



Club Connection

Keeping Clubs Plugged in to Collecting and Each Other



Proudly supporting our NCC Associate Members

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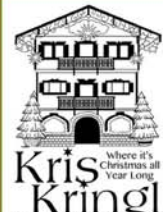
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CLUB CONNECTION

Keeping Clubs Plugged in to Collecting and Each Other

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November 1, 2026
is the next Club Connection deadline

Contact Us

Anna McPherson, President
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www.ncc56.com

President's Message

By Anna McPherson, NCC President, president@ncc56.com

Hello Villagers!

As we step into the second half of 2026, the Board and I are in full swing with several exciting projects designed to keep our NCC community connected, informed, and ready for the journey we are embarking on over the next few years. It is energizing to see the ideas, conversations, and planning taking shape as we continue looking for ways to better serve our clubs, members, partners, and friends throughout the Department 56 community.

One of the projects we are especially looking forward to is our virtual Fall Fling on Zoom. This will give members an easy and fun way to gather from wherever they are, enjoy fellowship, share our love of Department 56, and stay engaged between in-person events. We also hope to use the Fall Fling as a testing ground for a smoother registration process that can eventually support all of our upcoming NCC Gatherings. Please see additional details on page 3.

Planning is also underway for the 2027 Arizona Gathering. While there are still many details to come, the Board is already working behind the scenes to help make this another memorable opportunity for collectors to come together, celebrate friendships, discover new ideas, and create special memories around the villages we all enjoy. Mark your calendars for **August 19-22, 2027**, as we celebrate *Christmas at the Canyon*. Hotel details will be released as soon as the contracts are signed, and my personal goal is to have that information available in

September. We are also working toward opening full registration during the first week of December. This will give our members more time to register and, hopefully, capture the interest of more seasonal village enthusiasts. We are actively seeking seminar presenters, committee co-chairs, and volunteers to help make this event happen. If you would like to participate, please reach out to me directly at president@ncc56.com.

Additionally, we are taking a fresh look at the NCC website and how it can better support our members. Our goal is to modernize the overall look of the site, keep event details and resources more current, and create a more welcoming online home for both longtime members and those who are just learning about the National Council of 56 Clubs. There are also key initiatives I am working on closely with Department 56 that are helping move this upgrade forward. While I cannot share those details just yet, please know that the items on our roadmap continue to strengthen our relationship with Department 56 in meaningful and exciting ways. We are targeting an early 2027 launch for the new site, and I am hopeful we can meet that important goal.

Another important focus is revamping our Associate Member and Plus 1 memberships. These membership categories are valuable ways for people to stay connected to the NCC, and we want to make sure they are clear, meaningful, and easy to understand. As we review them, we are thinking about how they can best support individuals, clubs, and the future growth of our organization. While the

changes may not seem drastic, this feels like the right time to zhuzh these options and make them even more useful for everyone.

All of these efforts have one thing in common: making it easier for members to participate, connect, and feel part of the NCC family. Whether someone is attending a virtual program, registering for a Gathering, visiting the website, or exploring membership options, we want each experience to feel welcoming and simple. In turn, we hope these improvements will help attract new members while continuing to support the members and clubs who already make NCC so special. Growth and sustainability are at the root of everything we have planned.

As these projects move forward, member input will continue to be important. If you have ideas, questions, or interest in helping with any of these efforts, I encourage you to reach out – either through your region rep, or directly to me or the executive board. The NCC is strongest when our members are not only informed, but also invited to be part of the work ahead.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support, enthusiasm, and ideas. The strength of the NCC comes from our members and clubs, and I am grateful for the many ways you help keep the spirit of collecting and friendship alive. We have an exciting road ahead, and I am so glad we are traveling it together. Pack your bags — this NCC journey is just getting started!





PRESENTS



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
DEPARTMENT 

— YOU'RE INVITED TO —

THE NCC *Virtual* FALL FLING



OCTOBER 3RD

12:00 CST



COST PER REGISTRANT

\$15



RAFFLE TICKETS

**\$5 EACH
OR 3 FOR \$10**

Don't miss your chance to win!

— WE WILL HAVE —



PRIZES TO GIVE AWAY!

We'll be giving away
fantastic prizes
throughout
the event!



PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS

Join us for a fun gathering
with special guests and
surprises along the way!



INSPIRATION

Pick up new tips,
boost your creativity,
and improve
some skills!



*Registration
opens soon*

Spots are limited—don't wait!



TOGETHER WE KEEP THE MAGIC OF 56 ALIVE.



From Ms. Lit Town

By Melinda Seegers, Department 56

Dear NCC Collectors:

Summer seems to have flown by this year. I hope you had time to enjoy the outdoors, relax, and spend meaningful moments with family and friends. Winter will be here before we know it! As for me, I traveled a bit with friends, celebrated my granddaughter's college graduation, read several good books (and one not-so-good), knitted plenty of hats for our local Veterans Hospital (15), and enjoyed a glass of wine (or two) on my neighbors' front porch.

Because we are always interested in your opinions we often ask for your comments on our very popular Facebook Page. Earlier this summer Department 56 asked the following questions:

- Collectors, we want to hear from YOU! Out of all the pieces released this year, which one has truly captured your heart? Is it a nostalgic village scene, a whimsical character, or that one must-have addition you couldn't resist? Tell us your favorite piece of the year in the comments—and what makes it so special to your collection.
- It's never too late to share your thoughts. We always want to hear from you and value your ideas, including constructive criticism. Most of the 2027 Village designs are already complete, but we'd love to know what you'd like to see added in 2028 and beyond. Licensed ideas can take longer to develop, so if a suggestion doesn't appear right away, it doesn't mean we didn't hear you or appreciate it. Good things take time!
- We also asked you to share with us how you got started and what your first piece was. As I look through your comments on Facebook I see a lot of beautiful answers and recollections. Many were gifts or an inheritance from a family member. However you got started, we are really glad that you did! We treasure each of you and always enjoy hearing from you.

