

## VILLAGE ADDICTS GAZETTE

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### CHRISTMAS PARTY HIGHLIGHTS December 4, 2010

After another fabulous VAA pot luck luncheon, President Red Collard opened the Holiday Party. Bud Arntzen and Paula Vaccaro soon took over the podium for the short business meeting because Red was not feeling well.

Judyth Rischall reported on the Dept 56 Home Display contest for outdoor displays. The winner will be announced in 2011 in *Village D-Lights*.

Alita Rabe reported on the Early Release of "The Lion's Den" (Snow Village) and its accessory at Dillard's and Boscov's only. An early release is an exclusive product which is only shipped to limited retailers only before the later general release. This product will be shipped to Dillard's and Boscov's only for its initial release.

Peggy Jauregui's "Sunshine" Report said that the Club was delighted to have Ethel Higgins back with us for the Holiday Party. Unfortunately, Peggy had some sad news to report: Ruthann Fornof had recently suffered a heart attack and was believed to be on life support. Peggy asked for members to send cards to Dic. (Note: As of this writing, in early January, 2011, Ruthann is doing much better and is in a rehab facility. We are delighted with the good news!)

Stan Higgins reported on changes to the Holiday Tours of Homes and reported that there will be two tours on Sunday, December 12, in Murrieta - Vern and Michelle Brown and the Oatmans. The Club is asking for RSVP's for all Tours. E-mails with all details will be sent.

Stan and his crew of VAA elves (Frank & Cora Smith, Brian & BJ Allen, David & Dayleen Dutcher, Alita Rabe, Don Gorden and Myrna Richardson) set up a Dickens' Village display at the Shriner's Children's Hospital on Sunday, November 28, 2010. The display covers three tables, and with the addition of foam board bases (thanks to Frank & Cora) and a new skirt (thanks to Myrna), the display is fabulous. Stan invited everyone to visit the Shriner's Children's Hospital to see the display. Plans are afoot to add a North Pole display next year. Club members will be asked to donate North Pole buildings and accessories.

Cora Smith and her merry band of VAA elves, including Frank Smith, Dawn Smith, Ridi & Jan Laurentzin, BJ and Brian Allen, David and Dayleen Dutcher, Carolyn Ferrito, Glenda Biersbach, Stan Higgins, Jill Bonino and Myrna Richardson) spent the morning setting up a magical North Pole display and feasted on Cora's wonderful "picnic" lunch. The display was even more wonderful than ever, in large part to Vickie Twitchell's donation of large trees that were set up on the corners of the display and also to BJ's "epiphany" to use skewers to hold the garland in place.

Red reported that the Hollywood Presbyterian Church is serving lunch to approximately 200 homeless people every week, and donations of money and food are appreciated. They are also asking for used shoes, socks and gently worn clothes.

Pat Harmon reminded everyone that she needs articles for the *Gazette*. She also reminded us to bring our ornaments to the front of the room to hang on the Club's tree

for the ornament exchange after the break.

Alita Rabe reminded us to remember to save decorations which we don't use any more or are tired of for the White Elephant Sale in February. There will not be an auction after the sale this year. All unsold items will be donated either to the Church or to another charity (such as the Salvation Army).

After break, we placed three very fast paced games of Christmas Bingo, which we called by Pat Harmon. The Bingo winners were Linda Pressman, Barbara Reyna and Bud Arntzen.

The 50/50 Winner for \$82 was Peggy Jauregui.

At the end of the meeting, Red Collard announced his resignation as President for health reasons.

(Secretary's note: I know that a secretary should not make comments, but as a past-president, I want to say that this year's Holiday Centerpieces were amazingly wonderful! Thanks to all of the designers for their creativity!)

Myrna Richardson  
VAA Secretary

Centerpiece Winners	Winner	Designer
Old Chelsea Mansion (SV) Residence of Clement C. Moore	Don Gorden	BJ Allen
Mrs. Claus' Greenhouse (NP)	Geri Little	Bud Arntzen
Pennsylvania Dutch Farmhouse (NEV)	Judyth Rischall	BJ Allen
Jack Frost-A Touch of Winter Magic (SB)	Barbara Reyna	Dayleen Dutcher
Glass Ornament Works (NP)	Alita Rabe	BJ Allen
Butter Tub Barn (DV)	Myrna Richardson	Ridi & Jan Lauritzen, Jill Bonino
Teaman & Crupp China Shop (DV)	Jill Bonino	Vickie Twitchell
Ryman Auditorium (SV)	Ridi Laurentzin	Jill Bonino, Ridi & Jan Lauritzen
Mystic Ledge Lighthouse (SB)	Geri Little	Daphne Lawson
Bean & Son Smithy Shop (DV)	Paula Vaccaro	BJ Allen
Riverside Row Shops (CIC)	Sandy Grindstaff	Robert Howard

From Penny Miller -

Please share the following with all your club members.....We received this information from Melinda at Department 56.

