

# VIVA!

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## VINEYARD VALLEY NEWS

VOLUME 50

DECEMBER 2025 - JANUARY 2026

NUMBER 1

# HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



## DECEMBER EVENTS

**Decorating** in the Clubhouse, Dec 1

**Holiday Craft Fair**, December 7

**Holiday Dinner**, December 13

**Jingle Mingle**, December 24

## JANUARY EVENTS

Monthly **Bingo**, January 9

Chili **Cook-Off**, January 17

VVHA **Board Meeting**, Jan 21

Friday Night **Social**, Jan 23



**VVHA Presents**  
***A Holiday Dinner***  
**Saturday, December 13**  
**\$60 per person**  
**(2 per household at this price)**  
**Wine & hors d'oeuvres served in the**  
**Billiard Room from 5:30-6:30PM**  
**Doors open to Dining Room at 6:30**

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**Reservations and table selection in the mailroom**  
**from 11am - 1pm on the following dates:**  
**Saturday, November 29**  
**Sunday, November 30**  
**Tuesday, December 2**  
**Thursday, December 4**  
**Sat, December 6 is the last day to make a reservation**

**CATERING BY NAPA VALLEY BISTRO**

## 2025-2026 VVHA OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

President, Janet Schmidt  
 Vice President, Rick Wood  
 Secretary, Inger Laidley  
 Treasurer, Henk Brok  
*Directors:*  
 Eve Breckenridge  
 Chris Killion  
 Steve Kinney  
 Mae VanNett



### Committee/Activity Chairs

*VVHA Clubhouse Coordinator:*  
 Mae VanNett

*Hospitality:*  
 Robin McGuire, Mae VanNett

*Memorials and VV Clubhouse Coordinator:*  
 Janeen di Rienzo

*Directory:*  
 Chris Killion

*Library:*  
 Joyce Cahill, Rick Wood

*Bocce Committee Chair:*  
 Rick Wood

*VVHA Website:*  
 Michael Merriman



### Non-Social Resident-formed Groups

*Community Education:*  
 Grace Kistner

*Neighbor Helping Neighbor:*  
 Carroll Cotten

*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.*

## December Birthdays

- 4 Wayne Anton
- 5 Mike Burns
- 7 Marcy Calhoun, Lalah Anton
- 13 Carol Havens
- 15 Margaret Nixon
- 26 Anne Gridley, Celia Rehnberg
- 28 John Rehnberg
- 29 Ann Camacho
- 30 Caroline Zach-Gillou

## January Birthdays

- 1 John McCreedy
- 3 Barbara Ringenberg
- 4 Indra Obeysekere
- 5 Madeline DeMarco
- 7 Rodney Green
- 11 Craig Austin
- 14 Wendy Strachan
- 17 Diane Kawaguchi
- 19 John Smith
- 20 Sandi Keist
- 25 Alberta Berger, Vivian Pirchner
- 26 Neil Walden
- 28 Sylvia Segura
- 29 Vicki Clark
- 30 Elle Wheeler
- 31 Eve Breckenridge

# december 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Decorating in the Clubhouse	2	3	4	5	6
7 Holiday Craft Fair 12-3PM	8	9	10	11	12	13 Holiday Dinner 5:30 PM
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 Jingle Mingle 4-7pm	25 Christmas Day	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Tu, Thurs | Group Exercise with Stacey | 10-11:00 AM | Exercise Rm

Red-VVHA Community Black-Public Observance Green-Local Event Violet-VVHA Event

# january 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 New Year's Day	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 BINGO 6pm	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Chili Cook- Off 2pm
18	19	20	21 VVHA Board Meeting 3pm	22	23 Friday Night Social 5:30pm	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Tu, Thurs | Group Exercise with Stacey | 10-11:00 AM | Exercise Rm

Red-VVHA Community Black-Public Observance Green-Local Event Violet-VVHA

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# The Prez Sez . . . by Janet Schmidt

Hi Neighbors,

Good news . . . If you are one of the many residents asking about a rowing machine in the workout room, well, we have a brand new one waiting to be used! At our last meeting with management, Greg told us that with the high demand for one he would purchase it out of his budget. Now to you fans of the workout room, please use the equipment and know that with your phone you can plug into the WiFi and get whatever you have on your phone linked to the TV monitor in there. Instructions and password are posted on the wall in the room. Happy workout!

