



# Palos Verdes Peninsula Village

• Stay Settled • Stay Connected • Stay Engaged

The mission of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Village, a non-profit organization, is to enhance the quality of life for older adults who choose to maintain independent living in the Palos Verdes Peninsula area. Dedicated members and volunteers who provide educational opportunities, organize social events, and coordinate services will assure the success of the PVP Village.

## Winter Newsletter 2020

### A Holiday Party to Celebrate the Season



After a tasty light lunch catered by El Pollo Inka Restaurant, close to 60 Palos Verdes Peninsula Village members and volunteers enjoyed a celebration of the

musical joys of the holiday performed by members of the Las Cancioneros Master Chorale directed by PVP Village member, Anne Destabelle. Guests rang in the Holiday Season on December 10, 2019 at the Mount Olive Church in Rancho Palos Verdes. From one song to the next, the audience thoroughly enjoyed their festive favorites. "What fun" some expressed; others "Loved it". The party ended with hugs and holiday wishes all around.

It takes a Village, and a cadre of PVP Village volunteers, members and Board Members – everyone working, singing, and chatting together - made this the merriest way to make the PVP Village celebration a resounding success.



Many thanks to Nancie Silver, Jill Smith, Steve Jordan, Lynn Solomita, and Steve Cohen for their good spirited help, donations and support and to Marianne Propst and Pat Sneller for their continuing organizational and valuable leadership.



## Message from our Executive Director, Marianne Propst



Happy New Year!  
I am excited to start another year with PVP Village! We have exceptionally talented, caring and generous members and volunteers in our community. So

many of you are coming to me with great ideas and a willingness to jump in which is why we have the exciting programs, services and friendships and more in development.

As our Village “matures”, it is important that more people who are able get involved and take on a role large or small, to help in some way. This makes us a stronger, more viable organization for now and the future. To that end, we have a committee structure in place that allows

you to have a voice and help in an area you care about.

When fully operational, our committees will meet every two or three months with a specific purpose – to enhance and care for our membership, volunteers, programs, communications, and finances or fundraising. Most importantly, our committees will generate hands on ideas and some policy recommendations that help us deal with ongoing issues and find ways to continually improve what we do.

I firmly believe in the strength of collaboration and idea generation. This organization is unique in that you have come together in a common purpose and with a dedication to an enhanced quality of independent living in Palos Verdes. There is strength in numbers, and you are an important part of our community. Please call me anytime to talk about your ideas and how to get more involved.

## Thank you to our 2019 PVP Village Service and Administrative Volunteers

Maria Ashla  
Bill Bails  
Fred Bayer  
Judy Bayer  
Angie Boles  
Rose Bothner  
Margi Braun  
Renee Centofante  
Moon Chang  
Kathy Christie  
Sue Cody  
Steve Cohen  
Peggy Costello  
Steve Cox  
Helen Dennis  
Anne Destabelle  
Ray Destabelle  
Allan Ephraim  
Bob Fenton  
Ronda Gates  
Kathy Gould  
Diana Grannis  
Anne Herron

Cathy Hill  
Bruce Hoffman  
Kaaren Hoffman  
Britt Huff  
Steve Jordan  
Caroline Judge  
Lisa Korn  
Sue Kouzmanoff  
Gina Ladinig  
Coreen Lanza  
Paul Lasman  
Marilou Lieman  
Terry McGovern  
Cindy Miller  
Dominic Morris  
Tania Peterson  
Carolynn Petru  
David Potter  
Judy Purvis  
Helen Rehm  
Diane Richman  
Leann Roque  
Gail Ruder

Harriet Servis  
Ken Servis  
Ann Shaw  
Nancie Silver  
Ronnie Silverstone  
Doug Smith  
Jill Smith RH  
Jill Smith RVP  
Lynn Solomita  
Phil Solomita  
Ingrid Susa  
Kathy Swank  
Bob Swank  
Debbie Taylor  
Margaret Trester  
Nancy Veits  
Frankee Victor  
Margot Vinnemeier  
Susan Wallace  
Fran Wielin  
Sid Wielin

# Message From our Board Chair Carolynn Petru



It's a new year and a new decade. It's an opportunity to build on what has come before and an invitation to explore fresh possibilities. How exciting!

