1973-2008
Celebrating Thirty Five Years
Of Hope and Recovery
When guests go through our program, we try to determine what awareness they have of the needs and the feelings of others. If they are aware of the needs of others, they are usually on the road to recovery. If they are locked into their own needs and feelings and can’t see beyond them, then they have not come to grips with their illness. Similarly, we try to foster awareness among ourselves. Awareness of other people’s needs is the first requirement of a dedicated and caring attitude among those who work here.

We have hired a staff counselor who provides counseling to our staff. We also encourage the staff to meet with one another on an informal basis, at lunch, or after work. We suggest that they share their problems and ideas on a personal level. They also meet weekly and utilize the 12-Step philosophy. We try to get to know one another, and share our insights and strengths. We offer our support, friendship, and collegiality in a way that is contagious. This approach improves the overall work environment and contributes to the high quality of client care. This mutual mentor approach has been very helpful to staff, not only in helping them to cope with demands of work, but in gaining pleasure and success from their professional roles.

This appears to be the formula used to keep the insatiable appetite and passion alive in our work.

News Bulletin:
Veritas Villa receives three year renewal on Chemical Dependence Operating Certificate from the State of New York Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services.

Congratulations Father Jack on 37 years as a priest. You are God’s instrument of hope.
There are those who fly to Tuscany to fulfill their passion. There are those who climb up the mountains of the Himalayas to fulfill their passion. I, unbelievably, did not have to “look further than my own backyard.”

It’s as though the Villa has an underground passageway to good living. My passion for helping other alcoholics and addicts runs deep. It is the fervor that makes me tick. Presently, I work on the Women’s Unit and I am proud to be part of the women’s team. It is where we help gals find the way. Women can find the first steps of the path here. The team walks side by side with those who have the desire to stop the insanity. When women experience a true surrender to disputing the insanity, they discover their potential. The effective skills that the women’s team utilizes helps to provide immediate assistance for women in crisis, or women just plain ol’ tired of the consequences brought about by drugs or alcohol. The way that the women’s team listens and responds to the client’s needs is crucial in the building of a helping relationship. Communication amongst the team is the foundation of our ability to interact and allow the process to unfold. The team holds the hands of the sick and tired. The women’s team is passionate about finding light where there is darkness, and finding hope where there is despair. We believe in the Prayer of Saint Francis especially the words stating that it is in pardoning that we are pardoned. The cornerstone of this gift is to know that it is in “giving that we receive.”

Women that check onto the Unit are mommies, sisters, daughters, aunts, and grandmas. Women that check onto the unit are gals that have had loved ones praying for them to settle temporarily on “Daisy Lane” and meet the willing workers under the guidance of Director, Lyn Rubin. The mutual passion for the field of addiction is present in our hearts. The mutual passion for “women helping women” is abundant. We have the desire to assist women reclaim their dignity and self worth. We have the desire to compassionately exhibit understanding, both verbally and nonverbally.

Women taking care of women. Even the Team takes care of one another. The passion encompasses all of us. Helpers and those being helped. Not only do counselors keep a watchful eye on the fellowship’s current emotional, mental, spiritual, and physical state, but Sue Cusack is sure to remind the staff of the women’s unit also to check in amongst the team and provide support for one another. I so enjoy being part of the Women’s Team at Veritas Villa.

It’s a “craving,” “a desire,” something I “must” do. The Women’s Team yearns for family preservation. We believe there is a way. The Unit has a promising, optimistic spirit. We teach clients not to project, yet led by our caring professionals, we project that they CAN change and improve their lives. We believe in recovery.

News From the Women’s Unit

Veritas Villa, Inc. has recently introduced Creative Arts Workshops into its Women’s Treatment Program as a means of addressing the holistic approach to healing and 12-Step Recovery. All clients are encouraged to participate in a variety of activities including sketching, painting, collage, knitting and crocheting to help with concentration, coordination, and finding a connection with a Higher Power through creative inspiration. Participants work individually and as part of a team to develop talents and skills which help them re-establish self-confidence and regain self-esteem.

Women’s Fellowship Poems

Healing
I’ve been toying with alcohol and drugs since I’ve been 13 years old.

I’ve tried growing up with the stuff—missing out on so much, being left out in the cold.

It used to be fun—Oh, the wild and crazy times I had.

I don’t remember too much, but I know a lot of the things I did were real bad.

And, slowly but surely, the addiction took hold on my soul and my life;

I could feel nothing any more except the despair and the strife.

So, I’ve turned it over to God and pray for my soul to start healing.

