BETWEEN THE LINES
Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.,
Chapter 20
January 2008
Issue 108

Holiday Baskets

Challenge Coins
10 Food Baskets

Together Then...Together Now

photos by Kathy Gleason and Bruce McDaniel
President’s Message

by Ken Moore

By the time you read this we all relaxed and had a great Holiday season and enjoyed the company of family and friends. For some of us who spent time visiting sick friends it makes you realize how precious life is and how important our friendship is.

As the year ends, I think back on the progress the Chapter has made over this past year. I want to thank the Board of Directors and the executive officers for their support and hard work.

In the coming year I would encourage more members to get involved in the Chapter and, with our annual elections coming in April, I also encourage some new people to run for office.

We as a chapter always need new ideas to continually make the chapter the best it can be.

In the past month I had the pleasure to talk to a class of 5th graders in Greece along with Geno Lenyk and Ray Melens. What a great experience it was! They were filled with questions about Vietnam and also about the War that goes on today.

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Let’s not forget January 20th, 12 noon till 4:00pm, our first annual Child Safety Fair at Ira Jacobson Post. This event is open to everyone in the community so that we can hopefully make our children a little safer. The event is the result of the terrible event that Ray and Gail Melens’s grandkids endured being kidnapped. The Monroe County Sheriff’s Department will be there giving out free child booster seats and doing child IDs. All this plus clowns, face painting and other stuff for the kids. Please ask anyone you know with children to attend.

In closing, I hope all of you have your chapter coin in the pocket because there are some of us out there trying to find you without it. If you do not have a Chapter Challenge coin, come to the membership meeting, get a free one and become part of the game. All the money in fines goes to charity. Have a great month, see you at the meeting.

Ken Moore
President

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Boxes for the troops serving in harm’s way today. This was a great project and something we should consider doing again. The project confirms our commitment to the founding motto, “NEVER AGAIN SHALL A GENERATION OF VETERANS ABANDON ANOTHER.” I want to thank all those who helped make this happen.

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Ken Moore
President

“Together Then Together Now”
Reflections
By Dick Oleksyn

I hope that everyone had a great time on the bus trip with memories, making new friends, and many heartwarming experiences. I mentioned before we got off the bus that if someone had extra pictures that they would like to share on a disc or through e-mail, Ray Melens has offered to put them all together on a disc with music. Some chapter members who did not go down on the bus might also have some pictures to share. If you could e-mail Ray at rmelens@aol.com or send pictures to our Chapter office, VVA Chapter 20, P.O. Box 12580, Rochester, NY 14612 c/o R. Melens, we would all greatly appreciate it. We will let you know when this is prepared.

Once again, thank you for making the trip such a warm, family experience that we will never forget. We were honored to have our picture by Glenn Peck

While some members and friends of Chapter 20 were in Washington, D.C. on Veterans Day for the 25th Anniversary of the Wall, others honored veterans here in Rochester with a ceremony at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Highland Park.

Chapter 827 family with us again—a great pleasure. It was a joy for Sue and me to put this together. When we all stand together, great things happen! Again, many thanks!

P.S. If anybody might have seen a blue folder that I had on the bus, please let me know.

Thank you.

Mouse Tours ‘07

As this issue was being put together, we received word that Wally Gekoski has passed away. Wally, who served in the Marine Corps, was a life member of VVA and a member of the Chapter 20 Marching Unit and Honor Guard. He was an active member of the chapter and a friend to us all. He will be greatly missed.

In next month’s issue we will include reflections on Wally.
May you always have work for your hands to do.
May your pockets hold always a coin or two.”

-Irish Blessing

Challenge Coins - Do You Have YOUR coin?
By Kathy Gleason

At the National Convention, President Ken Moore was intrigued by representatives from Chattanooga, Tennessee, who had Chapter challenge coins. These coins were used to promote camaraderie and a spirit of pride in the chapter. Ken returned home and posed the idea to the Board of Directors, and Chapter 20’s coins were minted. The challenge was extended that failure to have your coin would result in a public announcement at the next General Membership meeting, a $2.00 fine and a “Walk of Shame” from the back of the room to the jar to deposit the fine. Ken is probably the most apt to initiate a challenge and there are already a number of dollars in the jar.

