

VILLAGE ADDICTS GAZETTE

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS June 5, 2008

The meeting was called to order by Co-President Claudette Fillet at 12:45. Claudette introduced Dept 56 Rep Jim Ponce, who showed the Dept 56 mid-year releases. Jim presented a PowerPoint presentation and also had three of the new buildings – Snow Village Noah's Ark, DV Cottage...and (See the separate article about the mid-year releases.)

There was a short break after Jim's presentation and the meeting resumed at 1:30. Judyth Rischall introduced her guests, her very handsome grandsons Robby, 15; Jonny, 12 and Tommy, 9.

Treasurer Jo Ann Inouye presented the Treasurer's Report, including the bank balance and a report on the bank accounts.

NCC Rep Judyth Rischall told how to order the new NCC building, the NCC Traders Pin Shop, which costs \$56.00. The building can only be ordered from the NCC by the Club. Contact Judyth to order. The D56 online warehouse sale ended on June 11. Claudette reported that Carolyn Ferrito and Pat Mallon will not be going to the NCC Convention and their room reservations are available.

Stan Higgins is working on the Halloween Tour of Homes, scheduled for Saturday, November 1st, and Pat Harmon has signed up. If enough people sign up, tours will also be scheduled on Sunday, November 2nd, Stan is working on the VAA bus trip on September 27th to Casual Living, Canterbury Gardens and City Lights. There is room for 40 people on the bus with lots of room for packages. The stores will feature both Halloween and Christmas displays.

Claudette announced that Joe Egizi had many new Lemax Halloween pieces at his vending table, with lots of animation and spooky sounds.

Co-President Joan Ireland asked for people to volunteer to be a Club officer next year. The Club

will need a Co-President and needs a Gazette editor now. Later in the meeting, Pat Harmon volunteered to be the Gazette editor. (Yours truly is delighted!)

Alita Rabe told about a new store she discovered in Kingman, AZ: Dreams and rainbows (www.dreamnrainbows.com) They have D56, Boyds Bears, Dreamsicles, Charming Tails, Disney, and lots of other collectibles. They are offering all D56 from 2007 and before at 50 percent off. Alita bought two pieces of CIC at 50 percent off and they shipped immediately by UPS. Alita also reported that D56 cleaned out its warehouse recently, and sent a lot of stuff to William Glen in Sacramento, which they are selling at a discount. The website is www.williamglen.com.

VAA sponsor Casual Living has some new releases. Alita recently bought "Mid West Halloween," a curly tree with skulls at the base there. They also have the 22" sisal trees from 1994-1996, which have been reintroduced in sets from 12" to 16", priced at \$42.50, from Casual Living. Alita reported that D56 has a new series, A Christmas Story Revisited, which will be sold at Sears. One of the new pieces is the Chop Suey Palace, which could be displayed with Wong's in Chinatown. Alita also told about some new and wonderful creations from Jean and Lotty at OurMiniThings. They have an airborne witch and some musical trees. Their website is ourminithings@yahoo.com.

Jan Lauritzen makes small glass walkways and stepping stones for Ridi's North Pole Village. She brought lots of samples of the curved and straight walkways to the meeting. Jan says they are easy to make!

August Make 'N Take: Bud Arntzen and Margaret Reichenbach will show how to make decorated trees with small ornaments at the August meeting. Peggy Jauregui suggested that we look for small beads on strands, sisal or bottle brush trees, and old cloth to protect your work area, glue gun with cool temperature, and a pair of small scissors.

Peggy mentioned that stores such as Michaels and Jo Ann's put last year's Christmas stuff out in July, and so there are some great bargains. Peggy also suggested looking for beads in the thrift stores. See Bud and Margaret's list of things to bring in a separate article.

