



Voice of the Village

August 2020

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Building a network of neighborly support

Greater Newburyport Village Diversity and Inclusion Policy

From Paul Harrington, Village President

Our nation has been witnessing protests and demonstrations around racial inequities. The board, in reaction to these demonstrations, has reflected on what the Village, as a membership organization, should be considering to ensure our policies are clear on these issues. The board discussions have led to an update and strengthening of our written policy on diversity and inclusion. This policy is included below. All are encouraged to read and be mindful of these statements as members, volunteers, and especially as administrators of our programs. These are words; our collective actions are the policy:

It is the policy of the Greater Newburyport Village to respect and uphold the human rights of all persons regardless of race, color, religious creed, national origin, immigration status, sex, age, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital status, income or disability. We strive to be a welcoming Village in which all people feel included. We celebrate the individual differences, life experiences, knowledge, skills, self-expression, and interests that our members and volunteers bring to the Village.

The Greater Newburyport Village is committed in its policies, procedures, and practices to foster, cultivate, and preserve a culture of diversity and inclusion in all activities. In particular:

- We practice respectful communication and cooperation at all times between all Village members and volunteers.
- All Village members and volunteers are expected to exhibit conduct that reflects respect for individual differences during Village sponsored services, events and activities.
- Village members who believe they have been subjected to any kind of discrimination that conflicts with the Village's diversity and inclusion policy should notify the Concierge or a member of the Board of Directors.

Grandparents, Participate in Important Study!

From the Village-to-Village Network

During this era of social distancing, how do grandparents and children use video chat to keep in touch and build new relationships? How does your new grandbaby respond when you play peek-a-boo over FaceTime? Will an infant recognize you from session to session?

"Babies, Zoomers and Boomers" is a new Georgetown University study about how young children and grandparents build relationships over video during COVID-19. Please consider participating in the study by completing a brief online survey. Learn more at <https://elp.georgetown.edu/portfolio/videochat>. Participants must be residents of the U.S. or Canada and have a grandchild under age 5. After completing the survey, you can choose to enter your email for a chance to win a \$50 e-gift card (with a 1 in 10 chance of winning).

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: "Journey across Southern Africa - Part 2" with Village member Paula Wright (see page 2).

Every Tuesday Chair Yoga 10-11 am: continuing on Zoom through the summer (no class on 8/11). 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

Village to Participate in Newburyport's Lantern Festival

The ninth annual Newburyport Lantern Festival will be held **virtually** this year due to the Covid pandemic. The event is organized by Greater Newburyport Ovarian Cancer Awareness (GNOCA) in observance of National Ovarian Cancer Month. In past years, decorated lit lanterns floated on Frog Pond at dusk. This ceremony is to remember and commemorate friends and family whom we have lost as well as to make wishes for health and happiness for ourselves, our family and friends, and our world. This year the ceremony will be available online at 7 pm on Sunday, September 6 on [Facebook.com/OCAwareness](https://www.facebook.com/OCAwareness) and [Instagram.com/GNOCAwareness](https://www.instagram.com/GNOCAwareness). (A Facebook account is not necessary, and the video can be viewed at any time in the future.)

The Village's board is this year adopting this practice for honoring the five Village members who have passed away since the Village launched in 2016. We plan to continue the tradition in years forward. Please join us in this ceremony by remembering and appreciating these wonderful Villagers who were with us for too short a time. (Watch for additional information in the Village's Tuesday emails.)



Help for Villagers using Zoom

If you'd like a training session on using Zoom, call the Village at 978 206-1821. There are also links to Zoom training on the Resources page.

Remember when we could get together in person?

Here's a bunch of happy Villagers on the Essex River Cruise in 2018.

We're looking forward to seeing you again in person - soon, we hope!



Our Mission

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

Village Talk : Journey across Southern Africa

Wednesday, August 12, 4 to 5 pm. Following her fascinating talk *Polar Opposites*, Village member Paula Wright presents on her travels and safaris in Madagascar, Tanzania, Zanzibar, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia, and South Africa. As Paula shows her outstanding photographs of the animals and people of these regions, she shares her observations – including some close encounters!

Paula is a mechanical engineer and former US Army Reserve Soldier. While at GE Aircraft Instruments, Paula traveled the world training managers. She was the first woman to chair the Aerospace Industries Committee in Washington DC, and testified before top brass at the Pentagon and members of Congress on behalf of the entire aerospace industry. She spent nine years in the US Army Reserve as an Information Specialist, Recruiter, and Trainer, and was named 76th Division Soldier of the Year.

Since retirement, Paula has traveled extensively and is a Volunteer Ambassador for Road Scholar, giving talks at various venues. She is also a member of Amesbury Rotary.

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