Coins have been given to more than just Chapter members. On the recent trip to D.C. for the 25th Anniversary of The Wall, Chuck Macaluso’s daughter and granddaughter were given coins in recognition of their traveling with the group. Kylie, Chuck’s granddaughter, was quickly educated by folks in the Hospitality Suite to initiate a challenge by holding her coin high.

On a recent trip to the Memorial in Highland Park, students from Albion Middle School were asked if they had any family members serving in the military. Devon Schening proudly told of his sister and cousin, both Marines serving in Iraq. He went on to add that his mother was a Marine, as was his uncle. Devon was given 4 coins, one for each Marine in his family. Later, when Devon heard Chapter 20 was sending boxes to the troops, he contacted the Chapter using information on the coin, and asked that his sister, L. Cpl. Miranda Schening, and his cousin, L. Cpl. Paul W. Schening III, be included on our list.

Military challenge coins are said to date back to World War I, when a lieutenant saved his own life by presenting his unit’s solid bronze medallion, kept in a small pouch around his neck. He had been captured by a German patrol after his aircraft was severely damaged by ground fire. He was captured and all personal identification (except the small pouch around his neck) was taken by the Germans in an attempt to discourage his escape. Nonetheless, he managed to escape, crossed the front lines and stumbled into a French outpost. The French, knowing German saboteurs often masqueraded as civilians, were ready to perform an execution, but the lieutenant produced his medallion. His French captors recognized the squadron insignia on the coin and gave him enough time to confirm his identity. Instead of shooting him, they gave him a bottle of wine.

He returned to his unit, where it became tradition to ensure all members carried their medallion or coin at all times. This was accomplished through a challenge. A service member would ask to see the coin. If the challenger could not produce his coin, he was required to purchase a drink of choice for the member who had challenged him. If the challenged member produced his coin, then the challenging member was required to pay for the drink. Coins can be awarded for meritorious jobs, given to an entire unit or sold to commemorate a special event. Regardless of how they are acquired, the history of the challenge coin remains a part of military tradition.
Challenge Coins – What are the rules?
By Kathy Gleason

When a challenge is issued it is always met with a few groans and numerous excuses for those who can’t readily produce their coin. This, in turn, initiates discussion, some controversy and, inevitably, comments about rules.

One feature of challenge coins is that it takes a conscious effort to carry one at all times. A generally safe place to carry a coin is in a pouch worn around the neck (like the pilot in the legend). Carrying a challenge coin in the wallet was not advised, because the distinctive circular bulge identifies the individual as a military member—a serious security consideration in many places—and because it can loosely resemble a condom (therefore opening the individual up to jokes from friends). Some unit rules specifically prohibit carrying a challenge coin in a wallet.

Some Chapter 20 members have drilled a hole in their coins to attach it to their keychains, thereby assuring its presence when needed. Other members have it nearby and scramble to get it before someone claims that the coin needs to be in a pocket or otherwise attached to one’s body.

Traditionally, rules of a challenge include a prohibition against defacing the coin, especially if it makes it easier to carry at all times. If the challenge coin is attached to a belt buckle or key ring, or has had a hole drilled in it to attach to a lanyard, it no longer qualifies as a challenge coin. Also, many units allow “one step and an arm’s reach” to retrieve a coin. If it is in your jacket pocket in another room – too bad, so sad.

The Challenge Process:

A challenge can be initiated by drawing your coin, holding it in the air by whatever means possible and stating, screaming, shouting or otherwise verbally acknowledging that you are initiating a coin check. Another method, less vocal than the first, is to firmly place it on the bar, table, or floor making an audible noise which can be easily heard by those being challenged. (Try not to leave a permanent imprint on whatever surface you slap your coin.)

If you accidentally drop your coin and it makes an audible sound upon impact, then you have just “accidentally” initiated a coin check. (This is called paying the price for improper care of your coin.)

