



Village Addicts GAZETTE

VOLUME 27, NO. 4 A Newsletter for Village Addicts—Chapter 57 July | August 2018



by Brian Allen, Co-President

CO-PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Another two months have passed, and another meeting is coming up. Hope to see everyone at the next meeting, it should be fun as always.

Unfortunately, time passes, and it is necessary to recognize that our ranks do change. Over the last few months we all have been brought aware of the passing of Al Acampora. We, but mostly Don Gorden, have lost a good, fun, and caring friend. Al was a trooper and gave it a good fight.

He was called and has gone on to the next chapter. We wish him the best and hope to meet up with him in our next chapter.

We also lost Bob McBroom. Many of you may remember Bob and Agnes. They were very active and involved members for many years with the V.A.A. and the California Gold Gathering. Anyone who ever went to their house for an open house will never forget the Villages Bob set up.

And in case you didn't hear, Stan Higgins passed recently and I am sure he is now happily reunited with Ethel.

I do not want to forget to recognize the difficulty that Joe Morabito has gone through this last year, losing multiple family members. I just hope that all of us can hold up as well as he has from the losses he and his family has had to endure.

Agnes, Don, and Joe, we send you our heartfelt condolences and best wishes for better times in the future. Nothing will replace your losses, but time can provide some new gains.

On a lighter subject, both Barbara and I wish to thank all of you who came out on a Hot, Hot, Hot day for a BBQ and to see a very small village with a very large Santa standing over it. For those of you who could not make it we thank you for trying and hope you can find time to stop by as it will be up for a while.

In future meetings, lets put our heads together and come up with some ideas for activities, so put on your thinking caps and have some fun.

Let's also stay healthy for a while, we do not enjoy losing friends. As they say...better times are coming...or they better be!

Take care and see you on the 4th of August.

Brian

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Our Next V.A.A. Meeting is:

Saturday August 4
at **11a**

Don't Forget to Bring an item 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/1FsWN>

Village Addicts Anonymous
Proud Member - Region 10



DID YOU KNOW?

The month of August is often referred to as the "dog days of summer" but not because of pet pooches. It has to do with the star Sirius, also known as the dog star, which rose at the same time as sunrise during the month of August in ancient Roman times.



by Khia Silberkleit, Secretary

MEETING MINUTES

The June 2 meeting opened with Alita Rabe welcoming all members. Alita thanked all of the officers and those who made vignettes for the meeting, and gave a special thanks to Deana for her work on the Gazette.

SUNSHINE REPORT – Peggy Jauregui shared the Sunshine Report. Please refer to this report for updated information.

OPEN HOUSES – Open Houses are coming up soon. Brian reminded all that these are times to focus on the displays and the season and that conversation should be politically neutral.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Marvella McAllister updated the club members on our financial status. All bills are paid and we are up to date.

CLUB OUTING – Joe Morabito has been putting together an excursion to City Lights on September 8. Details of this outing are being finalized.

NEW PRODUCTS/NEW IDEAS – Debbie Shelgren shared her display of Reynolds Mansion, which is a new piece based on the actual Reynolds Mansion bed and breakfast in Asheville, North Carolina. The piece has no snow and it is a great year-round piece.

TREE WORKSHOP – Karen Holley discussed scheduling a make and take tree workshop in August at the Wilkinson Center for a cost of \$10 per participant. Details of this workshop is forthcoming.

CLUB PRESIDENT – Nominations were welcomed for club President. BJ Allen volunteered to be co-president with Brian for the next two years.

BIRTHDAY DRAWING – Myrna Richardson drew Paula Vacarro as the winner for May and Deana Princiotta for June.

Our program featured presentations by Robin Hervey called, “Shrinking Real Estate” and Joan Thomas shared, “Water For Your Displays.”

50/50 DRAWING – Jan Lauritzen

DOOR PRIZES

CIC	Sidewalk Shoe Repair	Jackie Eckberg	DV	Twelfth Night Temptation	Deborah Cross
NEV	The American Dream	Vickie Twitchell	NP	Yeti’s North Pole Treats	Dayleen Dutcher
SV	Mother’s Little Helper	Diana Laubenstein	GV	Village Drinking Fountains Set/2	Michele Brown
HAL	Up, Up & Away Witch	Paula Vacarro	GV	Double Pine Trees	Deana Princiotta
GEN	Lemax Stone & Brick Bridge	Nancy Cifareli	GEN	Fabric Decorated Holiday Ball	Joan Ireland