Looking back over the last two years, it's wonderful to see how much the PVP Village has grown and flourished. Although our membership has remained stable at around 100, we hired a dynamic new Executive Director, added a wonderful Administrative Coordinator, built a successful graduate student internship program, further developed our Committee structure, improved our use of Club Express and raised the PVP Village's profile in the community. We also learned an important lesson in 2018 about the need to continuously fundraise to close the gap between our membership dues and our operating expenses. We were able to regain our footing by the end of 2019, but it reinforced the importance of this critical function and the need to give it constant attention.

What stands out the most is our vibrant, fun-loving and engaged PVP Village community. Just look at how the list of monthly activities has grown over the last two years! But it's not just the quantity of activities – it's the remarkable variety of interesting and unique choices. And, it's all because of YOU, our members and volunteers. You are the ones who come up with the ideas, develop the program, do all the leg work, and open your homes (and hearts) month after month to make them a reality. It's a huge part of what makes the PVP Village so special and unique.

Looking forward, one of our big challenges in 2020 is making sure we continue to have strong leadership on our Board of Directors. At the end of the year, five of our ten Directors will be leaving the Board. Our future depends on finding new volunteers to take their places. The Nominating Committee will be working hard on this task in the coming months. If you know someone who you think would be a great addition, please let us know.

It's been an honor to serve as Board Chair over the last two years. Congratulations to Fran, who is our new Chair for 2020. I'm looking forward to another successful year!



**Welcome to our Newest PVP Village  
Members  
Mary Gaubatz and Doris Duncan**

## **Thank you and Good luck to Lynn Solomita**

Many thanks to Lynn Solomita who has stepped down from the PVP Village Board after serving for close to four years. Lynn was instrumental in the founding and organization of the PVP Village, bringing her wealth of experience in human services and other disciplines to the table. She has been an active volunteer and involved in underwriting many PVP Village events. Her baskets of sweets have been particularly appreciated on many occasions. Now, however, travel and adventure beckon Lynn and her husband, Phil, though their many volunteer services and activities will continue along with Lynn's involvement in the PVP Village. All the best and Bon Voyage to Lynn.

## **Board of Directors**

Carolynn Petru, Chair  
Helen Dennis, Vice Chair  
Ann Shaw, Chief Financial Officer  
Frances Wielin, Secretary  
Britt Vanden Eykel-Huff  
Susan Hamilton-Wallace  
Steve Jordan  
Judy Bayer  
Terry McGovern  
Harriet Servis

Marianne Propst, Executive Director  
Pat Sneller, Administrative Coordinator

Tax ID# 47-1928681



# PROGRAM COMMITTEE NEW PROGRAMS FOR 2020



The PVP Village program committee is a group of members and volunteers who make all of the events you see on the monthly calendar possible. Salon, News of the Month, SMILE, Golf, Men of a Certain Age lunches, Happy Hour, Smart as a Tack, Pro Con, Dining

Around the World, Movie time, Book Clubs, Mahjong, and Special Events-all of these came from ideas your PVP Village members and volunteers proposed and the program committee helped implement. What keeps the activities going are the individuals who have taken ownership of them, and all of you who have opened up your homes to host them. And who are the Program Committee Members? Steve Jordan, Chair, Marianne Propst, Kathy Swank, Lynn Solomita, Ken Servis and Thea Bower. Pat Sneller, The PVP Village Administrative Coordinator, also consistently lends a hand creating the calendar and taking reservations.

And, without our many hosting families, where would we go to enjoy the events? Fran and Sid Wielin, Kathy and Bob Swank, Fred and Judy Bayer, Thea Bower, Marion and Peter White, Constance and Jim McBirney, Ken and Harriet Servis, Paul Lasman, Maria Ashla, Anne Herron, Steve Cohen, Susan Wallace, Helen Dennis and Lynn Solomita hosted many of us at their homes. Book Club members are welcomed at meetings by Kathleen Fitzgerald, Pat Prideaux, Gail Ruder, Lois Olsen, Marilou Lleman, and many others. Thanks to all.