"If you are unable to find Village, Snowbabies and Possible Dreams brochures at your local retail store, Department 56 Consumer has a good stock available for sale right now! The Village (99 pages) and Snowbabies (58 pages) brochures will each sell for \$4.50 plus

shipping. The Possible Dreams (43 pages) brochure is \$5.95. To place an order that will ship immediately, call 1(800) 548-8696 any week day between 11 AM and 2 PM central standard time. This is the earliest these brochures have been available and now is the time to get the 2011 brochures to start your wish list for this year. "

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Vaa.webmaster@gmail.com

**Sunshine Report**

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

Arlene Neiberg recovering from broken pelvis as a result of a fall in her home in early November. She is recovering with help from daughters Susan & Karen. Come back to us soon.

Clarice Walquist fell at home suffering bruises and a couple of scrapes. She is doing well and hopes to be with us for the February White Elephant Sale.

From Ruthann's niece, Donna three days ago - She seems to be doing a bit better each day but still has a ways to go. She is now eating, getting out of bed for an hour or two at a time which are all signs of progress. I understand she is still pretty weak, working on getting stronger. We definitely need to continue to keep all of them in prayers!

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.**

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!

For those of you who collect CIC or SV or maybe NEV, here is a site that has miniature neon signs that can be part of your displays:

<http://www.microstru.com/index.html>

Alita

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Randy Miller, NCC President, sent the following message about the display contest.

The deadline for entries is February 26th.

Display contest:

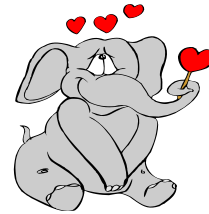
I know you are all busy with the holidays, and many have the displays already in place, but I know many of you can do a great job and create a small display in a few days. If your display is already up and you used every house - maybe you could remove a few houses and accessories after the holidays and create a small display for the contest OR maybe one of your members did not use all the houses, or a member of your club did not set up a display this year and you could borrow theirs.

As Village D-Lights notice states - all entries must be submitted from a NCC club. Hopefully collectors that read the magazine and want to enter the contest will contact you and submit their display through you, learn about your club and then join. The NCC and Village D-Lights would hope each club receives several entries from their members. We hope many clubs submit an entry and will be part of the new book by Village D-'Lights.

As Village D-Lights and the NCC get questions - the questions and answers will be posted on the NCC website to help you.

Happy Holidays and have fun collecting

Randy  
NCC President



## WHITE ELEPHANT SALE

"Happy Trails to Arizona"

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](http://www.southwestvillagers.com) .  
<http://www.happytrailsaz.com/>

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

Aunt Polly gave you the most beautiful chartreuse glass bowl that you would love to keep, but it just doesn't look right in your house. What to do, what to do? We have the answer. Bring it to the White Elephant Sale at the VAA meeting on Saturday, February 5<sup>th</sup> and let someone else buy it and enjoy it.

In the past we have had some great items for sale and we have made money for the club. So, while you have your house decorated for the holidays, look around and see if there are items you would like to pass on to someone else who would enjoy them as much as you have. Then, you are free to buy lots of new things!!

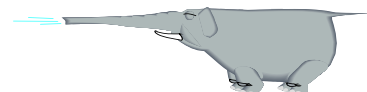
Please check and see if you have treasures that others might find delightful and bring them to the meeting. We really want this sale to be a success.

We would appreciate having all of the items at the meeting room before 12 noon so the team can sort and price them.

No items will be sold prior to 1:00 PM and no items may be removed from the tables prior to 1:00 PM.

We are not planning to have a live auction this year. Items not sold from the table will be donated to charity.

Please be generous with your donations to the club.



**Pizza Party -**  
**The club is furnishing pizza, salad, dessert and drinks for our February meeting.**  
**Why, you ask, because this is the time of year for our annual White Elephant Sale!**  
**Bring yourselves, your things and LOTS OF \$\$\$\$\$\$**



These Crazy Collectors  
Fourth in a Series  
By Alita Rabe

I find it interesting to visit a fellow collector's home and see many, many other collections. I always wonder what interested them in starting these other collections and why so many different collections. Isn't collecting Department 56 enough? No, not for most of us it seems.

When you step into the Cerritos home of Tom and Geri Little and look to the right, you see an amazing Snow Village display that stays up all year. Setting off the display so beautifully is a mural of snow covered trees and hills.

