



Gnome News

A Publication Of The International Gnome Club

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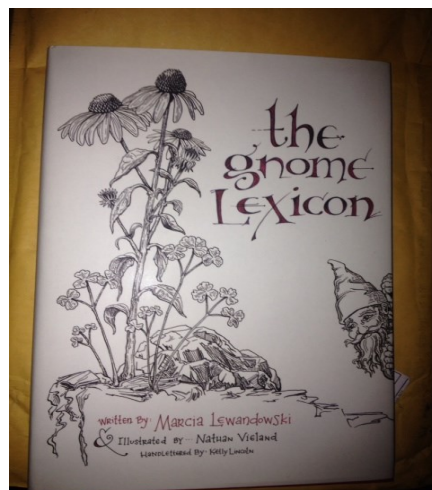
Hello Gnomers!

I Hope you and your Gnomes are doing well!
My Gnome family grew a little at Christmas time
and I received some very nice gifts.
I have a new Gnome birdfeeder hanging in a tree
and a Gnome puzzle waiting to be put together.

For those of you that love Gnome lore, the book,
“**The Gnome Lexicon**”, is a must! This book by
Marcia Lewandowski, covers more than 70
Gnomes, from 59 cultures. The illustrations by Na-
than Vieland, and hand lettering by Kelly Lincoln
are delightful.

The author intro-
duces you to the
Gnomes of the
South Pacific, the
Far Orient, and
many other
places all over the
world.

The author writes
about the Gnomes
of the forest, jun-
gle, mountains,
Gnomes that dwell in mines, cellars, stables, and the home. The Gnomes of Yuletide
chapter includes descriptions of the Julenisse, Joulutonttu, Kallikantzaroi, Jultomte and
the Jolasveinarnir. One of my favorite Gnomes from the book is called, Nagumwesuck.
This Gnome is found in Maine and some of the Canadian provinces. Amazon has the
book in stock and priced at \$20.52.



Check out Chia Gnome on Amazon!

Happy Gnome Sightings!

Membership dues: \$15.00. Three issues of “Gnome News” sent by e-mail. (Add \$5.00 if you would prefer to have your copy sent by snail-mail.) Send U.S. check or cash. Checks payable to: Liz Spera, 3901 Ayres Holmes Ln., Auburn, Ca. 95602 U.S.A. E-mail: gnomegnet@aol.com Website: www.gnomereserve.co.uk/club
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Celebrating Gnomers' Day in Joliet, Illinois

By Alyssa L. Ochs

Our last issue of The International Gnome Club Newsletter featured a great article about how to prepare for and celebrate Gnomers' Day on December 1st. With just a bit of research, I was delighted to find a Gnomers' Day celebration in my neck of the woods. The [Billie Limacher Bicentennial Park](#) in Joliet, Illinois hosted their 36th Annual Festival of the Gnomes with a musical theater performance and a craft fair on December 1, 2012.

A 90-minute musical theater show was performed at both 1:00 and 3:30pm, and featured around 50 actors of all ages telling stories and singing songs about gnomes. The park building lobby was transformed into a "gnomemade" craft



fair filled with gnomish creations from local artists. Girl and boy stuffed gnome dolls were raffled off at the end of the festival. Despite my fifteen raffle entries, I was not fortunate to win either one of them! Refreshments of baked goods and coffee were also served.

the worthwhile \$3.00 for a felt hat (red for boys, green for girls) and decorated it with a variety of pins, feathers, and jewels. A tassel was added to your hat each year you returned to the festival. No one had more tassels than the park's own founder and president, Billie Limacher, who sported thirty-six tassels for each year the gnome festival was held. I had the pleasure of meeting Billie, who was a spunky and enthusiastic 90+ year-old woman wearing an elaborate "grandma gnome" costume.



I could barely contain my excitement throughout the day, as I had never been surrounded by so many other gnome enthusiasts all at once before. I can truly say that Gnomers' Day was one of the best days I've ever had. I made new gnome collector friends, handed out business cards to network with local gnome artists, and bought more than my fair share of crafts to add to my expanding gnome collection. I hope that you all were able to celebrate OUR holiday in some way as well, and I can't wait to see what's in store for Gnomers' Day 2013!

2,300+ GNOMES IN THE CITY OF OAKLAND, CA.

By Jean Fenstermaker



On January 27, 2013 a neighbor brought over a page torn from that day's *San Francisco Chronicle* newspaper with an article that made headlines on the very front page titled, "Little gnomes bring smiles around town" with two pictures, continuing onto the reverse side and a third accompanying photograph. This was the first of even other news media items I would be alerted to by more friends and

family in the days to follow. Even a niece living in Illinois reported to me that a similar article appeared in her local paper. Some heard about the sightings on recent television morning and evening news casts.

