

Dear friends and neighbors,

Summer is finally here with its long evenings and warm weather, a season that encourages us to celebrate being outdoors. We villagers are lucky to have so many opportunities to do just that together. But once again, while we wait for better news regarding case counts and other trends, we are postponing this month's "Coffee at the Sweetwater" and 4th Monday luncheon. Please stay tuned, as we hope to resume both soon. In the meantime we continue planning for the future and look forward to seeing you at our other programs.

**S A V E T H E D A T E**  
**An Introduction to Wildcare - A Marin Treasure**  
**Thursday, September 22 at 2:00**



One of the things we treasure about where we live is the "wildness" at our door. Right here in Mill Valley we have an enormous number of avian and mammal neighbors to appreciate. Over the years, our county has been incredibly lucky to have been the home for so many who have found a calling in caring for both this unique environment as well as the wild creatures that reside here. Wildcare, a San Rafael based non profit, makes caring for these wild neighbors their mission.

Wildcare has a special place in the Marin community with its education and outreach programs, animal hospital and rescue/advice line. We are delighted to invite you to a presentation where we will learn about the history of Wildcare, its mission, facilities, programs and more. In helping us better understand their work, the team joining us will be bringing some "ambassadors" for us to view. "Ambassadors" are wild animals that are "non-releasable" but have shown themselves adaptable to the stresses and demands of living near humans, giving groups like ours a rare opportunity to view them up close.

We hope you will plan to join us on Thursday, September 22 at 2:00. And please feel free to invite family, friends and neighbors. The presentation will be at Scout Hall, 30 Mountain View Avenue in Mill Valley. We look forward to seeing you there.

## A Movie Group Recommendation: *Bagdad Cafe* - 1987



'The charm of *Bagdad Cafe* is that every character and every moment is unanticipated, obscurely motivated, of uncertain meaning and vibrating with life.'  
Roger Ebert

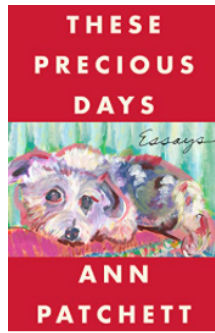
A recent selection for the movie group, ***Bagdad Cafe*** got two thumbs up. Released in 1987, the film is set at a desert truck-stop with a sleepy cafe and a handful of rooms. The cast includes CCH Pounder as Brenda the manager, Jack Palance as ex-Hollywood scenic artist Rudi Cox, Darron Flagg as Brenda's Bach-loving son Sal, Monica Calhoun as Brenda's precocious daughter Phyllis, Christine Kaufmann as sultry resident tattooist Debby, and Apesanahkwat as Sheriff Arnie. Life at the truck stop is pretty dispiriting, with little to look forward to until a newcomer, Jasmin (Marianne Sagebrecht), arrives, carrying her suitcase, asking for a room. As the scenes unfold this quiet, unassuming, traveler settles in, working her gentle "magic" on her surroundings and fellow residents. For an idea of what awaits you, check out this [trailer](#). Hope you like it. It is a sweet and rewarding ride.

## SAVE THE DATE A Celebration of Creativity August 21, 2:00 - 4:00pm



Mill Valley and Tiburon Peninsula Villages are coming together on Sunday, August 21st to celebrate and enjoy the rich talent among our fellow members and volunteers. Many visual artists and writers have already signed up to bring some of their work to share and we encourage any who may still be thinking about bringing some work to contact Liz Stone ([lizstone942@gmail.com](mailto:lizstone942@gmail.com)), even if you just have questions or are still a "maybe". We are looking forward to welcoming our whole village community to this sociable afternoon and hope you will invite family, friends and neighbors to join us. On display will be a wide variety of work including paintings, collages, fabric art, photography, sculpture, ceramics and handwork, as well as written works of fiction, poetry and more. It will be a relaxed get-together with plenty of time to mingle, talk with the artists about their work and enjoy refreshments and each other's company. Just drop by Scout Hall, 30 Mountain View Avenue in Mill Valley, anytime between 2:00 and 4:00. Carpools are encouraged.

