

# VIVA!

VINEYARD VALLEY NEWS

VOLUME 50

APRIL 2026

NUMBER 3



## APRIL EVENTS

**VVHA Pool Opens, April 1**

**BINGO, April 10**

**VVHA Meeting, April 15**

**Mike Greensill Trio in Concert, April 19**

**Friday Night Social, April 24**

The  
**Mike Greensill Trio**  
**in Concert**

WITH VOCALIST  
**GALE TERMINELLO**

AND

**Bassist Ruth Davies**  
**Drummer Jack Dorsey**

Elegant. Intimate.  
Unforgettable.

**Sunday, April 19**  
**4:00-6:00 PM**



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yourself with  
the vibrant  
sounds of  
swinging jazz  
and the best  
of the  
American  
Songbook.*

**Vineyard Valley Clubhouse**  
**\$10 Admission**

**RSVP and Pay in the mailroom**



SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
<b>Tu, Thurs   Group Exercise with Stacey   10-11:00 AM   Exercise Room</b>						
			<b>Pool Opens</b>			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<b>Easter Sunday</b>					<b>BINGO 6:00pm</b>	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
			<b>VVHA Board Meeting</b>			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<b>Mike Greensill Trio 4-6PM Clubhouse</b>			<b>Earth Day</b>		<b>Friday Night Social 5:30PM</b>	
26	27	28	29	30		
<b>Red-VVHA Community    Black-Public Observance    Green-Local Event    Violet-VVHA</b>						

**2026-2027 VVHA  
OFFICERS & DIRECTORS**

President, Janet Schmidt  
Vice President, Rick Wood  
Secretary, Mae Van Nett  
Treasurer, Henk Brok

*Directors:*  
Eve Breckenridge  
Chris Killion  
Steve Kinney  
Inger Laidley  
Vivian Pichner  
Audrey Ward



**Committee/Activity Chairs**

*VVHA Clubhouse Coordinator:*  
Mae VanNett

*Hospitality:*  
Mae VanNett

*Memorials and VV Clubhouse Coordinator:*  
Janeen di Rienzo

*Directory:*  
Chris Killion

*Library:*  
Joyce Cahill, Rick Wood

*Bocce Committee Chair:*  
Rick Wood

*VVHA Website:*  
Michael Merriman



**Non-Social Resident-formed Groups**

*Community Education: Grace Kistner*

*Corrections to Vineyard Valley Directory:*

Andrew Dietrick  
andrew.dietrick@gmail.com

Lesla Dietrick  
Lesla Dietrick@yahoo.com

*If there is a death, call Janeen di Rienzo at 707-294-8307 so she can post it on the bulletin board and arrange for the \$50 donation to the organization you designate. She will explain how to schedule the clubhouse for a memorial.*

*April Birthdays*

- 2 Mariam Hansen
- 3 Ben DiMaio
- 4 Natalie DiMaio
- 6 Carla Holm
- 8 Noreen Alldredge
- 9 Cynthia Collins
- 10 Bruce Marks
- 12 Patti Rollins
- 14 Linda Messenger
- 16 Nancy Toney
- 21 Don Pestana
- 22 Judi Lenchner
- 24 Bette Anto
- 25 Will Canum
- 27 Judy Greene, Lydia Plotkin
- 28 Lupe Bengal
- 30 Colleen Gillaspy

**VIVA!**

**Mission Statement:** To provide a periodic newsletter concerning current and upcoming events, VVHA news, activities, neighborly news, and other non-political and local items of interest to all Vineyard Valley residents.

**Editor**  
Francine Freeman

**Business Manager**  
Henk Brok

**Advertising**  
Henk Brok

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St. Helena, CA 94574  
email: viva.vineyardvalley@gmail.com  
content deadline: 22nd of each month

# The Prez Sez . . . by Janet Schmidt

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Good morning fellow Vineyard Valley fun people,

Spring has almost sprung and I'm sure enjoying our weather. I'm told not to get too comfortable because it won't last. Oh well, enjoy it for now.

