

VIVA!

VINEYARD VALLEY NEWS

VOLUME 48

NOVEMBER 2024

NUMBER 12



UPCOMING EVENTS FOR NOVEMBER

VVHA

Bingo
Board Meeting

Nov.8
Nov 20

Community

Thanksgiving

Nov. 28

Local Events

Cameo Theater
S.H. Historical Society
Reception

Greensill Concert
History of VV

Nov.1
Nov. 7



THANKSGIVING DINNER

Thursday, Nov. 28, at 4:00 pm Vineyard Valley Clubhouse

Bring your own place setting and drinks

Everyone is welcome at no charge - Sign up at the mailroom

Roasted Turkey

Honey Glazed Ham

Mashed Potatoes

Mashed Sweet Potatoes

Classic Stuffings

Roasted Brussel Sprouts

Honey Glazed Carrots

Green Bean Almondine

Ribbon Salad

Cranberry Sauce

Turkey Gravy

Pecan Pie

Pumpkin Pie

Apple Pie

Rolls w/ butter

**This dinner is sponsored by donations and
put on by residents of Vineyard Valley.**

Your hosts are:

Ed and Susie Stark

Gigi Batchelor and Keith Henderson

Janeen di Rienzo

Donations may be made to Ed & Susie Stark - 29 Redondo Ct.

For more info or to help, call Janeen @ 707-294-8307

November 2024

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
					1 Greensill Concert 7pm Cameo	2
3 Daylight Savings Time ends	4	5	6	7 SHHS Reception for VV 4pm	8 BINGO 6pm	9
10	11 Veteran's Day	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 VVHA BOARD MEETING 3pm	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 Thanksgiving Dinner 4pm Thanksgiving	29	30

Black - Holidays

Red - VVHA Event

Blue - Clubhouse, non VVHA

Green - Local Event

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References from park residents available

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CWE
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VIVA Mission Statement: To provide a periodic newsletter concerning current & upcoming events, VVHA news, Activities, neighborly news, and other non-political and local items of interest to all Vineyard Valley Residents.

2023-2024 VVHA OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

President _____ Rick Wood
Vice President _____ Janet Schmidt
Secretary _____ Mae Van Nett
Treasurer _____ Henk Brok
Directors: Eve Breckenridge, Joyce Cahill
Ines Chiarello, Janice Dugan, Inger Laidley

VVHA Clubhouse Coord. ___ Mae Van Nett
Hospitality Robin McGuire, Mae Van Nett
Memorials and VV Clubhouse

Coordinator _____ Janeen di Rienzo
Directory _____ Michael Merriman
Library _____ Joyce Cahill, Rick Wood
Bocce Committee Chair _____ Bob Distad
Clubs/Activities _____ Rick Wood
VVHA Website _____ Michael Merriman

Non-Social Resident-formed Groups
Community Education _____ Grace Kistner
Neighbor Helping Neighbor, Carroll Cotten

VIVA viva.vineyardvalley@gmail.com

November Birthdays

2 Julie Lenhart, Cheryl Olsen
4 Ferenc Brunner
9 Paul Piazza
10 Bobbie Jones
17 Greg Nelson
25 Verna Walden
27 Joyce Cahill
30 Becky Soret

If there are any changes or additions to our list, please call Hospitality Chair
Robin 303-901-4343 Mae 707-246-2631

If there is a death, call Janeen di Rienzo at 707-294-8307 so she can post it on the bulletin board and arrange for the \$50. donation to the organization you designate. She will explain how to schedule the clubhouse for a memorial

**Moving In -
Welcome to our community**
Mark Goodrich 31 Redondo Ct

**Moving Out -
Sad to see you go**

In Memory of our friends

The Prez Sez . . . by Rick Wood

I want to thank all of those that checked in with Joyce and I while we went through Covid and now on the other side, please take care of yourselves and stay healthy

October was a full month as we had the second annual lobster boil that brought out 93 residence and guess to enjoy music, some wine and lobster. The silent auction was a huge success raising over \$7000 to go into the general fund. I would like to thank all of those that donated items and worked so hard to bring all of this together.

Bingo had 53 people who showed up wanting to mark the right numbers and be able to yell BINGO!! They all enjoyed minestrone soup thanks to Ines and that strong voice of Ed calling numbers. Thanks Janet for all you do!! Next bingo November 8th

The Friday night social is scheduled for October 25th as of this writing and as always, we encourage everyone to come out and be social as it is proven to be healthy.

