



Village Views

“The voice of the San Diego Fifty-Sixers”
Volume 16: Number 8 August 2009

“And now for something really different”



I was inspired by our recent trip to the Guggenheim Museum of Modern Art in Bilbao, Spain to try something different for our mountains this year. How do you like it? I'm just not sure where the roads and buildings are going! It should be easy to hide the electrical cords, though.

Actually, my neighbor is rebuilding our side fence, and I had to pull out all of the Styrofoam that I've been “storing” behind and between our storage sheds.

This mountain represents Styrofoam from our displays for the last ten years or so. I can't believe I thought I would reuse some of the pieces! Before starting on our 2009 display, my goal is to sort through it all and throw out the pieces that will never be reused. When you come to our open house on Dec 12th you can check the backyard to see if the mountain is still there.

Speaking of 2009 displays, now is the time to start thinking about holding an open house this year. Believe me; there is nothing more rewarding than having your fellow club members see your display. Once again, Bob Dallow will be managing the open house schedule, so get your dates to him early.

Are you having a problem getting those creative juices going? Do you like to eat? Then I have just the thing for you. Join us on **August 26th at 6:30** for our annual Pot Luck dinner and slide presentation of last year's open houses. Bring your own drink and a dish to share. Before the slide show, there will once again be a little test of your memories of last year's open houses. If you know your open houses, you may win some raffle tickets. I guarantee after watching the slide show of last year's open houses, you will have some ideas for your 2009 display. You'll also have some great food. See you on the 26th.

Jon

SEASONS WITH SAGE.....

by Winnie

Are you enjoying your lazy days of summer? One of the highlights of summer is the August meeting of the San Diego Fifty-Sixers. We will be having our annual Pot Luck Dinner and 2008 Open House Display Power Point. I've heard a rumor that there will be a test involved, but it is a lot of fun anyway! Remember to bring your drinks and a dish to share. In exchange, you may get some new ideas for your coming displays or, maybe, a new recipe. Check out the possibilities on page 5 of Dr. Dallow's *Collectively Speaking*.

Take your newly acquired display ideas and run with them. It is time to start thinking about holding an open house for this year or early 2010. See Bob Dallow for scheduling.

Raffle Prizes

From The SD 56ers:

Sounds of the North Woods Linda Morgan

Morgan, Mini Silver Purse and Shoes – Patty Burdick, Anniversary Plaque – Dave Bechtel, Friendship Plaque – Michele Brown, Laugh Key Chain – Maggie Storey, Dog Heart Plaque – Millie Warner, Picture Frame – Norma McColley

From Mole Hole:

Village Mountain Backdrop Claire Caldwell

From Canterbury Gardens:

Ferrara's Bakery Marge Bramfeld

From Casual Living:

\$50.00 Gift Certificate Michele Brown

From City Lights:

Classic Tinsel Trees Michele Brown

From City Lights:

M'mmm Good Sharon Swildens

From City Lights:

Off to College Bill Hohnhorst

From The Sages:

2 Padre Tickets Claire Caldwell

Door prizes from Lisa Johnson of Dept. 56:

Tulip Plate – Chick Storey, Dressing Up with Tink – Sharon Swildens, Sun Dial – Fred Orlando, Sea Life Gift Bags – Sue Jones, Red/White Gumdrop Tree – Kathy Heitzmann, Wishing You Peace Snowbaby – Carol Orlando, Bird Tree Light – Annie Dallow, Girl on a Rock – Marge Bramfeld, Old Mackinac Lighthouse – Jon Sage, Silver Handbag – Linda

