



Village Addicts GAZETTE

VOLUME 26, NO. 5 A Newsletter for Village Addicts—Chapter 57 September | October 2017



by Alita Rabe, Co-President

CO-PRESIDENT'S CORNER

It's that time of year when ghosts and goblins make an appearance. Many of you have already set up your Halloween displays and will be having open houses.

Halloween is one of the oldest holidays still celebrated today. It is one of the most popular holidays, second only to Christmas.

Did you ever wonder why we celebrate Halloween, why we wear costumes, or go trick-or-treating?

It can be traced back over 2,000 years ago to the Druids, a Celtic culture in Ireland, Britain and Northern Europe. Roots lay in the feast of Samhain, which was annually on October 31st to honor the dead. Samhain signifies "summers end" or November. The Celts believed that the dead could walk among the living at this time. Some of the Celts wore ghoulish costumes so that wandering spirits would mistake them for one of their own and leave them alone. Others offered sweets to the spirits to appease them.

The word 'Halloween' is a shortening of All Hallows' Evening also known as Hallowe'en.

Whatever the reason for celebrating, I really enjoy Halloween and the fall season.

At our meeting we will have four wonderful Halloween vignettes designed by Dayleen Dutcher, Nicki Mitchell, Alita Rabe and Cora Smith. I saw Nicki's at the NCC Gathering and it will take your breath away!

And, Nicki will be demonstrating her skills using a hot knife and other tools from the Hot Wire Foam Factory. She will demonstrate how to make foam look like wood.

We also have three exciting Halloween open houses during October. Claudette Fillet, Jerry & Judyth Rischall, and Nicki Mitchell & Jesse Zavala are opening their homes to us.

I'm looking forward to our meeting, to the open houses, to Halloween and especially to having cooler weather!

FINALLY!

One of our newest members, Joe Morabito, has updated our website and given it a new and exciting look! Go to www.villageaddicts.com and check it out. If you have any suggestions or want to give Joe some kudos, you can contact our "New Webmaster" at jfmorabito.tv@gmail.com

Joe has also linked the new website with our Facebook page and will be keeping updating both since many of us rely on email, social media and such to stay 'in the know' these days!

We are very grateful to have Joe as our new Webmaster so we can provide the most up-to-date information for our members and hopefully attract new members to our club. Thanks, Joe, for a job well done!



IN THIS ISSUE...

Co-President's Corner	1
Finally!	1
Meeting Minutes	2 - 3
Solvang Details	3
NCC Announcement	3
New Products...New Ideas!	4
Newsy News!	4
Thank You!	4
Calendar of Events	5
V.A.A. Board Contact Info	6
Ms. Sunshine	6
What WAS That?	6

Our Next V.A.A. Meeting is:

Saturday, October 7
at **11am**

Don't Forget to bring something to share at the potluck!



Meeting Location:

Robert M. Wilkinson Sr. Citizen Center
8956 Vanalden Avenue | Northridge 91324
(Between Nordhoff & Parthenia
and Tampa & Reseda)

Click for map: <https://goo.gl/maps/1F5wN>

Village Addicts Anonymous
Proud Member - Region 10





by Khia Silberkliet, Secretary

MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was opened by co-Presidents, **Brian Allen** and **Alita Rabe**.

SUNSHINE REPORT – **Peggy Jauregui** updated us on the health of our members. See the Sunshine Report for more information.

NCC REPORT – **Judyth Rischall** shared that the next Gathering will be in Chicago, September 27-30, 2018. See NCC Report for more information. Elections for office were held and all of the same officers

were reelected.

TREASURER'S REPORT – **Marvella McAllister** shared the current status of club finances and noted that all outstanding bills have been paid.

SOLVANG TRIP – There are a few more spots for those that need to sign up for the Solvang trip. The cost is \$30.00 per person for members, \$40.00 for non-members.

WHO IS THE ADDICT? – Alita provided clues about this meeting's mystery member. The member who is an excellent shot, has won many bets at the firing range and assisted her father in loading ammunition as a child is **Deana Princiotta**! The mystery was solved by **David Vaccaro** who received an extra door prize ticket and was able to be first in line for lunch. Deana will be locating the next mystery member for our October meeting.



"ADDICT OF THE YEAR" AWARD NOMINATIONS – Alita explained the purpose of the award. Some of the members make extraordinary contributions in set-up, clean up, or helping out in other ways. This award will allow for recognition of the extra effort. A box and forms for nominations was available on the reception table.

BIRTHDAY DRAWING – **Nancy Cifarelli** was the winner for July and Gary Kukura was the winner for August.