So, enough of this pain; I’m going to start living again, a new life with meaning.  RM

Sobriety

Sobriety is not just about not drinking; sobriety is about healthy thinking.

It’s about reaching out for help and for hope; giving to God your problem with dope.

It’s about getting a sponsor that knows more than you; about the Steps and the Promises too.

It’s about taking your Inventory at the end of the day; and reflecting on how to make better your way.  JS
Passion—the never ending desire to do what we know we do best and the drive and ambition to do it in accordance with God's wishes. To the Villa on its 35th Anniversary: I'm proud to be a part of the passion. Let's keep it going for another 35 yrs. Barbara Murray

For over 35 years, Veritas Villa, Jim and Sue and staff have provided compassionate treatment to those who are suffering from chemical dependency. The on-going love and concern are what have made the Villa so special and will continue to do so in the future. Lester Mc Candless

(We came thru these doors, hopeless.) For 35 years Jim and Sue have given hope to addicts and their families. There is no other place like the Veritas Villa. May Veritas Villa continue to open its doors for another 35 years. My respect and admiration. Diane Boyd

"Veritas Villa" Love is spoken here. "We have been called to heal wounds to right what has fallen apart and to bring home those who have lost their way." St Francis of Assisi. Denise Cusack

The most important “tool” you can have today in the field of addiction is an insatiable curiosity and passion for recovery. The Villa has been aware of this for over 35 years and I am proud to be part of the mission. Nothing great in the world has been accomplished without passion. Francis Lovell

The miracle lies within the passion. We are all teachers for those who walk through the doors to pass on the vision of hope. Christine Mensche

It is in the giving that we experience joy and not in the receiving. Our passion for working in the medical field has brought us to Veritas Villa. We are glad to be part of a team which experiences the same passion for treating recovering addicts. We hope to continue to do the same great work in the future. Medical Department

Congratulations on your 35 Anniversary. We in the kitchen may provide food for the body but Jim and Sue provide food for the soul. Kitchen Staff

The Passion and love I received from Jim and Sue Cusack many years ago is the reason I work in the field today. Lyn Rubin

As a teenager over 35 years ago I remember serving breakfast at the opening of Veritas Villa. Little did I know I was going to become a patient at the Villa or be employed here many years later. I will have 23 years sober this year and I am very grateful to be at the 35th Anniversary of the Villa. Ken Lavery

Congratulations on your 35th Anniversary at the Villa. Passion and dedication is felt deeply by the maintenance department. Maintenance Staff

For 35 years Veritas Villa has been passionate about fulfilling its mission and I am passionate about being a part of the mission. LuWayna Williams

"Veritas Villa ... Where you can leave it on the mountain." Growth is a never ending process—relax and enjoy the trip. Joe Stoeckeler

Before I came to the Villa it was suggested by a friend that I read a book entitled “Do what you love and the money will follow.” I never read the book and five months later I found myself working at Veritas Villa. I have been here since 1992. Happy 35th Anniversary. Matt Ryan

It's our unlimited power to care and to love that make the biggest difference in the quality of our lives and work. I'm grateful to share my experience at Veritas Villa. Mike Regan

The Villa opened it's doors to me and my family over 12 years ago. I am proud to be part of the Villa and to share the same love and compassion that I received so many years ago with new people I meet daily. Sue Heath

Thanks to the Villa for giving me a second chance on life. Congratulations on 35 years. Robert Murphy

When we have passion in our hearts, we realize the importance of my favorite phrase: Nothing Changes if Nothing Changes. Happy 35th Anniversary. Jane Shulkin
Comments from Past Guests

We at the Villa are inspired on a daily basis by letters we receive that are filled with a lot of gratitude and appreciation for lives free of addictions. We are publishing many of the letters we have received over the last year from past guests, family members and friends of the Villa. Personal names in the letters have been changed to respect everyone’s anonymity. It is always nice to hear from present and past people who have been satisfied with the services at the Villa.

My name is Jay. My wife and I participated in the Family Program in February while visiting our son who has been at the Villa for 2 months. I want everyone to know how much we are thankful for everything you are doing for our son. We cannot think of a better environment to help our son with his addiction.

I want everyone to know what a great program we had throughout the weekend. Every lecture we attended was very inspiring and informative. Every counselor or staff person we had the privilege to meet was incredible. The information that they imparted, their personal stories..., everything they did showed a high degree of caring for the residents and their families.

I want to thank the incredible staff for helping our family work through the effects of addiction on our lives.