The new board is up and running with just a few changes from before. We added Vivian Pichner and Audrey Ward as directors, Mae Van Nett will replace Inger Laidley as secretary and Inger will stay with us (we can't lose that little spitfire) as a director. We're presently working on the March 2026 – March 2027 calendar of events and have a couple of exciting additions. If you have ideas for fun events, please come to a board meeting and share with us. Unless notified, our board meets on the third Wednesday of every month at 3:00pm. Come even if you don't have an idea and hear all the latest VV info.

Besides **Bingo** (second Friday of the month) and the **Social** (fourth Friday of the month), we hope to see you all at "The Mike Greensill Trio concert" on Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 to 6:00pm. For \$10.00 you not only get Mike and his trio but also Gale Terminello debuting her new CD. The signup sheet is posted on the VVHA bulletin board at the mailroom. That's all I've got for now so . . .

See you around the park, Janet

## VINEYARD VALLEY HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION MEETING MINUTES FROM MARCH 18, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 11:02 a.m. by V.P. Rick Wood, in Janet Schmidt's absence.

Inger Laidley, Secretary, announced that we had a quorum – 52 proxies were delivered, and there were more votes entered before the meeting for a total of over 60.

Minutes of the February 18<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved and seconded as posted and emailed.

Mae VanNett, in Henk Brok's absence, gave the Treasurer's report which was accepted as posted and mailed. We have a balance of \$22,929.94.

**Reports** – Chili Cook Off was held with 4 chefs, Mike Greensill, Steve Kinney, Patti Brundidge and Francine Freeman, and about 30 people attending. Mike won again and much to his chagrin Steve came in second again! Patti's chili came in 3<sup>rd</sup> and Francine got honorable mention. March Bingo was a success. 63 played and after prizes of \$475, our net take was \$410. St. Patrick's dinner cooked by Rick and Ines was enjoyed by over 60 people with some take home dinners delivered to those who couldn't attend.

**Upcoming events** – the Social on the 27<sup>th</sup> and a concert by Mike Greensill and his musicians as well as Gale Terminello. There will be a cover charge of \$10 for the concert on April 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Election and Presentation of Board Members for 2026–2027.** The new slate presented by the Nominating Committee consists of:

Janet Schmidt, President; Rick Wood, Vice President; Mae Van Net, Secretary; Henk Brock, Treasurer. Directors: Inger Laidley, Chris Killion, Steve Kinney, Audrey Ward and Vivian Pirchner. Congratulations to all and agreeing to serve our community.

**Open Discussion** – Thoughts were expressed about ways to enable those in the Park who might not be able to afford attending some of our events. The Board will continue to explore some of the ways this could be managed.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:19 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Inger Laidley, Secretary



**ST. HELENA RESIDENTS**



**FREE RECYCLING EVENT**

# HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS AND ELECTRONIC WASTE COLLECTION EVENT

*Paper shredding (5 banker box max) will be available during this event!*

**WHEN** SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2026 8:00AM - 1:00PM

**WHERE** UPPER VALLEY COMPOST AND RECYCLING YARD  
ENTER AT PESTONI FAMILY WINERY, OFF HWY 29

THE FOLLOWING MATERIALS ARE ACCEPTED AT THIS EVENT:

### HAZARDOUS WASTE

- AEROSOLS
- ALL PURPOSE CLEANERS
- ANTIFREEZE
- AUTO BATTERIES
- AUTO FLUIDS
- COMMON BATTERIES (AA, AAA, C, D, BUTTON, LITHIUM ETC.)
- DISINFECTANTS
- FLUORESCENT LIGHT BULBS
- GASOLINE (W/CONTAINER)
- LATEX / OIL-BASED PAINT
- LIGHTER FLUID
- MERCURY CONTAINING ITEMS (THERMOMETERS, THERMOSTATS, ETC.)
- NEEDLES AND LANCETS (IN PUNCTURE RESISTANT CONTAINERS)
- PESTICIDES
- POOL CHEMICALS
- PROPANE TANKS (UP TO 5 GAL.)
- SOLVENTS
- UNWANTED MEDICATIONS (NO CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES)
- USED OIL/OIL FILTERS