A break was taken to enjoy a potluck salad and dessert lunch buffet.

LISA JOHNSON PRESENTATION – Lisa shared information about midyear introductions and other aspects of Department 56. There will be two Southern California signings in October. On 10/21 at City Lights and on 10/22 at Knott's Berry Farm, **Paul Lundberg** will be doing a signing. The company continues to operate under new leadership with a focus being on trying to get new collectors, particularly Millennials. A special brochure was developed targeting this group and Dept. 56 was at Midsummer Scream in Long Beach sharing information about Department 56. A focus is also on obtaining new licenses that will appeal to this demographic. Nightmare Before Christmas is the highest volume group ever sold to the stores. Margaritaville is also highly popular with the group showing the highest retail sell-thru ever. Local retailers have been encouraged to reach out to local Parrothead groups as these individuals have proven to be avid collectors of all related merchandise.

Coming in December will be a Hot Cocoa premium package for all villages. The Beauty and the Beast set will be available in about three weeks. The Peanuts group will have the Franklin School set and accessories, while **Ralphie's Holiday House** is being added to A Christmas Story. A **Grinch Mountain** set is another new release. There is a **Home for the Holidays** house and accessory piece at a price of \$99.00 for North Pole, Snow Village, and Dicken's Village. For Snow Village, a **Streets of Stillwater** selection, a train station with a coffee shop is being introduced. A **Sugar Mountain Lodge** is being added to North Pole, along with a Dairy Queen elf accessory. Dairy Queen has been very popular and there may be a piece with this license coming to Christmas in the City in 2018. For the Alpine Village, a Bratwurst booth with an accessory is being released. A small grill hood actually comes down over the grill. For Dicken's Village, a lighthouse is being released to Platinum dealers. This lighthouse has beacon lights and there is an accessory piece entitled Yarmouth's Discovery Bay. In the Jack Daniels line, a grain mill is being added and licensed barrels. The price of the set of barrels is \$27.50. A special release for Christmas in the City will be **Cathedral of St. Nicholas**. This church is actually a rerelease with the pieces being made available having been held back from the original release. This church was first released in 2006. Now, 3500 are being made available in a new sleeve to celebrate the 35th anniversary of Christmas in the City. **Tom Bates** will sign and number the entire group and it will retail for the same \$120 that it did when it was first released. Shipping now for Halloween is a train car, **The Beast**. There is an accessory piece, **The Beastmaster**. In the auction for the **Haunted Mansion**, Lisa noted that the rotating glass piece might be resurfacing in 2018.



MEETING MINUTES SOLVANG DETAILS!

RAFFLE PRIZES

CIC Kringle & Sons Boutique
 DV The Merry Fir Advent Wreaths
 NEV Calico Quilts
 NP Nana Split's Ice Cream Parlor
 SV Evergreen Wreaths and Garland
 SVH Retching Pumpkin Diner
 GV Redwood Trees
 N/A Mark Roberts Ornaments

Cora Smith
 Grace Pritchett
 B.J. Allen
 Debi Fornof
 Debbie Shelgren
 Karen DeConza
 Karen Holley
 Linda Pressman



SPECIAL RAFFLE

DV Aldeburgh Music Box Shop
 N/A Hot Classics Dracula's Castle

Geri Little
 Linda Pressman

AUCTION

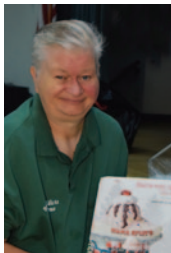
D56 Haunted Mansion
 D56 Signed Ruby Van
 N/A Ceramic Tree

Lisa Johnson
 Frank Smith
 Dave Vaccaro

DOOR PRIZES

CIC Nutcracker Dancers
 DV From Across the Pond
 NEV Ms. Quilt Town
 NP Toot, Toot Tester
 SVH Black Widow Strikes Again
 SV Black & White with Joy All Over
 GV My Garden Bench
 HV Halloween Fence
 GV Sisal Trees
 D56 Jigsaw Puzzle
 N/A Dayleen's Garden Vignette

Joan Ireland
 Marty Kravchak
 Don Gorden
 Nicki Mitchell
 Nancy Cifarelli (bday choice)
 Glenda Biersbach
 Gary Kukura (bday choice)
 Deborah Cross
 Peggy Jauregui
 Mike DeConza
 Vicki Twitchell



For those of you not familiar with Solvang, it is like visiting Denmark with no passport!

In 2016, USA Today named Solvang one of the "10 Best Historic Small Towns in America" for its authentic Scandinavian culture and hospitality. And, in 2014, Trivago named Solvang as one of the best "Hidden European Towns in America".

