



THE VILLAGE SQUARE

A monthly gathering place for all our news

April 2023



One of my favorite things to do in spring and summer is visit gardens. I can't think of anything better than strolling a garden, finding a quiet bench, and contemplating the world. Beauty, fresh air, and plants are an unbeatable combination. And gardens can be enjoyed solo or with a group, depending on your mood. The above garden is the Gamble Garden in Palo Alto, a free site you can stroll seven days a week during daylight hours without a reservation. Other Bay Area gardens to meander include the Marin Art & Garden Center in Ross (also free and open to the public during the day), the Japanese Tea Garden in Golden Gate Park (go early to avoid the crowds), Filoli on the Peninsula (make it a day trip and include lunch in their café), and the Hakone Gardens in Saratoga. Now that the weather is letting us enjoy outdoor time, let's get out and enjoy it in whatever ways we can! *Danielle, Marin Villages staff*

MARIN VILLAGES NEWS

A very happy birthday to our April nonagenarians



The 90+ Club is bursting with members this month! Taking a deep breath... Welcome to the club, **Jacquie Smith, Burnett Tregoning, and Janet Bogart!** Enjoying 91 trips around the sun this month: **Marilyn Jacobs, Ginny Doyle, and Mary Dunselman. Mary Vezie and Odine Beattie** turn 93, while **Mary Levin, Laurel Feigenbaum, and Chris Vonk** turn 95, 96, and 97, respectively. Phew! Best wishes for happy celebrations to all of you!

Grocery discount at United Markets

If you live near a United Market, did you realize that they give adults over 60 a 10% discount on the total grocery bill, **the first Thursday of every month?** We've passed that date for April, but mark your calendars for **May 4!** United has locations at 100 Red Hill Avenue in San Anselmo, and 515 Third Street in San Rafael.

Have you joined our Legacy Circle?

Six months ago, we launched a Legacy Circle of donors who have included Marin Villages as a beneficiary in their estate planning—no matter the amount. A legacy gift, such as a donation of cash, real estate or personal property, is one you can make at any level, and in a way that suits your estate planning. If you choose to designate Marin Villages among the beneficiaries of your estate, you automatically become a member of our Legacy Circle and help ensure Marin Villages' future. So that we may thank you and include you in our Legacy Circle events, please do let us know if you do!

We've planned an intimate gathering for the Legacy Circle on May 2nd. If you'd like to be included or if you'd like to find out more about legacy gifts in general, call me at (415) 457-4633. ~*John Power, Marin Villages Executive Director*

DID YOU HEAR?

Ingrid Butler's marbled paper joins Met's collection



Mill Valley Village member **Ingrid Butler** creates stunning marbled paper at her studio in Sausalito. She became intrigued with the art form seeing marbled end papers in books in her grandfather's library, and never lost her interest. But in four years at the Rhode Island School of Design and three years studying Italian art and architecture in Italy, she never found information on how the papers are

created. Then in 1983 a woman in San Francisco who had studied with a Turkish marbling master offered a class that Ingrid took, beginning her quest to master the techniques and images of marbling.

About four years ago, she was contacted by the Metropolitan Museum of Art, which bought about 50 of her sheets and a hand-bound book for their Paper Legacy Project Collection. They also organized a show of about 50 marblers that ran from January to April of this year, and she has just returned from the artists' reception in New York. "It was amazing. I'm 76 and at this time in my life to get that recognition without looking for it, I was very, very pleased," she says.

The only bittersweet part was that her husband, Dana Draper, who had also been her partner in marbling, passed away before seeing this success with the Met. The show's curator and collection's archivist Mindell Dubansky (pictured with Ingrid below) put together a book called *Pattern and Flow* as an adjunct to the exhibit. Ingrid welcomes people to her studio by appointment (ingridbutler@comcast.net). You can also see her beautiful work on her website (<https://ingridbutler.com/>) or The Met's (<https://cdm16028.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16028coll21/id/289>).



