

President's Letter

Hi everyone,



The summer is going by so quickly! Each week there seem to be events to attend, places to visit, and food to eat with members. It's such fun to go to the park with a picnic and hang out with friends. I believe there were over 30 people at the last potluck, so you can imagine all that food!

The musical concert with Paper Moon was a great success, and Linda Barron's home was just perfect as a venue.

September is Carquinez Village's safety month. We will help install smoke alarms and carbon monoxide plug-ins in member's homes.

Coffee mornings will be at Starbucks in the Southampton Plaza while the weather is good.

Our membership is rising. I wanted to send a great big welcome to all the new members that have joined over the last couple of months. I hope to see all of you at a function this month.

Have fun,
Helen

Member Handbook

By Susan Neuhaus

We have updated our Member Handbook to be consistent with how the village functions today. We use the handbook to provide new members with a guide to the Village: how to access our website, sign up for activities, and request services. It is also meant to be a resource about how the village operates and as a reference when you have a question. We will feature a section of the new handbook here in the newsletter each month.

If you would like to review it in total at any time just sign into our [website](#) and click on the MEMBERS banner at the top of the page and you will see it listed: 2022-2023 MEMBER HANDBOOK.

Member Satisfaction Survey

The Governing Board of Carquinez Village needs your help!

We want to understand what your experience has been like as a member. What have you liked and enjoyed? What would you like that hasn't been offered? Have you encountered problems or disappointments? What other feedback would you like to share?

Your participation is critical to us. We want the Village to be the best that it can be. We need to learn from you and other members for this to happen.

Please take a few minutes to answer the survey right now. We want to tabulate the results by the end of the month.

[Click Here to Access Survey](#)

Your answers will be anonymous. We have no way of knowing who has completed the survey. If you have any questions about the survey, please contact Janice Magner at 707.980.1781.

GARBAGE 101: All the latest in Recycling!



Marie Knutson, Recycling Coordinator at Republic Services, gave us a most interesting talk on the new California Law, SB 1383, which aims to eliminate 75% of all organic matter from our landfill. She told us how 1,848,000 tons of garbage are processed at the Martinez transfer station each and every day. Fifty-six percent of this waste is green waste, which is recyclable. Not only are our landfills filling up, but this green waste

creates methane gas, which is a cause of climate change. To comply with this law, Republic has begun a program of education and inspection. Ultimately, they will be accepting food waste along with green waste from our gardens for composting in green containers. Blue containers will be provided for recyclables and black for trash intended for the landfill (our landfill is in Richmond).

In order to achieve compliance with the goals of this law, unfortunately, rates will have to go up by 14.3%, effective October 1, 2022, to pay for more containers, trucks, more staff, etc. Ultimately, compliance with the law will be enforced by inspections and fines, so it's important for all of us to learn how to do it.

More info can be found on these websites:
Republic Services of Benicia, www.republicservices.com
and CalRecycle, calrecycle.ca.gov.

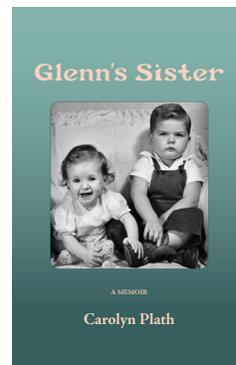
Glenn's Sister

by Carolyn Plath

The recent posthumous publication of Carolyn Plath's stunning memoir, *Glenn's Sister*, is a collective accomplishment by Benicia Literary Arts and a group of Plath's writer friends. Catalysts were Mary Eichbauer, Lois Requist, Linda Hastings, and the rest of their memoir-writing group. One of Carolyn Plath's last request was that her years-long endeavor, her memoir, be edited and published by Benicia Literary Arts.

Most of the chapters had been discussed during the scheduled meetings of one of Benicia Literary Art's memoir-writing groups. Mary Eichbauer says that work was basically complete, that she just had to fill in some gaps in the prologue. She states, "Editing the book brought Carolyn's voice back to me. This was the story she had wanted to tell for years." The physical book was quite elegantly designed by Jan Malin, with a cover photograph chosen by the author.

The memoir is set in Tulsa, Oklahoma, during the 50's and 60's. It's a story of family—of love and of loss. Naturally, there has to be a deep family mystery—what is a family saga without a mystery? Plath's writing is compelling, interesting, and immediate on every page. Her language is so right on, and what an elegant voice she has! The saga of her own development gives the tome the feel of a bildungsroman, a coming-of-age story. Her recent, unexpected death left her large community of friends heartbroken. Hopefully, this posthumous, very creative gift will help assuage that sense of sorrow.