I can't tell you how happy we are that you accepted our son, and how much we appreciate the dedication and skill of your staff and what an inspiration that is to us. It is my hope that he will stay past the three month period because I believe he would benefit from an extended stay. I pray that he will take my advice and decide to stay longer at your wonderful facility.

My name is Jim and I just wanted to extend my sincerest thanks and appreciation for your hospitality during our recent visit to Veritas Villa to celebrate our son's one year anniversary. As always, it is a pleasure to visit the Villa and be greeted with such warmth and attention. The accommodations, food, and the whole experience you provided my son and guests was truly wonderful.

I have the utmost respect and gratitude for your facility and all your efforts to help our son “find” the path to recovery or should I say, ”The Bridge Back to Life”. Our son is a totally different person today...just to see him smile and laugh is priceless!

Trust me when I say, I could go on and on about the great respect and infinite gratitude I have for Veritas Villa, but to “keep it simple”...You guys are the very best!! I truly feel blessed that we got the opportunity to be under the excellent care and guidance of the Villa! Thank-you all again and God Bless You All. “Miracles” do happen .... One day at a time.

My name is Edwin R. I would like to thank you for my Birthday Card. I can honestly say I have my life though I lost my dad to cancer in May of last year. My higher power helped me cope with this tragedy. I have to thank everyone there for the many lessons I learned while I was there. Over my 28 day stay I learned that things happen for a reason and I must always maintain hope. The Villa has made me so strong I don’t think anything could keep me down. Everyday I live the twelve steps, no matter how hard my job gets. Nothing bothers me and I look at life no matter good or bad I make it work. When my father died I reflected on all the years I lost with him because I was drunk. Fortunately, I gave up drinking 5 1/2 years ago when I was at the Villa and was able to have quality time with my father the last 5.5 years of his life. I got so close to my Dad and he was so proud of me for giving up my drinking.

I hope this letter makes your day like your Birthday Card touched me. Your Birthday Card every year lets me know that I am loved.

My name is Patricia G. and I have been meaning to write you this letter for a very long time. Each Christmas and each birthday that passes and I receive a card from you, it makes me reflect on my memories of when I stayed with you back in 1993.

I want to thank you! Veritas Villa saved my life. I was so willing to take all your suggestions that I have not found it necessary to use. I have been clean 14 1/2 years. I still make at least two meetings a week in NA. I have a wonderful sponsor and I have completed my 12 Steps. I continue to work on myself. This is what I learned when I was a guest at the Villa.

Recently, I have decided to go back into counseling. There is an issue I have yet to deal with. I am so ready 14 1/2 years later, but this is a process and there will always be work to do. I know I will only gain from working on myself and that’s why I keep doing what I have been taught.

Thank You again, I am truly grateful to the both of you and all your staff.

Thousands of candles can be lighted from a single candle, and the life of the candle will not be shortened. Happiness never decreases by being shared.

- The Teachings of Buddha -
Reflections on our past 35 years...

Jim....

The theme of this newsletter is to perpetuate the passion in our field of chemical addiction and to find a meaning of passion for each one of us on an individual basis.

Growing up as a kid in an Irish home, the only thoughts I had of "passion" was the Passion of Christ on the cross. Now...as I am a few years older and have a little more experience about what life and love are all about, I realize the meaning of "passion" eluded me for a long time.

Today my concept of passion has done a 360 degree turn as I found true love with Sue and a way of life in this field. Many songs express the request to "believe". I believe the message of passion is God working through people.....when we experience this burning desire to reach out and help others as we try to incorporate the principles of the "Prayer of St. Francis".

With these principles...one of which is "it is better to understand than to be understood..." we are able to treat each other as we would like to be treated. One of our goals is to try to teach people to become AWARE of how their disease of addiction affects others as they begin to recover. As they find true wellness they become more aware and "passionate" about the welfare of others, especially of their loved ones, friends and colleagues.

The Passion of Christ has a new meaning for me today. I believe Christ showed us his belief in His mission with a PASSION beyond description.

He gave us a role model to follow as best we can. Sue’s love and belief in me has led us as a couple to share a passion to give to others what was so freely given to us.

Sue.....

Growing up as a young girl in the 60’s, the word “Passion” to me meant what was portrayed in the movies....the innocent times of “Gone with the Wind” and James Dean and Natalie Wood in “Rebel Without a Cause”....their commitment to rebellion and living on the edge...

Then another great era began in the 60’s for young women like me. It became more acceptable for women to pursue a career as well as, or at least, in lieu of marriage and domestic careers.

