

VILLAGE ADDICTS GAZETTE

VAA's 2009 Holiday Party

On December 5, 2009, VAA enjoyed its annual Holiday Party. This year, the Party was coordinated by the dynamic duo of Pat Harmon and Co-President Kimberly Harmon, making it a very special event. The tables were covered with white floor length clothes and there was a green napkin with a fork and knife inside at each place. The Holiday Centerpieces served as centerpieces for each table, with garlands of fresh cut holiday greens. Very festive!

We decorated VAA's tree with the stunning ornaments that each of us brought and then, at the end of the meeting, called numbers for each of us to pick an ornament from the tree.

The food was very special; we had a pot-luck holiday feast, also coordinated by Pat and Kimberly. Turkey, gravy, several kinds of stuffing, mashed potatoes, ham, au gratin potatoes, green beans, corn casseroles, cranberry sauce, salads, olives and pickles, and pumpkin pies and other deserts. We ate, ate more, sighed and then ate some more. We enjoyed every bite of the delicious fare.

Inventory Chair Bud Arntzen brought 25 door prizes and there were 10 special raffle Christmas items. (See list below.) There were also the 10 fabulous centerpieces created by VAA's talented designers. We spent the rest of the meeting drawings the winners, who had the difficult decision of which wonderful item to pick.

It was a wonderful meeting and a great way to start the holiday season!

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Christmas Centerpieces:

Building Village Created by/ Won by

McShane's Cottage - DV - M.Richardson (with a lot of help from Alita Rabe & Stan Higgins) /Barbara Allen
Goldilocks Bed & Breakfast - Kimberly Harmon /Jerry Rischall
Christmas Bread Bakers - NP - Cora Smith /Jan & Ridi Laurentzin
Rudolph's Bunk House - NP - Barbara Allen /Barbara Reyna
Crown Tree Inn (Reissued) - DV - Barbara Allen/ Linda Pressman
Chapel on the Hill - Season's Bay - Red Collard/ Carolyn Ferrito
Ashwick Lane Hose & Ladder - DV - Jackie Eckberg
Hayden's General Store - Ridi Laurentzin /Dayleen Dutcher
Big Horn Ranch House - Barbara Allen /Red Collard
Secret Garden Florist -Carolyn Ferrito /Gerri Little

Item Winners

1. Fitz and Floyd Cookie Jar - Pat Mallon
2. Goofy's Yule Tide Express Train - Red Collard
3. Mark Roberts Fairy - Jackie Eckberg
4. Animated 28" Musical Santa - David Vaccaro
5. Radko Xmas Box - Gingerbread House (ceramic) - Bud Arntzen
6. Radko Xmas Box (House) (Ceramic) - Myrna Richardson

7. Radko Xmas Box (Xmas Gift Boxes) - Alita Rabe
8. Fitz & Floyd Xmas Box - house - ceramic - Paula Vaccaro
9. Fitz & Floyd Xmas Plate - Kitten - Jackie Eckberg
10. Christmas 12 Days of Christmas Lighted Wreath (created by Cora Smith) - won by Paula Vaccaro and gifted to Robert Howard
11. Champagne Christmas Basket (created and donated by Peggy Jauregui Barbara Reyna
12. Reindeer - ceramic and cloth (Cora Smith) - Peggy Jauregui

Door Prize Raffle: Item Winner

Pine Pole Tree - Margaret Reichenbach
Christmas Carol Spirits (DV) - Pat Mallon
Brite Lights "I (Heart) My Village" (Sign) - Mary Ann Cossentine
Caroling Through the City (CIC) - Linda Yount
Fiber Optics Tree - Gerri Little
North Pole Cobblestone Road - The Fornoff Family
City News Stand (CIC) - Robert Howard
Nanny & the Preschoolers (???) - need the GreenBook to check this one!) - Al & Don
Bringing Home the Baby (CIC) - Helen Lind
Mill Creek Curved Section - Vicki Twitchell

Constables (DV) - Glenda Biersbach
Before the Big Game (SV?) - Barbara Reyna
Crack the Whip Skaters (?) - Sandra Fernandez
Violet & Chestnut Vendors (DV) - Jill Bonino
David Copperfield (DV) - Red Collard
The Fire Brigade (DV) - Joe Egizi
Ale Mates (DV) - David Vaccaro
Santa's New Sleigh (?) - Dayleen Dutcher
Couldn't Wait Until Christmas (?) - Alita Rabe
Dept 56 (Stuffed) Bear - Pat Campbell
Snow Babies - Carolyn Ferrito
Its Time for An Icy Treat (?) - Sharen Shapiro
Railroad Lamps - Stan Higgins
Angels in the Snow (?) - Brian Allen

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Kudos to Open House Coordinators!

