

INSIDE LEISURE VILLAGE

VOL. 43 NO. 12

AN ACTIVE 55 PLUS COMMUNITY

SANTA ROSA ROAD, CAMARILLO, CALIFORNIA

DECEMBER 2, 2022

VILLAGER PROFILE

By Jon Niemann

Yes, Villagers, There is a Santa Claus

■ And he lives in Village 33

In 1931 the Coca Cola company commissioned illustrator Hadon Sundblom to paint a Santa Claus for Christmas season advertisements. Those paintings established Santa as a warm, happy character with rosy cheeks, a white beard, twinkling eyes and a weathered face. There are pronounced laugh lines around his eyes in the painting making this version of St. Nicholas approachable and grandfatherly. Sundblom had drawn inspiration from the 1822 poem called "A Visit from St. Nicholas" - more commonly known as "Twas the Night Before Christmas." The images Hadon created cemented an image of Santa, bedecked in red velvet outer clothing lined with white fur, a heavy belt around a

"Bowlful of Jelly Belly" and black boots with enormous brass buckles.

That brings us to Leisure Village resident, Don Senior. Don and his wife Barbara live in a home in Village 33. Their patio backs up to Leisure Village Drive and they can often be seen with friends and neighbors sharing a glass of wine and a warm greeting to passers by. It is Don's signature long white beard that you first see when they are near. A proud beard, gleaming in the sun or catching the light in certain conditions. His startling blue eyes sparkle and twinkle, his cheeks can be rosy. His laugh, while hearty and room-filling, rarely has a "ho, ho" but it warms the heart nonetheless.

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Photos by BARBARA SENIOR

Left, Don in his full Santa regalia. This photo was shot during the annual Christmas parade last year. Right, Don on a no-Santa day. The trademark beard, the warm smile and a bit of blush in the cheeks show why people approach him asking "have you ever played Santa Claus?"

New General Manager Moore Up to the Task

By Jon Niemann



Photo by JON

The incoming LV General Manager Christi Moore with the soon to be retired General Manager Bob Scheaffer.

Opportunity is something Christi Moore does not shy away from. She was introduced to the Village in 2010 when she heard about a job opening. She had been working in the banking industry and when the crash occurred in 08' she, along with many people, was unemployed. With a son to take care of, the need for medical insurance and other necessities she was willing to think outside the banking box and look into other opportunities. A good friend had told Christi about a job opening in the Village. She turned in a résumé.

She had been born in Orange County. Her father accepted a po-

sition in Agoura Hills as a teacher with the Oak Park School District. He would eventually move into administration becoming the assistant Superintendent of the district. The family had moved to the Camarillo Heights neighborhood when Christi was three. Her formative years were spent in the area. She graduated from Adolfo Camarillo High School. When she started her career path, she would drive past the Village nearly every day on her work commute and was vaguely aware of the large fenced and gated neighborhood as she passed but did not give it much thought. Now she was going through the gates of Leisure

—Please see **PAGE 11**

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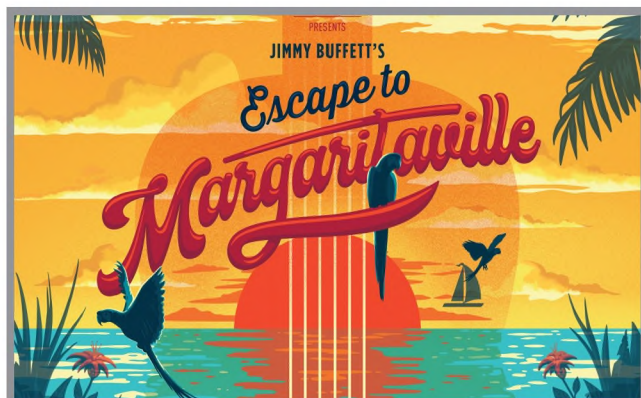
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January 2023 Edition Deadlines

Club News, articles and letters: Thursday, December 15. January issue will be available Friday, January 6. Send news, articles & letters to insidelveditor@gmail.com.

Inside Leisure Village is written and edited by and for Leisure Village residents exclusively. It is independent of the L.V. Association and its Board of Directors. ILV's content is also independent of the Acorn Newspaper. The Acorn Newspaper is not responsible for the content of ILV and does not set or monitor its classified advertising or editorial policies. In addition, the purpose of ILV is to report and publicize LV events and activities. To access Inside Leisure Village online, go to: Google.com, enter Inside Leisure Village. When choices come up, click on "repository.library.csuci.edu/handle/10139/646."

HISTORIC REFLECTION

By Max Copenhagen

Holiday Giving in the Village

In this gift-giving season, it is appropriate to recognize the Holiday contributions Leisure Village clubs have shared with the community. The list of club donations is long and significant, reflecting a charitable and generous spirit. Here are some examples.

The Music Club collects cans for Food Share at events like the upcoming Holiday Concert. When they did not have performances during the pandemic, they donated \$1000 cash to Food Share and \$500 to the ACHS Jazz Band.

The Women’s Golf Club collected over \$1500 from WGC members to help provide a nice Holiday for deserving Camarillo residents.

The RV Club put some of the proceeds of their annual Pancake Breakfast toward this donation and also has made donations to

the Ventura County Rescue Mission, Elderpride, the Boys & Girls Club and ACHS Music. RV Club President Jack Miller says “We like to give back to the community.”

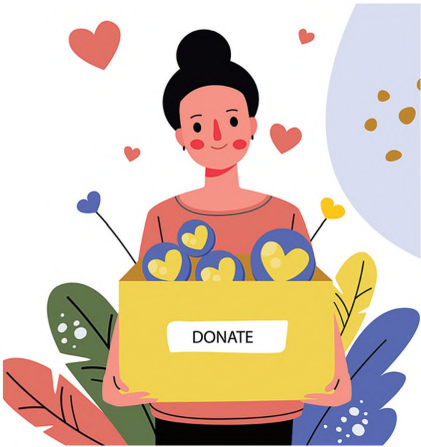
The Needleworks Club has an ongoing knitting project. When a Villager gave them a hoard of 38 bags of yarn (worth about \$5000), they were able to knit baby sweaters and caps for the Life Center, Mary’s Closet and the RAIN homeless shelter - invaluable!

Inside Leisure Village makes regular donations from the sale of classified ads. Funds have been given to several clubs in the Village as well as FoodShare, VC Rescue Mission, Somis Food Pantry, Salvation Army, Pleasant Valley Historical Museum and ACHS Music Boosters for the Marching Band and Jazz Ensemble.

We can thank Yc Old Wood-

chippers for making memorial benches and smaller items for sale at club boutiques. The Pet Club donates to animal related organizations like the Animal Services Foundation of Ventura County and the Moorpark College Teaching Zoo. The Grapes R Us wine club donated \$1500 to the RAIN shelter. The Workshop for Writers recently held a concert with Direct Relief raising \$3000 for humanitarian relief in Ukraine.

The Women’s Club has made many contributions in the Village, including automatic doors and new audio-visual equipment for the Recreation Center, large TVs for meeting rooms, a bus stop shelter, benches, pool furniture, billiard tables, bookcases, a table saw for the woodshop and the emergency antenna. The first charity donation



outside the Village was a gurney and TV for the new hospital. Donations have also been given to ACHS Music, FoodShare, Camarillo Hospice, Salvation Army, RAIN, Casa Pacifica, Lighthouse Womens’ Shelter, Ventura County Rescue Mission, the Red Cross, the ARC and Paws for Purple Hearts. This was the first club in the Village. Since the first fundraiser, a Fashion Show Luncheon in 1974,

—Please See **PAGE 13**

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VILLAGE ENTERTAINMENT

Musically Inclined

Players Guild – Linda O'Neill

On Thursday, November 17th, pianist and director Richard Weiss brought us "A Classy Classical Concert" and that it was. The scene was a room filled with elegantly set round tables, seating up to ten. Then the music began.