And, we've just learned that the month of October is their 8th Annual Scarecrow Fest and Contest. It coincides with the Wine Country's "Celebration of Harvest".

During the month of October, Solvang businesses & organizations participate in the contest by featuring a scarecrow of their own creation posted at their location. Locals and tourists vote via ballot boxes, scattered about the City, for scarecrow winners. The Visitor's Center will have maps to direct voters to each of the contest's scarecrows.



Also, Marvella found an article in the L.A. Times that told us on the weekend of October 14-15 Solvang will have **faeriefest**. This is an annual arts & music event with dancers, musicians, artisans, storytellers and

puppeteers all dressed in costumes throughout the city. All of this in addition to over 150 unique shops and over 40 restaurants and bakeries.

We will board an air-conditioned coach at the Wilkinson Center at **8:30a on Saturday, October 14th**. The coach will leave promptly at 9:00a. AND, there will be prizes on the bus trip!!

There are a few seats remaining on the coach so if you would like to join us, please contact Marvella McAllister. The cost is \$30 per club member or \$40 per visitor.



by Judyth Rischall,
 N.C.C. Representative

NCC REPORT

Chicago is the destination for the next Gathering, September 27-30, 2018. Crowne Plaza Hotel Chicago O'Hare 5440 N. River Road | Rosemont, IL 60018 Rate: \$119 night + taxes, Parking: \$14/night with in/out privileges. Reservations will not be taken until mid-October, 2017. Remember to mention the Gathering for the special rate. For more information, please check their website: www.chicagogathering.org

Be sure to check out the NCC website www.NCC.org.



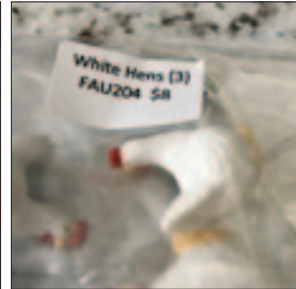


by debbie Shelgren

NEW PRODUCTS...New Ideas!

I did not have much time to shop at the Gathering, but I did Run through the Mini's they add so much to your village or to a vignette. The carrots I think I will plant, I always want pumpkins and the graveyard tombstones are a must in Halloween.

The work table is a train table with mini engine & train magazines, chickens for the farm and again more pumpkins. But the best find was this wine and cheese barrel. I had been to the D-56 seminar where they showed a new winery, *Grapevine Winery* selling for \$140 for Snow Village. They said it was going to be a Platinum dealer exclusive and will be available Saturday, September 19. Good Things for All Seasons, located in Grapevine, TX, got an early release of this piece and the store hosted a Multi-Club event for Texas and Oklahoma Clubs. **Lisa Johnson** was there to do the mid year release presentation and **Stephen Pepin** was there to do a display demo. Bottom right photo shows the winery Stephen put in a display for the store. **Tom Bates** will be there September 9th for an Artist Signing.

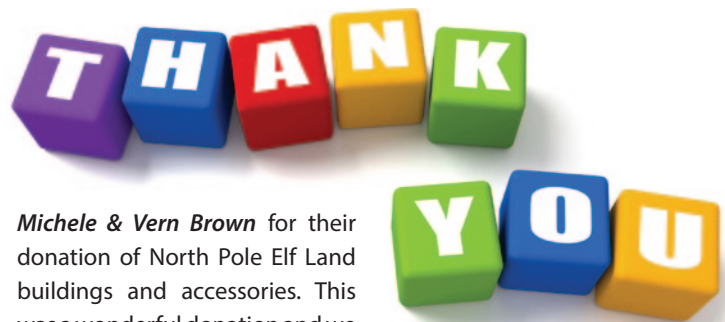


NEWSY NEWS

At the October meeting, we will feature a SILENT Auction rather than a Live Auction. We will be auctioning three items that are a surprise. But, you will really like them.

There will be a sheet of paper next to each item. The sheet will show the minimum bid for each item and the increments that you can bid. Bidding will close at a designated time and the last name and bid on the sheet for the item will be declared the winner.

There will be no Halloween hat or costume contest this year. But, you are all welcome to wear a costume or a Halloween hat if you like. However there will be our annual Club Photo... so come ready to say CHEESE!



Michele & Vern Brown for their donation of North Pole Elf Land buildings and accessories. This was a wonderful donation and we hope to do something special with these pieces next year.

Joe Morabito for his donation of Christmas and Halloween decorations including some nice Santas that you will be seeing soon.

