



Village Views

"The voice of the San Diego Fifty-Sixers"
Volume 16: Number 12
December 2009

Lighting Up Lives



A small, talented group of club members met at Rady Children's Hospital on Saturday, November 21st. Within four hours, three beautiful displays were created. Thanks to Marge Bramfeld for chairing LUL again this year. Thanks to all the dedicated club members who helped to make the magic happen.

The open house tour has been fantastic this year. Don't miss the tipster's column as she reviews the first three open houses.

Winnie and I wish everyone a happy holiday. We will see you at the next club meeting, **January 20th at 6:00PM**. Lisa Johnson will be presenting the 2010 Department 56 releases.



Jon

MINDLESS MUTTERING...

...by Bob O'Connor

I find myself in kind of an embarrassing spot I constantly harp on you all about seeing all the open houses and here I have missed two of them, both from members who have not displayed for several years. Fortunately I have been offered a rain check to see them at a later time. Winnie will cover the open houses in detail but I must say here this year's presentations are so far the best I've seen. Our club is blessed with some great and varied talent. It behooves you (and me) to take advantage of the opportunities to see such creativity in person. Even though Jon will again have a power point presentation covering the many displays, that cannot compare with the experience garnered by seeing them surrounded by other appreciative collectors.



We will not have another meeting until after taking down the displays at Children's Hospital So take the time to check the date and mark your calendar so you can participate in the event.

In 2009 most of our meetings will be on the third Wednesday of the month so try to set your activities to allow for those days to be free.

RAFFLE PRIZES

From Canterbury Gardens:

Bucket Lunch.....Sherri Struthers
Free Soda for You.....Sherri Struthers

From Casual Living:

\$50.00 Gift CertificateJim Murphy

From City Lights:

Lighted Peppermint Trees.....Lauren Murphy
Saltwater Taffy Boardwalk Booth.....Bob Dees
Set of Six Sisal Trees.....Winnie Sage

From the Mole Hole:

A Home in the Making.....Sue O'Connor

From the SD 56ers:

Craggy Cove Light House.....Winnie Sage

From Unique Gifts:

\$25.00 Gift CertificateSherri Struthers

DOOR PRIZES – Lisa Johnson

Dept 56 Brite Lite Sign, Jonathan Sage; Heritage

Village Apron, Donna Poole; The Spirit of Christmas Accessory, Sylvia Heitzmann; Let it Snow Crystals, Dave Bechtel; Martini Plate, Millie Warner; Snoopy Plaque, Sharon Swildens; Merry Christmas Letter Garland, Marge Bramfeld; Tree Candle Set, Karen Boynton; Snowman with Light Bulb Ornament, Michele Brown; Christmas Tree Ornament, Kathy Heitzmann; Poinsettia Napkins, Mary Marshall; Red and Green Wine Bag, Annie Dallow; Christmas Stocking, Betty Roberts; Silver Merry Christmas Plaque, Sue Jones; Snowman Trinket Box, Lauren Murphy

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



Little Miss Sunshine

Eileen and Joe Innecken are doing fine. Right now they are visiting in the Northwood's of Wisconsin and are having at least some snow, with a temperature in lower 20's and will be back in time for some of the open houses.

After breaking the big toe on his left foot in June, Bob Dallow acknowledged feeling less balanced than he occasionally is. He's now happy to report that he has addressed that concern by breaking the big toe on his right foot. "What about steel toed sandals Bob"? Asks Little Miss Sunshine.

Montse and Bill sure did enjoy the rain. It was a perfect day to get the tree out of storage and get it set up and put on the decorations. Fun, fun fun!

Wayne has built the tallest rotating North Pole Christmas tree with the help of Chick; it is ten feet tall so he can see it with his one eye.

Phyllis Oatman is home and doing well.

See you at all the open houses that everyone worked so hard doing; for all of us to enjoy!