VAA sends a big thank you to Stan Higgins for coordinating our Halloween and Holiday Open Houses! Another great season of home tours; all of us had a wonderful time at each home!

It's a thankless job with a lot of grumbling from all of us about the locations, distances, times and scheduling. It's very difficult to ask, beg, plead and whine to get folks to commit to opening their homes, especially in the middle of the busy Holiday Season. With so many collectors clubs in Southern California, there is

always a lot of overlapping of open houses. We're asking that all of us be a little less critical about the scheduling - we want you to just have a wonderful time enjoying each home and the wonderful hospitality of our members.

In closing, a huge thanks to Stan for making the VAA Holiday Home Tour Schedules so enjoyable. Thanks Stan!
Myrna and Kimberly, Co-Presidents

* * * * *

VAA Celebrates Its 5th Year at Ronald McDonald House!

By Myrna Richardson

As you know, VAA, through Cora Smith and her band of merry adult elves, has been building a magical North Pole display at the Ronald McDonald House in Hollywood for the past 5 years. We wanted to share the story about how VAA got involved in this activity.

In the 1990's, Dept 56 used to send North Pole village pieces to all of the Ronald McDonald Houses, and small displays were built at each facility by the local Dept 56 collector's club. VAA had an "ad hoc" committee who set up villages at the RMCDH in Hollywood for several years in the late 1990's. We believe that then-president Andrea Redeker, Al Acompora, Don Gorden, Bud Arntzen and others were involved. Unfortunately, there are no records or mention of this in previous editions of the Gazette.

In early November, 2003, the new director at the RMCD House discovered a lot of Dept 56 North Pole villages pieces packed away in the basement storage area. He discovered that Dept 56 displays had not been set up for the past several years. He contacted Northridge Pharmacy and VAA member Barbara Erickson contacted then-president Myrna Richardson. Barbara explained that the RMCD House had some village pieces and wanted to set up a display. Myrna immediately agreed that VAA should and would be involved.

A group of VAA members met at the RMCD House on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. We discovered that many of the pieces were broken and that light cords had been cut off when the last display was taken down. (I remember Don Gorden climbing over all the stored boxes and tubs in that storage area to find more Dept 56 boxes! It was a great Kodak moment, which, unfortunately, was not memorialized.) In other words, the RMCDH inventory was a mess. We set up the best display possible under the circumstances, which with Cora Smith's magic touch, was wonderful.

We needed accessories, light cords, adapters and all sorts of things. After the December VAA Holiday Party, Glenda Biersbach made an emergency run to DeForest's, where Mary Ann Cossentine loaded her up with lots of goodies. The finished display was, of course, quite nice and very well received by the House guests and staff.

We realized that VAA would have to be involved in tearing down the village to make sure that the pieces were packed correctly in the Dept 56 boxes. In January 2004, we had a large tear-down party, where we inventoried what was there, packed the village away in the D56 boxes and made plans for the 2005 display.

In early 2005, we learned that Encore, a gift shop and Dept 56 store in Cerritos, was going out of business. Andrea Redeker arranged for us to buy one of Encore's D56 display tables for the RMCD House display, which we are still using.

By November 2005, Cora and Frank Smith had formed a RMCDH Committee to set up and tear down the displays. Both events are working parties, with the emphasis on party! Members

of the committee have lots of fun and the displays are amazing.

Building the displays at the RMCD House are a wonderful way for VAA to "give-back" to the community by doing what we love to

do (building magical displays) for the enjoyment of the community, especially sick children and their families during the holidays.

* * * * *

Ronald McDonald House

Frank and I would like to thank everyone (Dave, Dayleen, Brian, BJ, Glenda, Ridi, Jan, Myrna, Carol and Stan) who participated in the setting up and take down (Pat, Kimberly, Dave, Myrna, and Jean Freed (our visiting friend from that cold part of the country, Iowa)) of the North Pole Village display. We were told by the management staff that our display was enjoyed by everyone, especially the children.