Weiss started the program with Robert Schumann's Piano Quintet, Opus 44, 1st Movement-in E flat major. He ended the evening's program with the 4th Movement. Accompanying musicians were Tamsen Beseke on violin; Robert Miskey also on violin; Louise Brown on viola and Stephan Green on cello. The four string players are known as the Avanti Players. This group had its origins in the San Gabriel Valley. The quintet (including Mr. Weiss) played the first and fourth movements of a nineteenth century chamber music piece noted for its "extroverted, exuberant character." Written in 1842, it was first performed in 1843 and is considered one of Schumann's finest compositions.

Next up was prolific Russian composer Rachmaninoff's Elegie in E flat minor. Originally a piano piece, it had been arranged by John Acevedo for a piano, viola and violin trio and this night was its premier performance: Richard Weiss on piano; Tamsen Beseke on violin; and John Acevedo on viola.

After that, a duet- Richard Weiss (piano) and Robert Miskey (violin)- playing Romance by 19th century prodigy Charles-Camille Saint-

Saens "the French Beethoven" and for whom Schumann was a hero.

We were then treated to Tango by Isaac Albeniz, considered the father of Spanish nationalistic music, featuring Weiss (piano) and Tamsen Beseke (violin) playing for dancers John Acevedo and Olga Le. Next, charming soprano Daniela Flores-Palomino treated the audience to the plaintive melody of La Rosa y el sauce (the rose and the willow) by Argentinian composer Carlos Guastavino. As the legend goes "the willow loves and embraces the rose, but the coquettish girl steals the rose, leaving the willow to weep."

Next Ms. Flores-Palomino enlivened Isaac Albeniz' Jota. Then, in a change of pace, tenor Jonathan Matthews sang the poetic Phidyle by Henri du Parc. And speaking of poetic, soprano Flores-Palomino thrilled us with the touching and familiar "O Mio Bambino Caro" from the opera Greta Schicchi by Giacomo Puccini. From George Bizet's Carmen, tenor Matthews' version of "La fleur que te m'avais jetée" conveys an aching longing for love, yet begging for release from its prison. Prelude to the ending, we were treated to the original string quartet performing 1935's "Por Una Cabeza" by Carlos Gardel for Tango dancers Acevedo and Le.

The evening's performance was a fundraiser for the Cielo Foundation, formerly of Santa Barbara. This foundation provides classical concerts for young people and the elderly.

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VILLAGE ENTERTAINMENT

Players Guild

From **PAGE 4** —

On December 15th, the third Thursday, Players Guild holds its annual holiday dinner. Entertainment will be provided by Players Guild performers and audience participation. Tickets are on sale for \$25.00. Contact Barbara Stone to purchase. Dinner choices are Chicken Marsala and Tri Tip and Pasta and roasted vegetables and dessert. Yum! Doors open at 5:30; food will be served at 6 pm.

The singing begins again on January 19, the third Thursday, at 7:30 in the AR. Director Dorene Blair presents "The Beatles." The evening will include musicians and singers interpreting a variety of songs made famous by the British Beatles.

Music & Movies

LV Music Club - Marci Lapair

We are pleased to announce on Tuesday, December 20 at 7:00 pm in the AR, the Music Club will hold their annual Holiday Concert featuring the Groovin' Easy Swing Band with their talented vocalist Erin McPherson. This popular event will benefit FoodShare of Ventura County. Come celebrate the holidays with music performed by this 17-piece swing band. There will be holiday decorations, dancing and refreshments including wine. Admission is free with 2 or more canned goods or a \$5 donation to FoodShare of Ventura County. Tickets will be distributed at all Music Club activities.

On Monday, December 5 at 7:00 pm in the AR, we will screen the holiday movie *Christmas with the Kranks* starring Tim Allen, Jamie Lee Curtis and Dan Aykroyd. This hilarious comedy is based on the novel *Skippering Christmas* by John Grisham. The movie is rated PG and is 1 hour and 38 minutes long.

The movie to be shown on Monday, December 19 at 7:00 pm in the AR will be *The Road to Christmas* starring Jennifer Grey. This romantic comedy is about a successful fashion

photographer who can't wait to marry her handsome multimillionaire fiancé. Her plans for a storybook Christmas Eve wedding in Aspen are derailed when a tremendous snowstorm paralyzes the entire Rocky Mountain region. The movie is rated PG and is 88 minutes long.

Movie Nights are always free to all the Villagers, and we even provide the popcorn! The time we are allowed to enter the AR has been changed due to another club's activity. Doors will open at 6:45 pm. Nobody will be allowed to enter the AR until that time.

The audience attending the Music Club's November Open "Mic" night was treated to a fun evening of entertainment. To the delight of the audience, Bob Bueling, with his singing partner Pat Cronin, performed a song Thanksgiving Dinner at My House, a parody to the tune of Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer. Newcomer to Open "Mic" Night Gary Silverman sang The Things We Said Today.

The next Open "Mic" night is tonight, Friday, December 2 and Friday, January 6 at 7:00 pm in the AR. Open "Mic" Night is open to all Villagers at no charge. We serve complimentary wine and snacks. We would be happy to hear from you if you have a talent such as singing, playing a musical instrument, dancing or have a comedic talent.

If you are interested in performing at our January Open "Mic" Night please contact Dick Guttman, (805) 484-5806, no later than Wednesday, January 4.

The Groovin' Easy Swing Band rehearses Tuesday evening between 7:00 and 9:00 pm in the AR. Come and listen to their easy listening music.

For more information about the LV Music Club, call Debbie Goodman 818-523-0731 or Marci Lapair 818-399-0843.

Mariachi Moves Us

Showtyme Presents - Jennifer Stein

Showtyme Presents Mariachi on Friday, December 9th at 7:30 pm.

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ART IN THE VILLAGE

Portrait Work a Passion for Nomi

By Nicole D'Amore

Portraits are a way to keep loved ones close, something Nomi Wagner discovered early in life. She spent hours gazing at photographs of her father who died during World War II and her grandparents who passed a few years later. "I've always had that feeling that everything is so precious, that you have to document everything," Wagner said.

She started taking her own pictures after getting a Brownie Hawkeye camera at the age of 10. That led eventually to a career as a photographer. Now Wagner has gone a step further. She has embraced technology and works on the computer using Corel Painter and on the iPad using Procreate to paint portraits for clients.

Throughout her home are examples of her talent: portraits of children playing on a sandy beach, families

gathered for a reunion, a large black and white painting of her as a tiny child with her father. Although they look like fine watercolor or oil paintings, there isn't an easel in sight or a single tube of paint in her studio. Her brush is a stylus, every stroke her own, her palette a computer notepad and screen. She takes elements from photographs people send her, makes a sketch and the painting evolves from there. She can mix colors from a palette on the screen in every shade and variation imaginable.

"If I don't like a color I can erase it or go back to a previous version," she explained. "If I like something I save it. I can take risks. Subtle changes can be made."

In one painting of a girl who had passed away, the mother wanted her daughter smiling but in all the photos she wasn't. Wagner was able to paint a brighter look on the girl's face to her mother's delight. She



Photo by JON

Nomi Wagner at her desk/easel where she is painting virtually.

often spends a week on each person in a painting, sending frequent jpegs to her client for approval.

