



THE VILLAGE VOICE

October - November 2019

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FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Michelle Dassinger



In August we welcomed five new members to CHPV, which brings our total membership to 168! This is an increase of almost 10% over the past year. Kudos to the membership committee and those who have introduced their friends and neighbors to CHPV!

At the end of October, we will have an informal gathering for new members & prospective members. If you consider yourself to be a new member, or if you would like more information on the Village, please consider attending! Wine, cider, and nibbles will be served. Current members are also welcome to bring friends who might like to join. The details:

What: New & Prospective Member Gathering

Where: Jane Comiskey's home, 1418 E 54th Place

When: Sunday, October 27, 3-5 pm

Why: To get to know one another better and build the CHPV community!

Please RSVP by October 21 to the CHPV office (773.363.1933) or Ann Audrain (annaudrain@gmail.com).

I look forward to meeting some of you there!

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michelle". The ink is dark and the signature is written on a light-colored background.

Michelle

**Village Volunteers have reported a total of 1708 hours so far this year!
That's the equivalent of 43 weeks of a full-time employee!!**

**If you need to learn how to report your hours, contact
Dorothy.pytel@chpv.org. We need to keep track of all we do.**

UPCOMING Chicago Hyde Park Village EVENTS

The Hearing Loss Support Group

Sylvia Dawson

The recently formed Hearing Loss Support Group meets at 3:00 - 4:30pm on the third Thursday of the month at Augustana Lutheran Church in Room 6 on the second floor.

When asked about goals for the group, our leader Lori Rosenblum said she hopes that participants will:

- Help share useful information about hearing loss and hearing augmentation.
- Support each other in recognizing and dealing with the emotional effects of hearing loss.

This second meeting focused on products to help make life easier and more normal, Lori described

1. How she relies on the closed captioning option on the television to make following the programs possible.
2. How she uses a real time closed caption telephone. It is indispensable for using the telephone for business and talking with family. A small adjustment is needed due to a few seconds delay in the message appearing on the screen.

Sylvia brought a “Pocketalker” for the group to try. Overall we found that listening to the group with this palm sized microphone through its headphones provided a much better sound quality than with a hearing aid alone. Although the cables were a bit of a nuisance it was more relaxing with the Pocketalker than without it. (*Product details: Pocketalker 2.0, www.williamsound.com*).

All agreed that the best test would be its success in a noisy restaurant. This was the type of conversation we had at our meeting. I would encourage anyone with any hearing loss to join us in sharing both frustrations and solutions. Don't go it alone.



New and Prospective Member Information and Welcome

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CHPV's 5th Anniversary Celebration!

By Barbara Norrish

On November 21, 2019 we will mark the 5th Anniversary of the formal opening of Chicago Hyde Park Village with a reception at the Hyde Park Bank from 6:00-7:30 PM. Join CHPV members, volunteers, donors, neighbors and friends for our Anniversary!

Many of you may recall our grand opening, celebrated at the YWCA on 63rd, in November of 2014. While the initial committee had been working since 2010 to organize the Village, the formal opening and recruitment of membership began in 2014.



Light refreshments will be served. There is no charge for this event. For more information, go to CHPV.org.

CHPV Fifth Anniversary Celebration
Thursday, November 21, 2019
6:00-7:30 PM
Hyde Park Bank – Main Bank Lobby, 2nd Floor
1525 East 53rd Street, Chicago

THANKSGIVING COMMUNITY POTLUCK DINNER NOVEMBER 28



The Annual community potluck celebration of Thanksgiving will again be co-sponsored by Chicago Hyde Park Village and Augustana Lutheran Church. All community members are invited to bring side dishes to share; main dishes will be provided. To volunteer for this event, contact: margarethuyck@gmail.com
Cash donations are also welcome.