Should anyone like to participate in this year's setup on Saturday, Nov. 27th don't hesitate to contact us.

Again, thank you. Cora and Frank

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Dickens' Village at L.A. Unit, Shriners Hospital for Children

By Stan (SqueKey) Higgins

I volunteer at the Shriners Hospital and in 2008 I saw that the Hospital Staff had set up a Dickens' Village. They had received a donation of quite a number of buildings and accessories that summer and made an interesting display for the Holiday Season. The donation was made by a Past President from the VAA.

As much of the Holiday Decorations in the Hospital are done by volunteers, I volunteered the VAA. On the Sunday following Thanksgiving a few of us gathered at the Shriners Hospital and using most of the material furnished by the Hospital Staff set up the Village. The Volunteers were Alita Rabe, David and Dayleen Dutcher and I. In addition Bob Horowitz, who is also a Shriner Clown, and his Lady Carol, who helps Claudette do her displays, joined us. I took down and put away the display Sunday, January 3rd, 2010 with the help of a young lady that volunteers at the Hospital.

This display was seen by a great number of people other than patients and their family and friends. The Shriners Hospital is run by a Board of Directors that come from New Mexico; Las Vegas, Nevada; Tucson and Phoenix, Arizona; and San Diego, Anaheim, and Los Angeles, California. This Board meets every third Wednesday of the month and in December they have a special meeting when they bring their Ladies. On this occasion the National Leader of the Shriners and his Lady were also there. I believed our display got a lot of exposure because it was set just outside of where they all had lunch.

The display was adequate based on the materials that were available and I am sure it impressed a number of people. However, by VAA standards there is a lot that we can do to make it better. What I would like to propose for next year would not cost the Club money, but I'd like to ask the members to donate their talent to help build a back drop and other things.

Yes, we can use some more accessories like trees, walls, walkways, lights and even buildings. If you have some of these things that you are no longer using, you may want to donate them

to the Shriners Hospital for Children and take a tax deduction. Since I am at the Hospital most Wednesdays and other days, if you bring the donation to one of our meetings I will take them to the Hospital for you. I will need you to write out clearly your name, address and phone number and tape or affix it to the donation so you can get the proper acknowledgement. Remember the Hospital will not establish a dollar amount for your gift that is between you and your tax man.

I am looking forward, with your help, to having an outstanding display at Christmas 2010!

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northpoleplanner@socal.rr.com	
Membership/Compassionate Service	
Peggy Jauregui	818/763-3096

Become a member of Village Addicts! Tell a friend!
If you're a D56 Collector, Join Us! Call:
Peggy Jauregui at (818) 763 3096 for information
about Membership

Please let Peggy Jauregui if you know about anyone
who needs cheering up...(818) 763 3096.

What are you doing to grow our organization ????

We currently have 72 memberships which includes the four new memberships we've acquired since October!

Congratulations and welcome to our new members.

**WE'RE PLANNING SOMETHING REALLY
SPECIAL
WATCH FOR EXCITING NEWS IN COMING
PUBLICATIONS!**

Do you a new or Replacement Name Badge?
Did you lose your Badge, have it stolen or did the dog eat it?
VAA is ordering for new Members and Officers.
The Cost of the individual badge depends on the quantity we
order.
So, at the February Meeting I will be taking the names of those
that need replacement BADGES
THE CHARGE WILL BE \$10.00 EACH .
Stan or Squekey

ANNUAL WHITE ELEPHANT SALE

Please have all White Elephant items at the meeting room
by 12 noon so the Team can sort and price the items.

**VAA will be serving a pizza and
salad lunch.**

There will be no items sold prior to 1:30 p.m. No items may
be removed from the sale tables prior to 1:30 p.m. The
White Elephant Sale will be from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.,
followed by an auction of all remaining items.

Remember, this sale is to raise money for the Club so
please be generous with your donations for the sale and
with your purchases.



