



Village Life

HDV Member Profile - Faith Holly Hall

Faith Holly Hall believes she came into this life with a sense of caring and the need to be a helper. “Both my parents were blind so my older brother and I had to shoulder responsibilities at an early age,” she recalls. “At four I was the one feeding my little brother who had a muscle disorder and could not feed himself.”

Her family’s extraordinary life was the subject of a book, “What Love Sees” and a CBS television movie. It is the tale of two persons who lose their sight, one at 12 and the other in his late teens. They fall in love and build a remarkable life together with their four children.

In spite of being blind, her parents were rather strict and particular about how the children looked. Her mom did not want her little girl to wear pink for example because she didn’t think that color was right for a red head.

Faith is one of the Village’s many California natives. She earned a degree in Music from Occidental College in L.A. and as a young bride moved to Corvallis. After moving to Tumalo with her husband and two children, she taught the Yamaha music method to young children.

But the desire to be of service was ingrained in Faith. Brought up in a Christian Science tradition, she spent many years as a Christian Science healer. “I was guided by Oneness, Unconditional love and Compassion,” she says.

Seeking a broader vision she attended a two-year program to become an Interfaith Spiritual Companion, learning of the many faith traditions that abound in our world.

Spiritual Companions spend time with other persons helping them on their life’s journey as they find their own truth,” she explains. “My role is to listen and allow the person to explore within the context of their own faith or belief system.”

A woman of many talents, her interests took a turn when admiring a friend’s watercolor, she was encouraged to take a class and try her own hand at painting.

I was stunned at my own ability,” she says. Portraits are her favorite subject. She has had exhibits in Bend galleries over the years.

Widowed several years ago, she swapped houses with her daughter and is in a cozy little place in Bend.

Faith volunteered for 16 months doing all the shopping and errands for a housebound friend. As a Village member Faith hopes to offer her listening skills to help give a care-giving spouse some time off or help someone losing his or her sight or other life challenges.

Joette Storm, Associate Editor



Speaking from the Heart



Pam DiDente’s annual meeting comments were somewhat bittersweet, as she is stepping down as president after serving HDV for six noteworthy years.

A new president and board of directors will take the reins on June 1.

To get a flavor of the event, turn to the story on page two with some accompanying pictures.

To Your Health

Multi-Cancer Early Detection (MCED) Tests

There is a great public health need to identify potentially lethal cancers at earlier stages, when there is a greater chance of cure, often with less treatment related morbidity. In the U.S., where cancer is the second leading cause of death, there are currently screening recommendations for only five cancer types; breast, colorectal, cervical, lung, and prostate. However, about 70 percent of all cancer deaths come from cancers for which there are no proven screening tests.

The new MCED tests, which can screen for up to fifty cancers simultaneously based on a simple venous blood draw or “liquid biopsy.” It can, if a positive “signal” is found, direct further, though sometimes costly, testing which can often confirm the presence of cancer. There are currently at least nine test developers in the global MCED test market vying for market share, but none has yet received a positive recommendation by the U.S. Preventative Services Task Force (USPSTF) or approval by the FDA, a requirement for Medicare reimbursement.

A large (140,000 individuals) randomized controlled trial of one of these tests (the Galleri test) as a supplement to usual cancer screening is in progress in the U.K. Hopefully the results of this study, along with results of other studies in progress or being planned, will help guide the USPSTF and the FDA in answering whether this new technology will reduce cancer deaths and thereby warrant approval.

For those wishing additional information about MCED tests, the two links below, one from the National Cancer Institute and the other from the American Cancer Society, are excellent resources.

<https://www.cancer.org/cancer/screening/multi-cancer-early-detection-tests.html>
<https://www.cancer.gov/news-events/cancer-currents-blog/2022/finding-cancer-early-mced-tests>

Tom Comerford MD

Passing the Village Leadership Torch

suc-ces-sion • noun
The order in which one person after another succeeds to a property, dignity, title or throne.

While HDV doesn’t have a throne or property, we do have job titles that allow for succession with dignity. After months of deliberation, and with the facilitation expertise of member Jim Lee, the Village has reorganized the board of directors, making it more streamlined in the process. It coincides with the naming of a new board, allowing for the succession to take place. Beginning June 1, this is the HDV Board of Directors and supporting positions.

Richard Clemens, President • Barbara Caggiano, Vice President
• Bob Goold, Treasurer • Nancy Tyler, Secretary
Members at Large: David Detweiler • Mary Hartrich • Denise LaBuda
Non-voting Organizational Board Consultants - Jodi Grossman and Peggy Carey
Pam DiDente, President Emeritus

Stop the Presses!

Here’s some breaking news. There is an opportunity to be a backup and in line for possible succession to the position of newsletter editor. With the help of my wife, Joette, I’ve been producing Village Life for more than two years.

As we both come from a background in journalism, it has been a natural fit. We still enjoy bringing the newsletter to you each month, but it is prudent to have a backup in place, someone who could step up and take the reins at some point.

It takes about 15 hours per month to write, edit and gather material to put the newsletter together. I use three different software programs to accomplish that task. Let me know if you are interested in dipping a quill in the inkwell of creativity. My contact information is available in the Member Directory on the website.

The eye shade and cigar are optional. **Gene Storm, Village Life Editor**



Music Corner



In 1971 **Don McLean** released one of the most iconic songs of the era, **American Pie**. Many of us sung along even though there was uncertainty what the lyrics really meant. Here, McLean demonstrates he still has the pipes to sing

his classic along with the acapella group **Home Free**. See if you can listen without joining in, I dare you! Enjoy.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gRITZdYXcKg>

High Desert Village Annual Meeting - May 16, 2023



Every member of High Desert Village is a volunteer. That was central to the message offered as we gathered at Worthy Brewery's Star Room for the High Desert Village Annual Meeting to acknowledge those who volunteer to serve the Village.

Outgoing President Pam DiDente chose her volunteer activity by leading the Village board of directors for the past six years. Pam offered recognition to past leaders such as Alice Johnson and Jane McEldowney for their service to the Village.



She noted that while we have largely migrated to an electronic model of requesting services, we still have members who will answer a phone call and serve as dispatchers. Sandra Clausen and Lorraine Stuart are serving in that role.

It is the ability to be involved in the day-to-day life of the Village that makes it so valuable to each of us. There are numerous opportunities to contribute, including serving as a backup for any of the positions that make the Village run so smoothly. A case in point is supporting the team lead as a backup as the service teams take on a more central role in Village operations. Working alongside others we form bonds and make friendships.

Pam gave recognition to the "godmothers" of our group, Peggy Carey and Ann Brickell, whom the board can rely on to know which members need help and services. It is a nuanced but important part of how we operate.

Please consider stepping up to lead a Helping Hands team or consider other opportunities to serve the Village. Our membership brings a unique blend of skills and experiences to the Village, helping to fulfill our mission of service to one another.

Joette Storm, Associate Editor

(These images are a sampling from the annual meeting. More can be viewed as a slide show posted on the HDV web site.)



High Desert Village - Friends Helping Each Other