



Valley Village

Aging in My Home with Community Support

Member of
Village to Village Network

Vol. 10, No. 3 May - June, 2020

Quick Look

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some Valley Village in-person events for June are cancelled. Please check emails and the website as times draw near, keep in touch, and stay well!

June 10, 5:00 pm "Happy Hour BYOF"

Happy Hour BYOF (Bring your own food for snacks, plus beverage and a mask and chair) to 1515 Park Road at 5 pm, weather permitting. This is a first call-first in event. The first 8 people (or households) who call will be eligible to attend in person. Physical distancing is expected. We will consider Zoom attendance as well. Call Paul Yoder, 540-810-0923.

June 16, 11:30 am

Wildwood Park, Bridgewater, trail walk; bring a packed lunch.
(See article for more info)

June 25, 5:30 pm

Annual summer picnic, Ralph Sampson Pavilion. (This is a tentative date. Social Committee planners Keith Gnagey, Clara Yoder and Faye Yoder will make the "Go/No Go" Decision by 6/12.)
More details to be provided.

August 6, 10:30 am

Brethren & Mennonite Heritage Center, Harrisonburg, Intergenerational outing for adults and children ages 8-11.
(See article for more info)

Newsletter

Chris Edwards, Editor
Denise Sauder, Layout Design

General Info - 540-705-0432
www.valleyvillagehbg.org

"Just One Call"
540-209-6484



Dr. Jay B. Landis
Sept. 20, 1932-May 17, 2020

Dear Valley Village Members,

We are saddened to learn of the death of Jay B. Landis, and extend our thoughts and prayers to Peggy and the Landis family during this time of loss. Jay B. and Peggy were charter members of Valley Village. They both served on the board and committees, helping the organization get established and remaining active. Jay B will be missed by family and friends.

VV and the food pantry, Patchwork Pantry, were among several organizations where Jay made a difference. He is warmly remembered by many former students from his long career teaching language and literature at EMU, several of whom have posted memories on his Facebook page, "Jay Landis." Jay's life was being commemorated in a live-streamed memorial service at Park View Mennonite Church, and private graveside service at Weavers Cemetery, with Pastor Phil Kniss officiating. All who knew Jay are invited to visit the webpage JayBLandis.com after May 22 to share memories.

Jay's obituary in The Daily News-Record:

https://www.dnronline.com/obituaries/dr-jay-b-landis/article_178b9494-5c3d-5b61-a987-72e5092e4ffb.html.

Valley Village board update: The board met in May for our third month via Zoom conferencing.

With our Governor's guidelines allowing a slow reopening for some businesses in Virginia, the board is carefully evaluating options for limited Valley Village events in June. Watch our website and email for information on opportunities to meet in very small groups, using physical distancing and sanitation guidelines. The Education Committee (formerly Special Topics Workgroup) is arranging presentations using Zoom conferencing, hopefully with the first occasion to be scheduled in July.

Stay well,
Valley Village Board Members

A MASKED PHOTO GALLERY

How many neighbors can you identify?



Find their names, listed by number, in the answer key at the bottom of the last page.
(No peeking before you've tried!)
Thank Lorie Merrow for this exercise!

Events Planned



Swinging bridge at Wildwood Park, photo by Lowell Wenger.

Wildwood Hike, Tuesday, June 16

Lunch and a short hike at Wildwood Park in Bridgewater. June 16th. There is a wide level pathway along the river, with about 8 separated picnic tables, so we can hike and eat with social distance between us! Bring your own vehicle and your picnic lunch. (Nearby take-out or drive-thru food is available at El Charro, DQ, McDonald's and Subway, all on Bridgewater's Main Street.) From Rt 42, turn right on Bank Street and follow signs to Wildwood Park at the end. Walk past the bridge to the beginning of the walking trail, and walk along the river on the trail to find available picnic table or bench. Lowell will get there early and spray disinfectant on the benches and tables. Be safe, everyone wear masks and maintain social distancing. For safety, we are limiting this activity to 10 households.

Please RSVP to J Lowell Wenger at jlwenger@aol.com so we can keep track of who is coming and not have a crowd! In case of rain, we will notify you of another date.

Please arrive at Wildwood parking area around 11:30 am. Don't cluster as a group, but proceed on past the swinging bridge to trail. Lowell will be on the trail wearing reflective orange vest and blue hat with purple mask. Janet will probably be on her mobility scooter to help direct. Pearl Lantz and Lowell Wenger



Brethren & Mennonite Heritage Center

Intergenerational Day, Thurs., Aug. 6

An intergenerational event has been planned for VV members and their grandchildren or mentees, age 8-11, to do a volunteer activity at Brethren & Mennonite Heritage Center and then go to a park for lunch. We are still hoping to do this, but will be in conversation with Brethren & Mennonite Heritage Center and be aware of state guidelines as the time approaches, and may cancel or make modifications. Look for more information in the future. If you and your grandchild/mentee are possibly interested in participating in this activity or have questions or suggestions, please contact Jean Smucker Fisher at jeansmucker@gmail.com.

