



Village Addicts GAZETTE

VOLUME 27, NO. 1 A Newsletter for Village Addicts—Chapter 57 January | February 2018



by Alita Rabe, Co-President

CO-PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Happy New Year Everyone!

At our December meeting, Debbie Shelgren showed us how to make beautiful wreaths. And the centerpieces on each table were just delightful. Thanks to everyone who made one of the centerpieces. The only problem was I did not win one.

In February, we will have our annual White Elephant sale. Thank you to Jan Laurantzen for organizing it. Jan will need a LOT of help with the setup and pricing. So, please, please volunteer and help out with this huge task.

Last year club members went by bus to Solvang and had a fun trip. Then, in December, we were able to attend a play at a theater in Pasadena. This was organized by Joe Morabito and we all had a good time. Joe has some other surprises he will be presenting this year and I'm looking forward to them.

Brian Allen organized the setup of the North Pole display at the Ronald McDonald House in November 2017. And, we were asked by the *A Noise Within* theater in Pasadena to set up a Dickens' village in their lobby to coincide with the play, "A Christmas Carol". Brian, along with Don Gorden, set up a small but delightful Dickens' village using 21 buildings. The display got a lot of attention from theater goers, where we were sure to promote with signage and brochures to get people interested in the idea of collecting 'little houses'. Check out the displays on our website www.villageaddicts.com.

I have a challenge for you: In 2018, ask what YOU can do to volunteer or help out in some way at club meetings. Some of you don't realize the amount of time & effort that goes into holding incredible & informational meetings for all for us to enjoy. Trying to keep up with presenting new information, with new ideas, finding new speakers and new demonstrations & planning new outings as well as making sure we have tables & chairs up, our sound system on and enough food & drinks for all to enjoy while we are together takes a bit of work and we could ALWAYS use a hand.

My wish for you is that you have a very happy and healthy 2018. Our club is going strong on its 27th year. This club is successful because of members like you! Thank You.



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Our Next V.A.A. Meeting is:

Saturday, February 3

11 a

Don't Forget:

★ **Your White Elephant Items**

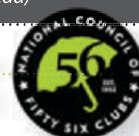
★ **Bring salad or dessert!**



Meeting Location:

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

Village Addicts Anonymous
Proud Member - Region 10





by Khia Silberkliet, Secretary

MEETING MINUTES

A welcome was extended to new members and guests by Brian and Alita .

Alita opened the voting for the 2017 Addict of the Year.

NCC REPORT: Judyth updated members on the upcoming gathering at the end of September, 2018 in Chicago. The website for booking the hotel is still not working properly. You can contact the hotel and make specific arrangements including room reservations. There is a package price for the gathering which includes the dinner pm Saturday and the Sunday breakfast.

SUNSHINE REPORT: Peggy updated members on current concerns. Please refer to the Sunshine Report for further information.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Marvella shared details of our current financial position.

TOURS OF HOMES: Deana Princiotta will respond to requests for information. After this meeting, in order to lessen her load, Deana passed along this duty to Karen Holley who graciously volunteered.

WHITE ELEPHANT SALE: Jan requested that all donors bring in materials for the sale by **10a** on the day of our February meeting and sale. It is beneficial to price the items ahead of time and we are looking forward to a successful sale. All holiday items are welcome. Club will be bringing in pizza, members to please bring salad and desserts.

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE & SHRINERS: Brian shared how Shriners was unable to make the inventory available to set up a display this year. Only a half pallet consisting of approx. 20 houses and some accessories are remaining. It is suggested that members contact Shriners and share our disappointment that the inventory was not handled properly. 🙄

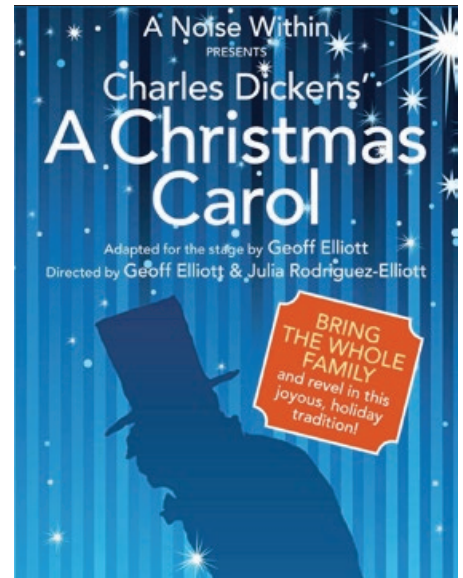
A display was set up at Ronald McDonald House. Another display was set up at the theater, 'A Noise Within'. The Dickens' Village complements the performance of "A Christmas Carol". Signage providing information about VAA is included along with some membership brochures. Look for the displays on our website.