The event had begun at least a year ago on a very small scale that has now grown to an army of over 2,300 gnomes painted on little 6 inch high wooden plaques screwed to the bases of utility poles.



"When you see these whimsical, magical little creatures, you're reminded what an incredible city Oakland is, that's it's more than just crime," said C. J. Hirschfield, director of Children's Fairyland. "Plus, they're just plain adorable."



PG&E (Pacific Gas & Electric) owns some of the poles that the gnomes are on and became very unhappy about them threatening to "exterminate" them. When the citizens learned about that possibility, they spoke up loud and clear that they want these cute miniscule beings left alone citing that they are universally loved.





They've inspired photo essays, websites, gnome-hunting expeditions, and much neighborhood chatter. Shannon Taylor, art and restoration director at Fairyland, said the gnomes force passers-by to slow down and pay attention to the magic unfolding quietly around them.

The heaviest concentration of these gnomes has been centered around Children's Fairyland on the banks of Lake Merritt. People love tracking them and many have indicated that they are cool to have around and are totally welcome.

A housepainter by trade, who wishes to remain anonymous, is said to be the one who has been painting and setting up about ten or more new pieces of his artwork nightly as he roams the streets with his pet dog. At one point he contacted the City of Oakland requesting officials to grant political asylum. They responded saying they would have an emergency meeting "holding peace talks with PG&E in a secret mushroom patch near the Rose Garden."

The artist then explained that he's not seeking publicity for himself. He wrote in an email to PG&E, "We see too much garbage on the streets here, too many shootings, too much violence, not enough that makes one stop and smile...They were meant to be an ongoing gift to my community. I'm a resident of Oakland who simply thought this would be a nice way to make my fellow Oaklanders happy and proud."

Children's Fairyland offered him a lifetime golden key, which he declined because he didn't want to risk his anonymity.

Surprisingly, public outcry won out.



They all realized that these gnomes are indeed much loved. PG&E at first had stated they couldn't have anything that could compromise the integrity of their equipment and feared that additional people might place more things on their property. Although they would rather that the gnomes migrate to other locales, spokesman Jason King for PG&E has since announced that they will not forcibly relocate them, declaring the poles to be "gnome man's land!"

I still find it difficult to believe that a big outfit like PG&E could be pushed around by some cute little gnomes but so glad of the result.

* * *

GNOMES & POLITICS

I can't help but think of our beloved Gnomes when I get wind of our government's selfish political maneuvers these days. I neither subscribe to news magazines nor a newspaper, or tune in to very much news on the TV. Thinking about our government's on-going behavior has become too much for me to fathom.



I can't imagine Gnomes walking out on a meeting when a decision is needed for the good of the Gnome world ... belligerently refusing to act appropriately ... not using their heads by sticking with serious issues or causes at hand ... and backing away from amicably coming to fair and positive agreements for the good of all. That, however, is what our own human government members have been doing for too long.

Gnomes don't have outdated political parties that can't see the forest for the trees. They've been around for hundreds of years – working things out to survive as a group that's united in caring ways, trying to help our whole world (and too many uncaring humans) by quietly teaching equitable, loving, wholesome ways.

Gnomes are straight thinkers – not influenced by lobbyists or ever allowing themselves to be bought for voting a certain way. They don't have personal political agendas and seek political favors (or need them).

Who can picture Gnomes arguing with each other and angrily walking away from an important discussion? Gnomes aren't that rude and inconsiderate, but humans can be.

Wouldn't it be swell if our Congress and other U.S. leaders all started to think straight – and started to act like they really care about important issues in our wonderful country? Lots of things could be fixed and wasteful spending could even be curtailed.

Gnomes don't waste anything – they don't seek (or confer) political favors -- and they don't have internal conflicts because of stubborn vision (current or for the future).

Our human lives are so overly and unnecessarily complicated. We all need to analyze our days and see what we can eliminate to simplify life (which may even conserve finances).

I'm so glad I love caring Gnomes and appreciate their wholesome ways of life. May I always hold those Gnome-imparted thoughts close to my heart.

GNOME DEVOTEE

An Idea About a Gnome Museum

By Alyssa L. Ochs – September 21, 2012

I recently helped my grandma, Ruth, move into an assisted living facility due to her health. For nearly thirty years, she lived in a lovely three-bedroom ranch home in a quiet Central Illinois town. Although she was not a gnome collector, she collected souvenir bells, decorative plates, and angel figurines. As a beloved member of her church and community, Grandma Ruth's friends and neighbors always give her small gifts for her birthday, Christmas, and as travel souvenirs.



