



ASSOCIATED REALTY OF THE AMERICAS

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December 2015 Newsletter

## We are Very Pleased to Welcome Our Newest Members



**Wes Graham**  
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**Wes** has resided in Clovis since college and is a third generation member involved in that great community. He is highly involved in both residential and commercial sales and is the CEO of a very effective staff of fine brokers and staff assistants. He is very active in the National Association of REALTORS® on both a state and national level serving on numerous NAR Committees. He was **2003 President of the New Mexico Association** and followed that by being a member of the **National Board of Directors from 2006-2013**. He is an NAR Hall of Fame honoree and continues to serve in a variety of posts. He was also the recipient of the **CRS Chapter of the Year Award in 2006**.



**Deena Zimmerman**  
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**Deena**, who earned a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from The University of Minnesota in 1997, is an award-winning broker who has worked in the real estate industry since 2004, focusing on tenant representation and specializing in finding high quality sites throughout Chicagoland and surrounding areas for national operators, franchisees, and first-time entrepreneurs.

In addition to her work with SNV Chicago Commercial, Deena most recently served as **Chair of Illinois Young Professionals Network (YPN)**, which led to the **National Network of the Year Award**. She is currently serving as Secretary of Realtors to the Rescue, and she is a committee member of the **National Association of REALTORS® Finance Committee**. She was **2010-2011 President of the Chicago Chapter of the Women's Council of Realtors** and was named their member of the year in 2012. She is also honored and proud to have received the **2012 Realtor Achievement award by the Chicago Association of REALTORS®**, of which she is also a member of their Board of Directors.

Deena is also a mentor for the Goldie B. Wolfe Miller Women Leaders in Real Estate Initiative through Roosevelt University. In addition, she was also honored by Chicago Agent Magazine in July 2012 as one of 50 Chicago Powerhouses in their annual "Who's Who" issue and was chosen as the only female commercial agent. She is an active member of the International Council of Shopping Centers and the recipient of the **2012 National Association of Realtors National Commercial Award**.



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## Comments by Diana Bull



**Diana Bull, Chair**  
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First, I want to offer the heartiest congratulations to **Ronna Mee Brand**, our member in *Beverly Hills, California* who has been selected as the recipient of coveted **2015 William May Garland Award** to be presented by the Beverly Hills/Greater Los Angeles Association of REALTORS® on December 11th. The award was created to honor William May Garland who was instrumental in the formation of the Los Angeles Realty Board, the

California and the National Association of REALTORS®. Mr. Garland was an honorary president of CAR and served as NAR President two terms (1917 & 1918). He was also instrumental in the growth of the City of Los Angeles and brought the first Olympics to Los Angeles in 1932. "To be eligible one must have provided outstanding service to the BH/GLAAR Devotion to the true ethics of the real estate profession Accomplishments/Contributions for the general welfare of the communities within the jurisdiction of Beverly Hills/Greater Los Angeles Association of REALTORS®".

On behalf of our entire AREA membership, each of whom, like yourself, aspires to reach the highest levels of excellence; please accept our sincere congratulations. Well done Ronna!



**Ronna Mee Brand**, *Beverly Hills California*

As usual the 2015 NAR Convention was exciting and full of fun and surprises. On Friday November 13, 2015 AREA members were hosted by **John and Linda Smaby**, *Edina*, in their suite at the Grand Hyatt Regency next to the convention center. In spite of conflicts with parallel meetings, a large group, 40 plus in number, were able to make it to the event including: **Linda Neil**, *Mexico at Large*; **Jay West**, *Cabo San Lucas*; **Jeanne Radsick**, *Bakersfield*; **Phil Schaeffer**, *Orange County*; **Kenny Parcell**, *Ogden*; **Dennis and Colleen Badagliacco**, *Silicon Valley*; **Ken and Bunny Libby**, *Stowe*; **Patti Lawton**, *Brunswick*; **Jo Kenney**, *Atlanta*; **Sharon Bowler and Walt McDonald**, *Chino Hills*; **Pat Pipkin**, *Santa Fe*; **France Addington-Lee**, *Denver*; **Carl Bosse**, *Green Valley*; **JoAnne Poole**, *Baltimore*; **Kathryn and Craig Sanford**, *Phoenix-Scottsdale*; **Leslie Rouda Smith**, husband, **Brian Smith** (NAR Liaison with Argentina) and **Kristin Smith** all of *Dallas*; **Hagen Stone**, *Nashville*; **Simon Pedersen**, (NAR Liaison with Norway) *Seattle*; **Jeremy Starr**, *Eugene*; **Hans and Christine Hansson**, *San Francisco*; **Wes Graham**, *Clovis*; **Chris and Teresa McElroy**, *Fort Collins*; **George and Becky Harvey**, *Telluride*; **Pat Ohmberger**, *Lincoln*; **Vince and Julie Malta**, *San Francisco*; **Bonnie Smith**, *Breckenridge*; **Tom Wescott and Ellyn Mendham**, *Calgary*; **Dana Harris**, *Del Mar*; **Patti Fitzgerald** and **Henry Blakiston**, *Palm Beach*; and, perhaps a few we may have missed. Thanks so very much to the Smaby's for hosting this event and to all who found the time to join us.