Most of my friends went to Catholic High School and then either married or entered a religious order immediately following graduation. So...without realizing it (and I did feel a bit alone at the time),... I developed a strong desire for a career in business and advertising and proceeded to pursue it with a passion...long hours of on the job training, commuting from Far Rockaway, Long Island to New York City every day for over 10 years. This commitment was all about doing what I loved and, while its rewards were gratifying, but unknowingly the best was yet to come.

Today I can credit my disease of alcoholism for leading me to a profound way of life that led me to find not only a passion but a mission to share with my partner, best friend and man who showed me what love was all about. Jim always shares how I believed in him, yet it was so easy to do as I saw how his heart and soul was dedicated to making life easier for the addicted and their families. His passion for what he did and does taught me the power of love and a mission beyond our wildest dreams.

He shares how I helped him bridge the gap between his first place Glenacre Lodge and with a year in between helped him to go upstate and co-founded the Villa together. It was only in my giving and helping him and his love for me that I was led to later fulfill my true mission of helping men, women and families.

Jim and Sue....

Today as we celebrate the Villa’s 35th Anniversary, our passion for our mission is stronger than ever as we hold off the "aging process" and ask that God grant us the guidance and strength to perpetuate the Villa’s healing help and hope for generations to come.

We thank God for the thousands of loving, dedicated and mission-oriented staff, friends and family who have brought the Villa mission to this day.

As you read this newsletter, created so generously and from the hearts of our staff and residents, we ask your continued prayers and assure you that you are always in ours and those of the Dominican Sisters of Amityville.

“It is Possible to Live and Enjoy Life without Alcohol and Other Drugs”
Two Counselors in Training become Credentialed Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselors

On December 15, 2007 Ed Mc Donnell became a CASAC. Eddie’s motivation and dedication is admired by all his peers at the Villa. Eddie has been promoted to a Clinical Supervisor.

Harold Keel also received his CASAC in December and continues to share his expertise at the Villa.

Past Employee and Trainee

My name is Lory Markle and I miss you all. I want you to know that you are all in my heart always and in my thoughts more often than you can imagine.

I was promoted to IOP Coordinator and had 2 days notice for a state inspection this past week! Yikes! I did work 12—14 hour days but the inspection went well and our director put her faith in me. I met with the inspector by myself for 3 hours!

Our charts would not have been in the great shape had it not been for the training I had received while I was at the Villa. I just want to thank all of you who had a part in helping me become the counselor that I am today. I just wanted to share my news with you, my Villa family.

Newest Employee

I first came to Veritas Villa to apply for employment. The resort has such a warm and welcome feeling when you approach it that I felt I was entering a Summer Resort. However, I soon came to know the interdisciplinary and compassionate work that is being done at the Villa. What impressed me the most is how everyone experiences hurts and guilt in life. Being part of a fellowship provides faith and hope in order to face those hurts and guilt and to rise above it. I have heard it said that some individuals are here because they do not want to die or unknowingly kill someone. Having been born and raised in the South Bronx many years ago, I can relate and only wish that my young drug and alcohol addicted friends back then would have had a place like Veritas Villa to come to. I am proud and honored to have been hired and to be part of the Veritas Villa Family.

Mary A.

35th Anniversary of Veritas Villa

On Monday May 26th Veritas Villa celebrates its 35th Anniversary. The day brings forth a flood of memories of people past and present, who have been given a new lease on life and a new hope due to the passion and commitment of two people, Sue and Jim Cusack. Without their indefatigable work on behalf of and love for the addict, this celebration would not occur. Their message to everyone who enters the doors of Veritas Villa is “put the bat down and give themselves a break” has given hope and healing to literally thousands of addicts and their families. We celebrate this day through prayer and fellowship and “a power greater than ourselves.” This power heals and brings light to people who have known too much darkness. Today we rejoice, we remember, we give thanks. Father Jack Hauser

Not one of us is given a torch big enough to lead the drunks of the world out of the darkness and into the light. Instead, each of us has been given a candle that burns for a short while with a flickering flame. If we stand together, the light will outshine the greatest torch; if we argue and bicker and blow at each others candles so that each of us starts shielding our own little flame, then the alcoholics of the world will continue to suffer in darkness, and so will we.” Gerry F. Western Canada 45th General Service Conference
Veritas Villa’s
35th Annual Dinner Dance

We are proud to honor

Karen Carpenter-Palumbo, LMSW, Commissioner
NYS Office of Alcoholism and
Substance Abuse Services

Friday, October 24th 2008

Hors d’oeuvres at 7 p.m. Dinner at 8 p.m.
Terrace on the Park in Flushing Meadow Park
Queens, New York 11368 Phone - 718-592-5000

Journal, Ticket and Table Order Form

Name: ______________________________________________________________
Address: _______________________________________________________________________
City: ________________________ State: _____________ Zip: ____________________________

Phone Number: (    ) _____________  Email Address: _______________________

Dinner Dance Tickets: $ 75.00 PER PERSON

Number Requested: __________  Tables of 10 Requested: __________

Gold Page: $1000
Silver Page: $500
Bronze Page: $250
Full Page: $150
Half Page: $80
Quarter Page: $ 40
Booster: $ 1

Please place your journal message below or attach Camera Ready Art to this form, use extra page if necessary.