We need your help . . . park management, for the right to privacy, is no longer giving the board information on new residents coming or leaving the park. The new residents are given a form to fill out with their information which asks if they want to participate in our VVHA group activities and be listed in our directory. Apparently that form, while well-intentioned, is getting lost in the shuffle with all the new Vineyard Valley forms and their information is not finding its way to the board. This is where you can help. If you see a house go on the market or see the for-sale sign come down and know that you have a new neighbor or that your present neighbor is leaving, please let any board member know. That will be a great help for our Hospitality team to be able to go to the home and introduce themselves and share the fun events here in the park and learn a bit about St. Helena. Any help will be appreciated.

We want everyone to enjoy our Holiday Dinner . . . The Holiday dinner is on Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. Wine and bites will be served in the billiard room starting at 5:30pm. At 6:30pm the doors to the dining room will be open and the meal from Napa Valley Bistro will be served. (See the menu in the mailroom). We have "Secret Santas" who would love to donate a ticket for the dinner. Last year six residents enjoyed the fun and food by the generosity of our neighbors. If you know somebody in need of a little help, please let me or Henk know. It's a secret who is receiving this ticket and who is providing the opportunity for that special someone to eat, drink and be merry with good friends. Let's all keep the holiday spirit year-round and continue to look out and be there for neighbors and friends in the park.

Happy Holidays,

Janet



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# PARK MANAGEMENT UPDATE December 2025 / January 2026

Happy Holidays from the Vineyard Valley Team!

## COMMUNITY ACTION NAPA VALLEY (CANV) FOOD DRIVE

Thank you to residents who participated in the very successful CANV Food Drive, your generosity filled the barrel! A barrel will be placed in the clubhouse foyer again the second week of December to continue the Food Drive.

## 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. Unplug electric lights, devices, and decorations before installing or replacing bulbs, changing parts or attempting other repairs. 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.

## RULES REMINDER

Multiple complaints have been received from residents regarding residents' cats who are roaming outside and onto other resident's premises. This is a reminder that keeping a pet in Vineyard Valley is contingent upon the pet owner complying with the pet rules and regulations below.

**PETS** : Residents must obtain special permission from the Management to keep no more than two (2) domesticated house pets in this Park.

No pet may invade the privacy of anyone's homesite, garden, flower beds, shrubs, yard, etc. The California Health and Safety Code 18603: 1608 states: Dogs, cats and other animals are not permitted to run at large in a Mobile Home Park. With the exception of guide dogs, signal dogs for the hearing impaired, and service dogs, pets are not allowed in the Clubhouse, pool area, Mail Room or Hobby Building.

Pet litter must be removed daily from your premises. Pet owners are responsible for removing pet's litter when walking pets.

Residents are permitted to have INDOOR CATS ONLY. All pet owners must agree to keep their animals under strict control and to hold the Park and its employees harmless from any damage and/or injuries that may occur to any person as a result of any act of the pet, or any negligence or failure of its owner to fully control the pet.

Report any violation of these rules to the Park Management.

## SWIMMING POOL REMINDER

The swimming pool closes December 1<sup>st</sup> and reopens April 1<sup>st</sup>.

## PARK PROJECTS

In addition to fall/winter grounds prep, the following are park projects that management and the landscaping team have been working on this fall:  
Installation of an accessible lanai door to Redondo.  
Additional drainage added along the pathway between Del Monte and San Lucas.  
Path lighting on the Redondo/Laguna Seca pathway to the mailroom.  
Christmas lights strung on the lagoon island trees and the olive tree near the clubhouse.  
A rowing machine was added in the gym.

## Debbie Austin Styles

At the Salon  
in  
Vineyard Valley



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## VINEYARD VALLEY HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION

### Notes from November 19 Board Meeting

Janet Schmidt, President called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm.

