



A Special Message

from:

Village to Village Network

Dear Villagers, Friends and Supporters,

These past several months in many ways have been surreal with each of us navigating what we can do for our members, volunteers, and our communities—including our own loved ones. We are living in a moment of time unlike any we have seen before. Many of our Villages have struggled to stay open, provide necessary support, reinvent programs, and operate at a new norm. We also face the stigma that older people are the most vulnerable who society says are “expendable.” The pandemic has created another barrier to our advocacy against ageism.

Now amidst the backdrop of Coronavirus, Villages are living through another watershed moment: national and international protests condemning racism and white supremacy. The movement is not new, but now has a global platform calling for justice, accountability, liberation, police reform, economic equity, and the eradication of white supremacy.

Black Lives Matter. Many of our Villagers lived through the 1960’s civil rights revolution when America witnessed the unjust treatment of black Americans. It was a movement that began to change the political landscape, redefine racial justice, and sought to bring equality to every American. Even though we are a nation of immigrants, every newly arrived immigrant group received poor treatment from those before them, even when brought to this land for their labor, etc.

We as a Nation and as Villagers, have progress to make.

As Villages and leaders, we must continue the journey to listen, learn, seek to understand our privileges, unpack intersectionality, and own our areas for growth. Yes, the Village Movement started out as a predominately white, middle class model for aging in community. We must own our stories, progress made, and the ongoing responsibility to do more. We must continue not only to combat ageism within and outside of the Village network, but also be actively anti-racist. During this time, it has never been more critical to support and defend civil and human rights of those who have been systematically oppressed. Villagers must use their privilege and voices to amplify the message: Black Lives Matter. We must debunk myths and provide opportunities to educate ourselves, our membership, and our communities.

“We are a society that has been structured from top to bottom by race. You don’t get beyond that by deciding not to talk about it anymore. It will always come back; it will always reassert itself over and over again.”
- Kimberle Williams Crenshaw, who coined the term “Intersectionality” and co-founded the African American Policy Forum.

We encourage our membership to share resources and education opportunities in the VtV Network Forums under Diversity and Inclusion as well as in the Document Library.

Sincerely,

Barbara Sullivan, Executive Director VtVN



Mandy Summerson, President VtVN



NATIONAL VILLAGE ONLINE CONFERENCE

October 5-7, 2020

20/20

~Clear Vision
for the Future~



SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

Bronze Level: Cost = **\$150**
Advertising/Social Media

Silver Level: Cost = **\$250**
Breakout Session/
Advertising/Social Media

Gold Level: Cost = **\$500**
Keynote Session (large
audience)/Advertising/
Social Media

We were sad to have to cancel our conference in Charlotte for this year, but we're moving the event ONLINE!

Sponsorships are available and we are working out registration details for attendees.

Stay tuned for pricing and a schedule of events.

**COVID-19 may have us down,
but we won't let it knock us out!**

Let's End Ageism Webinar NEXT WEEK WEDNESDAY!

DATE/TIME: Wednesday, June 17 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. EDT

Let's End Ageism: We're All Aging with Ashton Applewhite and Judy Foreman

What's a surefire way to make activism more effective? Make it intergenerational. What's the biggest obstacle? An ageist culture that pits old against young and bombards us with messages that wrinkles are tragic and old people useless. Aging is not a problem to be "fixed" or a disease to be "cured". It is a natural, powerful, lifelong process that unites us all, and a world that's better to grow old in is better for everyone. Join Ashton Applewhite and Judy Foreman for a robust conversation about ageism - debunking myth after myth about late life and dismantling ageism in the process.



Ashton Applewhite is an internationally recognized expert on ageism and the author of *This Chair Rocks: A Manifesto Against Ageism* available at www.thischairrocks.com

Judy Foreman is an award-winning medical journalist and author. Her latest book is *Exercise is Medicine* available at www.judyforeman.com

We invite you to send questions in advance to info@beaconhillvillage.org.



This virtual program is presented in partnership with the Boston Public Library, as part of Beacon Hill Village's Living Well Ending Well series. Registration is required; please visit:

https://bhvillage.clubexpress.com/content.aspx?page_id=4002&club_id=332658&item_id=1218876

or by calling Beacon Hill Village at 617-723-9713. Free and open to the public.

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Free Sterling Volunteers webinar

DATE/TIME: Thursday, June 18 2:00 p.m. EDT

On-site to On-line: Adapting Training for Virtual Presentation

Valued partner Sterling Volunteers is providing a complimentary and relevant webinar on best practices for Virtual Training. Given the current, ongoing circumstances that limit our ability to gather in groups, there's no better time than now to pilot or expand your organization's virtual training opportunities.

Join industry expert, Beth Steinhorn, President of VQ Volunteer Strategies, who will share some valuable tips on how to prepare online curriculum and engage volunteers via virtual presentation.

