



# Ross Valley Village

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

## April/May 2022 Newsletter

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Hello, wonderful Ross Valley Marin Villages members and volunteers,

The sun is shining, the omicron cases have dropped, and masks are gradually coming off. So wonderful to see more of people's smiles after so long! We hope that this respite in the pandemic has allowed some of you to visit more with family and friends.

We also hope you enjoyed the spring flowers the steering committee members dropped off at your homes.



With love from the Ross Valley Steering Committee

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## WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS!

**Members:** Say hello to our newest members, Phoebe Moyer and Neil & Sydney Park

**Volunteers:** Warmest of welcomes to new volunteer Melissa Meith! We are ecstatic to have you join us.

We look forward to meeting all our new members and volunteers at one of our future events!

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## ROSS VALLEY VILLAGE EVENTS

If you need a ride to any of the events below, please call the office. (415) 457-4633

### Food & Drink

Loraine Berry is kindly opening her home in Ross for our Spring Fling Party! The details are below. Do reach out if you need a ride. You may reach Suellen at (415) 306-7159 to RSVP. See you soon!



## Exercise Walking Club



The walking club continues to be a great success. We walk for about an hour on the flat. If you haven't joined us yet but would like to, please contact Sarah Mansbach at [Sarah.Mansbach@gmail.com](mailto:Sarah.Mansbach@gmail.com), or by phone at (415) 926-1640. Above are some photos from a recent walk.

## Books Book Club



We read *Woman on Fire* by Lisa Barr this month, and the members that have been reading it are enjoying the story and the historic link to stolen arts during WW2. A thrilling tale of secrets, love, and sacrifice that illuminates the destructive cruelty of war, greed and triumph, this fictional novel tells the story of a remarkable woman and an exquisite work of art that burns bright, moving through history and making its own along the way.

While scheduling conflicts have kept us from meet thus far, we hope to get together soon. You're welcome to read along remotely, or if you're interested in joining us, please contact Kelly at [Kellau55@gmail.com](mailto:Kellau55@gmail.com).

## Groups

### Knitting Club



We are working to put together a club for those who want to gather and work on knitting, crochet, and needlepoint projects. We have several interested members and hope you will join in, too. If you are interested, please contact Kimberly Teal at (415) 770-7771.

## Village Business

Our steering committee is always looking for new volunteers to join our merry group in planning future events and parties. If you're interested in joining us, please reach out to Sarah Mansbach by email at [sarah.mansbach@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.mansbach@gmail.com), or by phone or text at (415) 926-1640.

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## OTHER MARIN VILLAGES EVENTS

### **Not Home Alone Early Easter Dinner**

Sunday, April 17, 2:00 – 4:00pm

Pacific Catch, Corte Madera Town Center



All members and volunteers are welcome! Wear your favorite Easter bonnet or bunny ears and hop on over to join Not Home Alone hostess Donnalee Wells and other Marin Villagers for an early Easter dinner at our new favorite venue with an outside covered and heated patio. First come, first served, and space is limited to 20 guests. Please **bring cash** for your meal. All attendees must be COVID vaccinated, and masks are required. RSVP ASAP to Donnalee at [donnaleewells@comcast.net](mailto:donnaleewells@comcast.net) or text or call (415) 302-9244. Please call the Marin Villages office ASAP if you need a ride. (415) 457-4633

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## ROSS VALLEY VILLAGE ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Birthdays

Many happy returns to all our special members with April and May birthdays.

Bronni Galin, April 4

Solweig McStay, April 12

Eleanor Siperstein, May 11

Stan Green, May 13

Cecile Buckley, May 20

Jackie Thomas, May 23

### Do you or a friend have time to volunteer for our village?

The Marin Villages office is doing a heroic job of matching increasing member requests to volunteers skills and availability, but could use more volunteers! If you are already a volunteer, BJ, Matt and Karin would be delighted to help match you up with the right assignments. If you or a friend are not yet a volunteer, but have a few hours a month, they would love to hear from you. They have many types of assignments, from friendly phone calls to dog walks and more. We hope you will give them a call at (415) 457-4633. Thank you!

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## AND MORE...

### Getting to know you

#### **B.J. Slater: Love and Light**

by Kathleen Jackson



Hearing B. J. discuss her life, I was reminded of a kaleidoscope: a succession of changing phases or actions seen through color and light. B.J. lived her early days in Berkeley, CA. The church was the center of her family home. After attending high school in Orinda, she went to college and majored in art. She then embarked on a journey that four years ago brought her to Marin Villages.

B.J. describes herself as spiritual, right-brained, creative, active, and entrepreneurial. In her early twenties in Southern California, she was blessed by a daughter, and, needing to provide for her, she started a successful swimming school. Having moved to Northern California, in her thirties B.J. graduated from Dominican College with a BA in psychology while running a home and parenting three children. She became a youth minister and area director with Marin County Young Life. In her twenties she designed clothing, in her thirties she was with Young Life and co-owner of a music publishing business. In her forties and fifties she was an interior designer and manager for Calico Corners and Ethan Allen.

B.J. was happily single for eighteen years until she fell deeply in love with her neighbor; she was 'the girl next door.' She has been married to John, a volunteer and former surgical assistant, for nine years. Early in their marriage the couple moved to Chicago for two years to help raise John's son. Upon returning to Marin, B.J. worked in addiction recovery for two years and then, online, she found the perfect job for her gifts and values: Membership Coordinator and Operations Manager of Marin Villages. She loves her work at Marin Villages. She also loves

spending time at the West Point Inn while her husband is working his retirement job as an innkeeper.

What B.J. values most are her relationship with God, her family and friends, her care and concern for the world, and staying in the moment. Her passion is 'being love and light,' through which, like a kaleidoscope, she delights the myriad of people whose lives she touches.

## Recommendations Corner



One of our steering committee members just watched the movie *CODA* and thoroughly enjoyed this coming-of-age story where Ruby must grapple with being the only hearing person in her deaf family. Ruby balances needing to be heavily involved in her family fishing business, navigating bullies at school and a newfound love of singing. This is a story of a family that sticks together, even when things get tough.

*CODA* is the first film featuring predominantly deaf actors in leading roles to win the Academy Award for Best Picture just this year! You can find the movie streaming on Apple+.

Have any new events, films, recipes or jokes you're itching to share with us? You can send them to Kelly at [kellau55@gmail.com](mailto:kellau55@gmail.com) to be featured in future newsletters!

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## HELP US HELP OTHERS

If you know someone who could use our services or is interested in volunteering with an organization serving older adults in Marin, please have them call the office at (415) 457-4633, or visit our website ([www.marinvillages.org](http://www.marinvillages.org)) for application forms. We always welcome donations to support our work! Please visit <https://marin.helpfulvillage.com/pages/10049-marin-villages---donate> to contribute.

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(415) 457-4633 [www.marinvillages.org](http://www.marinvillages.org)