



Village Addicts

# GAZETTE

The official newsletter for Village Addicts

## Co-President's Message



By Alex Giuliani  
Co-President

I would love to express how much I love our club. I know I am new to the club but I am willing to learn to be your new Co-President with **BJ Allen**. I am so grateful to her for teaching me the ropes. I really enjoy the club and creating villages. I also love going to open houses where I learn a lot from all of you. Thanks to all of you for accepting me to be part of this beautiful group.

I also realize our group is getting smaller and we need to work on recruiting new members. The Board has asked that some of our members volunteer to go to the Green Thumb nurseries over the holidays and see if we can attract some of the Department 56 customers to join our club. Who is in to help out? I intend to volunteer and hopefully some of you can join me.

How exciting that the holidays are approaching. Maybe we will all be able to get together at the open houses. I look forward to **Claudette Fillet's** open house on Saturday, September 28 and **Juanita Kay's**

open house on Saturday, October 12. Hopefully we have some more open houses to come and I look forward to seeing you all there. I know for sure that I will be having an open house for Christmas.

Alex Giuliani

### In This Issue.....

Co-President's Message	1
.....	.....
Meeting Minutes	2-3
.....	.....
Ms. Sunshine	3
.....	.....
Volunteer Announcement	4
.....	.....
Gathering Announcements	5-10
.....	.....
Halloween Sudoku	11
.....	.....
Save the Date (Cruise Opportunity)	12
.....	.....
V.A.A. Contact Information	12
.....	.....





Dayleen Dutcher,  
Secretary

# Meeting Minutes *for the August 3, 2024 Meeting*

Co-president, **Brian Allen** opened the meeting around 11:15 a.m.

Co-President **BJ Allen** welcomed all in attendance. She introduced new Co-President, **Alex Giuliani**. **Diane Laubenstein** attended with a Guest, **Karen Berman**.

Several members arrived early around 10:00 a.m. to help set up the White Elephant Sale merchandise tables. Thanks to all who provided help. The Meeting started with **Judyth Rischall** announcing the club treasury having \$1,900 in the checking account and \$4,400 in the savings account. This healthy increase was due to three reasons:

1. **Alita Rabe** announced a sale of items in which she received an excellent response.
2. Renewal of V.A.A. club membership fees.
3. The club received an anonymous donation.

The V.A.A. members were notified that the club expenses for a period of two months amounted to \$742.00. This is primarily due to our need of a storage unit for our inventory and for the rental of the Wilkinson Senior Center for our bi-monthly club meetings.

**Myrna Richardson** announced that at the time of reprinting a new membership roster, we had a total of 11 deletions. **Judyth Rischall** announced that The NCC Graceland Gathering is still on the agenda for 2026 and further details regarding the NCC Connection event will soon be announced. **Alice Toppen** flew in from Florida to attend the VAA Club White Elephant Sale meeting. She connected with friends and family in California. It was great seeing her.

Contact with the Ronald McDonald House to examine the items that have been stored at the facility for use in a display this year is still pending.

**BJ Allen** announced that at the two prior club meetings, we were absent our photographers. **BJ Allen** volunteered she would be our second back-up photographer when needed. **Marty Kravchak** is the club's main photographer. **Jan Lauritzen** is the backup photographer and **BJ Allen** is now the second backup photographer.

With rising costs of everything, it was addressed to the club members that we need to revise the raffles and possibly the door prizes.

At this time, a reduction from six buildings being raffled per meeting, to now four buildings being raffled per meeting has been approved by the board.

The Special Raffles (vignettes) will be reduced to two per year with one during the Easter holiday, and the second during the Halloween holiday. At the Christmas meeting, vignettes will be utilized as table arrangements. Buildings for Vignettes will always be older buildings from our storage inventory.

Other suggestions were:

1. We use accessories for regular raffles and special raffles to cut down on the cost.
2. We raise the cost for each raffle ticket. A recommendation was to sell 8 tickets for \$10.00.
3. A silent auction be implemented for raffle prizes with a percentage of cost (reserve price) to be met.
4. Utilize non-Department 56 items as door prizes.