For More Information, Please Contact: Please Contact Sue Heath or Ken Lavery
Phone:(845)-626-3555  Fax:(845)626-3840 or (845)626-0035
Dear Friends:

Let us start this letter by giving you a very special thank you on behalf of all the staff past and present and especially for the thousands of people who have come through the doors of Veritas Villa. You have all played a major role and a very vital part of the Villa’s success.

Since our early days in 1965 our Friends and Alumni have been very helpful in continuing our philosophy of treatment and have all shared their own experience with newcomers all through the years. Treatment, as we know it, has been going through changes and it is our belief that sometimes we ask chemically dependent people to deal with too much too soon. There is not enough emphasis placed on the time of healing and fun in sobriety.

We would like to take an active role in renewing the Friends of the Villa, not only to offer some help but to continue the value of fellowship and be able to tap into the enthusiasm and willingness that people early in recovery want to give back. We believe that Friends of the Villa have played a major role in the success of the Villa and we want to re-ignite that spark with your help. Can we count on you?

With love and gratitude,

Jim and Sue Cusack

APPLICATION

_ I would like to join “Friends of” Veritas Villa Foundation, Inc. Enclosed is my $10.00 membership fee.

_ I would like to be a contact person for: Men: ____ Women: ____ Family: ________________

_ I would also like to give a donation of $_____ toward the work of the foundation.

_ I would like to host a Friends of the Villa meeting in my own area in: Month ____ Time ____ Place _______________________

Please indicate: New Membership _____ Renewal of Membership _____

Name: ________________________________ Phone #: __________________________

Address: _____________________________ City: _____________________________

State ___________ Zip _______ e-mail __________________________

Check out our Website: www.veritasvilla.com Telephone Number: 1-845-626-3555

Please make checks payable to: Veritas Villa Foundation, Inc.

Mail To: P.O. Box 610 Kerhonkson, NY 12446-0610
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>05/26/08</td>
<td>Memorial Day Celebration</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td>Sue Heath 1-845-626-3555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/31/08</td>
<td>Day at Shea Stadium</td>
<td>$24</td>
<td>Joe McCauley 1-718-375-5787</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/6/08</td>
<td>Villa Inns Inc. 13th Annual Golf Tournament Roundout Country Club</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>Ken Lavery 1-845-626-3555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/21/08</td>
<td>Day at the Races</td>
<td>$35</td>
<td>Joe McCauley 1-718-375-5787</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/12/08</td>
<td>Annual Veritas Villa Picnic in Kerhonkson</td>
<td>$10. Single</td>
<td>Sue Heath 1-845-626-3555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$20. Family</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/2/08</td>
<td>Brooklyn Cyclones vs Staten Island Yankees</td>
<td>$16</td>
<td>Joe McCauley 1-718-375-5787</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Keyspan Park, Coney Island</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/12/08</td>
<td>Friends of the Villa Golf Tournament</td>
<td>$110</td>
<td>Ken Lavery 1-845-626-3555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Smithtown Landing Golf Club</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/24/08</td>
<td>Annual Veritas Villa Dinner Dance</td>
<td>$75</td>
<td>Sue Heath 1-845-626-3555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/7/08</td>
<td>Mens Big Book Retreat</td>
<td>$125</td>
<td>Ken Lavery 845-626-3555</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
Veritas Villa Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 610
Kerhonkson, NY 12446
Veritas Villa
Annual PICNIC

Saturday, July 12, 2008

11 A.M. ‘till sundown

“The Villa”

5 Ridgeview Road  Kerhonkson, N.Y.

$10 per person / $20 per family [Immediate Family]

Food, Games. Big Tent

*** Rain OR Shine***

For more information, contact

SUSAN HEATH  [845] 626-3555

I WILL ATTEND

Name:__________________________________________________________

Address:________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Telephone:___________________Number Attending:_______________________

Please make checks payable to:
Veritas Villa Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box  610
Kerhonkson, N.Y.  12446