



Village Views

“The voice of the San Diego Fifty-Sixers”
Volume 16: Number 2 February 2009

Cheryle O'Connor Collector of The Year (2008)

Last year, we received a letter from Melinda Seegers asking us to nominate a club member for “National Collector of the Year.” Your board has decided to make this an annual local event for the San Diego Fifty-Sixers. We also unanimously voted to name it “The Cheryle O'Connor Collector of the Year” in her memory.

There are no guidelines for what makes a good collector of the year. That is up to the nominator to determine. You need to include the reason that you think your nominee should be the 2008 collector of the year. A nomination form is included in this month's newsletter and we will have blank forms at the February meeting. If you like, you can e-mail your nomination directly to me at jsage@san.rr.com. If you send it to me via email, I will reply to you that I have received it.

There are only a few rules you have to follow:

1. You can only nominate individuals. (No couples/groups)
2. You must be a current member in good standing to vote or nominate someone.
3. The person you nominate must be a current member in good standing.
4. You can nominate as many people as you like. (One nomination per form)
5. You must sign your nomination form.

All nominations need to be turned in to me by the end of the February general meeting (2/25/2009). The board will compile all the nominations and create ballots. All nominations will be presented at the March general meeting and a secret vote will be taken. You must be at the March meeting to vote. No proxies! Results will be tallied, and the winner will be announced at the end of the meeting. The winner will receive his/her award at the April meeting. The board will put together the nomination package for the national contest and send it to Department 56.

We had a great meeting in January. Thanks to Lisa Johnson for bringing us the new introductions and updating us on the Department 56 state of business.

Our February meeting will be held **Wednesday, February 25th at 6:30PM**. Chick Storey will be presenting some of his display techniques. I'm happy to see this kind of program back on our schedule again. As you know, the San Diego Fifty-Sixers have some of the best display artists in the country. This is a chance to learn first hand how Chick does a few of his display techniques. I hope to see you there.

Jon

MINDLESS MUTTERING...

...by Bob O'Connor



The national contest for collector of the year has a special meaning for me on the club level. The San Diego Fifty Sixers have named the collector of the year award after fellow member Cheryle O'Connor. Although she would have been extremely embarrassed to receive such an honor, it makes me proud to have others remember her in such a way. Cheryle was a major part of my life for nearly fifty years, and she enjoyed collecting Department 56 villages for twenty of those years. The people she met through this hobby became her dear friends, and those members of the SD56ers were truly family to her.

Now for the pressure, to make this award a true honor you must participate in the process. You need to nominate a current collector (or several if you wish,) to receive the Cheryle O'Connor Memorial Award as collector of the year for the San Diego Fifty Sixers. Our local winner will be entered in the national contest for collector of the year. The nomination form is on page seven.

Once again the generosity of our members has been demonstrated in a measurable way. Last year we started collecting donations for charity at our open houses with great success. This year with only ten open houses we raised \$2,545.00 for the designated charities. Remember at the same time our members were also purchasing and donating art supplies for Children's Hospital and giving their time for Lighting Up Lives.

Raffle Prizes

From Canterbury Gardens:

Waterbury Button Company.....Jonathan Sage

From Casual Living:

\$50.00 Gift Certificate.....Mary Marshall

From City Lights:

Globe Tree Lights.....Jim Murphy
Village Winter Trees.....Alan Weber

From The Mole Hole:

Roosevelt Park Band Shell.....Jim Murphy

From The SD 56ers:

Farm Accessory Kit.....Alan Weber

From Anonymous:

Row Boats.....Sharon Swildens

From The Browns:

Kirkland Santa.....Kathy Heitzmann

DOOR PRIZES – Donated by Lisa Johnson from Dept. 56

Girl on a Rock, Barbara Coon; Welcome to Nettie's B & B, Sharon Swildens; I'm Home, Cathy Weber; Dedlock Arms, Marilyn Oblinger; This Little Light of Mine, Sylvia Heitzmann; On Time Delivery, Montse Hohnhorst; Get Your Spices 'Ere, Kathy Heitzmann; Snow Babies Clip Ornament, Carol Orlando; Krinkles Hand Person, Sue O'Connor; Scented Candle, Linda Morgan; Palm Tree Statue, Michele Brown

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
Village Views	Bob O'Connor	760-789-3957

If it ain't broke, don't fix it.