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# PARK MANAGEMENT UPDATE

## April 2026

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Spring has arrived and we look forward to warmer weather. The pool opens April 1<sup>st</sup>-- below are pool rules reminders for safe and enjoyable fun for all residents in the Vineyard Valley pool. Please stop by the office if you need your pool code or with any questions.

- Pool hours are 8 am to 10 pm, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday; 10 am to 10 pm Monday, Wednesday and Friday.
- The pool is for the exclusive use of residents and their guests.
- Guests must be accompanied to the pool by their host resident.
- The guest limit is two persons per household.
- All persons must shower before using the pool.
- Glass containers are not allowed in the pool area.
- Pool toys are not permitted beach balls, rafts, squirt guns, etc.). Pool flotation devices for therapeutic use are allowed.
- Appropriate swimwear only is permitted, no cutoffs.
- Running on the pool deck, diving, and jumping into the pool are not allowed.
- Animals are not allowed in the pool area.
- Swim times for children ages 3-5 years are 10 am to 1 pm.
- 6-16 years are 10 am to 3 pm. Adults only after 3 pm.
- Children under three years are not allowed in the pool area.
- No one under age 18 is allowed in the therapy pool or sauna.

### **SPRING REMINDERS**

The mustard is blooming in Napa Valley! Now that the days are warmer and sunny it is a good time to take care of maintenance tasks and harden your home's defensible space. Defensible space is the area around your home that should be kept clear of plant debris and any potentially flammable materials. Patios and carports should be clear of any storage items, debris, or potentially flammable items. Carports and patios are not storage areas. Patio furniture and barbecue equipment only are allowed on patios. Carports are not intended for storage and must be kept clean at all times. Remove leaves and other debris from your yard. Clean roofs, gutters, and awnings if necessary. Weed flower beds and take care of landscaping that may need replacing. Changes to landscaping must be submitted in advance for approval by management. Repair or paint fencing that may need it. Properly store fuels used for generators and barbecues.

### **PET RULES REMINDERS**

No pet may invade the privacy of anyone's homesite, garden, flower beds, shrubs, yard, etc. The California Health and Safety Code 18603: 1608 states: Dogs, cats and other animals are not permitted to run at large in a Mobile Home Park.

With the exception of service dogs, pets are not allowed in the Clubhouse, pool area, Mail Room or Hobby Building. Pet litter must be removed daily from your premises. Pet owners are responsible for removing pet's litter when walking pets.

Diane Dillon | The Human Side of  
Cityhood | 4.2.26 @ 4pm



Mark your calendar for April 2 when Diane Dillon shares her original research of St. Helena's elections starting in 1876.

Expect lively portraits of some of the most outrageous elected officials and a few pre-Brown Act shenanigans. Dillon will identify events that, over the years, have shaped what she calls our town's "civic DNA".

**At the Heritage Center, 1255 Oak Ave., St. Helena**



ST. HELENA  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

Downtown St. Helena. 1940s

12

13

5

# BINGO RECORD !

We had an all-time, record-breaking attendance last month. Since the board took the Bingo reins three years ago, we've aimed to top 60. In March, 65 attended--Way to Go!!!

