



Village Addicts GAZETTE

The official newsletter for Village Addicts

Co-President's Message



By BJ Allen
Co-President

Hey there fellow Little House People! Hot enough for you? Now is the time to plan your Halloween and Christmas villages.



Then, you can think SNOW or at least AUTUMN LEAVES. Don't go out and pick up pieces in the garage yet, unless it's in the evening, or early morning so you can avoid heat stroke. Once you've set up your village, consider just leaving it up (at least partially) which might be all you need for the next season. Even without an award winning setup, consider having an open house during this holiday season just so we can get together and reminisce about our large displays of yester-year. Except for Judyth and Claudette, of course.....



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Meeting Minutes

for the June 1, 2024 Meeting



Dayleen Dutcher,
Secretary

Co-president **Brian Allen** opened the meeting around 11:20 a.m.



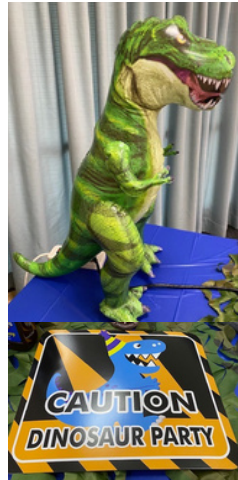
Brian Allen welcomed all in attendance. No guests were present. The Meeting was a dinosaur themed event as it was National Dinosaur Day and carnivore **Juanita Kay's** Birthday.

The hall was decorated with miniature dinosaurs scattered on the tables and dinosaur standup centerpieces. The food table was decorated with camouflage covering and we had a meatloaf dish decorated with dinosaurs prepared by **Alex Guiliani**. Our dessert table had mini cupcakes made by **Karen Holley** and displayed on a dinosaur tiered display. **Lynn Pulte** brought a chocolate cake decorated with dinosaurs. Let's not forget Dave Dutcher's special costume as he sported the T-Rex inflatable costume.



Judyth Rischall announced that The NCC Graceland Gathering is still available.

Myrna Richardson announced we have near full renewal of membership dues, but we are hoping for a few more members to send in their dues. Remember we are trying to build the VAA Club back up to its glory prior to 2020.



In April, nominations were taken for available officer positions. **Alex Guiliani** was nominated to run for Co-President and accepted the position. **BJ Allen** accepted a one-year Co-President term to cover for **Matt Kovacevich's** last remaining year as Co-President which he was unable to complete. Club members provided a unanimous vote to elect **Alex Guiliani** for a two-year term and **BJ Allen** for the remaining one-year term.





Dayleen Dutcher, Secretary

Meeting Minutes

Continued
for the June 1, 2024 Meeting



The White Elephant Sale is scheduled for the V.A.A. August Meeting. Don't Miss it.

Myrna Richardson advised the club members that Ronald McDonald was in touch with her to return to the Ronald McDonald House and build the North Pole display as VAA Members participated in prior to 2020. It was asked if anyone would be willing to participate. Several attending members volunteered. Any other members interested in helping at the Ronald McDonald setup event should notify **BJ Allen** or **Alex Guiliani**. Past setups were done over the Thanksgiving Weekend.

Brian Allen stated he would contact Ronald McDonald House to examine the items that have been stored at the facility. Further discussion will be made at the VAA Board Meeting in July and notice will be sent out to club members if a display setup is confirmed.

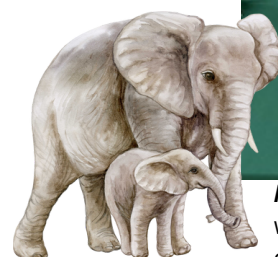


Sunshine Report - **Claudette Fillet** announced that **Sandy Grindstaff** continues to improve. She can move about her home on her own but is not doing much traveling. She is still unable to drive. She is getting in-home physical therapy and continues to see doctors. Her spirits are good. When outside, she is now using a cane, not a walker. Encouragement cards are always welcome. Our **Alice Toppen**, Sunshine Reporter has had her own health issues. So, let's not forget to send her a get-well card.



Regarding the White Elephant Sale, an e-mail notice will be sent out by **Alita Rabe** reminding all members to bring as many donations as possible to the White Elephant Sale as in past years. This is imperative if we want to continue to have new buildings for raffles. Another helpful way to assist, is to buy 50/50 tickets. Remember, the more money that the 50/50 tickets bring in, the higher the amount is for the club and also to the winner.

The White Elephant Sale was further discussed. **Alita Rabe** will be heading up the setup with the help of **Alex Guiliani**, **Karen Holley** and **Dayleen Dutcher**. Suggestions included posting the event at the Wilkinson Senior Center, making a public announcement to the neighborhood regarding the White Elephant Sale, and posting the event on social media platforms. The decision was made to not post the event on any social media platforms. Perhaps members letting their friends and neighbors know about the event would be best.



Myrna Richardson at the welcome table welcoming all carnivores and herbivores to the meeting.



