



## We are Better Together - the Promise of a New Year

By Vanessa Renna

As we reflect back on 2017, it has been an amazing year of growth and learning for our Village. Building a community takes time, commitment, encouragement, understanding of one another's needs and a willingness to give of ourselves to make life more meaningful for those who are part of it. Since our opening in April, many volunteers have stepped up to guide our nurturing culture, and members have taken advantage of the variety of services and events our Village offers. A big thank you for everyone's participation, diverse talents, patience, feedback and suggestions and mostly for your passion to create a caring network of neighbors helping neighbors in our community. We truly appreciate the wonderful people who have made Conejo Valley Village a very welcoming community.



As we welcome 2018, we are excited about creating greater opportunities for members and volunteers to enjoy life more fully. Our Village is here to support you - we look forward to hearing about the services and activities that meet your needs. We encourage you to come out to our events, introduce friends to CVV, sign up to volunteer for a member service request, meet other members and volunteers and learn how you can be involved in CVV. Try something new - you'll be happy you did! The more everyone participates, the greater the benefits for all of us. Giving and receiving support is key to building important relationships that help us stay healthier and happier at home and in our community. That's what our Village is about - being better and stronger together! **Happy New Year!**



## CVV Brightens the Holiday Season



Susie Johnson and Anne Novik staff the CVV gift wrap table at Barnes & Noble

By Susie Johnson

Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who helped with our gift wrapping fundraiser at Barnes and Noble.

Not only did we earn \$650 in donations, many customers learned about Conejo Valley Village for the first time. Special thanks to Val, Vanessa and Penny and the Call Managers who helped with service requests!! (Our board thanks Susie for coordinating this fundraiser!)

By Vanessa Renna CVV members and volunteers very generously donated more than 320 personal and household items (socks, scarves, towels and lotion were the most popular!) to help fill Senior Concerns' gift baskets which were delivered to over 80 local Meals on Wheels recipients in mid-December. Thank you to everyone who donated for supporting local seniors in need during the holidays!



Dinah Frishling and Vanessa Renna deliver CVV donations to Senior Concerns staff at the Ladin Subaru "Share The Love" event.

### Inside this issue:

Welcome 2018/CVV Gives Back	1
CVV Holiday Events	2
CVV in our Community/Travelers	3
Volunteer Program Meeting	4



See Insert for  
Upcoming Events

## A Joyous December for CVV



Left: Musician **Cash** entertains while **Beth Johnson** chats with a jolly guy in a red suit! Top: **Karen Hansen, Julie Osbourn-Gourley** and **Maryann Gitt** share a laugh. Bottom: **Susan Webber, Fabienne Logan** and **Susan Armstrong** with their door prizes.

Top: **Michaela Johnson** looks on as **Bill Cobb** shows off his holiday socks. Bottom: **Sam and Jo Ann Wacht** ready for the delicious StoneFire Grill catered dinner.



**Emerald Jones, Sally Zlatich** and **Vanessa Renna** visit during intermission at the Village Voices Holiday Magic concert.



Conejo Valley Village had a busy holiday season with fun events throughout December. In addition to our donation and fundraising activities on page 1, we enjoyed a Village Voices concert, a delightful candy-making class at Newberry Candy, a festive holiday party attended by more than 40 members and volunteers, and ventured out to the Ventura Harbor Holiday "Sleigh" Boat-Ride. Thank you to the Events Committee for organizing some unique holiday experiences for us to enjoy!

Left: **Hazel Kenzer** and **Barbara Sontag** can't resist tasting. Right: **Maryann Gitt, Lori Bliss, Hazel, Barbara, John Newberry, Deborah Mason** and **Rosa Lee Schentes** - candy making class in session!



Photos courtesy of Maryann Gitt



## Bring or Tell a Friend: Upcoming Events to Learn about CVV!



*Do you know someone who would enjoy being a CVV member or volunteer?*

Conejo Valley Village is actively recruiting new members and volunteers! We attend or sponsor events to share our mission with our local Conejo Valley community. Help us tell the CVV story by sharing our newsletter with others, telling a friend or bringing a friend with you to an event! For more information, call the number below or see the insert.

**Wed. January 17th**  
9 am—1 pm

**Goebel Center**

### **2018 Wellness Fest**

Learn about health and wellness information, resources and services available in Conejo Valley, and bring your friends to the CVV table.