The September Minutes were accepted as posted in the mail room and in VIVA. The Treasurer's report was approved as presented by Henk Brok.

Reports of the various activities: Lobster Boil, 90 attended; October Bingo - 34 attended; November Bingo, 48 attended.

Thanks to Miriam Hansen for her slide show and presentation of VV's 50th anniversary and to Cindy and Roger Collin's for their excellent AI presentation. In case you missed it, see your VIVA.

Up coming events - Thanksgiving Day dinner (FREE) - sign up at the Mail Room. cut off date is Sunday, November 23rd; Craft Fair - see Eve Breckenridge for details; Christmas Dinner - Saturday, December 13th, with drinks and hors d'oeuvres from 5:30 to 6:30 and dinner at 6:30. Sign ups Saturday and Sunday after Thanksgiving in the mail room. \$60/person. It will be catered by Napa Valley Bistro.

Offer to buy dinnerware, cutlery, and glasses for 120 was approved by a vote. Budget is \$850.

Members of the board met with Management and with a suggestion from the Board, they agreed to buy a rowing machine for the gym. It's installed - come and use it!! They are also considering getting a new fan and stainless steel cover for the island. Management will hold your post dated checks if you are going to be away.

There will be no Board meeting in December, no Social and no Bingo due to the other celebrations.

Open Discussion - How is the \$ we have in the bank spent and on what - always voted on at a board meeting; how to improve our sound system. If you have suggestions for the board, please call Janet or Rick. Volunteers are always welcome for any event - just ask.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:40 pm.

## Things Getting Harder at Home?

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# RIANDA HOUSE SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER

**NOTE:** Class offerings below are an edited-for-space sampling from the complete listing of Rianda House Senior Activities Center. The full schedule can be found online at: <https://riandahouse.org/calendar-newsletter/>. Please check on-line for January listings.  
**Rianda House will be closed December 24-Jan 1, and will reopen Friday, Jan 2.**

## DECEMBER CLASSES and SPECIAL EVENTS

**Tech Today | James Scanlan | Wednesday, December 10, 2:30–4:00, Rianda House**  
Hard time keeping up with technology? Let a pro help you! Reserve a 30-minute, private session.

**Genealogy | Kelly Wheaton | Fridays, December 5 & 19, 10:00-12:00, Rianda House**  
Explore topics from DNA to genealogical research to family history writing with Kelly Wheaton, a founding member of the Napa Valley Genealogical Society and author of *Beginner's Guide to Genetic Genealogy*.

**Dementia Family Caregiver Support Group**  
**Thursday, December 4, Rianda House, Thursday, December 18, Zoom 3:00-4:30**  
Led by a skilled social worker, this support group offers a comforting space for care partners to share experiences and practical tips. Contact: Melissa Gerard, Providence Adult Day Health, 707-815-6258; [melissa.gerard@providence.org](mailto:melissa.gerard@providence.org) Presented by the Alzheimer's Association and Providence Adult Day Health.

**French Club | Sue & Skip Hopgood | Mondays, 9:30-11:00, Rianda House**  
Share personal experiences and cultural history through conversational French. Some knowledge of French is necessary, skills vary.

**Tai Chi & Qi Gong | Joseph Nase**  
**Thursdays, 9:00-10:00, Carnegie Building, 1360 Oak Avenue - NEW LOCATION**  
Optimize energy within the body, mind and spirit. Improve and maintain overall health and well-being with focused breathwork, meditation and slow, gentle movement.

**Men's Fitness | Evan Massaro**  
**Tuesdays, 8:00-9:00, American Legion Hall**  
Improve balance, flexibility and cardiovascular fitness with a splash of dad jokes! All levels are welcome. Please bring a mat.