Dayleen Dutcher,
Secretary

Meeting Minutes

Continued
for the June 1, 2024 Meeting



Lunch was then provided. In regards to the presentation, **Victoria Lohmann** of the Hot Wire Foam Factory provided an excellent demonstration of the use of Hot Wire Foam Cutting Tools. She asked what we wanted to know about most and the topic of stairs won the award. She proceeded to show everyone who pulled their chairs up close how to create different types of stairs. My favorite were the spiral stairs. She also demonstrated many of the small hand tools and larger cutting devices. It was great to see how we can make small pieces of filigree to glue onto larger pieces for decorations on walls.

Alita Rabe announced that the club received a large inventory donation from **Barbara Reyna** that consisted of Halloween, Snow Village, Christmas in the City, North Pole and even pieces from Season's Bay, Alpine and Winter Frost. A sale listing was sent out. Flash news, at the time of print, the club on the first sale made a bit over \$700. Great work members, remember the club is you.



Victoria Lohmann showing her pupils how to create stairs with Hot Wire Foam Factory Tools. .



Dayleen Dutcher,
Secretary

Meeting Minutes

*Continued
for the June 1, 2024 Meeting*

Birthdays Winners of May and June. An apology to our May Birthday Members. It seems there was a glitch discovered when June and July Birthdays were announced. This issue will be corrected at our August VAA Club Meeting with May and August members chosen for Birthday Selection. For now:

Birthday Door Prize Winners:

Terri Tippit (June Birthday_ - It's Almost Thanksgiving (NEV)
Myrna Richardson (July Birthday) – Hot Knishes (CIC)

50/50 Tickets:

Alita Rabe - \$70.00

Door Prize Winners:

Bob Benne - (CIC) Hollie's Lunch With The Works
David Dutcher - (SV) Safe and Sound
Rhonda Colgan - (SV) Before the Big Game
Paula Vaccaro - (SVH) Scary Cats Pumpkins
BJ Allen - (GVA) Willow Tree

Raffle Winners

Alex Giuliani - (CIC) Luchow's German Restaurant
Joan Thomas - (NEV) McLean Cottage
Paula Vaccaro - (NP) Santa's Man Cave
Judyth Rischall - (SVH) Rest in Peace

Special Raffle

Barbara Reyna - Won two Vignettes:

1. Cottage Toy Shop (NP) designed by *Dayleen Dutcher*
2. A Cottage Trio (DV) designed by *BJ Allen*



Ms. Barbara 'T-Rex' Reyna dominated all of the dinosaurs present and took home ALL of the vignettes which should keep her fed until the next meeting. RAWR !!!!! Way to dominate Barbara!





by Alice Toppen, Ms. Sunshine

Ms Sunshine



#THROWBACK THURSDAY

BJ Allen shared some pictures of when **Alita Rabe** and the **Dutchers** helped inventory our Department 56 treasures back in 2016. They removed all items out of the shed for the process and guess what? It rained! Are there any other Department 56 nightmares that you folks would like to share?

Claudette Fillet announced at the last V.A.A. membership meeting that **Sandy Grindstaff** was doing much better and despite her health situation that started on 2-13-24, she is in good spirits.

A reminder that members can send cards of encouragement to her at her home. She has currently progressed to use a walker.

Alice Toppen



Left: Paparazzi (identity unknown) snuck in a photo of the treasures hidden at an unknown location last known as "Area 56" GET IT? Area 56? <followed by a small laugh or chuckle.> **Above:** **Dave Dutcher** and **Brian Allen** reach towards a high shelf above believing they discovered a pot of gold, Oops sorry guys, you're surrounded in the gold around you. It's called PORCELAIN.



Ms. Dayleen 'Vanna White' Dutcher's hand trying to stop the paparazzi from taking any more photographs of the treasures. "No pictures please, unless I'm in front of the camera showing off these gems."



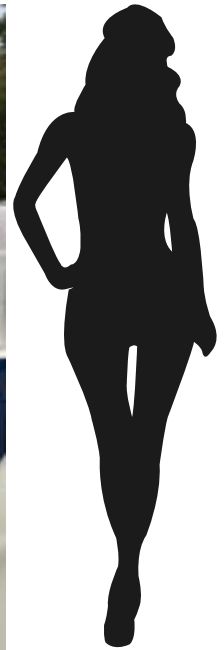
Ms. Dayleen 'Vanna White' Dutcher showing off the inventory covered in tarps in hopes to keep all of the goodies dry and protected from the rain.

#THROWBACK THURSDAY

Continued



Left: Paparazzi (identity STILL unknown) snuck in another photo of the treasures hidden at an unknown location last known as "Area 56." Makes you wonder if the culprit took off running with that one rare treasure piece some of us have been seeking all of our Department 56 lives.



Ms. Dayleen 'Vanna White' Dutcher showing off the Department 56 inventory one last time. She waited all day for the rain to stop so that she could win her 'Vanna White' moment with all of the goodies, UNCOVERED of course. Great job Ms. Dayleen 'Vanna White' Dutcher. This was the million dollar shot of your career! Wheel of Fortune, here I come!



by Alita Rabe,
Inventory Coordinator

DON'T FORGET

The Village Addicts White Elephant sale is **Saturday, August 3, 2024, 11:00 a.m. at the Wilkinson Senior Center, 8956 Vanalden, Northridge.**

Pizza will be furnished by the club so we are asking everyone to bring an appetizer, salad or dessert.



