

North  
Oakland  
Village



## August NEWSLETTER

WELCOME to our new format !

NOV | 2501 Harrison Street, Oakland, CA 94611  
510-547-8500



### President's letter:

Dear Villagers,

So much to share, so little space! We had a terrific meeting in late June with the Executive Director of The Village Movement California, Charlotte Dickson. This new statewide organization of villages is bringing our movement into a new level of visibility, resources, passion for our engaged community way of life and even political savvy. North Oakland Village is a founding member of this organization! Here is the website to learn more: <https://villagemovementcalifornia.org/>

July was full of activities, including presentations on the artist Chiura Obata and "Computer Security for Seniors" by cyber security expert Tristan Weir. Don't forget our potluck on July 29 as well! August promises to be just as exciting with our fabulous **Intergenerational Picnic 11:00 am on August 12** at Lake Temescal. Watch your email for more announcements about it, but put it on your calendar now!

See you all at the picnic! Warmly, Susan

**AUGUST ACTIVITIES & CALENDAR**

- 2nd-Thursday SINGING with SARA 10:30
- 6th-Monday Menders
- 12th-ANNUAL PICNIC SUNDAY 11:00-3:00 LAKE TEMESCAL
- 13th-Monday Handability 10:30 am
- 17th-Friday TIME TO TALK. 10:30 am NOV office
- 17th-Friday OUTING SPIRIT ROCK 10am-4pm see below for details
- 17th-Friday Bridge Group
- 20th-Monday Menders
- 22nd-Wednesday PLAY READING 2pm
- 26th-Sunday POTLUCK 5-7pm
- 27th-Monday Menders
- 29th-Wednesday Lunch Bunch
- 31st-Friday BOOK CLUB 2pm

***The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members.***  
***-Coretta Scott King***

## Programs

### Artists at NOV

Robert Davidson, one of our longtime members, is a member of the California Watercolor Society, and has had his work debuted at their exhibit, and several of his pieces have won awards, such as the picture to the right, Blue Heron, which won first place at the Alameda Library show.



### Handability project

If you have ever been to the office on a Monday, you have probably seen several women knitting or sewing. Handability is a charitable organization of knitters who have



### Museum Outing

In July, several of our

access to a lot of surplus yarn and are willing to make the yarn into baby clothes, blankets, sweaters, etc. that can be used for the homeless, newborn babies, or be sold for a charitable event.

We have been busy on Mondays and have produced almost a hundred hats which we wanted to give to a program at Highland Hospital, called "Centering Birth," which is run by Kathy Kasper. She was thrilled when she came in and saw the beautiful assortment of hats plus a few quilts, made by our beloved Alyce Zacco, who died a couple of months ago.

We had a long talk with Kathy about her program and I asked her if Highland had the very high rate of mother and newborn deaths among African Americans that I had read and heard about in the news very recently. She was aware of this in so many parts of the country, but she said that Highland Hospital does not have the same experience due to the Centering Birth program.

We are contributing to the health, welfare and love that women and newborn babies need to start life on the right tract. We welcome anyone on Mondays to knit with us and join us in this venture.

Sandra Coleman

members participated in an outing to the Saint Mary's College Museum to enjoy the exhibit by the California Watercolor Association. They have said that the campus was lovely and they enjoyed the interesting exhibits. The paintings were wonderful, and it was great to see some works of our own Robert Davidson featured.



### August Lunch Bunch!

The lunch bunch is a continuing success, and is proving to be a great social event for NOV. The lunch bunch in August will be held on the 29th, at 11:30, at Italian Colors restaurant in Montclair. Norma Harrison will be hosting, so please call her (510-547-7530) ahead of time so she can make reservations.



### Singing with Sara

The NOV singing group meets the first Thursday of most months at a member's home. Above are several of our members singing their hearts out! We would love to have more groups such as this, so please let us know if you are interested in creating new events!

# Spirit Rock Outing

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Date: August 17

Time: 10 am- 4 pm

Location: Spirit Rock Meditation Center

Description: Village member Janet Bertram is leading a day-long meditation retreat at Spirit Rock Meditation Center in Fairfax on Friday August 17. The event is from 10:00 am to 4:30 pm, and we would plan to have dinner in Marin County to avoid the worst of Friday evening traffic. Please contact the NOV office if you would like to attend and drive with the group.