Community Potluck Dinner

Thursday, November 28, 2019

12:30 – 3:00 PM

Augustana Lutheran Church, 5500 S. Woodlawn, Chicago

VILLAGE VISITORS PROGRAM LAUNCHED

By Dorothy Pytel

The Chicago Hyde Park Village piloted a new program called *Village Visitors* this spring, with generous funding provided by SHARE. The goal of the program is to connect older adults in the community who would like to have a weekly visitor to caring and trained volunteers. The initial work involved setting up administrative processes at the Village to run *Village Visitors*, such as setting up background checks and preparing materials to help volunteers become aware of how to work with older adults, especially those who are experiencing issues such as visual and hearing impairment. The Village also received training and advice from a successful program in Evanston called *Senior Connections*, which is run by Argentium, that has had a friendly visitor program for nearly three decades.

While the spring turned out to be a less than ideal time to pilot this program (because people in Hyde Park travel quite a lot in the summer months),



the Village did successfully match a 101-year-old Hyde Parker to a volunteer and her 10 year old daughter in early summer. Marcy Juarez, the volunteer, shared that she and her daughter “love going over there.” They enjoy the beautiful view of the lake from the senior’s home and the goodies she prepares for them to nibble on during their visit. Marcy will often check with the senior before coming over to see if she needs to stock up on any groceries and brings those along during her visit. They also enjoy hearing the senior’s backstory about her children and

grandchildren and her many travel stories. The senior did not begin traveling until she was in her 50s, but she has now been to 41 countries. When Marcy mentioned that she was going to visit New Orleans, her new friend immediately organized a book about the city and made a recommendation to Marcy about visiting a specific church, which Marcy made a point to visit. Ryann, Marcy’s daughter, loves to show off things on her phone, but they are not so easy to see on a small device. So Marcy plans to print some photos for an upcoming visit.

Recently, the funding through SHARE was renewed for another five years, so *Village Visitors* is here to stay! **If you would like to participate in the *Village Visitors* program, either as a volunteer or to request a visitor, please contact Dorothy Pytel dorothy.pytel@chpv.org or 773-262-1933.**

MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE REORGANIZED

By Margaret Huyck, Chair

The Member Services Committee is responsible for organizing and providing special services to members, particularly Full Members; and for recruiting, vetting, training, and placing volunteers who provide services. Kitty Mann and Ginni Cook provided superb leadership for the past year and more. In particular, they provided clarification of the services and the structures needed.

Margaret Huyck is the new Chair. She will be supported by staff member Dorothy Pytel and new interns from the Lutheran Theological Seminary, Ole Schenk and Michelle Pyskaty. Other members of the expanded committee include Susan Alitto, Patrick Fahey, Steve Fox, Kitty Mann, Madeiria

Myrieckes, Gloria Rauens, Lorraine Richardson, Lorie Rosenblum, Barbara Roy, and Joan Staples; Gary Worcester serves ex-officio.

To request a service from CHPV, contact Steve Fox at least 48 business hours in advance: sfox1484@gmail.com; or call the office at 773-363-1933. Leave a message, and someone will usually return your call in 24 hours.

To request a ride to a SHARE event, call 773-441-8457 or email sharerides@chpv.org at least 48 business hours in advance.

ANNUAL APPEAL COMING SOON!

In order to continue providing our excellent programs and services, we must raise a substantial amount of money each year. Our member dues are low compared to most other Villages; all members are “on scholarship.”

Participating in the Village makes a big difference for many members, their families, and often the friends who come along to enjoy many of the programs. We know that we help people remain engaged and feeling better about themselves and our community.

Please be prepared to give generously!

REVIEWS OF RECENT EVENTS

GALA FUNDRAISER: “LUMINOSITY”

BY Rita McCarthy and Barbara Norrish

Over 90 people attended the Chicago Hyde Park Village 2019 Gala!! on September 15th and enjoyed the festive reception and engaging slide presentation given by our own David Travis. The successful Fundraiser was held at Congregation Rodfei Zedek in Hyde Park. Thanks to our Village members and friends who helped to make it all possible. We were delighted to see so many new members and friends at the event.





