

VILLAGE ADDICTS GAZETTE

Meeting Highlights

VAA's Reunion-Birthday Party on October 2, 2010
Myrna Richardson, Secretary

About a year ago, former president Kimberly Harmon (VAA's idea gal) said the Club should celebrate the start of our 20th year with a reunion/party. The Club's Board sprang into action with a flurry of activity which culminated in a fabulous reunion party/meeting on October 2, 2010.

Pat Harmon and Peggy Jauregui reconstructed old Rosters to compile a list of former members. Cora Smith Alita Rabe, Judyth Rischall and Paula Vaccaro contacted the former members with a "save the date" message and updated their addresses. Pat set up a data base with all current information. Pat created invitations which were mailed to all present members, all the former members who had been located and special friends.

Bud Arntzen, Peggy and Cora worked like busy elves all summer to create and organize lots and lots of door prizes and raffles.

Peggy took R.S.V.P.'s and checks and made a list, then checked it twice. Stan Higgins got lots of colored tickets for the various raffles. Cora organized little tubs and baskets to hold all the tickets, etc., etc., and so forth. In other words, it was a very busy summer for the VAA elves.

Cora and Peggy interviewed caterers and tasted food all over the Valley until they finally settled on an Italian menu from Bene Cucina in Sherman Oaks, augmented by Cora's salads, sausages and meatballs, Myrna's Italian olives and cheese, and two Halloween birthday cakes.

Finally, the Big Day! Peggy, Bud, Pat, with lots of helpers, including Carolyn Ferrito, Claudette Fillet, Sandy Fernandez and Don Gorden arrived early. They set and decorated tables and made the room look festive. Paula and David Vaccaro, along with volunteer extraordinaire Dawn Smith set out the food.

Alita led a "parade" of several cars full of folks from the southern end of the County, including Tom and Jeri Little, Pat Campbell, Helen Lind, Tom and Carol Berry.

Let The Party Begin! Lots of old and new friends. It was wonderful to see former members Betty Christian, Gail Reynolds, Joan Thomas, founding past-presidents Gayle Farley (with husband Ed), Alexis Shostac and Terri Tippit, past-presidents Andrea Redeker, Alita Rabe, Judyth Rischall, members we don't see too often any more, including the Fornof family and new members Annette Horwitz, Vern & Michele Brown, Jim & Lauren Murphy, Billie Jean Knight, Frank & Barbara Maslowski, Lynn Puite and Cathy Waters. We dined on the sumptuous buffet! (VAA always dines well - it's one of the things we do best!). During lunch, we watched a CD created by Linda Yount from pictures from VAA's scrapbooks, taken and kept by Bud. What a treat to see old and new friends on the screen. Thanks, Linda, for a wonderful presentation!

Bud welcomed all and introduced the guests - the celebration of VAA's first 19 years was off and running! The ten Holiday Centerpiece Dept 56 buildings were distributed to volunteers - can't wait to see their fabulous creations at the December meeting!

During the break, we (all) went outdoors (on the hottest day of the year!) to have our Annual VAA Group Photo taken by David Vaccaro, our official photographer. The annual pictures are always a treat because David is an excellent photographer.

After the group picture, we watched another CD prepared by David Vaccaro, showing various open houses and set to music. Another delightful CD presentation. The afternoon was completed by Bud, with help from Paula, by drawing lots of names to win the many door prizes, raffles and special raffles. Andrea Redeker won \$172 in the 50/50 drawing! To end the party/meeting, the Special Raffle of the Reissue of the Original Dickens' Seven Buildings was held with great fanfare and excitement - and won by Cora Smith!