She and husband, Gerry Beane, moved to Leisure Village from Mandalay Beach in Oxnard in April. But she is far from retired, working full time on commissions. Beane prints high quality giclées of her work as well as that of other artists and photographers on his Epson SureColor P8000 on fine art canvas, watercolor or photo paper.

Art was Wagner's first love, but seeing her mother having to raise children on her own, she wanted a career where she could support herself. She got a degree in dental hygiene and worked for 18 years as a dental hygienist. In

1979 she switched her focus to photography, taking classes and establishing a high-end photography business in Westwood and Santa Monica for 20 years.

"I first did weddings and PR work, but then it was all portraits," she said. "I always wanted to be an artist," she said. "But I didn't know how to go about it." She took art classes at UCLA, designing her own curriculum. Seeing a demonstration of an early digital graphics program literally put everything in focus. "I immediately got a vision of what I could be doing with my photo and drawing background," she said.

Wagner started with a Photo-shop class and did a collage for her

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VILLAGE ENTERTAINMENT

Mariachi

From **PAGE 5** —

The music of Latin America will fill the air. Mariachi music represents the rich history and culture of Mexico, with the festive sounds of brass and stringed instruments. It is commonly performed by a group of musicians composed of men & women wearing traditional, intricate ensembles called charro suits.

Mariachi music is made to move you. It is direct, driving and designed to instill emotion. The distinctive style of singing, suave harmonies and romping rhythms creates an unmistakable sound unique in the world. Today, mariachi ensembles are part of musical life in every state of America. The music

is just as likely to be performed in major concert halls as well as being performed at weddings and celebrations. Dozens of major annual mariachi festivals featuring local and internationally renowned groups attract thousands each year. Come embrace the music as a symbol of cultural heritage for everyone who simply enjoys the hard-hitting lively sounds of Mariachi music.

Mark your calendar for Friday Dec. 9th @ 7:30pm in the AR. Doors open at 6:45pm. Showtyme's annual 2023 membership is available for sale before the show. Membership is \$15.00 per person. Non-members admission is a minimum \$5.00 per person. Bring your friends & family for an evening of Mariachi. Please contact Jennifer @ 805-383-1518 with any questions.

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THE HEALTHY VILLAGER

By Jeannie Davis, PT, MPH

Mindfulness for a Joyful Holiday Season

Mindfulness is the human ability to be fully present, aware of where we are and what we are doing, and not to be overly reactive or overwhelmed by what is going on around us. I have been practicing mindfulness for years with great benefits. Mindfulness provides ways to cultivate your mind, tap into growing, healing, and transforming your understanding of who you are and how you might



be wiser with greater well-being, meaning, and happiness in this world. Mindfulness practice will facilitate an adventure of inquiry and discovery about the nature of your mind and heart, and how

you might live with greater presence, open heartedness, and authenticity. Deep listening is the essence of mindfulness, and most types of mindfulness techniques focus first on the breath.

Types of Mindfulness:

- Breathing meditation — focus attention on your breath
- Body scan — focus on each individual body part in turn from your head to your toes
- Loving-kindness meditation — fosters positive feelings of love and care toward close loved ones and then yourself and eventually the whole world
- Observing-through meditation — a practice that teaches you to notice as thoughts arise, label them as positive or negative, but avoid getting absorbed in them

Benefits of Mindfulness:

- Helps relieve stress
- Helps treat heart disease
- Lowers blood pressure
- Reduces chronic pain
- Improves sleep
- Alleviates gastrointestinal challenges
- Reduces anxiety and depression

How Mindfulness can facilitate a More Joyful Holiday Season:


If we relieve our stress through natural techniques such as mindfulness, we will enjoy the holiday season more. Most people feel increased stress around the holidays, whether they celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa or other holidays around the holiday season. Whether the increased stress is from spreading us too thin, family drama or other factors, natural ways of being good

to ourselves is most important to get through the holiday season with reduced stress, increased happiness and joy and avoidance of being sick during the holiday season.

Ways we can celebrate a more joyful and less stressful holiday season include:

- Practice active listening
- Be open to the emotions of others
- Be open to a range of emotions in yourself
- Let go of old emotions and patterns that might be holding you back
- Expand how you communicate care
- Let go of judgment for yourself and others
- Balance the “shoulds” with awareness of your own needs
- Practice self compassion

—Please see **PAGE 9**




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A WORD ON WINE

By Barbara
Senior

'Tis the Season for December Quaffs

December is the month for gatherings with family and friends to celebrate the season. As a warmup, the November Grapes R Us LV Wine Club featured mulled wines. These are wines that are heated on low so they are infused with fruit, spices and sometimes brandy.

Three wines were "mulled" – a Riesling, a Chardonnay and a Zinfandel.

Riesling was infused with orange, lemon, cinnamon, allspice, cloves and cardamom. Chardonnay was infused with orange, cloves, cinnamon, honey, brandy and pumpkin butter. Zinfandel followed a spiced wine recipe from Italy, using lemon and orange peels, orange juice, vanilla, star anise, cloves, cardamom, cinnamon and brandy. If you want the recipes, just email grapesrlvwineclub@gmail.com.

You can easily do your own mulling in a large pot on the stove or in a crockpot. Just add the wine and heat until steam rises from the liquid, but there are no bubbles. If it starts to bubble, the alcohol will boil off. Add the fruit, spices and brandy with a bit of sugar or honey,

let it steep on a low setting for 20-30 minutes and — Voila! You have mulled wine. Serve in mugs with citrus peels and maybe a cinnamon stick, and you have a very creative holiday quaff.

What about chilled holiday drinks? I like the combination of Triple Sec, pomegranate juice and Ginger Ale, added to a dry

red wine over ice. Garnish with Luxardo cherries. If you want to be adventurous, you could slip in a dash of rum. And, of course, there's the brunch favorite, a mimosa – made with a not-too-sweet red juice like pomegranate or tart cherry, mixed with a brut sparkling wine.

Another wonderful treat is White Christmas Sangria. Pour a bottle of dry white wine into a pitcher. Then add brandy, sugar, thinly sliced green apples and limes and some soda water. To mingle the flavors, let it sit for an hour or two in the fridge, then add ice and drop in some red raspberries.

Whatever your pleasure, make a toast to your health and happiness – Chin-chin!



Mindfulness

From PAGE 8 —

There are many different techniques of Mindfulness and I recommend you try different types to see which technique(s) works for you. There are free apps for the smartphone that you can utilize to practice mindfulness and mindfulness meditation.

The two apps I recommend are the free UCLA mindfulness app and the free Calm App on your smartphone.

Editors Note: Jeannie Davis is an LV resident and medical professional. The information contained in this column is provided for educational purposes only. ILV readers assume full responsibility for the use of this information.



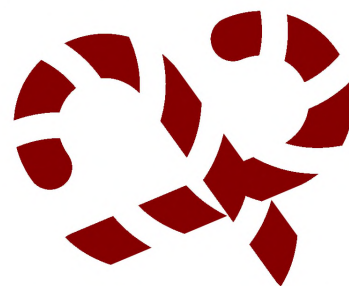
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01LV01S

POETRY CORNER

Santa's Exercise

by Mark Sconce

Every year about this time,
St. Nicholas begins
To organize his trip abroad
Amid the children's grins.

But news this year at Christmastide
Includes a sober piece:
That certain children far and wide
Are shockingly obese.

Never one to shirk his duty,
Santa makes a vow:
"By shedding from m'own big booty,
I'll show the children how

To take a little pride.
I'm setting the example
For children far and wide
To make us all less ample!
Ho, Ho, Ho."

