

VILLAGE ADDICTS GAZETTE

VAA Meeting Highlights
Saturday, June 6, 2009
Submitted by Alita Rabe

Myrna and Bud called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

Opening Remarks: Bud thanked everyone for the delicious potluck dishes we had for lunch.

Myrna announced the sale of Department 56 to Enesco. Bud then asked every club member to send a letter of thanks to Enesco. Myrna distributed packets with suggestions for the letter and a blank sheet of club letterhead paper.

Treasurer's Report: Stan Higgins gave a comprehensive treasurer's report with year-to-date totals of income and expenditures for the club. He had also distributed a copy of the report to the attending members. He reported that the VAA *Gazette* expenditures should go down as Pat Harmon sends only email copies of the *Gazette* to those members with email addresses.

Membership/Compassion Services: Peggy Jauregui reported that Clarice Walquist is still undergoing tests for her heart problems. Peggy is collecting dues which were due May 31, 2009 for all members. The dues were prorated as shown in the last issue of the *Gazette*.

VAA Yard Sale: Peggy reported the club cleared \$297 at the Yard Sale held at Bud's house in May.

NCC Report: Alita reported for Judyth that the NCC has put together some packages of their exclusive D56 products. The packages include: the Pin Traders Shop (value \$56) and the 3 NCC Convention accessories, North Pole Motorcycle With Sidecar, Village Lamplighter, and Snow Village Welcome Home Sign (value each \$20). This package is \$79.95 plus \$7.50 shipping. This is a fantastic deal. Also available are three convention accessories for \$39.95 (buy two and get one free plus free shipping).

Six Snowflake accessories plus free shipping (value \$75) for \$39.95.

Six pins (value \$31) for \$26.

Anyone wanting to purchase any of these items should contact Judyth.

The San Antonio Gathering will be held August 20 - 23, 2009 with the Halloween theme "Spooktacular"

NCC has planned a cruise to Hawaii February 28 - March 14, 2010. Contact Judyth if you are interested.

The NCC clubs of Michigan will host a Gathering September 17 - 19, 2010, in Livonia, MI with the theme, "Celebrate the Season of Michigan."

New Products: Alita reported on the midyear introductions, only one building in each village, most limited to year of production, and three midyear buildings for the Dickens Village, one of them a special 25th anniversary edition in honor of the 25th anniversary of Dickens' Village.

Alita also reported that Mini Things donated a mini park to the club for a future prize. Their web page address is <http://www.ourminithings.com/> They have a new section of Oriental items on their web site now. Jean and Lottie are sisters and the owners of Mini Things. They are delightful and are open to suggestions if you have any ideas of miniatures you would like in your village.

Bud showed The Jetty by King and Country that he purchased at Old Toy Soldier Home. According to the web page, <http://www.oldtoysoldierhome.com/>, the item number is SP29 and it is available for \$79.00.

September Bus Trip: The bus trip to Casual Living in San Bernardino, City Lights in San Diego, and Canterbury Gardens in Escondido previously scheduled for October has been rescheduled to September 26th. More information will be available in the *Gazette* or by e-mail.

Montreal Gathering: Myrna reported for Claudette Fillet who was not at the meeting. Claudette attended the Gathering and had a great time. She went to some very interesting workshops. She reported that Melinda Seegers was in attendance at the Gathering. Claudette will give a full report at the next meeting.

Deacon's Barrel: Carole Collard thanked the members for donating to the church's Deacon's Barrel. She said that both cash and food has been donated and the church is grateful.

City Lights Special Event: Myrna report that City Lights is having a special 25th Anniversary Signing event. There will be a two-part signing of the resculpt Dickens' Village pieces by Barbara Lund. The first three pieces will be signed on June 6th and the last four pieces will all be signed on October 4th. The exclusive event

promotions code is DVEV1. If you can't make either event, you can use the promotion code to order and City Lights will have the pieces signed for you and will ship them for free.

Special Sale: Myrna announced that Joe Egizi reported Christine's Gifts and Collectibles at 627 S. 1st Avenue in Arcadia is having a big sale with D56 items at 50% to 70% off.