In the living room is a year-round display of North Pole village along with a number of other collections. There are Thomas Kinkade artist proofs and paintings. A stunning collection purchased from the M & M store in Las Vegas includes a large Grauman's Chinese (now the Mann) Theater with M & M characters walking across the famous hand and foot prints. Another is the "Welcome to Las Vegas" sign with more M & M characters.

Also on display are very large, colorful cookie jars designed by Christopher Radko. One is a very large, beautifully decorated train engine. Also on display are the gorgeous Seraphim Angels.

In the kitchen garden window, the display changes often. Currently there is a display of Jim Shore and a couple of the many centerpieces won at VAA meetings.

In the family room, the collection of crystal gleams in the light and, on a tall shelf there are rare colorful glass platters purchased in Nova Scotia. The Hummel collection is in the curio cabinet. Disney characters are on display everywhere, particularly, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.

In the bedroom is a large Carnival display with lots of animation, noise, and lights.

And everywhere you look there are Tom and Jerry eggnog bowls and other ceramics displaying the name. There are also Disney cells with cartoons of Tom and Jerry, and lots of Tom and Jerry figurines. For those of you who may have been living in a cave, Tom & Jerry are cartoon characters created by Hanna and Barbera. Tom, a cat, and Jerry, a mouse, have a never-ending rivalry.

The first thing Geri began collecting around 1970 was Hummel figurines. Then, when she met Tom, they began collecting Lladro figurines. And, other collections were added and grew and grew. Some of their other collections include Radko ornaments, Paul Cardew teapots, salt and pepper shakers, Fitz and Floyd figurines, clocks, including two grandfather clocks, Christmas wreaths, and lots and lots of watches.

Geri said when she met Tom he asked her if she was "into Christmas." She said, yes, and he took her to Stats where she purchased her first Dept. 56 Snow Village building, "The Inn" which was produced in 1976. She said they had no idea what Dept. 56 was until, on another visit to Stats, she was looking at a book that featured "The Inn" and showed the value after it had retired. She and Tom were very impressed and decided to invest in a "few more pieces of

Dept. 56."

The Little's collections of Dept. 56 pieces beautifully display is awesome, but their many other collections are really impressive, too.

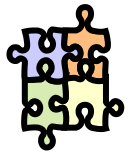
Happiness is. . . . being a COLLECTOR!



Dickens Village at the Shriners



On the way to the North Pole  
Ronald McDonald House



For our "puzzled" friends....

<http://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=20147ee60432>

<http://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=11e6b19d65f3>

Shriners Elves were very busy.



The "not so finished" North Pole



The "elves" .



The "finished" North Pole  
At Ronald McDonald House



Thanks to all the "elves" that helped make the season brighter for a lot of boys and girls!  
See 'ya later this year!

So many of you asked about the recipe Peggy made for the open house at Claudette's - she graciously provided me with the "how to"...

SWEET BOURBON CORN PUDDING

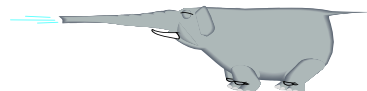
- 2 large eggs
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup evaporated milk
- 14 oz. can cream corn
- 16 oz. frozen corn kernels defrosted
- 2 TBS melted unsalted butter
- 3 TBS dark brown sugar
- 3 TBS cornstarch blended with  
2 TBS Bourbon until smooth
- $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp ground nutmeg
- $\frac{1}{4}$  tsp salt
- $\frac{1}{8}$  tsp ground white pepper

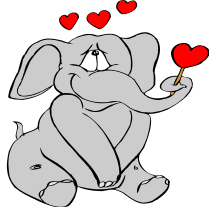
Preheat oven to 350 degrees.  
 Butter an 8" square baking dish.  
 Whisk together the eggs and milk.  
 Stir in all remaining ingredients.  
 Make sure all ingredients are completely incorporated.  
 Pour mixture into baking dish and bake 50 minutes or until lightly browned and knife blade inserted into center comes out clean.  
 Serve warm or hot. Serves 8.

X X X X X

Did you sample a great main dish or homemade desert at our meeting or event that you really, really, liked? Let me know and I'll try and procure the recipe for you.  
 Pat

Don't forget to bring your "White Elephant" items to our February meeting!





## **FEBRUARY MEETING..**

*Saturday, February 5th - High Noon*

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

## **WHITE ELEPHANT SALE**

*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*

**FOOD PROVIDED BY THE  
CLUB FOR THIS MEETING.  
SEE YOU THERE!**

**Editor: Harmon  
2676 Galindo Avenue  
Simi Valley CA 93065**



*"We add to your addiction."*