2



14

3

**APRIL 10 | 6PM | \$15 ENTRY PACK**

**INCLUDES 3 X 6 GAMES, DAUBER, AND DINNER.  
BYO BEVERAGE. CASH PRIZES FOR WINNERS !**

6

9

7

March Bingo winners, L-R: Will Canum, Joyce Cahill, Mary West, Margaret Cornish, Ed Smith (Fabulous Caller), Marina Lavagnino, Henk Brok, and Luana Navarro

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References from park residents available

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# Beringer Beginnings — A Start in 1876

## Part 2 of 2

Reported by Mariam Hansen, St. Helena Historian

**B**y August 1877 the winery was finished and ready for crush. The building was 40 by 104 feet with walls of cut stone and two stories high. There were no partitions inside, each story being a single room. The ground floor was of cement, slanted for drainage. The second floor is built like a ship's deck—regularly caulked and water tight. It had water tight base boards, so it could be filled with water for cleaning. Jacob surmised 20,000 gallons would be made in 1877.

At the same time Jacob was the official storekeeper for the St. Helena US Bonded Warehouse, keeping grape brandy on which tax had been paid separate. Until Bonded Warehouse building was finished in 1878 on Church Street, Jacob kept the brandy in his cellar.

In February 1878 Jacob quit his job at Krug and was replaced by another German, Karl Memminger. The Star reported “Mr. Beringer, long the popular foreman of Krug's great cellar and vineyards... has at last resigned that position to attend to the growing interests of himself and brother in the magnificent property of the Beringer Brothers., whose growth it has been so often our pleasure to notice.”

Jacob was working hard improving the winery and adding to the vineyard. He was described as “a kindly hospitable man, who had many warm friends”. His property was always open to visitors and hospitality was dispensed lavishly on many occasions. However, he did make time for public service and was elected to the city council in 1878.

The crush of 1878 was described by the Star. Grapes were transported by wagon to a road behind the winery on level with the roof. After being crushed there, the must (or juice) flowed down to the middle story for fermentation. Finally the new wine is stored on the ground floor for aging. It was the method used in Mainz, Germany and in many other regions before pumps. The whole cellar was operated by 6–8 men, who crushed more grapes in one day than most other wineries. Production in 1878 was 100,000 gallons.

Jacob contracted to build 100 feet of tunnel into the hillside behind the winery in October 1878. Chinese laborers with picks, shovels and blasting powder set to work. These excavations would expand the tunnels over many years. In December a magnificent cask ordered by Jacob and carved with the monogram “BB” within a grapevine wreath arrived.

At the end of the year excavations began for another winery building. At the end of January 1879 construction was underway. A new distillery building site was laid out and equipment from Sonoma was brought in. Two wagon loads of heavy distillery machinery came through town, including a steam boiler 14 feet long, weighing four tons. The new distillery had a castle-like façade, but collapsed in the 1906 earthquake.

On April 5, 1879 Jacob married Agnes Tscheinig and the couple would have six children. They settled in the Hudson House with their Chinese cook. Fritz's wife Bertha came to visit and liked what she saw: a thriving business that was already profitable. The couple began planning to move to St. Helena. The winery shipped 14,000 gallons of wine. Fritz opened a wine store in New York and was selling all the wine his brother could send him. A St. Helena employee went east to manage the new enterprise.

“Willkommen wer mit herz und Hand sich je in Freundschaft begegnet.” Translated: “Welcome with hand and heart whoever shall meet here in friendship.” So says the inscription lining the ceiling of the Rhine House entry hall and uncovered during a restoration.

Wrote the St. Helena Star on May 13, 1883: “Frederick Beringer exhibited to friends plans for a fine large dwelling in the Gothic style.. and which we hope to soon to see built...as a fitting home for the friends whose enterprise and public spirit we are all so much indebted to”. The architect was a German from San Francisco, Albert Schroeffer, who also designed the Odd Fellows building on Main, the Sutter home Victorian, Miravalle at Spring Mountain Winery and the Niebaum home at Inglenook. Jacob had his home moved 200 feet north because his brother wanted the better site, and because Fritz had put in most of the capital for the winery.