Heading into November, brings on the holiday season time to make plans with family and friends and if you plan on traveling, please be safe. For those that are staying home there is a Non -VVHA Thanksgiving dinner in the clubhouse on Thanksgiving. There is information at the mail room.

The plans are being put in place for this year's Christmas dinner so keep your eyes and ears open as more information will follow and as always get up and get out and stay healthy



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VINEYARD VALLEY HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION MEETING

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 16, 2024 MINUTES

Called to order at 3:00pm

Minutes of September 2024 meeting were approved

Treasurer's report by Rick Wood: As of September 30, 2024: Checking \$8,979.01; Savings \$9,012.82; VIVA \$3,738.07; Bocce \$2,153.32; Total \$23,153.22

Grace Kistner reported that the Political Forum held on October 4th was a big success with more in attendance than expected.

The Lobster Boil held on October 6 served 93 people and netted \$7,130.62 to be deposited in the General account.

October Bingo was fun, as always, with Ed Smith calling and Minestrone soup ala Ines Chiarello was extra yummy.

The upcoming Thanksgiving dinner was discussed. The board along with members who attended felt that it should be sponsored through VVHA and not a resident sponsored event. This was discussed at the September board meeting, but Rick was ill and could not attend. He felt Janeen should have brought her intentions to the VVHA board president prior to the meeting so it could have been discussed with the board members and not brought up in open discussion.

Gail Terminello asked for permission to post a flyer on the outside bulletin board at the post office promoting an upcoming Mike Greensill/Gale Terminello concert event at Cameo Theatre. She was given permission if it did not interfere with VVHA flyers of coming events.

Annie Offord asked if our online website could offer a page like St. Helena's Next Door where residents could share if they had extra items to give away or ask to borrow a tool or have something to sell.

In Open Discussion a new portable sound system was mentioned, and the board will research and bring ideas and bids to the November meeting.

President Rick Wood adjourned the meeting at 3:35pm



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PARK MANAGER REPORT

Seasonal Maintenance

Seasonal maintenance and care of your home can add to your safety and comfort as well as help control repair costs. The recommendations below will assist you in preparing for winter as well as keep your home fire safe. Inside your home: Check and clean your furnace and clean or change the furnace filters. Caulk all small openings. Check smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Inspect drains, water faucets and toilets for leaks.

Outside your home: Clean leaves and debris that may have accumulated on your patios, only patio furniture and BBQ equipment are permitted on patios. Clean carports, they must be kept clear and are not to be used for storage. Check the skirting around your home, small openings may invite animals under your home. Inspect your roof and clean off debris. Inspect gutters and downspouts and clear of debris. Weed your garden and trim shrubs. Garden trimmings may be disposed of in the corporation yard bin. Contact the office regarding any trees that may need attention.

Water Conservation

Reminder to all residents The City bases the wastewater rate for the year on the winter average of water usage, during the months of November, December, January. All residents are encouraged to continue conserving water.

Park Projects

The following are park projects that management and the landscaping team have been working on this summer and fall:

The corporation yard is in the process of being reorganized and cleaned up. Recreational vehicle storage agreements are required for all vehicles stored in the corp yard. Please contact the office if you would like to store a vehicle in the corp yard, spaces are very limited.

The managing partner is waiting on an estimate from our contractor to make the clubhouse entry accessible. We hope to have this project completed by the end of the year.

A new table saw has been added to the wood shop for residents' use.

Three additional dog waste disposal cans have been placed in the Park to assist residents in disposing of their dog's waste while on a walk.

Christmas Decorating Safety Tips

Decorating your home, or yard is a fun, festive way to celebrate the holiday season.

When decorating the outside of your home, make sure decorations are well-ventilated, protected from weather and a safe distance away from flammable items.

Use wooden or fiberglass ladders when putting up electrical décor and lights outside as metal ladders conduct electricity. Unplug electric lights, devices and decorations before installing or replacing bulbs, changing parts or attempting other repairs. Plug all outdoor lights and decorations into ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) to reduce the risk of electric shock. Portable GFCIs for outdoor use can be purchased where electrical supplies are sold.