Door Prizes

<u>Description</u>	<u>Made by/Donor</u>	<u>Winner</u>
Chocolate Skull	Cora Smith/VAA	Dayleen Dutcher
Chocolate Skull	Cora Smith/VAA	Don Gorden
Ceramic Pumpkin with Candy	Peggy Jaurgeui	Frank Smith
Orange Raffia Basket with Candy	Peggy Jaurgeui/VAA	Michele Brown
Black Witch and Candy	Peggy Jaurgeui	Gail Reynolds
Spooky Knoll Cemetery (Lemax)	VAA	Lynn Puite
Animated Scarecrow	Mary Faubion	Dic Fornof
Black Oak Tree (Dept 56)	Mary Faubion	Janet O'Donnell
Bone to be Wild (Dept 56)	VAA	Lauren Murphy
Campfire Scary Stories	VAA	Vickie Twitchell
Dr. Lunatic - Mad Scientist (D56)	VAA	Tom Little
Scary Street Lights (D56)	Joe Egizi	Barbara Allen
Bringing Home Baby (CIC)	Mary Faubion	Robert Howard
Wooden Canoes (D56)	Mary Faubion	Sandy Grindstaff
Leonardo & Vincent (NP)	VAA	Geri Little
What an Adorable Baby (SV)	Mary Faubion	Glenda Biersbach
Hard Rock Café Ornament (SV)	VAA	Barbara Reyna
Glitter Trees (Set 4)	Cora & Peggy/VAA	Geri Little
Glitter Trees (Set 4)	Cora & Peggy/VAA	Margaret Reichenbach
Glitter Trees (Set 4)	Cora & Peggy/VAA	Ethel Higgins
Glitter Trees (Set 4)	Cora & Peggy/VAA	Jo Ann Lundgren
Cornucopia Arrangement	Peggy/VAA	Pat Campbell
Pumpkin Arrangement	Peggy/VAA	Frank Smith
Jigsaw Puzzle (Topiary Falls)	Peggy Jauregui	Fornof Family
Topiaries	VAA	Carolyn Ferrito
Pumpkin with Candies	Peggy/VAA	Michele Brown
Ceramic Pumpkin	Peggy/VAA	Frank Smith
Goodie Bag	VAA	Gail Reynolds

Raffle Prizes

<u>Description</u>	<u>Made by/Donor</u>	<u>Winner</u>
Monsters of the Deep	VAA	Alexis Shostac
Zelda's Wax Museum	VAA	Carole Collard
Rat Race	VAA	Jackie Eckberg
Water Tower (Lemax)	Cora Smith	Pat Campbell
Phantom Cruise Ship (Lemax)	Myrna Richardson	Jo Ann Lundgren
Halloween Vignette	Cora/VAA	Myrna Richardson

A Note:

Special Thanks to Department 56 Retirees, Harry and June McGowan, for their donation to the club of a large group of Department 56 accessories and ornaments! Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

REMINDER - PLEASE BRING A POT LUCK DISH FOR OUR LUNCHEON ON DECEMBER 4TH....
ONE DOOR PRIZE TICKET IS YOUR REWARD.....



A handsome group if I do say so myself!

Sunshine Report

Please let Peggy Jauregui know of anyone who needs cheering up – (818) 763 3096

Maryann Cossentine has been ill for a few months due to an unidentified complication from pneumonia. We send our good wishes to her and hope she is well again soon.

Red Collard has been hospitalized twice for chronic respiratory problems and other complications. Our good wishes to him.

Stan Higgins had cataract surgery and is doing well. Ethel still coping with her back injury and breathing problems. We send our good wishes to both of them and hope things are better soon.

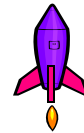
Become a member of Village Addicts! Tell a friend! If you are a Department 56 Collector, join us! Call Peggy Jauregui at (818) 763 3096 for information about Membership!

Members Table – do you have some pieces you wish to sell? We have a special table for you to display these items – contact Peggy at (818) 763 3096 for details.

Please remember to bring food items to the meeting. Deposit them in the **YELLOW** Deacon's Barrel for the homeless served by the Hollywood Presbyterian Church.

CASH CONTRIBUTIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED BY RED OR CAROL AT THE MEETING AND FOOD ITEMS WILL BE PURCHASED.

VAA Announces Launch of Website



<http://www.villageaddicts.com>

Please check it out!

Reminder – Please bring a pot luck dish for our luncheon.

WOW what a kickoff for our 20th year!!!

The Reunion and our Birthday Party was a great success! It was quite a group of people, some I haven't seen in years. The last count I heard was between 78-80.

All four of our original founders of the V.A.A. were there, Alexis Shostac, Terri Tippit and Ed and Gayle Farley. Thanks guys for taking the time out of your busy days to come and the pride you must have felt to see what you started 19 years ago is still going strong.