**Readers Theatre | Penny Worsham | Tuesdays, 3:00-4:30, Rianda House**  
Come join our special group of actors even if you are not yet one! We read scenes and play improv games and have occasional performances (scripts in hand—no memorizing). Guaranteed laughter and fun! **RSVP**

**SantaPaws | Molly Abers, We Care Animal Rescue**  
**Saturday, December 13, 10:00-11:30, Rianda House**  
Come in for hot cider or cocoa, Christmas day treats and bring in your furry friend to get a picture with Santa Claws. This will also be an opportunity to bring a furry friend home for the holidays, see how you can get involved locally at We Care Animal Shelter or as a volunteer or foster. **RSVP**

**Holiday Carols | Laura Prichard | Saturday, December 20, 11:00-12:00, Rianda House**  
We'll sing traditional carols and winter festival songs, connect older traditions to new American holiday songs by jingle geniuses like Johnny Marks, Mel Torme, Irving Berlin, and Leroy Anderson. **RSVP**

**Rianda Holiday Open House | Tuesday, December 23, 10:00-12:00, Rianda House**  
Everyone is invited! We are celebrating the holidays at Rianda House and hope you will join us! Enjoy some tasty treats and cider. **RSVP**



**HOLIDAY CRAFT MARKET**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7TH**  
**12PM - 3PM**

**IN THE CLUBHOUSE**

Call Eve Breckenridge at 707-968-1482  
for more information

The poster features a festive design with a dark red background, white snowflakes, and a string of warm white lights at the top. The text is in a mix of bold, white, sans-serif and green, serif fonts. At the bottom, there are illustrations of a Christmas tree, a gift box, and craft supplies like yarn and scissors.



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The advertisement features a photograph of a potted plant on the left. The text is arranged in a clean, professional layout with a mix of bold, serif, and script fonts. The background is a light, neutral color.

## AI: Unveiling the Mystery

by Steve Kinney

On Wednesday, November 5, Roger and Cindy Collins gave a presentation on Artificial Intelligence. Roger comes from a background of computer programming. The idea for this seminar came to them after Cindy tried to use AI to find more information about a recent medical issue. From this they both learned how better to find and digest the different components of her health. They wanted to relate their experience with using AI and show some simple ways of trying it out. Roger started with some practical advice on its use. He suggested checking out either Chat-GPT or Gemini. The seminar was brief but informative and an interesting introduction to AI and its uses. Roger suggested at the conclusion that further seminars are possible as the need and interest arises.



Photography: Mae VanNett



## 50 YEARS of VINEYARD VALLEY

~reported by Steve Kinney

50 Years of Vineyard Valley. Who knew it had existed this long? Well, Mariam Hansen has been chronicling the ins and outs of our park, which she presented on a sunny early November afternoon in the clubhouse. Detailing with pictures and headlines revealed the story of how VV came to be and all the travails and scandals it has endured, with over 50 folks attending. It was very informative, covering efforts getting the park established and how in 1975 Dick McDonnell came to own the park. The Floods were a big part of the presentation and how they almost finished the park several times (1986, 1995 & 2005). There was even a period when the park was uninhabitable for quite some time. But through it all, many of our current 'Old Timers' have endured and fought to keep moving forward. Mariam has chronicled this history in both VIVA and the Saint Helena Historical Society. It's a fascinating look and well worth the time.



# Richard Henry Dana, Jr.

## author of *Two Years Before the Mast*

reported by Mariam Hansen, St. Helena Historian

Excerpted from *They Left Their Mark: Famous Passages through Wine Country*

by Joan Parry Dutton

There were many illustrious Danas in the large and influential Massachusetts family, but Richard Henry Dana, Jr is the best remembered for writing *Two Years Before the Mast*. He was born in Cambridge and at Harvard he was suspended for six months for his role in a student “rebellion”. In his third year he caught the measles, which damaged his eyesight. So he was not allowed to return to Harvard for a year. Frustrated, he signed on as an ordinary seaman on a trading voyage to the California coast in 1834–36. Upon returning home, he graduated in 1837 at the head of his class at Harvard and entered Dane Law School at Cambridge. He began writing his book in 1838, thinking it might bring him business in maritime law. After graduating he worked in a law office, then was admitted to the bar in 1840.