## Recently Read and Recommended *These Precious Days* by Ann Patchett



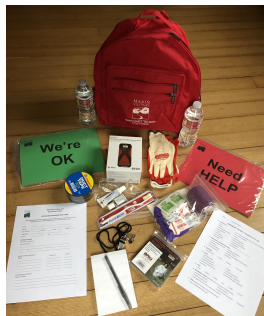
Many of you already know about Ann Patchett, perhaps even have your favorite Ann Patchett book, be it *Bel Canto*, *The Magician's Assistant*, *The Dutch House*, *The Patron Saint of Liars* or another. Lucky me, I still have a few of her books yet to read that might become new favorites, which is what happened with Patchett's ***These Precious Days***. Here are some bits from a review by Meredith Boe in the Chicago Review of Books:

***These Precious Days***, a collection of essays from beloved novelist Ann Patchett, spans decades but leads to our present moment and Patchett's own unforeseen circumstances during lockdown. As the title of her collection suggests, she is grateful and acknowledges all the luck she has had.

Patchett's essays are sharp and honest. She confronts her faults frequently while also remaining candid, unafraid to talk about getting a prestigious award or acknowledging that she is a pretty big deal. She writes too about getting rid of her possessions and a year of no shopping, about her love of Snoopy and getting her MFA at the Iowa Writers' Workshop - a program [that] helped her understand the importance of community, something she nurtures with her bookstore in Nashville.

This collection is a home run, a book to take your time with. Each essay is a carefully crafted gem, with friendships, family and community at the heart.

## Heads-Up! Mill Valley Village



Fire season has arrived and it is predicted to be a difficult one. While there is nothing you can do to control the weather or the drought conditions that cause fires to break out, there are steps you can take to prepare yourself, your family and your pets in case evacuations are ordered. Planning in advance is the key to a safe and orderly evacuation when a fire or any disaster occurs in your area.

## 1. Create a Family Emergency Plan

Create and discuss preparation plans, evacuation plans, how to communicate if separated, the location of the nearest Community Refuge Area as well as other topics including:

- Where to meet your loved ones if you are separated
- Who your children should go to if you cannot get to them
- The best escape routes (it is good to select more than one if possible)

## 2. Pay Attention To RED FLAG and EVACUATION Warnings

A RED FLAG Warning is issued by the National Weather Service when predicted weather conditions may result in extreme fire behavior. They are also issued when fire is ongoing or expected to occur shortly.

Actions to take on RED FLAG days:

- Check your Emergency Go-Bag and make sure it is up-to-date and accessible
- Gather important documents and belongings to be ready to take
- Remain alert to conditions outside and near by
- Be alert to messages on your landline, cell phone and local radio stations
- Make sure your car has a full tank of gas
- Prepare clothing you would wear for evacuation such as long pants, long sleeve shirt, sturdy shoes, mask and bandana
- Make sure cell phones and other electronic devices are fully charged
- Place pet carrier near front door with food and water

## 3. How to Respond To An EVACUATION WARNING

If you have a safe place to stay for a few days out of the immediate area, you might consider leaving when there is a **warning** rather than waiting for an **order**. There will be less traffic and confusion. Follow the same instructions as below (under "What To Do If Ordered To Evacuate").

## 4. What To Do If ORDERED TO EVACUATE

- Add last minute items to Go-Bag
- Dress in prepared clothing and wear mask covered by bandana
- Turn off your heating and air conditioning as well as ceiling and other fans
- Check that stove and oven are off
- Leave indoor and outdoor lights on
- Close all windows and doors
- Shut off gas at the meter or propane tank
- Turn on hoses that have flow control nozzles and position so firefighters can see them
- Post a sign (easily visible) that you have evacuated
- In your car turn on headlights, close windows, turn on inside air and AC, tune to local radio station

- Stay on paved roads as they are the fastest route to open areas
- If roads are impassable take shelter in a building, car or open area. Evacuate on foot only as a last resort, keeping in mind your Community Refuge Area

If seeking information about possible fires or evacuations, DO NOT CALL 911 or your local fire department. Only call 911 if you need to evacuate and you have no means of transportation.