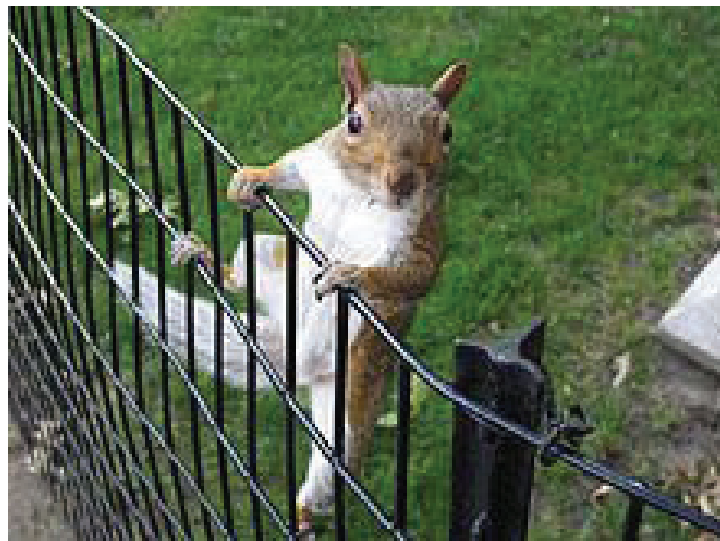
Spring, triumphant

While the pandemic closed countless activities beginning early this Spring, Greg Versen's camera captured much that continued happening: trees flowering, road crews fixing winter's damage, Kline's visits (including by Joe and Hannah Lapp), Frisbee tosses, examinations of wildflowers, a "limited access" sign in this "socially-distanced" season, and a pair of non-distanced mourning doves.



Lots of Problems in Evangelizing Squirrels

Like so many messages circulating on the Internet, the origin of the following yarn may be lost to history . . . but Evelyn Driver received an early version of it from her sister (who, in turn, had received it from a friend in her Presbyterian church). Since then, Evelyn has added a Mennonite episode, while her nephew Monte, who attends Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Waynesboro meetings, included a UU incident.



A local bird feeder raider. – photo by Chris Edwards

The Presbyterian church called a meeting to decide what to do about their squirrel infestation. After much prayer and consideration, they concluded that the squirrels were predestined to be there, and they shouldn't interfere with God's divine will.

At the Baptist church the squirrels had taken an interest in the baptistery. The deacons met and decided to put a water-slide on the baptistery and let the squirrels drown themselves. The squirrels liked the slide and unfortunately, knew instinctively how to swim, so twice as many squirrels showed up the following week.

The Lutheran church decided that they were not in a position to harm any of God's creatures. So, they humanely trapped their squirrels and set them free near the Baptist church. Two weeks later the squirrels were back when the Baptists took down the water-slide.

The squirrels visited a Mennonite church and quietly sat in the back. Following the service, they were invited to stay for the fellowship meal in the basement. However, they were not aware of the pacifist beliefs of the group. During the meal, the squirrels began fighting one another for the food. The shocked Mennonites gasped and stared at the squirrels in silent disbelief. The embarrassed squirrels quickly grabbed their last handfuls of food and ran away.

The UU church was so delighted to have attendees who were not middle-aged white people that they held a drumming circle and invited the squirrels to dance if they felt led to. It was all going well until someone invited them to coffee hour after the service. The church is considering rebuilding their Fellowship Hall.

The Episcopalians tried a much more unique path by setting out pans of whiskey around their church in an effort to kill the squirrels with alcohol poisoning. They sadly learned how much damage a band of drunk squirrels can do.

But the Catholic church came up with a very creative strategy! They baptized all the squirrels and made them members of the church. Now they only see them at Christmas and Easter.

Not much was heard from our Jewish neighbors. They took the first squirrel that visited the synagogue and circumcised him. They haven't seen a squirrel since.

Verse and song

Videochatting with Preschoolers

by E. Lorie Merrow

There they are, their smiling faces!
Those looks make us pick up the paces!
They heartily call out our names,
Deep in our soul they've staked their claims.
Smiling eyes pure energy,
Infectious happy synergy!
But wait, what happened to those faces?
I see an eyeball in their places!
Oh good, now they have retreated,
Their faces back and they are seated
Working on a conversation,
We ask some inquiring questions.
We all wish that we could hug,
But for this bad corona bug.
But wait, what was that they said?
I think they're jibbering instead!
Oh, now they're talking normally;
Let's ask how the parents be.
But wait, one ran off with the phone!
I'm not sure this view should be shown?
Oh it's a great adventure
A funny sort of pleasure
Meeting with such active kids
Across the new digital grids.
But finally, only by God's grace,
As we shelter all in place,
We're just grateful to touch base.