David, as many of you may know, was the former chairman of the department of photography at The Art Institute of Chicago from 1975 until he retired in 2008. Since retirement, David has been taking the most extraordinary photographs along the lakefront at sunrise, focusing on luminosity. While his photos were taken as studies of reflection and light rather than on subject matter, his engaging presentation also relayed wonderful stories of the swimmers, joggers and their dogs, which made for an

additional ‘lens’ with which to enjoy these powerful images.

We have received a lot of positive feedback on his presentation from the attendees, who also included the Honorable Leslie Hairston, Alderman of the 5th Ward, and Curtis Tarver, our new state rep, filling the seat of Barbara Flynn Currie.



*Joanne Michalski and
Alderman Leslie
Hairston*



*Michelle Dassinger, Rep.
Curtis Tarver, Rep.
Tarver's daughter, and
Dorothy Pytel*

Many thanks to Marianne Crusius and her team for making the room so festive with its decorative tables, emblematic of color and black and white photography. Everyone also enjoyed the photo game Marianne invented for the tables.

We were delighted to learn that we made \$11K on this event, which exceeded our fund-raising goal for it. We know everyone will want to thank the Gala Committee (Barbara Norrish, Terry Stumpf, Joanne Michalski, Marianne Crusius, and Rita McCarthy) for all their hard work organizing all the various details of this event and Kathy Huff for publicity.

Many thanks also to sponsors: Toyota on Western, Deborah Beaty, DDD, DB Dentistry, UC Presents, Rita McCarthy—Distinctive Homes Chicago/Coldwell Banker, and George Rumsey—Computer Resource Center and to those who donated for the Silent Auction: Barbara Norrish, Ruth Knack, Joanne Michalski, Mike Weeda and UC Presents. Thanks also to Joe Marlin for donating a copy of his book, *Fading Ads of Chicago*, for our door prize. The second door prize, compliments of CHPV, was a book of David Travis's lectures and essays issued in 2003 by David R. Godine Publisher under the title *At the Edge of the Light: Thoughts on Photographers and Photography, on Talent and Genius*.

11th NATIONAL VILLAGE TO VILLAGE CONFERENCE
September 18-20, 2019 in Chicago
By Terry Stumpf

Pre-Conference Volunteering

Prior to the beginning of the conference, over 300 Swag Bags needed to be filled with the conference materials for the registrants. Susan Alitto, a member of the VtV Conference Planning Committee, gathered volunteers to assist with this effort. Dottie Jeffries and Terry Stumpf volunteered along with Susan for 2-hour hands on filling the Swag Bags.

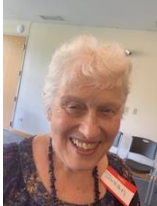
Post Conference Chicagoland Villages Luncheon and Discussion

Thirty-one villagers from across Chicago gathered for a lunch and discussion following the end of the conference. Of that number of diners, some five villagers who did not attend the conference joined the gathering. The following Chicagoland Villages were represented: Arbor West Neighbors (Oak Park), Chicago Village, Chicago Hyde Park Village, Edgewater Village Chicago, Renaissance Village – City of Chicago, Skyline Village and South Loop Village.

Terry Stumpf presented a Save The Date for the 4th Annual Chicagoland Villages Dining Together at The Walnut Room in March 2020.

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS: WHAT INSPIRED ME AT THE VILLAGE-TO-VILLAGE CONFERENCE? [for a fuller account, check www.chpv.org]

Susan Alitto:



The thrust now seems to be focused on older adult issues, making connections and partnerships, and further development and sustainability of villages rather than just about villages and how to start a village.

Chen Chi: As a young volunteer, I've gained insights into multiple forms of aging programs, including storytelling and intergenerational network. As a passionate researcher, I've learnt more about mature collaborations between villages, social organizations, and tech platforms. As an unprepared single child, I've realized the importance of agency and the precarity of social isolation and loneliness..



Michelle Dassinger: Kate Hoepke, a keynote speaker & the Executive Director of San Francisco Village, had a great phrase describing the relationship between villages & self-reliance: **villages make individual independence possible through building interdependence amongst members.**

Jay Franke (1) GrandPad is an interesting concept that, perhaps, may be suitable for part of CHPV's demographic. If this enterprise is as well-capitalized as it appears, there may be some there, there.

