

## August/September Issue, 2019

### Coming Events

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*Prepare for Peace of Mind, at Earthbound Farms* **October 2nd**

*Celebrate Monterey's 250th Anniversary* **November 6th**

*CVWC annual Holiday luncheon at Rancho Canada* **December 4th**

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**Editor's Note:** The Carmel Valley Women's Club is endeavoring to reorganize its events and programs to better serve current and future members. In the interest of complete accuracy, it was deemed the better effort to combine the August and September issues, making sure the boards of both club and foundation had a chance to vent ideas and venues. And hopefully you, the members, will be challenged by new subjects and concepts to join various committees and help get new programs underway. **We're off to a new, exciting chapter in the Carmel Valley Women Club! Stay tuned!**

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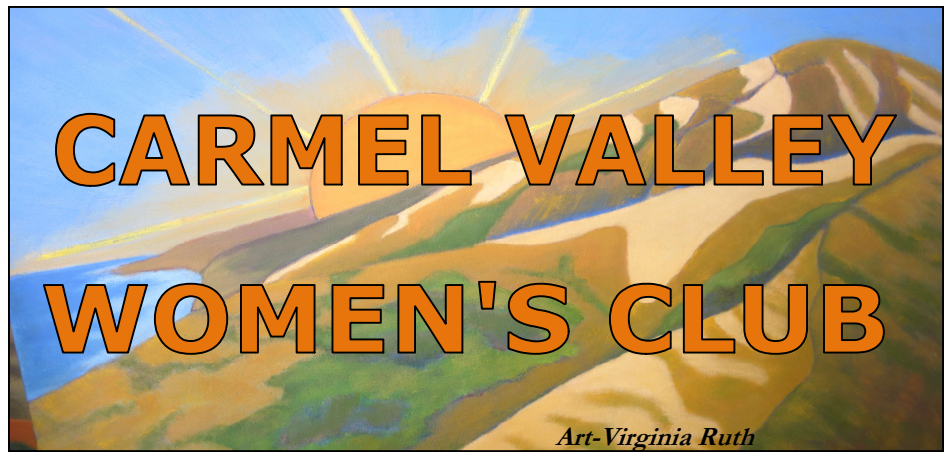
### Savory and Tasty Venues



Gardner Ranch



Corral de Tierra Country Club

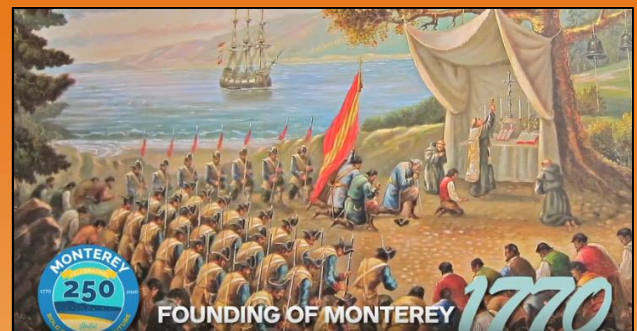


## New Season Issue

### Look Who's on the 2019-20 CVWC Lunch Schedule



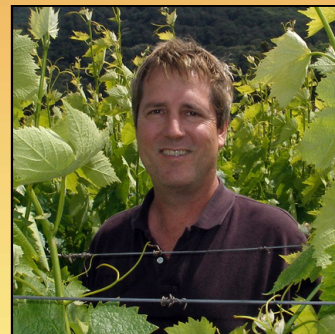
New season, new reasons to plan ahead for exceptional monthly events! October's speaker, Peace of Mind Preparedness founder, Wanda Vollmer.



November special! Get the scoop on the big 250th anniversary of the founding of Monterey. Its history comes to life New Year's Eve 2020 when First Night Monterey opens the year-long celebration with its annual event in the downtown area. Speaker Ellen Martin, Executive Director of First Night will tell you all about it at the November lunch.



Famed internationally known chef Burt Cutino comes your way in February to spark your culinary interest. Chef Cutino, star of the Sardine Factory, in Monterey, will regale you with stories of his landmark restaurant from its opening days in 1968 until now. It's a heady, hearty adventure.



In January, Evan Oakes, owner and tour coordinator for Ag Adventure Tours and Consulting, will guide you on a virtual tour of hills and dales he knows so well. He is an agricultural scientist of the U. of C Cooperative Extension Office.



