

VINE VILLAGE

Napa, California

Fall/Winter 2007

news



Saenen Kerson (far right) with clients Brian Smith, Juliette Mitchell, and Heidi Clarkson, speaks at the Vine Village Celebration

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL CELEBRATION

This year's Vine Village Celebration was held on July 18 at Chardonnay Golf Course & Country Club. It was a gala event in a lovely location, and all celebrants had a wonderful time.

The Art Sale, chaired by Sylvia Klenz and Jane Meyers, was very successful as well. Thanks to our Committee for all their dedication and hard work!

NAPA VALLEY VINTNERS GRANTS \$40,000 TO VINE VILLAGE!!!!

Through their annual community fundraiser - Auction Napa Valley - The Napa Valley Vintners included Vine Village as one of the prestigious recipients. This year The Napa Valley Vintners raised and distributed over \$6,400,000 for charitable work in Napa County, through their Auction Napa Valley (formerly known as the Napa Valley Wine Auction). Vine Village is thrilled and honored to be chosen as one of the recipients.

(For more about Vine Village fundraising, see FUNDRAISING HIGHLIGHTS on back page)

Everyone here at
Vine Village wishes you a
Wonderful Holiday Season
and a
Happy New Year

Holiday Greetings to Friends and Family of Vine Village



Dear Family and Friends of Vine Village:

As the year ends and we enjoy the transition of the seasons, it is a time to give thanks for what we have and for what we are able to do. I look around our own special piece of paradise and see Vine Village as a most remarkable work of art. I see the love that has been given for thirty five years and which has made our program one of the most outstanding of its kind in the country. Everywhere one looks there is beauty and the expression of commitment that make Vine Village what so many people over the years have described as "magical".

Our Annual Celebration was a great success as well as a fun evening of fine dining and bidding on wonderful wines and trips, plus the ever popular Vine Village Art Bottles, adding to the excitement. Fundraising is a never-ending project for us and we are grateful to all those who helped to make this event successful.

We are gratified and thrilled to be part of Auction Napa Valley for the first time in 35 years!

We look to the future with hopes that we can always be here for the segment of the population which benefits so immensely from our programs.

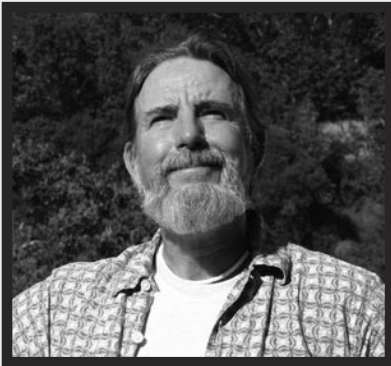
May the Holiday Season ahead be magical for you and those you love, and may we all have much to be grateful for!

Warm Regards,

Vine Village Board President

THE OUTDOOR GUY

By Tucker Crosby



With the very mild winter behind us, we motored easily through the growing season. Flowers galore, sweet corn, tomatoes and melons. Our Chardonnay grapes went to Acacia Winery this year and that will be a superior wine next year. What a life. Let's mention the blue-ribbon cabbage at the Napa Town & Country Fair and the wonderful fund raiser at Chardonnay Golf Club. Super summer. Have a lovely holiday season and come and see us!

And a brazillion thanks to the Kiwanians for their wonderful effort and skill remodeling, painting, building, etc. this spring!

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- By Tucker Crosby



"PUFFINS" painted by Vine Village Arts client Twila Van Damme. This painting was one of this year's "Wine Bottle Art" selections for the Vine Village Celebration Auction



Special Olympics Report

Basketball started in January, 2007. In April we went to Santa Rosa for the Finals with three teams – Brian Smith was on Team #2.

March Bocce ball starts – one team went to Berkeley in June. The qualifier was hosted by Napa Special Olympics in St. Helena. Our teams are *The Rose Buds*, which consists of Debbie Kerson, Amy Lee, CC Cordeiro, and Andrea Kaufman. The other team, *The Blooms*, which included Vine Village resident Brian Smith, went to the big Berkeley meet.

Softball started in June. Brian Smith was on the team that made it all the way to the State Tournament in Sunnyvale. Also this was the first time we took a T-Ball Team. How fun to watch!

That's all for the year. Hopefully 2008 will be as good if not better.

By Fritz



Michael Edwards retired this summer, after 22 Years working at McDonald's, with a wonderful retirement party, which was attended by Vine Village staff and his job coaches from NVSS. Michael was much loved at McDonald's and he continues to be loved here at Vine Village.

WELCOME SAANEN KERSON



Actually, more like, Welcome Back!

Saanen Kerson, daughter of Executive Director, Michael Kerson, and his wife, Nancy, and grand-daughter of founders George and Grace Kerson, grew up at Vine Village. Born just a year after Vine Village opened, Saanen's early childhood was spent living in the Women's House and Cottage with

the residents and her parents, who at the time were live-in House Counselors. Saanen grew up with a very deep feeling for people with special needs.

Saanen was a softball star in high school, and graduated from the University of California at Berkeley in 1996. Pursuing her love of folk-based music, she has lived in Tennessee and Louisiana, and has acquired a range of career experiences, ranging from project management to real estate sales to zydeco band management.

Early in 2007, Saanen returned home and announced that, though she'd seen the world and it was great, her heart was with Vine Village, and she wanted to join the staff to help Vine Village into the next century.

Saanen is currently taking the Napa Non-Profit Coalition's Training for Future Executive Directors, and is, of course, being mentored by her father, Vine Village's Executive Director.

We are all happy to have her, and already her enthusiasm, combined with her many abilities, have brought some very positive changes to Vine Village, and a revitalized fund-raising program.

FAMILY CLUB RAISES \$10,000!