Cora, we all must thank you for arranging for our catered food, it was delicious, a big thanks to your daughter Dawn for setting up the food tables..a job well done.

Our President, Red was there, but quit ill (not contagious) so we had to do some adlibbing at the podium, but we got through it. Get well, red we need you.

Here is another, wow -the goodies we had for this special day: 25 door prizes, the 25th anniversary pieces - seven Dicken's buildings of the remake of their first seven buildings were all signed - Cora was the big winner there!

Then there was the 50/50, \$160.00 won by Andrea Redeker - good going Andrea!

Cora's table top display (beautifully done Cora) was won by Myrna Richardson, I'm so envious, but happy for you Myrna. And last but not least our raffle the five nice Halloween buildings. So, overall about 30% of our gathering took something home.

Thanks to all who put in so much work in getting this big meeting together. Peggy, with 12 table top decorations, nice job, gal!

Many thanks to one and all.....Bud



Just a subtle (smirk) reminder that we are going to have our annual ornament exchange at this next meeting.

Please bring an ornament (value of \$10.00 +) to add to our Christmas tree for the exchange. This is always a fun event for those who participate!

HOW TO CONTACT US:

President – Bruce “Red” Collard	818/846-5720
bccroses@yahoo.com	
Secretary – Myrna Richardson	818/781-1616
mrrvaa@pacbell.net	
Treasurer – Stan Higgins	818/892-510
squekev@verizon.com	
Asst. Treasurer – Jo Ann Inouye	818/341-6090
Joann.inouye@yahoo.com	
Gazette Editor – Pat Harmon	805/581-2632
PatsVAA@aol.com	Fax 805/581 0545
So. California Clubs/New Products	
– Alita Rabe	562/928-1584
Atilahon1@aol.com	
Society of Christmas Collectors	
- Claudette Fillet	818/890-1045
Clo4755@aol.com	
RMcD House – Cora & Frank Smith	818/343-7075
northpoleplanner@socal.rr.com	
NCC Rep – Judyth Rischall	818/591-1398
garischall@pobox.com	
Tour of Homes – Stan Higgins	818/892-5100
squekev@verizon.com	
Historian, Inventory & Storage	
Bud Arntzen	818/881-5631
Photographer – David Vaccaro	661/251-9412
davidvaccaro@att.net	
Asst. Photographer – Frank Smith	818/343-7075
northpoleplanner@socal.rr.com	
Membership/Compassionate Service	
Peggy Jauregui	818/763-3096
Webmaster – Linda Yount	818/883-1757
Vaa.webmaster@gmail.com	

ANNOUNCEMENT

<http://www.department56.com/content.aspx?ms=youtube>

Check it out – Christmas Lane Contest!

Share your over-decorated house – Upload your video to YouTube

Step #1 – Video record your decorated house both in the daylight and the evening. Be sure to shoot as many angles of your home display as possible. All entries must have a theme. See examples of other Christmas Lane lighted buildings (links provided).
Step #2 – Upload your video to your You Tube account. Then visit the Department 56 You Tube group by clicking on the link provided. The deadline to submit your video is December 10, 2010.

Step #3 – Voting will take place December 13-17, 2010. The top 10 vote getting winners will receive a “Christmas Lane Dancing Lights” house signed by the artist. One Grand Prize winner, chosen by Department 56, will have their concept/theme created into a lighted building for Christmas Lane

COLLECTORS

These Crazy Collectors Third in Series

by BJ Allen and Alita Rabe

Our little lighted buildings have brought us all together with a common interest. But, I am always fascinated by the *other* things we collect. And, I think we all collect *other* things. So far, I haven't met a club member who does not have at least one other collection that is really important to them. In this column I hope to spotlight some of those *other* collections.

Brian and Barbara (BJ) Allen have an extensive Hawaiiana collection that includes Gonder figurines, other figurines, fabric, dolls, leis, original art by some well-known Hawaiian painters and many other items. When you go into their home, the "girls" greet you. For those of you who haven't visited, the "girls" are life-sized mannequins dressed in beautiful and colorful Hawaiian or Tahitian outfits. Most people do a double take the first time they see them.

BJ was a dancer in a troupe doing Tahitian and hula dances. That is when she began collecting Hawaiiana pieces around 1975. She started finding odds and ends at swap meets to furnish a Polynesian themed room that turned into a Polynesian themed house.

