

Zonta Tour Offers a Peek at a Grownup Dollhouse

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Imagine walking through a dollhouse. A dream? No, Melinda Graham is fortunate enough to live in this dreamlike setting every day.

Ms. Graham, interior designer extraordinaire, has been featured on Later Today, the Discovery Channel, and HGTV. Her articles and homes have appeared in many magazines including Woman's Day, and one former home was photographed for a book by renowned author and decorator Mary Engelbreit. This year, the Zonta Club of Sanibel-Captiva is fortunate to present her remarkable Sanibel residence as part of A Peek at the Unique, the club's annual tour and principal fund raiser, on Saturday, March 13. Don't be disappointed – at press time, a few seats remained for the final tour departure at 3:30 p.m.: call 1-877-750-3849.

Melinda Graham's three-story dollhouse is the former Tin Pan Alley Gallery on Sanibel. It includes her home décor boutique and the interior has been created largely from reclaimed materials. Wood floors, beams and decorative windows make a delightful background for the owner's extensive and diverse collections.

Entering her home, one feels embraced by timelessness. There are basket collections, over 400 pieces of ironstone, mirrors and shells. Wooden tables hold whimsical objects, shells in black metal birdcages, and accessories for divine dining. A small swing becomes a book shelf.

As you ascend the stairs to the bedrooms and a delightful doll room, whimsical pieces abound on the balusters. Upstairs, Roseville pottery, McCoy ceramics, and early 19th and 20th century lithographs and prints on the walls are gentle reminders of a bygone age.

The doll room on the top floor is a little girl's dream. A porch swing divides the room – perfect for gazing out of the window or just taking in the surroundings. For anyone looking for creative design, this house is a winner! Ms. Graham herself will be on hand during the tour to discuss her background and design philosophy.

A Peek at the Unique is the principal fund raiser for the Zonta Club of Sanibel/Captiva, a service organization of professional women working together to provide hands-on assistance, advocacy and funds to strengthen women's lives on the islands, in Lee County and around the world through Zonta International. Funds generated by the Peek support programs that enhance the status of women. For information, visit www.zontasancap.com.



Part of the home's extensive collections including baskets and ironstone



Melinda Graham and friend



The former Tin Pan Alley new look