



From the President

Happy Spring, Everyone!

You can just feel it; change is in the air even if there is still snow on the ground! Sorry to the North Pole folks but the snow has to go! My sister reported that just south of us the daffodils are up and blooming and the tulips are not far behind!

Change is in the air at Robin Lee's as well. I hope all of you read my earlier email that I sent after the club officers met with the Carla, the new manager for Robin Lee's. Some of you have written to ask me about your Robin Lee Bucks! To review, Robin Lee Bucks are no longer being given out but they will be honored for your purchases for awhile. I recommend using them as soon as you can. Carla assured us that the new owner is eager to support the club. Instead of bucks we will receive a 20% discount on our collectible purchases by showing our club cards! Carla is looking forward to meeting all of us! We will be inviting her to our April meeting. We may have our May meeting at the store so we can see some of the new merchandise that has been coming in! Watch your email!

We do need to have a discussion at our next meeting about a new meeting location. We will no longer have a store front to meet in. We may be able to have a meeting or two at the store but it will be hard to have the activities we enjoy. So come to the next meeting at Tom's house with all your ideas for a new meeting space!

Let's embrace the change and move our club forward just like we are ready to embrace Spring after this long Winter!

~shirl

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Dates to Remember:

April 7th: NLCC meeting— at Tom's
April 9th: D56 "Friends & Family" Sale
May 13th & 14th: NLCC Garage Sale
Sept. 29th-Oct. 2nd: Arizona Gathering

Northern Lights Garage Sale! May 13th and 14th!

Hey Everyone! Our treasury needs some funds and what better way of doing that than doing some spring cleaning! Mark your calendars for May 13-14th. We will have the garage sale at my house in Eden Prairie. My homeowner's association holds an Annual Garage Sale on May 14th. There are usually 60-70 homes with a sale so there is usually good traffic. We can have the sale on Friday if we want to have more opportunities to sell!

Remember that Dept. 56 items will not sell well at a garage sale. We will be looking for donations of other items from everyone. We need items that are in good shape as well! I have a couple of other points that we will need to discuss at our next meeting:

- We will need some good items from everyone! I don't believe at this point that we can handle large furniture items.
- We need volunteers on Thursday night to price items, set up tables and accept deliveries from our members. I will also schedule some time Saturday May 7th or Sunday May 8th to open my garage for weekend donations!
- On Friday and Saturday we will need volunteers to work in 2 or 3 hour shifts to staff the sale. We will discuss the hours we want to be open at our next meeting!
- On Sunday, I will need some assistance to take any items remaining to a thrift shop for donation. Nothing will be returned!

I have never had a garage sale, but I hope we can raise some money for our treasury and have some fun doing it! Bring your ideas to our next meeting!

~shirl

From the Editor

If you think village collectors can be a little strange...

Every now and then, something appears in the media that makes me think us village addicts aren't so bizarre after all. The following appeared in Chuck Shepherd's "News of the Weird" in the Saturday, March 5th *Star Tribune*:

"Last Supper" in Lint

Ripley's Believe It or Not! Museum® is already home to an artist's rendition of Da Vinci's "The Last Supper" made from burned toast, and now comes a version by Laura Bell of Roscommon, Michigan: Da Vinci's masterpiece made with clothes-dryer lint.

Bell said she did about 800 hours of laundry of various-colored towels to obtain lint of the proper hues, and then worked 200 more hours to construct the 14-foot long, 4-foot high mural.

Cherry Blossom Festival

Nope! Not the latest club trip and not a Village Gathering, either. *Carmela* and I are flying off to Washington DC early in the morning of April 7th for a long weekend. We're staying a few blocks from the White House and have plans for loads of sight-seeing.

We'll miss the April NLCC meeting, but will have photos for the May meeting.

