Dear Members and Friends:

My body and brain are struggling to metabolize the events of the past several weeks. I’m exhausted. From the horror of an attempted coup to the promise of Inauguration Day, my nervous system is screaming at me: Take a nap! Turn off the TV. Go to the woods. Rest.

I have a teacher who says that rest is an act of preparation. Like bulbs in the ground waiting for spring, we are preparing for a future that we can believe in -- rooted in truth, justice and connection. A renewed trust in our institutions and one another. Some social scientists argue that America is experiencing a “crisis of connection.” This was true even before the cataclysmic events of the past year. The signs are everywhere: political polarization and violence, an astronomical rise in inequality, decreasing levels of empathy and trust and increasing rates of suicide, depression and anxiety.

From researchers in the science of human connection we’re learning that we have been captive to a false story about who we are as humans. This false narrative takes individualism as a universal truth, privileging self over relationships and individual success over the common good. In fact, the United States is considered the most individualistic society in the world. Some would argue that individual freedoms outweigh the collective well-being. Others would say that this 18th century idea, born of the Enlightenment, is the scaffolding of oppression that privileges some, while disenfranchising others.

21st century social science tells us that as humans we are inherently relational, responsive beings and the human condition is one of connectedness or interdependence. An inescapable network of mutuality, as MLK described it. Altruism and cooperation are key factors in our survival as a species. How do we reconcile this neurobiological truth with an ethos of individualism that has animated...
our culture for more than two centuries? Perhaps one of the lessons of the Covid-19 response is apropos: let us be guided by the science.

In response to the destructive forces unleashed in our nation’s capital, Life is insisting that new ideas take hold, to reveal our common humanity and engage us in conversations about love; a civic love rooted in justice, equity, empathy and the fundamental human need to belong.

As one person, its sometimes difficult to know what is within our power to do. I believe our daily interactions can help shape a new ethos of trust, which will multiply. Dr. Brene Brown says that trust is built in small moments: listening without judgement, being willing to receive as well as to give, being open with our feelings and telling the truth, practicing our values. I would argue these are also acts of civic love. How fortunate we are to be in this historical moment together!

With love and gratitude,

Kate

In Memoriam

Jay Lenard, a beloved member of the 94117 Neighborhood Circle, passed away on December 4th. A sophisticated New Yorker, he possessed the ability to perceive the truth in any issue and confront it with a wry wit. Broadway stage actor, crooner in the Sinatra style, owner of radio stations and art galleries, he brought an air of expectation and excitement whenever he entered a room. Fortunately, his wife and physician Marcia remains in our group. We grieve along with her in the loss of this extraordinary man.

Did You Know?

RSVPs Needed!

Now that all of our connections are virtual, RSVPs are necessary for you to receive the log on information. We request you RSVP at least 24 hours before a program to give staff time to respond. We try our best to accommodate last minute decisions, but it’s not always possible.
February Events

Curiosity Lab: Creative Connections
Thursdays, February 4–25, 1:00 – 2:00 PM
RSVP to (415) 387-1375 or info@sfvillage.org
This series started in January and you can join at any time

This joy-filled virtual workshop series explores the fundamentals of spontaneous play through games and group activities tailored to tickle your funny bone and enliven your creative spirit. How can we still engage with one another in a playful way from the comfort of our own homes? What is the value in creating fellowship around “curiosity”? How can we explore humor together? There are no prerequisites, so come see what happens in this unique interactive experience!

Evan Johnson, host of the SFV holiday party, is a San Francisco based theatre-maker, playwright and teaching artist. His past art interventions with older adults have produced The Cosmic Elders Theater Ensemble and weekly Senior Theater Games & Improv classes (for SF Rec and Parks). Recently, Evan developed a highly successful Zoom-based program Play in Place! sponsored by San Francisco Village. He’s also partnered with Toronto’s Center for Aging and Brain Health Innovation (CABHI) where he’s been asked to develop a series of quick (2min) interactive creative engagements ("mini improvs") that invite a global network of older adults to participate remotely while providing necessary feedback for CABHI’s innovators.