Everyone present that is affiliated with the challenger is therefore challenged to produce their coin by drawing it in a like manner.

If you are challenged and are unable to properly respond, you must pay a fine (traditionally by buying a round of drinks, but in the case of Chapter 20 it is a $2 fine) for the challenger and the group being challenged. If everyone being challenged responds in the correct manner, the challenger must pay the fine for all those people they challenged. Failure to pay the fine is deemed a despicable crime and will require that you turn-in your Coin to the issuing agency.

So this raises some important issues. Do we need Chapter 20 rules for our coins? Ken believes we do. The two greatest points of argument are whether or not you can drill a hole in the coin and just how far one is allowed to go to retrieve it. Will this require a Board vote, decision by the Executive Committee or should it be put to vote by all of those at the next meeting who have the coin in their possession?

Despite the outcome of this vote, I raise an issue that, to me, is even greater. When Ken (or anyone, but Ken is by far the most frequent challenger) initiates a challenge, is he prepared to pay the $2 fine for each of those who raise their coin high in the air as it suggests in the original process?
Marching Unit
RAY MELENS, COMMANDER

I guess the best way to start out this month’s report is with a great big HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

Hopefully everyone had a great holiday and didn’t put on too much weight. I know I need to work on losing some extra from around the waist. That’ll be my New Year’s resolution. Let’s see how long that lasts!

Marching Unit wise, not much to report at the time of this writing. All is pretty quiet as far as the Marching Unit goes. We haven’t done any parades in a while. You guys better not get rusty now.

Honor Guard wise, we have done a couple of ceremonies. On Dec. 7th we partook in the annual Pearl Harbor Day service that is held at the Rochester Yacht Club. I will be the first to tell you how cold it was, especially right there by the lake. It was a brief ceremony yet it carries quite a punch. A punch in such a way that it reminds all of those that may have never served our country in its Armed Forces, that our freedoms do not come without having to pay a very high price with human lives. We must never forget the past generation of veterans, the present generation and the future generations of veterans. Our great country and its people owe the veteran a great debt. We were able to eventually get warmed up when we went to get breakfast after the service. The members of the Honor Guard that partook in the service again did a great job in representing Chapter 20 and all veterans of our generation.

Once again, the Honor Guard has been invited by the Monroe County Legislature to present the Colors at the beginning of their monthly meeting, on Jan. 2nd, for the swearing in of the newly elected and re-elected legislators. I know that they will do the Chapter proud, just as they always do.

Only a few more months and we can start to get ready for the 2008 parade season. Let’s hope we have as great a parade season as we had last year. So for now guys you can keep those uniforms in the closet, but make sure that they don’t shrink from the heat in your closet like they did for so many of us last year.

As a new year dawns upon us, I would just like to ask all the Marching Unit members to start thinking about who they would like to nominate for this year’s Marching Unit Service Award, to be presented at the annual dinner in April. Think about it and be prepared to write a nomination out and state why you think this person deserves this award. I will let you all know when I would like the nominations at a later date.

I would like to take this opportunity to ask all members and especially MU/HG members to please try to attend the Child Safety Fair that Ken & I are planning for on Jan. 20th at Ira. Whether you come as a volunteer to help out or just as a concerned parent or grandparent, please come. Most importantly, help spread the word about what we will be doing that day. Lord knows that I don’t ever want anybody to ever go through or feel what I felt that dreadful night back in November. We need to do what ever we can to protect our children and grandchildren and to keep them safe. So please, mark the date on your calendar, gather up your children and grandchildren, tell everyone you know with little ones, and come see us on Jan. 20th at Ira for our Child Safety Fair.

We will resume our MU/HG meetings again with the January membership meeting. We will meet upstairs at Ira and begin at 7 PM. Anyone interested in joining either the Marching Unit or Honor Guard, this is a great place and time to get started. Also if you have questions pertaining to the MU or HG this is the place to ask it. Hopefully we’ll be able to get back on track with our regular monthly meetings.