BIRTHDAY DRAWING: Mike DeConza won for November and Carol Berry won for December.

PROGRAM: Debbie Shelgren demonstrated how to make wreaths that can be used also as part of vignettes, in addition to wall and door décor.

ADDICT OF THE YEAR: The Addict of the Year was awarded to Dave & Dayleen Dutcher who received a commemorative ornament and a \$50 gift card in recognition of their efforts from the club.

CHRISTMAS SWEATER: Dave Vacarro won the Christmas Sweater contest.



MEETING MINUTES

DOOR PRIZES WINNERS:

AV	Alpine Sleigh Ride	Jackie Eckberg	CIC	Dairy Queen Billboard	Carol Berry
DV	Holiday Cab Ride	Mike DeConza	NEV	Wenham Lake Ice Delivery	David Guerrero
NP	Sitting in the North Pole	Ted Eckberg	SVH	Hattie's Hats Custom Fitted	Judyth Rischall
SV	Santa Comes to Town 2017	Susan Neiberg	GV	Stone Corner Posts	Alice Toppen
GV	Village Trash Cans	Karen Neiberg	GV	Holly Split Rail Fence	Robin Kukura
Gen	Sleigh Cookie Jar	Paula Vacarro	Gen	Fitz & Floyd Platter	Nicki Mitchell
Gen	Christmas Arrangement	Ridi Lauritzen	Gen	Lemax Bare Branch Tree	Debra Cross

SPECIAL RAFFLE WINNERS:

DV	Leacock Poulterer	Glenda Biersbach	NP	Elfin Toy Museum	Linda Pressman
Mar	Margaritaville Bar	Marianne Burton	DV	Popcorn & Cranberry House	Grace Pritchett
SV	Chateau Valley Winery	Glenda Biersbach	DV	Wingham Lane Parrot Shop	Jan Lauritzen
DV	Staghorn Lodge	Kay Miller	CIC	Ritz Hotel	Diana Laubenstein
SV	Stardust Refreshment Stand	Khia Silberkleit	NP	Cold Care Clinic	Jill Bonino

50/50 WINNER: Ridi Lauritzen





by Alita Rabe, Co-President

THANK YOU GRACIAS Merci SPASIBO Danke MAHALO

Thanks to Co-President, **Brian Allen**, who works very hard for the club. He spearheaded the Ronald McDonald House display setup and takedown. And, he, along with **Don Gordon**, set up a Dickens' display at a theater in Pasadena. He also worked diligently to try to recover the lost collection from the Shriners along with helping to pick up and transport a large collection that was donated to the club this past year. Brian seems to have unlimited energy and never complains about any of many physical activities he does for the club.

Thanks to our terrific secretary, **Khia Silberkleit** who takes the minutes at each club & board meetings, and types the agendas. Khia has also made a number of the beautiful vignettes and centerpieces the club has raffled. And, every time I have asked Khia to help with anything, she always says, Yes. I'd love to!!

Your club funds are in excellent hands, thanks to our treasurer, **Marvella McAllister**. Marvella, works tirelessly to keep the books in order and to give us an accounting of the monies spent + the funds received. She also volunteers for anything and everything for the club.

I am always so proud of our newsletter. **Deana Princiotta** is really a wizard who performs her magic each time our Gazette is published. I look forward to each issue to see how great our newsletter looks. She is our very talented Gazette editor. Thank you, Deana. Deana also makes the badges for new members and is the go-to person whenever we need signage, fliers or brochures for any event, like the display at the theater, Ronald McDonald House and Shriners.

Our hard-working committee chairpersons, Thanks are in order to...

