



# Village Addicts GAZETTE

VOLUME 27, NO. 3

A Newsletter for Village Addicts—Chapter 57

May | June 2018



by Alita Rabe, Co-President

## CO-PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Spring is here! And, to quote Robin Williams, *"Spring is nature's way of saying, let's party."* There are so many beautiful flowers blooming around the neighborhood that it just gives you a different outlook on life.

And, new 2018 Department 56 products are in stores now. It is VERY VERY exciting.

At our last meeting Stephen Pepin demonstrated how to use plaster cloth in our displays. Stephen is great at giving demonstrations and is always so helpful about answering questions and giving lots of good ideas.

Many thanks to Lisa Johnson for working her magic to help us get Stephen to our meeting. Thanks, too, to Lisa for providing that adorable Possible Dreams Santa as one of our prizes.

At our April meeting, we also welcomed new member, Patti Lucas, a North Pole collector. Patti lives in Big Bear so it is quite a drive for her.

Our June meeting will be "Christmas in June" and there will be a North Pole Elf Land vignette on each table. I have been privileged to get a sneak peak at two of these vignettes and they are A-M-A-Z-I-N-G!! I am really looking forward to seeing the rest of them. We have some very talented people in this club.

Also at our June meeting, we will have two people giving demonstrations. The very talented Robin Hervey, president of the California 56 Collectors, will be demonstrating how to put a display in a small area. And, the equally talented Joan Thomas will demonstrate how to make realistic-looking water. Joan is also a member of the CA 56 Collectors and had a mind-blowing display in her home this past year. Her 'ocean' was moving! But, there was no water there. How did she do it? She will tell you.

If there is an emergency involving you, who can we contact? We will soon be sending a request asking for a person(s) who should be contacted in case a traumatic event occurs. For instance, if a member should become ill or injured at one of our events or a meeting, who would you want us to contact. Also, some of us live alone and do not have relatives living nearby. If we were unable to contact you

and became concerned, your specified contact person may be able to let us know your whereabouts. Remember, your emergency contact should be someone, either a family member or friend, who lives nearby or can get to you quickly.

The Midyear introductions are on the Department 56 website so be sure to check them out.

And mark your calendars! We have a summer Open House at Brian & BJ Allen's on July 21 and we are finalizing details for a Bus Trip to San Diego on September 8!

So, let's get out and party with nature!

## IN THIS ISSUE...

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Co-President's Corner     | 1   |
| Meeting Minutes           | 2-3 |
| N.C.C. Report             | 3   |
| Have You Sprung?          | 3   |
| Auction, Auction Auction! | 4   |
| New Products...New Ideas! | 4   |
| Open House Report         | 4   |
| Open House Photos         | 5-6 |
| V.A.A. Board Contact Info | 7   |
| Ms. Sunshine              | 7   |
| Margaritaville            | 7   |

Our Next V.A.A. Meeting is:

**Saturday June 2**

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



## REMINDER

V.A.A. membership dues are due by May 31.

Please mail your check to: Marvella McAllister  
13102 Malena Drive | Santa Ana, CA 92705

Or you can give your check to Marvella at the June 2<sup>nd</sup>  
meeting. We really want you to continue being a part  
of our club!



by Khia Silberkleit, Secretary

# MEETING MINUTES

Brian Allen and Alita Rabe welcomed all members.

**SUNSHINE REPORT** – Please refer to Peggy Jauregui's separate Gazette report for more detailed information.

**TREES** – Peggy Jauregui shared that there were some trees in our inventory that are available for purchase. These are the old filament trees and they are available at just \$3.00 each. They can be repurposed with paint and the filaments can be removed if they aren't operational.

**OPEN HOUSES** – Karen Holley shared that Judyth & Jerry Rischall and Claudette Fillet had wonderful open houses. Myrna Richardson and Karen each are hosting spring open houses on April 28. Karen noted that lunch will be served at her house. Myrna mentioned that those with cat allergies should be aware that her home is a home with cats. Karen also has a cat. Karen announced that she was seeking members who might have Independence Day exhibits that might want to schedule a summer open house. She also is ready to start scheduling autumn/Halloween dates for members who will be hosting events then.

**CLUB DUES** – BJ Allen reminded members that dues were payable at \$28.00 for individuals and \$35.00 for families. It is important that dues be paid on time to keep the club running as desired.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** – Marvella McAllister updated members on our finances, noting that the White Elephant Sale was a great success.

**CLUB OUTING** – Joe Morabito suggested options for possible outings the club could take. One leading possibility is a motorcoach trip to City Lights in San Diego in October allowing members to acquire Halloween and Christmas merchandise. A stop at another vendor along the way will be considered. There will be a stop in the La Mirada area to pick up those members living outside of the Valley and in Orange County.