Brian was the sound systems/general manager of the group and he was also collecting Hawaiiana. When their households merged, it was Hawaiiana overload! But, the collecting has never stopped and new things are added every year thanks to eBay and trips to Hawaii.

BJ states, "We currently have most of the truly tasteless items and now are seeking the more rare and expensive things. Happily that limits what we bring home." She further states, "Our collection is large and out of control." Their Hawaiian friends all look at their collection as the junk they threw out when they were kids (and now wish they hadn't).

BJ has a collection of Hawaiian fabrics that would be the envy of most fabric stores. She also collects Ming's pins. Ming's is a line of jewelry well known for the highest quality of their ivory pieces. Ming's jewelry was designed and made in Hawaii in the 1940's to 1990's.

Their NON-collection is Jim Shore pieces. But, there seems to be a lot of them for someone who is not collecting.

Brian's collection of brothel bottles is unique and fascinating. They are very unusual and they are always a topic of conversation whenever new guests are visiting.

Their other collections include Disney pieces and lots of Disney pins. And BJ loves anything that glitters. She has more glittery stuff to put on their Christmas trees than most department stores. (Clue: Wear sunglasses to any holiday open house at their place.)

One of BJ's favorite collections is the Dept. 56 Winter Silhouette pieces. She takes a little vacation back in time when she sees them. She says she doesn't remember the 1890's personally, but likes to think they were a slower paced time that truly allowed you to enjoy the holidays.

Another favorite of hers is the Dept. 56 All Through the House series because it is so light hearted.

In addition to the Hawaiiana and his brothel bottles, Brian loves his Dept. 56 North Pole , Disney, Bethlehem, and the history that is around the Dickens village. Each year Brian puts up a remarkable display(s). His last display with all of the villages together separated by partitions was great! They also collect New England village that is BJ's favorite.

Like most collectors, their non-collecting friends all think they are crazy (how many times have we all experienced that).

BJ sighs, "I have to admit I never thought we would have as many D56 houses as we do."

And what is their largest collection? Storage boxes!

One of "the girls"



Brothel Bottles



X X X X X

In case you hadn't heard the news -

William Glen in Sacramento is closing at the end of this Christmas Season. Family members have opened a shop in "old town" Sacramento - haven't had a chance to visit yet...Pat

NCC news from Judyth

September 17 - 19, 2010 - Livonia, Michigan
Alita Rabe and I had a wonderful time in Livonia. The Gathering was well planned. The seminars were very interesting.

Bronners was amazing and Always Christmas was wonderful. The trunk of Jerry's car was packed. We had to put our luggage in the back seat.

The 'Happy Trails to Arizona' delegation put on a great show advertising their Gathering.

We visited Ruth and Dick Graf on the outgoing and return trips. They are very gracious hosts.

And don't forget next year's event:

September 29 - October 2, 2011 - Litchfield Park, Arizona, near Phoenix

'Happy Trails to Arizona' is being planned by the Arizona Village Collectors, Desert Villagers and the Southwest Villagers. The host hotel is the Wigwam Golf Resort and Spa. Reservations can be made at (623) 935-3811 or (800) 327-0396 and mention 'Happy Trails to Arizona'. The website is www.southwestvillagers.com.

The National Council of 56 Clubs plans a presence at this event.

For additional information visit the event website or the NCC Web page at <http://www.ncc56.com>.

Pictures from our "Party"



The REALLY Good Stuff!



Food Glorious Food



Many thanks to David V for all his photographic skills.... he always manages to catch us with our mouths open!



The Dynamic Duo



Pick a winner, any winner!



Pick Me!



The Photo Albums



A Goodly Group!



More "folks"



I won, I won!



Those "bugs" were everywhere!



From the Halloween Open House at the Harmon's



Are you scared yet?



Bingo was fun!