And so Dear Santa shopped around
To find the right equipment
To help him shed his portly pound
Before the Great Trans-shipment.

Mrs. Claus encouraged him
Throughout the days and nights.
She fantasized him slim and trim
And bought him trendy tights.

The active adult that he is
Soon led to Fitness World
Where fitness is a booming biz,
Where dumbbells curl and curl...

A Gallery of grunt and groan,
A Palisade of pain
Where fitness buffs are wont to hone
Their muscle and their brain.

Checked him in as honored guest,
Dear Santa needed training
To finally look and feel his best,
Trans-fatty foods disdaining.

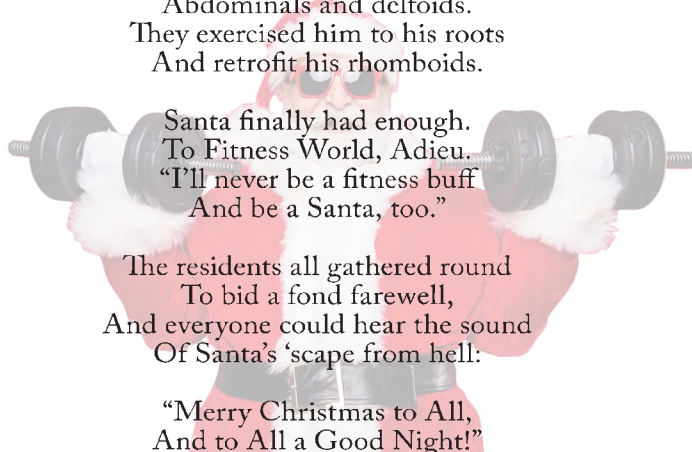
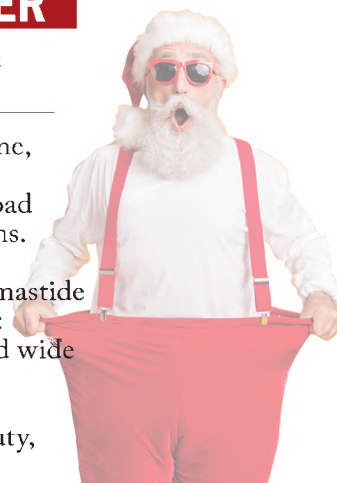
Cybex apparatus staff
Were there to spot poor Santa,
Who cut his workout time in half
So he could drink a Fanta.

They worked his pecs; they worked his glutes,
Abdominals and deltoids.
They exercised him to his roots
And retrofit his rhomboids.

Santa finally had enough.
To Fitness World, Adieu.
"I'll never be a fitness buff
And be a Santa, too."

The residents all gathered round
To bid a fond farewell,
And everyone could hear the sound
Of Santa's 'scape from hell:

"Merry Christmas to All,
And to All a Good Night!"



New GM Christi

From PAGE 1 —

Village for an interview.

Christi was offered a position in the LV Security Department and accepted. A couple years into that position she was wanting to move upward in her professional life and began to look outside for other interests that would take her to the next level. About that time there was an opening in the main association office that intrigued her. She had become curious about the overall operation of Leisure Village, the inner workings and the ability to manage and operate a large organization piqued her deeper interests.

LV General Manager, Bob Scheaffer watched Christi, impressed with her curiosity, her willingness to ask questions and to learn. Her increasing abilities had him choosing her for the Assistant General Manager position when it opened up. Christi was a quick study, picking up the various aspects of the operation and always looking to see what was next in her quest to learn. Bob encouraged her to attend seminars, classes and accreditation schools to build a base of knowledge about the HOA management industry.

Her formal education began in 2014 and she currently holds the following credentials:

CAI - Community Association Institute, an international organization with general education in the running and organization of a homeowners association.

CMCA - Certified Manager of Community Associations. The program is a beginning credential certifying a study program that includes elemental knowledge and understanding law, organization,

management and communication.

AMS - Association Management Specialist. This credential has a focus on a code of ethics and holds its graduates accountable to that code.

PCAM - Professional Community Association Manager. This is the most intensive of the programs. The select holders of this accreditation are few. The final exam of PCAM is the writing of a thesis based on 26 theoretical questions directly relating to the issues an association manager will most likely face. Christi turned in an 84 page thesis.

When Bob Scheaffer announced his retirement earlier this year, the 2022 LV Board of Directors sprang into action on a search for a new General Manager. Christi's name had been thrown into the hat but the Board diligently searched for other candidates. The interviewing process was thorough but it was quickly crystal clear that the most qualified candidate was here. Christi's combination of intrinsic

knowledge of the day-to-day operation along with the skill she has shown in contract negotiation, her very winning personality and the arm-long list of accreditation made the decision an almost overwhelmingly no-brainer. She has worked hard and been given the opportunity she sought. She gratefully accepted.

It has been great getting to know Christi the past few weeks. I am impressed with her clear-headed views on what is ahead for Leisure Village. She will usher in some new ideas, as she should, but she smiles warmly when talking about the current operation. Updating some aspects of technology are important to her and she has been working with the 2022 LV Board on bringing that aspect forward. Christi has made many friends here, we get a sense that this is truly more than a job, it is a true second home. Her father now takes care of her 4 year old son Jaxon, he must be very proud of the responsibility she has taken on and the woman his daughter has become.

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Inside Leisure Village



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A BUNCH ABOUT FOOD

By Sheila
Bunch

Welcome Sheila!

■ Swedish & Norwegian Treats for the Holidays

With the holidays approaching, I was on a mission to find some interesting and different dessert recipes to serve my family and friends. As a resident of Leisure Village, I decided to reach out to some of the Villagers on my search for interesting holiday treats. It didn't take long to find two of the most interesting and delightful ladies who had great recipes they brought with them from their native European countries.

On Wednesday November 9, They each invited me over to their kitchens to share the recipes and the techniques for creating the favorite desserts from their respective countries. The Inside Leisure Village crew were invited to come along, film and record the making of these fabulous regional favorites. We were all treated to a pre-holiday

party, one on Maria's beautiful patio and one in Bo's charming dining room. In a way, we actually brought Sweden and Norway together on this festive day. A bit of Village diplomacy in action.

Maria Mosher of Village 19, who is from Sweden, made Kola Kakor (Caramel Cookies) and explained that they are a very popular item to enjoy with the notorious Swedish coffee break, known as Fika. "Let's do Fika" is one of the most uplifting messages a Swede receives. Fika is used both as a noun and a verb and one is free to Fika just about anywhere. There was an additional treat of a fresh loaf of bread that had been made in a Dutch Oven. The Kola Kakor was a delicate pastry with subtle flavors and texture. Awesome with coffee!! The bread was rich and



Photos by JON

Above, the Norwegian light and fluffy Mandarinkake ready to slice and serve. Below, Kola Kakor (Caramel Cookies) a very popular item to enjoy with the notorious Swedish coffee break, known as Fika.

satisfying, served with Plugra butter and some light bodied red wine. We did not want to leave the Mosher's beautiful patio and the spectacular view of Mt Conejo.

Bodil (Bo) Husher of Village 5, who is from Norway, made the delicious, light textured and full flavored Mandarinkake (Mandarin Cake). It is basically a Meringue with nuts and mandarin orange slices, baked and rolled into a log.

—Please see **PAGE 16**




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Santa Don

From PAGE 1 —

Don is another multi-generational Southern Californian. His maternal grandfather purchased a lot in El Segundo in 1916 and set about building a house for his new family. There was oil in El Segundo (still is) and a newly formed company known as Standard Oil Company of California was setting up business in the neighborhood at that time. Standard eventually became Chevron and 4 generations of Don's family have been employed there. His parents purchased the family home in El Segundo in 1940 for \$3000, the home Don grew up in.