Dayleen Dutcher,  
Secretary

# Meeting Minutes

*Continued  
for the August 3, 2024 Meeting*

The membership approved a silent auction for raffles at the October 2024 V.A.A. meeting. This will be a test run to see if this is beneficial for the club. Regarding club recruitment, the board discussed in July 2024 that a method of recruitment be adopted. **BJ Allen** inquired that an individual be selected to contact stores that still carry Department 56 items or other building manufacturers to request setting up our club brochures at their facilities during the holidays to provide V.A.A. membership information.

Regarding club recruitment, the board discussed in July 2024 that a method of recruitment be adopted. **BJ Allen** inquired that an individual be selected to contact stores that still carry Department 56 items or other building manufacturers to request setting up our club brochures around the holidays to provide information of the availability of clubs that cater to individuals interested in collecting.

**BJ Allen** announced at the August meeting that **Karen Holley** accepted this challenge and **Karen Holley** announced she has contacted Green Thumb Nursery and received approval for a couple of members to attend their Christmas Party Event and mingle with Green Thumb customers to explain and advertise our club's objective. She also plans to contact a store in Santa Clarita for the same purpose.

A note to members: if you want a few brochures to carry with you when attending an event that may produce new members, please contact Juanita Kay.

### **Birthday Door Prize Winners:**

*Grace Pritchett (May Birthday)*

*Sandy Crane (August Birthday)*

### **50/50 Tickets:**

*Alex Giuliani - \$70.00*



by Alice Toppen,  
Ms. Sunshine

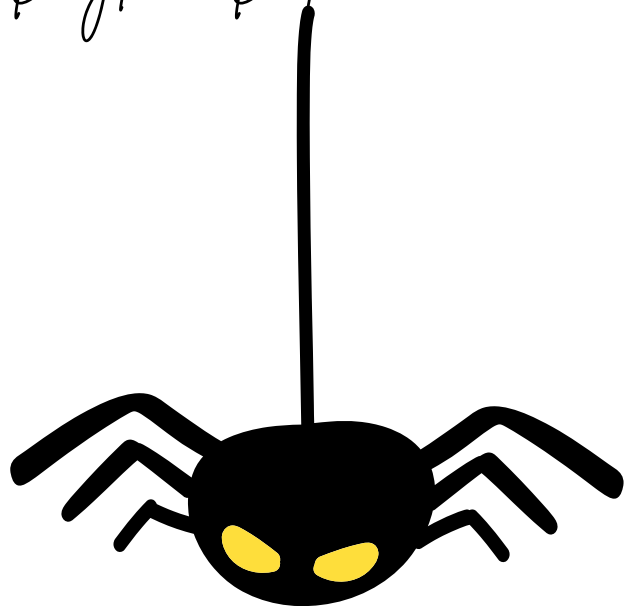
Ms  
Sunshine



No news is good news. Happy Halloween everyone!

*Alice Toppen*

*Dayleen Dutcher*





Join us

November 9 and 10

at

Green Thumb Nursery

Santa Clarita and Canoga Park

Volunteers needed to recruit new  
VAA Members!

Contact Karen Holley via email at:  
[klholley1@mac.com](mailto:klholley1@mac.com)

It'll be fun !!!!!



V.A.A. Halloween Open Houses  
and Next Club Meeting

# OUR NEXT CLUB MEETING

## WHEN:

Saturday, October 5, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.

## SPEAKER:

Juanita Kay will introduce how to add digital design elements to your village

## WHERE:

Wilkinson Senior Center located at 8956 Vanalden Avenue, Northridge

## FOOD:

Potluck Style. The club will provide the dessert. Bring a main dish, salad, side dish, or appetizer

## CONTEST:

Please wear a Halloween shirt or sweater. There will be a prize given to the winner.

