

## What do you do when life throws you a curve ball? It takes a Village!

by Linda Bogdanoff, Program and Events Team

When March arrived and COVID-19 turned our world upside down, it didn't take long for the Program and Events team to realize we needed another way to reach our members. Sadly, there would be no dinners, talks, or events for a while, so what would we do? What could we do? I think each of us, like many people, spent the first 48 hours staring at the ceiling in disbelief. But then with Zoom, and the help of Anne Verret-Speck, Mary Olson, Jennifer Attenborough, and Donna Franz, we found our way back to "somewhat" live team meetings, Village Talks, and a Friday Night Happy Hour in place of face-to-face activities. We had suddenly entered the Virtual World! We started looking for speakers, interesting videos, and information to pass on to you. Many of us were not familiar with YouTube or how to search the web for interesting material, but with the help of friends, children, and grandchildren (who seem to know from birth how to do this!) we found our way. Most of all, we found an incredible willingness by so many people to help us succeed in bringing you interesting things to watch and participate in.

We thank Village members Chris Morton for Chair Yoga, Paula Wright and Lois Ascher for providing wonderful Village Talks, and many members who have shared videos and interesting stories. A big shout goes out to Donna Franz who has been our rock, including all this material in her Tuesday Updates and helping us find our way through the technical jungle. Also to Tom Lochhaas who put together this monthly Village Newsletter. All of us have experienced the true meaning of the phrase "It takes a Village"—our Villagers have certainly been there to make this possible. All of us on the P&E team (Mary Olson, Jennifer Attenborough, Susan Coolidge, Annette Keane, Joyce Cejka, Ellie Bailey, Ellen Chulak, and Linda Bogdanoff) look back on this experience with gratitude. We hope you enjoy the material you receive in the Tuesday Updates and that you will join us online as often as you can for Happy Hour, Yoga, and Village Talks.



**by Paul Harrington, Village President**

Zoom has saved the day. The last time the Village board met face to face was on March 9 just before the Senior Center closed for COVID. As Linda writes about the P&E Team, our monthly Village Talks and other programs moved to Zoom. We watched, listened, and asked questions to our screens. The board now has Zoomed together over 20 times, and the P&E and Member Care teams have Zoomed over 50 times altogether! Here's cheers to all those who put these events together!

*Zoom, zoom, zoom  
We're going to the moon.  
Zoom, zoom, zoom  
We'll be there very soon.*

- Children's nursery rhyme

## Upcoming Events See Website for more info!

The Village has suspended traditional programs and events for now. Check your Tuesday Update email for more information.

**For members and volunteers:**

**Weds. August 12, 4-5 pm (note new time), Village Talk on Zoom: "Bridging the Gap: Deaf and Hearing Cultures" with Diana Mele, professor at Northern Essex Community College and interpreter for deaf people (see page 2).**

**Every Tuesday Chair Yoga 10-11 am:** continuing on Zoom through October (no class on 9/8). Check your Tuesday Village Update email for how to enter the Zoom session.

**For members:**

**Weekly Zoom Village Happy Hour, Fridays 5-6 pm** continuing indefinitely. Please register by Tuesday if you plan to join on Friday.

### To Contact the Village

#### For information:

call 978-206-1821

email:

info@greaternewburyportvillage.org

visit our website:

www.greaternewburyportvillage.org

#### For member services:

call 978-206-1821

email a service request to:

services@greaternewburyportvillage.org

## Farewell to Two Very Special Team Mates

As you may know, Ellen Chulak and Mary Olson have been key members of our Program and Events team for years as well as members of our Village. Both worked tirelessly to help develop and support many activities. Ellen, among many other things, developed and managed our “Going Deeper Series” and, prior to joining the Programs and Events team several years ago, worked as Executive Director for the GNV and helped to launch the Village. Mary, with her keen managerial and computer skills, helped our team stay on track and supported everything from our internal meetings to our events and Village Talks.

We’re sad to say that both Mary and Ellen moved away last month: Ellen to Gainesville, Florida, and Mary back to England, her original home. Both Mary and Ellen wanted to be closer to family. We wish them happiness in their new homes but will sorely miss their talent, wit, kindness, and, most of all, their friendship. We thank them for all the help they have given us over many years as members of our P&E team and the Greater Newburyport Village.

## Our Mission

To promote living well and independently through community engagement and neighborly support.

## Village Talk: Bridging the Gap: Deaf and Hearing Cultures

**Wednesday, September 23, 4 to 5 pm.** Diana Mele, a professor at Northern Essex Community College and interpreter for deaf people, explains how deaf and mainstream hearing cultures differ and how the gap between the two can be respectfully bridged. Her talk features a PowerPoint presentation and sign language demonstration. With close to forty years of experience in Sign Language Interpreting and Human Services, Diana has valuable insights to share.

## Member Outreach

Member Care Team members recently started follow-up calls to members who may feel vulnerable. This team effort will be extended as long as needed or helpful. If you are a member who would like a friendly call, let the Concierge know and we’ll get in touch with you.



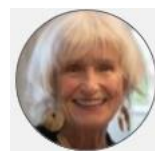
Members say farewell to Mary at Friday Happy Hour

## What Have Villagers Been Doing During COVID?

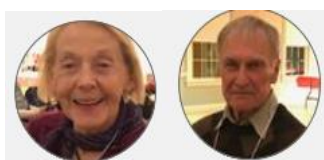
**Ellie Bailey** writes: I’ve been outdoors every day, taking care of my horses, walking with family and friends, visiting in backyards. I volunteered to take photos of gravestones for FindAGrave.com, a genealogy website, and have been exploring local cemeteries. Even though it’s not the summer I was looking forward to, I’ve enjoyed it very much.



**Susan Coolidge** writes: I was one of the lucky ones! My family with two grandsons spent the summer and now the fall on Block Island. So I spend my time shuttling back and forth to the island. When I am here I see friends at a distance, garden, and paint. Can’t say I am looking forward to cold weather when we all move back indoors by ourselves!



**Annette Keane** writes: Henry and I walk 3 miles daily in the morning, spend one or two hours every other day clearing out stuff and depositing it in yellow Planet Aid bins. I have cleaned the kitchen cabinets and cupboards for the first time in 35 years! I love the Zoom Village meetings and TED talks.



This will be a continuing newsletter feature. Please write a few words on what you have been doing and send to [TomLoch@gmail.com](mailto:TomLoch@gmail.com)



Masks provided to protect Zoom facial expressions. (Courtesy of Paul H’s graphics artistry—and sense of humor!)

## We Want To Know

If you know a member or volunteer who is facing surgery, a loss, or an important milestone, let the Village know so we can acknowledge it appropriately and offer help as needed. Please call 978-206-1821 or email [membership@greaternewburyportvillage.org](mailto:membership@greaternewburyportvillage.org)