COMMUNITY Foundation for Monterey County has been assisting local folk, projects, nonprofits for years. The Foundation hopes to interest Carmel Valley in launching new programs for local assistance. Christine Dawson (left), Vice President of Philanthropic Services, tells all in March.

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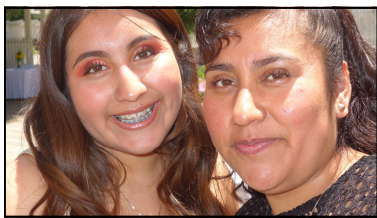
OUR own Mary Adams (right), District 5 Superintendent, makes her annual pilgrimage to the CVWC lunch in May for all the news that's fit to talk about. She has much on her mind, and you'll want to hear about it.





## June Scholarship Lunch

NEARLY 70 people attended the June scholarship lunch annually held at Los Laureles Lodge. Nine bright scholarship winners told of their future plans and hopes. Environmental stewardship, health care, theatrical production, were just some of the topics. Meanwhile, 16 allocations grantees spoke of their activities within their philanthropic organizations. Moms and Dads posed with their kids, the CVWC board voted in new officers, the viands were gobbled up by hungry patrons. The day was a success.



(Top row, left) Nelly Kohlgruber and mom Tracey Hopper; (top right) Tiffany and daughter Sophia Bragleo; (row 2, left) Steve, Donna and daughter Rachael Bagby; (right) allocations receivers; (bottom row, left) scholarship winners, (middle) Jenifer Solano and mom Magdalena; (far right) Jessica Pavloff and dad Mark.

## Boffo Season Opening Event at Griggs Nursery

SOMETIMES season's greetings can mean meeting and greeting in any season, and that was the situation at the opening event for the Carmel Valley Women's Club earlier this month.

Scores of members flocked to Griggs Nursery in Carmel Valley to admire the greenery, gossip a bit, meet new members, learn from the pros about bulbs and roots and shoots, and quaff some of the results of the green and red varieties whilst nibbling on a robust assortment of hors d'oeuvres from Jerome Viel's Carmel Valley Market.

The afternoon whisked by, while those attending checked out the garden offerings and got a rundown of the new efforts—field trips, book clubs, et al—planned for the coming year, which was outlined by President Cynthia Rivera.



(Top left) Jackie Lynch, Francine Kessler, Mary Bragado (guest); (middle) Leticia Sierra; (top, far right) Les Terry and Cynthia Rivera man the main booth; (2nd row, left) Melissa Womack, Sally King; (far right) Mary Moore, Mary Chamberlin; (bottom left) Catherine Zahm and Judi Zaches (middle) Patricia O'Keefe





## October "Your Peace of Mind" CVWC Luncheon



Disasters—fire, floods, winds and quakes—have become front and center in California. Monterey has been spared the worst of many of these disasters, but being prepared for them is now the preoccupation of businesses, educational institutions, and the hospitality industry.

Schools are instructing students; religious organizations are offering classes to their parishioners; hospitals and retirement communities are training staff;

while the average homeowners, you and me, are left to fend for themselves.

That's where Peace of Mind Preparedness comes into play.

Wednesday's speaker at the CVWC luncheon, Wanda Vollmer, is just the person to give the details about disaster preparedness. She is prepared to prepare you for a disaster. You'll learn about disaster kits, local resource contacts, response team notifications and other vital information to treat major emergencies.

Vollmer is a Certified Monterey Community Emergency Response Team member (CERT) and has worked with the American Red Cross to develop the message of preparedness through disaster education.

You'll learn all about it,

**Wednesday, October 30th, at Earthbound Farms in Carmel Valley.** The lunch begins at 11:30.

Your menu is a choice of beet and arugula salad or Mediterranean orzo and spinach dish. Your choice of assorted sandwiches include dill chicken salad, grilled chicken with onion marmalade, a farm stand vegetable wrap and a curried turkey salad with pickled vegetables. Any or all.

Dessert is a platter of farm stand cookies, peanut butter chocolate chip cookies, gingersnaps and macaroons.

Lemonade and herb water complete the quaffs.

You've registered already, but if you haven't paid yet, you may bring a check with you to the lunch. See you on October 30th!

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### COMING UP!

November's luncheon is all about the 250th birthday celebration for the City of Monterey. You'll want to hear all about the plans, the events, the parties, the salutes, the music, the art, the personalities who will be present.

It all starts at the First Night Celebration in downtown Monterey New Year's Eve, and rides that current for a full year.