For a period of time in the 70's Don owned a Chevron station near El Segundo. It was a popular local service station as well, taking care of cars. During this period he grew a beard. Not one of the anemic, trimmed beards popular today but a bushy, full display of whiskers framing his face. He would eventually sell the station and start a sales career in the silk-screening business printing shirts for huge sporting events and major corporations.

By the mid 1980's his beard started turning white. He was teased and called Santa Claus. The teasing set him to thinking; he dipped his toes into portraying Santa Claus at a local mall in Manhattan Beach. Fox photo had sponsored the "Santa in the mall" program during the holidays and photographed families with Santa. The experience was

mostly positive and led to various opportunities to be Santa for a few hours. He would meet families who would become lifelong friends and keep a series of photos that showed their children through the years with Santa Don. His charisma led to a growing list of private events during the holidays that would replace the mall "gigs." A close connection with 15-20 families cemented Don's role as the go-to Santa. He was eventually approached by a guy who, with 6 other guys, was forming the Fraternal Order of Real Bearded Santas. He was asked to join the group. This led to further opportunities to portray Santa.

Don met the love of his life, Barbara Nichols in 1994. Barbara's parents had purchased a home in Village 28 in 1977; they were retiring from the family banking business in Ohio and wanted to relocate to California to be closer to their kids and their families. Barbara would eventually inherit the house and it would be a rental for several years. Leisure Village began to look attractive to Don and Barbara. Their home in Coarsegold, just outside Yosemite was a lot of work, they were looking forward to returning to Southern California. They purchased their home in Village 33 in 2018 and have been settled here since. When asked about the beard, Barbara frowns slightly and says, "I don't think I would know what to do if it was not there. He would just not be the same man, in a way." Don is keeping the beard.



Photo by BARBARA SENIOR
Barbara and Don Senior during the holidays. Just a 'touch' of Santa at this 'off the clock' event.

Bicycling was among the many interests that Don has fostered over the years. He had dreamed of riding from San Francisco to Los Angeles. One of his clients in the silk-screen business told him about a group that was forming a fundraising ride from SF to LA to raise funds and awareness of the then-looming AIDS crisis. Don and Barbara decided to get involved with the AIDS Ride. Barbara was part of the support crew and fundraising efforts. Don rode on 14 of the annual trips and they raised over \$80,000 for the group.

At Christmastime, if you are

lucky, you have spotted Don on the lawn outside their patio, in his Santa suit, waving to the golf carts and other participants in the annual Village Christmas Parade that the LV Mavericks put on. In the 1947 Movie *Miracle on 34th Street*, Natalie Wood pulled the beard that Edmund Gwenn had grown. For a brief moment there was a glimmer of a break in her too-young cynicism when he winced. There is nothing quite like a Santa in a real beard.

So, I say Villagers; yes, there is a Santa Claus. He exists in the lives Don has touched, the hope he has provided to children and families over the years and his participation in benevolent causes captures the spirit of the Santa Clause lore.

Happy Holidays and a Merry Christmas Villagers.

Editors Note: On Saturday, December 17th will be the Christmas Parade in the Village. Santa Don will be out on the lawn outside his patio. He welcomes visitors to stop by, take a selfie with Santa or just tell him your Christmas wish.

Holiday Giving

From PAGE 3 —

the Women's Club has donated over \$580,000 to projects and programs in the Village and the greater community. The club's highlight of the year is the Veterans Day Celebration Lunch. President Lin Grant says "Even after 2 years of COVID inactivity, we came back strong because a dedicated group of women worked tirelessly to be 'ready for business' when the pandemic was over." With an impressive record of good work, they continue fundraising with bake sales, fashion and

lip-sync shows and boutiques, collecting about \$8000 a year. Village clubs and local organizations solicit and compete for available funds. Vice President Pam Smith says "The purpose of the club is Friendship, Fellowship and Philanthropy. Our fundraising is just 25 cents or a dollar at a time and we work really hard at it."

Putting this article together was a real eye-opener! We can be proud of the way Villagers contribute to needs in the community. We encourage the support of Village clubs and the fundraising opportunities they provide.

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10LV14S

Clouds Over the Village



Photo by VALERIE FOX

Great photo of our glorious skies over the golf course, on a rare cloudy fall day.



Photo by JON

Nomi in front of a very special print. All the children in the image are family members.

Portrait Work

From PAGE 6 —

mother, painting her portrait in the center using an early version of the Painter program.

"I thought, this is it, this is all I want to do now," she said. She took classes at the California Art Institute in Westlake Village with various artists. "This is the first thing I have done that truly fills me creatively," she said. "Each one is a challenge, it's never routine. I have to figure it out every time."

Since she first started in this medium, technology has greatly evolved. "Now the internet has made it easier," she said. She is a Corel Painter Elite Master. Wagner's experience in her previous careers working with people helped it all come together.

"It's been over 20 years and I don't have the itch to try a fourth

career," she said, laughing.

"I'm not out there to be a famous artist. I'm just there to help people and paint their loved ones. That's what I love doing. It's the perfect job for me."

She also does posters and one was selected for the 2017 California Strawberry Festival. Her work has been featured on national media outlets and she has raised thousands of dollars for charities through donations of her artwork.

Wagner is a member of Studio Channel Islands Art Center and will participate in the Holiday Art Market there this weekend (6 to 9 p.m. today, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday) at 2222 E. Ventura Blvd., Camarillo. Admission is free.

Her website is: <https://nomi-wagner.com>.

Editor's note: The Holiday Art Market is Dec. 2, 3 and 4th.

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Inside Leisure Village

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Halloween Doggy Contest

At left, editor's pick for the cutest dawg, Milo. Far right, contest winner Police Woman and her K-9 companion.

Photos by CECILIA



Right, the very handsome Toby, the artist. Below, Smokey, as a Skunk, voted most humorous.





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Bunch About Food

From **PAGE 12** —

We enjoyed the cake served on a plate along with a glass of New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc. The citrusy flavors of the wine paired well with the mandarin and creamy, cloud-like texture of the dessert. Enjoying this in Bo's Scandinavian style furnished dining room probably added an extra layer to the afternoon.

How could I say no to such a culinary "trip to Europe" without even leaving the Village? Not only did I find great recipes, but I learned very interesting things about their countries, cultures and traditions. I hit the jackpot with these two. Their recipes are included below. I encourage you to make them and enjoy the magic from Scandinavia during this festive season.

Happy Holidays!

Maria's Swedish Caramel Cookies

1 stick softened butter
½ cup sugar



Left photo, Maria Mosher shares her Swedish caramel cookies with Sheila. Right photo, Bo Husher sharing her family recipe and a laugh with Sheila.

1 tbsp vanilla
1 tbsp maple syrup
1 cup all purpose flour
1 tsp baking powder

Set oven temp to 375

Mix all ingredients in food processor if handy, using pulse to create dough. Hand mixing will work, leave the dough texture a

bit rough for best results. Shape into logs, place on cookie sheet or use parchment paper. Bake at 375 for 10-12 min. Remove from oven and cut into diagonal slices while still warm.

Bo's Mandarin Cake Log

1 ¼ cup sugar
5-6 egg whites - Extra Large eggs, should be 7oz.
Instant Vanilla Sauce (powdered - Ekstroms available on Amazon)
½ cup raw almonds, medium chopped
15 oz can Mandarin Oranges - light sauce
1 ¼ cup heavy whipping cream
1 tsp sugar

Whip egg whites and ½ cup sugar with electric mixer set on medium speed until thigh and glossy peaks form. Pour Vanilla sauce over the whipped eggs and fold in. Place the mixture on a large cookie sheet covered with parchment paper. Spread out to a smooth surface about 1/2 inch high.

