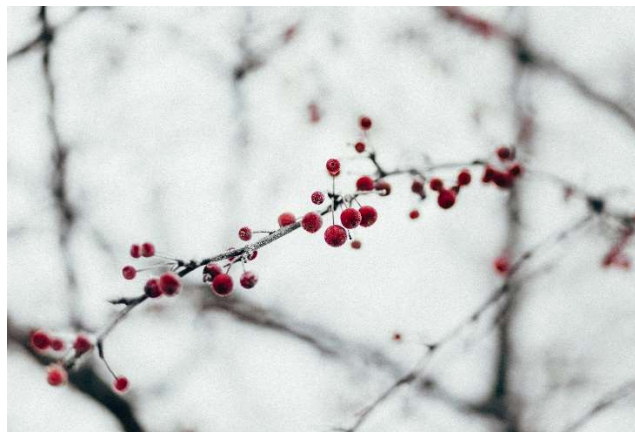




THE VILLAGE SQUARE

A monthly gathering place for all our news

December 2021



Even though we see more short sleeves than snow boots around here in December, it is still that special last month of the year. So many holidays, so little time! Hopefully this year, with vaccinations and boosters helping keep us healthy, we can all join family and friends to mark the most important dates in our traditions this month. Whether you are celebrating births, miracles, harvests, the solstice, crossing from one year to the next, or anything else, we wish you a month of joyful festivities.

*Special note: the office will be closed **Friday, December 24** and **Friday, December 31** for the holidays. Please get all your requests in before those dates!*

COVID UPDATE

COVID and flus and colds, oh my!



It's the celebratin' season, but it's also the season for avoiding colds and flus—and, sadly, COVID, too. Despite our high vaccination numbers, new cases of COVID are on the rise in Marin and we now have the highest rate of infection in the Bay Area. The good news? Because of our high vaccination rates, hospitalization and death rates have not gone up. While the vaccine cannot completely prevent infection, it does severely reduce the chance of hospitalization or serious illness. So getting your vaccine—and now your booster, too—remains a very smart move.

Last week, Public Health Officer Dr. Matt Willis briefed the Board of Supervisors on our county's pediatric and booster vaccination progress while also diving into the emergence of the Omicron variant. See his informative presentation here: <https://coronavirus.marinhhs.org/covid-19-status-update-12072021>

The season's first cases of flu have been recorded in Marin, and they usually peak in January and February. If you haven't already, please get your flu shot soon! You can even combine it with your COVID vaccine or booster at many sites. To find sites for either COVID boosters or flu shots or both, please go to <https://myturn.ca.gov/> to start the process. You will be asked which vaccine you need, and then taken to a page where you start answering questions that will help them get you to a site where you can schedule an appointment. **Tip:** if you need a COVID booster, it's helpful to have your COVID vaccination card handy unless you remember the dates of your previous COVID vaccines.

As for the common cold, it's usually more of an annoyance than anything, but there is no vaccine. And there have been some very nasty strains going around this fall so far, based on word of mouth. Your best defense is washing your hands well and often, and wearing a mask when out and about. Why ruin the holidays with a pesky head cold you don't want to spread to anyone else?

New masking mandate

Seems like we blink and the rules change again—a good illustration of how unpredictable the COVID virus can be. The State of California decided this week to **reinstitute the mask mandate for all public indoor spaces**, including retail and restaurants, from December 15, 2021 to January 15, 2022. This will override Marin's "strong recommendation" to wear masks and make them mandatory again for that time period, whether you are vaccinated or not.

MARIN VILLAGES NEWS

Annual Fund update



It's the most wonderful time of the year—the Annual Fund fall campaign! Please consider a generous end-of-year gift to help us find more ways to be together, learn together, and support one another in 2022. You can donate quickly and easily on our website at this link:

https://marin.helpfulvillage.com/fundraising_campaigns/9-annual-fund-fall-2021-campaign

Here is a tip that might help if you have an **IRA** looking for some action: if you are 70-and-a-half or older, consider making a gift that will be directly transferred from your IRA to Marin Villages by your IRA custodian. You do not need to itemize federal income taxes to make one of these gifts and save on your taxes, and making these tax-saving gifts is easy! Just instruct your IRA administrator to make your gift directly to Marin Villages, Tax ID # 27-0281669, and to mail the check to our office at 4340 Redwood Highway Suite F-142, San Rafael, 94903, or put this information on the form preferred by your IRA administrator. And please do so **well before December 31, 2021**.