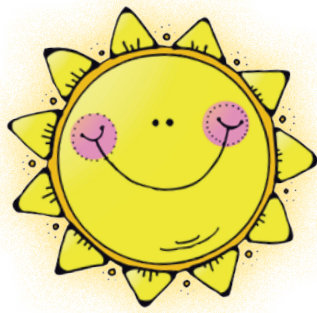
And, **Debbie Shelgren** and **Joan Thomas** gave us several buildings also.

Thanks to ALL of you for your generous donations.



Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Time	What	Speaker	Topic
OCTOBER	1	11a - 5p	ALDIK HOME Holiday Open House There will be refreshments. All Christmas items will be 30% off. All Trees, Garlands, and Wreaths will be 40% off. (Except on lights.) You must say you are a member of the Village Addicts in order to get the discounts. Aldik's has some beautiful Christmas ornaments and decorations. You don't want to miss this sale! 7651 Sepulveda Boulevard Van Nuys, CA 91405 https://goo.gl/maps/61iPg6gjeqC2		
	7	11a	V.A.A. Meeting	Nicki Mitchell	"Is that REALLY made of Styrofoam?" 8956 Vanalden Avenue Northridge, CA 91324 https://goo.gl/maps/1FsWN
	14	8:30a	Trip to Solvang by Motorcoach		
	21	5:30p	NICKI MITCHELL & JESSE ZAVALA Halloween Open House		
		11a - 3p	Dept 56 Paul Lundberg signing at CITY LIGHTS 1212 Knoxville Street San Diego, CA 92110 https://goo.gl/maps/Zn6HhfaeJ612		
	22	11a - 3p	Dept 56 Paul Lundberg signing at KNOTT'S BERRY FARM Emporium Marketplace 8039 Beach Boulevard, Buena Park, CA 90620 https://goo.gl/maps/8W47nedyurv		
	28	3:30p	JUDYTH & JERRY RISCHALL Halloween Open House MUST RSVP as there is a guard gate		
		6p	CLAUDETTE FILLET Halloween Open House MUST RSVP as parking passes are necessary		
NOVEMBER	11	9a - 5p	GREEN THUMB Holiday Open House 23734 Newhall Avenue Newhall, CA 91321 https://goo.gl/maps/eXhbrHbGnyn		
	25	TBA	RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE Village Set-Up (tentative) 4560 Fountain Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90028 http://goo.gl/maps/OWIRC		
	26	TBA	SHRINERS MEDICAL CENTER , Pasadena, Village Set-Up (tentative) 909 S. Fair Oaks Avenue Pasadena, CA 91105 https://goo.gl/maps/666x4rRwS6P2		
DECEMBER	2	11a	V.A.A. Meeting	Debbie Shelgren	"Making Wreaths" 8956 Vanalden Avenue Northridge, CA 91324 https://goo.gl/maps/1FsWN
	16	12p	KAREN HOLLEY Holiday Open House		
	16	TBD	JOE MORABITO Holiday Open House		
JANUARY	6	TBA	RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE Village Take Down (tentative) 4560 Fountain Avenue Los Angeles, 90028 323-644-3000 http://goo.gl/maps/OWIRC		
	7	TBA	SHRINERS MEDICAL CENTER , Pasadena, Village Take Down (tentative) 909 S. Fair Oaks Avenue Pasadena, CA 91105 https://goo.gl/maps/666x4rRwS6P2		
	14	TBA	RIDI LAURITZEN Holiday Open House		



Ms Sunshine

We were thrilled to see *Al Acampora* along with Don Gorden at our August meeting. It has been a long, slow road for Al's recovery and we are so happy that he is doing so well.



JoAnn Inouye advised us that Roy has been diagnosed with cancer and the cancer has metastasized.

Nicki Mitchell reported that husband, *Jesse Zavala*, had knee surgery.

On happier news, *Anthony Princiotta* missed the last meeting as he was picking up a large new toy for him & Deana to enjoy! They are so excited about their first camping trip over Halloween!

After last months meeting, everyone asked
Well, Marvella McAllister answered...

What was that?

PauLa DeeN'S cOr N SaLaD

- 2 – 15oz Cans of Whole Kernel Corn, drained
- 2 cups Grated Cheddar Cheese
- 1 cup Mayonnaise
- 1 cup Green Bell Peppers, Chopped
- 1/2 cup Red Onion, Chopped
- 1 – 10oz Bag Coarsely Crushed Chili-Cheese Corn Chips (Frito's)



Mix together first 5 ingredients and chill. Stir in corn chips just before serving.

Note: For the version I made for the August meeting, I chopped my bell peppers very fine and used fewer corn chips.

Don't Forget!

bring an item to share at the potluck!