That same year his book *Two Years Before the Mast* was published and it was a great success. (The term “before the mast” refers to sailors’ quarters, which were located in the ship’s bow.) Ten Thousand copies were sold the first year and it has never been out of print. For the 1869 edition he wrote a new chapter about his later voyage around the globe in 1859. The postscript is titled, “Twenty-Four Years After” during which he visited the Geysers. It is a brief but interesting reference:

“I must not pause for the dreary country of the Geysers, the screaming escapes of steam, the boiling cauldrons of black and yellow and green...not for the park-like scenery and captivating ranchos of the Napa Valley.”

Dana went to the Geysers a day or so before Christmas in 1859. Why did he see no beauty in the Geyser region, which others exalted in? And how did he find the way to the Geysers when the trip was so hard and the route hard to find?

The answers are in the journal Dana kept on this trip to California. He wrote that on December 20, 1859 he went by steamer to visit the Mare Island Navy Yard at Vallejo. On board he met General Mariano Vallejo, whom he had met on his first voyage. The General remembered Dana and they talked. Also on board was George Yount, the famous pioneer, who invited Dana to visit Napa Valley. Also on board was ex-military governor of eastern North Carolina and later congressman from North Carolina Edward L. Stanly, also returning to his Napa Valley ranch. Governor Stanly offered to take Dana to the Geysers.

After overnighing in Vallejo, Dana took the morning stagecoach to Napa where Stanly met him with a buggy and a pair of mules. They reached Yount’s Rancho Caymus toward evening and slept there. Dana wrote “Best of weather, wood fires and open doors. This is California winter.” Little did he know that even California winter weather could change unpredictably. Stanly and Dana drove in the buggy up through the Napa Valley, past future Calistoga and to Knight’s Valley. On the way Dana wrote:

“Evergreen oak and the common deciduous oak droops, almost like a willow, with mistletoe and has long pendants of their hanging grey moss all among the leaves. Very pretty. Trees are large and come right out of the sod, as in English parks.”

They wanted to meet a Mr. McDonnell, one of the first guides to the Geysers. They reach the McDonnell home at night, but the guide was away. Another man named Brady agreed to lead them. The next morning the three men set out on horseback and reached the Geysers in almost five hours. Dana was not impressed and the weather turned against them with heavy fog. It began to rain as they departed about 2:30pm. By 5pm it was dark, raining heavily with little visibility.

“Single file, but can see neither Stanly nor his horse, nor can I see the guide or his horse. We call out at intervals not to lose each other. Several streams to ford. Guide loses the trail (an Indian trail), says to follow the creek...See light! It is McDonnell’s. Get lost in the yard. Glad to get to the fire, lights, change clothes and eat a warm supper. Mrs. McDonnell had nearly given up on us.”

It rained hard all night and was still raining heavily the next morning. Brady said the creeks were too high for the buggy to pass, but Stanly insisted he get back to Napa City. Finally they made it over the creek. It was dark by the time they reached Yount’s Ranch and decided they could go no further. It was Christmas Eve (Dec 24, 1859) and Eliza Yount warmly welcomed them.

“It’s Christmas but Stanly must go on to Napa and telegraph is wife at Sacramento or she will panic. They’ve been so kind to me and all on my account that we came here—so I agree to move on and our whole day was spent on a rainy, muddy road to Napa City. Afternoon is too late for church. Spent afternoon and evening in tavern barroom (no fireplace in other rooms)..Stanly and I have some reasonable and agreeable conversations. All our journey we have had agreeable conversation. Stanly told anecdotes of Congressional life, politics, etc...”

The next day Governor Stanly was off to Sacramento and Richard Dana, Jr reached his quarters in San Francisco before dark.

**Afterword:** The Geysers is the world’s largest geothermal field, containing a complex of 18 geothermal power plants, drawing steam from more than 350 wells, located in the Mayacamas Mountains approximately 72 miles north of San Francisco, California. Geysers produced about 20% of California’s renewable energy in 2019. You can drive to the Geysers north on Hwy 128 to Knight’s Valley. Look for the Geysers Road sign. There is a security gate, but you can see parts of the operation from the road.