**3896 TIVERTON DRIVE,  
CAMARILLO, CA 93012**

**There is  
a  
lovable  
dog in  
the  
house**

# **SPOOKY**

**JUANITA KAY'S  
OPEN HOUSE**

**12**

**OCTOBER**

**12:00 NOON - THE  
WITCHING HOUR**

**FOOD WILL BE  
PROVIDED. YOU'RE  
MORE THAN  
WELCOME TO BRING  
A SIDE DISH**

**RSVP JUANITA KAY AT (805) 890-1946 BY  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2024**





Please join us for Brian  
and BJ Allen's

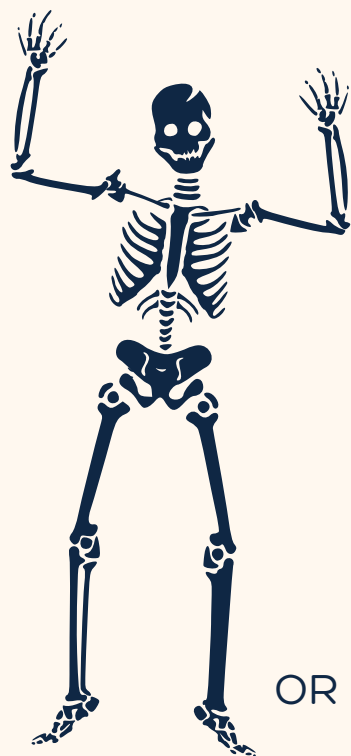
**HALLOWEEN**



**OPEN HOUSE**



SUNDAY,  
OCTOBER 20  
2:30 PM



12821 Woodley Avenue  
Granada Hills, CA 91344

RSVP via  
email: [bjaddis@aol.com](mailto:bjaddis@aol.com)  
OR 818-261-1828 (either call or text)





You're invited to  
**MARIANNE BURTON'S**  
**HALLOWEEN**

**OPEN HOUSE**

**26 October at 2:00 p.m.**

2376 JONESBORO AVENUE  
SIMI VALLEY, CA 93063

**RSVP to 805-527-2101**





# Christmas Party



We proposed having our December V.A.A. meeting at a restaurant for a more festive Christmas atmosphere. We had 29 responses with 26 votes in favor of a Christmas luncheon at a restaurant.

We received two votes who said they would go along with the majority and one 'No' vote. That means we will be having our **December 7th** V.A.A. meeting at:

**The Olive Garden Italian restaurant  
19755 Nordhoff Place, Chatsworth, CA**

Join us for a no host luncheon. There will be six beautiful vignettes as centerpieces on the tables and some nice door prizes. Please mark the date on your calendar (December 7th, and the place, Olive Garden Restaurant in Chatsworth.

***Details and more information will be forthcoming later.***

jingle  
AND  
mingle



# Halloween Sudoku

Fill in the grids so that each column, row, and box contains one and only one of the letters from the given word.

	D				
S					H
W			O		S
O		S			D
D					W
				H	

SHADOW

	P		I		
S		E			
D		P			
			P		R
			D		E
		R		I	

SPIDER

	I				M
	Z	O			I
E				Z	
	B				Z
I			Z	M	
Z				I	

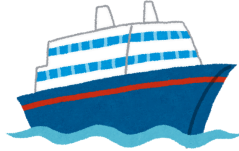
ZOMBIE

			N	E	
R		O			
					O
N					
			R		G
	G	A			

ORANGE



## 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!!** Next year, **Monday, September 15, 2025**, we will be boarding **Navigator of the Seas**, 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.

**Attendees will experience a relaxed, ALL INCLUSIVE atmosphere at sea with the option to attend a roundtable discussing Department 56 topics, led by approved facilitators. You may spend your days aboard and ashore with friends, both old and new.**

The cost for an interior cabin is approximately **\$352.00 plus \$134.93 port taxes** per person **double occupancy** 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.

*There is a travel agent handling the trip itinerary. Check with Nathalie at [Nathalie@tripmatters.net](mailto:Nathalie@tripmatters.net) or 949-386-8325 for our group rate and our group amenities.*

## Village Addicts Contact Information

### CO-PRESIDENTS

BJ Allen [bjaddis@aol.com](mailto:bjaddis@aol.com)  
Alex Giuliani [A.giuliani@live.com](mailto:A.giuliani@live.com)

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### TREASURER

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### MEDIA MANAGER

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### SOCIETY OF XMAS COLLECTORS

Claudette Fillet [Clo4755@aol.com](mailto:Clo4755@aol.com)

### N.C.C. REPRESENTATIVE

Judyth Rischall [garischall@pobox.com](mailto:garischall@pobox.com)

### INVENTORY & STORAGE

Alita Rabe [atilahon1@aol.com](mailto:atilahon1@aol.com)

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Jan Lauritzen [janicelauritzen@yahoo.com](mailto:janicelauritzen@yahoo.com)

### SUNSHINE

Alice Toppen [alice.t4343@gmail.com](mailto:alice.t4343@gmail.com)

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