December VAA Meeting: Myrna and Bud announced they were thinking of having a very special meeting in December and having the food catered or having the meeting at a restaurant. Someone suggested the potluck dishes the members bring are pretty special and probably better than a catered lunch. The members voted unanimously to have the meeting at the present location and to have a regular potluck. It was suggested the club provide more prizes for that meeting.

Myrna reported the Village D'Lights had a wonderful article about Vern and Michele Brown and they had mentioned our VAA club in their article.

Trivia Game: After the break Myrna introduced us to a Spring 2009 Trivia game used by the Village Lamplighters of Quebec at their Gathering. Don Gorden won first prize with 16 out of 17 correct answers. Alita Rabe was second with 15 correct answers. Geri Little and David Vaccaro tied for third place. After the Trivia Game, there was a Name That Tune game won by David Vaccaro.

August Meeting: Bud announced that our August meeting would be a luau themed meeting and a make and take workshop. He urged everyone to dress in Hawaiian attire.

Door Prizes

(All door prizes were donated by the Estate of Mary Faubion)

Before the Big Game	Ridi Lauritzen
Fireworks	Ridi Lauritzen
Fireworks	Paula Vaccaro
Hot Dog Vendor	Stan Higgins
Ready For The Road	Pat Harmon
City Professions, House Painter & Newsboy	Geri Little
The Flying Scot Train	JoAnn Lundgren
End of The Line	Dayleen Dutcher

Raffle Prizes

(All raffle prizes were donated by the Estate of Mary Faubion)

Ring The Bell Snowbabies	Barbara Allen
NP Real Plastic Snow Factory	Bill Reyna

CIC 5 th Avenue Salon	Alita Rabe
NEV Hale & Hardy House	Cora Smith
Uncle Sam's Fireworks Stand	Carole Collard
Chocolate Candy House	Alita Rabe
Chocolate Candy House	Carole Collard

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

The Next meeting will be August 1, 2009 and will be a luau themed make and take workshop.



San Antonio TX

The Roundup is fast approaching. From the website information, it looks like a fun event.

Region 8 Roundup August 20 - 23, 2009 for further information go to www.region8roundup.org or contact Witch-in-charge Linda Cook at (512) 255-9982 and Egor will take a message. You can email Linda at lindacook@austin.rr.com. The theme for the event is Halloween.

NCC Cruise information:

February 28 - March 14, 2010 Cruise to Hawaii on the Golden Princess with the NCC. The 15 day cruise departs from Los Angeles and will have stops at Hilo, Hawaii, Honolulu, Oahu, Nawiliwili, Kauai, Lahaina, Maui and Ensenada, Mexico. Please contact Tim or Lilia Kearney at Great Escapes Cruises & Tours (877) 903-1578 or email GrestEscps@aol.com for information.

If you are not attending the Gathering event pieces can be ordered from the San Antonio Gathering. To see the pieces and get the address go to the web site. There is a \$5.00 shipping charge for each piece ordered. The price for the truck is \$10.00 and the hearse is \$25.00.

Please mail a check made payable to the Gathering along with your order, name and the address you would like your merchandise shipped to. All merchandise is shipped at time of the event.

Judyth Rischall

**Please remember to bring food items to the meeting.
Deposit in the YELLOW Deacon's Barrel for the
homeless served by the
Hollywood Presbyterian Church
CASH CONTRIBUTIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED BY
RED OR CAROLE AT THE MEETING AND FOOD
ITEMS WILL BE PURCHASED.**

**GREEN THUMB & GREEN ARROW NURSERIES
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21812 SHERMAN WAY
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NORTH HILLS
8845 SEPULVEDA BLVD
(818) 894 8301

VENTURA
1899 VICTORIA AVE
(805) 642 8517

SAN MARCOS
1019 SAN MARCOS BLVD
(760) 744 3822

Please mention Village Addicts when you shop at a Green Thumb/Arrow store.