**Conejo Recreation & Park District:**  
(805) 381-2742

**Wed. February 7th**  
8:45 am—2:30 pm

**St. Maximilian Catholic Church,  
Westlake**

### **Senior Congress - Embrace Technology**

Hear from local experts how to take advantage of technology and protect your information. Stop by the CVV table too!

**Conejo Las Virgenes Future Foundation:**  
(818) 880-1054

**Mon. February 12th**  
1:45—3:45 pm

**Goebel Center**

### **CVV Recruiting Event**

Bring a friend to meet CVV members and volunteers and learn about our neighbors helping neighbors support, services and social activities.

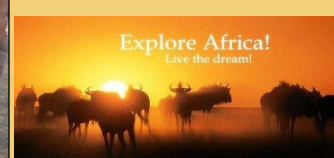
**CVV: (805) 372-1826**

## Village Travelers Series - Loretta Allen's Kenya Adventure

*Some of our members and volunteers love to travel around the world, so Village Connections will periodically share pictures and highlights of their travels. This month, we learn from member Loretta Allen about her journey to the Masai Mara National Reserve in Kenya, Africa last year.*

**By Loretta Allen**

This African adventure to Kenya and the Masai Mara was a transformational life event. I went on a small photography tour so I could really see the animals. It was perfect. My fellow tourists and our guides quickly became "Safari Sisters" and are still very close on Facebook. The time spent at the different David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust camps clearly demonstrated to us that their love for saving elephants was deep and sustaining and the experience only deepened my respect for the elephant society. My experience with the Masai people and the wildlife in the Masai Mara truly was transformational and I hope to return in January of 2019.





P. O. Box 3162  
Westlake Village, CA 91359

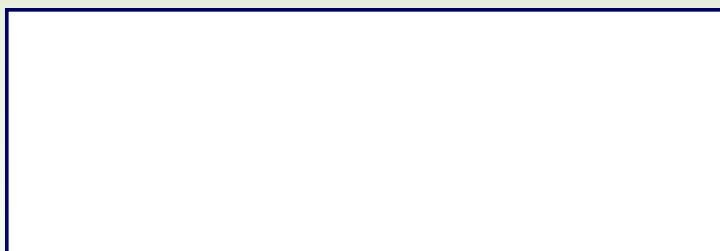
Phone: (805) 372-1826  
Email: [cvv@conejovalleyvillage.org](mailto:cvv@conejovalleyvillage.org)  
Website: [www.conejovalleyvillage.org](http://www.conejovalleyvillage.org)

The mission of Conejo Valley Village is to help seniors remain independent in their homes and stay active in our community.



Wishing everyone a Happy and Healthy 2018 from Conejo Valley Village!

## Neighbors Helping Neighbors Stay Independent, Active and Connected



Conejo Valley Village is a nonprofit tax-exempt organization under IRS Code Section 501(c)(3). Donations are tax-deductible.

### VILLAGE CONNECTIONS

Page 4

## Volunteer Spotlight

**Volunteers:** Please email your total Administrative volunteer hours estimated through the end of the month by the **25th** to [volunteerhours@conejovalleyvillage.org](mailto:volunteerhours@conejovalleyvillage.org). Thanks for all you do for CVV!

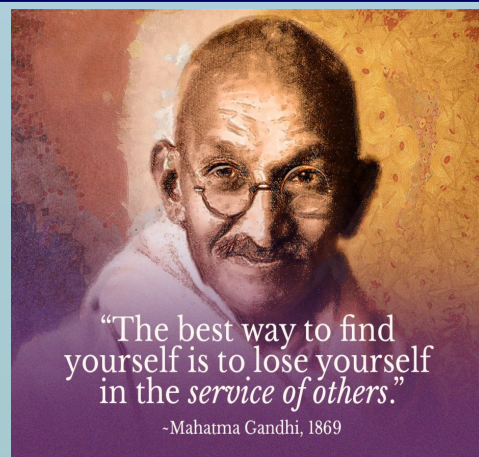
**THERE'S NO EXCUSE  
FOR ELDER ABUSE.**

All Volunteers  
Encouraged to  
Attend!



### January Volunteer Program Meeting Topic: Elder Abuse Tuesday, January 23, 4-6 pm Goebel Center - Wild Lilac Room

Join us for an important eye-opening session to help volunteers understand and identify the signs of elder abuse. We'll be watching an educational video produced by the national **Village to Village Network** designed to increase awareness of elder abuse issues. Light refreshments will be served. Register online or by calling a Call Manager at **(805) 372-1826**.



Volunteering brings out the best in all of us - Thank you for being a CVV volunteer!