A very happy birthday to our December nonagenarians!



December is a busy month for this group! Sending the best wishes for their birthday celebrations (and hoping they get to be separate from holiday celebrations) to newest 90+ club members **Alice Bachelder, Robert Jones, Alan Parry, and Ted McKown**. Turning 91 in style: **Naomi Newman** and **Shirley Printz**. **Ed Specht** turns 93, **Ruth Smith** turns 96 and **Betty Shapiro** turns 98 this month! Perhaps you all could give the rest of us some pointers?

Let your holiday parties be warm and bright, even outdoors—we're in California!



Photo credit: our fearless founder, Loulie Sutro

Ross Valley Village and Twin Cities Village joined forces last Thursday to gather, enjoy mulled wine and other libations, delicious food (veggie “pigs in a blanket,” sushi, fresh fruit, cheeses, cookies), conversation, and a book exchange—it’s Marin after all—to celebrate the holidays and mix and mingle. Thank you to leaders of both Villages who planned and hosted a warm and sunny holiday party in Suellen Lamorte’s serene backyard sanctuary in San Anselmo. Some Villagers are finding and reconnecting with one another across our local communities—we love that.

Santa came early to Mill Valley and the Marin Villages home office!



Mill Valley Village once again drew on their members’ many talents as bakers, potters, seamstresses, knitters, and makers of all kinds to produce and deliver artisanal holiday gift bags to all their members. Santa’s helper and MVV Member Ginna Fleming delivered gift bags to the staff in the office. We are very touched!

We're hiring!

We are looking for a part-time Member and Volunteer Services Representative to help with day-to day activities, including answering incoming phone calls and emails as well as entering member service requests and volunteer opportunities. If it's you, or if you know someone who might be a good fit, please see the job listing for details: <https://marin.helpfulvillage.com/documents/4514/download>

MARIN VILLAGES PROGRAMS

Not Home Alone—Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day!



Donnalee Wells will be holding the popular Not Home Alone events on both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, as well as New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. Contact Donnalee at donnaleewells@comcast.net or text or call her at (415) 302-9244 with questions or to RSVP. And please contact the office right away if you need a ride! (415) 457-4633

Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24, 2:00pm

The Club, McInnis Park – regular menu

More information here: <https://marin.helpfulvillage.com/events/3820-not-home-alone---christmas-eve-early-dinner-at-mcinnis-club-restaurant>

Christmas Day, Donnalee's birthday, Saturday, December 25, 2:00pm

Location to be announced

More information here: <https://marin.helpfulvillage.com/events/3821-not-home-alone---christmas-day-early-dinner>

New Year's Eve, Friday, December 31, 2:00pm

The Club, McInnis Park – fixed-price holiday menu, \$35-\$44

More information here: <https://marin.helpfulvillage.com/events/3822-not-home-alone---new-year's-eve-early-dinner-at-mcinnis-club-restaurant>

New Year's Day, Saturday, January 1, 2022, 2:00pm

The Club, McInnis Park – regular menu

More information here: <https://marin.helpfulvillage.com/events/3823-not-home-alone---new-year's-day-early-dinner-at-mcinnis-club-restaurant>

CHECK THIS OUT...

A colorized film of the **Spitfire Girls**, Britain's version of Rosie the Riveter, at work building planes in 1940/41. A different feeling from seeing still photos!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tZGoAVizZws>

A scene from the movie **Amadeus**, with Tom Hulce and F. Murray Abraham in Oscar-nominated and -winning performances.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=exaEt7szfi4>

The California School for the Deaf Riverside's football team made it to **their first championship game** ever. The story will give you all the feels.