SAN DIEGO FIFTY SIXERS' OFFICERS		
President	Jon Sage	858-484-2533
Vice-President	Lauren Murphy	619-669-4949
Rec. Secretary	Annie Dallow	949-498-1356
Treasurer	Les Boynton	858-748-4291
Corr. Secretary	Shirley Bechtel	858-549-2077
Publicity	Marge Bramfeld	619-691-8424
Historian	Claire Caldwell	619-280-1048
Parliamentarian	Bob Dallow	949-498-1356
Hospitality	Mary Marshall	619-262-0351
Membership	Winnie Sage	858-484-2533
Past President	Karen Boynton	858-748-4291
<i>Village Views</i>	Bob O'Connor	760-789-3957



LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE

Dennis Morgan says, "I just wanted to thank everyone involved for the wonderful (and delicious) Retirement Cake and Lauren's 'Special Delivery' that made it all possible! It meant the world to me!"

Millie & Wayne just got back from a wonderful 16 day trip to Prescott, AZ; visiting Kate & Gary, Corresponding Club Members. Wayne and Gary drove to The Grand Canyon which was 2½ hours away, and then another day they all went to Sedona and, of course, to "The Cracker Barrel". There was also a side trip to Lake Havasu, The London Bridge and Topock, AZ, just off the Colorado River, where it was 113 degrees

Patty and Phil are finally back in their home after "The Big Flood!" Patty is very happy not living in the hotel and back in their home; but now there is all the unpacking to do.

The Sages have been enjoying a visit from daughter, Megan. After a month in SD, she is returning to Northern CA, where she will begin her student teaching at the end of August.

The Browns, the Murphys, and the O'Connors are headed to the Region 8 Round-Up: Spooktacular Event in San Antonio, Texas. Besides giving a seminar, Jim Murphy will represent the San Diego Fifty-Sixers as our nominee for National Collector of the Year. Good Luck, Jim!

FOR YOUR CALENDAR.....

Our sponsor, Unique Gifts & Collectibles, 26485 Ynez Road, Ste. M, Temecula, will be holding its Open House September 7 – 13, during regular business hours. Select retired Department 56 pieces will be 40% off. Show them your support.

As I was trying to contact Pat at Unique Gifts, I discovered some errors in the roster. Please add these changes to the Unique Gifts & Collectibles' entry. Phone: (951) 296-9055. Website: www.unikgift.com

Collectively Speaking

...by Bob Dal I ow

In trying to come up with a new topic for this month's column, I decided to base it

on August's meeting plans. No, not the video presentation of last year's open houses, but instead on the pot luck dinner. We know there are several gourmet cooks in the club, but rumor has it that there are a few kitchen-challenged individuals who have to resort to purchasing their contributions. So, whether you live in Snow Village or El Cajon, Jamul or the City, or temporarily in La Mesa, here are a few locations that might help you win kudos from your fellow club members.



Now it would be easy to send you to grocery stores, markets, diners, or restaurants. But San Diego Fifty-Sixers aren't known for taking the easy way out. Just look at our intricate displays and the creative ways we display pieces to make uniquely different venues.

Let's start with Chinese take-out. That's always a popular option. On your way to Sharp, there are four choices depending on your point of origin. If you're a City dweller, consider *Wong's in Chinatown* (left) or the *Golden Ox Market*. Coming from Snow Village, you might want to stop at the *Lucky Dragon Restaurant*. Those who prefer their Oriental delicacies with an English accent should stop by *Canton Tea Trading*.

Suppose you prefer to bring an opening course. If you're a soup fanatic, stop at New England's *Chowder House* or the *Campbell's Soup Counter* in Snow Village. What about an appetizer of cheese and crackers? You can get your crackers in any number of stores, but for the best cheese, I'd suggest you stop at either *Milch-Kase* or *Käsenhändler* from Alpine Village. I might play favorites with flavored cream cheeses from the City's *Baker Brothers Bagel Bakery*.

