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MARIN
VILLAGES



Our Paths - Our Choices

Empowering older adults to be active,
connected and independent in the place they
call home



TWIN CITIES VILLAGE
NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2020

Well, here we are, still in a pickle. It's good to remember, though, it's not our first pickle, sour though it may be. W.B. Yeats was in one, too, a hundred years ago, when he penned his famous poem *The Second Coming*, below. If you have time—and interest—Google it; you'll find much interpretation of the timely piece.

Turning and turning in the widening gyre
The falcon cannot hear the falconer;
Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,
The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere
The ceremony of innocence is drowned;
The best lack all conviction, while the worst
Are full of passionate intensity.

Surely some revelation is at hand;
Surely the Second Coming is at hand.
The Second Coming! Hardly are those words out
When a vast image out of Spiritus Mundi
Troubles my sight: a waste of desert sand;
A shape with lion body and the head of a man,

A gaze blank and pitiless as the sun,
Is moving its slow thighs, while all about it
Wind shadows of the indignant desert birds.

The darkness drops again but now I know
That twenty centuries of stony sleep
Were vexed to nightmare by a rocking cradle,
And what rough beast, its hour come round at last,
Slouches towards Bethlehem to be born.

NOTE: If you have comments, forward them to ssommertime@sbcglobal.net, and write "Editorial Comment" in the subject bar.

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

Felicitations and birthday greetings to the August 90s and 100s!

What? No August birthdays? Let's then say happy days to all.

LOCAL VILLAGE EVENTS (open to all, unless noted)

Food & Drink

S.I.P. and Sip—Virtual Happy Hour

Tuesday, August 11, 3:30 – 5:00pm

Pour your favorite beverage, get comfortable, and zoom in! We meet virtually to see Village friends again, tell stories, and talk. It's fun to meet others and have an "appointment" on our calendars. There may be a new feature, too—one that will challenge our perhaps-sleepy brain cells. Join us! Watch for the email link with Zoom details.

"Chat and Check In"

Tuesday, August 18, 3:30 – 5:00pm

Another event to put on your calendar. This gathering gives us an opportunity to discuss nearly anything but politics. Things change so rapidly in the news and throughout the neighborhood that it's nice to share what you've recently learned, your opinions, stories, feelings about this very different reality we are in. Let's get back the art of

telling jokes. Social awareness has muffled many old jokes, which is a good thing, but there are still chucklers out there to humor the group, so dig through your humor files and join us. Watch for the email link with Zoom details.

Men's Coffee Group

Wednesdays, August 5 and 19, 11:00am

Join us for informal and free-ranging discussions with no agenda, but including current events, respective activities, health issues, or whatever lands on the table. Men from other local villages beyond Twin Cities are invited to participate. Please contact Irv Gubman at irvgubman@gmail.com if you are interested in joining.



MARIN VILLAGES EVENTS

Be sure to read the Marin Villages weekly letter, chock full of information and ideas for keeping busy and healthy during these curious times.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Also, check out the library websites (marinlibrary.org); the Buck Center informational lectures and events (buckinstitute.org/events); Age Friendly Corte Madera (agefriendlycortemadera.com); and the parks and recreation departments of our sister cities.

There is truly so much available out there, and now that you have the time, jump in; virtually, of course!

TWIN CITIES VILLAGE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Invite to Write

This publication is your medium, just for the members of Corte Madera and Larkspur, so write a piece to let us know some of what you've done in your life; not necessarily your professional accomplishments, but something that few others have seen or done. Create a short story, a paragraph, a poem, a memory or incident, an editorial—but please no political topics (haven't we already had enough of those?). Make it no more than 650 words.

To Mask or Not to Mask, by Sue Sommer

To mask or not mask can cultivate some questions;
So if you still are wavering, check out these suggestions:

It should be clear, though; we know it's safer for all—
If everyone would do it, the damn curve would fall.

Plus, to wear a mask has definite benefits:
It becomes second skin, especially *when* it fits;

You can yawn with no need to cover your mouth
in a dull meeting when your attention has gone south.

You save money on lipstick and powder and blush—
do only the top half when you're in a rush.

Now here's a secret for this little rhyme—
(brush your teeth later if you've run out of time!)

And no one will ever be made quite aware,
If you haven't tweezed those nose and chin hairs.

Moustaches and beards you don't have to groom,
unless your new world revolves around Zoom.

And here's another small, positive crumb:
no one will notice that you're chewing gum.

Your straggly hair can be held by each strap,
so those long, wispy dry ends never will flap.

Match a mask with a tie, scarf, or pocket square;
headbands or hatbands, whatever you wear.

To have guidance with this, a model to go see
Is our fashion-plate speaker, Nancy Pelosi!

Find one to honor your favorite sports;
get one to match each pair of your shorts.

Buy one for dress, one that goes with black tie,
sequins or grosgrain, when the season comes nigh.

More than all this, though, everyone thrives;
By wearing a mask, you will save lives.

If you don't, you spread droplets like sick, icky spray
So don a mask now, as Fauci would say.