Author’s Talk: A People’s Guide to the San Francisco Bay Area
Tuesday, February 9, 10:30 – 11:30 AM
RSVP to (415) 387-1375 or info@sfvillage.org

A People’s Guide to the San Francisco Bay Area looks beyond the mythologized image of San Francisco to the places where collective struggle has built the region. Countering romanticized commercial narratives about the Bay Area, geographers Rachel Brahinsky and Alexander Tarr highlight the cultural and economic landscape of indigenous resistance to colonial rule, radical interracial and cross-class organizing against housing discrimination and police violence, young people demanding economically and ecologically sustainable futures, and the often-unrecognized labor of farmworkers and everyday people. The book asks who had—and who has—the power to shape the geography of one of the most watched regions in the world. As the Bay Area rapidly transforms, what do we need to remember about the people and places that have made the Bay Area, with its rich political legacies? In this talk Dr. Rachel Brahinsky, associate professor of Urban Studies & Politics at the University of San Francisco, will take you -- virtually -- all across the region. Centering the talk around A People’s Guide to the SF Bay Area, this talk draws on her two+ decades of studying the region—from social justice struggles, urban planning and development fights, to the changing political-cultural landscape more generally.
Dr. Rachel Brahinsky is human geographer and an associate professor at the University of San Francisco, where she is affiliated with the graduate program in Urban & Public Affairs, the Politics Department, and the Urban Studies program. Her scholarship focuses on race and justice in cities, particularly in California. A former journalist with a focus on urban policy and social change, her current research investigates the geography of race and property in the San Francisco Bay Area. She holds a Ph.D from UC Berkeley and a BA from Hampshire College.

**DeYoung Virtual Tour: Just Desserts**  
**Friday, February 12, 1:00 – 2:00 PM**  
RSVP to (415) 387-1375 or info@sfvillage.org

Join us for a virtual tour of the permanent collection at the DeYoung. The theme this month is Just Desserts-- we all deserve dessert, something luscious, scrumptious and even finger-licking good. Join FAMSF Docent Marsha Holmes for a look at the history of desserts as presented in art. It will be just yummy!

**A Celebration of African American History in Northern California**  
**Tuesday, February 16, 2:00 – 3:00 PM**  
RSVP to (415) 387-1375 or info@sfvillage.org

Jan Batiste Adkins, educator and lecturer, is the author of *African Americans of San Francisco* recently published by Arcadia Publishing Company in the Images of America series. *African Americans of San Francisco* is a pictorial historical account of the leaders of San Francisco’s African American communities since the Gold Rush to present. She captures the incredible stories and images of public figures, religious leaders, athletes, politicians and everyday families as they mirrored the nation’s slow progress towards integration.

**Lunar New Year with the Asian Art Museum**  
**Friday, February 19, 1:00 – 2:00 PM**  
RSVP to (415) 387-1375 or info@sfvillage.org

Join us for a virtual presentation by the Asian Art Museum’s Community Speakers Program. Lanterns and couplets. Dragons and oranges. Red envelopes and housecleaning. Learn about the fascinating and colorful traditions, and symbolism which enrich the celebration of the Lunar New Year throughout Asian cultures.

February 12, 2021 on the Gregorian calendar marks the beginning of the year of the Metal Ox, year 4719 on the Chinese calendar. We'll go over what this means and how should we celebrate.
The Asian Art Museum of San Francisco connects art to life. Our mission is to inspire new ways of thinking by connecting diverse communities to historical and contemporary Asian art and culture through our world-class collection, exhibitions and programs.

The Coltrane Church: Apostles of Sound, Agents of Social Justice
Friday, February 26, 10:30 – 11:30 AM
RSVP to (415) 387-1375 or info@sfvillage.org

The John Coltrane Church began in 1965, whenFranzo and Marina King attended a performance of the John Coltrane Quartet at San Francisco's Jazz Workshop and saw a vision of the Holy Ghost as Coltrane took the bandstand. Celebrating the spirituality of the late jazz innovator and his music, the storefront church emerged during the demise of black-owned jazz clubs in San Francisco, and at a time of growing disillusionment with counter-culture spirituality following the 1978 Jonestown tragedy. For 50 years, the church has effectively fought redevelopment, environmental racism, police brutality, mortgage foreclosures, religious intolerance, gender disparity and the corporatization of jazz.