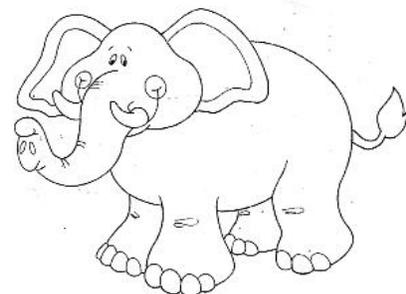
ELEPHANT STEW

1 Elephant	Salt & Pepper to Taste
Brown Gravy	2 Rabbits

Cut elephant into bite-size pieces (this will take about 4 months).
Cook over kerosene at 525 degrees until tender (about 5 months).
Add salt and pepper and cover with brown gravy. This will serve
3,800 people. If more are expected, add 2 rabbits. Do this ONLY
if absolutely necessary as most people do not like to find hare in
their stew!

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WHITE ELEPHANT SALE

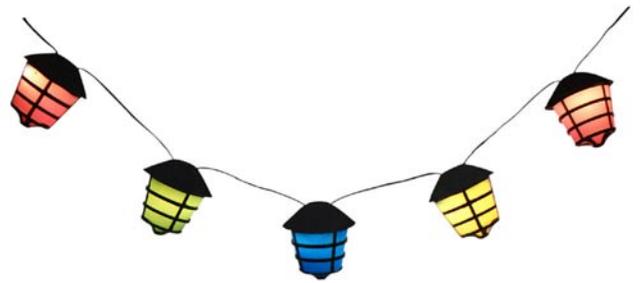




Chatsworth Library Display case December 2009
North Pole Display by Jan & Ridi Lauritzen
and helper Pat Harmon



Shriners Hospital Display



**THE PARTY ISN'T OVER JUST YET ---
REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR HOLIDAY TOUR OF
HOMES PASSPORT TO OUR FEBRUARY
MEETING...THE WINNER WILL BE PICKED AND
THE PRIZE WILL BE AWARDED!!!**

N C C News

by Judyth Rischall

Happy New Year!
NCC Cruise Information

The NCC announced in the Bulletin that due to a lack of interest, they will have only limited involvement with the cruise to Hawaii in Feb/March 2010. Although the NCC will not be there to run games or seminars, they will send each person booked a package of items that they have obtained for the cruise. These will be sent to your home after the cruise. The cruise will continue, and as the NCC understands it, Princess may have recently reduced the cost. If you would like to book a cabin, or obtain current pricing please contact Tim and Lilia Kearney at Great Escapes Tours and Cruises at (843) 903-1578.

Livonia Michigan

September 17-20, 2010 is the next Gathering. Join the Country Villagers of Flint, Detroit 56ers and Village Collectors of Michigan as they celebrate the Seasons of Michigan. More information at: ncc56.com.

And another Gathering is planned for 2011 by the Southwest Villagers of Arizona. Date and place to be announced. The theme will be "Dickens' Vacations in the Desert".

Do you have an idea for a demonstration, a speaker you would like to hear or something you would like to share with the club members. Please contact one of our Co-Presidents (see page 3 for contact information) and let them know. Did you get a "Kodak Moment" of a display or an event participant? Please send them to our Editor, Pat Harmon.

We like to hear from you!

CASUAL LIVING CHRISTMAS STORE

**1036 North E Street
San Bernardino CA
(909) 888-8053**

**ALL ACCESSORIES
DISPLAYED**

LOTS OF RETIRED PIECES

GREAT DISPLAY IDEAS!

All D56 Villages

Halloween Display

New & Retired D56

D56 Gift Items

Snowbabies

**Great Selection of Accessories, Trees &
Ground Covers**

How about a vacation home in the North Pole? What a great way to get away. We can put you in the famous Mickey's North Pole Holiday House for only \$50. And how about buying a business there, too? Mickey Mouse Watch Factory \$50 (Those elves and Santa have to keep their watches running on time to get the toys ready for Christmas.)

Art's Hobbies & Crafts	\$45
The Peanut Brittle Factory	45
Polar Power Company	50
Real Plastic Snow Factory	40
Santa's Light Shop	35

And, our Blue Light Special of the Month:
#56742 Starlight Dance Hall \$25

We have many more listings for businesses in the North Pole and some amazing New England properties in growing neighborhoods now on the market. Just call Alita at 562 - 928-1584 or email at atilahon1@aol.com and own one today!

CHRISTMAS TOUR OF HOMES Alita Rabe

I am so amazed at the talented people in our club. After attending some of the open houses, I am still in awe.