Claudette adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Myrna Richardson Acting Secretary

Prizes from the June 5, 2008 Meeting

Raffle:

- Miss Mae's Rooming House SV - Bill & Barbara Reyna
- Dudley Docker DV – Bill & Barbara Reyna
- The China Trader DV - Jill Bonino
- Yankee Jud Bell Casting NEV - Joan Ireland
- The University Club CIC – Myrna Richardson

Door Prizes:

- Twinkling Lit Trees (White) Heritage–Dayleen Dutcher
- Roadside Produce Stall SV – Barbara Allen
- Topping off the Scarecrow SV Halloween – Jackie Eckberg
- Tending the Royal Horses DV – Myrna Richardson
- Snowbabies – Are All These Mine? – Linda Pressman
- Elegant Christmas Topiaries Heritage – Dayleen Dutcher
- Village Do-Lights – Ridi Lauritzen
- Chocolate House* - Brian Allen
- Chocolate House – Paula Vaccaro
- Chocolate House – Paula Vaccaro
- Chocolate House – Linda Pressman

*Chocolate Houses made by Cora Smith

HOW TO CONTACT US	
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Treasurer – Jo Ann Inouye	818/341-6090
Asst Treasurer – Stan Higgins	818/892-5100 squekey@verizon.com
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RmcD House – Cora & Frank Smith	818/343-7075 northpoleplanner@socal.rr.com
NCC Rep – Judyth Rischall	818/591-1398 garischall@pobox.com
Tour of Homes – Stan Higgins	818/892-5100 squekey@verizon.com
Historian, Photographer, Inventory & Storage – Bud Arntzen	818/881-5631

A note from the new Editor – please let me know if I've gotten a phone number, e-mail or name misspelled. I've tried to recheck everything, but things do fall through the cracks. Thanks for the help – Pat Harmon

From Alita.....

Recently, on a Department 56 chat group, collectors were discussing the prices of D56 pieces and wondering how we could continue to afford to buy the pieces we want. Some collectors said they never buy pieces at full price. Many waited for reduced price sales before buying or purchased what they wanted on eBay. One person wanted to know if there were any collectors who did buy at full price.

A dealer, Kristin Singhasemanon, owner of The Satin Button, responded to these comments. The Satin Button is located in Northern California and their web site is <http://www.thesatinbutton.com>. I thought her comments were very informative and interesting. Here is what she said:

"As a dealer, I can say that the drop in demand from having fewer collectors lead to an overstock situation with dealers allowing many of you to buy your village pieces at steep discounts. Selling stock at 1/2 off can't go on for long because dealers are losing money at those prices - especially those who sell online and offer free shipping on top of it!

Dept. 56 seems to have finally begun to address this problem by reducing the supply. In the past, dealers had to order in minimum quantities of 4 of each piece. They started introducing so many new pieces that, if you (the dealer) wanted to offer the full assortment of new pieces for the year, you were looking at a minimum of a \$20,000 investment, and the need for a large amount of storage space. The limited edition pieces are "allocated" to dealers based on past buying history. They're supposed to be considered "hard to get," but many dealers last year were not purchasing as many pieces as they had been allocated. This left enough stock available for any new dealer (who may not have been allocated a piece) to get anything they wanted.

As you all know, Dept. 56 is introducing fewer new pieces this year. In addition to that, they reduced the wholesale minimums from 4 of each piece to 2 of each piece. From what I've heard from my reps, the reduced minimums were hugely popular with dealers. Those of you who are accustomed to waiting for the 1/2 off sales may end up missing out this year. On the one hand, it will be disappointing to collectors who may lose out on some savings. On the other hand, if the value of Dept. 56 is not maintained, and a higher percentage of the sales made at regular price, dealers will continue to die out.

It will be interesting to watch and see how this new strategy affects Dept. 56 values over the next couple of years. Reviving the retail value may help improve your resale values as well."

Kristin Singhasemanon
The Satin Button - Village Dealer
Phone 916 – 837-0820

2008 Calendar

VAA Events

Aug 2	Make N' Take Workshop & VAA Election
Sept 27	VAA's Bus Trip to Casual Living, Canterbury Gardens City Lights
Oct 6	Halloween Meeting VAA's Birthday Party
TBA	Halloween Tour of Homes
Nov 29	Build display at Ronald McDonald House
Dec 6	Holiday Party
TBA	Holiday Tour of Homes

Become a member of Village Addicts! Tell a friend!
If you're a D56 Collector, Join Us! Call Peggy at
(818) 763-3096 for information about Membership.

Please let Peggy Jauregui know about anyone who
needs cheering up...(818) 763 3096.

