



Avenidas
Village

VOICE

AVENIDAS VILLAGE

450 Bryant Street

Palo Alto, CA 94301

650-289-5405

www.avenidasvillage.org

Inside this issue:

Vendor Updates 2

'Tis the Season 3
for Planned
Giving

ICYMI: Village 4
Events in
September & 5
October

November & 6
December
Vistas Lecture
Series

Member News 7

NOVEMBER 8
Events Listing

DECEMBER 9
Events Listing

November-December 2023

Village Special Interest Group Highlight: Writers' Group 2

Currently, the Village has two writers' groups who enjoy writing and sharing their work regularly. Writers Group 2 focuses on memoirs, using prompts ahead of each session. Here we share highlights from each group member on the theme "Simple Pleasures." Maybe you'll be inspired to reflect on your own simple pleasures!

My greatest simple pleasure is walking through the woods on a day when the sun dapples through the leaves giving a sense of warmth and brightness, but not completely dispelling the dark mystery of the woods where so much is taking place.

—Janet Constantinou

Listening to books is my most treasured pleasure. I escape from my world and enter a world of make believe, someone else's make believe world. I don't have to think about being old and how hard it is to hold a glass or brush my teeth.—Arlene Klainer

My life has been enhanced by a number of simple pleasures, two of which spring immediately to mind. Simple pleasures do enhance our lives. If one doesn't use it as an excuse to avoid responsibility, it fits right in with my motto that "Time you enjoy wasting is not wasted."—Peter Danner

I love to sing! But not on my own, and not in a big choir. Singing in harmony with a small group of singers—men and women—brings me more joy than I can begin to describe. For me, singing is the only activity I've ever done, where I stay present for every minute.—Deborah Clark

It begins with me plus a tree, a lawn and the sun. I can sit happily on my front patio at the end of a sunny day and watch the dance that my Aleppo pine and the sun perform together as shadows on my lawn. —Barbara Carlitz

Simple things on my wish list—an underlying sense of humor, limited naps, making everyone in my world feel important. Giving praise and socialization a good rap. Continued good health—MAZELTOV!—Diane Posnak

Watching the moon move in the sky. Hearing a flock of birds fly at night. Petting my dog as he drifts off to sleep. Staying peaceful in the moment. It's usually only a moment before something happens to bring me back to the real world.—GeeGee Williams

Connecting with dear people through lively conversations, warm hugs, shared values. Being at one with Mother Earth's vital waters, beaches, trees, earth, rocks, plants, floral delights, sky panorama, playful butterflies, etc. Taste of exquisite deeply dark chocolate.—Barbara Klein

My simple pleasure goes by a variety of names by a lot of different people in a variety of faraway places: java, cup o' Joe, cuppa, cafe, or just plain coffee. For me, it's a very good reason to get up in the morning, and morning is my special time with this simple pleasure.—Margaret Weil

New Vendors Added to Screened Vendor List: Changing Places Professional Organizers/Movers & DG Heating & Air Conditioning



Whether orchestrating a complicated move or organizing cluttered areas, helping “right-size” or design new spaces, we promise to deliver personalized, bespoke service to guide you through life’s transitions. Margaret Fearey Walsh founded Changing Places in 1993. Since then, the company has relocated clients to and from eighteen countries, bringing peace of mind to over 2,500 homes with organizing systems & solutions that last a lifetime.

CHANGING PLACES

650-671-6257/info@changing-places.com

Website: <https://changing-places.com>



From small repairs to major installations, our experienced technicians can handle any problem with your HVAC system. In addition to heating and AC services, we also provide indoor air quality services, duct removal and replacement, solar services and more. Our team offers a combined 30 years of experience, and is dedicated to always delivering top-notch customer service. We put courtesy and communication at the forefront, so you can always trust you’re getting the highest quality and most affordable services. Estimates are free and Village members receive a 10% discount. (Referred by Ram Ramsamy)

DG HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

408-669-3496

Website: www.dgheatingandair.com

Vendor Committee Updates by Judy Goodnow

The Scrub: Coming up, the Village Vendor Committee will start our “scrub” of the vendor list. This is a task the Vendor Committee handles about every two years. “Scrub” means reaching out to each vendor on the vendor list to make sure the information we have is up-to-date. Are they still in business? Do they want to continue to be on our vendor list? Do we need to update the information we provide about the business or service? Anyone who wants to help us is welcome! The more people we have, the quicker this will be finished. We will begin our outreach to vendors in January and hope to be finished in February.