Until next month…………………AT EASE!!!!!
The Veterans Service Award is given to the member or members who have demonstrated outstanding dedication in improving the condition of Vietnam Veterans and/or the community, and have been active in Chapter 20. Any member is eligible for this award.

I feel ___________________________ should be considered for the Veterans Service Award because of his/her involvement in:

The Community Service Award is given to the group or organization that has demonstrated a strong sense of community service and favorably recognizes and relates to Vietnam Veterans issues.

I feel ___________________________ should be considered for the Veterans Service Award because:

Nominations are due by Friday, March 28, 2008 so that the Awards Committee can make final decisions in time for the Annual Dinner. Nomination forms are to be dropped off at the Chapter office or mailed to VVA Chapter 20, P.O.Box 12580, Rochester, New York 14612, to arrive no later than Friday, March 28, 2008.
The Roger Robach Award is given to an individual who has spent a minimum of ten years working for the betterment of all veterans in New York State.

I feel ____________________________ should be considered for the Veterans Service Award because of his/her involvement in:

The Don and Rori Murrell Humanitarian Award is given to an individual who has accomplished an extraordinary effort on behalf of active duty military personnel and/or veterans and their families. All individuals are to be considered for this reward regardless of Chapter or veteran affiliation.

I feel ____________________________ should be considered for the Don and Rori Murrell Humanitarian Award because of his/her involvement in:

Nominations are due by Friday, March 28, 2008 so that the Awards Committee can make final decisions in time for the Annual Dinner. Nomination forms are to be dropped off at the Chapter office or mailed to VVA Chapter 20, P.O.Box 12580, Rochester, New York 14612, to arrive no later than Friday, March 28, 2008.
Vietnam Veterans of America
THRIFT STORE, CHAPTER 20, LLC
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Hours: Monday - Friday 8:30am - 5:00pm
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Lap Robe Quilts Distributed with Community Food Baskets
By Kathy Gleason

Some recipients of food baskets got an additional gift this year. Approximately a dozen lap robe quilts were donated by the American Sewing Guild – Gates Neighborhood Group.

The whole project started with the sale of materials to help one of their members who had been in a very serious accident. Nancy VanApeldoorn went to the sale and started talking to the gals about making some laps robes for VVA. That started the ball rolling – Fabric from the sale was donated along with supplies from other members. Many of the gals have children who have served or are currently serving in the Military, so felt it was a pleasure to help.

The Gates Neighborhood Group meets on the third Wednesday of each month. If anyone is interested in this group or others in the area, or would like more information on the Guild, you can call Louise at 235-2762 (evenings, please).
DAR Project Patriot
Assists Wounded Military Personnel

DAR Project Patriot is the official Daughters of the American Revolution committee that supports America’s service personnel in current conflicts abroad. The national committee currently assists the wounded active duty military personnel at the Landstuhl Regional Medical center in Landstuhl, Germany.

Since the spring of 2005, the National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution has provided thousands of phone cards to our soldiers at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. Unfortunately, the wounded keep coming and the need to talk to their loved ones never stops. Not only does that call bring peace of mind to the wounded GI, it reassures their family as well.

The Irondequoit Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution (the Rochester Chapter in the Corn Hill area) is asking for help in purchasing phone cards for our wounded soldiers. Please show your support for our troops by sending a donation, made out to IRONDEQUOIT CHAPTER, DAR to:

The Irondequoit Chapter, DAR
PROJECT PATRIOT
138 Troop Street
Rochester, NY 14608

When you send your donation, please feel free to send along greetings to these men and women. Cards, handmade or purchased, are always welcome.

For more information, e-mail: dar138@yahoo.com or visit the national web site for the Washington, DC headquarters: www.dar.org/natsociety/content.cfm?ID=334&FO=Y&hd=n

E-Mail List
We would like to compile an e-mail address list so that we can communicate updated information or news relating to Chapter 20. This list will be used only for Chapter-related business, and will not be published in Between the Lines. We invite you to give your e-mail address to Kathy Gleason, either by e-mail (kathy14470@msn.com) or by calling the Chapter phone number (585-482-7396) and leaving a message.

