



**Choose the Life You Want to Live**

## **2023 Annual Report**



**Happy Anniversary to Enchanted Mountains Village!**

## Reflections On EMVi in 2023

Athena Godet-Calogeras, Volunteer Executive Director

As I reflect on the second year of our existence as the Enchanted Mountains Village (EMVi), I return to the spirit, the motivating force inherent in words of our Mission, to encourage “the development of a vibrant, involved, and mutually supportive community.” That’s the guide and goal I keep in front of me.

**This past year was one of increased participation, positive collaboration, and organizational development.**

Some 20 of our members actively planned EMVi activities, worked with membership, assured our financial wellbeing, served on our Board of Directors, and maintained the website and the Facebook page. That’s more than 26% of our current membership and doesn’t include those who took meals to a sick member, drove someone to an appointment, gave a telephone call, an email, or a text, or lent a hand when needed. Finally, if we counted all who participated in one or more of the 120 EMVi activities last year, we’d be well over the 50% mark!

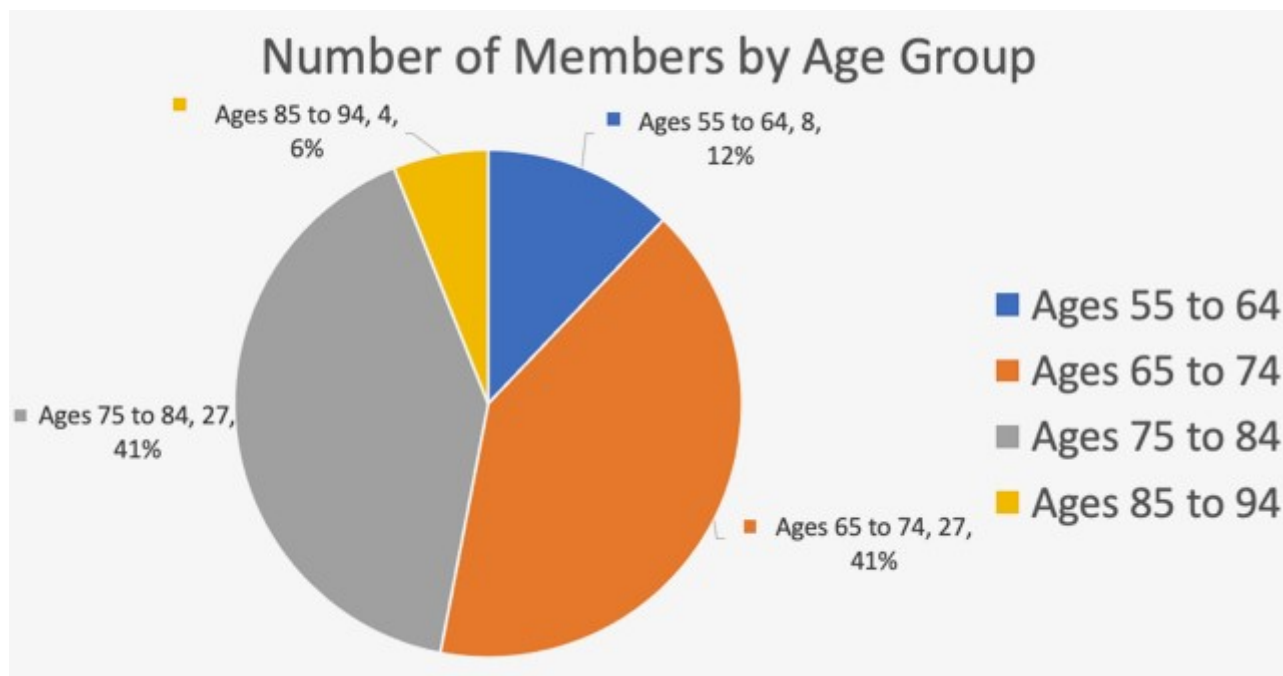
We now have a logo, a mnemonic (EMVi), a brochure and flyer, and a suggested course of marketing action thanks to Professor Mike Jones-Kelly and his St. Bonaventure University seniors in marketing and communication who took us on as a “client” this last fall. With the information provided by these students, we have a template for our developing marketing committee.

