



Village Addicts GAZETTE

VOLUME 26, NO. 3

A Newsletter for Village Addicts—Chapter 57

May | June 2017



by Alita Rabe, Co-President

CO-PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Summer is almost here and many of you are planning trips. I'll be staying at home receiving my Dept. 56 shipments!

I am the fortunate one who gets to order new products for the club inventory. And, we are going to have quite a variety of new products. I am so excited about them. I received all of the accessories that I ordered and they will be used as door prizes and prizes for the birthday drawings. I am just amazed at the detail that some of the new products have. I want

them all!!

It was so nice to welcome Lisa Johnson to our April meeting. Lisa is such a good source of information about the new Dept. 56 products. And speaking of those products, I hope some of you have ordered the new products for your villages.

For those of you who collect Christmas in the City, this is their 30th anniversary. To commemorate that anniversary, Dept. 56 has produced *Kringle & Sons Boutique*. This is a numbered, limited edition and it was produced in a very small quantity. I received mine and it is number 282 of 1,987 pieces. That is a small number. So, if you want it and you haven't ordered it, I would do so quickly. Lisa told us that all of this product has been shipped to retailers across the country and Dept. 56 has no more in stock.

Also in Christmas in the City, *Maggie's on Park* (I love it!) is being released to Platinum Key Dealers exclusively. Another exclusive piece is the Snow Village "Lot 59, Christmas Court". This is a nice addition to the mobile home park.

One of the fun series that I'm looking forward to seeing is Margaritaville. It makes me smile whenever I see the photos in the catalog. And, Jimmy Buffet fans will want to own it.

Mid-year introductions are now on the Dept. 56 website. Check out the new Halloween train car, *The Beast*. It's pretty scary and awesome!

I will be traveling to Tempe, AZ in June for the NCC Gathering along with other club members. Gatherings are always exciting and informative. Hopefully, we will pick up some good ideas for our displays that we can share.

Whatever you do this summer, travel safely and have a wonderful time. Hope to see you at the June Meeting! *Alita*



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Our Next V.A.A. Meeting is:

Saturday, June 3
at **11:00a**

Don't Forget to Bring...
An item to share at the potluck!



Meeting Location:

Robert M. Wilkinson Sr. Citizen Center
8956 Vanalden Avenue | Northridge 91324
(Between Nordhoff & Parthenia
and Tampa & Reseda)

Click for map: <https://goo.gl/maps/1FsWN>

Club Dues are DUE

If you haven't paid your dues: **\$28** for individuals and **\$35** for families living at the same address — they are **DUE at the June 3 meeting!**

Even if you aren't able to attend many meetings, joining the club is a great way to keep up with new products, exclusive products, and the V.A.A. open houses coming up later this year. And, most importantly, you will still be receiving our fantastic Gazette newsletter.

Village Addicts Anonymous
Proud Member - Region 10





by Khia Silberkliet, Secretary

MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was opened by Co-Presidents **Alita Rabe** and **Brian Allen**.

The members were welcomed, with a particular welcome to **Joe Morabito** who collects Dickens' Village, Halloween, and Christmas in the City, as well as to **Robin & Gary Kukura** from Village Keepers.

SUNSHINE REPORT – **Robert Howard** was welcomed back after surgery. **Barbara Reyna** was also in attendance after having foot surgery. **Kay Miller** said **John** is now in memory care and please continue to send cards. **Stan Higgin's** new home is in Mesa, Arizona at Brookdale. It is significantly less expensive for him to live there and, per Myrna, the apartment is larger & nicer. He is happy there and Myrna will continue to visit and keep us updated. **Pat Campbell** is in rehab for two to three weeks after having surgery to repair a broken ankle.

NEW PRODUCTS – **Debbie Shelgen** shared information about 3 websites. She also reminded members to watch for dimensions when ordering on line. CollectionsEtc.com has miniature sets, doll house material and Halloween items. Jttmicroscale.com has miniatures like flowers and such. They have realistic corn stalks and plants. Another site is Miniatures.com. This seller has flowers that were larger and firmer in shape/texture. Debbie also paid \$14 for an apple basket that had good reality. Members were reminded about Michael's merchandise for spring and Easter.

TREASURER'S REPORT – **Marvella McAllister** gave her treasurer's report and thanked all members for their support of the White Elephant Sale which added significantly to our treasury.

MEMBERSHIP – A reminder was given to pay the annual dues at the rate of \$28 for an individual and \$35 for the family.

NCC – June 14 through 17 in Tempe, AZ is the NCC 25th anniversary gathering. For more information, visit the national site at NCC56.com.

FIELD TRIP – An email was sent out to get feedback on the timing of this trip and the response indicated that the preferred month is October. Further information is provided in this newsletter.

BIRTHDAY DRAWINGS – The March drawing was won by **Ridi Lauritzen** who chose the *Picket Lane Footbridge* and for April, **Margaret Reichenbach** selected a Halloween *Twinkle Brite Hedge*.

