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DECEMBER 2023

SOLERA STAR

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF SOLERA AT ANTHEM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.



19

ON THE COVER

The cover photo shows Santa Joe, also known as Solera resident Joe Kaufman, who portrays Jolly St. Nick year around.

*Solera At Anthem
Community Association*

9 GUEST PASS 2023

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Email: solera@ternionsage.com
Phone: 702.982.6681
www.ternionsage.com



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ASSOCIATION

COMMUNITY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION

FirstService Residential (702) 215-8165
Solera at Anthem Community Association
2401 Somersworth Drive
Henderson, Nevada 89044

Administration Office
Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
After hours Emergency Number (702) 215-8165







Community Center (702) 207-1407
Fax (702) 405-6211
Monday – Saturday 6:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Sunday 6:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Pool Hours
Sunday 6:00 a.m. – 6:45 p.m.
Monday 6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday – Saturday 6:00 a.m. – 7:45 p.m.

For questions about your balance or for general information, call (702) 215-8165.

Reporting Leaks in Solera and Anthem Parkway
Solera Community - Contact Paul Reeves at preeves@soleraatanthem.us or main line at (702) 207-1407
Anthem Parkway - Contact Anthem Council Community Manager, Ivy Cullen at (702) 737-8580 (Press “0” to speak to the operator to report the leak)

SOLERA STAFF

	Jacob Kay Community Manager jkay@soleraatanthem.us	(702) 207-1414
	Florine Radulovic-Kay Assistant Manager florine@soleraatanthem.us	(702) 207-1402
	Sandi Anderson Lifestyle Director, Solera Star Editor sanderson@soleraatanthem.us	(702) 207-1424
	Dominique Jordan Assistant Lifestyle Director djordan@soleraatanthem.us	(702) 201-1430
	Paul Reeves Facilities Manager preeves@soleraatanthem.us	(702) 207-1406
	Paul Mayen Facilities Supervisor pmayen@soleraatanthem.us	(702) 207-1411

BOARD MEMBERS

Joe Lightowler, *President* | jlighowler921@gmail.com

Ken Sawyer, *Vice-President* | solerakens@gmail.com

David DeOto, *Secretary* | soleradavid@outlook.com

Mike Goff, *Treasurer* | mikesolera1@gmail.com

Ray Carvajal, *Director* | carvajal5@centurylink.net

Susan Zinna, *Director* | susanzinna@hotmail.com

Frank Nobel, *Director* | fnobel@cox.net

When emailing the above Board Members, please put “Solera” in the subject line.

Please send all violation reports and/or complaints to the Management Office in writing.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS SCHEDULE OF FUTURE MEETINGS AND INFORMATION

Meetings are held in the Stardust Ballroom of the Clubhouse, located at 2401 Somersworth Dr., Henderson, NV 89044

Agendas are available the week before the meeting, and are emailed out to all residents with an email address on file. To request a copy of the agenda, you may also reach out to Management directly.

Board of Directors Executive Session

December 6 | 9:30 a.m. | *Stardust*

Board of Directors Meeting

December 13 | 9:30 a.m. | *Stardust*

Board of Directors Executive Session

January 3 | 9:30 a.m. | *Stardust*

Board of Directors Meeting

January 10 | 9:30 a.m. | *Stardust*

DISCLAIMER: Solera Star is a monthly publication of Solera at Anthem Community Association designed to provide information and news to the members of Solera at Anthem (SAA). Advertising does not influence editorial decisions or content. We reserve the right to refuse to advertise for any reason or cause. Information, services, products, and materials contained in Solera Star magazine are provided on an “as is” basis with no warranty. SAA disclaims all representations and warranties, express or implied, with respect to such information, services, products, and materials including, but not limited to, warranties of merchantability, fitness for a particular purpose, title, non-infringement, and implied warranties arising from course of dealing or course of performance. In no event shall SAA be liable for any damages whatsoever whether in an action, arising out of or in connection with the use, inability to use, or performance of the information, services, products and materials available from this publication.

Solera Residents:



Assessments are due quarterly on the 1st
January 1 - April 1 - July 1 - October 1
Nevada.fsrconnect.com/soleraatanthem.us

Solera Website: www.soleranews.com

You can access the FirstService website by logging onto soleraatanthem.connectresident.com

DEL WEBB Customer Relations
1-800-664-3089 or 1-800-589-7900

Following is the address for Assessment Payments:
Solera at Anthem c/o FirstService Residential
P.O. Box 30422, Tampa, FL 33630-3422

Anthem Council | www.anthemcommunitycouncil.com
www.anthemcommunitycouncil.godaddysites.com

2024 MEETINGS/EVENTS SCHEDULE

January 3	9:30am	BOD Executive Session
January 10	9:30am	Board of Directors Meeting
February 7	9:30am	BOD Executive Session
February 14	9:30am	Board of Directors Meeting
February 21	4:00pm	Annual Owners Meeting
March 6	9:30am	BOD Executive Session
March 13	9:30am	Board of Directors Meeting
April 3	9:30am	BOD Executive Session
April 10	6:30pm	Board of Directors Meeting
May 1	9:30am	BOD Executive Session
May 8	9:30am	Board of Directors Meeting
June 5	9:30am	BOD Executive Session
June 12	9:30am	Board of Directors Meeting
July 3	9:30am	BOD Executive Session
July 10	9:30am	Board of Directors Meeting
August 7	9:30am	BOD Executive Session
August 14	9:30am	Board of Directors Meeting
September 4	9:30am	BOD Executive Session
September 11	6:30pm	Board of Directors Meeting
October 2	9:30am	BOD Executive Session
October 9	9:30am	Board of Directors Meeting
November 6	9:30am	BOD Executive Session
November 13	9:30am	Board of Directors Meeting
November 18	9:30am	Budget Ratification Meeting
December 4	9:30am	BOD Executive Session
December 11	9:30am	Board of Directors Meeting

2024 COMMUNITY CENTER SCHEDULE

- Monday, January 1** (*New Year's Day*) | Closes at 4pm
- Sunday, March 31** (*Easter*) | Closes at 3pm
- Monday, May 29** (*Memorial Day*) | Closes at 4pm
- Thursday, July 4** (*Independence Day*) | Closes at 3pm
- Monday, September 4** (*Labor Day*) - Closes at 4pm
- Thursday, November 28** (*Thanksgiving Day*) | Closed
- Tuesday December 24** (*Christmas Eve*) | Closes at 3pm
- Wednesday, December 25** (*Christmas Day*) | Closed
- Tuesday, December 31** (*New Years Eve*) | Closes at 3pm

2024 FIRSTSERVICE RESIDENTIAL HOLIDAY SCHEDULE MANAGEMENT OFFICES CLOSED

- Monday, January 1** | New Year's Day (*Observed*)
- Monday, January 15** | Martin Luther King Jr Day
- Monday, February 19** | President's Day
- Monday, May 27** | Memorial Day
- Thursday, July 4** | Independence Day
- Monday, September 2** | Labor Day
- Friday, October 25** | Nevada Day (*Observed*)
- Thursday, November 28** | Thanksgiving Day
- Friday, November 29** | Family Day (*Day After Thanksgiving*)
- Tuesday, December 24** | Christmas Eve (*Observed*)
- Wednesday, December 25** | Christmas Day

2024

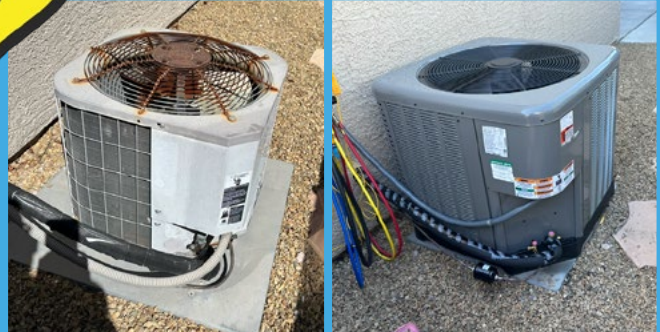


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GUEST PASSES FOR HOLIDAY VISITORS

BY THE COMMUNITY STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The holidays are here. Friends and family often travel distances to be together to enjoy the renewal of memories and to make new ones. Some plan to stay only a few days.