The above information is a broad outline of steps to take to keep you and your family safe. For more information on Red Flag Preparations and what to do when ordered to evacuate visit [FireSafeMarin.org](https://www.fire-safemarin.org), [ReadyMarin.org](https://www.ready-marin.org), and [Southernmarinfire.org](https://www.southernmarinfire.org).

Any Mill Valley Village member who has questions about these preparations or would like further help may call Liz Stone (415-388-0696) and request to be contacted by a **Heads-up! Mill Valley Village Team** volunteer.



### Knitting Us Together A Mill Valley Community Project



Don't forget this project is scheduled to launch on **August 27th** and remain up through October. If you have not yet begun your piece, this month would be the perfect time. If you are interested in contributing a piece, the Mill Valley Arts Commission (MVAC) asks that you knit or crochet a **12 inch square or rectangle** (not to exceed 12 inches in height). The color theme is to be **International Orange, Marin Blue and Forest Green**. However if you don't have these colors, they encourage you to make something anyway. Completed pieces may be dropped off at The Mill Valley Community Center (180 Camino Alto) in the basket outside the front door between 10 and 2:30, Monday through Friday. Mill Valley Village members who cannot drop off their work themselves please call the Marin Villages office (415-457-4633) to request that a volunteer pick up and deliver your work. Hope you all have some fun with this effort and we will keep you posted.





## The Marin Villages “Ultimate Thrift Boutique Pop-up Shop” RETURNS!



Just a reminder that the Marin Villages “Ultimate Thrift Boutique Pop-up Shop” will return in early October. So if you are in clean-out mode between now and then, think of the village and hold tight. More details will follow soon. Thanks for your help and donations.

### Events for July

Here is the summary of Mill Valley Village activities for July. You can also find these events on our website at [www.mvvillage.org](http://www.mvvillage.org) under either the **Events** or **Calendar** tab. Keep in touch and we hope you can join us for either a “virtual” or in-person program soon.

#### **Fridays, July 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, Hiking Group, 9am**

Our hiking group is for serious hikers wishing to spend the day on the wonderful trails of Marin County. Hikes are scheduled weekly on Fridays and vary from moderate to strenuous. We take 45-60 minute lunch breaks with some of the most beautiful views around. What a great way to get some good healthy exercise and get to know your Village neighbors better! If you are interested in joining us on the trail please contact Julian Brandes ([jjb94941@gmail.com](mailto:jjb94941@gmail.com) or 415-845-8392) for more information.

#### **Mondays, July 4, 11, 18 and 25, “Back Before Lunch Hikes”, 9am**

These hikes, aimed at those looking for a shorter hiking option than our Friday hikes, have typically been 3.5 to 5 miles long, with an elevation gain of 600-800 feet and lasting about 2 hours. The group meets early Monday mornings and is “back before lunch”. The hike is very popular, not only for the wonderful hiking venues but for the connections forged on the trail. Sara Byruck is the long-time group coordinator and hike leader. For more information or to get on Sara’s email list contact her at [sbyruck@gmail.com](mailto:sbyruck@gmail.com). And do remember to bring water and sturdy shoes.

#### **Mondays, July 4, 11, 18 and 25, **NEW** “Leisurely” Hikes, 9:45am**

In response to several inquiries we have been trying out a new hiking option for those who would like to get out on the trails but at a more leisurely pace than the “Monday Back Before Lunch” or Friday hikes. The new hikes are about two hours long with varying degrees of difficulty based on feedback from the group. The plan is for carpools to meet in Mill Valley at 9:45 to head to the hike starting point. We will begin going weekly on Mondays and see how that works for the group. If you are interested, please contact Sara Byruck at [sbyruck@gmail.com](mailto:sbyruck@gmail.com). She is looking forward to hearing from you. As always sturdy shoes and water are essential equipment.