HOW TO CONTACT US:

Co-Prez – Bud Arntzen	818/ 881 5631
Co-Prez – Myrna Richardson	818/781-1616
	mrrvaa@pacbell.net
Secretary –	Open
Treasurer – Jo Ann Inouye	818/341-6090
	roykaz@yahoo.com
Asst Treasurer – Stan Higgins	818/892-5100
	squekey@verizon.com
Gazette Editor – Pat Harmon	805/581-2632
Fax 805/581 0545	PatsVAA@aol.com
New Products – Alita Rabe	562/928-1584
	Atilahon1@aol.com
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, Inventory & Storage	
Bud Arntzen	818/881-5631
Photographer – David Vaccaro	661/2519412
	dvaccaro@earthlink.net
Assistant Photographer – Frank Smith	818/343-7075
	northpoleplanner@socal.rr.com

Sunshine Report from Peggy

Helen Fox died on June 14th. Card sent to her daughter and son-in-law, Rhonda & Patrick Colgan. *Clarisse Walquist* - Talked with Clarisse who is recovering from a heart procedure to eliminate arrhythmia. She sounds good and hopeful this will take care of the problem.

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

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

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

What are you doing to help our club GROW???



ADDICT: to give up to a strong habit..one who is addicted to a habit, attached or devoted to a habit....a "hard case"....next issue I'll have an interview with a VAA addict's and his storage facility - watch for it - we'll even have an "inside"look!!

What a Year!

Its been an amazing year! Last June, 15 VAA members were traveling to the NCC Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The NCC event was a busy and fun-filled weekend, with lots of shopping, both with vendors at the Gathering Marketplace and at the Mall of America. There were some interesting and informative workshops and visits with old and new friends, including Melinda Seegers and the NCC folks. It was wonderful, and Dept 56 and its collectors were on top of the world.

In August, VAA held a workshop where we decorated large trees. Our finished products were works of art. We learned a lot about what we can do with a little glitter, spray snow, some beads and, of course, a hot glue gun. Elections were held and Bud and Myrna were elected as co-presidents of VAA. Also in August, we learned that Dept 56 was for sale.

In September, VAA members, along with many Society of Collectors Club (SOCC) members and members of Village Keepers of the Inland Empire enjoyed a shopping trip with stops at Casual Living, Canterbury Gardens and City Lights. A great time was had by all! We do love our shopping!

Melinda Seegers sent us a treasure trove of Dept 56 Halloween goodies for our October meeting. In October, we celebrated VAA's 17th birthday with a chocolate cake and a group photo session. The meeting featured lots of Halloween door prizes and raffle gifts and we made some good looking scarecrows. Eight volunteers took ten buildings to make the holiday centerpieces for our December Holiday Party. Also in October, Cora Smith and Peggy Jauregui introduced the VAA Glitter Tree Project.

In late October, we learned that Dept 56 was up for sale, and that its financial picture was bleak. Lenox approved the sale of Dept 56's wholesale business and voted to discontinue most of the Dept 56 gift lines. Most of the employees in the Eden Prairie headquarters were let go, and many of the wholesale showrooms were to be closed. In late November, we learned that Lenox and Dept 56 had filed a Chapter 11 bankruptcy to restructure its heavy debt load. The future of Dept 56 was

unsure.

In November, Cora Smith and her elves set up a North Pole display at the Ronald McDonald House in Hollywood in their new facility. We also learned that they want us to set up a Dickens' Village display in 2010, along with the North Pole display.

In December, we celebrated at VAA's Annual Holiday Party. The ten Holiday Centerpieces looked amazing - our members make more beautiful and unique centerpieces each year! We decorated VAA's tree with the ornaments brought by the members and had an ornament exchange. And as always, we feasted on the delicious dishes brought by the members. Also in December, we enjoyed visiting members' homes on the VAA Holiday Home Tours.

In January, Cora and her elves took down the Ronald McDonald House display and we continued to make plans to set up a Dickens Village display along with the North Pole display in the fall. Also in January, Dept 56 closed its retail stores, including the store at Downtown Disney. Lenox filed papers in bankruptcy court to sell itself to "New Lenox" without any mention about the future of Dept 56.

In February, we enjoyed our White Elephant Sale and Pizza Lunch meeting. VAA members really cleaned out their storage units and we had a huge amount of fantastic items for sale. We made a record amount - over \$1,000! Thanks!