The first open house we attended was co-hosted by Pat and Kimberly Harmon at Pat's home in Simi Valley. Pat took us on a tour of the home which was decorated in the time of Dickens in England. There was lots of greenery, Christmas trees decorated with candles, feather trees, and vintage garments. There was also a selection of Charles Dickens' books signed by great-great grandson, Gerald Charles Dickens.

Kimberly had been busy in the kitchen baking delicious treats and making tea sandwiches. What a nice kick-off to our Christmas open house tours.

Next, we journeyed to Chatsworth where we toured a

beautiful summer resort called Seasons Bay. There, the residents strolled around grassy knolls and sandy beaches on a beautiful day. But, just around the corner was the North Pole in all its snowy glory. Ridi and Jan Lauritzen were very busy elves this year and made an outstanding display of Candyland in one room. You could stand in the room for hours and not see all of the details. It was a marvelous display. Jan had been very busy making all sorts of candy out of polymer clay. It looked good enough to eat. And, there was enough for Santa to give to all of the children he visits.

In another room, the elves were all participating in the North Pole Winter Olympics. There was skiing, ski jumping, broom ball, curling, sledding, running, and all sorts of fun action. What an imagination these two women have. I look forward to seeing their displays each year.

Since I won't be able to attend the January open houses, Stan and Ethel Higgins took pity on me and allowed Tom and Geri Little and me to get a sneak preview of their Christmas in the City and Carnival displays. I am always thrilled and amazed to see how Stan puts together his displays. There is never a dull moment in his City. The colored lights give so much life to his buildings. And, he uses so many textures and colors for his ground cover.

That evening we went to a Winter Wonderland at Claudette Fillet's home. Someone actually tried to count the number of decorated trees in her home and came up with more than two dozen. Both mantels were beautifully decorated. The Radko ornaments on the trees were dazzling. And, although the trees were wondrously beautiful, walking into her patio room and seeing life-sized polar bears took my breath away. For a moment, I thought I had wandered into the Arctic wilderness. It was truly awesome. The back bathroom had a very handsome Santa dressed in fur and there was a sleigh and reindeer in the bedroom. And, of course, one of my personal favorites, the cow was

wearing some outrageous Christmas earrings. Maybe she was going out later to a milk bar!

The second week of Christmas open houses included Joe Egizi's in Pasadena. Joe had a tree with disks at different levels in his living room filled with Snow Village pieces. At the top were several D56 ornaments that were miniatures of the larger buildings. In the kitchen was a patriotic tree in reds, whites, and blues. Seasons Bay village was displayed in the hall and the front bedroom had a Christmas in the City display complete with lots of roads with moving vehicles and a fire at Wong's Chinese Restaurant. It was an excellent display.

We next headed for Rialto to the home of Dave and Dayleen Dutcher. These are two of the most talented people I've ever met. Dayleen makes clothes for dolls and is for dolls what Vera Wang is to the fashion world. She had several dolls on display, but three really caught my eye. One was dressed in a long silver beaded gown. Dayleen strung the beads and crocheted the entire gown! She had also made a long gold beaded gown for a second doll and, for a third, a gorgeous bouffant black dress. Two of the dolls were wearing large, lovely hats created by Dayleen. One of the dolls was wearing jewelry and Dayleen told us she took a jewelry making class and learned to scale the jewelry down so she could make it for the dolls. She is so talented.

In one room there was a large wooden reindeer made by Dave. Dave had drilled holes in the tail and inserted yarn that he combed out so that it looked exactly like a real deer's tail. Every inch of the reindeer was crafted perfectly. Dave had even made a halter and a harness for it. He is a very talented craftsman. And, this couple collects! They collect LOTS of different things. Oh, yes, they also collect Dept. 56 and had a really nice North Pole display. Dave had made a mountain and their Christmas tree sat atop the mountain with the North Pole village all around the base. Dave also had a display of Snow Village restaurants. There were lots of fun things to see in their home.

We also got to meet two other members of the family: Maggie and Bonnie. They are pretty, very well-behaved and just delightful. Oh, did I mention they each have four legs and a tail? And, Maggie was ever on the alert for bits of food that were dropped on the floor which she promptly cleaned with no traces remaining.

At the Dutcher's, Brian and Barbara Allen invited us to preview their open house on the following day.