Perhaps you'll want to engage in some friendly competition on Solera's pickleball courts, a game of tennis, or a few games of pool. Or maybe just a good workout and cardio session followed by a swim or relaxing in the jacuzzi.

Did you know as the sole owner on your home's title you have the privilege of obtaining a Guest Privilege Pass for any one individual that you choose to use and access the common areas of our Community Center without having to pay the individual \$2 guest day pass? Or maybe you have a couple of family members or friends that might want to utilize our Community Center while in town for the holidays. The Association provides four complementary Guest Passes per home, per year.

If you have not yet picked up your free passes, you can still collect them at the front desk. If you have already used your free Guest Passes, you still have the option to purchase additional individual passes. Guest Passes cannot exceed \$10 per day and are only \$2 per pass. Guest Passes can be purchased at the front desk at your convenience. The front desk can accept cash or credit card for the Guest Pass purchase.

Once you have paid for and/or have received the Guest Pass, you will need your membership card to come to the clubhouse and check them in. If your guest is not a minor, you are not required to be with your guest after you have checked them in; however, accompanying your guest whenever possible is recommended.

Please keep in mind there may be some age restrictions with various activities. Be sure you and your guests are aware of any rules or regulations that might be important to the utilization our Community Center.

You can find a copy of the rules in the Solera at Anthem website: www.soleranews.com.

During this holiday season we would love to see our residents enjoy the time spent at our Community Center participating in the clubs, events, and other amenities. We hope you have a delightful holiday with friends and family. ✨

Solera At Anthem
Community Association
GUEST PASS 2023

Name: _____

Issued by: _____

ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEES & CONTRIBUTORS

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE (ARC)

Robert Brightwell
David Chavez
Henry "Hank" DeVisser
Terry Hazelbaker
Terry Phelps
Ingrid Serina
Gregg Shiffbauer
Vida Carr – *Alternate*
Florence Hayashi – *Alternate*
Shelley Payne-Pittman – *Alternate*
Liaison: Joe Lightowler

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

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Carol Hendrickson
Stephanie Mahlig
Mary Schramski
Tom Sweetko
Frank Tuozzo
Liaison: Susan Zinna

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Marcia Adams
Laura Addi
Betty Boyd
Larry Edsall
Tom Gorman
Nadyne Sweetko
Liaison: Frank Nobel

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Joseph Doll
Linda Freitas
Lowell Gervais
Linda Loane
Diane Meireis
Kathy Tatasciore
Liaison: Ray Carvajal

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Mike Goff
Steve Gordon
Thomas Mach
Bob Waskowitz
Charlene Whitener
Kathie Zeier
Liaison: David DeOto

LIFESTYLE

Pam D'Assis
John Miller
Lea Mills
Susan Newman
Debbie Waskowitz
Gloria Zimny
Lorraine Barcia - *Alternate*
Rosann Costantino - *Alternate*
Gloria Street - *Alternate*
Liaison: Joe Lightowler

PLEASE NOTE

For more information or to apply please contact management at soleraatanthem@fsrnevada.com.

Residents are welcome to attend any committee meetings that are of interest, except Covenants and ARC. Meeting dates are listed on page 17.





— HAPPY —
Retirement
Favil West

HONORING A LEGACY

CO-FOUNDER FAVIL WEST RETIRES

BY THE FOUNDATION ASSISTING SENIORS



After more than two decades of unwavering service, Favil West, a co-founder of the Foundation Assisting Seniors, has retired. He leaves a lasting impact on the organization he helped establish and the community he faithfully served.

Since 2002, West's visionary leadership played a pivotal role in enhancing the lives of seniors and veterans across southern Nevada. Under his guidance, the Foundation provided vital healthcare services, including innovative programs like the HowRU Program and access to durable medical equipment loans, saving lives and enhancing the safety and independence of countless individuals.

West's retirement marks the conclusion of an era, but the Foundation remains in capable hands as Carol Chapman ascends from her previous role as president and COO to assume the position of president and CEO. Committed to advancing the Foundation's mission of improving senior and veteran healthcare and overall well-being, Chapman brings fresh perspectives, ideas, and new programs as she guides the organization forward. ✨

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VETS WELCOME MEDAL OF HONOR WINNER

BY THE SOLERA VETERANS AND FIRST RESPONDERS CLUB

The Solera Veterans and First Responders Club is proud to have Maj. Gen. James Livingston (Ret) as our special guest at 6:00 p.m. on December 15 in the Stardust Room. All are welcome to come and listen to his incredible story and meet this true American hero. The following is his Medal of Honor citation:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as Commanding Officer, Company E, in action against enemy forces.

Company E launched a determined assault on the heavily fortified village of Dai Do, which had been seized by the enemy on the preceding evening isolating a Marine company from the remainder of the battalion. Skillfully employing screening agents, Capt. Livingston maneuvered his men to assault positions across 500 meters of dangerous open rice paddy while under intense enemy fire. Ignoring hostile rounds impacting near him, he fearlessly led his men in a savage assault against enemy emplacements within the village.

While adjusting supporting arms fire, Capt. Livingston moved to the points of heaviest resistance, shouting words of encouragement to his Marines, directing their fire, and spurring the dwindling momentum of the attack on repeated occasions. Although twice painfully wounded by grenade fragments, he refused medical treatment and courageously led his men in the destruction of over 100 mutually supporting bunkers, driving the remaining enemy from their positions and relieving the pressure on the stranded Marine company.

As the two companies consolidated positions and evacuated casualties, a third company passed through the friendly lines launching an assault on the adjacent village of Dinh To, only to be halted by a furious counterattack of an enemy battalion. Swiftly assessing the situation and disregarding the heavy volume of enemy fire, Capt. Livingston boldly maneuvered the remaining effective men of his company forward, joined forces with the heavily engaged marines, and halted the enemy's counterattack.

Wounded a third time and unable to walk, he steadfastly remained in the dangerously exposed area, deploying his men to more tenable positions and supervising the evacuation of casualties. Only when assured of the safety of his men did he allow himself to be evacuated. Capt. Livingston's gallant actions uphold the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the U.S. Naval Service. ✧





SOLERA COMMUNITY TOY DRIVE

NOVEMBER 1 - DECEMBER 16

Please donate all new unwrapped gifts to the designated Toys For Tots boxes at the clubhouse. Your donation helps local kids and helps put a smile on their faces.



Anthem Voices Choir & Harmony Handbells

PRESENT

MONDAY, DEC. 4 | 6:30PM
STARDUST BALLROOM

Refreshments to follow

TICKET:
Requested Donation: \$10
(at the door)

Solera Holiday PARTY

SATURDAY, DEC. 9
5:30-9PM | STARDUST BALLROOM

Tickets are \$35

Tickets will be available for purchase at the Clubhouse Lady Luck on Tuesday, November 21 at 9a.m.

Three course buffet style dinner will be served

Photo booth & more

Entertainment provided by Salt 'N' Pepper

Glittering LIGHTS

SANTA TRAM OUTING

THURSDAY, DEC. 14 | 6:30PM
LAS VEGAS MOTOR SPEEDWAY

Instead of driving through the 2.5-mile course to see over five million lights, you'll get to ride on an outdoor open-air tram! You'll also have the opportunity to meet Santa, play games, have hot cocoa & kettle corn, and more.

Tickets are \$45 (includes admission, transportation, hot cocoa & kettle corn)

Bus will leave Solera at 5pm & return around 8:30pm.

Tickets will be available for purchase at the Clubhouse Lady Luck Room on Thursday, November 30 at 9am.

Holiday Lights CONTEST

Excludes Board Members, Employees, & Lifestyle Committee

Please have all your holiday light decorations up by December 15.

Voting will take place December 16-20.

Please pick up your voting slips at the Clubhouse Front Desk and return them no later than December 20 by noon.

All winners will be announced at Bingo on December 21.

Gift cards will be given to the winners for best overall, most creative, most animated and most illuminated.

Happy decorating and happy holidays everyone!

