



# Village Addicts GAZETTE

VOLUME 26, NO. 2

A Newsletter for Village Addicts—Chapter 57

March | April 2017



by Brian Allen, Co-President

## CO-PRESIDENT'S CORNER

### BABBLINGS FROM BRIAN

Well, another day and another dollar...Another month another article to the members...Oh, I forgot, I retired, no more dollars.

Christmas has passed and we can't wait for Christmas again. We had another white elephant sale and it was again different & successful... thank you all, for your items to sell & your buying of those items. We look forward to the next white elephant sale and more can't pass up items.

I have been asked a number of times about how I am able to setup a village of seventy, eighty, ninety, or more houses in just a couple days...well...in a nut shell or just one word...Stupidity!

I tend to have the same problems as everyone else. What should I set up? Where should I set it up when I figure out What? And then when do I find time to actually do the setup? It makes everyone else curious when they hear that the final activity was started and finished in One, Two or three days but the truth is what everyone knows. We (I) have been procrastinating due to biting off too much and then find I have very little time and spend many long hours planning and doing on the fly. I hope that answers everyone's questions but I probably should add a little more to the explanation.

After many years of attempting to make a village I have developed a number of standard methods and actions that make it possible to navigate the process which in turn helps me be able to complete the process in a shorter amount of time than when I first started to build villages.

Now don't pass this on as it is proprietary information. It all starts with storage. I have very specific areas to store the different items. I built a storage shed many years ago and while it is now very full, I have each village stored in its own area. That makes it faster to find the items I may want to use. Likewise, I have accessories sorted and stored in areas by village. Trees, I have a large area of our attic that is dedicated to just trees and they are arranged by style and /or size. I built another shed that holds platforms and styrofoam. While it may look completely different each and every time I set up a village the fact is the platforms are basically the same every year. This makes it quicker to setup the support as there is just a little modification rather than a whole new platform. And yes, I make all my own platforms.

When it comes to actually laying in the houses, I first stage the houses, mentally layout general ideas in my head like how many churches, am I using a theme, or are there special effects like a train, water, or mountains. I then stage the accessories and trees. Once I have pulled everything I think I am going to use I begin the task of covering the platform with Styrofoam to provide for the ability to hide cords and provide for elevations. Then comes the unboxing and placing houses. One thing I do not do is maintain accessories with respective houses. They are free to roam. You may find a blacksmith in front of a church but the concern is that I have enough people & accessories to make it look like they are alive. On a very large layout this process is repeated for each section as the platform is extended. The other thing I try to do as I go is to use multi light cords and bury the cords in the Styrofoam as I go. Last, I place trees and snow, (almost all my villages are snow bound). So you learned nothing new except that I panic and do what you do in just two days. Then Barbara looks and says no, put that there, and why did you do that...and I am done. In the end it is just my perseverance that makes it happen. And you, the viewer, wonder how did he do that in just two days.

Hope to see you in April! *Brian*

P.S. Secret tool ►



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Our Next V.A.A. Meeting is:

**Saturday, April 1**  
at **11:00a**

*Don't Forget to Bring...*  
A drink for yourself and 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>

Village Addicts Anonymous  
Proud Member - Region 10





by Khia Silberkleit, Secretary

## MEETING MINUTES

The August Village Addicts Anonymous meeting was opened by co-Presidents **Brian Allen** and **Alita Rabe**. New members & guests were greeted and introduced. **Robin & Gary Kukura** from Village Keepers were introduced as guests. They collect Dickens' Village and Halloween. **Karen Holley**, a new member, was introduced as a collector of Christmas in the City and the Architectural Series. **Carla Silvers** was also introduced.

Treasurer's Report — **Marvella McAllister** shared the Treasurer's Report with expectations that the day's White Elephant Sale will add to the account.

Sunshine Report — **Peggy Jauregui** shared that there was no bad news. **Stan Higgins** is moving into assisted living in Arizona on March 13 to be closer to his best friend, Gary and his family.

New Products/New Ideas — **Debbie Shelgren** advised members that there are many items which can be used for displays now available at Michael's, Joann's, and the 99 cent store. Michael's has a new section of miniatures that go well in any village. They also are featuring Easter items. The greenery and Easter items work well for year round displays and vignettes. Debbie also noted that in the fairy garden area of Green Thumb, there are many items that can be added to make displays.

