



Avenidas  
Village

# VOICE

AVENIDAS VILLAGE

450 Bryant Street

Palo Alto, CA 94301

(650) 289-5405

[www.avenidasvillage.org](http://www.avenidasvillage.org)

## Inside this issue:

Meet Anne Ching, Social Events Coordinator 2

- New Village Volunteer, Debbie Fank

Village Benefit: Lower Income Membership 3

ICYMY: May & June Events 4

July Vistas Lecture Series 5

- Bryant Street Updates—Join us for In-Person activities!

Member News: New Members & Birthdays 6

JULY Events Listing 8

AUGUST Events Listing 9

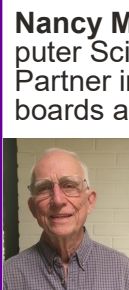
July-August

## Village Advisory Council Updates: New Members and More

The Avenidas Village Advisory Council is the governing body for the Village. It meets regularly to discuss Village needs, issues and challenges, and works to propose and plan Village programs and benefits. We're excited to welcome three new members to the Advisory Council, who will serve 2-year terms starting July 2021.



**Deborah Clark** joined the Village in October 2020. She has a broad range of organizational and leadership experience. She's also been active in directing and singing in choral groups, both here and in England.



**Nancy Martin** joined the Village in March 2021. She was Professor of Computer Science and went on to found her own company as well as serve as Partner in a venture capital firm. She has served on a variety of advisory boards and has a passion for volunteering.



**Bob Shaw** has been a Village member since 2018. He is a former nuclear engineer specializing in the effective operation of nuclear power plants. He's served on the boards of several community service organizations and is musically active in Aurora Singers and Peninsula Symphonic Band.

Ahead of our usual nomination season, we added three additional Advisory Council members in March 2021.

**Richard Johnsson** joined the Village with his wife in 2016 and participates in most of our social activities as well as the Membership and Marketing Committee. He suggested and hosted our Zoom Thanksgiving open house for Villagers to connect with each other while sheltering in place during the last holiday season.



**Chris Holt** and **Alice Kozar** are both photographers whose photos of Village events often appear in our newsletters and publicity materials. They both serve on the Membership and Marketing Committee and Chris also serves on the Vendors and Services Committee.

Another big change takes place in July: current AVAC Vice-Chair **Kayleen Miller** will take over as Chair for a 2-year term. Outgoing Chair **Chuck Sieloff** will be supporting her as Co-Chair for six months as she moves into this role. Kayleen has been a Village member since October 2017. In 2018 she joined the Expanding Choices Committee, organized the Village Walkers and became the leader of Cluster 8. In 2019 she was invited to join the Executive Committee as Vice Chair. In 2020, she joined the Membership and Marketing Committee and also became head of the newly re-formed Vendors and Services Committee. As an active proponent of the Village concept, Kayleen will be an exceptional leader for our Council and Village. Her top priorities are to build and enhance Village programs and services, to work on community awareness of the Village, and to increase the engagement and quality of life of both current and future Villagers. We look forward to an active and productive Advisory Council!



## Meet Our New Social Events Coordinator, Anne Ching

***Just in time for re-opening and resuming in-person activities and programs, Anne joins us as our new Social Events Coordinator. Anne (pronounced "Annie") has worked in events planning and organizing for many different groups and organizations.***

Hello! My name is Anne. I am a San Francisco native, and I've been working in events for over 10 years. When I'm not brainstorming and planning experiences, I can be found at an art museum, hiking with friends and my two doodles, tending to my indoor plants and looking for something new to eat and read. I am excited to be a part of the Avenidas Village community and look forward to getting to know each and every community member.

**Anne is eager to connect with Villagers and hear your thoughts and ideas for social events and activities! We encourage each Cluster to invite her to your next meeting. You can email Anne directly at [aching@avenidas.org](mailto:aching@avenidas.org).**



## ...And a New Village Volunteer, Debbie Fank

***Debbie is the daughter of Villager Berin Fank. She's offered to help out as a Village volunteer in her spare time, particularly helping with driving and deliveries for Village members! If you request shopping help from the Village, Debbie will probably be the one bringing groceries to your door. To request her help, call the Village office at (650) 289-5405.***



Born in Syracuse, New York in 1952 – oldest of identical twins  
Family moved to Palo Alto in 1954 (parents were both Stanford graduates)  
Graduated with BA in Sociology from University of California at Santa Barbara  
VISTA employee upon graduation, worked in Chapel Hill, North Carolina doing social work  
I left North Carolina in 1976, riding my bicycle from North Carolina back to California (Bikecentennial/Bicentennial). I spent the next forty-five years working primarily in traffic and transportation positions on the West Coast plus traveling throughout the world.