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/11/29/us/deaf-high-school-football-riverside-california/index.html>

And if you are not in tears yet, maybe **Robin Williams learning how to eat a whole fish from Martha Stewart** will get you there.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dG55FiAfUzi>

Anybody remember the days of **dressing your kids in winter clothes**, and especially the dressy ones they hated for special occasions? Saturday Night Live brings it all back with this Macy's commercial (and seriously—this one will have you in stitches, if not tears).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MVXN85TJabg>

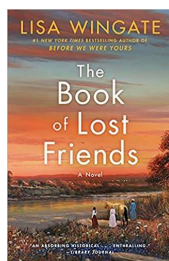
James Corden. Paul McCartney. Twenty-three minutes of them driving around Liverpool and singing Beatles songs while Paul tells stories. Need I say more? [There are ads you will need to skip through]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QjvzCTqkBDQ>

BOOKS, MOVIES, OR TV WE CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT

We'd love to hear from **you** for this section! Please send us your book, movie, or television recommendations to include in the Village Square--your fellow members and volunteers will thank you! Include a quick summary of the book, movie, or show, and--most importantly--why you recommend it. We'll do the rest! Send your reviews to communications@marinvillages.org. Thank you!

Books



The Book of Lost Friends, Lisa Wingate

In 1875 three young women—Black, white, and Creole—head west together from Louisiana, each for her own painful but powerful reason. In the same town in 1987 a first-year teacher arrives full of idealistic energy, only to meet a wall of suspicion of new people and ideas. The two stories weave together as the book progresses, supplemented by startling stories from actual “Lost Friends” advertisements that appeared in Southern newspapers after the Civil War, as newly freed slaves searched for loved ones who had been sold away. Fascinating, painful, sometimes quietly beautiful and other times exciting, *The Book of Lost Friends* is a wonderful read and a lesson in a chapter of the South's history. *Danielle, Marin Villages staff*

TV



The Beatles, Get Back, Disney Plus

If you are not a fan of the Beatles, this will likely not be interesting. But if you are, it's a moving look at their last big collaboration that led to the writing of 14 songs in less than a month, five of which were performed on the rooftop of Apple Records in 1969, the famous last time they ever played together live. An earlier film made from the same 60 hours of footage showed the sessions to be miserable and led to the impression the band all hated each other at this point. This footage is more thoughtfully culled, showing that despite the struggles, they still all enjoyed one another's company and still had that fun genius for making music together. A three-part series roughly eight hours in length total.

Danielle, Marin Villages staff

HUMOR

Winter laughs

Seriously, no teasing the dogs.



Funny Pictures on www.LeFunny.net

Da-aaad!



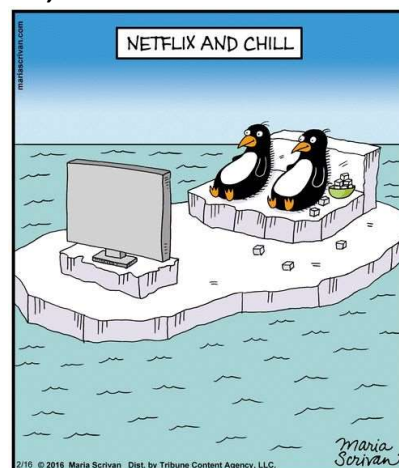
"It's not that he's so heavy, Daddy. You're standing on his skis."

[a *Saturday Evening Post* cartoon from 1952]

This is fun, right?!



Oh, is this what that means?



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Nothing like a little slide assist.



Ok, really—don't we all secretly feel this way?



BEFORE WE GO

The Nutcracker has been a part of December for as long as I can remember. Tchaikovsky's lovely score, the visual sumptuousness—it's all there in this full-length performance by New York City Ballet. If you can't see it in the theater, this is the next best thing! [There are ads you will need to skip through.]

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kXRMT_2F-WE

If you know someone who might be interested in Marin Villages or this newsletter, please forward it on to them. Word of mouth is one of our biggest sources of new members and volunteers! And, as always, if you have ideas for the newsletter, please send them to communications@marinvillages.org.

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