- **Marianne Burton**, Historian
- **Claudette Fillet**, SOCC Representative
- **Peggy Jauregui**, Ms. Sunshine and Peggy also handles reservations for the vendor tables and helps me with the inventory
- **Jan Lauritzen** who organizes the White Elephant sale
- **Joe Morabito** as our new Media Manager. Joe set up our club website and we all love it! (More about Joe later)
- **Deana Princiotta**, Tours of Homes
- **Myrna Richardson / BJ Allen**, Membership; Myrna Richardson for doing the birthday drawings at each meeting
- **Judyth Rischall**, NCC Representative
- **Debbie Shelgren**, New Products/New Ideas
- **David Vaccaro** who does a fantastic job as our club photographer. Check out the website for David's outstanding photos of events and meetings for the V.A.A.
- **Dave & Dayleen Dutcher** who provide the tablecloths, plates, napkins, plasticware and coffee for each of our meetings. They have also volunteered to bring drinks to every meeting for everyone. These two are always on the ball and they always volunteer to

help out wherever we need them. That's why they were selected as "Addicts of the Year 2017".

I would also like to thank some of our newest members particularly: What wonderful assets these people are to our club...

- **Karen Holley** arrives early at every meeting to help set up the tables and chairs and had a wonderful open house in December. She took us on a tour of her village using a flashlight as extra light and as a pointer. In my opinion, she wins the landscaping prize!
- **Nicki Mitchell** made an incredible centerpiece for the October meeting and demonstrated at that meeting what a genius she is at cutting Styrofoam and making displays that blow your mind. **Jesse Zavala** is always there to assist and always helps with the cleanup after our meetings. And, they had an open house at Halloween that made me want to give them a standing ovation. Wow!
- There are not enough adjectives to describe **Joe Morabito**. How did we get so lucky to have him join our club? Joe, assisted by his girl, Kate, set up our website that makes me so happy when I go there. It is terrific. He organized the trip to the theater to see "A Christmas Carol" in December. He arrives early at each meeting and helps set up the tables and chairs. He is constantly asking how he can help and volunteered to help me pull some heavy items out of our storage unit that were buried in the back. It would have taken me two days to get to them and Joe had everything moved in seconds.

With new members like these it makes me think our club will be very successful for years to come. And lastly, Thank You...

- To everyone who had an open house, They were spectacular!
- **Nicki Mitchell & Jesse Zavala, Claudette Fillet and Jerry & Judyth Rischall** in October
- **Karen Holley, Marianne Burton and Dave & Dayleen Dutcher** in December
- **Ridi & Jan Lauritzen, Sandi Grindstaff, Brian & BJ Allen and Debbie Shelgren** in January.
- To everyone who made a vignette/centerpiece this past year. We are so lucky to have these talented people in our club.
- To everyone who helped with the setup and take down at the Ronald McDonald House.
- To everyone who helped set up the tables and chairs before the meetings and those who helped clean up after the meetings.
- To everyone who helped out in any way at our meetings.
- To everyone who participated in our club meetings and club events, such as our trips to Solvang and to the theater.

You all make it such a pleasure to be a member of this club. So THANK YOU very much and keep up the good work in 2018!!



by Jan Lauritzen

WHITE ELEPHANT SALE

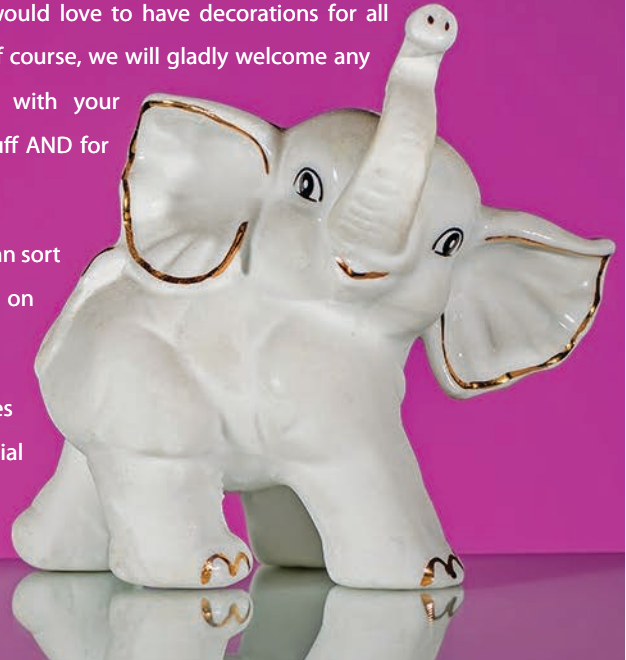
February is our Annual White Elephant Sale meeting and we need your help!