**NEW PRODUCTS/NEW IDEAS** – Debbie Shelgren presented some ideas for creating and embellishing trees. There were examples of cone trees covered in beads. And there were also examples of Lemax snow trees converted to spring or summer trees by gluing on ground cover available at such places as Hobby Lobby or Woodland Scenics. The trees can also be customized with buttons, such as Mickey Mouse buttons and tiny pom-poms to fit different villages and seasons. With the addition of some orange buttons or lights and some small ghosts, the trees will look great for Halloween. The older birch trees can be updated by attaching small flowers one at a time to attain a cherry blossom effect.

**BIRTHDAY DRAWING** – The Coca Cola Bottle Cap Tester was selected by Dave Dutcher and the Twinkle Brite Tree was selected by Ridi Lauritzen as birthday drawing prizes for their respective months.

A **POTLUCK LUNCH** was enjoyed by the members.

**PROGRAM – STEPHEN PEPIN, owner Showcase Displays in Fountain Hills, Arizona** Stephen designs and builds displays for the Market Place Emporium at Knott's Berry Farm in Buena Park, CA and Millie's Hallmark in Phoenix, AZ. Stephen showed members how to build displays using foam enhanced by plaster cloth. This results in a seamless display that can also better capture the natural terrain of an environment. Stephen uses Spray Liquitex to cover areas more thoroughly than brushed on acrylic paint. He generally uses an Earth undercoat followed by Department 56's blended turf when doing a non-snowy scene. He also uses Woodland Scenics Realistic Water to add to his scenes. Rocks can be embedded in this process, too. The area should first be coated with white glue or flex seal before the water product is added. Stephen also showed how photographic diffuser sheets can be used to create interesting light effects in displays. Pepin also suggested using a motion sensor on outlets for animated pieces to preserve the life of the piece. Members were able to look at photos of displays Pepin created in the Department 56 showroom settings to get ideas of how to build personal displays. With concerns often being space, Pepin addresses the issue by showing how individual pieces can be displayed with creativity in a compact area. Members were welcomed to see Stephen at work at Knott's Berry Farm the next day.

**50/50 DRAWING** - Joan Inouye won the drawing.

**RAFFLE PRIZES**

|                              |                              |                  |     |                                |                 |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|-----|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| CIC                          | <i>Maggie's On Park</i>      | Karen Holley     | DV  | <i>Comb's Honey Cottage</i>    | Marty Kravchak  |
| Marg.                        | <i>Margaritaville Lounge</i> | Patti Lucas      | NEV | <i>Wenham Lake Ice Co.</i>     | Debbie Shelgren |
| NP                           | <i>Coca Cola Bottle Caps</i> | Mike De Conza    | SV  | <i>Lot 59, Christmas Court</i> | Mike DeConza    |
| SVH                          | <i>The Skeleton House</i>    | Claudette Fillet | GV  | <i>Streetcar</i>               | Joe Morabito    |
| <i>Possible Dreams Santa</i> |                              | Karen DeConza    |     |                                |                 |

**SPECIAL RAFFLES**

|    |                               |                                  |                        |
|----|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| DV | Kensington Palace             | Designed by Khia Silberkleit     | Won by Marianne Burton |
| DV | Lilycott Gardens Conservatory | Designed by Alita Rabe           | Won by Ridi Lauritzen  |
| SV | Hope Chest Consignment Shop   | Designed by Ridi & Jan Lauritzen | Won by Patti Lucas     |

**AUCTIONS**

|                          |                                   |                         |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| HP Printer               | Donated by Marvella McAllister    | Won by Linda Pressman   |
| Mrs. Claus               | Donated by Dave & Dayleen Dutcher | Won by Linda Pressman   |
| Disney Winter Wonderland | Donated by Estate of Mary Faubion | Won by Khia Silberkleit |

**DOOR PRIZES**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| CIC #4050918 <i>5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Stroll</i> – Myrna Richardson          | DV #4036519 <i>Saturday's With Punch &amp; Judy</i> – Karen DeConza |
| NEV #4050958 <i>The First Taste of Spring</i> – Deana Princiotta             | NP #4058083 <i>Coca Cola Bottle Cap Tester</i> – Dave Dutcher       |
| <i>Lemax Halloween Graveyard Ghost Automated</i> – Lynn Pulte                | SV #4043911 <i>Shopping with Todd &amp; Margo</i> - BJ Allen        |
| GV #52301 <i>Twinkle Brite Tree Large</i> – Ridi Lauritzen                   | GV #4030916 <i>My Garden Table</i> – Dayleen Dutcher                |
| Nutcracker – Rhonda Colgan   | Platform created by Stephen Pepin – Robin Kukura                    |
| Cottage Basket Vignette designed/donated by Dayleen Dutcher – Marty Kravchak |   |



by Judyth Rischall,  
N.C.C. Representative

## NCC Report Have you Sprung?

The NCC is excited to have a NCC Collector of the Year award. If you want to nominate someone, please let a VAA Club officer know.