GOOD NEWS IS ALWAYS WELCOME!
JoAnn Lundgren and Geri Little both had
angiograms the week of July 5th ...and by the
time you receive this newsletter, will be at
home recovering – REMEMBER – cards are
always welcome 😊
Joanne had a 40% blockage which can be
corrected through diet, medication and
exercise.
Jerri had a 90% blockage and a stent was
inserted.

Don't forget to wear your Club Shirt and to bring
A pot-luck dish. One extra Door Prize Ticket given
for wearing Club shirt and one extra Door Prize Ticket
for bringing a pot- luck dish.

**ITS NOT TO EARLY TO START TO SAVE "STUFF" FOR VAA'S
2009 WHITE ELEPHANT SALE!**

**Please remember to bring food items to the meeting
Deposit in the YELLOW Deacon's Barrel
For the homeless who are served by the
Hollywood Presbyterian Church**

**CASH CONTRIBUTIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED BY RED OR CAROLE AT THE
MEETING AND FOOD ITEMS WILL BE PURCHASED WITH YOUR DONATION.**

From the Co-President, Joan Ireland

It's June 26, 2008, Thursday morning at 6 a.m. 15 club members are asleep at the Ramada Hotel in Bloomington, Minnesota. The alarm awakens us with a blast. Time to get up, time to get up. Our first day at the NCC Conference has begun. 600 people are registered for this conference so we run to the conference rooms to be first in line. We arrive at the seminar doors and discover there are 50 to 75 people standing in line ahead of us. That's OK. We'll still get a seat near the speaker. While waiting for the seminar doors to open, we make friends with the other people. They've come from near and far. We jabber on about who collects what village(s), how many houses we have in each village, what we hope to buy at the Marketplace, and what kind of bargains we'll find. While waiting in line, people are rushing past us carrying shopping bags filled with the houses they've just purchased. We start wondering, what are we missing? Should we rush over to the Marketplace, or should we stay in line for the seminar? What should we do? The doors finally open. We're heading into the room. A decision must be made NOW. Do we stay or do we leave? YOU GUESS WHAT WE DID. I already know what I did. And so, throughout those 3 days we attended seminars, shopped at the Marketplace, toured Tiny Town and The Lowell Inn in Stillwater, visited Dept 56's showroom, and shopped at the Dept 56 store in the Mall of America. The first night of the conference, the D-56 collectors shopped and shopped until closing time. I do believe they bought out the store. The seminars were great. We learned about landscaping (cutting foam with a bow saw-what a weapon) lighting and wiring, decorating techniques and much, much more. I must say a good time was had by all at this conference. Everybody returned safe, happy, and broke. Wait a second, YOU KNOW WHO was not on the plane. What happened to YOU KNOW WHO?

A short note from the new editor (that would be me) Pat Harmon – I'm going to rely on all of you to help me out in this new endeavor (an earnest attempt or effort) of doing the newsletter...in other words.....

WANTED: ARTICLES FOR THE GAZETTE – SEND TO: PATSVAA@AOL.COM

Fax 805 581 0545

Please try and have articles to me in a timely fashion -- I know, I know, that isn't always possible – but trrrryy@– I'm told by Myrna that I need to publish and mail by the 15th of the month prior to the meeting to make sure newsletters are on time! This means all articles **MUST** be in to me by the 10th – **NO** exceptions. Also, we're going to try something a little different – if you have unwanted buildings or accessories that you would like to place for sale on the member's table and would like to give some advance notice to members, just send me the details (not tooooo long) and I'll try and get it in the next gazette. Also, please note my new e-mail address – please correct your membership rosters.