In February and March, we continued to receive mixed news about the future of Dept 56. The sale of Lenox to "New Lenox" was scheduled for February, which did not appear to include Dept 56, and which, ultimately, did not go through. In March, Lenox was sold to a new Lenox entity. We heard rumors that Enesco was interested in buying Dept 56, but nothing happened.

In April, the membership voted to increase dues, and more importantly, to change to an annual membership renewal date. We played several rounds of "Claus," Jan Lauritzen's holiday version of Bingo, which we did not have time to play during the December Holiday Party.

Finally in early May, we learned that Enesco did

buy Dept 56 in late April, and more good news, Melinda Seegers was staying with Dept 56! Long-awaited very good news indeed! In June, we celebrated the sale of Dept 56 and started to make plans for the September Shopping Extravaganza Bus Trip on September 26 and to prepare for VAA's elections in August.

It's been an interesting year with a delightful outcome, thanks to the sale of Dept 56 to Enesco!. We thank you for your support during the year. To paraphrase Robert Browning, "Stay with VAA; the best is yet to be!"

Co-Presidents Bud Arntzen and Myrna Richardson



Bud's new "find" - see page one for details!



Our dynamic "fearless" leaders - Bud are you asking for divine intervention????



OMG - Joe - is that the coveted Dickens' Village Mill???
 ...and it's for sale???? - anyone who is interested please contact Joe directly - 626-577-4768



Alita...you are having way too much fun!!



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D56 Gift Items

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Great Selection of Accessories, Trees & Ground

From: Stan Higgins, Open House Chairman

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE

Volunteers needed for the Open Houses. Also, I would like to do something about increasing the attendance at the Open Houses. Some of the ideas I would like to discuss at the August meeting....

1. Limit Open Houses to 3 per day, two in the afternoon, one in the evening.
2. More selective dates for the Christmas Open Houses
3. Do Sunday Open Houses
4. Expand the Halloween Open Houses to two days.

Suggested possible Open House Dates

HALLOWEEN

Day Open House on Saturday, October 24th
Night Open House Saturday, October 31st
Day Open House on Sunday, November 1st

Christmas

Saturday, December 12th
Sunday, December 13th

Saturday, December 19th
Sunday, December 20th
Saturday, January 2nd 2010
Sunday, January 3rd, 2010
Saturday, January 9th, 2010
Sunday, January 10th, 2010
Saturday, January 16th, 2010
Sunday, January 17th, 2010.

Since Open Houses are the Heart of VAA, I welcome all the suggestions I can GET!!!

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Next meeting - August 1st - Luau
Theme - fun, fun, fun.....

Please wear Hawaiian shirts or muumuus or something tropical. Prizes for the most beautiful Hawaiian shirt, the most outrageous shirt, the oldest shirt, and anything else????

Dig out those Luau themed food recipes for the pot luck.....

Pictures will be taken with Lelani, Barbara and Brian Allen's 6' hula dancer mannequin.

Prizes, prizes, prizes, more fun, more fun and More fun!!



From the Summer 2009 NCC BULLETIN . . .

Summer 2009 Display Tips

Pat Delage of Baton Rouge, LA Village Krewe Club as shown in the North Shore Village Association newsletter

Hot Glue Water

Materials:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Hot Glue Pot | Hot Glue Chips |
| Teflon Cookie Sheet | Hand Hair Dryer |
| Color Construction Paper | Scissors |

Protect surface of working area with hot pads, etc. as this project gets very hot. Draw a design for a river, lake or a pond as desired. Cut design out of construction paper and place flat on the cookie sheet. Pour melted hot glue over the design. Using a hot pad,

slightly tilt pan to let the glue slowly cover the surface. While holding the tilted pan, use a hand held dryer to keep the glue hot and continue to cover the complete design.

Allow to cool slightly and then peel it off the cookie sheet. Trim off the excess glue and lay flat until completely cool.

This project takes very little time and practically no mess to clean up.