Dr. Nicholas L. Baham III is a Professor of Ethnic Studies at California State University East Bay and teaches courses in Black Studies and Genders & Sexualities in Communities of Color. Dr. Baham is a San Francisco native. He attended college at the University of Chicago where he earned a Bachelor's degree in Political Science; earned his Master’s degree in Anthropology at Stanford University; and received his Ph.D. in Anthropology at Indiana University, Bloomington. His academic research focuses on African American religious experience, sexuality, and artistic expression. His book, *The Coltrane Church: Apostles of Sound, Agents of Social Justice* was published in 2015 by McFarland Press.

Conscious Conversations: Our Role in Community
Wednesdays, January 27 – February 24,
6:00 – 7:15 PM
RSVP to (415) 387-1375
or info@sfvillage.org
This series is full but please let us know if you are interested in joining the next time we repeat it!

You're invited to participate in *Conscious Conversations: Our Role in Community*, a five-week intergenerational dialogue series for women, centered on lived experiences that shaped our civic consciousness and the meaning of community. Regardless of age, we can both teach and learn, serving as mentors for one another, as we navigate our individual and collective responses to the perils we face together: internal threats to democracy, climate inaction, racial injustice, and a
prolonged viral pandemic. We'll explore our values and choices and chart a course of personal action in 2021. We'll meet on Zoom every Wednesday from 6pm-7:15pm PST starting January 27. Space will be limited.

Reoccurring Events

Longevity Explorers Circle

**Tuesday, February 2, 2:00 -- 3:30 PM**
If not already on the Longevity Explorers email list, please RSVP to (415) 387-1375 or info@sfvillage.org

Join an intimate group to discuss solutions to the challenges of growing older. The group is facilitated by Dr. Richard Caro, co-founder of TechEnhanced Life, PBC & Longevity Explorers which focus on the intersection of healthcare, aging, and technology. Find out about new products that can help postpone the day when growing older starts to get in the way of living life to the fullest. Share your ideas about what works and what does not work well with others from your community and members of other circles. Add your ideas and hear from your peers about “solutions someone needs to develop.”

Aging Well with Meditation

**Wednesdays, February 3, 17, & 24, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM**
RSVP to (415) 387-1375 or info@sfvillage.org

Meditation is a mind-body training that improves your ability to pay attention to the things that matter. Mindfulness mediation – paying attention purposefully and non-judgmentally in the present moment – is associated with lower stress, improved self-awareness, positive brain changes, more compassion, and better sleep. The group is led by Rachel Lanzerotti, IAYT-Certified Yoga Therapist, a long-time practitioner and teacher of yoga and mindfulness meditation. Come learn to practice meditation together. All levels of experience are welcome for this drop-in group.

Tai Chi and Qigong

**Part 1: Thursdays, February 4, 11, 18, & 25, 2:30 – 3:15 PM**
**Part 2: Mondays, February 1, 8, & 22, 1:00 – 1:45 PM**
RSVP to (415) 387-1375 or info@sfvillage.org

Tai Chi and Qigong (Part 1) - Stand or Sit
Tai Chi and Qigong are exercises designed for health of mind and body. Practice the first six basic movements of the Sun Style form. No experience necessary and you are welcome to join at any time as the moves are broken down and repeated. The emphasis is on improving balance, increasing flexibility and building strength. Led by Caroline Lew, a Certified Instructor through the Tai Chi for Health Institute.
Tai Chi (Part 2)
We will practice different forms that will focus on balance, muscle and joint health, flexibility and increased energy. If you have physical limitations, please let the instructor know and adjustments can be made to the exercises. You do not need to know Part 1 and are welcome to join at any time. Led by Caroline Lew, a Certified Instructor through the Tai Chi for Health Institute.

Member to Member Coffee Chat
Monday, February 8, 10:00 – 11:00 AM
Monday, February 22, 2:00 – 3:00 PM
RSVP to (415) 387-1375 or info@sfvillage.org

Life during a global pandemic can be isolating. Join us for an informal and nourishing hour together to connect, share our experiences, and learn from each other.

Lightly facilitated by Barbara Kivowitz, SFV member and board member and Bill Haskell, SFV member and board co-chair.