Thanks to a generous grant from the Stitt Foundation, we now have a permanent home, Suite 404a, in the Olean Business Development Corporation (OBDC) building. We moved in October 2023 and have reaped many blessings from our new location. We have an equipped office as well as the use of the boardroom and lecture room and the proximity of other small, nonprofit organizations and the people who serve in them. We held our Christmas Party in The Hub in the OBDC, which, already festively adorned, needed very little additions from our decorating crew!

In 2024 I will begin the search for a part-time administrative assistant, one attuned to our mission and well versed in technology and the various aspects of communication. A new year opens opportunities for growth and positive development. As the saying goes, “the best is yet to come.”



**Garden visit at a friend’s home.**



## Activities

Since the primary goal of EMVi is to build a social and supportive community where older people can thrive, it's important to hold fun, educational, and healthy events. During 2023, 14 presentations including films (foreign and American), Learning Italian for Travelers, hearing about Total Senior Care, several sessions on Positive Psychology by Chuck Walker, having a presentation on Living Off the Grid, being introduced to the basics of Chat GPT and other AI, as well as learning about Clare of Assisi from Jean-François Godet-Calogeras were among the activities that challenged our minds and left us wanting to learn more.

One of our very popular social events was the seasonal, weekly Women's Group, admirably led by Kristin Chambers, who challenged us with discussions on topics of interest such as downsizing, planning for the future, finding humor in life's absurdities, how to find light in the darkness that sometimes occurs in our lives, holiday traditions, and many more. The men's group (Male Bonding Time/More Brew Together) is held weekly at a local brewery and is also popular.

Exercise and health activities included nine events such as bike rides, hiking, and walking. Toni Fragle introduced EMVi to Euchre, hosting games and teaching people how to play. Of course, we all like to eat, so some of the most popular outings were the weekly breakfast, lunch, and dinner events, trying different restaurants and getting to know each other.

Everyone loves a party and EMVi knows how to celebrate! Picnics were hosted by Kristin Chambers and Ed Miner, by Darlene Goetzman and Mike Blumenthal, and by Margaret Bryner during the warm weather. Theresa Schueckler sponsored a yummy ice cream social at Lincoln Park. The larger social events were the anniversary celebration held at the Hinsdale American Legion in October and the Christmas Party in December held in the Olean Business Development Center (our new location). They were well attended and gave us a chance to eat great food, have fun, and meet new people.



**Celebrating Christmas at our new location.**

## **Services**

EMVi provides communications assistance including tech assistance (computers, tablets, phones, televisions, and zoom meetings) and friendly phone calls and check-ins. Our members also assist other members with household assistance (light housekeeping, organizing, decluttering, laundry, and meal preparation) on an occasional basis, as needed, as well as minor home repairs. Property assistance (light yard work and planting flowers boxes or containers) is offered to those who need it. Transportation to medical appointments or for shopping, running errands, and getting or dropping off library books can be arranged with advanced notice. We are a community helping each other. In 2023, the largest number of requests were for transportation and tech help. Our skilled techie, Jean-François, was kept quite busy! Call 585-379-0062 for assistance.

## Treasurer and Finance Committee Report 2023

### REVENUE

Member Donations	75.00
General Donations	669.00
Board Donations	500.00
Stitt Foundation (rent)	900.00
Business Sponsors	0.00
Fundraising	553.20
Grants	0.00
Membership Fees	<u>3725.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,422.20</b>

### EXPENSES

Directors' Insurance	622.00
Rent Deposit	300.00
Rent	900.00
Phone/Zoom	300.61
Event Rentals	425.00
Event Costs	964.94
Office Supplies	252.98
Brochures	40.00
Web Management/Social Media	18.00
Contract Services	225.00
Miscellaneous	<u>10.01</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,058.54</b>

### Notes:

Cash Assets	7281.55
Restricted Stitt Donation (rent for 2024)	<u>3600.00</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>10,881.55</b>

EMVi has no debts or liabilities. EMVi has carefully saved funds over the last three years to build capacity to be able to hire a part-time employee in 2024 and plan for a future paid executive director.