What is coming up in the new year? Simply put, reading, writing and epicurean experiences.

The PVP Village Reading Agenda: On January



Everyone who is a member of the PVP Village and/or a volunteer plays a critical role in the success of our organization. Your creative talents, wonderful spirit of giving and of helping out, all with the positive, can-do attitude is what makes our group so special. Make 2020 the best ever for the PVP Village. Call Marianne Propst or Steve Jordan today and let them know how you can share. They will love to hear from you.

14th, Laura Ishizaka from the Palos Verdes Public Library will speak at Hesse Park on the library staff's picks for best books of 2019, titles and authors they are preordering for 2020, how the library decides which new books to purchase, and a demonstration of a wonderful website for readers that is available through the PVLD (Palos Verdes Library District) website.

On January 16th, our third and newest book club will hold its initial meeting. Our two existing book clubs use a familiar format with everyone reading the same book each month and members trading off hosting, providing refreshments and leading a discussion. The new book club, initiated by Anne Herron, will be using a different format. Each month two members will volunteer to discuss a book they have read and enjoyed. This will be followed by an open discussion by all members of books they are currently reading. Please note that you are welcome to attend even if you are already in one of our other book clubs.

Now on to writing: In October and November, we had a six- week Guided Autobiography Workshop attended by nine members. After completion, there was interest from several attendees to continue writing. As a result, we will be forming a PVP Village Writing Group in the spring that will be open to all members who have any interest in writing – and no experience is necessary. Stay tuned for details. Plus, we will be offering another Guided Autobiography Class this year.

Let's finish with epicurean experiences: In addition to continuing our Dining Around the World Series, we will be offering wine tasting events. And, we have three gentlemen (Ken Servis, Steve Cohen and Steve Jordan) who have volunteered their skills for a paella feast. Bon Appetit!

The Village staff, with lots of help from volunteers, has successfully launched VSS (Volunteer Self-Signup)! This function of our website allows volunteers to assign themselves for services requested by members (drivers, handymen, tech help, etc.) We are so excited that this feature has already been embraced by quite a few of our service provider volunteers. Once all volunteers are set up to use it, VSS will greatly reduce the number of emails that are sent out to ask for help for our members and free up staff time, as well. Call Pat Sneller if you would like to know more about it!

# Meet Harriet Servis, PVP Village Member and Dedicated Volunteer and Now, our Newest Board Member



How fortunate the Palos Verdes Peninsula Village is to welcome as a new Board Member, Harriet Servis. Harriet grew up in Quincy, IL, the middle child in her family. It is said that middle children are often excellent communicators, have great interpersonal relationship skills and are very empathetic, a

characterization that certainly depicts Harriet. Being wedged between an older brother and a younger sister qualified her as a peacemaker with significant mediation skills within her family. What prodigious skills to enhance the PVP Village Board of Directors.

Harriet attended Western Illinois University and began a career as an elementary school teacher in Long Beach, CA in 1961. Married to Ken in 1968, they raised their three children in the home where they currently live in Rolling Hills Estates. Though parenting was a full-time commitment, Harriet found time to volunteer as President of the Board of Directors of the Palos Verdes Hills Cooperative Nursery School and President of Friends of the Peninsula Symphony Association.

In 1983, Harriet began a career at USC where she was President of the USC Staff Retirement Association along with Program Chair of the USC Emeriti Center Board.

The Servis' first grandchild in 2000 inspired retirement. Ten teenage grandchildren later, Harriet and Ken's life is rich and rewarding. They are charter members of the PVP Village and extraordinary volunteers, providing rides for members and planning and hosting events. During the fall, Harriet helped facilitate the Guided Autobiography Class. Based on a previous class she organized with USC Master's student, Grace Lebreque, the workshop was extremely well received, and its success was easily attributed to Harriet's incredible contribution.