SAVE the DATE
Saturday
February 23, 2008

Details to follow in next month’s issue

2nd Annual Euchre Tournament
**USS IWO JIMA (LHD 7)**

**BLAZON**

**SHIELD:** Celeste on a mount Sable issuing from base the United States Marine Corps War Memorial Proper, in base three pheons radiating Or one to base superimposed by a plate bearing a Hero’s boiler Sable.

**CREST:** From a wreath Or and Celeste a wreath of palm Vert superimposed by an osprey stooping Proper.

**MOTTO:** A scroll Or fimbriated Gules inscribed “UNCOMMON VALOR” Azure.

**SUPPORTERS:** A United States Navy and Marine Officer’s sword saltirewise points down Proper.

**SEAL**

The coat of arms emblazoned upon a white oval enclosed by a blue collar edged on the outside with gold rope and inscribed “USS IWO JIMA” above and “LHD 7” below in gold.

**SYMBOLISM**

**SHIELD:** Iwo Jima was the site of one of the most important and most bitterly fought amphibious operations of World War II in the Pacific theater. The United States Marine Corps War Memorial is based on the famous photograph of the flag raising on Mount Suribachi on Iwo Jima and has become a symbol of valor and strength. The three pheons represent the amphibious triad: The Landing Craft Air Cushion, The Advanced Amphibious Assault Vehicle and the Osprey Tilt rotor aircraft. The light blue reflects the seas of the world. The USS IWO JIMA, one of the last ships propelled by steam boilers, is reflected by the white disc with the Hero’s boiler.

**CREST:** USS Iwo Jima will be among the first LHDs to deploy with the Osprey MV-22 tilt rotor aircraft. This is symbolized by the attacking Osprey. The previous USS Iwo Jima (LPH-2) was a helo-carrier during the Vietnam Era. The palm fronds commemorate the previous ship named Iwo Jima and its service in Vietnam.

**MOTTO:** The motto is based on Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz’s words when he spoke eloquently of the sailors and marines who fought at Iwo Jima: “Among the Americans who served on Iwo Island uncommon valor was a common virtue.” The red is emblematic of valor and sacrifice.

**SUPPORTERS:** The crossed swords highlight cooperation and represent the Navy-Marine Corps Team.
Chapter 20 Vietnam Vets
In cooperation with the Monroe County Sheriff Dept.

Presents

Kids Safety Fair

January 20, 2008
12:00 Noon - Till 4:00PM

Child ID, Car Seat Safety, Clown,
Face Painting and More

All Welcome!
IRA Jacobson American Legion Post
90 St. Johns Park

FREE Child Booster Seats
Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 20
Membership Application

Return this application, along with a copy of your DD214, to:
Vietnam Veterans of America, P.O. Box 12580, Rochester, NY 14612

Name: ___________________________ Date of Birth: ________________ Sex: M / F
Address: ___________________________ Home Phone: (_____) _______________________
City: ___________________________ Work Phone: (_____) _______________________
Zip: __________ Country: ___________ E-mail Address: _______________________ W / H
Chapter # ________ (if known) _______________ Sponsor: ___________________________

I am not a Vietnam veteran, but I want to help Vietnam veterans and their families.
Please accept my donation: ___________________ ❑ AVVA Membership
______$10 ________$20 ________$50 _______Other ($_______)


Term: _____ 1 year ($20) _____3 years ($50) _____ Life Membership: $250 (ages 49 and under)
$225 (ages 50-55)
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$175 (ages 61-65)
$150 (ages 66 and over)

Payment Option: _______ Check _______ Money Order

VVA is a non-profit veterans service organization.
Programs and services are funded by member dues and public donations.

Between the Lines is published monthly by Chapter 20, Vietnam Veterans of America. The views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of Chapter 20, or the Vietnam Veterans of America, its officers, board of directors, or the general membership. No subscription fee is charged for this publication, and inclusion on the mailing list is available on request. Between the Lines can also be seen on the Chapter 20 website, www.vva20.org.