Place in the 300 degree oven and bake until a nice toasted beige color. While baking drain Mandarin Oranges and pat dry. Chop the orange slices into small 1/4 inch pieces (one at a time works best).

Pull the meringue from the oven when desired texture and color reached (approx 15 min.) and let it cool. When cooled flip the meringue by placing a piece of parchment paper on top and flipping over.

Whip the heavy whipping cream with tsp of sugar at medium speed to desired consistency. Fold the diced oranges into the whipped cream. When

the meringue has cooled spread the orange cream mixture over the top. Fold both long ends toward the center and bring up the edges using the parchment paper. Refrigerate the logs and serve cold.

Look for more from Sheila. There's a *bunch more* coming your way...Until next month, keep on cookin'!

EDITOR'S NOTE: We welcome Sheila to the ILV staff. Her knowledge of food preparation and presentation is legendary. Her column will focus on unique family recipes, contemporary foodie trends and some local restaurants that provide interesting outlets for enjoying food. She will explore outlets to purchase items to enhance your kitchen prowess and even the current trend of boxes purchased online that include everything you need for fun and creative meals. Please join us in welcoming her.



Photos by JON

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CLUB NEWS

WII BOWLING CLUB

By Debra Pettit

The holidays are upon us! We will gather for our yearly holiday potluck and tournament on December 10th at 11:00 in the Santa Rosa Room (Clubhouse). The tournaments always bring out the competitive spirit in all of us. Feel free to drop by and meet the players and watch the tournament!

TAI CHI

By Chuck Morrow

New Tai Chi Class Begins! Tai Chi Moving for Better Balance beginner's class will start on January 4th. The class meets on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:30 to 5 pm in the Santa Rosa Room and will conclude in mid-April. Registration is open and spots are currently available. To register for this upcoming class email: cmorrow@hotmail.com.

The newest Tai Chi course available to Leisure Village residents this January is Tai Chi—Review and Refine. This class is for those who have successfully met the goals of the Beginning Tai Chi class or have been away from Tai Chi and wish to begin again. Class begins on January 5th from 1 to 2:30 pm on Mondays and Thursdays in the Santa Rosa Room. For registration information please email Susan-nack138@gmail.com.

If you are interested in taking your Tai Chi experience to the next level then the Tai Chi Moving for Better Balance Intermediate class could be for you. This class meets on Mondays and Thursdays from 2:30 to 3:15 pm in the Santa Rosa Room. This class requires students to be familiar with all 8 Tai Chi Forms or have successfully met the goals of the Tai Chi – Review and Refine class. For more information contact: Ruth Tidwell at TaiChiRuth16@gmail.com

Every morning at 8:30 am experienced Tai Chi students can practice their skills for an hour. The practices are in the MPR if available, or if not, the AR or any available room. Anyone who has previously attended a Tai Chi Class and wants to start their day with a few rounds of Tai Chi is welcome. It is assumed that you know the forms by name and can perform them. No formal instruction will be given.

Registration is required for all classes. Forms are available from the instructors at the beginning of the class session.

WOMEN'S GOLF

By Patti Crichton

*Important: Correction on the date of our December holiday luncheon in last month's article. It should have said Wednesday, December 14th. Sorry about that. We will look forward to swearing in our new Board and celebrating the season. Winners of the President's Cup Low Net Tournament will be announced.

Open play will be in place for Dec 14, 21 and 28th, with no money or posted results. Regular play with \$2 entry fee, starter, assigned groups and prizes, will resume on January 4th with an 8:30am start time.

Women's Golf is excited to begin using our newly created website. We are looking forward to accessing timely information online.

Mark your calendars for the Chili Bowl mixed tournament and luncheon on Saturday, January 28th, hosted by Women's Golf.

LV BOWLING

By Gene Kinsey

The Fall league is in full swing. Top bowlers for the month were for the men: Bruce Anderson 255, Julius Hirsch 228, Charlie Hartman 213 and Gene Kinsey 235.

—Please see PAGE 18

Women's Golf Club celebrated Halloween in October. They dressed up the course with scary decorations and donned costumes to play a round. See the December issue of Village View, sign up by clicking on the QR code below to receive the Village View in your email. At right, Debi Dolan buzzing around waiting to start the back 9. Below, Sheila Bunch, Jaclyn Claros, Jerry Price & Jeri Niemann posing between shots.



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CLUB NEWS

LV Bowling

From PAGE 17 —

For the women: Bobi Shmerling 236, Marilyn Chavin 245, Gail Singer 248 and Janice Eckgren 244. Remember these are handicapped scores, not actual pin counts.

If you might be interested in joining the fun, please contact Bobi Shmerling at 805-389-1975 or Gene Kinsey at 805-796-5858. Bowling takes place at Harley's Camarillo Bowl on Friday mornings from 9-noon. Cost per week is \$13. They have rental shoes and free bowling balls if you need them. You will probably hear more laughter with us than with any other club. We have room for weekly bowlers and some subs when you are available.

MEN'S GOLF

By Tim Palmer

Leisure Village Men's Golf has been playing in champion-

ship events. On November 3, the Tournament of Champions was held at Los Robles Golf Course in Thousand Oaks. Gary Gascoigne met the challenge and had the low gross score in the tournament, earning Grand Champion honors. Chuck Dolan and John Palmer earned low net prizes.

The LVMGA Club Championship was also played on the first and second Tuesday of November, with the winner scoring the low gross for the two days of golf. Gary Gascoigne was also the winner of the Club Championship with a gross score of six over par for the two days – a very impressive performance! Max Chopra, Phil Drain and John Palmer scored low gross in their respective flights.

Low net awards will go to: Flight A – Jack Bozajian and John Santos; Flight B – Jeff Rach and Harvey Harris; Flight C – Warren Nelson and Hiroshi Kuwashima; 9ers – Robert Malinow and Don

Marquardt.

The November Member meeting was held on November 15, with election of Board of Directors for 2023. The following were elected: Tim Palmer, President; Jon Hall, First Vice President; Kim McCurdy, Second Vice President; Harvey Harris, Secretary and Max Chopra, Treasurer.

MUSIC AND MOTION

By Margie Monroe

Our Music and Motion class meets every Friday morning 9:00-10:00 am alternately in the AR and MPR. The class is an opportunity for seniors to practice balance and stability through the sounds of music and different styles of dance. Our teacher, Sissy, brings to us choreography that suits our needs. Starting with a slow warm-up followed by dancing and concluding with a cool-down. The cost is \$10 per class. The first class is free of charge. Call Margie with any questions at 805-438-7610.

THANK YOU to all the volunteers who helped decorate and undecorate the A/R—Women's Club, Saturday Night Dance and Mavericks. Happy Holidays. Be Safe. See you next year.

EXERCISE/STRETCH CLASS

By Donna Khacherian

We would like to take this opportunity to invite all residents to join our morning stretch Class held five days a week, Monday through Friday in the pavilion.

We welcome newcomers! This is a fun way to make new friends and acclimate yourself to Village Life. Please come and check us out, give Stretch Class a try. Currently our times are 8:30 am and 9 am. This is a 30 minute class of stretching from head to toe and a wonderful way to start your day. The exercises are easy and very beneficial to keep our joints moving and our bodies strong. We meet outside in the Pavilion (area behind the swimming pool) rain or shine.