Barbara and Brian's house has more interesting items than the Smithsonian. One memorable collection is Brian's brothel bottles. They are certainly a conversation piece and very interesting. And, Barbara has some great stories to tell about many of the items throughout the house. They are collectors of Hawaiiana in addition to Dept. 56. Barbara was a dancer in a professional dance troupe and still has the moves!

Brian did a fantastic job of getting Dickens' village displayed. The city is bustling with the wealthy mansions and castles on the hill and the city below. In the bathroom are the pieces, new and older, from "A Christmas Carol." But, to me, the most amazing displays he did in one of the bedrooms having three distinct villages on display in one area separated by walls of Styrofoam. On one side is the desert of The Holy Land and across the wall, the snowy North Pole. In the center is the Disney village complete with a train running through it. The displays were fascinating and Brian did a remarkable job.

It was so great to be given a personal tour of their home. I have been to all of their open houses, but saw more on this tour than at any other time. Brian also took us out to their large storage shed that he built and once again, I have storage envy!

Our club members work very hard to put together outstanding displays and serve good food for us to enjoy. Every club member should try to attend an open house. You will be pleasantly surprised and will probably never miss another one.

A big THANK YOU to everyone who opened their home to us this year. And, thanks to Stan for putting it together. This was a memorable year for the Christmas open houses.



Wasn't sure if we were in Hawaii or Dickens Village????
Visiting with the Allen's was definitely interesting.





But Dave & Paula where do you sleep?



But where do you eat? The Vaccaro residence was dressed to impress!



Stan and Ethel, I knew I was at your house as soon as I saw the clown in your wreath!

As I gather more pictures from the Holiday Tour of homes I'll try and have them in the next issue of the Gazette.
Pat

The Village Addicts would like to thank the following establishments for their continued support of our club. As you all know more and more shops are going out of business or reducing their inventory. So please help us show them some support by shopping at their establishments and letting them know you belong to

“THE VILLAGE ADDICTS ANONYMOUS.”

Aldik Home

7651 Sepulveda Blvd
Van Nuys, CA 91405
818-988-5970 Phone

Angela's Florist and Gifts

2329 Michael Drive
Newbury Park, CA 91320
800-637-0297 Phone

Canterbury Gardens & Gifts

2402 S. Escondido Blvd.
Escondido, CA 92025
800-214-9474 Phone

Casual Living

121 Knoxville Street
San Diego, CA 92110
800-262-5335 Phone

City Lights

1212 Knoxville Street
San Diego, CA 92110
800-262-5335 Phone

Deforest's Patio & Fireside

22105 Ventura Blvd.
Woodland Hills, CA 91364
818-348-5040 Phone

The Old Toy Soldier Home

977 S. Santa Fe, Suite #11
Vista, CA 92083
760-758-5481 Phone

Reminders - - -

Wear your club shirt for an extra raffle ticket
Don't forget donations of canned goods for the Deacon's Barrel.

Become a member of Village Addicts! Tell a friend!
If you're a D56 Collector, Join Us! Call:
Peggy Jauregui at (818) 763 3096 for information
about Membership

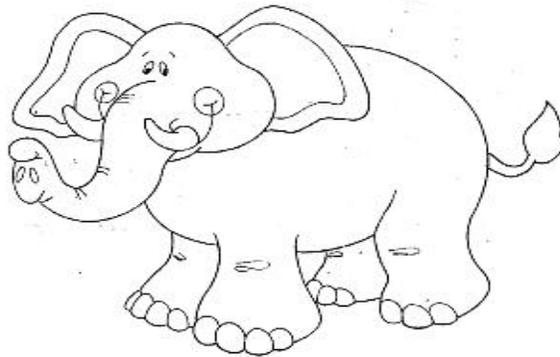
Meeting time and place - - - - -
Saturday, February 6th - Noon
First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood
Upper Terrace Room on Yucca Ave.
One half block east of Gower Street
Hollywood CA

Remember to bring your
Holiday Tour of Homes
Passport - drawing will
be at this meeting.

NO POT=LUCK THIS MEETING - LUNCH PROVIDED BY CLUB!

V A A

WHITE ELEPHANT SALE



Village Addicts
2676 Galindo Avenue
Simi Valley CA 93065



"We Add to your addiction.."