Visited my seventh continent in January 2020 when I spent two weeks in Antarctica. I recently moved from Washington state to California to live with my Dad and be close to family. Hobbies are love of travel, gardening, walking, reading, and recently oil painting.

## Avenidas Village Tiered Membership Fee Program by Chuck Sieloff

In 2019, the Village Advisory Council created a task force to consider approaches to increasing economic diversity within the Village membership. The result was a proposed **two-year pilot program for a tiered membership fee** which was implemented in January 2020.

Renewing members and new prospects reporting their most recent Adjusted Gross Income **below \$60,000** for the year became eligible to pay 50% of the normal membership fees. Eligibility is claimed simply by checking the box on the signed application/renewal form.

To support this initiative, a few Village members donated funds to create a special “**reserve fund**” to cover the reduced income during the pilot program. After 18 months, we evaluated the program to decide whether to continue, adjust or discontinue it. We carried out this review during the May meeting of the Advisory Council. The 18-month time frame allowed us to track both renewals and new memberships so that we can **assess the impact** with a high degree of confidence.

- During the first full year of the pilot (2020), 13 members renewed at the reduced rate (5% of our total membership). 6 of our 33 new members (18%) qualified for the reduced rate, bringing the percent of our total population up to 7%.
- From Jan-June 2021, 7 of 41 new memberships (about 17%) qualified for the reduced rate. If current trends continue, by the end of this fiscal year about 10% of our total memberships will qualify for the reduced rate.

### Conclusions:

- The program has **attracted new members** who would not otherwise have joined and has also **helped retain members who might not have renewed**, while protecting our most vulnerable members from fee increases.
- In line with the original objectives of the program, **it has also not changed the basic make-up and character of the Village**.
- There is, however, a moderately negative financial impact as the percent of members paying reduced fees gradually increases.

Based on this assessment, the Advisory Council has approved continuing the Tiered Membership program as an **ongoing feature of our membership fee schedule**. Despite some financial impact for the Village, it has benefits in terms of membership and retention, as well as the most important aspect of making the Village more accessible to all income levels.

***We invite you to help support this important program. Just send your tax-deductible donation to Avenidas Village, indicating that it is for the Village Low Income Membership Program. For more information, please call the Village office at (650) 289-5405.***



## ICYMI: Village Events & Activities in May & June

### Lunch Bunch at Kali Greek Kitchen—May 17th and Trellis—June 21st



We had to keep adding more tables to accommodate our 20 Villagers at Kali on California Street!



One of our biggest “bunches” ever was at Trellis with 30 Villagers in attendance!

### Shredding Event, June 3rd



Nancy Goldcamp hosted a document shredding session at Covenant Presbyterian Church for the Village!

### Bouquets to Art at the De Young

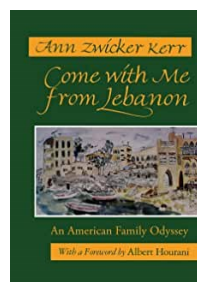


For our first major outing in over a year, 12 Villagers got on the bus to visit the De Young “Bouquets to Art” exhibit on June 10th. *Attending: Carol Kenyon and guest, Judith Fields, Larry Phelan, Chris Holt, Linda Anderson, Diana Collins, Ingrid Kallman, Ellie Heister, Diane Posnak, Rudy and Betty Dyck*



## Vistas Lecture Series—Join our Upcoming Programs on Webinar!

### July 15th Vistas: “Come with Me from Lebanon”— Contemporary Issues in the Middle East with Ann Zwicker Kerr



Ann Kerr will share a personal account of an American family during the most tumultuous years of Beirut's political strife. For a young American woman caring for a family in Lebanon and Egypt, life was like nothing she had ever known, but she approached it with a sense of adventure, which would help her deal with the beauty, chaos, and the ultimate horror of life during the country's most volatile years of the last three decades. Her husband Malcolm Kerr, one of the most respected scholars of Middle East studies, was assassinated in 1984, seventeen months after he became president of the American University of Beirut. The personal saga of her family and the events surrounding her husband's untimely death merge with the political episodes that have shaped U.S.-Arab relations since World War II.



Thursday, July 15th at 11:00 AM on ZOOM—Register online or email [dgreenblat@avenidas.org](mailto:dgreenblat@avenidas.org)

## Getting Back to Business at 450 Bryant Street – What's the Plan for Avenidas and the Village?



As California reopens, we are all eager to resume many of the activities that were halted for the past year and a half. The logistics and considerations around re-opening a senior center are extremely complex as we seek to maintain safety standards and conform to state and local guidelines while moving toward welcoming back activities on site over the next several months.