HAPPY HOUR

WITH ENTERTAINMENT BY NEAL ACITO


FRIDAY, JAN. 26
6-8PM | STARDUST BALLROOM



\$10 residents, \$12 guests

This is a BYOB event.
Light snacks will be provided.

Tickets will be available for purchase at the Clubhouse Lady Luck Room on Thursday, January 11 | 9am



FRIDAY, JAN. 19
Bus will leave Solera at 10am & return around 12:30pm


OUTING

The cost is \$10 for transportation. Admission is free to the Pinball Museum.

The Pinball Hall of Fame is an attempt by the members of the Las Vegas Pinball Collectors Club to house and display the world's largest pinball collection, open to the public. The games belong to one club member (Tim Arnold) and range from 1950s to 1990s. Older games from the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s are prevalent, as this was the 'heyday' of pinball. And since it's a non-profit, excess revenues go to non-denominational charities.

All pinball machines take 25 cents. Coin machines are on site to make change.

Tickets will be available for purchase at the Clubhouse Lady Luck Room on Wednesday, January 3 | 9am



Intermountain Health

Join our free event hosted by myGeneration caregivers.



LUNCH & LEARN DOC TALK

FALL PREVENTION

TUESDAY, JAN. 30
11:30AM-12:30PM | STARDUST BALLROOM

Please sign-up at the Clubhouse Front Desk if you're interested in attending.

At the Doc Talk, our expert provider will share tips on fall prevention, plus simple lifestyle habits you can adopt to take charge of your health.

This event will be educational and highly interactive, so bring your questions and curiosity for group discussion.

To RSVP, please sign-up at the Clubhouse Front Desk, visit IntermountainEvent.com or call (702) 710-4202.

*These events are educational; there will be no sales activity. To learn more about Medicare, visit medicare.gov.

MY WINDOW ON SOLERA

BY FRANK NOBEL



Sandy & Ziggy

When I open my garage door to work out, I have my own personal window to the events that are happening in Solera. Well, at least those happening on Jada Drive.

Jada is a main artery in Solera. It pulses east and west and is often referred to as being in the “pit” of Solera.

Nevertheless, I open my garage door “window on Solera” as I mount my recumbent bike, a Schwinn Air-Dyne, pedaling it to nowhere with minutes not miles as my destination.

Through my garage door window, I am able to watch the passing review on Jada. Fitness walkers — solo, in pairs or even an occasional

group — cross my field of vision. I cannot miss the many home owners walking their dogs, which usually will check out the light pole that is to the right of my view. I would be remiss not to mention the bikers who race past my garage door window.

But what is best about my garage door window is the many waves or simple head nods that are shared with me as the folks pass by. This welcome acknowledgement comes from people who, for the most part, do not know my name or I theirs. Still, together, we are attempting to be just plain neighborly as we delay that tall, dark hooded figure for at least another day.

This is just a sketch of the view from my “window” on Solera. To be sure, it is not totally inclusive of all of Solera, just a segment that I believe is reflective of the whole of Solera.

Perhaps with your garage door open, or as you sit on your patio, or look out a window, you have your own view of Solera. Perhaps you’d even be willing to share your observations in a future issue of the *Solera Star*? If so, write your observations in around 250-350 words and email them and a photo or two of your view to me at fnobel@cox.net and we’ll consider it for a future issue.



Anna & Higgins

Joe & the girls

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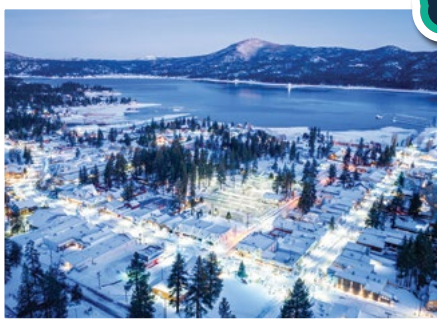
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DECEMBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4 Anthem Voices Choir & Harmony Handbells Concert 6:30pm	5 ARC 9am Veterans & First Responders 6:30pm Bulk Trash Day	6 Executive Board 9:30am	7 Communications 9:30am	8 First Day of Hanukkah	9 Fitness Center Orientation 10am Solera Holiday Party 5:30pm
10	11 Covenants 10am	12	13 Board of Directors 9:30am	14 Glittering Lights Santa Tram Outing (Bus leaves at 5pm)	15 Medal of Honor presentation 6pm	16 Voting Begins for Holiday Light Contest
17	18	19 Lifestyle 11:15am Bulk Trash Day	20 Buildings & Grounds 9:30am	21 Bingo 6:30pm (Sponsored by FirstService Residential) Holiday Light Contest Winners Announced	22	23
24 Christmas Eve (Clubhouse closes at 3pm)	25 Christmas Day (Clubhouse Closed)	26 Kwanzaa	27 Finance 9:30am	28	29	30
31 New Year's Eve (Clubhouse closes at 3pm)	JAN 1 New Year's Day (Clubhouse closes at 4pm)	2 ARC 9am Veterans & First Responders 6:30pm Bulk Trash Day	3 Executive Board 9:30am Ticket Sales Begin for Pinball Outing 9am	4 Communications 9:30am	5 AARP Safe Driving Class 9am-1pm	6

CHARTERED CLUBS

American Mah Jongg Club | Tuesday | 1 p.m.
Rosalie Feit | (702) 897-4965

Asian Mah Jongg Club | Wednesday & Friday | Noon
Vickie | (702) 489-7922

Bridge Club | Tuesday & Friday | 12:30 p.m.
Sharon Deter | (253) 303-1738 | sharon.dtd@gmail.com

Bunco Club | Second Tuesday | 5 p.m.
Karen Schanhals | (775) 721-4701
Sue Levine | (631) 871-8459

Euchre Club | Monday | 1 p.m.
Gregg Schiffbauer | (702) 379-1399 | magregg@aol.com

Fine Arts Club

Watercolor | Thursday | 10 a.m.
Judy Blankenship | (702) 457-0550

Colored Pencil | Tuesday | 1 p.m.
Judy Blankenship | (702) 457-0550

Handcrafted Creations Club

Bead Weaving | Thursday | 1 p.m.
Carol Runyan | (702) 558-7623

Quilts & More | Tuesday & Friday | 10 a.m.
Maryann Bianco
(702) 453-2884 | maryann.bianco@yahoo.com

Stained Glass | Wednesdays | 12:30-5 p.m.
Bob Stahurski | (702) 994-3919

Paper Works / Greeting Cards Club | Monday | 1 p.m.
Linda Freitas | dfreitas89044@cox.net

Party Bridge Club | Tuesday & Thursday | 12:30 p.m.
David Hon | (801) 791-6229 | hondi@msn.com

Pickleball Club | Monday - Friday | 7-10 a.m.
Steve Gordon | (442) 333-5877

Poker Club

Monday | Noon; Wednesday | 5 p.m.; Thursday | 5 p.m.
Donna Tipps | (775) 846-3616 | dtipps4@cox.net

Romeo's Solera Mens Club

Third Friday | 8:30 a.m. | Southpoint
Allen Blonder | (702) 395-6878

Solera Ladies Club | Monthly Activities
Sue Boylan | (702) 373-6055 | srb702@gmail.com

Solera Singles Club | Monthly Activities
Georgie D'Alessandro | (702) 914-0630 | georgied248@gmail.com

Table Tennis Club

Monday, Wednesday, Saturday | 8 a.m.-Noon; Sunday | 1:30-5 p.m.
Steve Reed | (309) 696-5311

Veterans & First Responders Club | First Tuesday | 6:30 p.m.
Robert Propp | (509) 220-6304 | robert.propp1@gmail.com

Water Volleyball Club

Wednesday | 5:30-7 p.m.; Saturday | 1-2:30 p.m.
Susan Newman | (951) 850-2595 | sjntchr@aol.com

GROUPS

Billiards | Tuesday | 1:30-3:30 p.m.
Ken Moser | (702) 401-7823 | chefmoser1@icloud.com

Bocce Ball Group | Monday & Wednesday | 9 a.m.
Danny Mosher | (702) 524-8058 | dsmosher66@gmail.com