### INKIND CONTRIBUTIONS

The Executive Director and many Enchanted Mountain Village members have donated numerous hours in service of the organization and its members. In 2023, there were 817 documented volunteer hours and many undocumented hours. If a fee of \$20.00 per hour were assigned to those hours, the budget was extended by \$16,340. The \$20.00 per hour value was assigned taking a view toward the local economy. The recommended national value of volunteer work is \$31.80 per hour.

## Looking Forward

Ed Miner, Chairperson, Board of Directors

As a result of a vote by the Board of Directors at the annual meeting in January 2024, I became Chairperson of the Board. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank two of our directors who left us this year. Theresa Schueckler was the first Chairperson of the Board of Enchanted Mountains Village and led us through a lot of new learning experiences. Her wisdom and calm demeanor set a collegial tone that helped us get through the early learning pains. Kim LaMendola brought to the Board a wonderful knowledge and experience of the nonprofit world, along with expertise in social media. She set up our website and created our presence on Facebook and continues to assist with those endeavors. We are grateful to these wonderful women for the time and talents they contributed to EMVi and are pleased that they are continuing as members. I would also like to welcome our two new directors, Mary Rich and Jack Hart. They are both members of our village, and we look forward to the skills and talents they will bring to the future growth and development of EMVi.

The past year was one of consolidation, growth, and constant activity for EMVi. Building on the prior year's strategic planning process, the Board focused on growth activities such as marketing, business engagement, and process improvement. The Marketing Committee looked forward to becoming fully staffed in 2024 with Board leadership in place, and a renewed focus on spreading the good news about EMVi and laying the groundwork for new relationships, expanded fundraising, and additional members. The Finance Committee, in addition to its charter responsibility of oversight of the budget and spending, took on a new responsibility: business engagement. Realizing that the greater Olean business community is an untapped resource of support, both moral and financial, a layered strategy of contact and education, offering a variety of ways for businesses to introduce EMVi to their employees and support memberships for those employees preparing to retire was designed by our ad hoc Business Sponsorship Committee which consists of Lance Chaffee and me.

By far, the most visible and functional achievement was the acquisition of new professional office space in the Olean Business Development Center building on the corner of North Union Street and Sullivan Street. The fourth-floor office comes with access to a conference room and auditorium. This welcome change came about due to the persistence of our Executive Director, Athena Godet-Calogeras, and the generosity of Jim and Carol Stitt. The longevity of this benefit was extended by the offer of future contributions from two of our members. We look forward to another successful year!

## Board of Directors

Chairperson	Ed Miner
Vice-chairperson	Lance Chaffee
Secretary	Linda Matthews
Treasurer	Jean-François Godet-Calogeras

Additional Directors: Athena Godet-Calogeras, Mary Rich, and Jack Hart

## Our Members Say...

*Being a member has brought new friends into my life. It has awarded me opportunities to grow (discussion groups and lectures), socialize (picnics and various gatherings), and give back in a more formal setting to peers that are a little older (and wiser) and some younger (but still wiser). I am fortunate to be in good health now, knowing that someday that may not be so, but I will have the support of friends around me. It's a good "life insurance policy"!*

Mary Rich

*My service as a Board Member for EMVi is providing me a satisfying volunteer opportunity. Moreover, through participation in numerous EMVi programs and events I have developed new friendships and met many fun, interesting retirees.*

Lance Chaffee

*After moving to Allegany from Gowanda, my husband and I joined EMVi about three years ago as a way to develop social contacts. Since then, we've enjoyed a variety of scheduled activities and developed friendships. I love the idea of an intentional network of individuals structured around mutual support. As a more introverted person, I especially appreciate assistance meeting others and interacting.*

Sue Ashby

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