COVID UPDATE

COVID levels in Marin County remain at the medium level (on a low-medium-high scale). While State-mandated masking ended on April 4, many institutions in Marin will continue to require masks, and the rest is left to individual to decide for themselves. The Marin Health and Human Services guidelines for masking at the current medium level of community infection are for the general public to *consider* wearing masks in indoor public places, and for high-risk individuals they *recommend* a mask in crowded indoor public spaces. The video below tells a little more about how Marin County is going to use wastewater analysis to determine community levels of various viruses, including COVID, moving forward. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=83QDaP-G0vU>

MARIN VILLAGES PROGRAMS

SAVE THE DATE! Not Home Alone—Mother's Day

Sunday, May 14, 2:00pm

More information will arrive via email, but put this date on your calendar if you'd like to join the lively crew at Not Home Alone Mother's Day in May.

Men's Coffee

Wednesday, April 19, 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 restaurants and coffee shops around Mill Valley twice a month. To get more information or to be put on the reminder list for upcoming meetings contact Irv Gubman (irvgubman@gmail.com or (415) 250-6155).

Technology/Computer Help Office Hours

Wednesday, April 19, 4:00 – 5:30pm

Zoom



Issues with your printer? iPhone not syncing properly? If so, join our volunteer tech support group for the answers to these and all of your other burning technology questions! We look forward to continuing to help solve your frustrating tech problems. This is a space where you can "drop in," ask questions, and receive personalized, individually focused, expert tech advice from some of our wonderful tech volunteers. Even if you'd just like to sit in to learn a little more about technology, we'd love to have you participate! So bring your questions about your computers, tablets, phones, etc., and our dedicated tech volunteers will do the rest. This opportunity is available to all Marin Villages members and volunteers. Please join us at this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89289995207!>

Two special Marin Theater Events in conjunction with Sausalito Village

Wednesday, May 24 and Thursday, May 25

Marin Theater Company, 397 Miller Ave., Mill Valley



Marin Villages and Sausalito Village are sponsoring two special events at Marin Theater Company, with discounted tickets available to our members. Both events are in conjunction with the production of *Where Did We Sit on the Bus?* "During a third-grade lesson on the Civil Rights movement and Rosa Parks, a Latina child raises her hand to ask, 'Where did we sit on the bus?' Her teacher can't answer the question. Performed by a dynamic actor, singer, multi-instrumentalist, composer, and intersectional feminist, and infused with Latin rhythms, hip-hop, and live-looping, this solo exploration follows that kid into adulthood, as she navigates growing up in an immigrant family, her identity as a first-generation American, and what the world might look like for her children. *Where Did We Sit on the Bus?* is a high-octane, tour-de-force theatrical experience that examines what it means to be Latiné in America." Tickets are \$45 to each event.

Cocktail reception before the production

Wednesday, May 24, 6:00pm

We will have a private social event in a reserved space with wine and heavy appetizers before the show. No additional cost to attendees. To register, use this link:

<https://sausalito.helpfulvillage.com/events/3805>

Closed-captioned matinee performance

Thursday, May 25, noon

Prior to this closed-captioned matinee, there will be a 45-minute talk providing more insight about the show. To register, use this link: <https://sausalito.helpfulvillage.com/events/3806>

Bocce Ball

Friday, April 28, 1:00pm

Bocce Federation of Marin, 550 B Street, San Rafael



It feels like it's been a long time, but the wait is over! We're excited to announce that bocce ball is making its long-awaited return this month. A few specifics because we're probably all rusty after the long layoff: wear comfortable clothing, sunscreen, and a sun hat if needed. No prior bocce experience necessary, just soft-soled shoes and your presence. It's easy to learn the game, and equally easy to have a great time. See you there!

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Tour of the Boyd Gate House/Marin History Museum

Saturday, April 22, 1:00pm

1125 B Street, San Rafael

Historian Marcie Miller is your guide for this tour, which will include some intriguing secrets about the Boyd House. While there, you can visit the exhibit *Unbottled*, examining the history of Marin's bottling industries, for dairies, breweries, soda works, and pharmacies. There is a \$10 fee for the tour, collected at the door.

Goldenaires

If you haven't heard of the Goldenaires, they are an active club that offers adults over the age of 62 an opportunity to meet new friends through various activities such as classes, Bridge, Mahjong, woodcarving, watercolor painting, Bingo, day trips, and a weekly congregated meal. Check out their website, rgoldenaires.org, or call their office at (415) 485-3348 to request a current newsletter. They are located in the San Rafael Community Center, 618 B Street, San Rafael.

CHECK THIS OUT...