## Following the Acorn

# Traversing Hadrian's Wall

By **Teresa McElroy**

*This year the McElroy family made a commitment to go on airplane mode for a week and traverse the 84-mile Hadrian's Wall Path in Northern England. This is an overview of that wonderful adventure.*

As an AREA member you're a successful REALTOR® who is involved in the community and various real estate associations. Clients and colleagues rely upon you as a trusted advisor and advocate, so to truly get away from work is difficult. What is it like to turn your cell phone off and journey back in history?

Hadrian's Roman Wall with adjoining military forts (c.122 AD) is a UNESCO World Heritage site located between England and Scotland, stretching from the Irish Sea to the North



Sea. Our family trained all summer for the physicality of trekking the wall in its entirety. The actual experience became an exercise in releasing business (AKA busy-ness), focusing on the beauty of the moment and immersing ourselves in Roman British history.

After a short flight from Dublin to Newcastle upon Tyne, our journey began. Day 1 we walked the city and explored museums, Roman ruins, & historic sites. From Day 2 onward we navigated varying terrain in the English countryside, averaging 12 miles daily. Having nothing scheduled except nightly accommodations in tiny villages, the pace was slow as we stopped frequently to capture "Kodak moments". We experienced every minute and every second of the Hadrian's Wall Path and its surround, step after step over rolling moorlands, through cow and sheep pastures, on top of crags,



**Chris McElroy**

and amidst forests. No cars or phone calls. No cities or traffic.

A scallop shell is the symbol of the Camino de Santiago Christian pilgrimage route in Spain. Metaphorically it represents different paths leading to one destination. Although

walking Hadrian's Wall Path is not a religious pilgrimage, an acorn is the official and equally meaningful icon seen on directional signs along the way. In its dormant state as a seed, the acorn reminds us that respite is important for future growth and potential. What a perfect symbol for a memorable journey!



**Following the Acorn**  
Teresa, Katherine, Mean and Kelley McElroy

## The Jeanne Radsick "Sherlock Holmes" Let's Make A Difference!



**Jeanne Radsick**  
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Last month we showcased a photo that you pounced on so quickly and effectively I was overwhelmed by your combined acumen. Yes, as **Ken Libby** of *Stowe, Vermont* quickly pointed out, the individual was none other than the one time "World's Greatest Athlete" **Rafer Johnson** who chairs the **Special Olympics**. Congratulations are in store for Ken who wins a Lamborghini. That brings us to another subject: If you are so inclined this year, please feel free to make a contribution to the Special Olympics, which brings both joy and hope to those amongst us who, each day overcome their personal physical challenges by telling the world, **"We, too, can compete."** To make your donation please use the link below our young hero's photo.



**We are all winners!** Some of us just need a few more fans. Here is wishing you a Merry Christmas; Happy Hanukah; and a joyful new year from Sherlock, Dr. Watson and the entire Radsick family.

To donate to the Special Olympics, please click below:  
[SpecialOlympics.org](http://SpecialOlympics.org)



## A Look on the Legal Side

with Dennis Badagliacco

**Dennis Badagliacco**  
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**Dennis** reminds us that he is not an attorney. "I work for a living". He is one of two members of AREA honored to be serving on the NAR Legal Action Committee, the other being **Diana Bull**.

*Dennis' column will return in January! In the meantime...*

# Happy Holidays!