Let us know if you find great help! If you discover a wonderful vendor that is NOT on our list - please recommend that vendor to Erika or a member of the vendor committee. Find out if the vendor would like to be listed, and then let us know. If they are interested, we will send that vendor a brief screening form to fill out and return with a couple of references. We will check out their references before adding them to our vendor list.

Finally...Remember to leave a review! Please be sure that if you have used one of the vendors that you leave an evaluation. No matter whether your experience was great, bad, or just OK, this really helps all members when we are searching for the right vendor to help with a task.



When you post your vendor review online, call or email the Village office and let us know! You’ll receive this button which you can wear with pride to show you are helping to make our vendor list a valuable and useful resource for all!

Planned Giving Guidelines—Help Others and Help Yourself, Too!

by Curt Weil, Village Finance Committee Chair

Back in the Day...

When I had an independent, fee-only financial planning practice (I'm now long retired, doing only pro bono planning), my staff and I referred to philanthropy as the "Swiss Army" tool of planning, given how it affected taxes, estate planning, retirement, cash flow, and even longevity. Studies have shown that those who practice charity, as an aspect of gratitude, tend to live appreciably longer.

So how did we assist our clients in their charitable inclinations, with benefits to boot?

Obviously, one can write checks to a nonprofit (**like Avenidas Village, hint, hint**), although with recent tax law changes, this has severe limits in terms of deductibility and represents after-tax money. A better, tax-wise, method is to gift shares of stocks or mutual funds that have appreciated to a non-profit of your choice, thus avoiding capital gains taxes and getting a deduction for the market value of the shares. Your broker can assist you with the easy process.

A very flexible variant of the above is to, again with the assistance of your broker or a community foundation (like the Silicon Valley Community Foundation), transfer shares to a Donor Advised Fund, which sells the shares and leaves you a pool of money to distribute to nonprofits as you wish, over time and in amounts as you desire. These are quite convenient—once established, the donor (you) can simply go on line or call and request a check to be sent.

If, like me, you are in Required Minimum Distribution territory, having to take money out of retirement accounts and pay taxes on it, consider utilizing the Qualified Charitable Distribution option. Instead of taking the money, have it sent to a nonprofit or -profits of your choice: You don't get a deduction on one hand, but on the other, you avoid tax on the amount distributed. Schwab, Fidelity, and other custodians make this ridiculously easy by providing checkbooks for you to use.

If your estate is significant—the numbers are likely to change soon, but currently, if it is in excess of about \$11 million single, \$22 million joint, then perhaps the beneficiary of your retirement accounts, which will be highly taxed, should be a nonprofit, while highly appreciated securities/real estate should go to children or other heirs.

Lastly, and this is really attorney territory, consider using a college as the recipient of appreciated real estate, in return for an income stream for life, for both you and your spouse. Most of the capital gain tax is covered by the charitable donation portion of the gift and what isn't covered is spread out over the lifetime income payments.

Feel free to contact me for more information on any of the above.

Curt Weil, CFP®
867 Lincoln Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94301-3333
C: 650-814-2893 H: 650-323-7919

'Tis the Season for Giving!

If you would like to use any of the options listed above to make a gift to support Avenidas Village, please contact the Village office at 650-289-5405

ICYMI: Village Social Events in September & October

Lunch Bunch at Coupa Cafe—September 12 & 28

September 12:

Len & Sandy Weiss, Bonnie Packer, Bob Raymakers, Rick Kaplowitz, Geri Spieler, Chris Holt, Kathleen Gordon, Larry Cuban, Rita Mundis, Miriam Jacob, Marian Sanders, Carol Marshall



September 28: Chuck Sieloff, Ralph Cahn, Deborah Plumley, Ginny Turner, Tony Christopher, Anita Mitchell

Hakone Gardens, September 19



Our visit to Hakone Estate and Gardens was both peaceful and educational. After touring the gardens, we enjoyed a fascinating tea ceremony demonstration, during which we learned about the rich history behind this ancient tradition. The tranquil surroundings of the garden provided the perfect backdrop for this cultural experience, allowing us to fully immerse ourselves in the beauty and serenity of the moment.

Attended by: Bonnie Packer, Bob Raymakers, Trudy Reagan, Kathleen Gordon, Peggy McCurdy, Helen Young, Shelley Hatfield, Carol Kenyon

Oktoberfest Lunch Bunch at Ludwig's Biergarten, October 5 & 17

We had a fantastic time at our Lunch Bunch at Ludwig's! This unique Biergarten in Mountain View, which opened in 2019, provided the ideal setting for enjoying good company, beer, and delicious sausages.