Member's Table

Just in time for Halloween

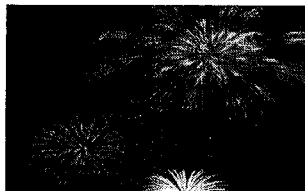
Creepy Creek Carriage House – has bat mobile
Spooky Schooner Ghostly Carousel
Shipwreck Lighthouse Haunted Hears

Misc. Items –

Rosita's Cantina (over 80 small access to build a display)
Great Expectations Satis Manor
See Pat Harmon or call for prices 805 581 2632
* * * * *

A Texas collector is selling her Snow Village – pieces date from 1980 to 2000. All pieces in good condition w/boxes. Buyer to pay shipping - all reasonable offers considered (negotiate)
See Pat Harmon for details

Congratulations * * * Frank & Cora Smith



40 years – WOW!!
* * * * *

More from Alita - - - -

**FUTURE TRAVELS WITH COLLECTORS
BEAUTIFUL CANADA**

May 15 – 17, 2009 - The Village Lamplighters of Quebec club, to celebrate its 15th anniversary, is organizing a convention in the city of Laval, Quebec, Canada at the Sheraton Hotel. You must register prior to March 14, 2009. Go to

<http://www.lamplighters.ca> and select 'Contest Section' for more details. Alita will also have some registration forms at the meeting.

ALOHA!

February 28 – March 14, 2010 – Cruise to Hawaii on the Golden Princess with the National Council of 56 Clubs (NCC). A 15-day cruise departs Los Angeles on February 28, 2010 and will have stops at Hilo, Hawaii, Honolulu, Oahu, Nawiliwili, Kauai, Lahaina, Maui, and Ensenada, Mexico. The cruise rates range from inside room at \$1,869.05 to Mini-suite at \$3,119.05. Please contact Tim or Lilia Kearney at Great Escapes Cruises & Tours telephone 877-903-1578 or e-mail GreatEscps@aol.com for further information or to make a reservation.

SAN DIEGO

Yes, we will be having a California Gold Gathering! The San Diego 56ers club is planning to have a CGG in 2010 just prior to the NCC cruise to Hawaii. Lauren Murphy will be the chairperson and has asked for volunteers from VAA to help out. This is a major effort and we need as many volunteers as possible. We will have more details later.

SAN FRANCISCO

I spoke to Richard Tuck and he said they are planning a Golden Gate Gathering but did not have any details yet. The GGG was so much fun and is here in California and is an easy drive. Richard has finished his "Playland Not At The Beach," a Museum of Fun, and it is open to the public. He showed slides at the NCC convention and it is amazing. Also, if you have never been to Richard's home, you are in for a rare treat.



NEED ASSISTANCE? CALL 1-800-LIT-TOWN

Are you missing a flag or a sign for one of your buildings? Do you have a problem with an adapter or light bulbs? Are any of your interior scenes not working? Call the D56 Consumer Services division 1-800-LIT-TOWN (548-8696). Melinda Seegers told us they now have about 1,000 small replacement parts for our buildings and animated accessories that we can order.

Here are some excerpts from a seminar handout, "Technology 101."

Most buildings that have extra features such as animation will require a specialized low voltage bulb. If you find that the extra feature on the building is working, but not the socket, then it is likely you are using the wrong type of bulb. Instead, try using the "Village 3-Volt Bulb" (56.32121) or the "Village 12-Volt Bulb" (56.53161). Keep in mind that these screw bases are the exact

same size as a typical night light bulb, so they are very easy to confuse.

Although adapters all seem to look alike, each one can feed different electrical values. For example, the "Haunted Mansion" and the "Grimslly Manor" both use adapters that look similar and have the same type of connector. But, the "Haunted Mansion" adapter feeds 12 volts of power while the "Grimslly Manor" adapter feeds only 6 volts. If you accidentally reverse the adapters, one item will get too much power while the other doesn't get enough. If you find an adapter isn't labeled, be sure to use a permanent marker to write the name and item number of the building on it. Above all, don't try random adapters on an item if it isn't working right away. You may end up damaging the internal wiring. Instead, call the D56 Consumer Services division.

Again, if you are unsure about a bulb or adapter, or want to order a replacement part, call the D56 Consumer Services division 1-800-LIT-TOWN (548-8696).



NCC Convention Highlights By Alita Rabe

Seventeen VAA club members attended the first NCC Convention held at the Ramada Inn in Bloomington, MN. Although a final count was never announced, there were over 600 people who had registered. It is believed the number of attendees was probably around 800.