Secure lights, decorations and cords to prevent wind damage. Never staple, nail through or fasten electrical wires or extensions cords in any way that might damage the wire or insulation. This could cause electrical shock or fire. Turn off all lights and electrical decorations before leaving your home, or going to bed.

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November Bingo

Friday, November 8th
Bingo starts at 6:30pm
(Doors open at 6:00pm)



\$15 includes 3 x 6 game packs, dauber, dinner, and a night of fun with friends. You have a chance to win \$50 for the first 5 games and the 6th game is a black out worth \$100. Extra game packs, doubling your chances, are just \$10. See you there!

Dinner menu will be
determined at a later date



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St. Helena Historical Society A Reception | Nov. 7, 2024 | 4pm

Volunteer Opportunities with the Historical Society

Join us for an afternoon reception with a presentation on the history of Vineyard Valley. We produce lectures, events and new exhibits throughout the year, and we need more volunteers. The benefits? Meet new people and learn about the rich history of the St. Helena area. **RSVP: 707.967.5502**



Dinner at the Museum
Annual Fundraiser 2024



Behind the Gates: St. Helena
Garden Tour 2024



St. Helena Spirits of Discovery
Cemetery Walk 2024



St. Helena Spirits of Discovery Cemetery
Walk 2023



The Star at 150: 150 Years of Local News

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ST. HELENA
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Honoring Our Veterans for Veteran's Day Nov 11, 2024

Captain/Doctor Manley Hale Simons, USN

By Mariam Hansen

Manley was born July 11, 1849 in Genoa, New York, but at the family soon moved to Xenia, Ohio. He was raised on a farm. Later he graduated from medical school at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. Dr Simons entered US Navy at age 23 as assistant surgeon in 1872. Ruth Theodora Paine became his bride in 1874. The couple had a daughter Ruth in 1876, daughter Anna in 1877, son Manley, Jr in 1879, Helen in 1881, Charlotte in 1882 and Emily in 1887; all born in Portland, Maine.

Dr Simons had 22 years on shore service and 18 years of sea service at different stations around the world. He was promoted to surgeon in 1887, but he could not save his wife Ruth, who died in 1895. He was an ambitious officer, a great student and a tireless soldier.

Spain declared war on the United States after major disagreements about Cuba on April 24, 1898. On June 2, 1898 A plan was devised to scuttle the USS Merrimac to trap Spanish warships in Cuba's Santiago Harbor. Admiral William Sampson approved of his plan. (Dr. Simons volunteered, but was not chosen) A skeleton crew of seven volunteers was selected: three from Merrimac's crew, three from the cruiser New York, and one from the battleship Iowa. The Spanish sunk the Merrimac before it was moved to block the harbor.

The American forces, outnumbering the Spanish defenders 16-to-one, charged upon the heights and dispersed the Spanish after suffering heavy casualties. Though he was a single dad of five children, Dr. Simons volunteered for duty with the Army in caring for the wounded soldiers after the Battle of San Juan Hill on July 1, 1898 near Santiago. On finishing that shore duty, he saw the Spanish fleet coming out of the harbor. He jumped on a newspaper boat to get to his ship, the battleship USS Iowa, which was under fire. Sailors cheered as he got back on board. On July 3, 1898, the same day as the naval battle, Major General William "Pecos Bill" Shafter began the siege of Santiago. The siege effectively ended the major fighting on Cuba.



Captain Manley Hale Simons

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Honoring Our Veterans for Veteran's Day Nov 11, 2024

Captain/Doctor Manley Hale Simons, USN

By Mariam Hansen

In 1903 Dr Simons married Catherine Lawrence Moore Wood, whose brother was a surgeon at the Veterans' Home in Yountville. This could have been how he first came to St. Helena. Dr Simons was in charge of the US Marine Hospital at Mare Island.

The couple purchased a farm on Sulphur Springs Ave from S.A. Arnold in March 1911, changing the name from Arbutus Villa to Rancho Manzanita. It was later owned by Betty and Evan Peters, who renamed it "Vine & Fig Tree Farm". Dr Simons retired from the Navy on July 11, 1911 at age 62. Also moving to St. Helena was daughter Emily. Around Christmas 1911 Emily married assistant surgeon Dr. Herbert Kelley in a brilliant Naval wedding at Rancho Manzanita. The groom and groomsmen were all Naval officers attired in full uniforms of the US Navy. Many officers were in attendance.