For the year 2009 we have only one change in officers. Shirley Bechtel will take over as Corresponding Secretary replacing Norma McColley who did a fine job for the last two years. We thank Norma and let's give Shirley a nice welcome and show her our support. As of the printing deadline all of the committee chairs are resuming their posts, and Bob O'Connor has been sentenced for good behavior to another year as editor of the *Village Views*.

Well maybe just a tweak.

The audit committee has given the books the high sign for 2008, and we complement Treasurer Les Boynton for a job well done. However, The Board is proposing an amendment to the club bylaws to change the presentation date of the audit committee report from the January meeting to the February meeting. This change will allow the treasurer to close the books for the year before turning the books over to the audit committee. Currently the bylaw reads as below.

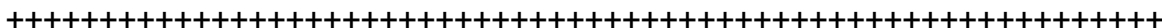
Section 6. Any and all of the bank accounts of the club must be reviewed annually and the findings of that review reported by the chairman of that committee at the regular **January** membership meeting with the written report submitted to the Recording Secretary. .

We will have a vote at the February meeting to effect the change.



Little Miss Sunshine

Karen Boynton had knee surgery the 3rd of February. Karen is home recuperating
Ed Oatman was just released from the hospital again and is home doing well.
Art Bramfeld has not been feeling well, but he still keeps chugging like the little engine that said, "Yes, I can".
Dorothy Dees is feeling better. Dorothy and Bob want to thank everyone who has been coming by and helping with the meals and visiting.
Bob O'Connor is back in "full swing" after his January surgery.



The House Mouse

To help attract new members to our club we have a web site developed by Alan Hamel. Feel free to give it to any prospects you might meet. www.sandiegofiftysixers.com

I have also found an international on line group of collectors. The group now has over five hundred members. I and many collectors I know nationwide are among them. If you want to see what is happening world wide in villages, go to www.buildingnewworlds.com

Collectively Speaking

...BY BOB DALLOW

With the Halloween preview behind us, let's take a look at newcomers in some of our winter villages, as well as several of the crossover

pieces that add so much to our displays.

ALPINE VILLAGE [2, 2] is the smallest community despite its longevity. It maintains that distinction by annually introducing the fewest pieces – and this year is no exception. *Christkindl Church* (left) is based on a real church of that name in Steyr, Austria. Its name means “Christ child,” and it is a pilgrimage location based on a legend that a man placed a wax figure of the Christ child in a tree, returned often to pray to it, and his epilepsy was cured. In 1725 the church was erected around the tree. The baroque style church has two front clock towers. Although the original living tree is incorporated into the altar, it also appears in the accessory *The Christkindl Miracle*. A man prays before the figure in its niche located within the tree.



A second building is the *Christkindl Post Office*. Since 1950 postal clerks have annually stamped over two million holiday greetings from all over the world with the famous Christkindl postmark. Those who write to the Christ child in care of the post office receive responses. Those tales are more interesting than the building itself, a rather mundane green-roofed structure. The final new piece is *Sharing An Alpine Christmas*, an accessory featuring a man pulling a child in a sled while a woman looks on.

NEW ENGLAND VILLAGE [3, 4] features three traditional buildings, highlighting historical influences in the area. In addition to farming and maritime pursuits, textile mills were a major economic resource. *Pembroke Textile Mill* (right) includes an animated water mill that has a stream which seems to run beneath it. The name Pembroke is an area along the Merrimack River in Connecticut noted for its several textile mills. The second animated building in this collection, the Mill has a related accessory, *The Latest Pembroke Fabrics* which depicts a merchant loading fabrics into a small wagon.



Church steeples dominate much of the New England countryside, but there hasn't been a current church since the last one retired in 2003. *Providence Church*, named after the Rhode Island community founded by Roger Williams, is a typical clapboard church in a pinkish color. The entrance and spire are both located to the left side of the building. The building is accompanied by *Setting Up The Nativity* which includes a parishioner setting up a wooden nativity display that he may have hand carved.