BINGO!

By Bobi Shmerling

Let's play Bingo – You can be a winner too. Some of your friends and neighbors who have won between \$100 and \$300 in the past few weeks are Shirley Frances, Barbara Bevis, Geri Dagan, Ellen Neally, Bobi Shmerling and Brenda Rubright.

Come join us and enjoy an evening with friends and a chance to win cash prizes. Bingo is held on Wednesday evenings at the Recreation Center in the Assembly Room. Minimum buy-in is \$13 for 18 games with payouts ranging from \$40 to \$300. Doors open at 4:45 pm and close at 5:45 pm. Play begins at 6:00 and ends shortly after 9:00 pm. Contact John Herrera 805-419-4195.

SATURDAY NIGHT DANCE PARTY

By Andrea Moran

Happy Holidays Villagers. The end of the year is upon us and we are looking forward to a healthy and wonderful New Year. We all need to count our blessings.

We will have just one dance in December and the theme is "Black & White." The live band is the Eric Ekstrand Trio. The free lesson before the dance is the Night Club Two Step.

Be there December 10. The free lesson begins at 6:30, the dance is from 7:30 to 10:00 pm. Admission is \$10. Come join the Holiday Celebration and pray for World Peace.

GRAPES R US WINE CLUB

By Barbara Senior

Grapes R Us holds monthly tasting sessions to discover wines

—Please see PAGE 19

MAVERICKS CLUB

By Vera Erskine

The Halloween Party was another success. All had a great time.



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CLUB NEWS

Grapes R Us

From PAGE 18 —

from different varietals and to explore regions. Our November meeting featured three mulled wines for the holidays: a Riesling, Chardonnay & Zinfandel. Mulled wine is mildly spiced and served warm. We enjoyed each wine before and after mulling. A big thank you to Lori Elder, our monthly Wine Steward, who selected the wines and did the mulling. Recipes were revealed.

Tasting sessions are on the 3rd Friday of the month at 7pm in the A/R. All LV residents are welcome, and reservations are highly recommended. Each session is \$15 per person. Bring two glasses and water. To get on our mailing list, drop a line to Barbara at grapesruslvwineclub@gmail.com or call her at 805-303-1518.

VILLAGE ARTS

By Patti Crichton

The Holiday season is here! Village Arts is meeting at Ot-tavio's for lunch on Wednesday, December 7th instead of our usual Club meeting. I hope interested members have signed up.

Thank you to all of the members and Villagers who participated, volunteered their time and attended the successful Autumn Art Show on November 6th! So much talent!

David Kiefer displayed his art in the Library during the month of November. The December Library display will be a collaborative seasonal display. Be sure to take a stroll through the Rec Center courtyard to see the newest watercolor paintings from Kathy Whitesell's monthly class.

December 16th is the next date for watercolor sessions at 1 and 2:30pm. Text Patti at 805-

760-7673 to sign up for classes.

The January 4th Village Arts meeting will be in the MPR at 1pm. Members are encouraged to bring 1-2 paintings for a helpful critique by Phyllis Doyon. The 2023 membership dues of \$10 can be paid at the meeting.

Happy Holidays and all the best in the New Year!

YE OLE WOODCHIPPERS

By Bud Bradley

October was a busier month for the Wood Shop. We added 16 completed jobs for the Villagers, 1 more for the Village and 4 quick jobs. The year-to-date numbers total 161 completed jobs for Villagers, 15 Jobs for the Village and 39 "quick fixes."

The Woodshop is open 7 days a week for keyholders. Notices and Rules of Operation are taped to the main woodshop door. Please make sure to sign in and out and clean up your workspace as a courtesy to those that follow. If you wish to become a keyholder, you can contact Pirate or Bud on Wednesdays or Thursdays at the shop to make an appointment to be checked out. You can also reach us by email at the addresses below.

A reminder that the Woodshop is open from 10am until noon every Wednesday and Thursday, to accept your repair requests. During those hours, the Woodshop will be operated by Woodshop Committee members only. There is no charge for these services unless special materials are needed to complete

the repair.

Finally, we gratefully accept donations for these services to help keep supplies and equipment up to date. For any other woodshop information, you can email Pirate at Bruc5150@gmail.com or Bud Bradley at Hipbud2@gmail.com

WORKSHOP FOR WRITERS

By Mark Sconce

While it's true that our common interest in good writing is reason enough to gather, we also share an enviable camaraderie borne of many bi-monthly meetings wherein our fiction, non-fiction, sci-fi, memoirs and lyric poetry are subjected to friendly critique and feedback, what we used to call constructive criticism. We all know that Easy Reading Is Hard Writing, the WFW motto. Where Technique and Style meet, there you will find good writing. It's the difference between a Grade B movie and Star Wars. Above all, we are concerned writers, no more than others, but just happen to be in a

position to do something about it.

The Leisure Village Workshop For Writers sponsored an all-Village fundraiser November 20th for humanitarian relief in Ukraine and in bordering countries, especially when a long winter lies ahead. Donations exceeded \$3000. There are more coming in, we will update the totals in January.

LV PHOTO CLUB

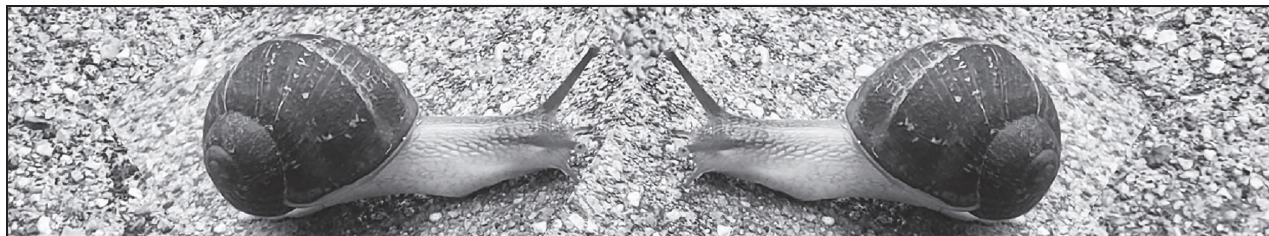
By Chuck Morrow

The Photo Club put forward a slate of officers for 2023 at the November meeting and online balloting took place during November. The new Board: Melody Zaida, President; Gerald Beane, Vice President; Bill Margulies, Treasurer; and Penny Nussbaum, Secretary, will assume their offices in January at the annual "Best Pictures of the Year" social event for all members of the Photo Club.

The Judge for the month of November was Nancy Lehner. Thank you, Nancy, for your time and feedback on the photos submitted.

—Please see PAGE 20

PHOTO CLUB WINNER – OPEN CATEGORY



■ 1st — David Pepper / Dueling Snails

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CLUB NEWS

Photo Club

From PAGE 19 —

We appreciate your critiques and look forward to having you back again. The Assigned Theme for November was “Nature” with a large number of photos submitted by the members.

The winners were:
Assigned Category – Frank DeSimone – “Found on a Hike”
Open Category – David Pepper – “Dueling Snails”
Mobile Category – Gregg Gillmar – Autumn in the Sierras”

The Assigned Category for December will be “Old/New.” The winners can be seen within the pages of this issue of Inside Leisure Village. To see all the photos in all the categories for November Photo Club go to <https://leisurevillage.smugmug.com/LV-Photo-Club-Pictures>. For questions regarding the Photo Club and membership

contact Gregg Gillmar at gsgillmar@outlook.com.

LV WOMEN’S CLUB

By Barbara Cogert

The Women’s Club will host their final but FUN event for 2022 on Thursday, December 8th in the Assembly Room. Doors will open at 6:30 pm and our Holiday Program will begin at 7:00 pm.