We're all invited to participate, and you never can tell what might happen. A CVWC booth at the 4th of July celebration? Find out all about it Wednesday, November 6th. Venue to be decided shortly.

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## CVWC Enters Party Circuit Big Time – Chili Cookoff & Fiesta



(Top left) Jackie Lynch and Stephanie Byrne man the booth; (bottom) Judy Zurlinden, June Dawson and Penny Wood keep tabs on sales.

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The Kiwanis Fiesta (left) in August marked the first time the CVWC has stepped outside of its comfort zone—lunches, holiday fundraisers and fashion shows—to greet the general public and tell its story. The step? historical. The reaction? Outstanding!

Courage over the success of our first big outing (and the fact that we already had a big banner) we decided to go all the way and invest in the acclaimed Carmel Valley Chili Cookoff, daring to spar with seasoned professionals and taking a stand in the amateur cooking division. The investment included a batch of CVWC-logoed aprons, one huge pot of chili, (recipe compliments of Stephanie Byrne) and plenty of helpers. No winning ticket, but, hey, we were there!



(Top) Stephanie Byrne and Jackie Lynch; (bottom left) Judy Zurlinden, June Dawson, Sally King; (right) Cynthia Rivera



## ADVERTISEMENT

*New Club and Foundation Officers*

The officers for the CVWC Board of Directors for the 2019-20 fiscal year:

**CVWC OFFICERS OF THE BOARD, 2019-20**

President – **Cynthia Rivera**

1st Vice Pres/Programs – **Renee Wagner**

2nd Vice Pres/Venues – **Les Terry**

3rd Vice Pres/Membership – **Judy Zurlinden**

Recording Secretary – **Penny Wood**

Treasurer – **Stephanie Byrne**

**CVWC FOUNDATION OFFICERS OF THE BOARD 2018-19**

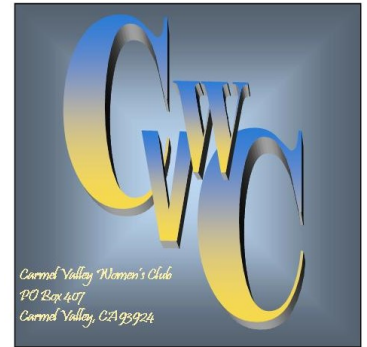
President — **Cynthia Rivera**

Vice President — **Connie Hong-Smith**

Treasurer — **June Dawson**

Secretary — **Penny Wood**

Assistant Secretary/Treasurer — **Pinkie Terry**



The CVWC welcomes all members to get involved with its many projects both at the club and foundation levels. If you're interested in serving on a committee or either board, get in touch with Cynthia Rivera and see what type of activity or one of our many committees might fit your interests.



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*In Memoriam—Gloria Rodda*

LONGTIME Carmel Valley Women's Club member, Gloria Rodda, passed away this summer

shortly before her 97th birthday. She and her late husband, Dr. Jim Rodda, spent many years in retirement at their home in Carmel Valley Ranch, which was made beautiful by her great love of gardening.

We offer sympathies to her family. The CVWC will be sending a donation of \$50 to the foundation of her family's choice in honor of Gloria Rodda.

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## CVWC: How We Spent Our Summer Vacation

AT the urging of Stephanie Byrne and a hastily assembled Strategic Planning ensemble earlier this summer, many board members met several times to determine, how to invigorate our club with new activities, renewed energy and a commitment to keeping us moving forward. It's not an easy task.

At the forefront was incoming president Cynthia Rivera, who had a specific goal of putting the club front and center in the community. This meant getting involved—not just locally, and not just among current members, but into areas where potential members might congregate.

Connectivity was a big issue. Could we put together social events that would attract both

current and new members? A good start might be creating groups with similar interests, such as book and movie clubs, wine and bingo evenings, dinners at local restaurants, operas, knitting confabs, paint and sip parties, members helping members—even a dog walking group!

The group think concluded if we're looking for younger demographics, we need to program events that will include members who can't always make the luncheons.

What can we offer as incentives to encourage more participation? How about getting into the community, i.e. a booth at the annual fiesta in August; a stovetop at the chili cookoff in September. Entering both events could bring instant gratification

to the Women's Club, and the summer is a great way to start. Lots of patrons, lots of interest on the part of neighboring booths, great visibility, and a bit of self-promotion.

The idea worked (see coverage on page 3) and the result was several new members and a hearty interest in this club.