Alas World War I was brewing and Dr. Simons was recalled to his last active-duty post to Mare Island as Medical Inspector. He then retired for good, becoming an ardent supporter of St. Helena affairs. He joined the Farm Bureau and Chamber of Commerce. In 1920 he helped found American Legion Post 199. He joined the board of directors at Bank of St. Helena in 1921, becoming its president. He was president of the St. Helena School Board and an active member of Grace Episcopal Church. Dr Simons died August 22, 1922 at his home.

Ruth married Lt Col Jay Salladay of the Marine Corps. They settled on Sulphur Springs, but later moved to Spring Mountain Road near Hillview Place. Helen married Lt Commander Frank Branch, whose brother was governor of Indiana. Charlotte and Anna died young.

Manley Hale Simons, Jr graduated from the Naval Academy and attained the rank of Rear Admiral. Simons won the Navy Cross for distinguished service in the line of his profession as Commanding Officer of the U.S.S. KROONLAND, engaged in the important, exacting and hazardous duty of transporting and escorting troops and supplies to European ports through waters infested with enemy submarines and mines during World War I. His son Manley Hale Simons III also became a Naval officer.

Dr and Mrs Simons, Rear Admiral and Mrs Simons and the Salladays all buried in the family plot at St. Helena Cemetery.



Navigating the Holidays Healthfully

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The holidays are upon us once again and for many of us that can lead to a little or a lot of over indulgence in celebrations and holiday treats! Here are some helpful tips to help you navigate the holidays more healthfully without feeling deprived.

- Remember the 80/20 rule; if you eat healthfully 80% of the time, your body will take care of you for the 20% of the time you indulge.
- Eat until 80% full. Pay attention to eating slowly so your brain can catch up to the digestion of your meal. It takes about 20 minutes for our brain to know we have eaten. Before you have seconds, rest for 10 to 15 minutes. This will help you monitor your fullness level.
- At a buffet, "sight see" all the offerings and decide before you start loading your plate what you are going to eat. It is fun to try a little bit of everything and yet you will feel better at the end of the meal if you just enjoy your favorites.
- Parties! Eat healthfully during the day to avoid over eating the goodies at the party. To cut down on calories and dehydration from alcohol and soft drinks, alternate each beverage with at least equal water, fizzy water or herbal tea.
- Try planning ahead, decide dessert or wine before you go to events.
- Cookies, pie and fudge – oh my! This is torture for those of us with a sweet tooth. Stick to a reasonable serving and then stop, you can always have more the next day. Store treats in the freezer, this will help you keep to your allotted serving.
- Drink water! Sweets are dehydrating and can affect blood sugar balance and cause cravings for more.
- The rule of thumb for most people is to drink about 64 ounces of hydrating fluid per day. Water, fizzy water, herbal tea and coconut water are good choices.
- Even though you are adding foods during this time of year, we sometimes sacrifice our usual diet to make up for the larger meals, treats and alcohol. Eat regular healthy meals daily. This will create balance and keep you healthier throughout the season.

Relax, breathe, keep up with your physical activities and practice good sleeping habits.

Most importantly, enjoy your friends and family. Happy Holidays!

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THE TASTING ROOM

by Steve Kinney

ZD Winery

We went outside the St Helena Appellation this month to ZD Winery, just into the Rutherford Appellation. We've long admired their deck overlooking the vineyards surrounding the winery and decided to give it a try. It was a lovely October day, just about 80 degrees when we pulled up. We were greeted downstairs by a couple staff, poured our first taste and walked upstairs to the balcony. The view was spectacular and overlooked their crush pad which was in full swing. Approximately 12 tons of Cabernet were being steadily loaded into the destemmer to begin its journey to becoming a 2024 Cabernet Sauvignon.

ZD Winery was founded by 2 men who had worked together as aerospace engineers at Aerojet in Sacramento. Like many who came to The Valley at that time, they were looking to change their paths to a different life. Gino Zepponi and Norman deLeuz founded the winery in 1969. At the start, they only had a small farm building where they had to repair everything themselves. ZD, was the name they adopted referring to both their names and their motto from Aerojet "No Defects". They started with only 300 cases of wine, aged in used American Oak Barrels from Jim Beam. Money was tight. Their partnership lasted only a few years, with the deLeuz family taking control and establishing the winery. Rosa, Norman's wife, was an integral part of the business and served as the face. The deLeuz family, in its third generation, still operates and runs everything from winemaking to cooking.