October 5: Chuck Sieloff, Len & Sandy Weiss, Deborah Plumley, Diana Collins, Miriam Teeter, Tony Christopher, Carol and Stu Hansen



October 17: Bonnie Packer, Bob Raymakers, Richard Johnsson, Carolyn Curtis, Jessie & Chris Holombo, Peggy McCurdy, Judy & John Manton, Katie Dunlap

Photos by Kay Evans

ICYMI: Village Social Events (continued)

Happy Hour Social on the Village Patio, October 13



Los Altos History Museum, October 19

Our trip to the Los Altos History Museum was indeed delightful. We extend our special thanks to Mary and Jacques Fossourier for organizing this event. The special exhibition, "A Visual History of the Architecture of Silicon Valley" by acclaimed local photographer, Richard Adler, provided an insightful journey through Silicon Valley's architectural evolution. Mr. Adler's presence and personal insights made this experience even more memorable, and we express our heartfelt gratitude to him for enhancing our visit.



Attended by: Chuck Sieloff, Ralph Cahn, Kathleen Gordon, Peter Danner, Jane Stender, Kayleen Miller, Miriam Teeter, Judith Wasserman, Robert Shaw, Scotty Martinson, Tony Christopher, Judith Keyani, Carol Kenyon, Mary & Jacques Fossourier, Patricia & Tom Sanders

Vistas Lecture Series—November & December Webinars!

November 10 Vistas: “Will the Court Come to Order?” with Barbara Creed

Supreme Court Scholar Barbara Creed will discuss the significant decisions from the Court’s term that ended last June and also cover the important issues the Court will address in the term that began on the first Monday in October. She will then go over other key issues like Justice Jackson, the Shadow Docket, and ethics. There will be plenty of time for questions.

Barbara Creed has practiced law in San Francisco for over 40 years, specializing in employee benefits. She recently retired as chair of the board of trustees of the Church Pension Fund, a \$12B diversified financial services organization providing pensions, health coverage and other benefits to clergy and lay employees of the Episcopal Church in the United States and several other countries. Barbara has provided programs on the United States Supreme Court for many groups, including International Women’s Forum NorCal.



Friday, November 10 at 11:00 AM on ZOOM—Register online or email Kay Evans kevans@avenidas.org

December 15 Vistas: “Building the Future: The New Architecture of Silicon Valley” with Dr. Richard Adler



In 2013, the LA Times described Silicon Valley as “an architectural wasteland,” noting that, “for all the amazing technological breakthroughs produced here, the region’s architecture is less than an after-thought.” But over the past decade, this bleak picture began to change as the Valley’s leading high tech firms hired world-class architects to design iconic new headquarters that have transformed the valley’s visual landscape.

After looking at some historic sites (like the HP garage) that helped lay the foundation for the future, we will take a visual tour of dramatic new buildings from Apple, Google, Meta, Nvidia and others, and talk about the tech leaders and the architects responsible for creating them. We will also visit some new spaces in the Valley designed specifically to welcome the public.

Dr. Richard Adler arrived in Palo Alto in 1972, just as this region was becoming known as Silicon Valley. He is a Distinguished Fellow at the Institute for the Future, where he worked as a researcher and consultant focused on emerging technologies. He has also actively been involved with working to promote digital inclusion for older adults. From 2008-2012, he served as a member of the Avenidas board.

He has been seriously involved in photography for more than 50 years. A collection of his photographs of the traditional architecture of Kyoto, Japan, was exhibited at the San Francisco Zen Center in 2003, and in the Avenidas gallery in 2005. His photos of the architecture of Silicon Valley were the subject of an exhibit at the Los Alto History Museum from August through October 2023.

Friday, December 15 at 11:00 AM on ZOOM—Register online or email Kay Evans kevans@avenidas.org

***This Vistas Lecture is open to Villagers and their guests! Please feel free to share the registration link with your friends who may be interested.
For more info email Kay Evans kevans@avenidas.org***

Member Birthdays—November

Charlotte Turner	11/1	Anne Page	11/9	Jeanette Guthart	11/17
Carole Price	11/2	Bill Damon	11/10	Kathy Adams	11/18
Larry Thompson	11/2	Martin Molloy	11/11	Barbara August	11/18
Bill Young	11/2	Linda Anderson	11/13	Susan Downs	11/18
Karl Schmidt	11/3	Kay Brown	11/13	Benjamin Hammett	11/18
Barbara Jacobson	11/4	Bonnie Stein	11/13	Susan Thomas	11/19
Penelope Bowen	11/5	Pat Bashaw	11/14	Teddy Wilson	11/20
Janet Constantinou	11/7	Stu Hansen	11/14	Charles Bonini	11/22
Barbara Riper	11/7	Christina Holloway	11/14	David Hoexter	11/22
Vic Althouse	11/8	Nancy Tune	11/15	Ed Hillard	11/24
Garry Thomas	11/8	Betty Cohen	11/16	Margaret Clark	11/26