San Diego Fifty-Sixers 2010 Membership Renewal Form

Member Name(s) _____

Address _____

(Including zip) _____

Phone Number _____

E-Mail Address _____

Please circle one

Individual - \$24

Household - \$32

Corresponding - \$16

THANK YOU

Please fill out the above information. Address is needed only if you have had a change during the year or if the information on the roster is incorrect. Include area code with phone numbers and, if available, full e-mail addresses. Be sure to circle the type of membership.

Bring your check to the January meeting or mail to:
San Diego Fifty-Sixers, PO Box 23285, San Diego, CA 92193

Cookie elves for January are as follows:

Phil Burdick, Michele Brown, Sue Jones, Winnie Sage

Collectively Speaking

Lights, then last month you got a sneak preview with pictures of seven new buildings, one from each village. And now, here's the total list of the 32 buildings and 73 accessories.

ALPINE VILLAGE [2, 2]

Snowdrop Cottage
Wolfstein Beer Hall

Pretzels And Beer
Wolfstein Beer Wagon

CHRISTMAS IN THE CITY [4,5]

64 City West Parkway
Dayfield's Department Store
Jade Palace Chinese Restaurant
Roxy, The

42nd Street Performance
An Early Start
Eat In & Take Out
Keeping Sidewalks Clear
Shoveling Fun

DICKENS' VILLAGE [7, 8]

Bean And Son Smithy Shop*
Candle Shop
Green Grocer
Lea Hurst House
Regent's Park Punt Rental
St. Luke's Church
Splendid Cod Fish n' Chips

An Afternoon On Ice
Decorating The Lamp Post
Dickens' Merchants
Fish n' Chips To Go
Florence Nightingale
Getting The Christmas Yule Log
Relaxing In Regent's Park
Shoeing The Horse*

**November 2009 Release*

NEW ENGLAND VILLAGE [2, 3]

South Deerfield Livery Stable
Tilton Station

Caroling On Christmas Eve
Christmas Pony, A

Waiting For The Train

NORTH POLE [6, 7]

Baskets & Bows
Better Watch Out Coal Mine
Ice Breakers Lounge
Instant Snowman Kit Factory
Reindeer Stables, Comet & Cupid
Zenbolt's Handyman Shop

Basket Weaving 101
Best Dressed Snowman
Comet
Cupid
Fixing Frozen Pipes
Girls Night Out
Naughty Stocking Stuffers

SNOW VILLAGE [7, 9]

Christmas At Grandma's
Elf House, The – S/2
Loon Lake Cabin
Nutcracker Playhouse
Red Cup Café
SVPD Precinct 76
Tom's Foods

Finishing Touch, The
Four Cups Of Joe To Go
Grandma's Favorite Present
Lost And Found
Nutcracker Ballerinas
Santa Comes To Town, 2010
Shopping With Mom
Thanks For The Help, Boy
Waiting For The Bus

HALLOWEEN [4, 20]

Critter's Pets & Pelts
Rusty's Used Cars
Screech Owl Farmhouse
Voodoo Lounge
Animated Spooky Hedge
Chilled To The Bone

...BY BOB DALLOW

If last month was all about retirements (and it was), then this must be the issue that focuses on the latest introductions – and it is! If you are a subscriber to *Village D-*

Copper Glitter Bare Branch Trees
Deranged Chickens
Don't Forget To Tip Your Server
Eyeball Street Lights
Foggy Point Platform
Halloween Kittens
Haunted Rails Passenger Car
Lady & The Vamp
Lit Cauldrons
Made To Be Wild
Midnight's Last Ride
Purple Glitter Bare Branch Trees
Purple Glitter Sisal Trees
Rusty Scares Up A Deal
Scary Warning Signs
Service With A Smile
Spooky Mailboxes
Zombies, The

GENERAL VILLAGE [19]

Bejeweled Bare Branch Tree
Brick Street
Building A Snowman
City Fence
City Signs
Cobblestone Street
Cypress Trees
Downtown Tinsel Trim
Fire Hydrant, Paper Box
Hanging Icicles
Heavy Snowed Trees
Limestone Steps
Limestone Topiaries
Lit Crystal Tree
Lit Spiral Trees
She Shoots, She Scores
Sparkle & Ice Trees
Swan Pond
Uptown Street Lights

And a Few Other Collections...

