

November President's Letter

Fall is here and we are all so grateful to see rain, even if our picnic was rained out. A lot of great things happened this last month and we have some exciting opportunities coming up in November. November has always been my favorite month of the year, a peaceful reflective time.

We had our first Senior to Senior tech day in October. Five students from Benicia High School's Community Outreach program assisted seven of our members in brushing up on their phone and laptop skills. We were hosted at the Kyle Hyland Teen center. My favorite memory of the day was Nancy and Burt Mahoney learning to text on their phones. Nancy asked Burt to dinner, and he texted back, "see you at seven."

This year we are hoping to again brighten the holidays for a family in Vallejo and one in Benicia. We hope you will give generously to make that a reality. To make it easy just go to our website, www.carquinezvillage.org, and choose "Donate now" in the upper right hand of the website. Contribute what you can to the 2021 Adopt a Family Fund; we will buy and wrap the presents.

We give to others and others give to us. Northgate Church's congregation will be performing a day of service

on Sunday, November 21st for the community of Benicia. They will be doing several large civic projects and have also again chosen to help six Carquinez Village households. If you have a project that is too big or extensive for our volunteers that you would like to be considered, contact board member Linda Chandler at tiffally@sbcglobal.net, or call her at 707.344.3022.

Earlier this year I shared with all of you that the Board was creating a Strategic Plan to help guide us over the next few years. We worked with two wonderful facilitators, Barrie Robinson and Elizabeth Patterson, who helped the board reach agreement on broad values and concerns, particularly for sustainability, leadership, diversity, and inclusiveness. The process focused on the need for goals to sustain the Village through leadership, volunteers, staff, and the development of partnerships.

Our community activities, outreach, and speakers should reflect these goals. The most important part of the Village is you, our members, and volunteers. We are crossing our fingers that soon we will be seeing you at our **holiday party on December 9th, 5:00–7:00 pm. Save the date.**

– Susan Neuhaus



Donation from Benicia Community Foundation



Carquinez Village recently received a donation from the Benicia Community Foundation. A non-profit, the Foundation is a philanthropic organization with the mission “to build strong, giving relationships with many nonprofit organizations with grant donations that help each achieve their community-based goals.” The organization recognizes the growing sector of older adults in our community and wants to ensure that they remain a very viable segment of our community.

This specific donation will assist the Carquinez Village in the important work we do to prepare our older adults to stay connected. This past year and beyond, COVID has forced a level of isolation on all of us that we hadn’t experienced. Many members were hit hard

since staying connected has relied so heavily on using computers and cell phones. In fact, reliance on technology is apparent to all of us for doctor conferences, ordering groceries, managing our finances, and banking. The Village, as well, quickly adapted its services and social events to Zoom formatting. As most of us appreciate, we could dial in or link in for everything from meditation and exercise to movie discussions, and even “lunch” together. Without the ability to use technology, older adults are at risk of feeling left out.

Carquinez Village has been highly innovative, but some are still struggling. Several ideas are in the cue for implementation. These funds will allow us to locate appropriate paid assistance and to entertain partnerships that will bring one-on-one support to those desiring help. A first step is a new partnership with the high school and the Kyle Hyland Foundation. We are matching up willing and enthusiastic teens with equally willing and eager members. The goal is to gain expertise across the generational divide as well as the technical divide. We anticipate gains in the skill sets of our member participants, and the beginnings of meaningful friendships.

Our appreciation to the Benicia Community Foundation for recognizing, applauding, and supporting our work! We plan to explore more opportunities to partner with them soon!

– Linda Chandler

Speaker Series Meeting with City Manager Rescheduled

Due to workers accidentally cutting a Comcast cable, the internet was out all over town when Benicia City Manager, Erik Upson, was to speak to us. We had to cancel that event, but have **rescheduled it for Thursday, November 18th, at 10:30 am**. We will add in all those who were registered so they don’t have to re-register. If you haven’t signed up previously, and would like to attend, please sign up at our website, carquinezvillage.org or call our information line, 707-297-2472.