Member Birthdays—December

Sophie Ladenla	12/1	Melanie Wilensky	12/8	Gerald August	12/18
Stuart Brewster	12/2	Bill Bauriedel	12/9	Dick Scott	12/18
Kinga Perlaki	12/3	Carol Hansen	12/9	Marilyn Smith	12/18
Ed Haertel	12/4	Arlene Klainer	12/10	Tony Kramer	12/22
Magda Grant	12/5	Rick Kaplowitz	12/12	John Schaefer	12/22
Robert Healy	12/5	Carol Schultz	12/14	Jean Gee	12/23
Pamela Balewicz	12/6	Ken Dinwiddie	12/15	Joan Mansour	12/24
Carol Kenyon	12/7	Sandra Lehman	12/16	Carol Huntzinger	12/25
John Mitchell	12/8	Byron Reeves	12/17	Sophia Abramson	12/27
				Gee Gee Williams	12/28
				Judith Stewart	12/31

Welcome New Members!

For more detail on new and long-term members, log into the Village members' website and access the member directory. Many members have added their personal information and photos so you can learn more about them! If you have not yet added your own bio and photo, please do so, or contact the Village office for assistance.

Welcome to...

Letha DiLauro (2N/Charleston Meadows)
 Tony Christopher (2S/Mountain View)
 Harold Lips & Jane Willner (2S/Mountain View)
 Miriam Teeter (3/Palo Verde)
 James Girand (5/Crescent Park)
 Eric Doyle (8/Menlo Park)
 Jon & Alexandra Klein (2N/Barron Park)
 Arlene Leslie (7/Old Town)
 Ron & Barbara Lambert (8/San Mateo)
 Carol Leynse (8/Menlo Park)
 Gloria Mullen (8/Menlo Park)

Reason for Joining

Home repairs, social connections
 Activities and friendship
 Resources, future planning
 Social connections
 Current Events and other activities
 Vendor referrals, future planning
 Social connections, future planning
 Activities, community resources
 Social connections, activities
 Social connections, activities
 Activities, future planning

In Memoriam: Connie Bowencamp 10/2024

Please Note: Registration Is Required for All In-Person Events

Thursday, November 9 & Tuesday, November 14 at 11:30 am

(Please choose ONE date)

IN-PERSON EVENT—Lunch Bunch at Gott's Roadside (Town & Country Village)

Founded by brothers Joel and Duncan Gott in St. Helena in 1999, Gott's Roadside is known for its modern approach to creating California-inspired dishes using locally sourced ingredients. View

menu: <https://order.gotts.com/order/gotts-roadside-palo-alto> 855 El Camino Real #65

\$15-20/person, individual order & pay—Register online or email Kay Evans

kevans@avenidas.org

Friday, November 10 at 11 am

Vistas Lecture Series—Zoom Webinar: “Will the Court Come To Order?” with Barbara Creed (Details p. 6)

FREE—Register online or email Kay Evans kevans@avenidas.org

Friday, November 10 at 4 pm

Friday Happy Hour Social on Zoom

Pour a glass of wine or a cup of tea and toast your Village friends! Enjoy an hour of relaxed, casual conversation and perhaps a thought-provoking question or two.

FREE—Register online or email Kay Evans kevans@avenidas.org

Wednesday, November 15 at 1 pm

Zoom Special Presentation “Plants & Animals of Joshua Tree” by Joshua Tree National Park

A park ranger will guide you on a virtual visit to Joshua Tree National Park and introduce you to the fascinating variety of life there.

FREE—Register online or email Kay Evans kevans@avenidas.org

Friday, November 17 at 11 am

Village Book Group on Zoom: “These Precious Days” by Anne Patchett

A collection of 23 essays written during the pandemic to share with us an intimate picture of what she thinks matters most in this precarious world. This is a DROP-IN BOOK CLUB, Village members can come to any meeting. There are no dues, no requirement to participate. We hope those interested in joining will read the book beforehand and be ready to engage in a lively discussion.