Moving to Brookstone Estates meant Grandma Ruth would need to downsize her belongings to fit into a small one-bedroom apartment. As my parents and I sorted through the rooms of her house, we were overwhelmed by how many collectible items she had collected over the years. She slowly came to realize that she could not take many of her treasures with her.

Since neither my parents nor I had ample storage space, we arranged to hold an estate auction at the community building. Setting aside her most favorite pieces to keep, we reluctantly boxed up her collectibles, applied priced

tags, and set them on tables for neighbors and friends to browse through. Almost all of Grandma Ruth's collectible items were purchased at the estate auction. However, I couldn't help but feel a pit in my stomach over her beloved bells, plates, and angels being sold for pocket change to people I didn't know.

This experience made me think about my own collection of gnomes and other gnome collections around the world. Then an idea came to me...a gnome museum! I would love to create a museum for gnome collectors to contribute to and for gnome fans to visit. To put these ideas into motion, I would reach out to gnome collectors and inquire if they would be willing to donate one gnome from their collections to join gnomes from around the globe to be featured in the museum. The International Gnome Club Newsletter is a perfect venue to get the word out! I would also manage a website with details about how to donate gnomes to the museum and blueprints of how the museum would be organized. I've already secured the domain name, www.gnomemuseum.com. I have a few ideas about how to organize the museum to feature individual rooms for collectors with multiple donations, separate sections for gnomes doing different activities and collected from different eras. In addition to gnomish displays, I would love to organize family-friendly activities and events such as gnome craft-making, gnome scavenger hunts in the yard, gnome-themed refreshments, and a gnome expert speaker series.

Although I have some ideas, I am sure that some of you gnome enthusiasts reading this have many more! I would love to hear your thoughts about establishing a gnome museum, what should be included in one, and suggested museum locations. Although Grandma Ruth has come to terms with her lost collections and enjoys living at Brookstone Estates, I can't help but think she'd be happier if her beloved items were consolidated in one place for others to truly appreciate the way she did. Please contact me by email with your thoughts, suggestions, and advice at alyssa.ochs@gmail.com. I look forward to hearing from you and keeping our gnome collections preserved for future generations of gnome enthusiasts!

Have you ever heard of a negative Gnome?

I sure haven't! With so many folks spouting off negatively these days, I think of all the positive and precious things Gnomes do for those of us who believe in them and collect them because we love them.

I can't imagine any of my Gnomes speaking negatively about anything. It's just not their style in life to have attitudes like sour grapes! Their adorable faces are always complacent and brighten my home and enclosed porch areas – always looking positive and loving as I take a “Gnome stroll” throughout my home just about every day. (I have about 500, and there's always room for another!)

From the tiniest in a Victorian bow-front china cabinet to the largest standing on floors, they all look peaceful except one big guy with a broken foot. He came that way, and his shattered foot was mended enough to support bandaging. He's sitting on a mushroom with a red and white cane (candy cane) -- with a rather sad face you have to love. He has never complained, and it's my heartfelt hunch that he's just sorry he can't run around with his friends. I certainly understand, because I had knee replacement surgery a few years ago.

His foot was so broken (from sloppy packaging), and tiny pieces were too smashed to be used in mending. I had to place used pieces of dryer fabric softener on the inside of the foot, and, one by one, attach the largest pieces with glue that dried quickly. I made a foot shape the best I could, to wrap with gauze and tape.

He has plenty of other Gnomes for company where he's placed. At Christmas time, he was under the tree with other large Gnomes.

He's never said anything about feeling sorry for himself. What an amazing attitude! The person he was purchased from replaced him when they saw the photo I sent, but I chose to keep my injured guy and send the new perfect one to the Auburn, California museum for Gnomes. I'm glad I kept my fellow, as he's extra special to me.

- GNOME DEVOTEE -

GARDENING WITH GNOMES

Part XXIX

Gnomes as Ambitious Workers

By Jean Fenstermaker

Gnomes have established a well-known reputation for doing all kinds of helpful things. Every outdoor gnome garden should reflect some of them in various working situations. This field can cover a lot of typical activities.

Miners are often found with picks, shovels, carts, wheelbarrows, and lanterns, among other things. Some are depicted in working positions, others resting with useful objects close at hand about to return to work.



A typical group of mining gnome

For gardeners, the list of possibilities is almost endless of the many ways they can demonstrate their talents. Garden gnomes are one of the most common and favorite types. But gnomes can display a great many other capabilities too. It is best to place those with like interests together in the garden to highlight each group, which creates non-moving scenes of stories being told of the lives of gnomes. Visitors especially enjoy these revealing and informative vignettes. **Gnome gardeners busy themselves with many chores.**



Gnomes are skilled in construction projects.



Gnomes are quite handy with tools.