(2) [Reflecting to some extent the views of others]. My limited dabbling with Run-My-Village (which is what we are using with Club Express) suggests that it is a fine and full-featured system—for those who can take the time to learn it. If there is a credible but simpler alternative—"Helpful Village"—it should be considered.



Margaret Huyck: I want us to develop Care Groups like those in DuPont Circle—designed to help those with crises, planned hospitalizations, and longer-term needs. We need to have some professional contract Care Managers. We may all need these at some point.

Kitty Mann: The Dupont Circle Village forms a Care Team to help a member and his/her family in the case of a chronic illness, during recovery from a surgery or accident, or during end of life. They have learned that they need two types of professionals, a nurse and a social worker, to consult with the team.



Rita McCarthy: Kate Hoepke, San Francisco Village, stressed that we need strategic partners in order to communicate the value of our grassroots movement to policy makers for funding. Key to funding: national data (quantitative and qualitative) and compelling stories. She, like many others at the conference, stressed that social isolation is a national public health epidemic and that Villages are key to resolving this major health issue.

She also spoke (w/stats) about the “forgotten middle class” who cannot afford assisted living and how this makes Villages more important than ever, as Villages can provide that very infrastructure. One hospital, for example, pays for a 90-day membership to a village, “Newton at Home,” when older patients are released from the hospital. This Village has a grant for a Care Coordinator.

Joan Novick: I learned that AARP is actively promoting Villages around the country. LONGEVITY EXPLORERS WOWED THE CROWD! The Explorers are an active, self-defining group of older people interested in the opportunity to invent, design, and critique new or improved products that meet their individual needs. On the commercial side of this non-profit program are co-operating companies that manufacture these dream products to the groups’ specifications—to be tested, critiqued, and accepted, or sent back to the shop for more work!



Terry Stumpf: During breakout workshops, we learned about other villages – which ones were working, how they developed and now moving into sustainability. The workshop I enjoyed the most was on a new village web-based platform, Helpful Village: The Easy-to-Use Village Management Platform. It’s a platform worth investigating for the CHPV.



Gary Worcester: Kate Hoepke, the first keynote speaker, reminded me how we can fall into using ageism to undermine ourselves and how important it is to have a realistic and positive plan for aging.

THE CHPV NORC PROJECT LAUNCHES WITH A BLOCK PARTY IN THE 52ND ST CUL-DE-SAC

By Susan Alitto

On a beautiful September Saturday afternoon, residents surrounding the Evergreen Coop on East 52nd Street, Kenwood and Kimbark Avenues gathered to meet each other, share a light supper and get information about programs and resources available for older residents. It was the first of what we hope will be many NORC events throughout Hyde Park and the South Side.

What is a NORC? A NORC (naturally occurring retirement community) is a building or community in which 40% of the residents are over the age of 60. The purpose of this and other NORC events is to help neighbors get to know each other so we won't be strangers and will be able to help each other when there's a need.

Representatives from State's Attorney Kwame Raoul's office joined us to make sure we were aware of the services available through that office, especially on fraud awareness and protection. Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle sent Al Kindle to tell us about the work she is doing on behalf of older residents in areas such as transportation, housing, health care and community safety, and also to remind us of upcoming events such as the 4th Ward Senior Ball on October 5.



Wilfred Gadsen from the Evergreen Coop worked with CHPV and our partners in Off the Pews, Faith in Action, and the SHARE Network to organize the event.