The final building is *Colonial Post & Telegraph*; the local post office was almost as likely to be present in every small town as the church. Telegraphs were just coming into existence at the time period of New England Village. The building is a two-story brick structure which seems a bit too contemporary. The related accessory, *Collecting The Mail*, is a postman next to a mailbox. (Advice to NEV collectors: Buy more than one!) The final accessory, *Loading The Cutter For Christmas*, is an attractive horse-drawn sled with a little girl feeding him an apple.

GENERAL VILLAGE ACCESSORIES [39] are also called “crossover” pieces as they can be used in almost every village. For convenience sake, we’ll split these items into three categories – lights, trees, and miscellaneous items.

LIGHTS: *Holly-Covered Lampposts* [S/2] are triple globe street lights with their poles wrapped in green boughs. *Small Town Street Lamps* [S/2] feature garlands ascending the poles before culminating in red bows as they reach the globes. *Northern Lights* appears to be a Styrofoam mountain with colored lights reflecting behind it. There have been several sets of luminaries through the years; the latest is *Classic Luminaries*, a set of two five inch strips, each containing four of the lit “bags.” There are four of the strings of lights, each of them fifteen inches in length. Their names are self-explanatory: *Angel Lights*, *Bow Lights*, *Red LED Lights*, and *Super-Brite White Lights*.

TREES: *Snow Laden Sisals* is a set of three truly snowy trees standing 7”, 9”, and 11”. An 8” *Twinkle Brite Frosted Topiary* will hold a place of prominence in anyone’s village. The *Twinkling Bare Branch Tree* checks out at 9”. Red bows decorate green garland in the 48” long *Garland And Bows*. Four small topiaries, each 2.5” tall, are joined on a single base to form *Row-O-Frosted Topiaries*; the 5” strips come in a set of two. Like luminaries, there have been innumerable hedges. The latest two sets of 2 are 12” of *White Flexible Sisal Hedge* and *Autumn Flexible Sisal Hedge*. Back by Popular Demand: *Village Autumn Maple Trees* – set of 3 – 5”, 7”, and 9”. Also back are *Village Jack Pines*, but these are the super size – 15” and 18”. Finally there are 12 *Autumn Wreaths and Garland*.

MISCELLANEOUS: Another new animated piece has arrived. *Fun At The Dog Park* features a group of canines circling around the surface as their owners watch them cavort. Remember the Up, Up, and Away pieces? Well, you can purchase a new selection – *Up, Up, and Away Assortment* which includes a choice of fliers – Santa’s sleigh, a stork and baby, and an eagle. Why are *Snowboard Elves* listed as GVA pieces; where else could you use them but in North Pole? If you want to add sound to your display, consider *Village MP3 Speakers* that resemble oversized Hostess Sno Balls. *Santa’s Sleigh*, *Lit Yard Decorations* are a set of green, blue, and red images of the jolly old elf and a few of his reindeer. Three clothes lines, each with clothes *Hung Out To Dry* are available for your pre washing machine villages. We have had red benches, yellow benches, and green benches; now brown slats on a concrete base make up the *City Park Bench*. There were no phones in Dickens’ England which may explain why the *English Phone Booth* has been placed in GVA rather than DV. (As a side note, I’m still waiting for city phone booths!) But we do have new *Village Drinking Fountains and trash cans (Put Litter In Its Place)*, each of which comes in a set of two. *Village Flamingos* (set of four) have had a reincarnation, and they have been joined by *Stork Yard Signs* to proudly proclaim a new birth to the neighborhood. *Village Scooters* could only fit in Snow Village. Happy Scooting! *Christmas Eve Caution Signs* are traffic signs intended to keep both you and Santa safe. Look for some signs and traffic cones in *Village Construction Zone*. Self-explanatory pieces include *Split Rail Fence*, *Hay Bales*, *Village Spring Moss*, *Village Autumn Moss*, *Village Deep Blue Sea*, and *Limestone Wall*.

On A Personal Note: Congratulations to those who knew their superheroes as well as their D56 pieces in our Open House contest. Third Place (T): Alan Hamel and Wayne Warner. Second Place: Linda Knoebel. First Place: Joe Innecken, who earned a *Barton’s Holiday Greens* for his award-winning efforts.