Edward Stanly’s ranch is now an Auberge Resorts property south of Napa in the Carneros area. Their construction loan was recently foreclosed on. Visit <https://auberge.com/stanly-ranch/>





## Royal We Tasting Room

St. Helena's newest tasting room, Royal We Wines, is the subject of this month's review. It is a collaboration of two "Royals" in the wine world, Thomas Rivers Brown and Matthew Wallace Hardin. Matt's family is a sixth-generation grower in Napa. Back in the 1850's, they were given a land grant for much of Pope valley. Cattle Barons initially, they have diversified into grape growing as well. Matt is married to Alicia Reguschi, another Napa Valley royal. Thomas Rivers Brown, who arrived in Napa in the mid 1990's, has distinguished himself as being in the top echelon of wine makers. He has crafted 41 100-point wines from a plethora of wineries. His forte is Cabernet Sauvignon with softer tannins and steeped in single vineyards. Schrader To Kalon Cabernet is his signature wine. He and Matt have combined to form a partnership using their grape connections to make more affordable wines. Caterwaul is the main label but they have quite a few wines to play with.



The pair recently purchased the building at 929 Main Street here in St Helena, it formerly housed the tasting room for Yao Ming. They have remodeled it into a stylish and comfortable space with a half round bar in the middle and lots of area for sit down tastings. We started with a Sauvignon Blanc from the Matthew Wallace label. From the Adobe Vineyard in Pope Valley, this is a bright fruit forward SB showing some grapefruit-citrus notes. Very refreshing and quaffable. This was followed by Aston Estate Pinot Noir. A single vineyard from the Northern Sonoma Coast in Annapolis at 1200 feet elevation. This cool climate produced small dense grapes with a little more tannin than many Pinots. Bright Cherry-berry flavors showing a dark and dense style.

We started out the next portion of the tasting with two Cabernets. 2023 Matthew Wallace 'The Estate' from the Pope Valley Adobe Vineyard is small production of 250 cases. Some licorice notes on a core of black currant and medium tannins. Nice complexity leads to a lingering finish. Caterwaul Napa Valley is a multi-vineyard Napa Valley Cab. This is their retail horse with a 13,000-case production. Olive and perfumy on the nose leading to good berry fruit and med – full tannins.

We finished with two more Caterwaul Cabernet Sauvignons from the Reguschi Vineyard in Stags Leap. 2023 Reguschi was a bigger and bolder Cabernet with manageable tannins, Elegant and inviting with cassis and cherry notes. Our last wine was also from the Reguschi Vineyard, a single block named RIV Stag's Leap. Beautiful and refined showing great fruit. Very refined and great finish. RIV stands for Reguschi, 4<sup>th</sup> generation.

Royal We is a nice addition to tasting here in Saint Helena, A very comfortable setting, it would be an easy drop-in for a small tasting at \$25 or our six wines at \$50. They are also amenable to locals and may have hidden deals or discounts. If your looking for something new and curious about some local legends, stop in the new Royal We Wines.

*Play*  
**BINGO**

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 9**  
**DOORS OPEN 6:00PM**  
**GAMES BEGIN 6:30**

- \$15.00 Entry Pack
- Includes 3 x 6 games
- Packs, dauber, and dinner
- BYO beverage
- Those with specific food requirements, or allergies, are welcome to provide their own
- Extra Game Packs \$10.00

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YOU'RE INVITED

# chili COOK-OFF

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17 | 2:00 PM  
IN THE CLUBHOUSE

COME TO TASTE AND VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITES.  
ENTRY IS FREE - BOTH TO BRING YOUR CHILI, AS  
WELL AS TO TASTE AND TO VOTE.

ENTER YOUR CHILI TO COMPETE FOR  
THE TITLE OF CHILI CHAMPION!  
PRIZES FOR THE WINNING RECIPE!

SIGN UP SHEET WILL BE POSTED  
OUTSIDE THE MAILROOM.