Book Group | Second Saturday | Noon
Monica McAdams | (702) 371-6575 | monica0921@hotmail.com

Crafts and Stitches | Tuesday | 9 a.m. | Please drop by

Double Deck Pinocle Group
Wednesday | 5-8 p.m.; Sunday | 4-7 p.m.
Mike Sinclair | (360) 567-7664 | grizle@comcast.net

Genealogy Group | Second & Fourth Wednesday | 9-10:30 a.m.
Celeste Guillory | soleragsig@gmail.com

Rummikub | Sunday | 1-4 p.m.
Richard Kroeger | rkroeger22@yahoo.com

Tennis Group | Saturday | 7 a.m.
Sam Misraji | (818) 207-1947

Trivia Group | Last Tuesday | 6-8 p.m.
Rosemary Massey
(907) 230-7945 | rosemarymassey2@gmail.com

HEALTH & FITNESS

Aquasize | Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday | 10 a.m.
Diane Fimiano | Aquadiane1@aol.com

Party Time Dance | Tuesday | Noon-1 p.m.
Carol Page | (702) 205-0164 | carolpage11@yahoo.com

Power Walkers | Daily | 7:30 a.m.
Cheryl Beaudry | (702) 823-5441

Solera Starz Cardio Class | Tuesday | 8:30 a.m.
Candee Wolfe | (419) 230-9407; Ardena Golder | (702) 802-1963;
Lorie Frigillana | (702) 487-5725

Solera Starz Dance Aerobics
Monday, Wednesday, Friday | 8:30 a.m.
Arda Reitter | (702) 462-6167; Carol Page | (702) 205-0164

Solera Starz Line Dancing | Monday | 4:30-6 p.m.
Arda Reitter | (702) 462-6167; Carol Page | (702) 205-0164

Tai Chi Clinic | Monday & Thursday | 11:15 a.m.
Ken Pavese | (702) 407-8111

Yoga Friends | Tuesday & Thursday | 9 a.m.
Merrilee Gaines | mgaines823@hotmail.com

ZUMBA | Thursday | 8:30-9:30 a.m.
Mary Richard | (702) 521-2583

PERSONAL TRAINING SERVICES

Jan Griscom | (775) 291-9379
Wesley Allen | (702) 289-5417

SOLERIAN IS SANTA ALL YEAR LONG

IT'S CHRISTMAS EVERY MONTH FOR JOE AND MALINDA KAUFMAN

BY BETTY BOYD

It's Ho-Ho-Ho every month in Solera, where Villas residents Joe and Malinda Kaufman are Mr. and Mrs. Claus on a year-round basis. You may have seen their bright red sled, a van with the words "Santa Joe" on its flanks.

Joe and Malinda are from Philadelphia. They met at a restaurant at the Buck Hotel in Warminster, Pennsylvania, but she wasn't the girl he was set up to meet by one of his buddies. Instead, while he was waiting for his date, a redhead was checking him out. He asked her name and bought her a drink. After talking for an hour and a half, he was convinced this was the girl he would marry.

And they did, a year later. That was 20 years ago. They have six children and nine grandchildren.

It was also around 20 years ago that they were visiting Las Vegas, and were looking for an investment property. A friend of Joe's friend drove them to Solera, which was just getting built up. They bought, rented out the home for a few years, and finally moved to the community in 2015.





In Philadelphia, Joe worked in the publishing business (he also played ice hockey for 40 years). One day he was selling a printing project to an insurance company. His contact said they were looking for someone to play Santa Claus and asked if Joe might volunteer.

Usually, the company held its party at a country club, but this year the party would take place in the office and the money saved would be donated to 9/11 victims who had been associated with the insurance company. That day changed Joe forever, he says.

"This is the day I became Santa"

Malinda put up a sign at a local grocery announcing "Santa for Hire." The grocery's security company said the sign had to be removed, but also that it wanted to hire Joe for a party, a party he served for nearly a decade.

After playing Santa in Philadelphia for 18 years, the Kaufmans moved to Solera and Joe decided to grow a natural beard instead of the fake beard he'd used while playing Santa back East. He was doing a lot of home visits and sometimes there would be a request for a Mrs. Claus, so Malinda would go in costume as well.

Santa Joe does parties for casinos, volunteers for Downs Syndrome events, and works with the Las Vegas Hospitality Association. He does fill-a-bag events, that provide clothes, shoes and toys for each needy child attending. During the 2022 holiday season, he did several appearances in 25 days. He recently took part in a huge music video shoot, joining the Blue Man Group and many others to benefit a charity for children with cancer.

In Solera, Joe decorates his home with a sleigh and a reindeer. But with his van at the ready, he was Santa at more than 100 events in 2022. He says he especially enjoys the smiles on the faces of children and their parents. ✨





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ON BEING SANTA

BY TOM GORMAN



It was the most fun job I've ever had. And the most brief. I got to chuckle a lot and all the better if I could make my stomach bounce. The kids loved it. But a billowing Ho! Ho! Ho! was a no-no-no because it would startle the young ones. Dressed in my red suit, black belt and boots and hiding behind a big white beard that, the kids told me it tickled their faces,

I think I did pretty well in executing my charade. Most of the children treated me with respect. Their eyes big, they stared at me from close range and smiled. I handed candy canes before helping them off my lap.

For a couple of weeks at the local shopping mall, I was Santa Claus, perched atop my throne. I went through training, touching on what I needed to know (like the names of the reindeer), how to take a bathroom break ("Time to feed the reindeer!"), and how I needed to behave (no hugging a gaggle of giggling teenage girls who would sit in my lap together).

This holiday adventure was triggered by my job. I was a newspaper reporter, and I wanted to write a feature story appropriate for the Christmas season. The local shopping mall was advertising (discreetly) for Santa Clauses because, yes Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. Candidates would be trained on the do's and don'ts and fitted with costumes (including beards).

Reindeer weren't part of the deal, but I'd still be required to know their names: Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, Blitzen and, of course, Rudolph! I'd hope not to confuse Nixon for Vixen, Slasher for Dasher, vomit for Comet. Yeah, I was insecure. But thankfully, no kids asked me to name my reindeer. Things were going just fine.

Well, sort of. We'll get to that.

A handful of us old geezers enlisted through a local employment agency to play Santa. We were admonished to not make any promises, to have no booze on our breath, to be gentle with the kids in our laps, upbeat in our conversation, stay true to the Santa story, and to chat in such a way that the kiddies would leave our laps with smiles on their faces -- and parents relieved that this requisite ritual was well executed.

Some children were eager to climb up onto our laps, and that was a good thing, because we were taught to avoid picking up kids because it might lead to a hernia. Instead, extend your leg and let the kids climb up.

Other kids -- shy or confused ones -- just stood their distance, covering behind their moms, tears gently rolling down their cheeks.



It was my job to persuade these youngsters that I was here on layover from the North Pole, that Santa's helpers were busy making toys, and that, yes, traveling to your home is on my map and if you hear some thumps on the roof, don't worry, just close your eyes and know that I'm safe and sound and leaving gifts behind and the reindeer are restless and ready to take flight again.

Yes, I would say, I'd love for you to put a cookie on the fireplace mantle – and what, you don't have a chimney? Don't worry, I have other ways of bringing toys into your home as long as you don't wake up.

When each child was discharged from my lap, I'd reach into my bag of candy canes. In training, we were told – seriously – to not resist if an older kid demanded all our candy canes. Depending on the neighborhood, it's not unheard, we were warned, for a Santa to feel something sharp -- usually a hard-rubber toy knife -- pressing against his side, with a demand for "all your candy canes or else!" Santa is under strict instructions to turn over the candy.

Oh my, the stories Santa gets to hear. "You're missing your front teeth," I remarked to one boy. "My brother threw a glass at me," he explained. Another boy had a bruise on his face, and said matter-of-factly, "My dad hit me."

My stint was about to end in a few days, and I was ready for early retirement. I would surrender my Santa suit and close out my employment paperwork. The next day, while my memory was still fresh, I wrote my story for the newspaper. The headline: "Playing Santa Can Be Tough Sledding." ✨



Want to experience the thrill of being a mall Santa in 2024?