Buy it at:
Benicia Literary Arts

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Arts Benicia's New Headquarters

By Greg Plant

The stunning Commanding Officer's Quarters finally has a tenant—Arts Benicia—and it is a marriage of great art and beautiful housing!



Executive Director Celeste Smeland took Carquinez Village on a tour recently, showing how the quarters, built in 1860, has been remodeled and updated for art installations and gallery showings. This occurred after seismic retrofitting in 2009; Arts Benicia raised \$60,000 to help with the recent leasehold restoration.

“We were eager to have Arts Benicia move there, but there were many rules about building use we had to follow,” Celeste explained.

For example, all the windows must have white linen curtains closed to keep the parquet floors from being faded by sunlight. This also protects the art on display. Classrooms have carpeting to protect the floors. In addition, Celeste pointed to the installed hanging system across each wall from which to hang paintings and lights. No nails are allowed to be placed directly in the stucco walls.

A walk around the galleries on the first and third floors reveal the creativity of the Benicia and regional art community, from paintings to sculpture (and even a recent exhibit of tattoos!).

Terry Scott, chair of the Arts and Cultural Commission, said that “Benicia has a long history of being a vibrant artistic haven and of supporting its arts community.”

Hours are Thursday–Sunday, 1 pm to 5 pm. Go to 1 Commandant's Lane, past Military West. The website is <https://artsbenicia.org>.

CV Gives Back!

By Pat & Greg Plant

Carquinez Village gives back to our community in many ways. One way several members help out is by volunteering to distribute food collected by the Food Bank. It is fun and easy work, handing out bags of food to hungry folks! For more information, call the Plants (in the CV directory)!

Watery Playgrounds

By Greg Plant

About five minutes from Benicia are, not one, but two watery playgrounds: the Waterbird Regional Preserve and the Radke Regional Shoreline Park—both in Martinez, for birdwatchers and walkers/picnickers alike.

Go over the Benicia bridge to the Marina Way exit and loop around to Waterfront Road. Go right under the freeway to Waterbird Way and right there, past the marshes filled with birds, then right onto Meadowlark Ridge Loop. There you will find parking, plenty of birdwatching views and walks, and a shaded picnic table overlooking the marshes.

Or you can turn left off the freeway exit onto Marina Way, past the oil refinery and old train tracks, and into Martinez. Go right on Ferry, take a short right on Joe DiMaggio, Jr., Drive, then left past the Amtrak station on N. Court Dr.

Martinez has a bayfront park with walks, marshland, benches, and tables for lunches, and a view of Benicia across the bay!

All that just a very short drive from home!



Safety is Always the Topic, and the Subject is You

By Linda Chandler

Be sure to attend the **Speaker's Series on Thursday, September 15 at 10:30 am at the Benicia Library.** We will receive the basics on emergency preparedness, and how to best prepare ourselves. Most of us only periodically consider this topic—usually directly following someone else's disaster. To date, our area has not been the focus of hurricanes, earthquakes, fires. However, planning ahead for such events can save your life and that of others.

Pre-COVID, Carquinez Village distributed "To Go" bags to all members at that time. As a part of the September Speaker event, there will be drawing for one of those bags, so be sure to attend! You can see what the contents of such emergency bags is and learn more from the speaker regarding preparing your supplies for your own needs.

More information regarding safety can be found in the lobby of the police station, the library, fire department, and of course online. Last month, Solano County mailed a flyer to residents called "Lessons Learned." It focused on wildfires and on the back, it listed two resources that could be accessed easily

for reference: www.alertsolano.org- information on local emergencies such as wildfires, flooding, evacuation, or other public safety incidents; www.solanocountyrecovers.org information on road closures, evacuation maps; post-disaster information on shelters, supplies, debris removal.

There are other types of concerns besides natural disasters. Let this presentation signal you to review your own "safety net" regarding home security, identity theft, and of course the plethora of scams—online dating, grandkid scams, free grills being given away at Ace. And don't overlook physical safety starting with potential falls. Watch for periodic offering of "Matter of Balance."

If you are interested in discussing more about how members of Carquinez Village can best support each other regarding our collective safety or if you are personally feeling unsafe, call 707 297-2472. Someone will call you back.



Lois Requist, Editor

In recent months, the subjects in the newsletter have broadened to include more information about our Carquinez Village and articles on local places to eat and visit—for example, Greg Plant's articles this month about Arts Benicia's new home and about recreation spots in Benicia. Congratulations to Greg, who posts articles for your enjoyment every month. The next time you see him at an event, tell him "Thank you."