This 106-year-old traditional tattoo artist is **Vogue Magazine's oldest cover model**, making the cover of Vogue Philippines recently. Gorgeous. <https://www.cnn.com/style/article/vogue-philippines-april-cover-intl-scli/index.html>

This is a lovely story of a cellist finding out about a long-buried part of her father's life: also a concert cellist, he once played in an **orchestra conducted by Leonard Bernstein in a displaced-persons camp in 1948** in Germany. She has dug into the story and written a book, and hauntingly, she returned to Germany to play in a concert commemorating the one in 1948 that started this journey for her. <https://www.minnpost.com/arts-culture/2023/02/the-cello-still-sings-tells-of-former-minnesota-orchestra-cellists-family-connection-to-the-holocaust/>

The new **Wiser Than Me** podcast from Julia Louis Dreyfus is coming soon and features interviews with women who are older than her and living life fully. Think Jane Fonda, Carol Burnett, Amy Tan, Diane von Furstenberg, Isabel Allende and Fran Lebowitz, for starters. You can listen to excerpts at this link and subscribe at whatever service you use to listen to podcasts. <https://lemonadamedia.com/show/wiser-than-me-with-julia-louis-dreyfus/>

A beautiful grand hotel in France and a group of ladies dancing to **Benny Goodman's version of *Sing Sing Sing***. What could be nicer? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uAJ9y6xM9Fw>

When **Trevor Noah joins Roger Federer** to do a promo for Swiss tourism and they end up on the wrong train, anything could happen... <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5JK7vjValvo>

I'm not sure how to introduce this short film, ***Love at First Sight***, with Sir John Hurt and Phyllida Law (Emma and Sophie Thompson's mother), but it's a gorgeous, powerful ode to love and memory. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v0weamgxy24>

And to wrap things up for this month, **David Bowie and Mick Jagger** do a rendition of *Dancing in the Streets* that they recorded one night at the London docks for the Live Aid concert in 1985 that raised millions of dollars for famine relief in Ethiopia. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DOBFzb83PI0>

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

Books



Winter Solstice, by Rosamunde Pilcher

This is a wonderful story that engages you right from the start. Like many favorite books it is packed with characters who stay with us long after the last page is turned. We are introduced to each and then sit back as friendships are forged, new homes are established and hearts begin to mend in configurations we might not have foreseen. The descriptions of beautiful settings, a small village in England and then the same in Scotland, add to the pleasure. It is all about friendship, love and affection as well as hope, contentment, and happiness. If you are in the mood for a thoughtful, sweet story, this is a book for you.

TV



Sanditon, PBS

Jane Austen never finished this novel, but that didn't stop the producers of this Masterpiece Theater show. The third and final season is unspooling now (if you have PBS Passport, you can binge watch the whole thing; otherwise one episode is released each week), but it's easy to catch up. A period drama with a classic Austen vibe—and obviously lots of guessing as to what she would have done with the story—Sanditon takes place at a developing seaside town in Regency England. The characters face the usual conflicts in love, family loyalty, betrayals, inheritances, and more; it's just the right amount of drama in lovely costumes and a wanderlust-inducing coastal location. An appealing cast, interesting historical references, plenty of storylines to unravel, and a head-on look at the consequences of England's colonialism make this a light but not totally frothy evening of entertainment. *Danielle, Marin Villages staff*

HUMOR

Travel is wonderful, mostly...



"May I go through again? I'm trying to find something in my purse."



"The charges are correct, sir. The airline now charges for emotional baggage as well."



"I told you the tank was half-empty, but oh no, you said it was half-full."



A 40 DAY CRUISE? JUST THE TWO OF US WITHOUT THE KIDS? OH, HAROLD, THIS'LL BE THE BEST VACATION EVER! I HOPE IT DOESN'T RAIN!



No, you can't overnight them. You'll just have to travel with your kids like everyone else.



"You're just the kind of person we're looking for to test our airline seats."

BEFORE WE GO

This video about **otter moms and families** shows that there's a lot more to otters than just lying in the water looking cute. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8O8iEz2p7rQ>

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.

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) for application forms.

We always welcome donations to support our work! Please use the button below to contribute. Also consider joining our Legacy Circle of donors who have designated Marin Villages as a beneficiary of a gift of cash, real estate or personal property in their estate planning. There are many ways to do so, and no required dollar amount. If you'd like to find out more about our new Legacy Circle, or legacy gifts in general, call Executive Director John Power at (415) 457-4633.

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