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While sitting in the middle of a large swath of vineyards, they only have 3.2 acres surrounding the winery. It is planted to Cabernet Sauvignon. They also have another 30 acres of vineyard in The Carneros dedicated to Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. Grapes are purchased from other Napa Valley sources as well as Monterey. They continue to focus on the use of American Oak in all their wines except the Pinot Noir, which uses French Oak. All of their farming is focused on Organic and Sustainable practices.

Our tasting started with a glass of the 2023 Napa Valley Sauvignon Blanc. Barrel aged and partially fermented in neutral American Oak it shows a nice creaminess in the mouth with lovely, rounded flavors. Next up was the Reserve Chardonnay from the Carneros vineyards. The wine is fermented over a fairly long period in their cold 45-degree barrel room. It can take as long as 45 days. There is no Malolactic Fermentation though the wine shows some richness and body you might not expect otherwise. Pinot was our next sip. We decided to augment our tasting with an additional 3 ounce pour of their 2014 Pinot for \$15. This was a fun comparison of old and new, with the 2014 taking some time to show its true form. The current release 2022 is classic style with rich fruit and finesse. Cabernet was next and we chose to have the two poured side by side for a nice style comparison. Both the Napa Valley and Napa Valley Reserve were from 2021. The reserve gets an extra 9 months in barrel and is 100% Cabernet Sauvignon. The Napa Valley has 13% Petite Verdot in the blend and spends 2 years in oak. These were both big wines showcasing their style with bright fruit nuanced with tobacco and olive hints. The reserve showed a little more of everything. We passed on the addition of their Abacus at \$95 for a 3 ounce taste. Abacus is their super premium Cabernet that is multi-vintage and is currently designated as XIX (their nineteenth bottling).

There were several tasting levels available at ZD. We took the Vineyard experience for \$50. There were two more immersive tastings also available. One was their ZD Experience that includes a tour of the cellars and their vineyard practices as well as a Reserve Wine tasting for \$125. Also, there is an Abacus Tasting for \$225. When you're looking for a great venue with great views and wines, please consider the offerings at ZD.



Murder At The Vicarage - Part 2

by Minna Williams

THE LIBERATION MESSAGE IS BROUGHT OVER THE BBC RADIO AT 8:30 PM. The Germans capitulated in Denmark as of 8:00 PM.

THE LIBERATION MESSAGE: "At this moment ,we are informed that Montgomery has declared that the German troops in Holland, Northwest Germany and Denmark have surrendered. This is London. We repeat. Montgomery has at this moment stated that the German troops in Holland, Northwest Germany and Denmark have surrendered."

Johannes G . Sørensen, who was the speaker at BBC's Danish station gave the message. Sørensen is a member of the the Danish News Radio where he , on April 9, 1940 read King Christian, the Xth's message to the Danish people at the occasion of the German occupation of the country. It so happened that Johannes G. Sørensen also delivers the radio's the most tragic as well as the happiest message in the history of Denmark. At 8:30 pm when the regular broadcast to Denmark started, the news of the surrender which came at 8.35 pm had not yet reached him. Johannes Sørensen was in the middle of reading the news, when another member of the Danish BBC staff rushed into the studio and pushed him in the back. Sørensen turned off the microphone while his college excitedly stammered, "Montgomery...capitulation in Northwest Germany, Holland and Denmark...say it!" After a short pause Sørensen opened the microphone and announced the famous words. The message that the Germans had surrendered arrived the May 4, 1945 in the evening, but the capitulation was effective the next day May 5, at 8 o'clock in the morning.

The war is over. The Danes are singing, "A winter long and dark and hard, in five dammed years has held the country in its arms with cold , sadness and loss.."We squeeze into a fishing vessel heading for Zealand loaded with a cargo of fish. Everyone is seasick, on a horrible long trip.