On Thursday morning there was a bus trip to South St. Paul to visit a beautiful residential area, home of Jerry and Marilyn Sexton and the Tiny Town Museum. Jerry has been collecting for almost 20 years and has won several national awards for his displays. Jerry has collected about 100 pieces of Vitreville's Forma Vitrum stained glass buildings and has most of them displayed on shelves in the kitchen. In the basement was the North Pole display, upstairs, lighthouses and tall ships. In 1999 they built a 1,500 square foot addition to house their 37 unique displays with over 700 lighted buildings. It was amazing!

We reluctantly left Tiny Town and traveled to Stillwater in the St. Croix River Valley. Stillwater is often called the Birthplace of Minnesota because it was here that delegates met to draft a Memorial to Congress for the early organization of the territory of Minnesota. Stillwater is said to be the inspiration for the origin of the D56 Snow Village. It is told that Ed Bazinett and another gentleman gave birth to the idea of a miniature lighted village over dinner one evening at the Lowell Inn. Our first

stop in Stillwater was the Lowell Inn to have lunch. The Lowell Inn was miniaturized by D56 as a 25th anniversary Snow Village building.

After lunch, a docent boarded the bus and took us on a tour of the town showing us some of the architecture of the area. Those attending were each given a pin that was a replica of the Lowell Inn.

After attending the opening ceremony on Friday morning and receiving a special pin for attending, we went to some excellent seminars. Melinda Seegers, Manager of Department 56 Consumer Services, presented "Snow Village Halloween." At this seminar we were given a small book titled, Snow Village Halloween 1998 – 2008 containing photos and a history of the Halloween lit buildings.

Another fun and interesting seminar was presented by Richard Anderson, best known for his appearances on the HGTV decorating programs, "Decorating Cents" and "Design On A Dime." A funny and entertaining speaker, Richard put together some beautiful centerpieces that were later sold in the charity auction.

Bryan Shroats and Jill Schlung, display designers for D56, presented "Halloween in Bootiful Style" and built some fantastic Halloween displays that were also sold at the charity auction. Jill showed us how to make slime waterfalls using lots of hot glue painted slime green .

Other activities included a pizza party hosted by the NCC on Thursday night, a banquet on Saturday night, room hops, and breakfast on Sunday where the display contest winners were announced, a charity auction was conducted, and the raffle prize winners were announced. Some of our VAA members were very lucky winning more than one door prize at the Convention and I was the lucky winner of two raffle prizes.

There were also two open houses at the D56 Mall of America store with items marked at discounts up to 40 percent. Some of us just couldn't take the crowds and the heat in the store and had to leave. While others, with stronger constitutions toughed it out and managed to buy lots of good stuff.

For those of you who have not attended an out-of-town Gathering/Convention, you don't know what you are missing. It is a mini vacation where you will get all kinds of good information about setting up displays, you'll meet lots of other avid D56 collectors, and you'll have a chance to win nice prizes.

The next convention will be in May 2009 in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. Hope to see you there!

VAA's
FUN TRIP
 TO
CASUAL LIVING
CANTERBURY GARDENS
 &
CITY LIGHTS

Saturday, September 27, 2008

The Bus

<i>Leaves from Flyaway</i>	<i>8:00 AM</i>
<i>7610 Woodley Ave., Van Nuys in front of the short term parking on Woodley Ave. Parking all day in an enclosed structure for \$4.00</i>	
<i>Arrives at Casual Living</i>	<i>9:00 AM</i>
<i>Leaves Casual Living</i>	<i>10:30 AM</i>
<i>Arrives at Canterbury Gardens</i>	<i>11:30 PM</i>
<i>Leaves at Canterbury Gardens.....</i>	<i>1:00 PM</i>
<i>Arrives at City Lights</i>	<i>1:30 PM</i>
<i>Leaves City Lights</i>	<i>4:00 PM</i>
<i>Arrives/Leaves Casual Living</i>	<i>5:30 PM</i>
<i>Arrives at Flyaway</i>	<i>6:30 PM</i>

Price: \$ 35.00 per person for Flyway/Flyway

Price: \$ 30.00 per person for Casual Living/Casual Living

For Reservations Contact:

Stan Higgins

Phone (818) 892-5100

Deadline for reservation and payment the August Meeting(August 2, 2008)