Harriet's retirement philosophy is to keep physically active through walking, hiking locally, deep water conditioning exercise classes, eating sensibly and maintaining long-term friendships and family ties. Add to the list her dedication to the PVP Village, about which she expresses enthusiastically, "The PVP Village has provided a wealth of socialization opportunities for both of us to meet new people in the Peninsula community and give back through volunteering. Keeping our mind and body active is a bonus we both receive through Village membership."

## "LET ME TELL YOU A STORY" 2019 GUIDED AUTOBIOGRAPHY

For six weeks in October and November, nine PVP Village members met weekly to write and share stories about their lives. They were helped along by PVP Village facilitators Harriet Servis, Judy Bayer and Steve Jordan—all of whom had participated in the same workshop two years ago. Each week the group was given a topic (branching points in your life, family, career, etc.) to write about. The next week they shared what they had written with each other in small groups.

"The driving force behind doing this work came largely from our experiences growing up. We all wish we knew more about our grandparents, parents, aunts, uncles and other family members

but never asked when we had the chance. Nothing ever got written down and now they are gone. This will be something I can share with my family now and hopefully years from now after I am gone." Simply put, a legacy.

Two repeated comments at the start of the course were "I don't know how to write" and "I don't have much of a story to tell". Such concerns were quickly proven wrong. In fact, at the completion of the six weeks, there was enough interest in continuing to write that we will be forming a PVP Village writing group in the spring. And, the Guided Autobiography class will be offered again in 2020.



# A Very Special Thank you to our 2019 PVP Village Supporters

## Donors

### \$10,000+

Karen May and Keith Schultz – in memory of Sherry May

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Janice Hahn, Supervisor 4<sup>th</sup> District, LA County

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Dorothy and Allen Lay  
Carolynn and Andrew Petru  
Kathy and Bob Swank  
Susan Hamilton Wallace  
Fran and Sid Wielin

### \$500-\$999

Carolyn Ayers  
Connie Davenport – to thank Village volunteers  
Anne Herron  
Bill May  
Terry McGovern  
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### \$100-\$249

Maria Ashla  
Zita Bar - in memory of Sherry May  
Thea Bower – to thank Village volunteers  
Helen Dennis – in memory of Sherry May  
Anne and Ray Destabelle – to thank Village volunteers  
Paula and Vincent Di Fiore  
Kathy and Al Edgerton  
Nancy Euler – in memory of Sherry May and Marguerite May Euler

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Irene and Edmund Russ – in memory of Jack Rudder  
Lynn and Phil Solomita  
Suzanne Weitz and Kenneth Shoor  
Rowie and Jeff Wolf

### Up to \$99

Anonymous – to honor my brother  
Barbara and Bill Ailor  
Judy and Fred Bayer  
Rose and Bob Bothner  
Maureen and Patrick Ford  
Cordelia and Warren Hwang  
Anita Javitt  
Shirley Nagai  
Margery Norris  
Susan Seamans  
Pat Sneller – to thank Village volunteers  
Renee Soiffer  
Marcia Spiegel

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Carolynn and Andrew Petru  
Julie and Steve Paterson  
Marianne and Bill Propst  
Susan Hamilton Wallace



## Of Community Interest

## The Key to Communication About the PVP Village

Important elections are coming up in 2020, and cities on the Peninsula have consolidated their election dates and activities with the County of Los Angeles, including elections on March 3rd that will include the Presidential Primary, Los Angeles County Supervisors, State Representatives, judges, and ballot measures to mention a few. Voters will be going to the polls in November to vote for President, city council, and other matters. There will be much on which to be educated and informed throughout the year.

One measure that may impact all of us, including many of us with children and grandchildren attending Peninsula Schools is the School Facilities Improvement Measure that will be on the **March 3, 2020 Ballot**:

**Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District - Measure PV:** To repair aging Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District sites; improve campus safety/security systems; make seismic, roofing, plumbing, electrical, air conditioning, and disabled student access improvements; update/replace bathrooms, classrooms, and science labs that support students for college/career readiness. Shall the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District measure authorizing \$389,385,000 in bonds, at legal rates, be adopted?

The Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District Board unanimously authorized placement of Measure PV on the March ballot. The PVPUSD's 18 schools were constructed at least 60 years ago, and repair and restoration are urgently needed.

For more information on the 2020 elections, visit [votersedge.org](http://votersedge.org). All you need to do is put in your zip code, and you will be provided a wealth of knowledge about elections and ballot measures in your area. Relevant facts about Measure PV may be found at [www.yesonPV.com](http://www.yesonPV.com).

When asked, "How did you learn about the PVP Village?" was it a friend who told you about it? Did your friend suggest learning more about the PVP Village at one of the monthly Information Session with Marianne where she and one or two members/volunteers talk about the PVP Village, its mission, benefits, activities, membership, volunteers, costs and application process? The Information Sessions are a significant key to communicating about the PVP Village. Word of mouth is a powerful asset. People are more than four times more likely to "buy" when they are referred by a friend. Information sessions are publicized in local publications; however, when you are talking to a friend about the PVP Village and your involvement, he/she is much more likely to attend the session and ultimately become a member.

**WHY SHOULD I JOIN THE VILLAGE? Invite a Friend!**

**Information Session on the Benefits of Joining the PVP Village**

**or becoming a PVP Village volunteer**

**Tuesday, January 28---3:00-4:00PM**

**Hesse Park Fireside Room, 29301 Hawthorne Blvd., RPV**

**No Registration Required---Open to Everyone**

Please think about calendaring the next Information Session and telling your friends about the occasion and encourage their attendance.

## *In Loving Memory*

It is our sad duty to inform you of the passing of Palos Peninsula Village member Ray Farrington Seager on December 9, 2019. Ray was born on July 5, 1939 in Butte, Montana. He and Susan married in 1963 and together raised Marianne, David and Matthew. Ray retired in 1999 as Chief Engineer for Special Project at the Boeing Company, and in retirement continued his passion for volunteering and remodeling his home. We all will miss Ray.

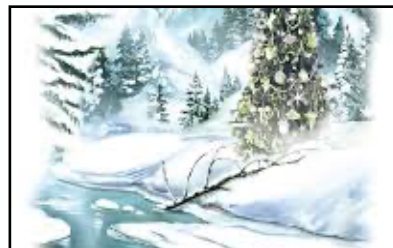
Lee Sneller, husband of PVP Village member and Administrative Coordinator, Pat Sneller passed away on December 31, 2019 after an 11 year struggle with Alzheimer's Disease. Lee was an Alzheimer's Warrior from the day he received his diagnosis, sharing his story and speaking with and educating anyone who would listen. His family was with him when he passed and will miss him forever.



The photo is from the Rose Parade in 2011 on the Alzheimer's Association float.



# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE PVP VILLAGE in FEBRUARY



WINTER

Monday Readers – The Dutch House by Ann Patchett

Men of a Certain Age

SMILE – Seniors Meeting in Laughter

Happy Hour

Majong

New PVP Village Book Club

Salon

Village Readers –The Dutch House by Ann Patchett

News of the Month

Trivia Challenge

ProCon

Why Should I Join the PVP Village?

Movie Time

Special Events

Be sure to check Events on the PVP Village website for updates.

## CALENDAR

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| January 20 | Movie Time <i>Downton Abbey, the Movie</i>   |
| January 21 | SMILE Seniors Meeting in Laughter & Enjoyment  |
| January 22 | Village Golfers<br>Village Book Club <i>The Other Americans</i> by Laila Lalani  |
| January 24 | Dine Around the World – Chinese Cuisine  |
| January 28 | Why Should I Join the Village – Bring a friend or neighbor!  |
| January 29 | Trivia Challenge – Sharp as a Tack   |
| January 31 | ProCon: School Vouchers and Free College<br><br>Omnilore Forum Luncheon<br>Housing and the Current Homelessness Crisis |

## HOW TO REACH THE PVP VILLAGE

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