Go to this website to pursue such a job, including at the nearby Sunset Galleria Mall.

cherryhillprograms.com/join-our-team/holiday-jobs



ANNOUNCEMENT

**WE'LL CELEBRATE
'CHRISTMAS IN
JULY' IN 2024**

WHAT IS CHRISTMAS IN JULY?

In July 2024 the *Solera Star* Recipe Exchange will host a holiday cookie contest. All Solera residents are invited to participate. All cookie recipes are welcome.

HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

Keep your favorite holiday cookie recipe handy. We'll share more details as July approaches, but if you can't wait, contact Nadyne Sweetko at renons@aol.com to enter the contest.

WHERE AND WHEN?

The event will be held the month of July located in the clubhouse's Stardust Ballroom with a future date to be announced. Cookies will be judged, and then shared with all Solerans in attendance.

Look for more details in future issues of the *Solera Star*. ✨



Editor's note: We asked several Solerans to share their holiday memories.

SMOKE SIGNALS TO SANTA

Holiday memories take many forms, from yikes, did that really happen to belly laughs and misty eyes. When I walk down memory lane, I smile no matter if it's burnt dinner delicacies or singing carols off key.

I was 5, I believed in Santa and everything Christmas. Still do, although I'm a bit on the fence about Old Saint Nick these days.

One belief was Kris Kringle read every epistle he received. Naturally my parents encouraged this correspondence; I didn't know I was writing their shopping list.

The night before Christmas and all through my house, a snoopy 5-year-old attempted to find gifts she would receive in addition to the presents arriving in a big sack on the back of a jolly fellow who amazingly fit in our chimney. During my search, I found my letter to Santa; it hadn't been sent! This led to a shower of tears.

Sobbing, I asked my dad, how would Santa know what I wanted? Quick as lightning, he grasped my letter, tossing it into the fireplace. He told me not to worry, he was sending it to Saint Nick using smoke signals! Who knew Father Christmas could read smoke signals?

I was thrilled, Barbie would be fashionably dressed. It never occurred to me the elves might have met their toy-making deadline and were enjoying a well deserved pine tree martini with a pine cone charcuterie board. Not to mention Santa could be roasted like a marshmallow sliding down our chimney.

My dad's clever problem solving rescued my holiday dreams. I learned that day to never underestimate the power of communication, especially smoke signals.

— TERESA BETTENCOURT

SANTA BRINGS A LIONEL TRAIN

The memory I have of Christmas when I was a child has remained with me over 73 years.

I was six years old in 1950. The days before Christmas seemed magical, the way the snow looked on the ground and on the trees. The snowflakes fluttered down, the nights were clear, and the stars were incredibly bright.

In the '50s Christmas shopping was done in the downtown area of our city, Youngstown, Ohio. The department stores would display toys, clothing, lady's cosmetics and accessories. There would be Christmas music playing as you walked along the streets. I couldn't wait to see Santa Claus in the toy department in one of the stores.

A Christmas catalog from Sears and Roebuck, full of toys, came in the mail at the beginning of December. My brothers, my sister and I would argue about who would look at the catalog first. When it was my turn, I would look through it and dream about the toys Santa would bring me. My two brothers, my sister and I would receive about five toys each.

That Christmas I got a Lionel train set. I will never forget it. I remember Dad and I assembled the tracks. The train came with special pills to put in the smokestack on the locomotive, and the train's horn would blow as it went around the Christmas tree. The tree lights gave a warm glow reflecting from the tinsel on the tree.

I remember Mom and Dad sitting on the sofa, smiling at us kids being excited and playing with our toys. I miss the magical days of yesteryear.

— TOM SWEETKO

HOW WE CELEBRATE IN GREECE

As a child in a small Greek village, named Ahladocampos, I would get together with my friends on Christmas Eve morning. We would carry around a small metal triangle and sing Christmas carols, called Kalanda, to wish the people a happy holiday, prosperity, and luck. In return, the people would give us a little money (drachmas) or treats. We'd also carry a container in case we received olive oil, which we would trade in at the store for money to buy candy.

We celebrated Christmas on December 25, which was the day that St. Basil (the Greek Santa Claus) brought us gifts. However, we wouldn't open the gifts until January 1, which was when we would celebrate St. Basil. (I would sometimes tease my children about having to wait until January 1 to open presents, a thought of which they disapproved.)

My mom always baked a cake for St. Basil, with the tradition of hiding a coin in it. We cut the cake at 12:01 a.m. on New Year's Day. The first piece was for Christ, the second for the Virgin Mary, the third for the house, and the rest was for the family by order of age. (I was the youngest and would get the last piece — which could be the smallest or biggest.) Whoever got the coin would have luck throughout the year.

As a maritime country, the traditional Greek symbol of Christmas is the karavaki — a decorated miniature wooden boat. Nowadays, there's also Christmas trees, but you may also see the karavakis as well.

Our traditional Greek pastries are melomakarona (honey cookies) and kourbiedes (almond butter cookies). If you come sing Kalanda on Christmas Eve morning, I may give you some.

— EVANGELOS K. LATHOURIS

MEALS AT MULTIPLE GRANDMOTHERS

Back in my youth, I spent the holidays eating two large meals at my grandmothers' houses. Fortunately, I only had two!

First was a noisy Italian feast around multiple tables pushed together to fill the dining and living rooms. Every kind of Italian food continued to add to the congestion on the table.

The grown-ups would eat their meal and sit around nibbling and talking for hours. The cousins all ran around terrorizing the neighborhood and riding bikes dangerously down the steep hill that ran past my grandparents' house with a busy street just three houses down.

Mid-afternoon we made our way to my Austrian grandmother's house for a quiet traditional dinner: turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, etc. Grandma Ella was widowed when my father was just a teen and she relished her time with family.

We ended the evening opening our presents from grandma — homemade matching PJs for me and my four siblings. We drove home in them so we could jump right into bed after a long day. This memory comes to mind often as I enter my guest room and see by grandmother's Singer sewing machine.

These days it is more difficult to see all the relatives on one day. We have since adopted the tradition of having Christmas breakfast at my son's (I do the cooking) and then we play games for a while (last year I taught them Mexican Train and they loved it). Later, my son goes to his father's and wife's families, my daughter goes to her dad's, and Fred and I go to his family. No stress and we are usually home in time for just the two of us.

— LAURA ADDI

CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS TWICE

I was born and raised in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. As an Armenian, I was frequently asked why Armenians do not celebrate Christmas on December 25. My answer always used to be that we are fortunate little kids who celebrated two Christmases.

The simple explanation is that historically all Christian churches celebrated Christ's birth on January 6 until the fourth century. Christmas was not a separate church feast for the first four centuries in Christian history. It was celebrated with Epiphany, on January 6.

The Nativity began to be celebrated on December 25 in order to offset a pagan festival held that day, in order to put an end to the pagan practice. The church hierarchy designated December 25 as the official date of Christmas and January 6 as the feast of Epiphany.

Because the Armenian church was not a satellite of the Roman Catholic church, Armenians have continued to celebrate Christmas on January 6 until this day.

The Armenian church celebrates the Holy Birth (Sourp Dznount) of Jesus Christ on January 6. In Armenian tradition, this feast day commemorates not only the birth of Christ but also His baptism by John the Baptist.

The latter is remembered through the "Blessing of Water" ceremony, which is the Lord's baptism in the Jordan River. At the end of the ceremony, the congregation is given the blessed water to drink, as water is essential for life spiritual, cleansing, and healing.

— ARAXI DEMIRJIAN

HANUKKAH MEMORIES

I remember growing up on the East Coast in the 1960s and '70s, Hanukkah was always about family, food and telling the story of our ancestors. Luckily, I lived close to my cousins and we would always play football, basketball and, of course, spin the dreidel!

The dreidel is a four-sided spinning top, usually made of wood. Each side has a Hebrew letter; the letters stand for Whole, Half, Not and Put In. We used raisins instead of money or poker chips for these games, which comes from tradition.

We brought presents for everyone attending our celebration and after the meal we exchanged our gifts.