DEPT. 56 PRESENTATION – After a pot luck lunch break, we enjoyed a presentation by **Lisa Johnson** of Department 56. Her job title has changed since her last presentation, and she is now focusing on major Department 56 retailers and clubs in her region, as opposed to representing multiple lines. The new introductions for 2017 were shared. Of note is the return of collector's value sets. Lisa also provided information about a new display that will be installed at Knott's Berry Farm from April 22-24. **Stephen Pepin** will be there building a new display. On July 29, **Tom Bates** will be at Knott's and will be doing a signing. There will also be a special Halloween billboard piece for Knott's advertising the Knott's Scary Farm event. 'The Nightmare Before Christmas' is new this year and it is felt that this will be a very popular and successful series along with 'A Christmas Story' and 'Christmas Vacation'. 'Margaritaville' is a new series that is expected to be a display that can be enjoyed year-round. This is also the 30th anniversary of 'Christmas in the City' and it will be marked with a special release of *Kringle & Sons Boutique*, a numbered, limited edition release. There are many new pieces for all villages and new accessories, including a new gold and silver Twinkle Light Tree. Lisa also noted that all three male artists and corporate executives will be attending the upcoming Gathering in Tempe, AZ.



AUCTION! AUCTION! AUCTION!



Introduced in 2017, we will be auctioning #4056668 – *Clarice's North Pole Bakery* signed by the artist and donated by Lisa Johnson.

Included in this package are the coordinating accessories, #4056675 – *Training For Christmas Eve* and #4056674 – *A Special Cookie For Rudolph* both also signed by the artist. These three items sell for \$141.50 at a retail store.

The second item is a *Platform* approx. 15½" long by 11½" wide. There are three steps going up to the first level and another three steps to the second level. This will be very nice to display that special building in your collection.



The third item is one of my favorite things – TREES! This is a set of three beautiful white trees. They are approx. 10", 8", and 7" inches tall. They will look spectacular in your display.

And the **WINNERS** were...



WOW! THE CLUB RECEIVES A FANTASTIC DONATION

Former V.A.A. members, Len & June Wood, donated to the club their entire Dickens' Village, Holy Land, Snow Village Halloween, Fontanini, a large number of fences, many, many varieties of trees and other beautiful items. You will be seeing these collections very soon at our club meetings. We thank Len and June for this wonderful donation to the V.A.A.





by Judyth Rischall,
N.C.C. Representative

NCC REPORT

and Silver Rush Gathering Information

Some thoughts and information from Ms. Lit Town, **Melinda Seegers** regarding the upcoming NCC Silver Rush – 25th Anniversary Gathering in Tempe June 14-18.

There has been a lot of talk online about belonging to clubs and what fun clubs are. While that is definitely true, it does not mean that folks who choose not to belong to a local collectors' club are any less important to the Department 56 Villages and the community they inspire. That's what makes the Department 56 Facebook page so wonderful—no rules, no secret handshake or membership card, just collecting fun! And some sharing of ideas!

D56 Platinum Retailers will be receiving two new pieces this year. Maggie's on Park was introduced for Christmas in the City and Lot 59, Christmas Court will be available for The Original Snow Village. If you are unsure of where to buy these two special pieces, visit the D56 website and look for "Platinum Retailers" in the MORE TO LOVE section listed on the bottom of each page. All Platinum retailers are listed along with contact information.

Also two new licensed lit buildings and coordinating accessories will be available exclusively through Sears in 2017. For the Peanuts' Village, there will be *Pinecrest Kite Shop* and accessory *Good Grief* featuring Charlie Brown and Snoopy with Charlie's kite stuck in a tree, of course! For Disney's Village we will have a really fun piece, *Mickey's Alarm Clock Shop*. A lot of thought and creative design went into this piece with clock parts and gears on the outside, and the shop sign that looks like an old fashioned alarm clock. If you do not have a Sears in your area, you'll have to wait a year.



Some Gathering Highlights: **Michael Griffith**, Executive Vice President of Enesco – Department 56 Villages, will be on hand for the weekend and will say a few words to the group on Friday morning at the opening ceremony. Right after the opening ceremonies the NCC will sponsor a panel featuring the three Village artists (**Scott Enter, Tom Bates & Paul Lundberg**) where you can ask questions and maybe get a sneak preview of things to come.

Name this Addict

At the June 3rd meeting, we will be introducing a new game called "Name This Addict". You will be told something about one of the members of the club and you must name the addict.

For example, you may be told that this Village Addict club member has six toes on each foot. You will not get any other clues. And, you will have to correctly guess the name of the "Addict" in the time allowed.

There will be only 1 guess per person so choose wisely before you guess.

If you are the first person to correctly guess the name of the club member in the time allowed, you will win an extra door prize ticket and have the honor of being the first person in line for our potluck lunch.

The complete rules will be announced at the V.A.A. meeting on June 3rd.

On The Road Again...

Yes, V.A.A. is going on the road again, this time to Solvang!

We will board an air-conditioned coach at the Wilkinson Center on **Saturday, October 14** at 8:30a. The coach will leave promptly at 9:00a. Solvang is 111 miles north of our meeting location and takes about 2 hours travel time. The coach will be returning at approximately 7:00p.

We have also been offered a walking tour of Solvang or a cooking demonstration by a chef who will demonstrate how they make their great pastries. Please indicate on the sign-up sheet if you are interested in either of those activities.