Are we on our way? We hope so, but we definitely need full support of the membership. At coming events, you might be asked to get involved. Could be easy; should be fun. Feel free to contact any board member with your suggestions and ideas and sign on.

In the coming months, more information will be flowing.

New ideas, this way

## The CVWC 2019-20 Annual Budget

| FISCAL YEA 2019-2020                 |              |   |                    |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|---|--------------------|
| <b>INCOME</b>                        |              |   |                    |
| Monthly Luncheons                    | \$14,000.00  | 1 |                    |
| Advertising                          | \$4,000.00   | 2 |                    |
| Membership Dues                      | \$6,000.00   | 3 |                    |
| Club Express Deposits                | \$650.00     |   |                    |
|                                      | <b>total</b> |   | <b>\$24,650.00</b> |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>                      |              |   |                    |
| Newsletters                          | \$675.00     | 4 |                    |
| Luncheons                            | \$10,000.00  |   |                    |
| Insurance                            | \$1,625.00   | 5 |                    |
| Taxes                                | \$50.00      |   |                    |
| Website Maintenance                  | \$650.00     |   |                    |
| Post Office Box Rental               | \$92.00      |   |                    |
| Publicity                            | \$2,350.00   |   |                    |
| Directory                            | \$375.00     | 6 |                    |
| Club Express Processing Fees         | \$240.00     |   |                    |
| Supplies                             | \$500.00     |   |                    |
| Miscellaneous                        | \$2,000.00   | 7 |                    |
|                                      | <b>total</b> |   | <b>\$18,557.00</b> |
|                                      |              |   | <b>net total</b>   |
| <b>Assumptions</b>                   |              |   |                    |
| (1) 7 luncheons @\$45 each x45/lunch |              |   |                    |
| (2) 20 advertisers @\$200/each       |              |   |                    |
| (3) 150 members @40/member           |              |   |                    |
| (4) 15 @4.50 each for 10 issues      |              |   |                    |
| (5) includes accountant fees         |              |   |                    |
| (6) 150 copies @\$2.50 each          |              |   |                    |
| (7) due to increase in activities    |              |   |                    |

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## CVWC: New Ideas and Events!

*Note: Your board of directors has taken the summer months to reflect on the club's current activities and how to better offer exciting new concepts and attract new members. The following events are just the beginning. Members are encouraged to offer their own ideas. But as a starter...*

### Opera, Anyone?

TURANDOT  
Puccini & Puccini

**BEGINNING Wednesday, October 16th,** the CVWC will offer a Night at the Opera at the Del Monte Century Theater as part of a series of events this season. Up close and personal, you're invited to witness Puccini's gripping epic, "Turandot."

The evening begins at 5 pm with dinner at LaLa Grill in Del Monte Center. The opera starts at 6:30. You can purchase your tickets in advance at Fandango or Cinemark. Seating is assigned, so if you and a friend want to be with the group, select your seats near H12. Jackie Lynch is handling dining details, so let her know if you choose to attend. This is just one of many opera/dinner outings scheduled this season.

Here's what on the agenda for Century Theater's Metropolitan Opera season:

Coming in late October, Jules Massenet's unforgettable tale of love and betrayal, "Manon." Early November will feature Puccini's exquisite "Madam Butterfly," and late November will present Philip Glass's "Akhnaten," the life and times of the 18th Dynasty Egyptian pharaoh whose heretical thinking—one god, not polytheism—caused him to be blacklisted—in stone, no doubt.

December features a holiday delight, Mozart's "The Magic Flute," and January brings Alban Berg's scandalous shocker, "Wozzeck" to the stage.

In February, you can enjoy George Gershwin's glorious "Porgy and Bess," which just received a rave review in the New York Times.

There are five more to be showcased this season at Century, and there are plans for each one, if you're interested.

If you've not seen these Metropolitan Opera HD performances before, be prepared for a whole new art form. It's exhilarating.

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## Profiles – Cynthia Rivera



*Cynthia with her late husband Frank Rivera at their Carmel Valley home.*

SHE sits at poolside in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. Her day has just begun and she is drawn to remember her past. Her long ago past. Cynthia Rivera, the new president of the Carmel Valley Women's Club, is in Maui, and she is called upon to talk about herself.

Cynthia is Californian, through and through, born in Vallejo, one of seven brothers and sisters, plus a passel of cousins, who altogether constituted "a pretty rowdy bunch."

