

Vallejo is grateful for...

Kay Flavell



Kay's top and earrings are made of Kente cloth by local artist Loba Yates.

Place of birth: New Zealand. Lived there until 21, then lived and worked in the UK (with a year in Germany and a year in Princeton, NJ) from 1964 to 1983. Emigrated with my family to the US in 1983.

Year arrived in Vallejo: Bought a historic cottage on Nevada St. in 2002 to run as an artist residency. Lived in it part-time until 2013, then full time.

Occupation: Retired university teacher, author, story-collector, director of New Pacific Studio.

Languages: English, German, French.

What is your special talent? Curiosity. Love inspiring people to realize their dreams. "Fostering creativity" is the motto of New Pacific Studio.

What are you most proud of contributing to

Vallejo? Establishing arts nonprofit New Pacific Studio 19 years ago! Enabling dozens of artists and writers from Asia, Europe, the South Pacific and all over the U.S. to enjoy exploring Vallejo's environmental and cultural attractions, and encouraging local artists to reach for the skies!

Special memory of Vallejo? Working with fellow activists to save Sperry Mill and develop our Historic Napa Riverwalk on both sides of the Napa River in order to share our maritime, industrial, architectural and environmental stories.

What do you appreciate about your Vallejo neighborhood? Love walking around the Vista and in Dan Foley Park.

What is a favorite place to hang out in Vallejo? Moschetti's — great coffee and a chance to hang out with others. Missed it this past year!

What is your favorite Vallejo community event? Farmers' market on Georgia Street. There are two fabulous antique shops on Georgia between Sonoma and Marin, so I usually allow myself a little stroll in them, too. My cottage furniture comes from there. I'm also a devoted buyer of recycled clothes. Vallejo is a great resource for them, too!

What is your favorite Vallejo restaurant? Union Hotel in Benicia — ha ha!

What do you hope for yourself and for Vallejo in the next 10 years? To see the development of the Historic Riverwalk on both sides of the river. I also look forward to having well-resourced schools and libraries, and a thriving downtown.

What have you done during the pandemic to help the community? New Pacific Studio has been able to make regular small grants to artists and writers, thanks to our generous donors.

What is one silver lining to the pandemic? For me personally: I could obsess on my current book project.

What person in Vallejo do you really appreciate? My three good friends and mentors: Sharon McGriff-Payne, author; Elissa Shanks Stewart, educator; and Liat Meitzenheimer, former GVRD board member and community activist.