You too can have a NORC party. We'll work with you, your resident council and/or your management team to help organize such an event for the older residents in your building or neighborhood. For more information, contact the CHPV office (773-363-1933; info@chpv.org) or Susan Alitto (773-485-3643; salitto@gmail.com)

VOLUNTEER FAIR AT CHPV DROP-IN

By Margaret Huyck

Our members are activists and contribute to our community in many ways. During the Drop-In on September 25, several organizations described volunteer opportunities. The Refugee Project helps refugee families in our community with services and resources to aid in their resettlement; contact Dorothy Pytel or Kathleen Ray. The Hyde Park-Kenwood Community Action Council (HPKCAC), led by Katie Gruber, organizes a yearly READ day in the public schools, when volunteers go to classrooms and read aloud to the children; they are also encouraged to return and work other ways in the schools. Lorraine Richardson has organized a volunteer program for Bret Harte elementary school, Intergenerational Harte Literacy Advocates. Terry Stumpf called for volunteers to help with the Community Breakfast program at Augustana Lutheran Church the third Saturday of each month.

Finally—VOLUNTEER WITH THE CHICAGO HYDE PARK VILLAGE!

We are a volunteer-run organization, so most of what gets done is done by members. Work with a committee, help other members with services to enhance the lives of both, or be an office assistant (either in the office, or at your home). Pick up a one-page summary of opportunities at the next drop-in, or talk with Margaret Huyck (312-833-0415, margarethuyck@gmail.com).

Men's Group Meets Thursdays 10-11:30 at Piccolo Mondo



L-R: Allen Lang, Jerry Gripshover, Jerry Dinnell, Sam Guard, Ismail Turay, Joe Marlin, Bill Burger

Hands only visible: Gary Worcester

Photographer: Kevin Eaton

African Festival 2019

Over Labor Day weekend, many headed to the African Festival in Washington Park. The first day, Friday, was designated Senior Day. The SHARE network worked hard with the organizers to line up an entertaining and educational program on healthy aging issues. CHPV worked with SHARE to organize shuttle buses to transport people from several designated location on the South Side, including Augustana, to and from the Festival.

Engage Chicago: Students Helping the Community!

On Saturday afternoon, September 28, Chicago Hyde Park Village and Augustana Lutheran Church welcomed 19 incoming University of Chicago freshman to a “get acquainted and help us out” gathering at Augustana.

Each year U of C Civic Engagement organizes an Engage Chicago event to introduce their new students to the community, help local not-for-profits, and promote volunteerism. The smart, energetic, friendly students that came to Augustana helped several of our older residents with multiple electronic questions and devices, moved chairs and helped with set up for the Jazz Fest performances at Augustana. They also helped clean and organize some of our spaces, sort our supplies and assemble CHPV information materials.

Dorothy Pytel of Refugee Project fame, who now also assists us with our Village Visitors, volunteers and other projects, jumped in to organize the undertaking. Gary Worcester and our new intern Michelle were also there! Thank you all! Thank you U of C students and Civic Engagement!

ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

New Members Welcomed!

Bill Burger:

I came to Hyde Park in 1966 and I met Melinda on a canoe trip in 1970; we married the next Spring. Melinda became mother of two little girls who were the objects of our affection even after they became teenagers. Active with Augustana Lutheran Church over many years, and after a decade with Parkinson's. Melinda passed away quietly at home in 2017.

Helen, our oldest daughter, and I continue here in Hyde Park. She works part-time at the "Little Italy" branch of the Chicago Library, and I still have an office in The Field Museum.

I went to college by bus in NYC to get my degree from Columbia in 1953. Soon drafted, I served with the Army Engineers in central France and in southern Germany (touring Egypt, Greece and Italy as well).

Best of all, I had the GI Bill and obtained a Masters in Botany from Cornell and a PhD from Washington University in St. Louis. I then joined the Oklahoma State University Program, teaching at the Agricultural College in eastern Ethiopia for four years. This splendid experience was terminated with visiting India, Thailand, Cambodia, Malaysia, and then down to Australia. Here at the Field Museum, I studied the flowering plants of Costa Rica (a botanical hotspot).

Here in Hyde Park I like to jump into Lake Michigan in Summer, photograph ice and snow in Winter, and take images of our nature preserves throughout the year. My daughter Carolyn and her husband live near Elgin, and I have the cutest grand-daughter ever! We visit regularly. Life is good.