REGISTER HERE: [Sterling Volunteers Webinar](#). If you can't make it, you will receive a link to view the webinar on-demand.



How one Network member is staying connected to their members using older technology

Community Caregivers out of Albany, New York, has been providing in person volunteer services to neighbors for over 25 years. This is the first time we have not been able to meet face to face, which has required some rethinking of how we do things. We recognize one of the biggest health challenges is loneliness-induced stress and anxiety. As early as mid-March, we immediately shifted our focus onto phone calls to keep our volunteers and clients connected. We have made hundreds of reassurance calls to check in on our vulnerable members. We also began holding group chats on topics that could provide some entertainment and provoke memories and discussion.

We recognized that most of our participants would not have access to a laptop or smart phone and may not be comfortable using Zoom. Some may not have internet and only have a landline. Therefore, we researched conference calling systems to find one that met several criteria to best serve our clients. These were: 1) the ability to just dial-in to a number with no access codes (keep it simple), 2) the system could dial out to folks and easily connect them and 3) it must have a local or toll free number with no charge to the participant.

The only system that met these criteria was **Uber Conference**. It costs about \$20 per month for up to 100 participants for longer periods of time. There is a free version that one can use to test it, but it limits the number of participants and length of calls (You can pay more for even more participants). We have been using this system for a few months and have worked out some glitches over time. This program allows the organizer to view the phone numbers of those joining and to mute some or all of the group when needed. We can also record our talks for sharing on our website.



Our programs are being promoted through community organizations so that anyone can call to join, not just our volunteers and clients. We have had publicity from our local papers and networks and have enjoyed many presentations by very interesting people within our community. Our participants appreciate the simplicity of the technology and using the audio only version allows a lot of room for our imaginations to unfold as we place ourselves in the location or time being described.

We are starting to get regular participants who sign up to receive the calls twice a week, which makes it feel like a group of friends getting together instead of strangers. Unlike other virtual options out there, this old technology allows us to easily connect in real time with other people and share our thoughts. Even after we can resume friendly home visits, we will continue to use this as an additional level of connection and support for our community.

Villages in the News



June 2, 2020
Creating community one 'Village' at a time
[Read Here](#)



May 31, 2020
Column: Adapting well to age well
[Read Here](#)



May 29, 2020
Sun City Palm Desert raises money to help laid-off staff
[Read Here](#)



May 27, 2020
For the rural elderly, it can take a village
[Read Here](#)



May 26, 2020
Athens organizations come together to ensure no one goes hungry
[Read Here](#)



May 22, 2020
Nonprofit, A Little Help, Keeping Older Coloradans Safer At Home
[Read Here](#)



May 21, 2020
Wellington Community Foundation Serves As An Extension Of Donors' Generosity During Pandemic
[Read Here](#)



May 15, 2020
Greater Newburyport Village supports local restaurants
[Read Here](#)



May 11, 2020
Among Older Adults, COVID-19 Has Highlighted Vulnerabilities — But Also Some Opportunities
[Read Here](#)



May 11, 2020
Volunteers from Community Caregivers will chat with lonely seniors in Rensselaer County
[Read Here](#)



May 10, 2020
RAINY DAY VILLAGE NETWORK UPDATE: Join Us Under the Rainy Day Village Umbrella
[Read Here](#)



May 6, 2020
The 'New Normal' for Many Older Adults Is on the Internet
[Read Here](#)



May 5, 2020
Supporting seniors: Redwood Coast Village trains new volunteers
[Read Here](#)



May 4, 2020
Village Volunteers find new ways to bridge the distance
[Read Here](#)



May 1, 2020
Area Seniors Receive Flowers as Part of Westside Pacific Villages' COVID-19 Response
[Read Here](#)

Village Anniversaries!

April

Mill City Commons - 12 years
Neighborhood Falmouth - 11 years
Newton at Home - 9 years
Conejo Valley Village - 3 years
TRAIL of Johnson County - 3 years

May

Gramatan Village - 12 years
Chevy Chase At Home - 11 years
Cleveland & Woodley Park Village - 7 years
Rhinebeck at Home - 7 years
Arlington Neighborhood Village - 6 years
Clayton Valley Village - 3 years
Eden Area Village - 3 years
MY Neighbors - 3 years
Portland Area Villages - 3 years

June

The Village Chicago - 11 years
At Home On The Sound - 10 years
East Falls Village - 9 years
Care Connections Network - 8 years
Northwest Neighbors Connecting - 8 years
STL Village - 6 years
Village Network of Petaluma - 6 years
Greater Newburyport Village - 4 years
Villages of Santa Fe - 4 years
Cheshire Village at Home - 3 years



Please Support Village to Village Network

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