The sale will begin after the co-presidents finish with announcements and lunch has been completed. **THE START OF THE SALE WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT THE MEETING.**

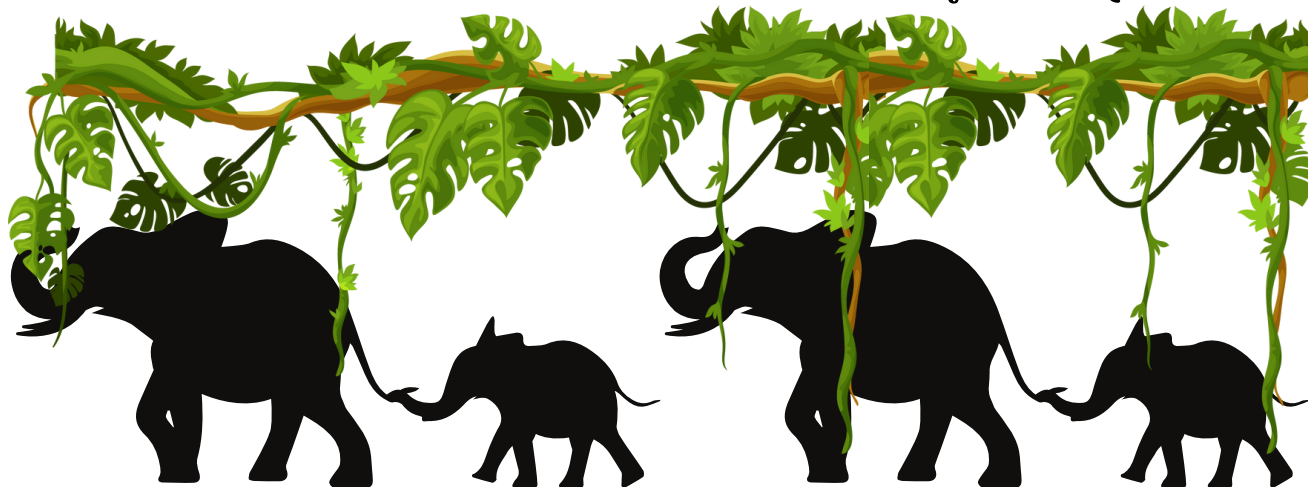
******* NOTHING IS TO BE TAKEN OFF THE TABLES UNTIL THE START OF THE SALE IS ANNOUNCED. *******

The people who had birthdays in May 2024 will be recognized at this meeting along with the members who had birthday's in August.

Now is the perfect time to go through those cupboards, closets, storage units and gather items to bring to the sale. If you can, please price the items prior to bringing them to the sale. Remember, we are not trying to compete with Nordstrom's or Macy's so price the item so that it will sell.

AND, we need VOLUNTEERS to help at the sale. We need people to sort the items and put them on the sales tables. And we need people to price items that need prices. If you can help, please contact Alita at atilahon1@aol.com.

Alita Rabe



Unscramble

THE FIRST PERSON TO UNSCRAMBLE ALL THE WORDS
SHALL WIN THE PRIZE.



- | | | |
|-----------------|-------|-------|
| 1. WNOEBNR | _____ | _____ |
| 2. DYADD | _____ | _____ |
| 3. EBTOTL | _____ | _____ |
| 4. EERHTMRTMOE | _____ | _____ |
| 5. CPINTEDIARAI | _____ | _____ |
| 6. BCRI | _____ | _____ |
| 7. REBDEEFATS | _____ | _____ |
| 8. MYMOM | _____ | _____ |
| 9. EIKCDU | _____ | _____ |
| 10. TNBAHOEPSG | _____ | _____ |
| 11. MATINISV | _____ | _____ |
| 12. RIDEPA | _____ | _____ |
| 13. CIAIEPRF | _____ | _____ |
| 14. OSOBTEI | _____ | _____ |
| 15. SRTLOR | _____ | _____ |
| | TOTAL | _____ |



Save the Date. More Information to Follow



Four years' ago, a group from various Department 56 clubs was putting together a mini-gathering called the Spring Fling. Because COVID reared its ugly head, we had to cancel all plans. Now, someone suggested it would be fun to have a mini-gathering on a **CRUISE!!** So things are being worked out now and there is a good possibility that next year, **Monday, September 15, 2025**, we will be boarding a Royal Caribbean ship for a four-day cruise. **SAVE THE DATE!!**

The cruise will depart from the Los Angeles harbor and head for Santa Barbara and then to Catalina Island. From there, it will go to Ensenada, Mexico and back to our harbor in Los Angeles where we will disembark. The ship has all kinds of entertainment including a rock climbing wall and an ice skating rink.

The cost for an interior cabin is approximately \$500 per person and, of course, that includes all of your meals. If you have ever been on a cruise, then you know, there is food everywhere all day long.

The details are being worked out and there is a travel agent handling the trip itinerary.

No further details are known at this time, therefore, questions cannot be answered at this time. When more information is known, the information will be sent to all members.

But for now, please save the date!!



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