The Italian stone masons built the foundation. Mariano Bale (son of land grantee Dr. E.T. Bale) did the carpentry work. In September 1883, while Fritz was in New York, a cornerstone-laying ceremony for the house took place. Jacob invited a large crowd, who gathered in the cellar for a wine reception. A friend of Fritz gave a fine speech. In the cornerstone were placed coins, photographs of the family, local and regional newspapers, business cards of those present, wine bottles, and grape wood. After this, a fine meal was enjoyed and the party celebrated until night.

Construction of the house took much longer than anticipated. Due to the intricate architectural details, wood paneling, intricate stained-glass windows and the distance materials had to be shipped, the house was not completed until late in 1884.

With the completion of the second home of the Beringer brothers, the estate was now a palatial showplace for the two families: Fritz and Bertha in the Rhine House, and Jacob and Agnes in the Hudson House. While winery and vineyard improvements continued, the Beringer estate was now home for these enterprising and public-spirited gentlemen-- a most magnificent winery estate to this day 150 years later.



# Vineyard Valley's 2026 Best Chili



The fever started 2pm on a balmy Saturday in March . . . Beside their bubbling pots of homemade chili, four contestants greeted a steady turnout of tasters craving some spicy afternoon delight. Award tokens dropped steadily into glass receptacles as anticipation grew. At the end of 90 minutes, the winner was declared--Mike Greensill for the third year running! With kudos and appreciation for everyone's enthusiastic participation.



*Clockwise, l-r:*  
Chefs in ranking order: Francine Freeman, Patti Brundige, Steve Kinney, reigning champion Mike Greensill; tasters Ben & Natalie DiMaio, Janet Schmidt, and Diana Lavagnino; chefs Patti Brundige and Steve Kinney, tasters Jerri Patton, David Walser and Barbara Greenfield.



# ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER - MARCH 17

We celebrated St. Patrick's Day in fine style Tuesday Night, March 17. About 70 Vineyard Valley-ites joined in the festivities chowing down on corned beef, potatoes, carrots and cabbage. Ines Chiarello headed up the kitchen, with Rick Wood, Mae VanNett, and Steve Kinney helping. Ines also baked a couple excellent chocolate cakes with Irish Green frosting. It was nice to see many of our new residents as well as a few who've been absent recently. Thanks to Colleen Gillaspy, Jerri Patton, and Friederike Heidger for jumping in to help with cleanup. As always, it takes a community for these events to be successful. Cheers to all - *Slainte!*



# RIANDA HOUSE SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER

## **Protection from Scams | Irma Luna and Donna Lewis, Napa District Attorney's Office**

**Tuesday, April 7, 1:00-2:00 | Rianda House**

Protecting seniors from scams is essential because seniors who lose money to fraud often cannot earn back what they have lost. Scammers often target seniors making senior scam prevention even more important than ever. Our speakers will discuss practical strategies to protect yourself, and the steps you should take if you are a victim of identity theft. **RSVP**

## **String Band Music: Back in Touch! Glenn Smith & Ann Carr**

**Thursday, April 9, 3:30-5:00 | American Legion Hall**

Let's get back in touch with those instruments getting dusty under the bed, in the closet, or on the shelf in the garage! Learn and have fun with fellow pickers and fiddlers who love to hang out and jam to folk, blue grass & country style music. Some musical experience is necessary. Acceptable instruments: guitar, mandolin, ukulele, violin, banjo, bass, autoharp, singers. Group lyrics & chords will be provided. **RSVP**

## **Molly's Angels: Changing Lives One Ride & Call at a Time | Devereaux Smith**

**Friday, April 10, 10:00-11:00 | Rianda House**

Join Devereaux Smith, the Executive Director of Molly's Angels and learn how they are supporting older adults across Napa Valley. Through reliable transportation and our friendly Care Calls — simple check-in calls that mean the world — we're helping seniors stay connected and cared for. Come learn what's new and how we're growing to meet the needs of our community. **RSVP**