Birthday Drawing — The birthday drawing was held for September, October, January, and February. **Brian Allen** won the General Village Woodland Fence as the September birthday selected. For October, **Marvella McAllister** won the Snowy Scotch Pines. The January birthday chosen was **Judyth Rischall** who took the Halloween Village Gothic Street Lamps as her prize. **Don Gorden** was the birthday winner for February and selected the Dickens' Village Twelfth Night Temptation.

After lunch, the White Elephant sale was held and it was very successful.

Auctions — Set of three lighted finials, winning bid of \$50 from **Linda Pressman**. Plush Santa on a Train, winning bid of \$45 from **Barbara Reyna**.



by Jan Lauritzen

## WHITE ELEPHANT Sale

Our February WHITE ELEPHANT SALE was a huge success! We made \$1,014.75.

First, Ridi and I want to thank everyone who brought in items for the sale. We had so much stuff come in that we kept having to add more tables. It was hectic AND wonderful.

We also want to shout out a THANK YOU to everyone who helped out with pricing, placing, selling, and taking away the left-over items. Our team of helpers was magnificent. They worked very hard to get everything priced and placed in an organized manner. It was amazing what they were able to in such a short time. Our cashiers were great at getting everyone totaled and collecting their money.

Thank you to all of you who worked so hard sorting, pricing and selling to make this event happen: Dayleen Dutcher, Peggy Jauregui, Marty Kravchak, Marvella McAllister, Grace Pritchett, Margaret Reichenbach, Myrna Richardson, Jerry Rischall, Judyth Rischall and Khia Silberkleit. And, thanks to everyone who helped us set up the tables for the sale; particularly, Al Acampora, Brian Allen, Dave Dutcher, and Don Gorden. And thank you to anyone else who helped us out.

And last we wish to thank everyone who bought items from our sale.

Without all of you we would have not had a successful sale. THANK YOU! **THANK YOU!** THANK YOU!



## AUCTION AUCTION AUCTION!



**SNOW PRINCESS** – From the Christmas Club Collection, this animated 26" tall beauty carries a brightly lit wreath that has 10 multi-colored lights. There is an on/off switch on the cord.



**SANTA** – From Holiday Classics, Santa is 29" tall, animated and plays 18 Christmas carols. The music has an on/off switch with volume control.



**LARGE VILLAGE MOUNTAIN** – Department 56 item #52280 is a set of 14 that includes a 35" long mountain and 13 trees. It originally sold for \$150.





by Judyth Rischall,  
N.C.C. Representative

# NCC REPORT

## *and Silver Rush Gathering Information*

In honor of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the NCC is waiving club dues for 2017. Thank you, NCC

**Did you know?** These Department 56 artists will be attending events at the NCC Silver Rush 2017 - 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gathering!



Tom Bates



Ann Dezendorf



Scott Enter



Paul Lundberg

### GATHERING REGISTRATION UPDATE from Richard Puckett:

The Gathering committee has recently signed off on our two 'very limited' accessories and they are already in production.

Commemorating Our Anniversary portrays a couple under a silver umbrella carrying an anniversary clock set at "5 to 6". The silver umbrella references the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the umbrella itself symbolizes the NCC's mission of serving as an umbrella organization for clubs. It also is a direct tie to the previously released Under The NCC Umbrella accessories and Jack's Umbrella Shop. The NCC 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Clock has been specially painted in a platinum paint that was personally chosen for us by Department 56 Creative Director Rick Jackson. This special town clock features "NCC" on the front and the years "1992-2017" on the back. As previously stated, both of these are designed to coordinate with the previously released NCC items and are easily incorporated into any village display, as well.