Easy to handle main courses could be obtained from a number of fast food places that abound in San Diego. You could make your impact on our McPot Luck dinner by stopping at the Golden Arches in Snow Village's *McDonald's*. Want another burger choice, this time with sliders? In the same community, stop at *White Castle*. If your culinary fast food comes with an Italian taste, you can bring us slices from either the City's *DiFazio's Pizzeria* or return to Snow Village and *Pisa Pizza* (right). Other places you might want to visit could include *Dinah's Drive-In* or the mouth-watering *Mighty Fine BBQ*, both in Snow Village. Some of us really appreciate savory wieners with all the onions, mustard, ketchup, and sauerkraut. For those of you with that predilection, perhaps you could stop by *Franky's Hot Dogs*.



As we work our way through the various courses, some of our kitchenphobes might want to set their eyes on sweets to wrap up a wonderful meal. A delay in getting to dessert might make it difficult to keep frozen delicacies from melting. But, if you want to take a chance, your search won't be a long one. Start at North Pole's *Elfin Snow Cone Works*, or make one of two Snow Village stops at either *56 Flavors Ice Cream* or *The Frozen Swirl*. There are bakeries throughout our villages, but that would be too easy. Consider special sources for your pastries, such as *Krispy Kreme Doughnut Shop* in Snow Village or North Pole's *Mini Donut Shop* or *Ginny's Cookie Treats*.

Remember that each of you must supply your own drinks. Here are a few suggestions. For Jim Murphy and other coffee drinkers, your choices are almost unlimited: *Caribou Coffee Shop* (NP), *Starbuck's Coffee* (SV), *Regent Street Coffee House* (DV), and *Spring Street Coffee House* (CIC). Want soda? In addition to the fast food places, Coca-Cola has locations in both the City (*Coca-Cola Soda Fountain*) and Snow Village (*Coca-Cola Corner Drugstore*). I could also suggest a few of you might prefer to find your beverages at Dickens' *E. Tipler, Agent For Wines And Spirits*. However, I think Sharp might frown on that.

My original premise was that some of our pot luckers will enjoy creating dishes, while others might be more comfortable purchasing their goodies. But there might be others – those who lack only a great recipe to be a culinary queen. Here are a few ideas from my personal chef:

Shrimp Chowder

½ cup chopped onion
 2 teaspoons butter
 3 to 4 cans (12 oz each) evaporated milk
 2 cans (10 ¾ ounces each) condensed cream of potato soup undiluted
 2 cans (10 ¾ ounces each) condensed cream of chicken soup, undiluted
 1 can (11 ounces) white or shoepeg corn, drained
 1 teaspoon Creole seasoning
 ½ teaspoon garlic powder
 2 pounds cooked small shrimp, peeled and deveined or larger shrimp cut into bite sized pieces
 1 package (3 ounces) cream cheese, cubed
 4 bacon strips, cooked and crumbled

Sauté onion in butter until tender. In a 5-qt. slow cooker, combine the onion mixture, milk, soups, corn, Creole seasoning and garlic powder. Cover and cook on low for 3 hours. Stir in shrimp and cream cheese. Cook 30 minutes longer, or until shrimp are heated through and cream cheese is melted. Stir to blend. Garnish with bacon.

Soup is rich enough to omit the cream cheese if you would like. Very good the next day and freezes well.

Susan's Macaroni & Cheese

7 oz elbow macaroni--small
 1 cup Sour Cream
 2 cups Cottage Cheese
 8 oz. Sharp Cheddar Cheese—grated plus more for top
 1 beaten egg
 ¾ tsp salt
 Dash of pepper
 Paprika



Cook macaroni according to directions. Mix together other ingredients; then stir in cooked macaroni. Put in a casserole dish (9 x 9 x 2). Top with more grated cheese and sprinkle with paprika. Bake @ 350° for 45 minutes. 6-8 servings

Chicken by Jodi

¼ cup flour
 1 teaspoon salt
 1 teaspoon pepper
 1 teaspoon paprika
 1/8 teaspoon poultry seasoning
 6 pieces white or dark meat chicken
 ¼ lb. butter
 1 cup rice
 2-14 oz. cans chicken broth
 2 tablespoons chopped onion (optional)

Mix flour and seasonings in plastic bag, and coat chicken with flour mixture. Melt butter in baking dish, and coat each side of chicken with melted butter. Bake at 400° for 25 minutes.