FREE—Register online or email Kay Evans kevans@avenidas.org

Wednesday, November 22 at 2 pm

Village Website Tutorial on Zoom

Join a Zoom session to learn about the Village website—from logging in for the first time to updating your member profile!

FREE—Register online or email Kay Evans kevans@avenidas.org

Thursday, November 30 at 10 am

IN-PERSON EVENT: Bird Stroll with Matthew Dodder of Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

It's a lovely time to see some wintering waterfowl and shorebirds! Join Matthew at the Palo Alto Baylands for an approximately one-mile stroll. The preserve has a substantial resident population of birds as well as being a major migratory stopover on the Pacific Flyway.

Meet at the Lucy Evans Nature Center, 2775 Embarcadero Rd, Palo Alto

A \$10 donation per person is requested, please bring cash

14 spots available—Register online or email Kay Evans kevans@avenidas.org

Thursday, December 7 at 4 pm

IN-PERSON EVENT: Avenidas Village Holiday Party!

Celebrate the season with food, drink, music, friends and good holiday cheer in the Lounge at Avenidas! Wear something sparkly or your favorite holiday sweater! 450 Bryant St, Palo Alto

FREE—Register online or email Kay Evans kevans@avenidas.org

Friday, December 8 & Friday, December 22 at 4 pm

Friday Happy Hour Social on Zoom

Pour a glass of wine or a cup of tea and toast your Village friends! Enjoy an hour of relaxed, casual conversation and perhaps a thought-provoking question or two.

FREE—Register online or email Kay Evans kevans@avenidas.org

Sunday, December 10 at 4 pm

IN-PERSON EVENT: "A Vagabond Holiday" Concert with Davina & The Vagabonds at Bing Concert Hall

Davina and the Vagabonds have an unforgettable sound, merging vocals that are both charming and tactful with brilliant jazz instrumentation. In A Vagabond Holiday, this internationally-renowned quintet shares an energetically soulful celebration full of holiday cheer. Please click [here](#) for more details.

327 Lasuen St, Stanford

\$47/person, spots are limited—Register online by November 10 or email Kay Evans

kevans@avenidas.org

Wednesday, December 13 at 1 pm

Zoom Special Presentation: "Women Who Paved the Way" by Homestead National Historical Park, Nebraska

As women homesteaders were helping to homestead the west, suffragists fought to secure the right to vote for women across the United States. The Homestead Era and Women's Suffrage movement were intertwined and left a tremendous impact on history. We will explore how women homesteaders and suffragists broke down gender barriers and paved the way for modern women.

FREE—Register online or email Kay Evans kevans@avenidas.org

Thursday, December 14 & Tuesday, December 19 at 11:45 am (please choose ONE date)

IN-PERSON EVENT: Lunch Bunch at Courtyard Long Bar & Bistro

Experience deliciously authentic reasonably priced meals while casually dining at the Courtyard Long Bar & Bistro by Marriott. A fresh take on California-inspired meals with heated patio seating.

Menu: <https://www.longbarandbistro.com/our-menus>

4320 El Camino Real, Los Altos

\$30-40/person, please bring cash!—Register online or email Kay Evans

kevans@avenidas.org

Friday, December 15 at 11 am

Vistas Lecture Series—Zoom Webinar: "Building the Future: The New Architecture of Silicon Valley" with Dr. Richard Adler (Details, p. 6)

FREE—Register online or email Kay Evans kevans@avenidas.org

*Happy Holidays to All
from Avenidas Village*

**450 Bryant Street
Palo Alto, CA 94301
650-289-5405**

www.avenidasvillage.org

Erika Thomas, Director
ethomas@avenidas.org

Kay Evans, Social Events
Coordinator
kevans@avenidas.org

Marcie Brown, AVAC Co-
Chair
[marcie@brown-
family.com](mailto:marcie@brown-family.com)

Ed Hillard, AVAC Co-
Chair
edhillard@gmail.com

**Village
Office
Closed**

**November
23-24
Thanksgiving**

**December 25
through
January 1
Holiday Break**

November-December 2023

Village Walkers—Fall Walk Highlights!

Every Wednesday, a large crowd of Villagers can be seen strolling somewhere in the Palo Alto area! With an average of 20 or more members joining each Village walk, this has become one of our most popular and visible activities!

Each week, a different member leads an hour long walk. To start, the walkers gather and everyone introduces him/herself. Then the group strolls at an easy pace, to enjoy the scenery and conversation with new and old friends.



October 4—Eagle Park in Mountain View, led by Mary Murphy



October 18—Downtown Palo Alto, led by Shelley Hatfield

Photos by Ralph Cahn