Grupo de Conversación en Español
Mondays, February 8 and 22 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM
RSVP to (415) 387-1375 or info@sfvillage.org

Add a little more Spanish conversation to your life! This group, led by members, is aimed at intermediate speakers and those who speak fluently; there will be no formal instruction. Not sure if your Spanish is up for it? Check it out!

Makers & Crafters
Monday, February 8, 2:00 – 3:00 PM
RSVP to (415) 387-1375 or info@sfvillage.org

Winter is a great time to work on our UFO’s (Un-Finished Objects). Do you have any projects that have been sitting in a closet waiting to be finished? Let’s share some of our UFO’s with each other along with any ongoing or recently completed creations. Think knitting, watercolor, cooking, crochet, needlework, drawing, woodworking, bead and jewelry making, origami, poetry. Creativity of all kinds welcome!
Solo-Agers Circle  
Friday, February 12, 10:30 -- 11:30 AM  
RSVP to (415) 387-1375 or info@sfvillage.org

Have you been going through this high-pressure time pretty much alone? Perhaps it’s time to connect with others who are also solo and trying to make things work.

“Zoom” to a discussion, moderated by Betty Burr, to connect with other “solos.” Pick up hints from people you have met in the solo circle. Maybe find an activity partner, within physical distance guidelines, of course. We may be solo, but we don’t have to feel alone. For more information, contact Betty Burr.

Play Reading Group  
Thursdays, February 11 and 25, 4:00 – 6:00 PM  
RSVP to Midge Fox.

Contact Midge to find out what play the group will be reading!

Discussion Group  
Friday, February 26 2:00 PM  
RSVP to Eva Auchincloss.

We will discuss current political events (local, statewide and national). Eva sends out a reminder to those who have attended in the past so it keeps going. All are welcome!
Neighborhood Circles

Many of our circles have been gathering virtually during Shelter in Place and connecting with each other via phone and email. Reach out to Jill Ellefsen to be introduced to your circle leader. Please note, this list of events is not complete due to the challenges of a newsletter deadline during COVID-19. Your circle leader will be keeping you up to date about virtual get togethers!

94123
Wednesdays, February 3, 10, 17, & 24, 1:00 – 2:00 PM
Contact circle leaders Sally Kaufmann Cowan or Jean Halvorson for more information.

Either on Zoom or walking in the neighborhood (when allowed according to city and state regulations). Call or email Jean or Sally for the plan for the week.

94118
Thursdays, February 4 and 18, 3:30 – 4:30 PM
RSVP to Gabie Berliner or Karen Franklin.

We’ve been having interesting and cheerful Zoom get togethers! Circle members will get the Zoom login information by email. Hope to see some new faces along with our regulars!

LGBTQ Circle
Fridays, February 5, 19, & 26, 1:00 – 2:30 PM
RSVP to Bill Haskell.

For these get-togethers, we will share what is going on in our lives in this challenging time. We will also share what brings us pleasure, what we are enjoying, our coping mechanisms, and what is positive.

94121
Wednesday, February 10, 1:00PM

The 94121 Circle is staying connected via Zoom meetings, safely-distanced walks and telephone conversations. Steven Hayashi has generously jumped in to be our Zoom Master, so watch for his email with the Zoom link.

If you are interested in learning about our connections please contact Patricia Kaussen, or Carol Rothman.

Sunset Circle
Wednesdays, February 10 and 24, 2:30 – 3:30 PM

Sunset Circle is connecting through Zoom with lively conversation. We are learning how important it is to see, hear and encourage one another. A theme or a question will be sent out before each meeting. If you are not on our list, you are welcome to join us by sending a registration to Steve Hayashi.

West of Twin Peaks Circle
Thursday, February 11, 4:00 PM
Contact LeeAnn DeSalles.

Join us for a book discussion meeting! Little Fires Everywhere by Celeste Ng. Themes of class, individuality vs. community, shadows from the past, and the true meaning of motherhood play out in this story of how two very different families both came together and broke apart.

94117
Friday, February 12, 2:00 – 3:30 PM
Thursday, February 25, 1:00 – 2:00 PM
RSVP to Bill Haskell.

For these virtual get-togethers, we can share what is going on in our lives during this challenging time. We can also share what brings us pleasure, what we are enjoying, our coping strategies, and what is positive.