The cost is \$30 per person for club members and \$40 per person for non-members. Water and snacks will be provided on the coach and there will be a couple of surprises such as door prizes!

There will be a sign-up sheet at the June 3rd meeting. If you cannot attend the meeting and would like to go on the trip, please email Alita or Marvella. **Deadline for signing up and making payment for the trip is August 5.**

The lunch in Solvang is no-host and there are over 40 restaurants to choose from to enjoy a delicious meal.

Named by Sunset Magazine as one of the "10 Most Beautiful Small Towns in the Western United States", Solvang's rich heritage dates back to 1911 when adventurous Danish-Americans traversed the plains from Iowa, to establish a settlement in the Golden State of California. More than one million visitors ascend upon Solvang each year to experience the Northern European culture, cuisine and unique boutique shopping. The pedestrian-friendly village hosts three museums, 40+ restaurants and bakeries, and 150 unique retail shops.





by Debbie Shelgren

NEW PRODUCTS...New Ideas!

I want to share with you several websites where I buy miniatures for my villages.

COLLECTIONSETC.COM www.collectionsetc.com/search?ntt=miniature%20sets

I really like this site for buying miniature sets. You get several pieces that you can use in your Village for a great price.



This *Miniature Skeleton Graveyard* is a set of 5 and the regular cost is \$16.99, but it was on sale for \$11.97 ►



◀ A *Miniature Black Cat Hat House* is a set of 5 that is normally priced at \$14.99 but was on sale for \$7.97.



◀ This *Miniature Christmas Tree Shop Lot* is a set of 8 and cost \$14.99.



The *Miniature Grave Yard House* is a set of 6 and I don't remember the cost, but I am sure it was less than 10.00 ►

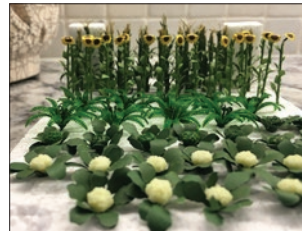


◀ And, this *Miniature Outdoor Patio Garden* is a set of 7 and cost \$14.99.

JTT & PARTNERS

www.jttmicroscale.com/viewcategory.asp?DirID=161

The *Corn Stalks*, the *Pumpkin Plants*, the *Broccoli* and the *Cauliflower* are priced at \$8.95 each. The *Sunflowers* are \$8.98 and the *Fern* is \$8.85. Their products look very realistic and come in two sizes: HO – ¾" and O – 1½" tall ►



MINIATURES

www.miniatures.com

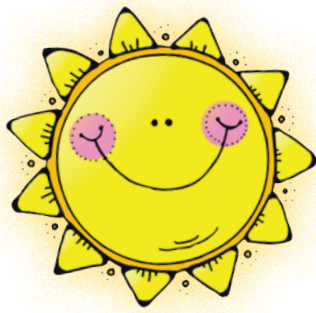
◀ The *Single Sunflower Stem* is \$2.99 and the small *Clover Base Fountain* is \$14.99. The *24 Macintosh Apples and Basket* are \$14.99. The last photo is a comparison of the two types of sunflowers.



City Lights

1212 Knoxville Street | San Diego, CA 92110
1-800-262-5335 | www.citylightscollectibles.com





Ms Sunshine

Al Acampora underwent back surgery on April 4th and is recovering at a rehabilitation facility. He would love to receive cards, particularly humorous cards. They can be sent to his home.

Linda Pressman's son, Trevor, underwent surgery on April 24th to remove a tumor. He is at home now recuperating. Please keep Linda and Trevor and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

Carole Collard is out of rehab and is home recuperating.

We hope everyone will enjoy the summer and will stay healthy.

Please contact Peggy with news about members, including health issues, deaths, as well as information about happy events such as family milestones, awards, trips, and any other happy news that you want to share.

WANTED, WANTED, Read All About It!

Please call **Daphne Lawson** if you find/have as she is looking for...

- Lemax – Chan Chinese Antiques, Cherry Blossom Chinese Restaurant, May's Tea House
- Christmas in the City – Buildings: Jade Palace Chinese Restaurant, The Golden Ox Market and 5th Avenue Shoppes, and Figures: Welcome to China Town
- Dickens Village – Buildings: Canton Tea Trading, Christmas at Ashby Manor, T. Smith Christmas Crackers, 1 Royal Tree Court and Figures: Tea Time, Tipping a Pint, Pausing for a Leisurely Pipe, 2008 Dickens Shopkeepers #807229, Dickens Family Stroll
- Accessories – Pencil Pines and Snowflake Light Poles

Remember the Department 56 ornaments each of us received for attending the club's 25th anniversary party? Here is a sample: If you have one that you are not planning to use and would like it to go to a good home, please contact **Debbie Shelgren**. Debbie is looking for several of these ornaments to be used in a display. Thanks for your help.



Robert Howard is looking for Department 56 churches. So, if you have a church you would like to sell, please contact Robert.

Please contact **Deana Princiotta** with anything you are looking for to be put into the next Gazette!



Don't Forget!

Bring an item to share at the potluck!