At home my mother walks slowly through the rooms in the house, looks into the cupboards, "nothing is broken" she exclaims. The vicarage was used by the resistance movement while we were gone. They had treated the house and its contents with respect, weapons were stored in the attic, but they were quickly removed. We are home again in freedom, not having to put dark curtains on the windows, not fearing the Gestapo, or airplanes flying over the house with bombs. We still have rationing, still weak ersatz coffee, the chewing gum is made from baby rubber pants, the sewing lady comes to changes the skirt hems up or down, using old used threads, the chocolate candy is divided into six even helpings, which we all supervise when Father hands them out .



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Chris Colzani
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Murder At The Vicarage - Part 2

by Minna Williams

But we children did not suffer, we never went hungry, we had clothes, a cozy safe home and parents that loved us and gave us warmth and security. ..

Every year on December 29, we see a woman on her knees praying at the spot where her husband , Birktoft, was killed.



This handbill announces that, "Denmark is free again. Montgomery announces that the German troops in Denmark have surrendered."

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Murder At The Vicarage - Part 2

by Minna Williams

Newspaper articles

On 4 May 1945 at Lüneburg Heath, near Hamburg, Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery accepted the unconditional surrender of the German forces in the Netherlands, in northwest Germany including all islands, and in Denmark and all naval ships in those areas. The surrender preceded the end of surrender negotiations and signing ceremony[edit]

Montgomery refused an initial offer to surrender Army Group Vistula which was being cut off to the east by the Red Army and demanded the unconditional surrender of all forces on his northern and western flanks. The Germans stated that they did not have the authority to accept Montgomery's terms. However they agreed to return to their headquarters to obtain permission from Donitz.

The German officers returned the next day at 18:00 with an additional delegate, (Colonel Fritz Poleck) representing the Oberkommando der Wehrmacht, (the German armed forces high command).[2] Von Friedeburg was ushered into Montgomery's command caravan for confirmation that they were ready to sign. For the surrender ceremony Montgomery sat at the head of a table with an army blanket draped over it and two BBC microphones in front of him; he called on each delegate in turn to sign the instrument of surrender document at 18.30.[3] The surrender ceremony was recorded for broadcast on radio by the BBC

The Instrument of Surrender

1. The German Command agrees to the surrender of all German armed forces in HOLLAND, in northwest GERMANY including the FRISIAN ISLANDS and HELGOLAND and all other islands. In SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN and in DENMARK, to the C-in-C. 21 Army Group. This is to include all naval ships in the areas. These forces to lay down their arms and to surrender unconditionally.
2. All hostilities on land, on sea, or in the air by German forces in the above areas to cease at 0800 hrs. British Double Summertime on Saturday 5 May 1945."



Denmark's liberator, Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery, in Copenhagen

Murder At The Vicarage - Part 2

by Minna Williams

March 1943 Denmark held elections and the result was a clear victory for the democratic parties. At that time, the Danish population had become increasingly dissatisfied with the German occupiers, and in the summer of 1943, this led to widespread strikes and civil unrest. In response the Germans sought to impose the death penalty for saboteurs, which the Danish government refused. On 28 August the cooperation between Germany and the Danish government ended and Germany declared Denmark to be in a state of emergency.

The new political situation meant that Denmark was now in many ways de facto ruled by orders from the German Foreign Ministry. In October it was decided that all Jews in Denmark should be deported. However, this was prevented by the population and the emerging resistance movement, who managed to get most of the Danish Jews transported to neutral Sweden.

This was the beginning of a growing resistance movement. Danish saboteurs blew up railroads and companies that cooperated with the Germans, the illegal press flourished, and the Allied governments increasingly began to regard Denmark as an ally.

In the summer of 1944, there were again large general strikes all over Denmark which marked the beginning of a rough final part of the occupation. The Danish police were dissolved and nearly 2000 Danish policemen were sent to concentration camps. The Danish sabotage actions were reciprocated by German counter-terror, including the so-called "clearing assassinations" which were more or less random revenge killings. There was a shortage of almost all kinds of goods, and because of the lack of police, crime was rife. However, at this point it was clear to most that it was only a matter of time before Germany would lose the war.

Liberation When the declaration of freedom was announced on the radio on the evening of 4th May 1945, people flocked into the streets, waving the Danish flag "Dannebro" and burning their blackout curtains. Many people also spontaneously placed lit candles in their windows. This became a custom that is still kept up by many Danes.



Two Danish resistance fighters are guarding a shop that is "closed due to happiness" following the liberation of Denmark



International Traveler on BMWs with camping gear for eight years. Fluent in several languages. Two years in the peace movement with Buddhist Monk, Thich Nhat Hahn. Practicing attorney for many years. Wife and mother.