Bernal
Saturday, February 13, 7:00 – 8:30 PM
RSVP to Joan Miro.

We will continue to share our stories, laughter, and some glimmers of hope!

94114
Zoom: Wednesday, February 17, 3:00 PM
Walking Group: Wednesday, February 24, 2:00 PM
RSVP to Heather Solway or Shelley Fernandez.

We are continuing to meet via Zoom. Join us!

Our afternoon safe distanced walks on Sanchez Street (closed to traffic as part of Slow Streets response to Covid). Reach out to Heather for the latest plan.

94109/94133
Wednesday, February 24, 2:00 PM
Contact Bobbie Rothman or Juliet Rothman.

Our circle has been meeting on Zoom and we are all really enjoying getting to know one another better and sharing the camaraderie that has emerged. We especially welcome our new members to join us! We will catch up with each others' news and doings, and then share our favorite memory of our travels in the United States.
Save the Dates

Life Story Club
Tuesdays, March 2 – April 30, 2:00 – 3:00 PM
RSVP to (415) 387-1375 or info@sfvillage.org

Share anecdotes and memories with other SFV members in a relaxed and fun seven-week Life Story Club series! An experienced facilitator will provide you with question prompts each week so that you can regale one another with stories begging to be shared. At the end of the series, there will be a showcase event to share your stories as a performance (participation not required).

Vita Story Club is a nonprofit dedicated to promoting healthy aging and reducing social isolation of older adults. They guide groups of participants in sharing and preserving their life stories, and have worked with various community-based organizations, including public libraries, the Alzheimer's Foundation of America, as well as hundreds of individuals to preserve the life stories of their loved ones.

State of the Village
Wednesday March 10, 2:00 - 3:00 PM
RSVP to (415) 387-1375 or info@sfvillage.org

Almost one year to the date after we started Shelter in Place, we hope you can join us for our annual stake holder meeting virtually. We’ll share all we’ve accomplished in the past year and our visions for the future.

Spring Equinox Gathering
Monday March 15, 2:00 - 3:30 PM
RSVP to (415) 387-1375 or info@sfvillage.org

Together we herald the first day of spring and renewal, balance and transition.

If you wish, prepare to share a short reading, poem or song on the theme of spring. To get in the mood, you’re welcome to dress in colors of green, zoom in with your houseplants/garden or even buy yourself flowers (or find images or drawings of flowers!) to add to our “virtual altar.” Prepare cut lemons or oranges and enjoy their light scents in your space while we zoom. With all of your senses, welcome spring.
To ready yourself for the equinox, you may want to reflect on metaphorical or actual seeds you intend to plant and cultivate. Listen to music as you engage in spring cleaning to refresh. Move your body a little more. Meditate or walk outside, or open a window to let in air, sounds and light. When we meet, we'll talk about other ideas and rituals that celebrate spring's promise.

**Community Events**

**Soul of a Nation: Art in the Age of Black Power**

*Wednesday, February 3, 7:00 – 8:00 PM*

RSVP with SFPL here [https://sfpl-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_AT6RzR3SiQxbDRO_09g](https://sfpl-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_AT6RzR3SiQxbDRO_09g)

A docent from the de Young Museum provides a visual presentation of *Soul of Nation*, art made by Black artists during two pivotal decades when issues of race and identity dominated and defined both public and private discourse.

The year 1963 might have marked the 100th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, ending slavery in the South, but poverty, prejudice, racism, segregation and frustration were still rampant in this country. Explore how Black artists responded to these social and cultural conditions. *Soul of a Nation: Art in the Age of Black Power* was organized by the Tate Modern in London and exhibited to great critical acclaim at the de Young Museum 2019–2020.

**Race, Community Engagement and Time-based Art: Chris Johnson**

*Thursday, February 4, 12:00 - 1:30 PM*

RSVP with Berkeley Art + Design here [https://berkeley.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_RV7cPfRvREiF3SM3ycWgUQ](https://berkeley.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_RV7cPfRvREiF3SM3ycWgUQ)

A discussion with artist Chris Johnson about issues of race and community engagement in time-based art, as well as his ongoing transmedia project *Question Bridge: Black Males*.