Avenidas' reopening plan will take a cautious, program by program and class by class approach in

deciding what comes back in person and when. The health and safety of members, guests, volunteers, instructors, and staff are the most important factors in this planning.

**Door to Door transportation services will restart July 1.** Avenidas will host a few, very small classes on our outdoor patio at our 450 Bryant Street location beginning in July. Additional one-on-one meetings as well as a few more club activities will be scheduled at Bryant Street by late summer. However, **before formally re-opening, the building will not be open to walk-in traffic, but only to those with scheduled appointments or classes.** Avenidas has tentatively planned a full re-opening at both 450 Bryant Street and Avenidas Chinese Community Center@Cubberley (ACCC) for the fall class session in late September.

**What does all this mean for the Village?** In short, by August we will be able to schedule some in-person programs and meetings in certain spaces at Bryant Street, including the patio outside the Village office. **If your cluster or interest group would like to meet on-site, please call the Village office or email [dgreenblat@avenidas.org](mailto:dgreenblat@avenidas.org) now** so we can help to schedule your program and review any restrictions such group size. Eventually, we look forward to holding some of our favorite Village programs such as Vistas in person once again. For now, we are taking some small but important steps in that direction under the guidance of Avenidas leadership.



## Welcome New Village Members!



**Carolyn Curtis** (Cluster 3): I've lived in California most of my life, first in Napa county all through the 70s. Moving to the Bay Area, I eventually became a technical writer. I enjoyed wildflower trips with my late husband, and planting our yard with around 200 types of native and non-native plants. I've published articles on a range of subjects, and continue writing essays and memoir. I'm looking forward to involvement in various Avenidas Village activities.

**Jim & Elizabeth Fisher** (Cluster 8): Although busy caring for Elizabeth, Jim joined the Village for more social connections and plans to get involved as he has the time. He's an avid hiker and gardener.



**Linda LaCount** (Cluster 2S): I currently enjoy the animal life that comes to the patio since I put up the two bird feeders and a bird bath. I have enjoyed dance improv for 7 years, hiking once a week and riding my bike occasionally. In the 1990s I was a Gurdjieff student in San Francisco, before that an Arica student, now I like dowsing for harmonious outcomes. I hope to grow my circle of friends with the Village!

**Eileen & Gary Ruppel** (Cluster 4): We are looking forward to getting to know our neighbors, to contributing to our community and to enjoying life. Gary's been on a couple of Wednesday walks. Hopefully we'll be able to join in other activities soon.



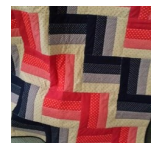
**Kaye and Jim Crawford** (Cluster 3): Learned about Avenidas Village shortly after I joined Avenidas, several years ago now. It sounded like a great idea and joining, for me, was just a matter of when. As life is reopening post-pandemic, the timing seemed perfect. Am glad to have joined and look forward to participating. Retired in 2017 after a career in various aspects of information technology. Retirement is wonderful!! I volunteer with four non-profits and they keep me just busy enough. Jim and I celebrated our 50th anniversary on 6/19. Our children and grandchildren are nearby and are a major part of our social life.

**Larry & Margaret Herte** (Cluster 4): We've been in California for many years. We look forward to meeting new friends in the Village and joining some in-person activities.



**Diane Posnak** (Cluster 6): I am delighted to join Avenidas Village since it allows me to become friends with other retired seniors in mid-Peninsula. I am a widow and am bicoastal - with an apartment in East midtown NYC, where I had a career as an executive compensation consultant before retiring in 2005. I go to NYC each fall until Christmas, after which I will keep returning to the Bay Area, where I have lots of cousins!

**Pauline Diestelhorst** (Cluster 1): I received a JD in law from Santa Clara University and worked as a pharmaceutical patent attorney for 25+ years. My hobbies and other interests include sewing/quilting (you can tell from the picture), knitting, crochet, gardening, genealogy, and walking, and I hope to meet other Villagers to share interests and friendship.