Make checks payable to VAA

Mid-Year Releases – from Jim Ponce

Gift Sets

- DV – “Barton’s Holiday Greens” set of 2 w/ acces. “Delivering the Holiday Greenery”
SV – “LLyndale Tree Lot” – set of 3 w/ acces. “Just The Right Tree” & free standing sign
NP – “Brite Lites Bulb Factory” set of 2 w/ acces. “All in A Tangle”
CIC – “Miller & Sons Hardware & Garden Center” set of 3 w/acces. “Picking The Perfect Tree”

Individual Pieces

- DV – “Victoria & Albert Museum” – Limited to 9,000 pieces
 Coordinating accessory – “An Artist At Work”
 “West Lott Chapel”
 Coordinating accessory – “Hallelujah” set of 2
 “Bucklebury Cottage”
 Coordinating accessory – “Heading Home from the Market”
NP – “Robbie’s Robot Factory” – Limited to 9,000 pieces
 Coordinating accessory – “Time For A Tune Up”
 “The Reindeer Stables, Dasher & Dancer”
 Coordinating accessory – “Dasher and Dancer”
 “Hatly Hall”
 Coordinating accessory - “Polar Pizza, Never Cold”
SV – “The Angel House” – Limited to 8,000 pieces
 Coordinating accessory – “An Angelic Scene”
 “Noah’s Stuffed Animals”
 Coordinating accessory – “It’s A Tough Choice”
 “Nokomis House”
 Coordinating accessory – “A Letter to Santa”
CIC – “St. Mary’s Church”
 Coordinating accessory – “Praise in Perfect Harmony”
 “Topsy’s Toys”
 Coordinating accessory – “Wind Him Up, Watch Him Go”
AV – “Christmas Market, The Ornament Booth”
SV – Halloween – “Screech Owl Farm”
 Coordinating accessory – “An Ax to Grind”
 “Halloween 10th Anniversary Sign”

GREEN THUMB & GREEN ARROW NURSERIES CHRISTMAS COLLECTIBLES	
CANOGA PARK 21812 SHERMAN WAY 818 340 6400 ext 6	NORTH HILLS 8845 SEPULVEDA BLVD (818) 894 8301
EL TORO 23782 BRIDGER RD (949) 837-3040 ext 22	VENTURA 1899 VICTORIA AVE (805) 642 8517
SANTA CLARITA 23734 N SAN FERNANDO RD (818) 365-0013	SAN MARCOS 1019 SAN MARCOS BLVD. (760) 744-3822
Please mention Village Addicts when you shop at a Green Thumb/Arrow store	

VAA August WORKSHOP – by Margaret Reichenbach & Bud Arntzen

It will be **FUN** – we will be decorating mini Christmas trees.

WORK – Bodily or mental effort exerted to do or make something.

A labor of fun and creating at the same time: These trees will be like in the Victorian Era – something like the Radco Tree's - - - or whatever you want it to look like. If you have a tree or two that may be blue – pink – white, so much the better – bring them with you. Note: no time to paint trees at meeting!

SHOP – A place where a particular kind of work is done.

Now doesn't all that seem like something you want to be a part of – of course you do – so be there ☺ *I'll be taking names*—Just Kidding—HA!! You'll have to come and see if I am.

Items to bring with you for this meeting:

Glue gun Pack of Glue sticks

Scissors Note: tiny manicure type works well

Any small, "mini" items you may want to use on your own tree –
we should have plenty of colorful beads for all on hand.

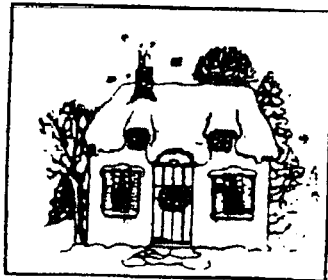
If you have a painted tree you might have done from Cora's demo 2 or 3 meeting's ago
bring it along.

We will provide green trees only for the meeting - *we hope!* It's kind of hard to buy Sisal Christmas Tree's in July – but we are working on it. Just in case we fail to get them in time, please bring 2 sisal tree's from home – (Pat's note – a train/hobby shop may have them)

One about 5" - 6" and one 7" - 9"

I'm sure I have forgotten something. Oh, well, if I have, Margaret and I will have to bring it for you.

Village Addicts
2676 Galindo Avenue
Simi Valley CA



"We Add to your addiction..."