*bring your friends, bring your appetite,  
and let's turn up the heat*



## from: The Editor

Dear Readers,

It has been ten months since I became editor the VIVA! newsletter. During this time, I have familiarized myself with the various components, including articles, advertisements, calendars, images, layout, and more. While each issue can feel like fitting a richly detailed jigsaw puzzle, I hope the result has been a consistent, coherent, and engaging publication for you.

I sincerely thank the many contributors who generously share their time and talent each month to produce a polished publication that reaches our email inboxes and mail cubbies. Our regular column writers, Mariam Hansen, Steve Kinney, and Suzanne James, deserve special recognition. While Joyce Armington has stepped away from her witty column, a guest appearance is always welcome. Michael Merriman plays a crucial role as a proofreader, along with posting the digital version on the VVHA website, and sending email reminders for monthly events. Michael and Henk also manage our relationship with Minuteman Press to meet print deadlines and handle the distribution in the mailroom.

Several Board members, including Mae, Janet, Robin, and Carroll, contribute in numerous ways with photography, photo captions, birthday list updates, flyer production, and more. Hans and Diana Mauli have been exceptionally helpful with special photography requests. Shelly DiFede consistently provides the park management update, containing information for our community. I appreciate being able to consult my predecessor, Janeen diRienzo, for fact-checking. Janeen reminds me of the diverse audience this publication serves, as outlined in the VIVA mission statement. Thanks to Henk's dedicated efforts, we have a strong lineup of paying advertisers offering a wide range of services and products. Please consider patronizing these vendors when your needs that align with what they offer.

If you are interested in sharing your voice with a regular or semi-regular column, or have other news, please contact me at [viva.vineyardvalley@gmail.com](mailto:viva.vineyardvalley@gmail.com). We have much excitement and community connection to look forward to in 2026! ~Francine Freeman

### VIVA Mission Statement:

To provide a periodic newsletter concerning current and upcoming events, VVHA news, activities, neighborly news, and other non-political and local items of interest to all Vineyard Valley residents.

# Friday Night SOCIAL



January 24 | 5:30pm | Clubhouse Lanai  
*Bring a beverage and appetizer to share!*

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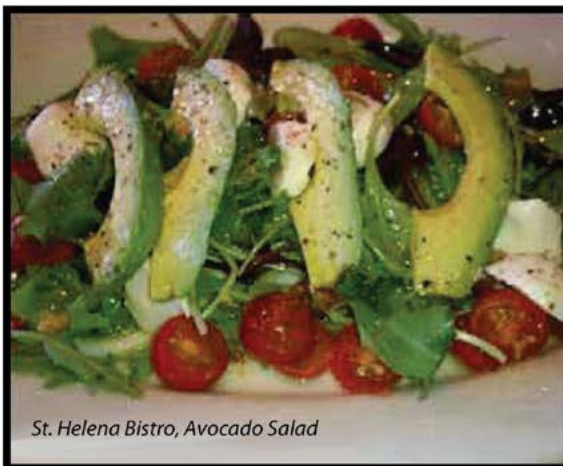
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# Vineyard Valley Dining Values

Please present coupon for redemption.  
Feel free to copy this page if you wish to use these coupons more than once.



**VILLA CORONA**  
COCINA MEXICANA  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Keeping it fresh & tasty!**  
Our menu is a selection of popular Mexican "antojitos" (cravings), Burritos, seafood & meat specialties.  
**Oh yeah, we serve breakfast too!**  
Mon. to Sat. 9am - 8pm  
Closed Sundays

**10% discount for Vineyard Valley residents!**  
Villa Corona St. Helena location only  
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11:30 - 9:00

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## VVHA FREE CLASSIFIED ADS

**GROUP EXERCISE**  
with Stacey 

*Fitness class with Stacey Fernandez returns to the gym on Tuesday, December 2nd!*

It's a circuit class where we do 10 exercises 4 times incorporating balance, strength, coordination, and socializing with great friends.

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00-11:00AM

**\$10 per class**

Questions? email [Waterfitforlife@gmail.com](mailto:Waterfitforlife@gmail.com)

**VIVA NEWSLETTER**  
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