She was educated in Vallejo and met her first husband, a contractor, by driving a lunch wagon to his construction site. They have two children.

Cynthia migrated to the Monterey Peninsula in 1969, first to Salinas, then to the Monterey area, where she has been living for 43 years. It was on a trip to Saddle Mountain off Schulte Road in Carmel Valley where she spotted and purchased the house of her dreams. "I've been in the same house since 1975," she says.

In the meantime, the U.S. Postal system had caught her attention and captured her talents. She started as a clerk in the Carmel by-the-Sea post office in 1970. When the post office at the mouth of the Valley was built in 1978, she became its supervisor, then the Superintendent of postal operations for both post offices.

In 1990, it was there on the job that she met Frank Rivera, and they worked together for one year. They were married in 1992.

In the meantime, the Felton postal system beckoned Cynthia, and she became its postmistress, commuting two hours a day for six years.

Cynthia waxes eloquent about Frank. "He was born and raised

in Montana," she says. "He played clarinet and guitar and he was offered a scholarship with the Army/Navy Band, but he had stage fright." She continues, "He was very talented in writing; he wrote newsletters. He wrote beautiful articles, and he'd spend hours doing it just right."

She and Frank remodeled their home themselves. "We reroofed it, added skylights, hardwood floors, new kitchen and cabinets, new doors and walls—all of it. We never had any help," she says. Cynthia lost her wonderful husband and helpmeet just recently.

Cynthia has kept herself busy performing many civic chores. She was a part of SCRAMP, working with Gill Campbell, where she was in charge of Human Resources. She retired in 2006. She then joined Kiwanis Club of Monterey and became its President in 2011. She was also a part of the YWCA domestic violence program, Volunteers in Action, the Monterey County Grand Jury and Leadership Monterey.

But she was looking for something closer to her beloved Carmel Valley. Several years ago,

she saw an article in the paper about the Carmel Valley Women's Club and decided to attend a meeting. "It was a luncheon at Rio Grill," she remembers, "and I met several friends there. In 2015 I decided to join." She immediately received a call about the fashion show, and at her first meeting, she recalls, she "got roped into it by Connie (Hong-Smith)."

She wound up assisting at the fashion show for three years, and spent another two years with the Holiday Extravaganza. "I started going regularly to the board meetings and being a pain in the ass," she recalls fondly.

"But I love the CVWC," she says, "it's a great organization. I love things to be organized. Just start at the top and run to the bottom; send me a report...and don't expect me to go to all the meetings.."

In the meantime, she's on the deck in Maui overlooking the pool of the Western Kaanapali Hotel, before taking off for a bocce tournament and the Fi-esta Italia. All in a vacation's work.

Rest well, Madam President, there's a long road ahead.

## Party Central With Jerome Viel and Carmel Valley Market

OUR famous CV chef and proprietor of the CV Market, Jerome Viel, has outdone himself by donating three fabulous dinner packages that were auctioned off at the fashion show. The one featured here was presented at June Dawson's lovely CV home. Three sumptuous courses and hors d'oeuvres! Of course, it was a winner.



*June Dawson, Stephanie Byrne, Peggy Dickson, Ann Flood, Connie Hong-Smith, Sally King and Jackie Lynch enjoyed a lush repast in elegant surroundings.*





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## *CVWC Year End Club Board Party*



*Jackie Lynch, Renee Wagner, Stephanie Byrne, June Dawson, Kathy Kaminski, Ann Cowles, Sally King, Cynthia Rivera, Demi Briscoe, and Pinky Terry celebrate a year of success.*

FRONT and center, members of the CVWC Women's Club convened, glasses in hand, to celebrate the season's end. Next year, plans are big Big, BIG, with several important directional meetings scheduled for review over the summer months.

Central to the discussions were ways to increase membership. Get out into the community and gain exposure. Celebrate who are are and what we're doing. This is only the beginning. More to come, so stay involved.

## *Who We Are*

THE Carmel Valley Women's Club is a social organization consisting of community-minded Monterey Peninsula women concerned with the welfare of Carmel Valley, the education of Carmel Valley's young women, and the individual needs of its membership.

## *Who's New?*

WELCOME to all of our new members. If you're interested in joining an active group of women donating time and funding to our community, call

Membership Chair, Judy Zurlinden, 831-595-0848, or email her at

[jbz1950@gmail.com](mailto:jbz1950@gmail.com)



**CARMEL VALLEY WOMEN'S CLUB**  
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