This year’s holiday party features: a “dress up” affair that will include a beautiful backdrop for taking pictures of you in your holiday finest!

An optional “Secret Santa.” The limit is \$5.00, and you are encouraged to bring a coffee mug filled with goodies and decorated for the holidays. Each person bringing a gift will be able to claim their gift from a gorgeous assortment of little holiday won-

ders. Names will be drawn, and selection will go in order of names drawn and then called.

Entertainment by Bruce Harvey, who will play his amazing guitar for us. Bruce is an established, professional guitarist working at some of the most exclusive clubs and restaurants in Rancho Santa Fe, La Jolla and throughout Southern California. He is an accomplished performer playing everything from classical, jazz, popular and original contemporary flamenco music and we will sing along with our pianist Dick Guttman and cheerful holiday songs.

There will be a holiday bake sale featuring treats from our

members, door prizes, scrumptious desserts and a few special surprises in store for all who attend! Free to members of the LV Women’s. Non-members \$10 at the door.

For additional information contact Pam Almeida 314-283-8172.

At this time of giving, please remember your Change for Change, canned goods for Food-Share donations and personal items for the Lighthouse charity that assists battered women.

Thank you for your continued support of the Women’s Club and we look forward to a New Year of events and good times while assisting our Village, the local community and our Veterans.



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Village Christmas Parade
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Inside Leisure Village

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VILLAGE ARTS

My artwork is often guided by and reflects my spiritual beliefs. I believe humanity is one family, that our different races, colors, cultures, religions and ways of life all help create unity in diversity, that the world is a more beautiful place because of it. From the time I found the Baha'i Faith in 1978, my focus has been to inspire children and others to respect each other and to not just tolerate, but celebrate our differences. For example, my recent series of "Dancing Trees" shows tree

"people" of different hues celebrating each other. My flower fields reflect the concept we are all flowers of one garden. My many path paintings are a reminder to move towards the light, not towards darkness.

I think my paintings may fall under the category of modern expressionism. But, in reality, I just pick up brushes loaded with paint colors I like and keep at it until the painting tells me it's done!

—Alice Williams



Bird Flying Free from the Cage. This painting is inspired by the concept that when the soul leaves the body, it is free of the "fetters of this world," like a bird leaving a cage. It has nothing to fear from being freed from it.



Tending the Garden. This was inspired by the quote from the Baha'i Faith, "At the gate of the garden, some stand and look within, but do not care to enter." When I'm talking to youth, I often say it's a metaphor for life - if there is a cause you believe in, like saving animals, whales or the planet, commit to it and really dig in. It can be life-changing and open doors in the future. So stay and tend the garden.



Dawn of a New Day. A pandemic painting. It just felt like the world needs a reset, a new awakening, a new start. Perhaps you agree?



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These LV Clubs have their Regular Meetings on the Following Days of the Week

Bone Builders: Monday and Wednesday at 8:15 and 9:30am, and on Tuesday and Thursday at 6:00pm in Santa Rosa Room. For 8:15 class, call Mamata 805-558-9360, for the 9:30 class, call Alice 805-437-6169, for the 6:00 class, call MaryAnn 805-390-1909.

Duplicate Bridge: Monday and Wednesday evenings at 6:45pm in the Garden room. Vonnay Brook 805-586-7155 or cell 909-225-6100.

Great Decisions: 4th Monday 9:30am in Sun Room

Line Dancing: Friday 2-3:30 for Beginners in the AR and Mondays 5:30-6:30 for Intermediate

in Santa Rosa room. Contact Merle at merleruiz20@gmail.com.

Needleworks: Garden Room on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Friday and on the 2nd and 4th in the Lanai Room always from 9:30-11:30am. Contact Nancy Baumgarten at 805-377-2805.

Pet Club: Does not hold regular meetings, but please contact Shawn Baker for information. 805-233-1725 or shawnbaker-homes@gmail.com.

Save Our Sight & Hearing: 1st & 3rd Thursday in Sun Room. For more info contact Terry Connor 805-482-7806.

Our own Clark Griswold



The Village Home: a regular column in Village View Magazine features the home of Jim and Linda Gaffney in December. The home is beautifully decorated for the Christmas Holidays. Share the View by reading Village View Magazine. Click the QR code at left to sign up or send an email to inside-lveditor@gmail.com.



Photos by JON



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DEADLINE for the next publication is 5pm on Friday, December 23.

ESTATE SALES & LIQUIDATION by two nice ladies. Need help moving or downsizing? We're here to help. Call Sandy 805-795-3445

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**“WE MAKE A LIVING BY
WHAT WE GET.
WE MAKE A LIFE BY
WHAT WE GIVE.”
— WINSTON CHURCHILL**

**THIS HOLIDAY SEASON, ‘GIVING’
IS THE BEST STRATEGY FOR
“MAKING SPIRITS BRIGHT”**

Everyone knows how awesome it feels to receive gifts. However, the joy of ‘getting’ is short-lived, and dwarfed by the power of giving. In 2 studies, psychology researchers found that participants’ happiness did not decline, or declined much slower, if they repeatedly bestowed gifts on others versus repeatedly receiving those same gifts themselves.

(Study by Ed O’Brien & Samantha Kassirer)

Most of us don’t need scientific studies to tell us that our lives are much richer when we give and share. Thousands of years of human history confirm that achieving meaning, fulfillment, and happiness in life comes from making others happy. Giving is something everyone can do at any age, and **you do not have to be rich to be generous. Consider these non-monetary ways to give of yourself:**

TIME: We all have 24 hours in every day, no exceptions, making time the most valuable commodity in the world. So, if you want to give something precious, consider giving your time. Offer to take a task off someone’s hands when you know they’re overwhelmed. Take time to visit with someone, listen to someone, read to a child, give someone a ride, watch someone’s children, walk with someone...the possibilities are endless.

TALENTS: What are your strengths? What skills have you learned? How can you use those strengths in the service of others? How can you magnify those talents by teaching others to do what you know how to do? *Think of the ripple effect of passing on your knowledge & skills to others, and if each of them shared with just one person.*

RANDOM KINDNESS, GOOD DEEDS & A HELPING HAND: There’s power in purposefully looking for ways to help those around you throughout every day. A children’s book called “Ordinary Mary’s Extraordinary Deed” chronicles a girl named Mary doing a kind thing for 5 people. Each of those 5 people were touched and motivated to do kind things for 5 others. The numbers went from 1 (Mary) to 5 (first 5 recipients) and then exponentially exploded as each recipient in turn did 5 kind deeds, growing to 30,517,578,125 in just sixteen days! (5 to the power of 15) Now, realistically, not everyone we lend a hand to throughout the day will duplicate the goodness. But consider that, statistically, *the more good deeds you do each day, the greater likelihood someone’s trajectory will change so they are kinder and do something good for someone else. Your kindness and service will ripple through the lives of others to affect people you never see.*

ATTITUDE: Many people don’t think about attitude as something to share, but when you consider how contagious a smile and a happy tone of voice are, you realize that the best thing to spread is joy. Consider smiling with a purpose, even if you don’t feel like it, and you’ll *spread cheer wherever you go.* Actively look for things to compliment in others as you go throughout the day. Maybe even set a goal to *say something positive to each person you engage throughout the day,* and enjoy how good you feel by evening. The more we look for good, the more good we find.

Please visit our ‘Barlow’s Got Your Back’ section of our website for creative gift-giving ideas, and for links to local groups who would benefit from donations of your time, goods, and money during this season of giving.



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