Johnson’s artwork is in the collection of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Smithsonian Institution, the Oakland Museum of California, the Center for Creative Photography, and the Polaroid International Collection.
Launching in 2021, “California Conversations” is a new quarterly series featuring live, interactive discussions on a variety of California topics. Attendees on Thurs., Feb. 18 from 5 to 6 p.m. will hear from Michelle Duster on the legacy of her great-grandmother, Ida B. Wells, celebrating Black History Month. Duster is champion of racial and gender equity whose advocacy has led to the creation of public history projects celebrating the achievements of women and African Americans through street names, monuments and historical markers. Her latest book, “Ida B. the Queen: The Extraordinary Life and Legacy of Ida B. Wells,” will be released on January 26, 2021.

Admission is free for California Museum members* or $5 plus transaction fee per connected device for non-members. To attend, register by 5 p.m. on Wed., Feb. 17, 2021.

Volunteer Support

Request a Volunteer and Volunteer Opportunities
San Francisco Village is an intergenerational community that brings younger volunteers together with older members to learn from and care for each other.

Contact Jill Ellefsen at jill@sfvillage.org or (415) 387-1375 ext. 2 to sign up to receive our twice weekly emails detailing the many volunteer options available to you.

Reach out to Jill for help with:
- grocery shopping and essential errand running, (no contact delivery)
- online shopping assistance
- technology assistance by phone for help with Zoom or any other tech issues
- assistance connecting with your healthcare provider online (Telehealth)
- friendly caller connections
- outdoor gardening

SFV volunteers want to spend time with you!!!
Volunteers often report that they gain more than they give. They’re eager to connect, especially during this prolonged period of physical distancing. You’ll be doing someone else a favor by requesting their presence for:
- A little outdoor gardening
- A meet-up in a park for a masked walk
• A backyard or front porch visit

Get to know some kind-hearted neighbors you would otherwise not meet!

Preferred Provider Network
Sometimes a member's request for support requires professional expertise such as a referral to a financial advisor, home care agency or handyperson. Our provider network includes dozens of categories and is growing all the time.

Your feedback matters! We all benefit from knowing first-hand who to trust. If you have a good experience with a provider or a bad one, please share it with us so we may pass it along. Also, if you have a referral such as a gardener or acupuncturist you would like to share with the community, we would love to hear from you. To share or receive referral information, contact Jill Ellefsen jill@sfvillage.org.
How to Support San Francisco Village Year-Round

**AmazonSmile**
We encourage buying locally as much as we can, but if you find yourself needing to purchase something from Amazon, we ask you shop on AmazonSmile! The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate a portion of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice, in this case, San Francisco Village. Start by clicking on Amazon Smile or [https://smile.amazon.com/ch/26-1300020](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/26-1300020).

**Community Thrift Store**
This store accepts donations on behalf of San Francisco Village, sell the items, and then share the proceeds with us. Many thanks to all of you whose closets have been cleaned out and who have named SFV the beneficiary. So far this year, we have received $2000 in donations because of this partnership. Please keep us in mind when you drop your used and well-loved items off at Community Thrift Store, 623 Valencia St. Let them know our reference number for donations is 122.
Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all of our programs are offered virtually.

Please note that the programs and events listed in this newsletter are offered to members of San Francisco Village. To learn more about registering for membership, please contact Jill Ellefsen (listed below).

San Francisco Village welcomes people of all cultures, faiths, genders, orientations, abilities, and ages. Should you have any questions, requests, or concerns, don’t hesitate to contact us.

You can find our staff at the emails below or by calling our main line (415-387-1375) and then selecting the corresponding extension.

Administration & Community Collaborations: Kate Hoepke – kate@sfvillage.org, ext. 1
Membership & Volunteering: Jill Ellefsen -- jill@sfvillage.org, ext. 2
Programs & RSVPs: Sarah Kent -- sarah@sfvillage.org, ext. 3
Staff & Member Support: Yousra Sebiaa – yousra@sfvillage.org, ext. 5
Wellness Program: Jessica Da Silva – jessica@sfvillage.org, ext. 6