RAFFLE PRIZES – Centerpieces on each table

NP Real Artificial Tree Factory	Design by: Jill Bonino	Won by: Debbie Shelgrin
<i>– All North Pole Elfland pieces were donated by Vern & Michele Brown –</i>		
Custom Stitchers	Design by: BJ Allen	Won by: Diana Laubenstein
Fretta’s Fruit Cake Co.	Design by: Khia Silberkleit	Won by: Marvella McAllister
NP Grandma’s Bakery	Design by: Nicki Mitchell Design	Won by: Patti Lucas
The Elf Spa	by: Peggy Jauregui Design by:	Won by: Grace Pritchett
Christmas Critters Pet Store NP	Dayleen Dutcher Design by:	Won by: Patti Lucas
General Store	Marvella McAllister Design by:	Won by: Cora Smith
Mini Donut Shop	Cora Smith	Won by: Jill Bonino
Wedding Bells Chapel	Design by: Karen Holley	Won by: Khia Silberkleit

ADDITIONAL RAFFLE PRIZES

CIC	Fulton Fish House	Linda Botts	DV	King’s Cakes	Bill Reyna
SV	Home Away From Home Fish Shack	Bill Reyna	GV	Redwood Pines	Joe Morabito

AUCTIONS

“Writing Santa” – a musical animated Santa	Paula Vaccaro
“The Starlight Express” – a train set w 17 pieces	Dave Vaccaro



If you are planning to go on our motor coach trip to City Lights in San Diego on Saturday, September 8, please pay Marvella McAllister at the August 4th V.A.A. meeting. The cost is \$30 per person and you may bring a guest for \$30 also. There will be a stop in La Mirada at Clearman's North Woods Inn to pick up the Orange County/Lakewood/Long Beach people before continuing to San Diego. There will be water and snacks on the bus and we will have PRIZES!! When we return to the North Wood Inn, we will have a no host dinner and Joe is working to get separate checks for us. After dinner, the coach will return to the Wilkinson Center. A more complete itinerary will be provided at a later date.

DON'T FORGET, you need to pay for the trip at the August 4 meeting. If you need further information, please contact: Joe Morabito .



by Karen Holley,
Open House Coordinator

OPEN HOUSE Report

Hello everyone. Many of you attended BJ & Brian's Margaritaville Open house. It was warm but we all had a good time, I think. I sure did! (Maybe it was those Margaritas?) It was very neat to see all

the Margaritaville village + one Snow Village building displayed all together. And with a big surfer Santa! The new buildings had arrived just the night before the party!

Our next meeting is coming soon and I want all of you to think about having at least a little open house. It works very nicely to group some homes in a close vicinity on the same day so it doesn't end up an entire day for any of the hosts. Many people are intimidated by the large displays and homes that some people have. Don't be. We enjoy the gathering no matter the size. Everyone has their own style and are so very creative. We appreciate that you share that with us even just for a couple of hours. So think about Halloween. I missed the displays last year so I hope to see some this year.

It is also not too early to think about Christmas Open Houses. We have a few being planned (in example: Pat & Rhonda Colgan and Anthony & Deana Princiotta on Saturday, December 22!) so far but would love to have some more to WOW us. Everyone is so talented in this club of addicts.



by Judyth Rischall,
N.C.C. Representative

NCC Report

Events to keep in mind:

2018

- Sweet Home Chicago - September 27-30, 2018
- Golden Glow of Christmas Past - August 22-25, 2018
- Wicked Good Time - October 12-14, 2018

2019 AND 2020

- Gathering in Cincinnati, Ohio - June 20-23, 2019
- Gathering in Florida - June 2020

Melinda Seegers, Ms. Lit Town announced some much needed changes to the Department 56 website. Previously, there were only about 60-70 replacement parts listed and for others you would have to call Customer Service line to order. Once the website is fully loaded all available replacements will be listed along with a picture of the part. You will still be able to call Customer Service with any questions. If the part is not available online, it is not available through Department 56 at all.





by Debbie Shelgren

NEW PRODUCTS...New Ideas!

I always love getting the gift sets. They come with an accessory. I like the ideas Department 56 has for displaying them. A simple tray, a red place mat and some red berries is all you need to make a beautiful vignette.

“Our theme for 2018 depicts a wonderful old-world tradition of leaving a candle in the window as a welcome sign. The soft glow illuminating a frosty pane acts as a beacon, a gentle signal 'we're waiting for you'...the Tradition Continues.”