Once again, Sophie Freeman and the Family Club raised \$10,000 for Vine Village. The annual picnic was tremendous fun as usual, featuring a wonderful barbecue. Way to Go, Family Club!!!



RAGIN' IN RENO 2007!!!

Each year, the Vine Village Residential Program plans a summer vacation for the residents. In the early days it was camping, but nowadays, most residents vote for the bright lights, and Reno is their favorite destination. So this year Fritz, Tony Withers, and Teresa Gonzales took 11 residents to the Atlantis Hotel & Casino. They took in the sights, played the slots, and had a wonderful time.



Juliette Mitchell shows off her beadwork

YOU CAN HELP!

Holidays, birthdays, graduations, as well as the passing of loved ones or the loved ones of our friends, are opportunities to show we care.

Often we struggle to think of an appropriate tribute to send. Have you considered sending a donation to Vine Village, in lieu of a gift? It's a personal way to honor your friends' own generosity, and helps Vine Village provide services that bring dignity and well-being to the lives of our valued residents.

Call our office and we'll be happy to send a card notifying your loved one of your gift to Vine Village made in their honor. As always, thank you for all you do for Vine Village.

Here's another idea: **Call Cheryl at 707-255-4006** with your credit card number and make a monthly pledge, which we will charge to your credit card each month. In this way you can make a very affordable contribution to Vine Village, and Vine Village will know we can count on it each month.

ART PROGRAM NEWS

The Art Program continues to thrive. This year we have been thrilled to see our clients exploring new directions, new media, new ideas. As their confidence grows, they become more adventurous and want to try new things. Currently, we have weaving, painting, drawing, sewing, ceramics, beadwork, fabric arts, collage, music, dancing, and print-making works in progress.

The weekly visit of the Therapy Dogs is always a highlight, as well as our Visiting Artists for Music Friday.



A world-class Zydeco band, "Jeffery Broussard and the Creole Cowboys," who were on their way to Paris for a music festival, spent time at Vine Village Arts, playing music with the clients.



"Art Bottle" Label paintings by Juliette Mitchell and Michael Villanueva

LIFE INSURANCE:

A simple but important way to help Vine Village

At some time in our lives, most of us buy life insurance, to protect our loved ones in case, God forbid, something should happen to us. As time goes by, our dependents often grow up, become self-sufficient, and no longer need this protection. If your life insurance needs have changed in this way, why not consider adding Vine Village as a beneficiary of your existing policy? Or open a new one just for Vine Village.

Greg Dunton, Vine Village Board Member, gave an inspiring presentation to the Vine Village Family Club last year at the Yearend party. A few people stepped up to the plate and changed their life insurance policies to benefit Vine Village. Most recently, Betty Hemp called to tell us she had done that - Thanks so much, Betty!

If you have any questions or concerns, or would like more information about using insurance to help Vine Village, don't hesitate to call **Greg Dunton at (707) 259-5015**

VINE VILLAGE FIXIT WISHLIST

Ranch/Grounds:

Repave the driveway
Septic collars at Men's House septic system
New wheel-drive mower (comparable to the 25+ year-old Yazoo)
New lawn/landscaping at Women's House
Major tree work

Art Program:

Enclose back porch with windows and doors
2 New computers – with Windows Vista and Internet access
Speech therapist for clients

Office:

New lateral file cabinets
Remodeling – remove old cabinets, new sheetrock work, painting, new carpet, new desk chairs, fishtank
Shelving for storage of office items in barn

Women's House:

Living room painted (paint already purchased)
Furniture cleaned
Remove carpet in living room and replace with wood flooring to match kitchen and hallway

Men's House:

New flooring in living room/dining room/kitchen
New Refrigerator
New cabinets in kitchen
New counters in kitchen
New couches in living room
New coffee table in living room
New dinnerware (12 place settings plus serving dishes)
New art to hang in living room and dining room
New mattress covers for all beds
New chairs for dining room table
New vacuum cleaner
New sheets, towels, blankets

Keep up with Vine Village through the year:

www.vinevillage.org

THIS YEAR'S FUNDRAISING HIGHLIGHTS:

Vine Village needs to raise \$300,000 each year - on top of client fees - just to stay in operation. It's a daunting task, but somehow we survive. We are also trying to build up an Endowment Fund, to take some of the pressure off annual fundraising (so we don't go out of business because of one bad fundraising year)

Here are some of the high points of this year's fundraising efforts. Matching grant from Jim Andrews – for families of residents - up to \$50,000 from Andrews Family to match monies contributed by other families by December 31, 2007

\$40,000 Grant from Napa Valley Vintners, through their annual community fundraiser, Auction Napa Valley

Ray Cordeiro donated \$20,000 to the Andrews matching grant

Gordon T. & Melissa A. Egan Family Foundation - \$15,000 for Endowment Fund

Thanks to the Thursday Noon Kiwanis Club of Napa, and in particular Al Gillette of Alpine Construction, for their work days at Vine Village in May.

Grant from Community Foundation of Napa Valley Special Needs Fund - \$10,000

Capacity Building Grant – joint grant from Auction Napa Valley, Gasser Foundation, and Community Foundation of Napa Valley – funded new phone system with voicemail for Office, Art Program, Outbuildings

Walter & Elyse Haas general donation \$7,500

FUNDRAISING, *continued:*

The Women's House's 1970's-era heater was replaced by a new energy-efficient heating and air conditioning system, thanks to the North Bay Association of Realtors (NORBAR) and Josephine Haas.

NAIFA - (Solano-Napa Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors) presented Vine Village with a check for \$1500 at their annual fundraiser in April

Fosters Group - \$500 grant for the Art Program in Feb. 2007

Allstate Foundation - \$500 grant in April 2007



Vine Village Arts clients at work