Intrigued? So was I as I interviewed our neighbor here in Vineyard Valley in her sunlit home with several beautiful gardens and statuary outside. She was born in Denmark in a suburb of Copenhagen called Hvidovre and had seven siblings, with two sisters now living in this country. Following a family tradition, her father was a Lutheran Minister of a very large church. Her mother was busy raising her large family and managing the big parsonage where they lived, having many guests and foreign students as visitors.

Our neighbor entered law school in Denmark but then took two years off to join Thich Nhat Hahn who was living in Paris at the time, spearheading an international peace movement to end the Vietnam war. She was appointed Secretary for the peace movement, European Division, of the "international Committee of Conscience on Vietnam," and participated in many anti-war conferences in different European Cities with Nhat Hahn and Al Hassler from America. In the early 1960s Nhat Hahn founded the School of Youth for Social Services in Saigon, and created the Order of Interbeing in 1966, establishing monastic and practice centers around the world. From 1976 to 1977 he led efforts to rescue Vietnamese boat people in the Gulf of Siam.

Nhat Hhan has become an important influence in the development of Western Buddhism, introducing mindfulness practices for more Western sensibilities. His teachings and practices aim to appeal to people from various religious, spiritual, and political backgrounds. He has published more than 100 books.

To return to our neighbor's life journey, she returned to Denmark and completed her law degree in 1967, and was introduced to her first husband, a practicing attorney from the US. They married three weeks later and he returned to his law practice in San Jose, CA. She was granted a visa a couple of months later and during that time she studied American law by reading her husband's law books.

She later took a review class in Sacramento, which she successfully passed in 1971 due to her fluent English and the similarity of the legal structure of our two countries. She became a US citizen in March 1971 and an active member of the CA State Bar in 1972. She opened her own law practice in Marysville CA in March of 1975, sharing office space with her husband.



The couple had one daughter born in 1970, Cristina. She currently lives in Santa Rosa and is hired by non-profits to write grants. According to her proud mother she is very busy and quite successful. They see each other often, traveling back together to Denmark last year.

Our neighbor and her husband had an amiable divorce after twenty- five years living together. "He decided he wanted to be a bachelor. We stayed in the same law office for a year, then I opened my own office across the street as a divorce attorney."

A few weeks after she left her first marriage, she was contacted by the man who would become her second husband, Edson Williams. Our neighbor and her first husband had known him and his wife since 1967 and got together frequently. The second husband was married to the step-sister of her first husband, and she later died of cancer. "When I was getting divorced he asked to see me. We started dating and traveling together. I joined him in Calistoga where he was living and opened my law practice there, again specializing in divorce cases."

The couple traveled extensively on BMW motorcycles equipped with camping gear, roaming all over Europe every summer for four to five thousand miles for eight years. This was followed by cruises all over world on the Silver Sea cruise line. They went to Egypt, Iceland, and Japan among others. "My favorite trip was going to China-it was so different from any other country!" She spent months ahead studying the country they were going to visit that year. Married in July, 2020, Edson died six months later. "He was sick when we married and we knew it was terminal. We were married because he wanted me to have Medical Power of Attorney. " Once the Covid threat was lessened shortly after Epson's death, she took a solo 4000 mile car trip to explore Mexico and Arizona.

She stayed in Calistoga for two years after her husband's death, then retired from her law practice before moving to Vineyard Valley where she has come to enjoy the sense of community she finds here. She loves to garden, play classical music on the piano, reading, and studying astronomy. She has season tickets for the opera along with her daughter, saying opera is one of her passions. She has also played bridge at Rianda House for fifteen years. She is planning some car trips to New Mexico and Arizona and a train trip across Canada in the near future. She feels satisfied with her life. "The only thing I wish for is better health."

This warm, friendly, accomplished, and hospitable neighbor is Minna Williams, living at 3 Del Campo. What a wonderful addition she is to our community - Welcome, Minna!

Referrals and volunteers for this column are encouraged and appreciated!

RIANDA HOUSE SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER

NOVEMBER 2024

Imagery and Poetry Dr. Lisa Hinz Friday, November 15 & 22, 1:00, Zoom

Imagery often inspires poetry. We'll create a visual collage as the foundation for writing poetry. You'll discover talents you didn't know you have. You'll need some magazines to cut up, glue, scissors and paper to create your collage.

