

Sonoma Valley Interfaith
Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2025 / 12 pm–1 pm
<https://www.sonomavalleyinterfaithma.org>

Present: Steve Finley, Jane Hernandez, Manette Fairmont, Jason Mayer, Dave Gould, Donna Thomas, Nicole Trotter, Elaine Briefman and Peadar Dalton.

12:00 pm

Welcome/Opening Blessing - Peadar Dalton.

12:15 pm

Guest: Laurie Decker and Cathy Capriola from Sonoma Valley Catalyst Fund

“The State of Aging in Sonoma Valley white paper provides insights into what aging is like (and will be like going forward) for many residents of Sonoma Valley, particularly those without significant personal wealth. As you will note, many of those in our community will face significant financial and personal challenges when aging and we are not prepared to provide support. The white paper also includes background information for those in the community seeking to mitigate some of these challenges. We, at Catalyst, hope that these data can be used to raise awareness about the challenges of aging for some many in our community and suggest some early ideas for how we might address or mitigate these.” Download the full white paper [HERE](#).

Laurie and Cathy are here today to gather input regarding senior care and the gaps/needs in the Sonoma valley in support of creating the [Sonoma County Master Plan for Aging](#). “The plan is a comprehensive set of strategies to support the large, and rapidly growing number of seniors across the county. There is very limited funding to implement the strategies in the Master Plan and our community is likely to see a greater need, and faster, than other areas due to the specific challenges present in our Valley. Namely, we have a significantly higher percentage of seniors than the county overall; the cost of living in the Valley is also higher, particularly housing; and we are unlikely, as an outlying area, to be the focus of the limited funding from the county, leaving communities like ours to fend for ourselves.” The Sonoma County: Human Services Department (Area Agency on Aging) was a grantee of the Local Aging & Disability Action Planning ([LADAP](#)) grant program of the California Department of Aging (CDA). Input us needed to decide which areas of support are needed in Sonoma Valley.

Some of the biggest needs and challenges for seniors that were listed today are:

- Access to resources - where can seniors go to get support information, especially if they don't have computers or smart phones, transportation or family to help? We need a central hub where information can be passed out and reviewed with seniors.
- Affordable Housing - affordable and accessible housing is an ongoing issue in the valley but especially for low income seniors.
- Transportation - to appointments, shopping, events and other social needs.
- Care Giving - spouses and adult children need respite, but many seniors are alone with no coverage for care giving, personal care, home care (housekeeping, cooking), help navigating insurance issues and bill pay support.
- Health and Wellness - isolation, loneliness, embarrassment, mental support, end of life preparations and discussions, advocacy for medical, medications and appointment review.

Can we use the radio for a regular spot to discuss senior issues and guide them to support?

You can learn more at the Sonoma Valley Catalyst Fund [HERE](#).

Other info.:

1. We want to have a forum possibly on May 17th time TBD here in Burlingame Hall at the campus of FCC and CSS for Emergency and Disaster Preparedness including the Police, Fire and any others we can bring in. Please save the date and we will update you when it is finalized.
2. Please send Tricia any of your upcoming events you would like to have put on our website.

Closing: Donna closes with a blessing.

Next meeting: March 26th Guest is Anna Lacey, Clinical Director of the Community Mental Health Hub

- *Future meetings: **April** - Sonoma Mayor Patricia Ferrar-Rivas. **May** - Mentoring Alliance's Suzie Gallo and Sherry Preiss. **June/July/August** - Summer Break*

KSVY - Please mark your date on your calendar. If you are not available on your assigned date please find someone on the list to trade with. The studio is located at 680

W. Napa Street Sonoma. The call in number is 707-933-9133. The information is on their website www.ksvy.org

March 4	Manette Fairmont	manetteart@aol.com
March 11	Steve Finley	rabbisteve.shirshalom@gmail.com
March 18	Peadar Dalton	peadaradalon@comcast.net
March 25	Jason Mayer	jason.mayer@sonomacollective.com
April 1	No Show	KSVY Anniversary Special all morning
April 8	Dave Gould	dgould837@gmail.com
April 15	Pam Nadeau	singingdogs@vom.com
April 22	Manette Fairmont	manetteart@aol.com
April 29	Steve Finley	rabbisteve.shirshalom@gmail.com
May 6	Peadar Dalton	peadaradalon@comcast.net
May 13	Jason Mayer	jason.mayer@sonomacollective.com
May 20	Dave Gould	dgould837@gmail.com