Remove chicken. Place rice in baking dish, and pour heated chicken broth over rice. Mix rice and broth, and then return chicken to baking dish. Bake at 400° for 45 minutes.

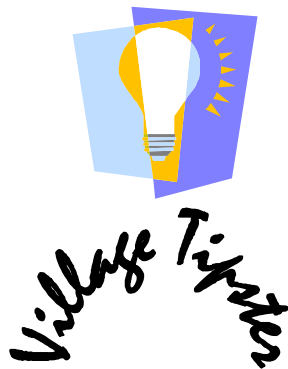
Berry Cookie Cobbler

2 Bags (12 ounces each) frozen mixed berries, thawed
 1 Container (21 oz.) apple pie filling
 ½ Cup granulated sugar
 1½ Teaspoons ground cinnamon
 1 Package (18 oz.) refrigerated sugar cookie dough
 Vanilla ice cream

Preheat oven to 350°. In large bowl, mix berries, apple pie filling, sugar, and cinnamon. Transfer fruit mixture to an 8x8x2- inch baking dish. Crumble the cookie dough over fruit, covering thickly and completely.

Bake, uncovered, until cookie crust is golden and crisp and juices bubble thickly, about 45 minutes. If filling bubbles over a bit in baking, leave it (it adds a mouthwatering appeal).

Cool a bit and serve with vanilla ice cream.



ALL THROUGH THE HOUSE – PART FIVE

This article is the fifth in the series that suggests ideas for using everyday household items to help create or enhance your village displays. In the first four articles, we kept ourselves in the kitchen. The coming months will take us through the rest of the house, ending in the garage.

Before moving on, I need to add some information to last month's column. In February, when I wrote last month's column, I was unaware that D56 has a **2009 clothesline accessory** (*Hung Out to Dry*). The accessory is a set of three clotheslines, complete with clothes. You will still need to make something on which to hang the lines, but that is certainly easier than making everything from scratch.

Christmas wrapping paper can be used to make an easy backdrop for your village. I have seen paper

that looks like a starry night which would be perfect behind a village. **Wrapped boxes (or Styrofoam)** will work as a foundation or backdrop for vignettes. You just need to find the right pattern. **Wrapping** different size boxes or Styrofoam **with brightly colored papers** would look great as a background for North Pole Village. In our NP Village two years ago, we used large wrapped pieces of foam to block the light coming through the windows.

Multiple pieces of **narrow ribbon** can be tightly curled and secured to wooden skewers to form unique looking trees for North Pole and Halloween villages. Weaving ribbon through picket fences creates a festive holiday look. Of course, the color of the ribbon would change according to the holiday. Ribbon also works as a decorative edge to hide the pins or tacks that hold the skirting in place.

Speaking of **skirting**, we have used bed sheets, tablecloths, and fabric remnants as skirting material. **Cotton batting** or polyester fill, when used under the village will give the look of snow. This works great for a small display or in a breezy area where

granular snow might blow away. The problem with using these "snow blankets" comes when putting accessories on them. They tend to fall over. If you cut through the blanket to give the accessory a solid surface to stand on, the problem is solved.

If you have young children or grandchildren, you probably have an assortment of cartoon **figures**, super heroes, dinosaurs, animals, sesame street characters etc. If the pieces are not too large, you could create a Macy's type **balloon parade**. Instead of people holding the balloon tethers, you could use vehicles. The tethers would need to be rigid to support the weight of the characters. Perhaps using **thin yarn with a wire** threaded through it would do the job. Accessories that could march in the parade include: The Salvation Army Band, Yeomen of the Guard, 5 Golden Rings (jugglers), 10 pipers piping, 12 Drummers Drumming and The Radio City Rockettes. Of course, this parade would work best in Christmas in the City but would also work in Snow Village.