**Kathleen Dugan & Greg Allan Bell** (Cluster 3): Kathleen is caring for her husband and joined the Village for support and resources as well as some new social connections. (no photo available)

**Suzanne Holland** (Cluster 1): Suzanne joined the Village for resources to help her stay independent at home. She's an animal lover and has a dog and parrot. (no photo available)

**Pauline Siedenburger** (Cluster 1): After some recent life transitions and the isolation of covid, Pauline is hoping to connect with peers nearby and access more help in her home (no photo available)

**Tanya Haskovec** (Cluster 6): Tanya wants to be involved with a group of seniors and access resources such as transportation help, the Village vendor listing and Zoom programs. (no photo available)

## Member Birthdays—July

Zita Zukowsky	7/5	Keith Kvenvolden	7/16	Robert Aulgur	7/22
Walter Cannon	7/6	John McGuire	7/16	John Morgridge	7/23
Deborah Clark	7/8	Phil Ladenla	7/16	Ruth Foley	7/28
Deborah Rosenberg	7/10	Virgina Luna	7/17	Jan Murphy	7/29
Jane Zuckert	7/10	Chris Constantinou	7/21	Alma Phillips	7/30
Nancy Cohen	7/14				

## Member Birthdays—August

Diana Collins	8/3	Marcie Brown	8/15	Dorothea Long	8/25
Patricia Vadopalas	8/3	Christine Holt	8/15	Joyce Crosby	8/27
Stephen Walton	8/3	Greg Alan Bell	8/16	Carol Marshall	8/27
Rachel Vasiliev	8/6	Carolyn Kennedy	8/19	Robert Rosenzweig	8/27
James Crawford	8/8	Philippa Strahm	8/20	Harley Stallman	8/28
Joan Gielow	8/8	Ralph Cahn	8/22	Pauline Diestelhorst	8/29
Carl Finfrock	8/11	Kayleen Miller	8/23	Betty Dyck	8/29
Larry Phelan	8/12	Patricia Einfalt	8/25	Elmer Reist	8/29
Jim Fisher	8/13	Maie Herrick	8/24	Oscar Rosenbloom	8/29
Edgar Williams	8/13	Barbara Foley	8/25	Dana del Norte	8/31



Village Walkers, June 23 2021



**Thursday, July 1****“Plants and Animals of Joshua Tree”—Zoom Special Presentation by Joshua Tree National Park**

A fascinating variety of plants and animals make their homes in a land sculpted by strong winds and occasional rainstorms. We'll highlight some plant and animal desert adaptations while showing plants in their natural habitat.

Thursday, July 1 at 1:00 PM

**FREE—Register Online or email [dgreenblat@avenidas.org](mailto:dgreenblat@avenidas.org)**

**Friday, July 9 & Friday, July 23****Friday Happy Hour Social hosted by Chuck Sieloff**

*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.*

Friday, July 9th and Friday, July 23rd at 4:00 PM

**FREE—Register Online or email [dgreenblat@avenidas.org](mailto:dgreenblat@avenidas.org)**

**Tuesday, July 13****Lunch Bunch at Indochine Thai Restaurant**

*Join Village friends for fresh and delicious Thai food! Please view the online event listing for lunch special selections.*

Tuesday, July 13 at 11:45 AM

Indochine, 2710 Middlefield Rd, Palo Alto

**\$15/person, cash only please - Register Online or email [dgreenblat@avenidas.org](mailto:dgreenblat@avenidas.org)**

**Wednesday, July 14****Village Website Tutorial on Zoom**

*If you have never logged in to the website this tutorial is for you! Learn all you can do with the Village online!*

Wednesday, July 14th at 2 PM

**Register Online or email [dgreenblat@avenidas.org](mailto:dgreenblat@avenidas.org)**

**Thursday, July 15****Vistas Lecture Series—Zoom Webinar: “Come with Me from Lebanon” with Ann Zwicker Kerr (Details on p. 6)**

Thursday, July 15th at 11:00 AM

**FREE—Register Online or email [dgreenblat@avenidas.org](mailto:dgreenblat@avenidas.org)**

**Monday, July 19****“African American Artists and Art” Zoom presentation by the Smithsonian American Art Museum**

Learn about the diverse body of artwork created by African American artists and the historical, social, and cultural events, as well as the life experiences, that inspired their work. Monday, July 19th at 1:00 PM

**FREE—Register Online or email [dgreenblat@avenidas.org](mailto:dgreenblat@avenidas.org)**

**Wednesday, July 21****IN-PERSON EVENT: Pace Gallery Docent Tour**

*Meet at Pace Gallery in downtown Palo Alto for a private guided tour of works by Michael Xufu Huang.*

Friday, July 21st at 1:30 PM

Pace Gallery, 229 Hamilton Ave, Palo Alto

**FREE—Register Online or email [dgreenblat@avenidas.org](mailto:dgreenblat@avenidas.org)**

**Friday, July 30****IN-PERSON EVENT AT BRYANT STREET: “Welcome Back” Drop-in Open House on the Village Patio!**

*Let's celebrate the start of a new era! Drop in for food, drinks and friendship as we look ahead to more programs at Bryant Street!*