The Coffin – a Grave Undertaking





VAA Holiday Tour of Homes as of 11/18/10

SATURDAY...DECEMBER 11, 2010

6:00 P.M. to ?:? P.M.	Claudette Fillet (818) 990-1045 4130 Dixie Cyn. Ave. Sherman Oaks 91423	From the 101 Fwy take Woodman Ave Exit and go south to Ventura Blvd. then left(east) onto Ventura Bl. and go to Dixie Cyn Ave turn right(south) onto Dixie Cyn and go to 4130
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Sunday.....DECEMBER 12, 2010

2:00 P.M. To 4:00 P.M	Michele & Vern Brown 29555 Rossiter Rd. Murrieta CA 92563 (951) 696-4059	Off of Hwy 79 In Murrieta, take Hunter Rd, take 3 rd right on Cresta Del Rey, go approx. .3 miles to Rossiter/Bristol Rd
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To be announced	Phyllis and Ed Oatman 36145 Coffee Tree Place Murrieta, CA 92563 (951) 813-3877	From the Brown's turn left on Hunter Rd, take 3 rd right onto CA 79S/Winchester Rd, merge onto I15 N, exit #4 for Clinton Keith Rd, turn left, 2 nd left onto Murrieta Oaks Ave, 1 st left onto Chittam Wood Pl, first left onto Coffee Tree Place
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Suggest you use your GPS or Google this to make sure directions are good (Pat)

SATURDAY...JANUARY 8, 2011

3:00 P.M. To 5:30 P.M. Cell Phone	Ridi & Jan Lauritzan (818) 886 2370 10220 DeSoto #22 Chatsworth 91311 (818) 383-7246	Condo is located on the east side of DeSoto between LeMarsh (Chatsworth High School) and Devonshire. Take the 118 Fwy off at DeSoto and go South. Complex is about 100 yards past Devonshire on left. Guest parking all along the driveway and there are several spots at end of driveway on Left. Walk through gate at end of driveway leads to condo. There is a Security gate on it (no intercom). Call on your cell phone and they will come down and let you in. If you don't have a cell phone, there is an intercom at gate on DeSoto on south side of mailboxes. Look up LAU and it will ring upstairs and you will be buzzed in. Go all the way to end of that walkway and turn left then take first set of stairs on the left to #22 (3 rd level).
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ELVES NEEDED.....

Saturday, November 27, 2010

RONALD MC DONALD HOUSE VILLAGE SETUP

Calling all the North Pole Elves to setup the North Pole Village on Saturday, November 27th at 8:30 am at 4560 Fountain Avenue, Hollywood.

Frank and I will be giving those who have done the setup in the past a call to confirm your attendance. We will be providing goodies for the morning and lunch for the afternoon. Kimberly will be making homemade cinnamon rolls, so that should be an incentive to come.

Please give us a call if you would like to help setup at 818-343-7075. Cora

Sunday, November 28, 2010

DICKENS' VILLAGE DISPLAY AT SHRINERS HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN

Stan Higgins and his band of merry elves will be building a Dickens' Village display at the Shriners Hospital for Children on Sunday, November 28, 2010.

The Shriners Hospital is located at 3160 Geneva Street, Los Angeles, 90120.

Directions are on the internet to the Vermont off ramp from the Hollywood Freeway.

Take Vermont south to Fourth (4th) Street and turn left. Stay on 4th Street past Virgil and you will see the Hospital, a large brick building on your left. Turn left to enter the underground parking. Come to the lobby and look for Stan and the VAA elves.

After the display is completed, Stan promises a VIP tour of the Shriners Hospital. Stan said the Hospital was designed to make children happy, and it is very different from any other hospital. Stan promises that the tour is very special. Please call Stan at 818.892.5100 for more information.

Stan sort of dictated this to Myrna because his email is not working - Myrna hopes that not too much got lost in translation.



DECEMBER MEETING...

Saturday, December 4th - High Noon

First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood
Upper Terrace Room on Yucca Avenue
One half block east of Gower Street
Hollywood CA

Bring a pot-luck dish
for lunch...

For those with a GPS - - -
1763 Gower Street - Los Angeles CA

101 North - off at exit 8C (Gower)
turn left on Gower, go under
Freeway and turn left on Yucca,
Church is on the right

101 South - off at exit 8C (Gower)
Cross Gower (you'll be on Yucca)
Church is on the right

Please remember to bring an ornament for
our "ornament exchange" (value \$10.00 +)



Editor: Harmon
2676 Galindo Avenue
Simi Valley CA 93065



"We add to your addiction."