Ann Lindner

Gloria Needleman, Ed.DE.D

I am an emeritus teacher from the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools, where I taught Nursery, Kindergarten and third grade for thirty-four years. After retirement I earned my doctorate and became a Master Gardener. I fill my days with volunteering at Lincoln Park Zoo, working with Midwest Workers Association, mentoring an Education student at Roosevelt University, and promoting my recently published book, *It's Not Forsythia, It's for Me: My Years Teaching Young Children*. My husband Allen and I will be celebrating our 70th Anniversary in 2020. We are parents to Julia, a clothing designer here in Chicago, Robert, a Developmental Pediatrician and the author of the 8th, 9th and 10th editions of *Dr. Spock's Baby and Child Care* who, with his wife Dr. Carol Farver live in Cleveland, and Michael, a computer wizard who lives in upstate New York. Our granddaughter Grace is an artist and on the staff at the Museum of Contemporary Art here in Chicago and an extraordinary puppeteer.



I love the Yoga Class, and it is because of it and our amazing teacher that I became a member of Chicago Hyde Park Village.

Sandy Norbeck: I was born and raised in southern England. The fact that my maternal grandmother was a native New Yorker made me curious to spend some time living in the United States.

I spent a few years in the turbulent '60s working for the University. After a spell working at the London Business School, I returned to Chicago in the early 80s and spent many happy years working at the Divinity School. Despite the heavy

workload, I did manage to earn an M.A. degree from the Social Sciences. I retired at the end of the academic year in 2016.



Gloria Rauens: I was born in 1936 and grew up on the Northwest side of Chicago. I attended Austin High School and Wright Junior College while living there. I moved to Hyde Park while attending the University of Chicago and I have lived here ever since then. I've raised two children and worked at the National Opinion Research Center for 35 years, ending up as a Senior Programmer/Analyst. I belonged to OWL and have attended some CHPV events. I joined CHPV hoping that it would help me and many others.

Joy Rosner: Joy did not respond to our inquiries, but she describes herself as a "weaver, gardener, and chorister" online. She offers beautiful handwoven goods in her Hyde Park store and sings with Jonathan Miller's choral group "Sounds Good" (which performed at the recent Village-to-Village National Conference).

Susan Siegal

In Memoriam

Dorothy "Dot" Baker died on September 18, 2019 in Hilton Head Island, South Carolina at the age of 77. Dot and her husband Al were making a last journey to visit friends and relatives, being driven and cared for by CHPV member Ginni Cook. A memorial service will be announced at a later date. The Village will publish a full obituary in our next issue.

Dorothy Jeffries, Design, editing
Rita McCarthy, reporting
Gary Worcester, reporting
Nathan Worcester, production

SPONSORS

DB Dentistry – Deborah L. Beaty, DDS
Hyde Park Bank
Hyde Park Produce
Rita McCarthy, Broker, Distinctive Homes Chicago, Coldwell Banker
Montgomery Place Resident Council
George Rumsey, Computer Resource Center
Toyota on Western
University of Chicago Medicine, Div. of Geriatrics and Palliative Care
University of Chicago Office of Community Engagement
UChicago Presents
James “Sandy” Wilson and Pamela Tole

BUSINESS DISCOUNTS

- Bonne Sante, 1512 E. 53rd, 10% off regular price items
- Divine Creators, 1637 E. 55th, 10% off all services (no products)
- Hair Design International, 1309 E. 57th, 20% off services
- Hyde Park Florist, 1748 E. 55th, 15% off
- Joyce’s Events, Joyce Feuer, 10% off
- Kaufman Dental, 1525 E. 53rd, Free exam or whitening for new patients only with a paid cleaning, exam, e-rays at regular price
- Kilimanjaro, 1305 E. 53rd, 15% off beauty products; 20% off pictures, paintings, indigenous African art; spend over \$100 and receive a surprise gift
- Modern Cooperative, 1500 E. 53rd St; 10% off regular price items
- University Ophthalmology, 1525 E. 53rd, \$5.00 off Refraction
- Wesley Shoe Corral, 1506 E. 53rd, \$10.00 off SAS shoes