## **Building Foundations of Caregiving | Gene Girimonte, Alzheimer's Association**

**Monday April 13, 1:00-2:00 | Rianda House**

House Caring for someone living with dementia brings a unique set of challenges and rewards. With the right support, you can empower yourself to provide quality care to the person living with dementia while managing your own well-being. Join us to learn about caregiving and common relationship changes, how to build your support team and ways to manage caregiver stress. **RSVP**

## **Foam Rolling & Myofascial Release Workshop | Kerry Brackett**

**April 14, 9:30-10:30 | American Legion Hall**

Join instructor Kerry Brackett for a workshop focused on mobility and flexibility. You will learn techniques for using the foam roller to increase flexibility and increase range of motion. Explore the use of a tennis ball to increase mobility and enjoy and learn a series of stretching to relax and release the muscles. Please bring a mat as this will mostly be down on the floor. If you have a foam roller, please bring it, or we can help you purchase one. Limited foam rollers are available to borrow for this workshop. **RSVP**

## **Music Appreciation: California Indian Music | Laura Prichard**

**Wednesday, April 15, 5:30-6:30 | Rianda House**

With the USA commemorating 250 years since its founding, this class focuses on resilience and resurgence of traditional Native American music, language, and supportive local history. The class will concentrate on the Massachusetts and California indigenous peoples' music and language, emphasizing the recent revivals and examples of resilience. We will virtually visit several interesting museums, including the Abbe Museum in Bar Harbor, Maine, which is completely dedicated to the five original tribes of the northeast US, and Harvard's Peabody Museum of Anthropology/Ethnology. I will bring my own musical instruments from all over the country for show/tell/use. **RSVP**

## **Medicare Fundamentals | Michael Thompson, HICAP | Monday, April 27, 1:00-2:30 | Rianda House**

Join us for a great opportunity to refresh your knowledge on the fundamentals of Medicare. Even the most informed beneficiaries can benefit from this course. You will learn Medicare basics: Parts A, B, C, D & more, late enrollment penalties and enrollment periods and deadlines. HICAP does not endorse nor recommend any insurance companies or agents, or sell anything.

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# FRIDAY NIGHT SOCIAL

Time to Bloom !

FRIDAY, APRIL 24 | 5:30 PM

CLUBHOUSE LANAI

*Bring your own beverage  
and an appetizer to share*

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**WELCOME  
NEW RESIDENTS!**

**Luana & Tony Navarro**

*24 San Lucas*



# Know Thy Neighbor



by Suzanne James

**I**t is with great pleasure that this month's column introduces you to the new Editor of VIVA who succeeds the last esteemed editor, Janeen DiRienzo. Our neighbor is a recent arrival in Vineyard Valley and promises to be a valuable contributor to our beloved community.

She was born the eldest of three daughters. Her mother was a San Francisco native, and her parents met on Air Force officers' dance on Treasure Island where her father was stationed. They wed and moved to her father's hometown of South Orange, New Jersey. However, her mother eventually succeeded in persuading her husband to return to her beloved California, and the family settled in San Mateo.

Following high school graduation our neighbor in the spotlight this month attended UC Berkeley where she majored in English with a minor in Art History. Her first two jobs after graduation were in art galleries in San Francisco, and in Sausalito. During that time, she met her husband who had an art gallery in Palo Alto and they married in 1987. Their first child, Melanie, was born soon after and our busy neighbor found time to teach English as a Second Language (ESL) classes at night. Six years later their second daughter, Camille, was born. While raising her daughters, she worked for several years as a traveling art teacher within the Palo Alto Unified School District, teaching kindergarten through fifth grade classes, a job she found both rewarding and very active.

As her daughters matured, she began looking around for something else purposeful to do, and our neighbor went to work as a fundraiser for an Americorps agency, City Year. This was a federal program offering adventure and leadership development to young adults from diverse backgrounds who wished to take a "gap year" between high school and college. Her work at the San Jose site involved engaging local corporations with the City Year culture and programs, and seeking philanthropic donations to fund various activities. She worked for this agency for three years.