Some of you may recall that last year Department 56 introduced three buildings in the **Winters Frost** series. These heavily snowed buildings included *Calhoun House*, *Nicollet House*, and *Wooddale Church*. Each of them continues to be available, and there are two new releases – *Frosty Retreat*, a cottage, and *Winters Light*, an animated lighthouse. Each of the new buildings costs \$99.

A Place To Remember is brand new. This series of thin facades features three very different geographic regions – *An Evening in Paris*, *The Hills Of Tuscany*, and *Carmel By The Sea*. Each grouping includes three pieces, logically identified as small, medium, and large. A complete mini-landscape retails for \$137.

Some Personal Observations

To even the most casual observer there is one immediate change evident. There are fewer releases this year than at any time in the past decade. That applies to both buildings and accessories. Retailers should be happy. Yes, they want sales, but they also want storage space. Collectors should be happy. They too have space problems, as well as economic restrictions. That sounds like a win/win situation to me.

There are fewer members of the Century Club, buildings that cost \$100 or more. In fact there are only four – *St. Luke's Church* (DV), \$125; *The Elf House* (SV), \$115; *Dayfield's Department Store* (CIC), \$120; and *Rusty's Used Cars* (H), \$125. There is also one accessory that exceeds the \$100 mark. Halloween's *Foggy Point Platform* (\$125) is a stone (?) platform for a building; an eerie fog rolls out from under the platform.

This has been only a brief overview with no pictures. Within the next few days the Department 56 website (www.department56.com) should have pictures of all these items. In upcoming months this column will take a more detailed look at each of the new releases. And be sure to attend the January 20 club meeting where our local rep, Lisa Johnson, will present a slide show and answer questions regarding the new releases and other Department 56 inquiries that members would like to ask.

Does This Chart Look Familiar?

In last month's newsletter a similar chart appeared, stating the status of each Heritage Village after the November retirements. Here's an update that includes all the new releases on the previous page.

Village	Year Started	Total # Buildings	2010 Releases	#Current	# Retired
AV	1986	47	2	5	42
CIC	1987	159	4	10	149
DV	1984	267	7	27	240
NEV	1986	112	2	6	106
NP	1990	164	6	17	147



OPEN HOUSES
2009 – 2010

It's that most wonderful time of the year – Open House Season! In November, we started the season with mini-vacations. First, we took a trip to Halloween village with a side trip to Sleepy Hollow, a small village, which, contrary to Department 56's beliefs, is located in New York, not New England. Next, we were welcomed to New York City. Finally, we traveled to the Bay.

Donna and Bill Poole were our hosts for Halloween and Sleepy Hollow. In Halloween, Donna had used materials in a different way. She laid *Tall Stone Walls* on their sides and used them as a stone path.



Near the Halloween Village, Donna had placed a compatible autumn display, using the Sleepy Hollow pieces from New England Village. With its fall colors, it was a perfect partner for her Halloween Village.



Stop Number 2 on our Open House Tour was the home of Annie and Bob Dallow. We were awed by the scope of Cityscape, New York City of the early 20th century. The Dallows had added amazing photo backdrops to their city this year. Behind the *Flatiron Building* was a giant photo of the real building in its natural environment.



Above the bustling city, another backdrop photo showed city taxis at work.



As one would expect, Bob had created a contest; so we would all take a careful look at the display. He and Annie placed buildings from many other village collections into their display as part of the contest. How many were you able to find?



I was able to find *Lucky Dragon Restaurant* from Snow Village in the Chinatown section of the city.