You gripe, "Wear a mask? No, never will I;
I'm young, I won't get COVID, nor will I die."

But you're not the only one here on this earth,
and being a spreader is no rite of birth.

So why won't you use one, because it's uncool?
What's worse? You already wear the mask of a fool.

Mary Wood's history of Corte Madera, part 2 (Continued from July issue...)

When I moved to Corte Madera, undeveloped land spread from the Paradise Shopping Center west to the freeway. It contained areas of water where the kids liked to collect pollywogs. In the center of this damp, weed-filled space sat one lonely, abandoned house on a small hill. We watched one day as bulldozers leveled it, and then leveled the entire hill; apparently the house had been donated to the fire department for a practice drill. Development was on its way.

Offices, townhouses, and single-family homes were constructed. After all the development, rain water that once flowed down the hills to the

flatlands and on to the bay was tamed and flood controls were added. But before that, a major flood hit on January 4, 1982. I was at my school when my principal told me to go home immediately; Marin was flooding. Below the Waldo Grade, a big brown lake flanked by stalled cars at the side of the freeway lay before me. What would I find when I turned off the freeway onto Paradise Drive?

I met a raging sepia-colored river pouring down the hill and across the road by the shopping center, now under a foot of water. I knew my VW was not up to crossing it. I also had no idea where my middle school son was (pre-cellphone days!), but a truck driver came to my aid. I parked my car up the hill and he drove me home, where my son awaited me, as neighborhood parents had made sure all the students had rides home. That night we watched people being brought out of their neighborhoods in boats on the north side of Paradise Drive. Our little territory had become an island cut off from the freeway.

Across the freeway was our Town Center. In 1973 it had a Montgomery Ward, JC Penney, Woolworth's, Cala Market, Toy World, Thrifty Drug, and a variety of small stores and restaurants. Already showing signs of neglect, the parking lot had so many potholes you could lose a small child in one if you weren't careful!

Changes began: Montgomery Ward was replaced by Safeway. Woolworth's remained for a few years, a place where you could buy anything from sewing supplies and stationery to a hot dog or a parakeet. My son said it was a stopping-off place on his walk home from Redwood High for nachos with melted cheese. A woman who worked at Woolworth's served the hot dogs with great care, just the way you wanted them. Toy World, a wonderful place, held a contest each year for kids to enter models they had made. As a nine-year-old, my son won a gift certificate for a model car he built from a kit he had purchased there. He, and all proud prize winners, had their models put on display in the store.

Changes came in stages. Cala Market was closed, no great loss. Woolworth's closed. Thrifty stayed. Stores came and went, but the store closure that saddened us the most was that of JC Penney. Improvements continued with better-quality stores and restaurants, and the repaving of the parking lot. Town Center became a shopping destination, and with it came the traffic. Our sleepy Corte Madera was moving up in the world, with many more adjustments to come

The most dramatic changes of all occurred on the east side of Corte Madera when The Village shopping center opened. It became our crown jewel. All the flat land north of Paradise Drive by the freeway became the center that even brought shoppers from San Francisco. Between Macy's and Nordstrom as anchors, there have been endless changes with stores and restaurants remodeling and upgrading, including the latest controversial one, Restoration Hardware.

When I think back to the days when JC Penney was our place to shop, it is unreal to think how much Corte Madera has metamorphosed. A few weeks ago, I walked by The Village, closed now, and ghostly, the parking lot empty due to COVID-19. I thought about the excitement years ago when the center opened its doors. Now there are signs of life as restaurants and stores begin to reopen. Some of the businesses will survive, others may not. Changes continue. A friend reminded me that the only thing that doesn't change is that everything changes!

BITS AND PIECES

Hints, advice, and ideas that may interest you. If you have others to add, not too complicated and for the general audience, email ssommertime@sbcglobal.net with the heading "Bits and Pieces" in the subject bar.

Worn out aglets, the plastic or metal at the ends of shoelaces (did you know that's what they are called?) can easily be restored by wrapping thread around the shoelace end and covering it in Super Glue

Using your laptop outdoors: To enjoy our (finally warm!) weather outside while you're working or Zooming, set a cardboard box on its side with the opening facing you and place your laptop inside you so you can still type and see the screen. And a reminder: keep your phone out of the direct sun for more than a few minutes.

HELP US HELP OTHERS

For more than two decades the belief that it takes a village to raise a child has become embedded in our culture. Not as embedded but equally important is the village it takes to provide a comfortable,

nurturing, and safe environment for people as they age. You can help.

We need more caring volunteers to be part of this thriving nationwide movement, a movement that's dedicated to strengthening bonds between generations and building strong, vibrant communities that provide continuity to all ages.

Marin Villages is looking for volunteers to provide a variety of support to older adults. Our goal is to match skills from volunteers with the needs of members. Volunteers sign up for visits that fit their life and lifestyle, but we ask for a commitment of two assignments a month.

If you know someone who is interested in volunteering, could use our services, or would like to donate to an organization serving older adults in Marin, please have them call the office at (415) 457-4633, or visit our website (www.marinvillages.org) for application forms and online donations.

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