Friday, July 30th, 3-5 PM

Village Patio, 450 Bryant St, Palo Alto

**FREE (but tips will be encouraged)—Register Online or email [dgreenblat@avenidas.org](mailto:dgreenblat@avenidas.org)**



*Due to current circumstances, events and programs are subject to change. Please review the events listing at [www.avenidasvillage.org](http://www.avenidasvillage.org) for the most current event schedule.*

**Wednesday, August 4****“Found Object Artworks” - Presented by Smithsonian American Art Museum**

This personalized video presentation covers how artists use everyday materials, vision and imagination, storytelling, and a sense of place.

Wednesday, August 4th at 1:00 PM

**FREE—Register Online or email [dgreenblat@avenidas.org](mailto:dgreenblat@avenidas.org)**

**Friday, August 6 & Friday, August 20****Friday Happy Hour Social hosted by Chuck Sieloff**

*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.*

Friday, August 6th and Friday, August 20th at 4:00 PM

**FREE—Register Online or email [dgreenblat@avenidas.org](mailto:dgreenblat@avenidas.org)**

**Monday, August 9 & Monday, August 23****Guided Meditation on Zoom led by Sabrina Huang**

*Join Sabrina for a 30 min guided meditation. Relax and de-stress!*

Monday, August 9th & Monday, August 23rd at 10:00 AM

**Register Online or email [dgreenblat@avenidas.org](mailto:dgreenblat@avenidas.org)**

**Monday, August 16****Village Website Tutorial on Zoom**

*If you have never logged in to the Village website this tutorial is for you! Learn all you can do online!*

Monday, August 16th at 11:00 AM

**Register Online or email [dgreenblat@avenidas.org](mailto:dgreenblat@avenidas.org)**

**Tuesday, August 17****Lunch Bunch at Allied Arts Café Wisteria**

*Join your Village friends for an elegant lunch in a beautiful garden setting! View menu:*

<https://www.cafewisteria.com/restaurant-menu>

Monday, August 17th at 11:45 AM

75 Arbor Road, Menlo Park

**\$25-35/person—Register Online or email [dgreenblat@avenidas.org](mailto:dgreenblat@avenidas.org)**

**Thursday, August 19****In Person Program at Bryant St: “Sound Bath Relaxation” with Sabrina Huang**

*"Make yourself comfortable and receive the profound benefits of this special meditative experience. The sound of Himalayan singing bowls expertly played soothes the nervous system, bypassing the intellectual mind to deeply relax the body. Sound Bath can enhance your connection to insight and optimize your body's ability to relax, restore and heal."*

Thursday, August 19 at 2:00 PM

Avenidas Fitness Room (3rd Floor)

**\$25/person, 15 spots available—Register Online or email [dgreenblat@avenidas.org](mailto:dgreenblat@avenidas.org)**



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Avenidas  
Village  
Office  
Closed

July 5

Independence  
Day  
Holiday

Village Voice July-August 2021

## Village Special Interest Groups in July-August

### Village Walkers

Meet weekly on Wednesdays at 10 AM for neighborhood walks

For information email Ralph Cahn [ralphqc66@gmail.com](mailto:ralphqc66@gmail.com)

### TeleVisit—Phone Only Conversation, Games & More!

Tuesdays & Fridays at 10 AM

If you're tired of Zoom but would enjoy a friendly conversation group, try TeleVisit, a phone-based activity program!

For information email Dick Smallwood [rdsmlwd35@gmail.com](mailto:rdsmlwd35@gmail.com)

### Current Events Discussion Group on Zoom

1st and 3rd Mondays each month at 2:00 PM *Moderated by Dick Smallwood.*

For information email Dick Smallwood [rdsmlwd35@gmail.com](mailto:rdsmlwd35@gmail.com)

### Video Discussion Group on Zoom

Tuesday, July 27 & Tuesday, August 24 at 3:30 PM *Moderated by Dick Smallwood.*

For information email Dick Smallwood [rdsmlwd35@gmail.com](mailto:rdsmlwd35@gmail.com)

### AV Listeners Group on Zoom

Wednesday, August 11 at 2:00 PM

A conversation and sharing group focusing on challenges and solutions to hearing impairment! *Moderated by Dick Smallwood*

For information email Dick Smallwood [rdsmlwd35@gmail.com](mailto:rdsmlwd35@gmail.com)