Remember to get your reservation in for **Sweet Home Chicago** — September 27-30, 2018 [www.chicagogathering.org](http://www.chicagogathering.org)

There are 'rumblings' of some very exciting upcoming events you should put on your calendar... In 2018:

- **Golden Glow of Christmas Past** — August 22-25, 2018 [www.goldenglow.org](http://www.goldenglow.org)
- **Wicked Good Time** — October 12-14, 2018. The Village Traders of Puget Sound are hosting their convention in Tacoma, WA. Additional details to follow.

2019 / 2020:

- **Gathering in Cincinnati, Ohio** — June 20-23, 2019
- **Gathering in Florida** — The Florida clubs are planning a Gathering for June 2020. They are working in conjunction with a large train convention and hoping to incorporate the two. More details as they become available.

We would like to thank everyone who had a Spring/Easter open house this year — Claudette Fillet, Judyth & Jerry Rischall, Myrna & Biff Richardson, and Karen Holley. We enjoyed them so much and appreciate you opening your homes to us.

Some of our members have been inspired to begin an Easter village and to collect Spring and Easter decorations. For those of you who want to start an Easter collection, here are the buildings in the collection:

- #55094 *Happy Easter House* (2001), incl. accessory *Egg Hunt*
- #55095 *Lily's Nursery & Gifts* (2002), incl. accessory *Gifts For Easter*
- #55325 *Happy Easter Church* (2003), incl. accessory *Joyful Noise*
- #55355 *Chocolate Bunny Factory* (2004) incl. accessory *The Best Part of Easter*
- #55385 *Easter Egg Painting Studio* (2005)
- #6002310 *Easter Sweets House* (2018), incl. two accessories

For those of you who decorate for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Lemax has come out with a new series called "Americana" Which I saw at Michaels the other day it is SO Cute!





# Up for AUCTION

We will be offering two items for auction at the June meeting.

The first is *Writing Santa* an animated Santa whose head and arm move as he writes his list. He is musical and plays your favorite Christmas carols. The seated Santa is approximately 18 inches tall.



The second item is Lemax *The Starlight Express Train*, a set of 17 that includes three train cars, a train engine with headlight, a control base, track, and a reindeer that circles around the caboose.



Both items are new and have never been displayed.



# NEW PRODUCTS... New Ideas!



by Debbie Shelgren

This is the 2018 Snow Village Reynolds Mansion. I bought the building because, at the AZ Gathering, Michael Griffith, President of Department 56, showed us a picture of the Main room where he had set up a Christmas village using Snow Village pieces. Also, when Brandon Taylor did a live opening on Facebook I notice the building had no Snow, which I knew I could decorate and use it for all the holidays. I have heard if you stay at the Mansion you can also buy the SV Reynolds Mansion and take the memory home with you.

## A little history about the Reynolds Mansion

Located in Asheville, North Carolina, the Reynolds Mansion was the family home of Senator Robert Reynolds who served in the U.S. Senate from 1932-1945. In 2009, Michael Griffith and Billy Sanders purchased the Mansion from Helen Faber and began restoration, clearing the overgrown grounds, and returning the driveway of the estate to its original location at the front of the property. It opened as The Reynolds Mansion Bed and Breakfast Inn in April of 2010.



<https://thereynoldsmansion.com/>



# OPEN HOUSE REPORT

Well, our spring open house season is over and what fun it was! The decorations and the company of so many of our friends were very lovely. I am sure that we all enjoyed the food as well. The cake at my open house was a hit and many people asked for the contact of my cake maker friend.

ANYONE THINKING OF A JULY 4 BARBEQUE? It will also not be long until we will start signing up for Halloween Open house season. Plan your Spooky displays soon. We all look forward to seeing them.

—Karen Holley, Open House Coordinator



# MYRNA & BIFF RICHARDSON Open House





# KAREN & MARK HOLLEY Open House







## Ms Sunshine

Welcome new member **Patti Lucas**! Patti started collecting North Pole in 1991. She now has some Lemax mixed with it, primarily elves. She also has her mother's Snowbaby collection and she collects the Snow Pinion ornaments. Patti worked for Kaiser Permanente in Bakersfield for 29 years in Pediatrics. Then, she retired and moved to Big Bear two years ago. She now works in The Christmas Store there at the village, *A Christmas Store and More*. Please introduce yourself to Patti when you see her at the meetings. Welcome, Patti!

A card was sent to **Biff Richardson** who is having a series of eye injections in a different eye each month. We wish Biff the best.

Former member, **Bob McBroom**, passed away on May 12th from cancer. Cards may be sent to: Agnes McBroom | 9608 Columbus | North Hills, CA 91343

**Deana & Anthony Princiotta** are having a Housewarming & 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party on June 16 from 5p to midnight. While she will be having a Christmas open house, she knows many have asked to come by though she warns the party may get a bit crazy, you are all welcome!

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!



July 21 is the date. 1:00p is the time. BJ and Brian will supply hot dogs. There will be complete Margarita supplies. Everything else is a mystery because it is up to you! Come to sing along with Jimmy Buffet and bask in a tropical oasis. The pool in their lush tropical environment will be available for swimming.

If YOU are interested in having an open house, please contact the VAA Open House Coordinator: Karen Holley