At sundown, we lit the Hanukkah menorah, which is a candelabra with eight candles, one representing each night of the Holiday. The extra candle to light the other candles is called the Shamash. We light one candle every night of Hanukkah, so on the eighth night there are eight candles lit. This commemorates the miracle of the Jewish people who were being attacked and only had enough oil for their lamps for eight days. After we lit the candles, we said a special blessing in Hebrew, thanking God for the miracle.

— STEVE GORDON

HOLIDAY PEACE COMES TO PARK FOREST

I was maybe 6 years old, just old enough to understand that "Indians" and "cowboys" didn't get along, which would explain the Christmas gift I got from my parents: A multi-piece "fort" built of brown plastic walls made to look like timber and which would connect to one another so my 2-inch-high hard-rubber figures (cowboys and Indians) could be properly positioned — cowboys within the walls of the fort, and Indians minding their own business, outside the fort.

For my own safety, I hung a cap gun on my belt. You just never know when it might be needed. It was mostly saved for use in the backyard, per my mom's instructions, and I learned that the caps were almost worthless.

The fort showed promise as a place where cowboys and soldiers back in the days of the Wild West could seek refuge and co-mingle while the Indians congregated just outside the fort minding their own business.

This fort got its footing in the family room of our home south of Chicago in a "village" called Park Forest.

Can't explain my logic, but after a few days, my 2-inch cowboy figures were co-mingling with my Indian friends — all of them now peacefully within the fort's perimeter. There was peace in Park Forest.

— TOM GORMAN

CHRISTMAS TREES AND OYSTER STEW

My mother was an early adopter of aluminum Christmas trees. According to the internet, they were introduced in the late 1950s and primarily produced by a company from Manitowoc, Wisconsin, which sold its “Evergleam” trees to millions of American families.

Illuminating such trees was done by a plastic wheel that sat on the floor and rotated in front of a light bulb, the tree alternately glowing red, blue, green or orange as the light shined through the colored panels.

I much preferred the old-fashioned real tree, decorated with ornaments and strings of popcorn and tinsel and lights, lights which back in the day, if one went out, the whole string went dark, leaving you to hunt one by one for the culprit. But such trees shed their needles and needed frequent watering and could be fire hazards.

One way to assure a real evergreen was fresh was to cut one down yourself, which is what we did when I became an adult with a wife and children. Living in Michigan, we had many options; and it was great fun bundling everyone up, trudging out across snow-covered ground, selecting just the right tree (ah, the family debates... this one! that one!), sawing through the trunk, and figuring out how to mount it on the roof for the drive home.

One other holiday memory featuring my mother was Christmas Eve dinner, with relatives and family friends. Some years it was at our house, some years at my aunt and uncle’s. Aunt Marge would make wonderful sticky buns and my Mom would make — from scratch — a huge vat of oyster stew, which I found disgusting, and thus a can of chicken noodle would be opened for the brat.

In Solera, I hang large holiday ornaments from the branches of the African sumac trees in front of my house, and decorate a tall, metal tree sculpture in my living room with pixie lights and cherished ornaments.

— LARRY EDSALL

SANTA VISITS THE UNION HALL

In the mid-1950s my father took my two brothers and I to a Christmas party at his union hall. My Dad worked in a steel mill and belonged to the AFL-CIO. The union held a party each year so the members could bring their children to see Santa Claus and receive a present.

Each of us got a candy cane and a popcorn ball wrapped in colored cellophane rolled closed on each end. Then, Dad took my hand and walked me over to the line to see Santa Claus. I stood there waiting for my turn and planning what I would ask. When it was my turn, I asked for a baby doll. After visiting Santa Claus, the boys went in one line and girls in another line. Each boy received a truck, each girl a doll.

I remember being so happy on the drive home, holding my doll and goodies. When we arrived home, my brothers and I ran into the house to show Mom our gifts. She had to stay home with our new baby sister. Mom and Dad tried to have us talk one at a time, but it was out of control. Mom just laughed and listened. The joy of childhood, a wonderful time to remember.

— NADYNE SWEETKO

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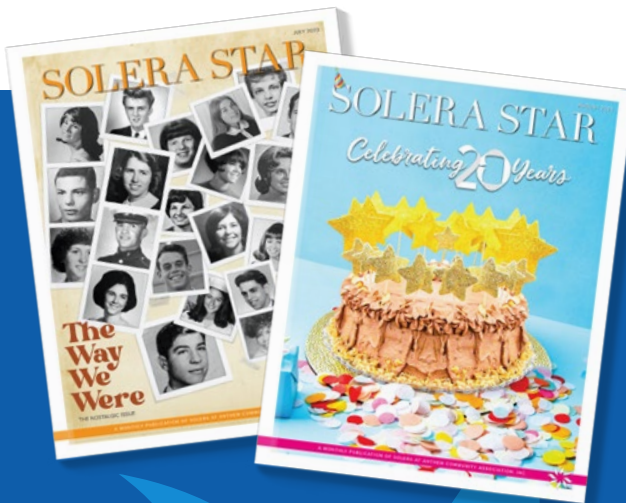
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HOW DID CLARK COUNTY GET ITS NAME?

What we know as Clark County, Nevada, was part of Nevada's Lincoln County, until February 5, 1908, when the southern part of Lincoln was separated and renamed in honor of Sen. William A. Clark.

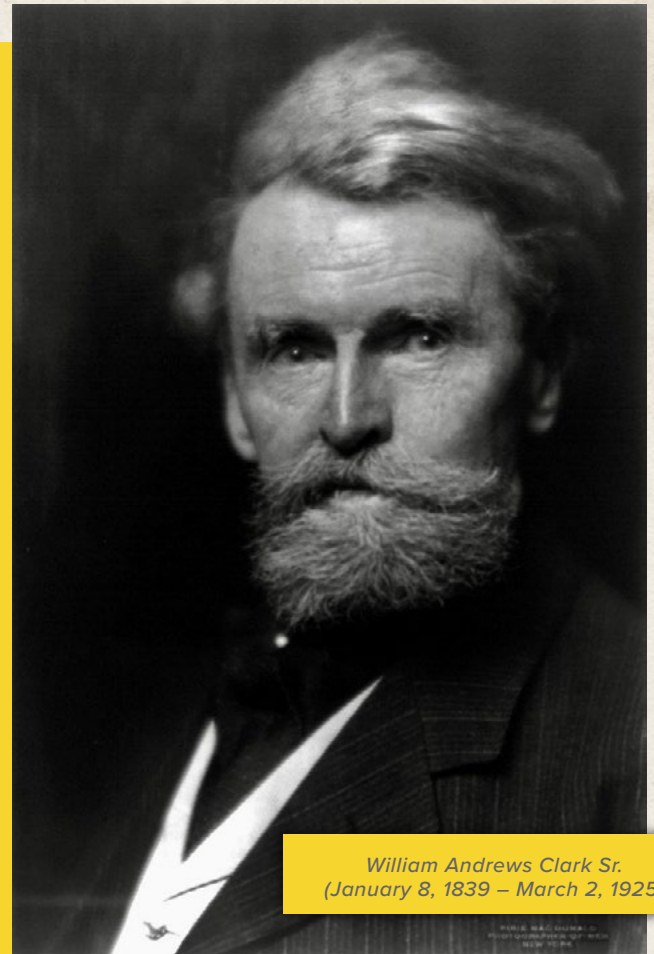
William A. Clark was not a senator representing Nevada. Instead, he was from Montana, but got his name on the new Nevada county because he'd built the San Pedro, Los Angeles and Salt Lake Railway.

Actually, Clark was a native of Pennsylvania. His family moved to Iowa when Clark was a teenager. He studied law at Iowa Wesleyan College and also taught school there. In his early 20s, he left to work mines in Colorado, but stayed only a year before joining the Montana gold rush.

Though his claim was termed modest, he started transporting supplies from Salt Lake City to Montana. He became a banker, newspaper owner, and reportedly made a fortune repossessing mining properties, especially those producing copper. He was considered among Montana's "copper kings."

In addition to mining, he continued to profit from transportation. Though officially known as the "Salt Lake Route," his railroad from Los Angeles to Salt Lake City (and across Nevada) often was called simply the "Clark Road."