The Water Dancer

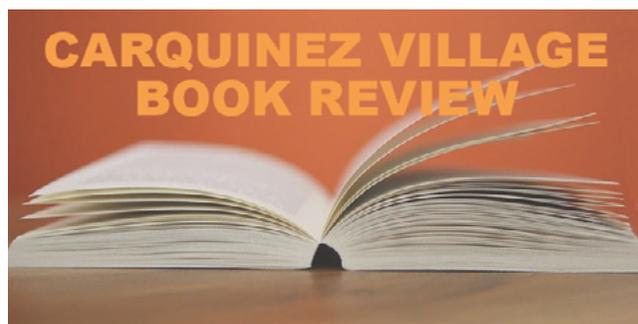
By Ta-Nehisi Coates

The Water Dancer by Ta-Nehisi Coates, Atlantic Monthly correspondent, recipient of a MacArthur Genius Award, and touted author of the non-fiction book, *Between the World and Me*, has made quite a splash. This novel details life as a slave and the machinations of the underground railroad and is based on true experiences. It is exquisite writing and a captivating plot. He uses his own nomenclature—slave as “tasked,” slave owner as “quality.” He also relies on “magical realism” to resolve the flow of the novel. For some readers this enhances the charm of the book; for others, it complicates and confuses the progress and flow of the story.

Perhaps you readers might be interested in quotes from my book club’s discussion on this book. One stated, “... no more stories about slavery or the holocaust, I am done.” Another said, “Too painful to read, “lyrical writing,” “magical realism—confusing—not well integrated into the book,” “enlightening,” “very sophisticated book.”

As a writer, Coates has been ecstatically embraced by fellow Blacks. They feel it is only a Black who can really capture and explain the dilemmas and realities of their lives. Toni Morrison stated Coates should be required reading for all. Of course, his books are currently the subject of many book clubs. In any event, he is a brilliant, captivating writer for non-Blacks as well, as he writes on universal dilemmas and experiences.

– Carolyn Fallon



Question About the Website

By Jeanne Ekdahl

Virtual Office Manager

“I’m confused about cookies on the village website. When I go to the site, I sometimes see ‘This website uses cookies to ensure you get the best experience on our website. Learn more.’ I want to say no to them, as I can on some web pages, but I’m not allowed to. Why?”

—A Member

Response: Cookies have a life span defined by their creators. Cookies expire after the fixed time span. The lifespan of these cookies is responsible for you seeing the message only sometimes. Cookies are necessary for the smooth functioning of our website, which is actually part of a national, very secure, network of villages. Cookies assure that, after you log in, all functions will work properly. The site will simply not work without them. You can click the “Learn more” to do just that: get a more detailed description of the types of cookies.

Please note, if you choose to block all cookies, our site will not function as intended and you will not be able to use or access many of the services we provide. If you have blocked all cookies and wish to make full use of the features and services we offer, you will need to enable cookies.

The Men's Group



Exploring interesting businesses around Benicia, trying out local restaurants with culinary appeal, splashing across the Bay to San Francisco on the ferry—it's the Carquinez Village Men's Group on an adventure again. Join us!

Led by Lars Eckdahl, our group meets every fourth Wednesday, usually mid-day, to for another outing, from food to ferry, all with fun conversation. Rides are always available if needed.

For example, recent restaurant explorations have included The Cellar, a late afternoon stop at the new Mare Island Taphouse on First Street, and Italian delights at Amore Bistrot on East D Street.

To see what our next excursion is, [click here](#) or go to the CV website and sign in. Then go to "Events" and look for the "Men's Group," always with a "gentleman's club" display. There you can see how to contact Lars to find out what we are up to that month.

And if you have an activity you want to suggest to the men's group, please call Lars with your idea.

We look forward to seeing you...Every month!

– Greg Plant

Helping to End Homelessness in Benicia

Sponsored by Heritage Presbyterian Church

Wednesday, November 17, 7 pm

This Better World Zoom event for the Benicia and Vallejo communities features Benicia Police Officer Maricella Ticknor whose job involves helping local homeless folks and coordinating local efforts aimed at ending homelessness.

To get the Zoom link or for more information about this event email betterworldbenicia@gmail.com.



Homebound Book Delivery

Homebound delivery services are provided to residents of Benicia who are unable to visit the Benicia Public Library.

- Deliveries are provided monthly at a day and time determined by Library staff.
- 10 items maximum can be checked out on your library card.
- Previous items need to be ready to be picked up the day of delivery.
- No overdue fines. However, damaged items will be charged the original price of the item.
- Delivery and pick up at the door only.

[Get the Application form](#)

Fill out online and [email](#) to the library or print out the form and mail it to the library at 150 E L Street, Benicia, CA 94510.



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