Ready for something different, she applied to Stanford University in 2007, where she was offered a position in the burgeoning fundraising communications department for the medical center, which is part of Stanford's medical school. This position involved doing graphic design, print production, photography, event planning, and video production. She help to produce many videos, that ranged from telling grateful patient stories to creating tributes to many of the accomplished and distinguished Stanford biomedical faculty. She was happiest working as part of what she calls a "video production dream team" where she learned a great deal about film making. She laughs while saying that she now understands why film credits can seem to go on forever! The job included regular travel where she met people across the country working in different medical research campuses.

***She was happiest working as part of what she calls a "video production dream team", where she delved into the world of film making. Laughing, she says she now understands why film credits can seem interminably long!***

She retired in early 2023. Her husband has continued working in environmental permitting and planning for various businesses, including clients in Napa. After living in Palo Alto for forty years, the couple was growing dissatisfied with the increasing density and fast pace of life. They began exploring other communities, intending to establish a second home base while keeping their residence in Palo Alto. They discovered Vineyard Valley and purchased a home there in the summer of 2023. Our neighbor views it as a place of beauty and tranquility, ideal for relaxation, yet it also offers a vibrant community with a rich heritage and culture.

She is delighted with the arrival of their first grandson almost a year ago: with parents living nearby, they are actively involved in his care. Their son-in-law is French and they all travelled recently to France to meet his family and spent a month visiting many fascinating parts of the country, which she loved!

During her free time our neighbor enjoys photography, reading, gardening, and discovering new restaurants. She loves to dance and has enjoyed ballet, salsa, belly dance, and flamenco, performing with dance troupes during her younger years. As for volunteer work, she is grateful for the opportunity to edit the VIVA newsletter which entails about twenty hours per month. A bonus is that it allows her opportunities to interact with many of the wonderful people who comprise our Vineyard Valley community.

Please join me in welcoming Francine Freeman who lives with her husband, Verne, and dog Marley at 25 Redondo Court.



***Referrals and volunteers for this column are encouraged and welcome!***



The advertisement features a logo on the left consisting of the letters 'SHDS' in a stylized font above a potted plant. The main text is centered and includes the business name, a tagline in cursive, contact information, and a list of dentists. The bottom of the ad has a green bar with the address and phone number.

