Monday Readers - a Zoomed discussion of *Olive* and *Olive Again* by Elizabeth Strout



PVP Villagers can do anything - even ZOOM. There were 11 Monday Readers virtually present at their first meeting.

Paul Lasman joined the group offering technical support along with Steve Jordan who shared how the PVP Village is dealing with social distancing and planning several activities to keep us all together! It was fun to see real faces and hear real stories and laughs from everyone!

The personality of *Olive* encouraged a discussion of many disparate views of *Olive* and *Olive Again*! It was a new and somewhat challenging experience via Zoom yet handled quite well.

### Wednesday Readers Book Group - A Virtual discussion of *The Overstory*, by Richard Powers.

Jill Smith, Zooming from northern California, led the discussion. Although reception was not consistent, it did not dampen the groups pleasure in seeing one another, and it was especially heartwarming to see Ginger Letts. The book was felt to be long and a bit pretentious, although it did furnish some ideas to think about regarding nature and trees. The group is looking forward to their virtual meeting again next month and is anticipating a thought-provoking experience.



### Live and Learn- Via ZOOM

Angelica Cohen, last year's social work intern, gave a presentation on learning about the most common types of senior fraud and how to safeguard against them using various available resources.

### News of the Month



Members met April 17th to discuss news items of interest. Each attendee presents a newsworthy item for discussion by the group. Following a brief presentation (<5 minutes), members offer comments and

additional thoughts related to the item. Ken Servis hosted.

### Eclectic Reading Group - A Unique Experience



Our newest book club, Eclectic Readers, initiated by Anne Herron, has a different format. Each month two members review for the group a recent book of their choice.

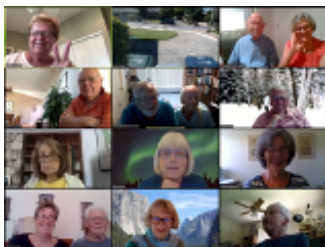
Members then follow up with a brief discussion of books they currently are reading. Participants learned a lot from their first Zoom meeting and are eagerly looking forward to their future meetings.

### Social Happenings

PVP Village Happy Hour: About 21 PV Village members and volunteers gathered together virtually during happy hour on Thursday April 23rd! Volunteer Jill Smith "hosted" the event. The group shared how they were coping with staying safe at home, and a fun time was enjoyed by all.



### Smile



The March SMILE meeting had been cancelled. Being resourceful, clever folks requiring a little humor during these chaotic times, Seniors Meeting in Laughter and

Enjoyment was held via 21st Century technology otherwise known as ZOOM on April 28th. And laugh they did.

Kudos to the PVP Villagers, members and volunteers who have put forth a magnificent effort to master the art of ZOOMING. They are an amazing group and include Paul Lasman, Steve Cohen, Steve Jordan, Marianne Propst and Pat Sneller along with the Program Committee and Event Coordinators, Steve Jordan, Ken Servis, Kathy Swank, Steve Cohen, Anne Herron, Kathleen Fitzgerald, Thea Bower, Lynn Solomita, and Judy Bayer.

# What's New at the PVP Village?

## PVP Village Writer's Group



At the conclusion of the recent Guided Autobiography Class, several participants expressed interest in continuing writing and

the possibility of forming a Village Writing Group. And, it happened. At the first meeting via Zoom, all agreed that the emphasis is on writing for enjoyment, for fun and sharing with the group. Meetings are twice a month, on the first and third Thursday from 1:00 - 3:00 PM. Each member submits an original fiction, non-fiction, short story, essay, or other form of writing of their choice and the group provides constructive and positive feedback.

### PVP Village Virtual Events:

Monday Readers

2nd Monday 3:30-5:30pm

Village Happy Hour

Twice Monthly, Thursdays, 4-5:30PM

Village Writing Group

1st and 3rd Thursday 1-3PM

Men of a Certain Age Lunch

2nd Tuesday 12-2pm

Village Coffee Hour

2nd Wednesday, 9-10AM

Wednesday Book Group

4th Wednesday, 2-4PM

Eclectic Readers

2nd Thursday 10:30AM-12:30PM

SMILE! Seniors Meeting in Laughter & Enjoyment

3rd Tuesday 3-5PM

News of the Month

3rd Friday, 3-5PM

ProCon

Last Friday 10-11:30AM

## New Calendar Event Descriptions

As part of continuous improvement projects at PVP Village, Pat Sneller and Maria Ashla have worked very hard to improve the look of our calendar and the event descriptions on our website. The goals of their efforts were to:

1. Improve the look and presentation of information so that new members would better understand what goes on at each event.
2. Provide more consistency on how to register. The events coordinated outside the office require an rsvp to the event coordinator and not on-line. This is the case for the book clubs, golf, writer's group, mahjong and men's lunch. The member-only events require signing in before you are allowed to register.
3. Safeguard privacy. Home addresses of where events were being held were deleted.
4. Improve efficiency. Creating the calendar every month is time consuming; we now should be able to copy regularly scheduled events to the following month making only minor changes as needed. Kudos also to our esteemed Program Committee who have created the events and to the event coordinators who make them happen. What a great job they have done. Steve Jordan, Ken Servis, Kathy Swank, Steve Cohen, Anne Herron, Kathleen Fitzgerald, Lynn Solomita and Thea Bower.

Be sure to check out the PVP Village website to see all of the updates and changes.  
**[www.PeninsulaVillage.net](http://www.PeninsulaVillage.net)**

### PVPV Board of Directors

Francs Wielin, Chair  
Judith Bayer, Vice Chair  
Ann Shaw, Chief Financial Officer  
Carolynn Petru, Secretary  
Maria Ashla, Director  
Helen Dennis, Director  
Britt Vanden Eykel-Huff, Director  
Steve Jordan, Director  
Terry McGovern, Director  
Harriet Servis, Director  
Susan Hamilton-Wallace, Director

Marianne Propst,,Executive Director  
Pat Sneller, Administrative Assistant  
Tax ID # 47-1928681

## HOW TO REACH THE PVP VILLAGE

### Palos Verdes Peninsula Village

916 Silver Spur Road  
Suite 302  
Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274  
310-991-3324  
[www.PeninsulaVillage.net](http://www.PeninsulaVillage.net)