Stop Number 3 found us at Sue and Bob O'Connor's home, where we were welcomed to the Bay, Season's Bay. In their village, people were hanging out at the beach as well as finding other warm weather activities to enjoy. Some were visiting the *Garden Valley Winery*, where Bob and Sue had created a serene vineyard.



Near *Parkside Pavilion*, a volleyball net was waiting for players. Sue crocheted the net, which was then attached to poles.



The Open House Tour is off to a great start. More to come.....

Winnie

Lisa Johnson Honored

A beaming Lisa Johnson, our local Department 56 rep, is the recipient of the third annual Bobby Fisher Sales Excellence Award.

Bobby Fisher was a longtime sales rep for Department 56 who, three years ago, lost his battle with cancer. Christmas in the City collectors may have noticed that *Hammerstein Piano Co.*, a 2007 release, bore the name "B. Fisher Piano Sales" in honor of the Southern salesman.

Almost speechless, a true rarity, Lisa gushed, "I'm thrilled...this is such an honor!"

Changes on the Raffle Table

In January look for a change in the club-donated prize(s) on the raffle table. Instead of one prize, there will be six. Instead of one winner, there will be two. The six items will be accessories that can be used in a variety of villages, even if they are identified with just one. The holder of the first ticket drawn will have the first choice of the six items. A second ticket will then be drawn, and that individual will make the next choice. When it's all over, Person A will have made the first, third, and fifth choices while Person B will have the second, fourth, and sixth prizes. A single ticket will earn the two winners three items each. Join the fun!

Be Active not Passive

Membership in the San Diego Fifty Sixers is only a small part in our busy lives, but don't waste the time, be an active member. Attend and participate in meetings and activities, and bring your personality, that's what makes you unique. Quite a few close friendships that extend past club activities have developed between members. That is a good thing, if it happens to you, rival in it, it couldn't happen to a better person. Come, be active, and bring a friend.

Lighting Up Lives

January 9 at 8:30 am is scheduled for take down of the displays at Children's Hospital. Usually this activity takes only a short time because we have a good showing of members. Come on down, the time spent here is not only used to put away all the little lit houses but also to socialize with other members, reminiscing this year while planning for next year.

Renewal Time

Your dues are due. The renewal form is on page three. Fill it out and mail it or bring it to the January meeting. If you get your dues in before the end of the January meeting you could win the early bird prize of twenty five raffle tickets (that could become a D56 building or accessory). Let a little larceny into your life, renew now and, with a little luck, gain some instant profit.

San Diego Fifty-Sixers

PO Box 23285
San Diego, CA 92193

Our next meeting will be on the third Wednesday of the month,

January						
					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	29	30
31						

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



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 Club



SAN DIEGO FIFTY SIXERS

Calendar of Events - 2009 / 2010

December	19	Shirley and Dave Bechtel open house 4 - 8 pm
December	20	Sylvia and Kathy Heitzmann open house 6 - 9 pm
January	2	Michele and Vern Brown open house 2 - 6 pm
January	9	Lighting Up Lives take down at Childrens Hospital 8:30 am
January	16	Marge and Art Bramfeld open house 2 - 9 pm
January	20	Department 56 New Introductions, Lisa Johnson, 6:00 pm
February	17	Regular Meeting, Program Being Developed, 6:00 pm
March	17	Regular Meeting, Program Being Developed, 6:00 pm
April	21	Regular Meeting, Program Being Developed, 6:00 pm
May	19	Regular Meeting, Program Being Developed, 6:00 pm
June	16	Regular Meeting, Program Being Developed, 6:00 pm
July	21	Regular Meeting, Program Being Developed, 6:00 pm
August	18	Regular Meeting, Program Being Developed, 7:00 pm
September	22	Regular Meeting, Program Being Developed, 7:00 pm
October	20	Regular Meeting, Program Being Developed, 6:00 pm
November	17	Regular Meeting, Program Being Developed, 6:00 pm
December		Open Houses

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