Clark served as a U.S. Senator from 1901-1907. His earlier bid for the Senate ended in scandal after he reportedly paid members of the Montana legislature for their votes (Senators were chosen by state legislatures until the passage of the 17th Amendment in 1913).



*William Andrews Clark Sr.
(January 8, 1839 – March 2, 1925)*



*San Pedro, Los Angeles,
and Salt Lake Railroad
locomotive #32, early 1900s*



GOOEY BRIE CANDY CANE

BY NADYNE SWEETKO

Jump To Recipe On Page 31 >



This Goopy Brie Christmas Candy Cane recipe is from Laura Addi. Laura and her husband, Fred, moved to Solera two years ago. They have been married for 28 years, living previously in Washington and California. They decided to leave California because of taxes and the direction the state was going. Laura has a daughter, a son and three grandchildren.

Laura’s son made this recipe on one of Laura’s visits and she liked it so much she began making it.

Many of you may know Laura and Fred from all the activities they are involved in here in Solera. They are contributing writers for the *Solera Star*, and she is secretary of the Solera Communications Committee. She and Fred also are part of the new Solera Writers Group.

Another activity Laura enjoys is pickleball; she is secretary/treasurer of the Solera Pickleball Club and helps with planning parties for the club.

Laura takes classes for yoga, works jig saw puzzles, plays bocce ball, billiards, poker and swims. She also monitors Solera’s lost & found collection at the monitor’s desk in the clubhouse and donates unclaimed items to charity.

Her faith is very important to her and she tries to reflect Christ by serving and generously giving to others.

Laura worked as an office manager for Los Angeles County and for an insurance company before she retired. She met Fred playing tennis (check the February 2023 issue of the *Star* for that story).

We can conclude that Laura has been active all her life and does not plan on slowing down any time soon.



RECIPE Solera Star Recipe Exchange

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1. Find your favorite recipe
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3. Nadyne Sweetko email: Renons@aol.com
4. Schedule month to appear in the *Solera Star*
5. Prepare your recipe
6. Be interviewed and have photos taken at your home or clubhouse

Note from Nadyne: *This Goopy Brie Christmas Candy Cane would look lovely on anyone’s holiday table. You could also arrange the crescent roll triangles to form a wreath.*

Once you slice and serve this amazing Brie Christmas Candy Cane, expect to be praised by your guests. Serve while it is warm from the oven. The sweetness from the honey and dried cranberries will be a welcome delight. The warm gooey brie, the preserves and the crunch of the pistachio nuts will be a bite full of goodness. The crescent roll is soft and buttery. The smell of the warm honey is very pleasant as well.

Everyone will want another slice as soon as they finish your first one. This can be served as an appetizer or along side any main entrée.



INGREDIENTS:

- 2 Pillsbury crescent rolls 8-ounce size
- 8 oz Brie, cut in 1-inch cubes
- 1/3 cup cranberry preserves
- 1/2 cup dried cranberries
- 1/2 cup pistachios, chopped
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh rosemary, plus a few sprigs for garnish
- 1 teaspoon flaky sea salt
- 2 tablespoons honey

PREP:

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Place parchment paper on a large cookie sheet.

Place a 2 to 3-inch bowl or similar item in the middle about a third of the way down and draw a straight line down the both sides of the right-side circle to form the candy cane (see photo).

Unroll and separate *all* the crescent rolls. Lay end of triangle bottom along the outside lines, overlapping 2 to 3 inches on sides. Press around seams to secure edges.

Spread cranberry preserves, top with Brie pieces, sprinkle half the pistachios and half the dried cranberries.

Remove the bowl and fold the pointed ends of crescent rolls over mixture, overlapping edges to avoid leakage and tuck under the base. Brush with beaten egg and sprinkle with rosemary and sea salt. Bake 18–20 minutes until gooey.

Drizzle with honey and additional nuts and berries and rosemary sprigs. Sprinkle with flaky salt if desired.

Cool slightly and transfer candy cane to a board or platter. Slice and enjoy. ✨



FURRY MAGIC: THERE IS AN ANGEL AMONG US

BY PAMELA WILSON

In our celestial neighborhood, where the stars seem to twinkle a little brighter, reside a special duo, Patty and Richard Elkins, an extraordinary couple whose compassion and dedication shine as brightly as the celestial bodies that grace our evening skies. Their story is one that warms the heart and exemplifies the power of the bond between humans and their furry friends, and the transformative magic of charity work.

Embarking on their adventures back in the 1980s, their paths converged within the bustling confines of a California phone company.

Kindled by a cultural influence, Richard orchestrated a unique proposal for Patty, presenting her with a Japanese engagement chest (a profound emblem of their unwavering dedication and the pledge of a shared journey ahead.)

As time went on, they chartered their course through Colorado, Northern California, and a small town in northern Nevada until destiny led them to our Solera community.

Nestled within their story is their profound love of Bernese Mountain dogs, a remarkable, gentle breed from Bern, Switzerland. They have owned four others of the same breed, and now you should meet the fifth, Bernadette, the four-legged luminary of the story. Bernadette is not just any ordinary dog; she is a 110-pound therapy dog with a heart as vast as the cosmos.

The couple's life purpose to help others was enriched when they recognized Bernadette's innate ability to connect with people. After her "Sit means Sit"

training, it wasn't long before they decided to channel her gift into a greater purpose through a certified therapy enhancement training program offered by Michael's Angel Paws. This charity was founded by a couple who lost their young son and channeled their grief by honoring his life the day he became an angel.

Understanding how a canine companionship can create hope, the organization launched several AKA-approved courses and dedicated itself to networking the canine graduates to events and causes throughout Las Vegas and beyond. Bernadette's training encompassed a spectrum of skills, from confidently riding elevators to skillfully navigating hospital corridors, hallways and staircases, and to posing for photographs on demand.

Throughout her ongoing training, Patty and Richard continued to embark on a mission to spread love, comfort, and joy to individuals in hospitals, nursing homes, mortuaries, children's charities, hospice care, and charitable and employee events.

Children, adults, and seniors alike find solace in Bernadette's warm and welcoming presence, as the therapy sessions often turn into moments of shared gratitude laughter, and heartfelt conversations.

What sets this trio apart is their unwavering commitment to making a difference and the extraordinary lengths they have gone to accommodate Bernadette's substantial



size. Understanding the importance of her role in their charitable endeavors, Patty and Richard invested in a special minivan that could comfortably transport Bernadette. It's a testament to the couple's boundless love for their canine companion and their unyielding dedication to their cause.

In conversation with Patty and Richard, their eyes light up as they share stories of Bernadette's interactions with those they visit.

"She has this incredible ability to sense when someone needs her most," Patty explains, her voice brimming with pride. Richard adds, "It's as if she carries an innate understanding of the healing power she bestows upon people, especially children. When someone is boldly grinning and says, 'You made my day!'"

"It's so rewarding for us," they explain in unison.

As the stars continue to grace the skies above our Solera community, Patty, Richard, and Bernadette continue to make their mark on the world, one paw print at a time. Their story is a reminder that kindness, compassion, and a touch of furry magic can illuminate even the darkest corners of our lives. ✨

For more information about Michael's Angel Paws, email info@michaelsangelpaws.org

HALLOWEEN PUMPKIN & COSTUME CONTEST WINNERS



Contestants



First Place



Second Place



Third Place



Costume Contest Winners



ARE YOU A PINBALL WIZARD?

NOSTALGIC FUN IN VEGAS AT 25 CENTS A GAME

BY LARRY EDSALL

The Who sang about the Pinball Wizard in 1969. Six years later, Elton John played that role in the film version of the rock opera, *Tommy*. A couple decades later, the song was featured in the 2019 Elton John bio flick, *Rocketman*.

Just a few miles from Solera, you can celebrate the glory years of pinball, and perhaps turn the clock back to your younger, if misspent, years, by visiting the Pinball Hall of Fame. The 25,000-square-foot facility (twice the size of its earlier home) is located on The Strip, just east of the Welcome to Las Vegas sign, and offers free admission and parking.