Event Title: **Precious Life, Sacred Death**

Teacher: **Anna Douglas**, Spirit Rock founding teacher

Fee: Sliding scale, seniors can pay \$45. You can register online at [spiritrock.org](http://spiritrock.org) or pay at the door.

Description:

The question of what gives life beauty and meaning is a universal one. The Buddha advised we look to the fact of death for guidance. To know life, we need to know death. To know death, we need to know life.

Living and dying are not separate, but a continuum of consciousness in which the opportunities for awakening are ever present. We will contemplate the mystery of birth – death in our human form, and discover a deeper knowing of living and dying that can pervade our daily routines, awakening us to the sacred.

This day retreat will include sitting, walking, and contemplative inquiry in the container of silence.



## Member profile

NOV's Sara Evinger has met Princess Grace of Monaco. Sara's family moved to Paris when she was twelve years old (more on that later) and she was very active in local musical events. After she was a soloist, at age 16, Princess Grace of Monaco came backstage to meet her and say how much she had enjoyed her singing.

Sara doesn't remember when she didn't have music in her life. She was a soloist in *Cat in the Hat* in Kindergarten and age 5 when her school performed it. At 9 she was the accompanist for the school choir. When she was 12, her father came home from work and said, "We all have to learn

French, we're moving to France." And French became a survival language when she entered the local school. Before her senior year at high school, however, her mother found a different school for her, one where she could learn some American history and work on her English. When Sara finished high school, she spoke fluent French and there was no question what she would study in college – major in music and minor in romance languages. At her school, Indiana University, the music students attended church every Sunday, a month or two at one church then a month or two at another, observing the choir and learning from the different directors. It was at Indiana University that Sara met Joe Evinger. Ahead of her in school he stayed in touch when he graduated and came to California. As she neared graduation, Joe's suggestions that she join him in San Francisco evolved into urgent requests, so when she got her degree she headed west. Fortunately, Sara, in addition to her

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music and language skills, had gained some office know-how and soon found a job in a doctor's office. Music jobs for newcomers were not that easy to come by, but she did get involved with the Community Music Center in San Francisco's Mission district as both a performer and Board chair. Her time in San Francisco also got her a spot as soloist for the choir at St. Bartholomew's Catholic Church in San Mateo. One Christmas, just as she began singing her part for "O Holy Night" she became aware that Bing Crosby and his family were being sneaked into the choir loft. By 1980 Sara and Joe had moved to Oakland. They found a wonderful house that had not been treated kindly but was in a great neighborhood and began bringing it back to life. They also found St. John's Episcopal Church and when it offered Sara the position of Music Director, she was able to give up her day job. Her duties included writing two musical shows a year with the children as performers. Now the house is a completely renovated showcase. Sara, while still active there, has reduced her duties at St. John's and she and Joe take a month's vacation to a different place each year. She organized and conducts the monthly singalongs for NOVers at her home. Like to sing? There is room for more and Sara would welcome you to join the group.

## SPECIAL NOTE

North Oakland Village has some new New Volunteers, so if you or anyone you know is interested in receiving house visits/walking partners, please let us know. Also, NOV is looking for committee members, and we could always use volunteer drivers.

In other news, the North Oakland Village Board voted to set aside a board seat for a representative of our wonderful volunteers. Our volunteers are such important members of our community and they really keep things humming. In recognition of their many valuable contributions, the board would like to have their input in decision-making and hear their voice in all our deliberations. We invite our volunteers to select a representative in any fashion that they wish and for terms that suit them. We will amend the bylaws accordingly. In the meantime, let us know how we can be helpful. Anyone interested in this seat or in learning more about the board is welcome to attend our meetings the last Tuesday of every month 4:00 - 6:00. We strive to end at 5:30 and sometimes it works.

# Other Upcoming Events

Date: August 12

Time: 11-3 PM

Location: Lake Temescal

Description: Intergenerational Picnic! Come join us for our annual August picnic at Lake Temescal, our social event of the summer! Feel free to bring family members, dogs, and any picnic accessories that you want. So far the weather is looking good for the next few weeks, and hopefully it will hold throughout the picnic. Last year's picnic was a great success, and gave us our top group photo of the year!



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