While you pack up & sort your Christmas decorations, place any that you do not want to continue using into a box or bag labeled VAA White Elephant. We would love to have decorations for all seasons and holidays throughout the year. And, of course, we will gladly welcome any Department 56 products. Please be generous with your donations to the club. This is a great way for you to get rid of your extra stuff AND for the VAA to make money to buy door & raffle prizes for future meetings.

Bring all of your items to the meeting room as close to **10a** as you can so we can sort and price them *before* the meeting starts. And, if you can put a price sticker on them yourself, that would be even better!

No items will be sold prior to 1p and no items may be removed from the tables prior to the start of the sale. But, keep your eyes open, you may spot a special treasure you didn't even know you were looking for and can plot your strategy for obtaining it when the sale begins.

Pizza will be furnished by the club, please bring Salads or Desserts.



by Debbie Shelgren

NEW PRODUCTS...New Ideas!

This picture was posted on the Dept 56 Villages it is some of the 2018 North Pole pieces. If this is what is to come for 2018, I am all in and can't wait to see them in person.

How do you store your village? My husband has one rule for me: NO Outside Storage. And, from talking to other collectors, it seems like everyone has the same issue. I used to put the house boxes in big plastic tubs, but with all the different box sizes, I would waste some valuable space. Now, they are stacked on shelves and I can get a lot more in the same space.

I know as I am getting older at some point I am going to have to downsize. Today, my daughter found this on a web site. ▼ One of her friends said it has decluttered his home. Melissa said, "Mom

you need this. It would be perfect for all your accessories." I am going to save my allowance and see if it really would save some space. But more importantly, all of the mini things that I buy and when I need them, I can't find what I am looking for.



(Note from the Editor, Deana): Debbie, you can find at www.TheOriginalScrapbox.com and I have one, though I use for my scrapbook stuff and not Village stuff, it's the best thing my husband ever bought me!



KAREN HOLLEY Open House



DAVE & DAYLEEN DUTCHER Open House



DEBBIE SHELGREN Open House



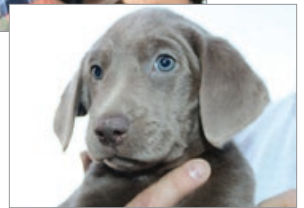


Ms Sunshine

MaryJean Floryan was on crutches in December having tweaked her knee while taking down Halloween decorations.

"Thinking of You" cards were sent to **Carole Collard**, **Stan Higgins**, and **Tom & Geri Little**.

Deana & Anthony Princiotta have been BUSY, BUSY, BUSY! Not only did Deana give Anthony the most ADORABLE Christmas Birthday present EVER (A silver labrador named Belvedere, "Bell" for short) they accidentally found & ended up buying their dream house on Dec 18 in Acton, contingent on the sale of their townhouse which sold 4 days later! Escrow is set to close January 31 & February 8 therefore they have been busy packing / unpacking thus missing the upcoming Meeting. Anthony recently started up an Elks Riders Motorcycle Club for their lodge, which has gained recognition from the 'Grand Lodge' and he will be working with them to make it an official National Committee working with the already existing Riding Clubs (Laws, By-Laws, Logos, Events, etc.) Keep your fingers crossed all goes as planned, they can both come up for air soon and they can have an Open House next year!



Please contact Peggy with news about members, including health issues, deaths, as well as information about happy events such as family milestones, awards, trips, and any other happy news that you want to share.



by **Judyth Rischall**,
N.C.C. Representative

NCC REPORT

Reservations can now officially be made for the SWEET HOME CHICAGO Gathering. The form is on the web site www.chicagogathering.org. The \$1.00 extra charge is a Chicago tax for the Bingo. I had trouble with the form and forgot to add the \$1.00 into my reservation. So had to send

it separately.

And make hotel reservations for the 2018 Gathering SWEET HOME CHICAGO. Date: September 27-30, 2018 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Chicago O'Hare 5440 N. River Rd., Rosemont, IL 60018, Rate: \$119.00/night+taxes, Parking: \$14/night with in and out privileges. Don't forget to let the Hotel know that you are with the Gathering. If you have a problem making the reservation, you can call the hotel directly.