The west wall of the building proclaims “PINBALL” in huge letters. Inside there are hundreds of machines, part of what is believed to be the largest such collection in the world. For the most part, it costs only a quarter to play vintage games and four bits for games produced in and since the 1990s.

The day we went, nine of us — ages 9 to 75 — all together spent only \$30, well, to be more precise, only 120 quarters. We left after two entertaining and enjoyable hours, each of us eager to return.

That money is well spent; the Hall of Fame is operated by the Las Vegas Pinball Collectors Club and is a 501c3 non-profit and helps to support such charities as the Salvation Army.

“We change the rubber rings more often than we have to. We replace light bulbs the minute they burn out. That doesn't make any economic sense.” founder Tim Arnold admits on the Hall's website. If we were professional, we'd let things slide a little. There's no real economic reason for this to exist, or capitalism would've already built it.”

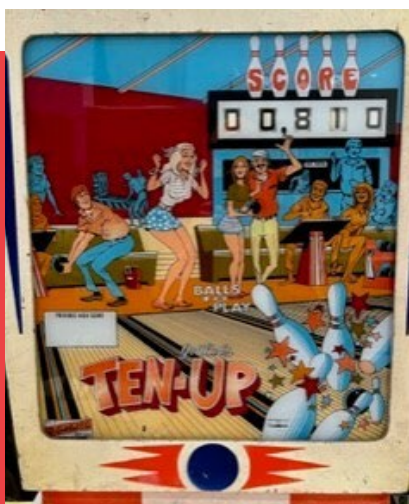




Arnold grew up in Lansing, Michigan. He bought his first used machine when he was a teenager in the early 1970s and before long operated Pinball Pete's in Lansing and Ann Arbor. By 1990, he sold his share of the business and retired to Las Vegas, a process that took two years since he was bringing with him nearly 1,000 machines from his collection. He restored hundreds of them to playing condition and started hosting Salvation Army-benefit pinball parties in a 10,000-square-foot backyard building he called "The Shed."

He launched the collectors club located a building fund and the Hall of Fame was the result, residing at 4925 Las Vegas Boulevard South since April 2021.

The Hall's website is www.pinballmuseum.org and it is, indeed, a hands-on museum. You can play the games, or you can just wander and marvel at their artwork and electronics, and study the handwritten cards that provide the history of many of the machines. ✨



SPORTS & FITNESS OPPORTUNITIES AT SOLERA

WATER VOLLEYBALL, ZUMBA, STARZ CARDIO AT THE CLUBHOUSE

BY BETTY BOYD

Editor's note: This is the second installment in a series focusing on sports and fitness opportunities at the Solera Clubhouse.

Solera residents are offered a variety of sports and fitness programs at our clubhouse. Earlier, we featured pickleball and Yoga Friends. This month's subjects are water volleyball, Zumba and cardio exercising.



SUSAN NEWMAN — WATER VOLLEYBALL

Susan Newman has been the president of Solera's water volleyball club since 2021. She got involved when living in Idaho while working at Crunch Fitness. She brought in a ball to hit around just for fun, but there was so much enthusiasm that she was able to start a water volleyball class. When she moved to Solera, Susan got together with Sandi Anderson, the lifestyle director, to launch a water volleyball in our pool.

A beach ball is used so no one gets hurt, and the program is open to both the athletic and the nonathletic. Water volleyball benefits include a lot of stretching, hand-and-eye coordination, and fun. Participants laugh and have a good time while also improving at the sport.

There are no certification needed to teach water volleyball. Besides being fun, the benefits are that it gives people an opportunity to use muscles without strain.

Susan notes that while teaching in Idaho, she saw an individual who had cerebral palsy increase mobility from doing water volleyball.

"Everyday is fun, along with the people bringing their own flavor to the game," said Susan.



MARY RICHARD — ZUMBA

Mary Richard has been an instructor of the Zumba class for 15 years. She saw a flyer advertising a Zumba workshop in Las Vegas and signed up. Mary also has been a dancer since the age 3, and those skills translated well in teaching this class.

Zumba is a dance-based exercise started by Colombian dancer Beto Perez, who moved to Miami, Florida, and started Zumba.

Certification is required of teachers. Mary took a full training day and belongs to the Zumba Instructor Network. The training is updated regularly to keep certification up-to-date.

The benefits of Zumba are movement to dance music, helping heart rate, and blood pressure, reducing stress, improving your balance, muscle toning, and working the mind by learning different dance movements.

"Zumba is exercise in disguise," Mary said.

Mary's favorite memory is the many friendships she has made around the world during her years of teaching. Zumba is a fun dance class that will motivate you in getting exercise while meeting new friends along the way.

ON THE WEB

Please see the photos below and more on our website at www.soleranews.com under Event Galleries.



CANDIE WOLFE — SOLERA STARZ CARDIO

Candie Wolfe is an instructor for the Solera Starz Cardio. While living in Lima, Ohio, she was an instructor teaching cardio for four years at the YMCA. When she moved to Solera, she wanted to adopt a cardio program for the residents here.

She loves the people who come to the class and ensures everyone gets a well-rounded workout. It is a well-balanced workout that includes a warm-up, stretches, and cardio activities that gets the heart rate up before a cool down.

Candie is certified in CPR and has liability insurance. She said the positive feedback from participants is what inspires her to keep teaching.

Cardio is good for your heart and lungs. The group does a lightweight workout for muscle toning and dancing that is good for the legs.



Health Fair Event



Solera Fine Arts Show



Halloween Event



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Hello Solera Homeowners!

It's hard to believe that this is the last issue of 2023! This year has flown by... once upon a time, my mother told me that each new year would pass faster than the previous year (and of course I didn't understand... until now!). She was right!

As always, I am including a list of all the available homes for sale and for rent in Solera at Anthem on this page. If you would like to have information on the recent closed sales, just call or email me and I will get that right over to you. I am always happy to provide you with any real estate related information that you are looking for (About Solera, or any location in the Valley).

In January, I will give you the "recap" of the 2023 Year in Real Estate for the community, with all the stats and a comparison to the previous year. Our market is still strong and although relatively balanced still leans slightly toward being a Seller's market. The balance between lower inventory and higher interest rates has kept us on a pretty even keel, with homes still selling for good prices in a reasonable amount of time.

I hope that you are having a wonderful holiday season!



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SOUTHERN NEVADA PROPERTIES



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HOMES LISTED FOR SALE*

Address	List Price	Approx Liv Area	Model	Address	List Price	Approx Liv Area	Model
2572 Red Planet St	\$375,000	1,142	Lewis	2411 Santeria Star Dr	\$450,000	1,596	Whitney
2576 Centaurus St	\$359,900	1,142	Lewis	2423 Erastus Dr	\$455,000	1,596	Whitney
2574 Darda St	\$385,500	1,142	Lewis	2394 Amana Dr	\$495,000	1,596	Whitney
2570 Darda St	\$375,000	1,248	Clark	2258 Jada Dr	\$425,000	1,596	Whitney
2552 Eclipsing Stars Dr	\$389,900	1,248	Clark	2312 Cordelia St	\$432,000	1,596	Whitney
2412 Gamma Ray Pl	\$395,000	1,248	Clark	2536 Corvus St	\$449,000	1,596	Whitney
2340 Apparition St	\$415,000	1,425	Fremont	2520 Solera Sky Dr	\$525,000	1,768	Franklin
2581 Eclipsing Stars Dr	\$415,000	1,425	Fremont	2570 Solera Moon Dr	\$475,000	1,768	Franklin

LVR MLS. Information Deemed Reliable but Not Guaranteed. Properties may have pending offers or applications.

HOMES LISTED FOR RENT*

Address	List Price	Approx Liv Area	Model	Address	List Price	Approx Liv Area	Model
2350 Peaceful Sky Dr	\$1,695	1,142	Lewis	2323 Bildad Dr	\$2,100	1,596	Whitney
2564 Anani Rd	\$1,800	1,425	Fremont	2328 Meteor Shower St	\$2,250	1,596	Whitney
2652 Solar Corona Ln	\$2,195	1,584	Monroe				

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