OPEN HOUSE TIPS
Stops 4 – 6
2008

In this article, we will revisit the wonderful displays designed by our fellow members, the Becthels, Sue Jones, and the Rodgers.

Shirley and Dave Bechtel delighted us with two cities, Dickens' London and Christmas in the City, as well as the busy Merry Monks and assorted vignettes. Dickens' Village greeted us upon our arrival with a wonderful village-to-ceiling painting of Gad's Hill Place, the home of Dickens, serving as a backdrop for the display. Charles Dickens is recreated sitting in an upstairs window overlooking his village.



Shirley and Dave have a way with small vignettes as well as larger displays. They have a knack for finding the perfect well-placed mirror or piece of art to serve as a backdrop.



Sue Jones and her family have a perfect set-up for their villages with built in shelves in the living and family rooms of their home. Shelves near the staircase serve as a wonderful eye-level setting for Little Town of Bethlehem.



In the family room, mantel shelving allows for a busy Dickens' Village using many elevations. Sue also places Dickens scenes on the top of her bookcase.



In her dining room, she uses the top of a buffet table for her city scene, using the Boulevard set and cobblestone fabric as her base. To add to the holiday feeling, her North Pole display in

the living room, near the Christmas tree, is a happy greeting as guests enter the house.

For our trip out to Santee, Janet and Jim Rodgers treated us to their main village displays, North Pole and Snow Village. North Pole had taken over the fireplace area with the white brick forming an igloo-like background.



Snow Village was divided into two parts, rural in front of the living room window and urban in the room next door. Jim and Janet had been busy with their foam sculpting tool, creating mountainous backdrops for both sections. They also used their foam sculpting tool very effectively to create a lake in the rural Snow Village.



At our fourth, fifth, and sixth stops of the Open House Tour, we were all enchanted by the displays and came away with lots of ideas, which we could utilize in our own creations in the coming display year.

More to come... *Winnie*

Please use the form below for your nomination for Collector of the year. If you have more than one person you wish to nominate please use a separate form for each nomination.

COLLECTOR OF THE YEAR NOMINATION

CHERYLE O'CONNOR MEMORIAL AWARD

NOMINATEE _____

REASON FOR NOMINATION: _____

NOMINATED BY: _____

Nominations may be turned in at the January or February meeting, or emailed to Jonathan Sage at jsage@san.rr.com . Nominations will be closed at the February meeting. Voting for Collector of the year will be held at the March Meeting.

San Diego Fifty-Sixers

PO Box 23285
San Diego, CA 92193

Our next meeting will be on the fourth Wednesday of the month, February 25th

February						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28



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.

At the Sharp Spectrum Center Court
8695 Spectrum Center Court
6:45 social, meeting at 7:15

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



SAN DIEGO FIFTY SIXERS		
Calendar of Events - 2009		
February	25	Club Meeting /Fourth Wednesday- 6:30pm / Chick Storey – Display short cuts, tips
March	18	Club Meeting / Third Wednesday- 6:30pm / Bob O'Connor – H-O-U-S-E
April	22	Club Meeting /Fourth Wednesday- 6:30pm / Make and Take
May	20	Club Meeting / Third Wednesday- 6:30pm / Mid year releases and games
June	17	Club Meeting / Third Wednesday- 6:30pm / Canterbury Gardens
July	15	Club Meeting / Third Wednesday- 6:30pm / Games
August	26	Club Meeting /Fourth Wednesday- 6:30pm / Pot Luck & Power Point Presentation
September	23	Club Meeting /Fourth Wednesday- 7pm / To be announced
October	28	Club Meeting /Fourth Wednesday- 7pm / Annual Swap & Sell
November	18	Club Meeting / Third Wednesday- 6:30pm / Games
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 the Miramar Café, 7128 Miramar Road

Cookie Elves for February are: Phyllis Newton, Kathy Heitzmann, Montse Hohnhorst, and Barbara Coon

If you have not yet paid your dues you have missed the opportunity to win the raffle tickets, but if you don't renew by the end of the February meeting you will miss the even greater benefits of belonging to the finest D56 collectors club in the nation.