Our agreement with Department 56 ensures that these accessories are exclusive to the NCC 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and will only be available through the Gathering. They will not be re-introduced into the village lines for retail sale! You can order yours, today, via the NCC website at [www.ncc56.com](http://www.ncc56.com) under the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary tab. In the event that you cannot make it to this awesome event, you may still order the accessories and note on the form who you would like to authorize to pick them up for you. Unfortunately, we will not be able to provide mail delivery. Above all else, we would rather have you come and join us! Don't delay in ordering yours, today as over half of them are already committed! Tempe Mission Palms is an upscale business hotel close to the Mill Avenue District and Mill Ave/3<sup>rd</sup> Street light rail transit station, and 3.5 miles from Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport. Warm, modern rooms have WiFi, flatscreens, mini-fridges and coffeemakers. Suites have rainfall showerheads and pull-out sofas. The roof has an outdoor pool and a tennis court, and there's a fitness center. A restaurant serves Southwestern-inspired fare, and a lounge and a poolside cafe are all on-site. The hotel is within walking distance to downtown Tempe's Mill Avenue district and over 100 restaurants, bars, and shops. Our special rate is \$119.00 plus tax and a \$9.95 Hospitality Fee per room, per day, good from June 11-June 21, 2017 (subject to availability). Group rate available until May 15, 2017 (subject to availability). Free hotel shuttle from the airport and free parking for hotel guests are available. Tempe Mission Palms | 60 East Fifth Street | Tempe, Arizona 85281 Reservations: 800-547-8705 | [www.missionpalms.com](http://www.missionpalms.com) When calling, tell them you are part of the NCC or National Council of 56 Clubs to get the group rate.

## IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!



by Myrna Richardson

It's almost time to pay annual Club dues - \$28 for a single person membership and \$35 for a family (two or more people). Last year, your dues paid for lots of fabulous door and raffle prizes, a wonderful 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and a fun & gift-filled Holiday Party with Turkey, Ham and 10 amazing Holiday Vignettes. Annual dues are due by our fiscal year's end, **MAY 31**. To help with our budgeting process, we're going to ask for early payment at the April 2017 meeting. In other words, it's okay if you pay at the June meeting, but it will help your Board if we start collecting dues in April. Thanks for your cooperation!

## STAY TUNED FOR SOLVANG DETAILS!

As you know, we are checking into a trip by bus to Solvang, CA. We recently emailed out a survey, which many of you thankfully answered, to when you would be most interested in traveling there. Looks like October was the favorite, we are now able to get a bit more information which will allow us to select a date. As soon as this happens, we will be able to release the date so you can put it in your calendar!





by Debbie Shelgren

# NEW PRODUCTS...New Ideas!

I received my "Village Gift Collection Winter 2017 Catalog" and was really excited to see some of the new buildings coming in 2017. I really wish I had more knowledge about collecting when I started, because I would have bought the more seasonal items, Valentine Day, St. Patrick's Day, Spring and Summer buildings. etc.

Before the San Diego Gathering, I built a Summer/Beach scene, and if you have ever tried to get buildings with no snow on them, it's not easy. I am so excited to build a Summer Vignette for my Kitchen Side board. These buildings, from the new series, Margaritaville, I think are going to be awesome and go with some of the ones I have modified.

At the February Meeting I talked about how I went crazy and bought a lot of beach items from Michael's new miniature section. And, Michael's had a LOT of items. One end cap was all Easter items, then a complete isle of miniatures called Tiny Treasures. As you can see, there are beach items but all items could be used with almost any building.

JoAnn's also has miniatures and to be honest, they are a little more rustic, but I bought lots of goodies. Green Thumb had retired Department 56 on sale. And, yes, I did buy some buildings but also look at the items I found in their fairy garden area.

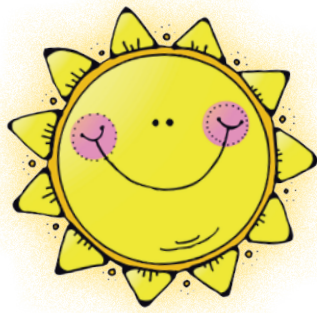


City Lights

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# Ms Sunshine

**Frank Smith's** mother passed away in Ohio on December 31, 2016.

**Bill Fox**, former V.A.A. member and father of **Rhonda Colgan**, passed away on January 6<sup>th</sup>

**Barbara Reyna** is home recovering from foot surgery performed on February 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Stan Higgins** will be moving to an assisted living facility in Arizona about mid-March.

**Pat Campbell** fell and broke her ankle and underwent surgery on Wednesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Cards may be sent to Pat at 7901 Barbi Lane, La Palma, CA 90623. We wish her a speedy recovery.

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 *5<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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 yourself a drink & an item to share at the potluck!