We welcome letters to the editor, poetry, original articles, and suggestions. Submissions can be sent to: Between the Lines, P.O. Box 12580, Rochester, New York 14612 or e-mailed as a word document to: bruceimcdaniel@earthlink.net. If you want your manuscript returned, include a self-addressed envelope with postage. We reserve the right not to use materials we think are not appropriate for the publication, and to edit for space and clarity. We’d also like to have a phone number as well as your name in case there are any questions.

The deadline for submissions intended for a particular month’s issue is the 5th of the preceding month. If the 5th falls on a weekend or holiday, the deadline is the first business day following the 5th.

Between the Lines runs paid advertisements to help offset the cost of publication and as a convenience to our readers. Chapter 20 does not endorse any advertiser or guarantee satisfaction with goods or services provided.
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Social Events ..................Dick Oleksyn 663-5255  
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Veterans Affairs/Benefits .... Pat Pudetti 482-2387  
Veterans Walk ..................Chuck Macaluso 225-8288  
Volunteer Coordinator .......Kathy Gleason 978-1331 

WEB SITES/E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Veterans Widows International Network  
members@aol.com/vetwindows  
NYS Department Health: www.health.state.ny.us/nyvets  
Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Highland Park:  
www.vietnammemorial.org  
Operation Welcome Home:  
www.operationwelcomehome.org  
VVA New York State Council: www.nyvietnamvets.org  
Region 2 Director: www.region2vva.com 

VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS AND INFORMATION

Greater Rochester Vietnam Veterans Memorial...585-753-7275 
(ent 9; enter 2 to leave a message)  
Ira Jacobson American Legion Post #474.....663-7030  
VA Clinic - 465 Westfall Road...............463-2600  
Veterans Outreach Center .....................546-1081  
Vet Center........................................232-5040  
Veterans Administration..................800-827-1000  
NYS Council.................................888-678-VETS  
Monroe County Veterans Service Agency....753-6040  
e-mail: serviceofficer@yahoo.com  
Veterans Benefits Hotline................800-827-1000  
“Veterans Bill of Rights”..................800-342-3358  
VA Medical Center in Batavia...............585-297-1000  
VA Hospital in Buffalo...................716-834-9200  

VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS AND INFORMATION, CONT’D.  
VA Medical Center in Canandaigua.........394-2000  
VA Medical Center in Bath....................607-664-4000  
V.V. of America in Washington..............800-VVA-1316  
V.V. Memorial Fund “The Wall”.............202-393-0090  
Nat.’l Ige. of Fam. MIA/POW Updates.......202-223-6846  
Richards House..............................506-9060  
The Resource Center.........................546-4250  
Stars & Stripes..............................546-3524  
Persian Gulf Vets, Inc.,.....................385-4087  
Operation Welcome Home ..................234-4694  

MISCELLANEOUS

VVA 20 Thrift Store, LLC Mgmt., Beth Affeldt ......482-8036  
Donation Pick-up, Cindy Rowley ...........482-8016  
VVA Vehicle Donations, Cindy Rowley........224-8484  
VVA Chapter 20 ...............................bdlvico@vva20.org • 482-7396  

EMAIL ADDRESSES OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CONTACTS

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Tom Gleason ......................................namd0c@hotmail.com  
Geno Lenyk ................................gnl3153@ntid.rit.edu  
Max Lill ....................................jmax.lill@industrialfurnace.com  
Bruce McDaniel ...................bruceimcdaniel@earthlink.net  
Ken Moore ........................................17CAV@rochester.rr.com  
Dick Oleksyn ..................................roleksyn@yahoo.com  
Chuck Macaluso .................chuckmac66@yahoo.com  
Bruce VanApeldoorn .......bvanapeldoorn@rochester.rr.com
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
<th>SATURDAY</th>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>New Year’s Day</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Board of Directors Meeting 7:00 P.M.</td>
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<td>Membership Meeting 7:30 P.M.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Happy Birthday to Jack Prinzing</td>
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<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kids Safety Fair 12:00 noon - 4:00 pm</td>
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If you would like your Birthday or Anniversary included on the BTL calendar, please call the office at 482-7396 or E-mail info@vva20.org