#### **Tuesday, July 5, Recent Articles Group, 10:10am**

The fledgling Recent Articles Group went into hibernation with the onset of Covid but is reemerging! We hope you will join us for some stimulating discussions and conversations on recent articles and about anything except politics and religion. We meet monthly the first Tuesday of the month from 10:10 to 11:30. The group is open to villagers who are

curious, open-minded and interested in debate. For details contact Sue Steele ([xerty.10@gmail.com](mailto:xerty.10@gmail.com) or 415-388-7832).

### **Tuesday, July 5, Caregiving and Family - Challenges and Rewards, 1pm**

Are you caring for a family member or friend? This group meets the first Tuesday of the month at a home near downtown Mill Valley. First convened in early 2015, the group has as its goal providing 'support that recognizes one's inner strengths and resiliency, no matter the circumstances'. If such a group might appeal to you, villagers are invited to contact Sara Byruck ([sybruck@gmail.com](mailto:sybruck@gmail.com) or 617-599-8116) for more information and directions. If you have considered this group but have hesitated for any reason, now may be the time. Sara would be delighted to chat with you to see if it feels right. Give her a call.

### **Tuesdays, July 5, 12, 19 and 26, Knitting and Needlework Group, 3pm**

Have a knitting or needlework project you would like to undertake in the company of friends? If so this group might be for you. We typically meet weekly to discuss potential projects, enjoy each other's company and encourage each other as progress is made. This group has been meeting regularly and is enjoying the camaraderie around their efforts. Beginners are welcome. Mill Valley Village members and volunteers, as well as those interested in finding out more about the village, are welcome to contact Sara Byruck ([sbyruck@gmail.com](mailto:sbyruck@gmail.com) or 617-599-8116) for more information.

### **Wednesdays, July 6 and 20, Men's Coffee at the Sweetwater, 11:30am**

This is an informal "gathering" with no particular agenda beyond the company of friends. We encourage you, whether a volunteer or member, to come join us. The group meets at the Sweetwater Music Hall's "Rock & Rye" restaurant twice a month. To get more information or to be put on the reminder list for upcoming meetings contact Irv Gubman ([irvgubman@gmail.com](mailto:irvgubman@gmail.com) or 415-250-6155). The group meets the first and third Wednesdays at 11:30 am.

### **Wednesday, July 6, Movie Group, 4pm**

Once a month we get together via Zoom to meet, greet, enjoy each other's company and talk about that month's selected movie. In advance, we watch the movie and then talk about what struck us about it, what we liked (or not), what it made us think about, remember or yearn for...and on and on. Mill Valley Village volunteers and members who are interested in this group, please contact Seela Lewis ([seelalewis@gmail.com](mailto:seelalewis@gmail.com)).

### **Thursday, July 14 , Book Club, 1pm**

The monthly Book Club, now almost four years old, is being led by long-time group member Ginnie Job. The group, for local village volunteers and members, is kept small to encourage discussion and camaraderie. Occasionally space becomes available. If you would like to be placed on our waiting list or have questions please contact Ginnie ([ginniejob4@gmail.com](mailto:ginniejob4@gmail.com)). She looks forward to talking with you.

### **Wednesday, July 20, Third Wednesday Walkers, 10am**

We hold 2 - 3 mile flat terrain walks and/or excursions in varied places of interest, urban or rural, ocean or mountain, often carpooling to destinations and staying for lunch at local restaurants. We love to "get outta town"...but mostly within 20 to 40 minutes' drive, or ferry or bus or train ride. Gathering in Mill Valley at 9:30 or 10 am we are usually home by 2. For

more information or to get on the list to be sent walk details one week before the walk, contact Karen Robbins ([karobbins@comcast.net](mailto:karobbins@comcast.net) or 415-519-3420).

**Thursday, July 21, Memoir Writing Group, 3pm**

Everybody has stories to tell and it can feel affirming to tell them. So we have reconvened the Mill Valley Village Memoir Writing Group. Meeting on the third Thursday of the month, via Zoom for now, we read our writing out loud and honor each other's need to be heard and appreciated. Villagers, please contact Gloria Sparrow ([gloriasparrow@comcast.net](mailto:gloriasparrow@comcast.net) or 415-377-2037) with your questions or suggestions, or simply to get on the list.

**Until next month, stay well.  
We look forward to seeing you soon.**