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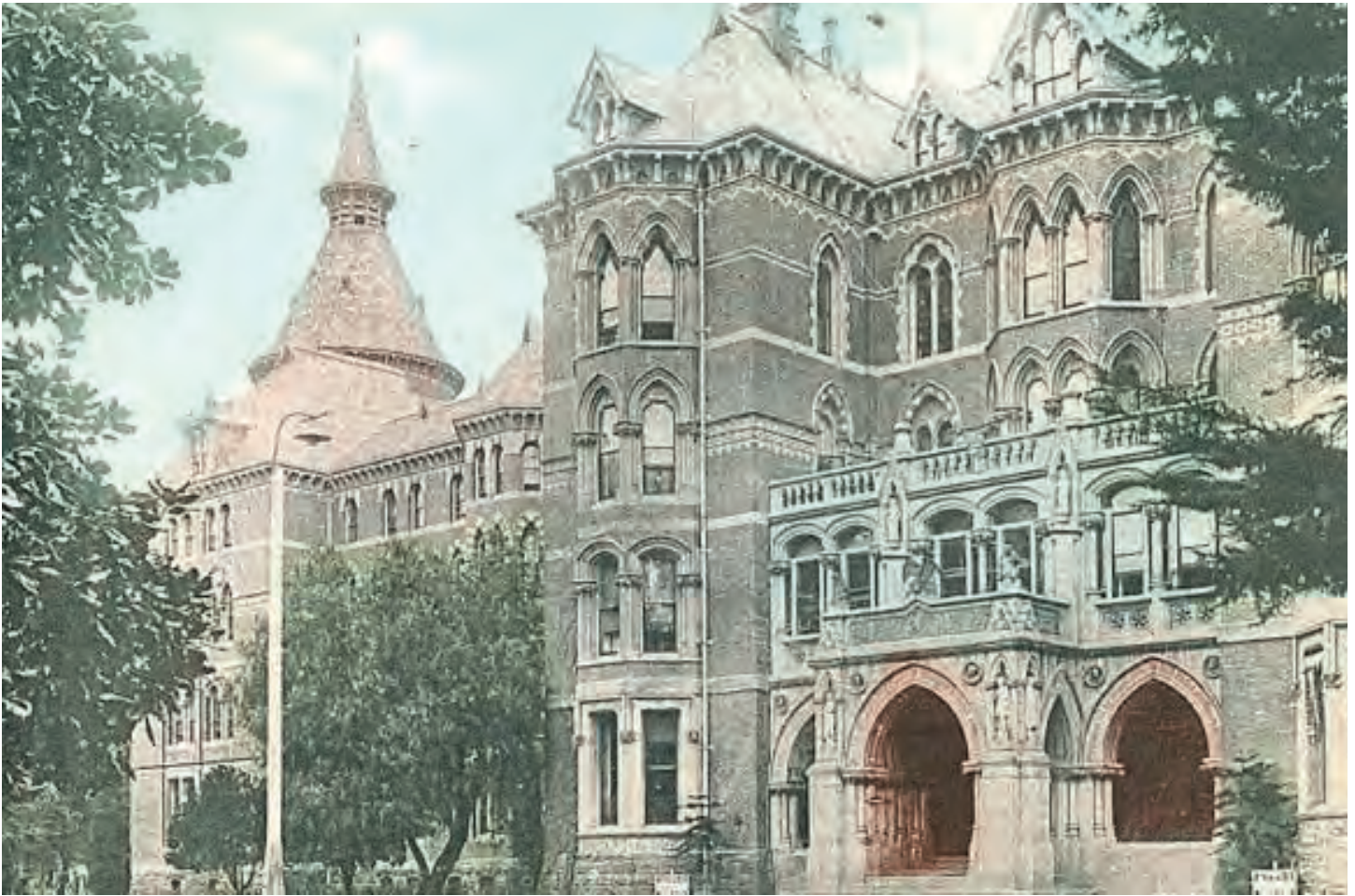
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# Napa State Hospital and its Multiple Personalities

With Architectural Historian Rebecca Yerger

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**Join Rebecca A. Yerger for a look at the history of Napa State Hospital.** This sprawling 500-bed, four-story hospital opened in 1875 as an "insane asylum". It has a reputation for overcrowding, patient abuse and too many deaths.

## **There are also reports of paranormal activity**

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## **MUSTARD FLOWERS**

**Bright yellow mustard flowers blanket the Valley and race up the hills**

**Here and there Poppies and Lupine add more color to the landscape**

**All seem to signal that Spring has begun, yet the fog and mists continue to linger**

**Warm rays of sun stream down, then, in a moment, dark clouds loom overhead**

**Heavy rain pummels the countryside, flooding the streets and churning the river**

**Rocks cascade down the hillsides loosened by the raging waters flowing from above**

**Slowly, slowly winter begins to retreat; days lengthen and the sky is cloudless again**

**Perhaps, it is time to herald the arrival of Spring in the Valley and to watch the seasons change**

**Now Daffodils and Tulips line the roadside and lush green grasses climb the hills**

**A bright blue sky and warm sun greet the day and the mustard flowers begin to fade**

**Spring is finally here. The cycle begins again as the Valley stirs from its Winters' sleep**

**Time to clear the fallen trees, to prune the vines and put things in order again.**

**~by Jean Martin**

# Vineyard Valley Dining Values

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