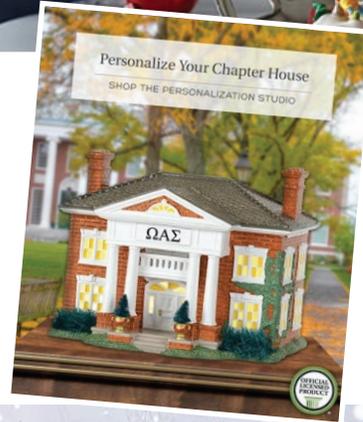
If you would have asked me if I would be putting a fraternity house in my village I would say NO!!!! Then, your first grandson goes off to UCSB and rushes as a member of Sigma Nu Fraternity. Looks like I will be adding this to my list!

Last but not least, a new member, *Patti Lucas*, works at *A Christmas Store 'N More* in Big Bear, California. She sent a picture of the cutest little house and said she loved it. She said, Debbie, you have to see this house it is soooo cute it is part of the Silver Series. Now if you saw these would you not think they were part of North Pole?

Here is the information from Department 56:

“Setting up a Department 56 Village is a tradition many families have passed down for generations. To give new families an economical way to begin this tradition, we introduce our Silver Collection in two of our most beloved Village series - Dickens' Village and North Pole.”

Each building costs \$64.



Up for AUCTION

We will have two animated Santa figurines up for auction!

The first is by Holiday Creations and is an Animated Holiday Scene. Santa is standing by a telescopic lamp post that raises to 36-inches tall. Santa has a gift for the child standing beside him.

Original retail price \$100.



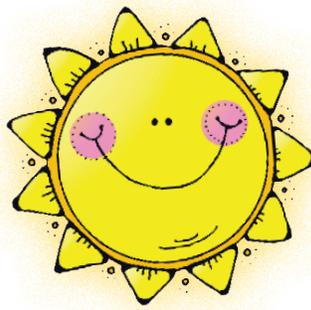
The second item, also by Holiday Creations, is a 24-inch tall Santa that greets you with “HO – HO – HO, Merry Christmas when you squeeze his palm. He also plays Christmas carols and is holding a lighted candle.

Original retail price \$44.99.



BARBARA & BRIAN ALLEN Open House





Ms Sunshine

Al Acampora was hospitalized on June 1st and passed away on June 2nd. Al was a charter member of V.A.A. and we loved seeing his smiling face at the meetings and club events. Al had a great sense of humor and we will all miss him terribly.

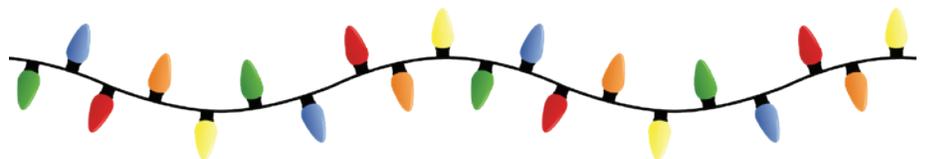
Long-time member, **Stan Higgins** passed away. Stan had fallen twice and broken some ribs. He has no living relatives and we have no information yet as to any service. If we receive any information, we will pass it along.

Joe Morabito's maternal grandmother passed away June 2 and his paternal grandmother, who got him started on collecting Dept. 56 and loving Christmas decorations, passed away in July. We are so sorry for these losses for his family. On a happier note, Joe's father had surgery on Monday, July 9 and has been declared cancer free. We are all thankful and very happy about that.

Khia Silberkleit announced that their daughter, Annalisa Silberkleit is now engaged to Evan Engh. Wedding bells will probably be ringing next summer, but no date has been finalized. That is GREAT news and I'm sure grandparents, Ted and Jackie Eckberg, are very excited, also.

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. Wishing everyone good health. Please stay well!

HOLIDAY LIGHTS AT THE REAGAN LIBRARY



OPENS SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2018

The Reagan Foundation has already begun planning for its biggest Christmas Exhibit ever! In addition to the annual Christmas Tree exhibit, held indoors each year, this year the Reagan Library will be home to an outdoor wonderland – an outdoor walking tour of the entire Reagan Library campus filled with thousands of Christmas Lights, live musical entertainment, and much, much more!

This not-to-be-missed nighttime holiday event, which runs nightly from 6p – 10p, will be fun for the entire family. The 60-90 minute walk around the Reagan Library campus will include LEDs, lasers, 3D projections, animated displays, interactive photo ops, and so much more. Capture your holiday memories in a photo with Santa (weekends only), warm up with hot cocoa and other holiday treats, and more!

As this is an outdoor walking tour, the main Reagan Museum, Air Force One Pavilion and Christmas Tree exhibit will be closed. Holiday Lights will operate rain or shine. No refunds or exchanges can be made once tickets are purchased.