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"Close Enough": Here is a link to a song composed and recorded by Valley Village members Lorie Merrow and her husband, Tom DuVal, about life under the pandemic that has touched us all:

<https://soundcloud.com/user-674937726/close-enough>

Pandemic Spring Haiku

by Chris Edwards

Cardinals, willows,
earthworms, rabbits, rejoicing.
Humans, not so much.

Mask-makers give colorful protection

Approximately twenty women from Harrisonburg Mennonite Church (HMC) have been sewing face masks for numerous clinics, healthcare facilities, poultry workers, families and friends in recent months. Valley Village was one of the organizations to receive some of these masks - 38 were donated to VV members. We are happy to share with the community in this way. If you have not received masks and would like some, please call Pearl Lantz at 540-820-8309



Pearl Lantz has sewn over 100 protective face masks for distribution.

Some tips for viewing and learning in this time

- “The Bright Spots” (in The Atlantic, May 5). <https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?tab=wm#search/the+bright+spots/FMfcgxwHNDBIZCfDKDsJwzllbnwwBTdM>
- “The real scandal is ... what we did to ourselves.” Fareed Zakaria discusses environmental effects on a pandemic. https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/global-opinions/the-real-scandal-isnt-what-china-did-to-us-its-what-we-did-to-ourselves/2020/05/07/70b4e0ea-9097-11ea-9e23-6914ee410a5f_story.html
- On updating living wills: <https://www.sfgate.com/news/article/Fearing-covid-19-older-people-alter-their-living-15258912.php>
- On “Coping with Social Isolation during the COVID-19 Pandemic.” Natalie Kerr, PhD, a social psychologist at JMU, shares some tips. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ap6u9MS0ve4&feature=youtu.be>.
- “Hallelujah Chorus” on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ag6CYY0cbFc> (from College Church, Wheaton, IL)
...And some suggestions for virtual tours and educational opportunities, from Pearl Lantz:
- JMU Lifelong Learning Institute (LLI): Register for live Zoomtime classes or view previously recorded presentations at www.jmu.edu/pce/programs/all/lli/ZoomtimeKnowledge.shtml.
- Road Scholar (RS) Home School: Enjoy RS’s virtual lectures and armchair travels by going to www.road-scholar.org and clicking on Virtual Lectures.



June

Benedicte Early
Edna Brunk
Paul A Yoder
Edwin Yoder
Marcia Moshier

July

Miriam E Martin
Howard Zehr
Elizabeth Shenk
Wayne A Yoder
Robin McNallie
Sharon Showalter
Nancy R Heisey
Keaton W Shenk
Lonnie Yoder

Valley Village Mission

The mission of Valley Village is to provide neighborhood members with community-building activities, and home-based services thereby promoting independence, convenience, safety and well-being, for those who wish to live in their own homes in a multi-generational community.

The purpose of Valley Village is to ensure that all individuals have access to services needed to live independently in their community as long as possible.

Board Members

Keith Gnagey – President
Rich Sider, Secretary
Daryl Peifer – Treasurer
Paul Yoder – Volunteer Services Coordinator
Pearl Lantz
Stan Godshall
Wayne Kurtz
Clara Yoder
Lorie Merrow
Vice President-Vacant

Event Workgroups:

Special Topics Workgroup (Greg Versen-Chair, Ann Bender, Keith Gnagey, Keaton Shenk)
Movie Workgroup (Steve Shenk-Chair, Chris Edwards, Robin McNallie, Virginia Spicher, John Spicher)
Social Workgroup (Recruiting members to serve on this workgroup, contact a board member if you're would like to serve Valley Village in this role)
Tour Workgroup, (Pearl Lantz-Chair, Jean Smucker Fisher, J. Lowell Wenger)

Masked Photos Answer Key

1, Susan Godshall. 2 & 2a, Lowell Wenger. 3, Ann Yoder. 4, Chris Edwards. 5 & 6, Keaton and Betty Shenk. 7, Ann Bender. 8, Clara Yoder. 9, Robin McNallie. 10, Lorie Merrow. 11, Paul Yoder. 12, Evelyn Driver. 13, Pearl Lantz. 14, Stan Godshall.

Who guessed them all correctly? If you did, please let us know! (Email chrisedwardshburg@gmail.com.)

Valley Village newsletter is published bimonthly (every two months). Deadline is July 20, 2020, for submissions to the July - August 2020 newsletter. Send items to Chris Edwards, editor, 434-0457; chrisedwardshburg@gmail.com

New and recently-new members: May we have a "profile" of you, to help us get to know each other? Please send a digital photo, plus about 100 words, telling whatever you want about yourself. Thanks! -- Chris