~Diane



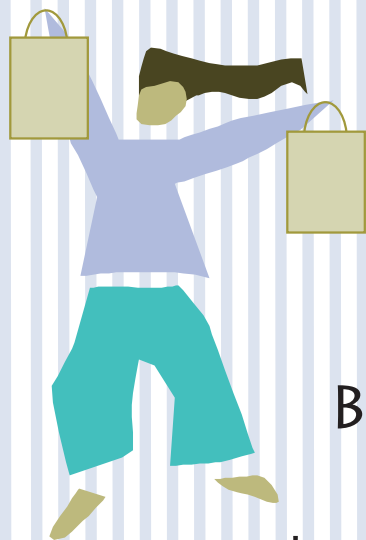
DEPARTMENT ®
FRIENDS & FAMILY SALE

DATE: APRIL 9TH

TIME: 9:00-12:00

LOCATION:

DEPARTMENT 56 GARAGE
6436 CITY WEST PARKWAY
EDEN PRAIRIE, MN.



CASH ONLY

(NO CHECKS OR CREDIT CARDS)

BRING YOUR OWN BAG.

\$ 10.00 PER GROCERY BAG

**\$ 15.00 FOR OVERSIZED SHOPPING
BAGS**

A TREASURE FOR EVERYONE!

Northern Lights Peep Show! *April Meeting – Tom's House*

I knew that title would get your attention! During our April meeting we will attempt to put together our very first Northern Lights Peeps Dioramas! Yes, I am talking about making something interesting with those marshmallow sticky, sugary candies! Now you might think I am crazy but the idea started right here in St. Paul. The Pioneer Press has been running a Peeps contest for 8 years and each year it is getting bigger and bigger. The Washington Post and the Chicago Tribune have now joined in the fun. Take a look at the "peep shows" on the following websites to see all the fun folks are having with their food!

www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/gallery/2010/03/29/GA2010032903934.html?sid=ST2010032904380

www.chicagotribune.com/features/peeps/chi-peeps-2010-ugcpg.0,3414912.ugcphotogallery

You can even do a search on Peeps Dioramas and get a group of websites with instructions on how to get started! There is even an official Peeps website with fan club!



We will attempt to make a display using some Peeps along with some D-56 houses etc. Start to think of some ideas. If you have something specific in mind, send me an email so I can get some supplies to fit the theme. I have actually saved some Christmas Peeps for just this occasion. They should be "ripe" enough to stand up to anything by April.

If we are successful, we will take some pictures and enter the Pioneer Press contest!

Here is another challenge! Make a diorama of your own and bring it to our meeting to share! Get crazy with it! I can't believe how creative some folks get!

Everything from politics to sports to literary works have been depicted in these dioramas! I just know we are going to see plenty of Green Bay Packer Peep shows. Maybe we should sum up the Vikings season by showing some injured and melted peeps outside of a mock Metrodome complete with a deflated roof! I know at least two people in the club who could come up with a few ideas about what to do with a Peep wearing number 4! This could turn out to be therapeutic!

~shirl

Hey Everyone!

We are moving the Peep Show to Tom's house! (That should wake up the members of the other clubs that read our newsletter!) I haven't heard any ideas coming for a theme for our display so I am going to move forward with some North Pole pieces etc. We still have time if some of you have another idea!

Northern Lights Treasury Report - April, 2011 *By Tom Iacoviello*

Northern Lights Treasury Report – April 2011				
By Tom Iacoviello				
Balance	1/1/11			\$1,742.32
Revenue:				
Received From	Description			
Cal Lepp	Membership (1 @ \$15)		\$15.00	
Total Revenue				\$15.00
Expenses:				
Paid To	Ck No.	Description	Amount	
Tom Iacoviello	3164	Christmas Party (\$10 x 13 members)	\$130.00	
NCC	3165	2011 Dues	\$36.00	
Robin Lee's Hallmark	3166	Gift Certificate (February)	\$25.00	
Shirley Willis	3167	Chanhassan Gift Certificate - gift for Robin and John	\$200.00	
Total Expenses				\$391.00
Balance	2/28/11			\$1,366.32