More next month.....

VERN

CAKE AND GAMES

No, we were not at the ancient Roman circuses, but the July meeting of the San Diego Fifty-Sixers was highlighted by cake and games.

Members were able to have their cake and eat it, too, in celebration of the retirements of Michele Brown and Dennis Morgan from the San Diego Unified School District on July 1st. Congratulations to both of them!

As the cake eating progressed, Dr. Bob Dallow entertained us with a new variation of his hangman-type Department 56 game. This game was called, "Hollywood Visits Department 56." Like "Before & After" versions of the *Wheel of Fortune* game, one part of each puzzle was the name of a Hollywood celebrity and the other part was the name of a Department 56 piece with the last word of the first part overlapping as the first word of the second part. Winners of the Hollywood game received a set of trees. (You can never have too many trees!) The lucky winners were the following: Vern Brown, Winnie Sage, Patty Burdick, Montse Hohnhorst, and Phil Burdick. Everyone had a great time. Thanks, Bob!

AMENDMENT TO BYLAWS

Pursuant to directions received from the Board at its June meeting, the following proposal to amend the Bylaws is presented for your approval. The proposal was read at the July meeting, and a vote of the members present will be taken at the August 26th meeting.

Article Three, Section 8 presently reads as follows:

Section 8. A membership roster containing names, addresses, and phone numbers will be developed by the Membership Chairperson and updated periodically.

- a. Said roster will be distributed annually to all members at the April meeting and available thereafter.
- b. Copies of the roster will be provided to those retailers who have been accorded honorary membership status as defined in Section 1e, above. Individual members may be excluded from this distribution upon written request to the Membership Chairperson at the time of dues payment.

It is recommended that there be no change to the current language, but that a Subsection "c" be added as follows:

- c. Use of the roster for mass mailings, either electronically or traditionally, is prohibited unless said mailings refer directly to matters of club interest, including, but not limited to, meeting dates, club activities, health issues of members, and other topics relating to the collecting and displaying of collectibles.

San Diego Fifty-Sixers

PO Box 23285
San Diego, CA 92193

Our next meeting will be on the
Fourth Wednesday of the month,
August 26th

AUGUST						
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
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23	24	25		27	28	29



Directions: From either I-805 or I-163 take the Clairemont Mesa exit and proceed east, turn right onto Kearny Villa Road, at Spectrum Center Blvd. turn left. Sharp Spectrum Center Court is the first right after the Marriott Courtyard. When entering the Sharp property the parking lot is through the gate to the right.

The **San Diego Fifty Sixers** are members of the
National
Council
of 56 Clubs



At the Sharp Spectrum Center Court
8695 Spectrum Center Court
6:30 social, meeting at 7:00

SAN DIEGO FIFTY SIXERS		
Calendar of Events - 2009		
August	26	Club Meeting / Fourth Wednesday – 6:30 PM / Pot Luck & Open House Power Point
September	7-13	Unique Gifts and Collectibles' Open House Regular Business Hours
September	23	Club Meeting / Fourth Wednesday – 7 PM / Girls vs. Boys Display Contest
September	24	Canterbury Gardens' Christmas Open House 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM
September	26	VAA visit to City Lights / Purchases tax free
October	24	City Lights' Holiday Open House 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
October	28	Club Meeting / Fourth Wednesday – 7 PM / Annual Swap and Sell
November	7	Casual Living's Open House / Swap & Sell 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
November	18	Club Meeting / Third Wednesday – 6:30 PM / Games
November		Lighting Up Lives Set-Up
December		Open Houses All Month
Please check the Calendar regularly. These programs are subject to change.		
The board meets each month on the Wednesday before the regular club meeting. Any member is welcome to attend the board meeting. Meetings start at 5:30 pm at Miramar Café, 7128 Miramar Road		