Hot Wax Water

Materials:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Paraffin Wax or candles | Wax Color Chips |
| Styrofoam | Design Cut-out |
| Heavy-duty Aluminum Foil | |
| Pan (for melting wax) | |

Cut out paper design or a river, lake or a pond. Place cut-out on Styrofoam and trace outline of the river, etc. Remove paper and gouge out with wire brush, melon scoop or a hot wire tool. Line the gouged out area with aluminum foil, pressing the shape with your fingers to form the mold. Pour slightly cooled wax into the form. Allow to cool and then peel the foil off. Using the same cut-out, draw an outline in your village where you want to place the river, etc., and gouge out until your wax water fits.

Plaster Water

Materials:

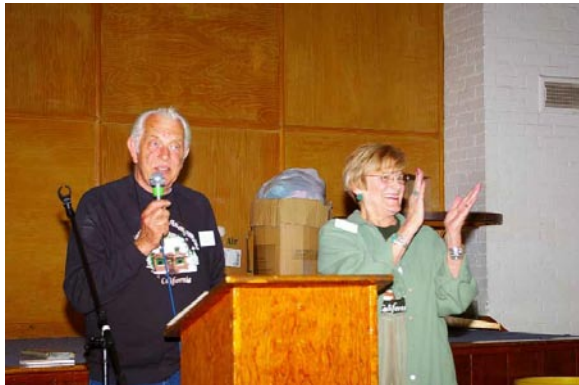
- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Plaster/Sculptamold | Popsicle Sticks |
| Water | Spatula |
| Spoon | Med. Brush |
| Bowl | Acrylic Paints |

Gouge out design of river, lake or pond. In the bowl mix plaster and water until thickened. Pour into mold and allow it to set. When completely dry, paint with acrylic paints to the designed color. For a glossy finish, paint with a water based varnish.





A goodly group



Getting the crowd excited???



And some of the winners were -



Was she crying or laughing???

**More pictures next Gazette - keep smiling
David V and Frank S
Are always lurking with their
Cameras!**

THE FUN SHOPPING TRIP

to

**CASUAL LIVING,
CITY LIGHTS
& CANTERBURY
GARDENS**

**SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 26, 2009**

THE BUS leaves **PROMPTLY** at 7:30 AM from "Flyaway" 7610 Woodley Avenue, Van Nuys in front of the short term parking on Woodley Avenue. Parking all day in an enclosed structure is \$4.00.

And **THE BUS** goes to **Casual Living**, 1036 North "E" Street, San Bernardino. Mood adjusting refreshments will be served on the trip to San Bernardino. We will be joined there by our friends from the San Bernardino/Riverside Club and our members from Orange County that could not make it to "Flyaway". We will have snacks provided by Casual Living and most importantly, we will shop.

Then **THE BUS** goes to **City Lights**, 1212 Knoxville Street, San Diego. We will be provided with outstanding refreshments by our crack culinary staff and in addition there will be a **RAFFLE**. We will be shopping with a

little extra incentive ~ Brian Young, Owner of **City Lights**, is picking up the **SALES TAX** on everything we buy.

Off we go to **Canterbury Gardens**, 2402 South Escondido Blvd., Escondido. This is the second day of their 2009 Holiday Display so it should be fresh. Our crack culinary staff will not let us go hungry traveling from San Diego to Escondido; there will be something to eat.

At last, we must go home, first stopping at **Casual Living** to say Good Bye to our friends from San Bernardino/Riverside Club and our members from Orange County. But...before we get to San Bernardino our crack culinary staff has determined that we must eat again, however what they are servings is a **SURPRISE**.

Well we have finally arrived back at "Flyaway" and hopefully it's before 7:30 PM.

PRICE: \$65.00 per person

For Reservations Contact:

Paula Vaccaro
(661) 251-9412

Deadline for reservation and payment is September 14, 2009

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO VAA

August Meeting

*Saturday, August 1st - Noon
First Presbyterian Church of
Hollywood
Upper Terrace Room on Yucca Ave.
One half block east of Gower Street
Hollywood CA*

**Please bring a potluck dish for lunch
- Luau Theme**



*Village Addicts
2676 Galindo Avenue
Simi Valley CA 93065*



"We Add to your addiction.."