Ladies & A Cuppa Tea Ellen Cotten Tuesdays, 9:30-10:30, Rianda House

Ladies, please join us for friendship and a cup of tea. A warm and inviting atmosphere will encourage fun and engaging discussions.

Men's Fitness Evan Massaro Tuesdays, 8:00-9:00, American Legion Hall, 1291 Madrona

Improve balance, flexibility and cardiovascular fitness with a splash of dad jokes! "Stay within your safety zone but push your comfort zone!" All levels are welcome. Please bring a mat.

Master Minds Veronna Ladd Wednesdays, October 2 - November 6, 10:00-11:30, Rianda House

As we age, our memory functions change, and our ability to absorb information slows down. This new Brain Health & Wellness Program is a 6-week course designed to help participants understand memory, learn strategies to improve it, and develop practical skills for daily use. RSVP

Readers' Theatre Group Cheryl Fiedler Tuesdays, 3-4:30, Rianda House

Dive into a fun and interactive community passionate about script reading and writing and in-house performing. No memorization is necessary. Fun assured!

Tech Today James Scanlan Wednesday, November 13, 2:30-4:00, Rianda House

Hard time keeping up with the latest gadgets? Let a pro help you. Bring your handheld devices (iphones, ipads, tablets, e-readers...). Limited space available. RSVP

Fundamentals of Fiction Writing Richard Abramson Wednesdays, Nov 6, 13, 20 & Dec 4, 11, 18 2:00-3:30, Rianda House

Always wanted to try your hand at writing fiction? This workshop with survey fiction-writing fundamentals will introduce you to the elements of a good story, and, through an entertaining series of writing exercises, help you to develop your craft. Maximum of 12 participants. RSVP.

Baking with Beth Friday, November 8, 1:00-3:00, Rianda House

Join home baker Beth Brown to bake and sample some delicious muffins. The recipe will be shared and there will be plenty to take home! Maximum of 6 participants. RSVP.

Thanksgiving Dinner at Rianda House Thursday, November 21, 4:00-5:30, Rianda House

You're invited to join us for a warm and welcoming Thanksgiving Dinner! Share a delicious meal with neighbors, friends, and community members as we gather in the spirit of gratitude and togetherness. The UpValley Women's Club will be providing pies! bring your appetite and a heart full of gratitude. No fee. RSVP 35 people maximum.



October Bingo Winners



Candidates Forum



Friday Night Social



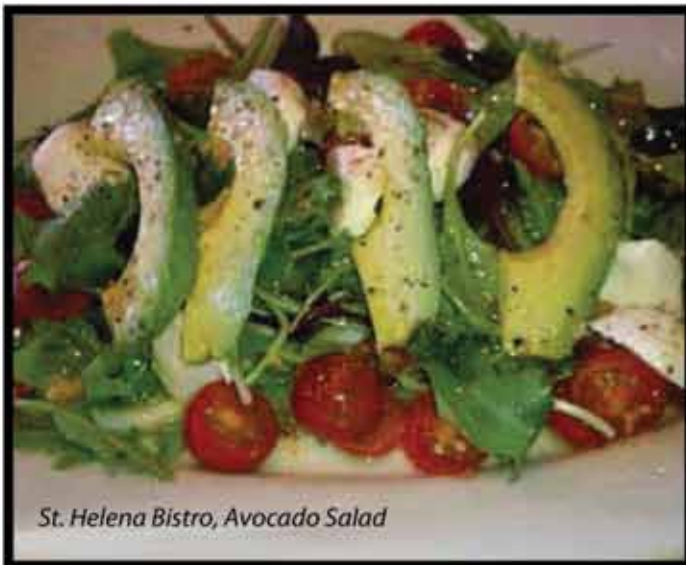
Reader's Theater

Lobster Boil



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Be Thankful

Be thankful that you don't already
have everything you desire
If you did, what would there be to
look forward to?

Be thankful when you don't know
something,
for it give you the opportunity
to learn

Be thankful for the difficult times,
during those times you grow

Be thankful for your limitaions,
because they give you opportunity
for improvement

Be thankful for each new challenge,
because it will build your strength
and character

- unknown