In case you've never been there, here's a link to our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/Department56>

With autumn approaching, it's time to start planning your fall or Halloween displays. Take a look at last year's photos for inspiration, then



think about what you might do differently this season. Whether you're adding a new piece or finding a fresh way to showcase favorites you already own, arranging your village again can make each piece feel new. Pick up each one, look closely at the front, sides, and back, and you may notice a detail you missed before—one that sparks a new idea. I've always felt that every village display is fluid and can change from day to day. What you noticed yesterday may look completely different today, and that's part of what makes "Villaging" so much fun. Don't forget the accessories, either. Try using them in new ways or pairing them with different pieces. Fall-colored trees and artificial fallen leaves are simple touches that can make any display feel more seasonal.

If you can't choose between Harvest and Halloween, why not display both? They pair beautifully, or you can feature Harvest in one spot—such as on a mantel, hall table, or dining room buffet—and create a separate Halloween display elsewhere in your home. The choice is yours! As always, please share photos of your displays and vignettes with us on Facebook.



My favorite of the new Harvest pieces is *The Perfect Getaway*.

While we didn't have an Airstream, camping was something my family loved to do together. And fall was a great time for long weekends, walks through the woods with leaves crunching beneath our feet and campfires with s'mores.



Another fall highlight is our Open House and Signing Events. Our artists enjoy these events just as much as you enjoy attending them. They're a wonderful opportunity to visit retail stores, browse this year's pieces and accessories, chat with fellow collectors, and have your new pieces signed by a Department 56 Village artist. These gatherings also give collectors a chance to share ideas with one another and offer suggestions for future designs. Our artists return to the office energized and ready to sketch some of the ideas they heard from you.



Here is the Signing Events schedule for this fall:

- August 29– All Through The House, Little Rock, AR
Featured Artist: Robb Miller
- September 12 – Good Things For All Seasons, Grapevine, TX
Featured Artist: Paul Lundberg
- September 26 – Kris Kringl, Leavenworth, WA
Featured Artist: Paul Lundberg
- October 17 – St. Nick's, Littleton, CO
Featured Artist: Tom Bates
- October 24 – City Lights, San Diego, CA
Featured Artist: Paul Lundberg
- November 6 – Madeline's, Louisville, KY
Featured Artist: Tom Bates

- November 7 – Bronner's Christmas Wonderland, Frankenmuth, MI. Featured Artist: Robb Miller

Facebook Live schedule

Our remaining Facebook Live schedule for 2026 is September 10, October 8, November 19, and December 17. Mark your calendars—we're planning something special for each monthly segment, including a preview of the 2027 Village pieces and guest interviews. The preview events will take place before the sales reps have a chance to show the new pieces to retailers, so you won't want to miss them!

'Til next time! Happy Villaging!

Melinda Seegers

Ms Lit Town

ENESCO/ Department 56

www.dept56.com

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF FIFTY SIX CLUBS PRESENTS 50 YEARS OF DEPARTMENT 56 IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

YOU'RE INVITED TO

THE NCC Virtual FALL FLING

OCTOBER 3RD | 12:00 CST

COST PER REGISTRANT \$15

RAFFLE TICKETS \$5 EACH OR 3 FOR \$10 Don't miss your chance to win!

WE WILL HAVE

- PRIZES TO GIVE AWAY! We'll be giving away fantastic prizes throughout the event!
- PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS Join us for a fun gathering with special guests and surprises along the way!
- INSPIRATION Pick up new tips, boost your creativity, and improve some skills!

LET'S CELEBRATE our love OF 56!

Registration opens soon

Spots are limited—don't wait!

TOGETHER WE KEEP THE MAGIC OF 56 ALIVE.

ROUTE 56 BEGINS AT THE CANYON

THE 6-YEAR JOURNEY BEGINS AUGUST 19-22, 2027, IN ARIZONA

STAY TUNED AS WE MAP OUT A FEW MORE DETAILS ...

Coming Soon!



PRESENTED BY THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF 56 CLUBS

Village Life in a NCC Club

By Robin Hervey, NCC Membership Chair, membership@ncc56.com

To use a recently coined phrase, “It’s been a minute”. A few years ago a wise NCC administration penned 56 reasons why one should join a NCC Club. Today, they remain accurate and appropriate to use as qualifiers in helping frame the rationale why the prospective member should become part of our club systems across the U.S., Canada, the Netherlands and the Philippines.

The following examples are further reasons, why becoming part of an NCC club can change your village life!

- To discover creative ways to tell a story through your village instead of simply placing buildings.
- To learn photography tips so you can capture your village like a miniature movie set.
- To inspire future collectors by introducing children and grandchildren to the magic of villaging.
- To celebrate every completed display, knowing that no two villages are ever exactly alike.
- To find encouragement when you’re feeling stuck on a layout or new idea.
- To discover that every collector has their own “signature style” of villaging.
- To learn where to find hidden treasures at estate sales, antique shops, and flea markets.
- To share the excitement of finally finding that long-sought retired piece.
- To preserve family traditions by passing your collection and its stories from one generation to the next. Yes, it can and does happen!
- To learn simple landscaping techniques that make your display look more realistic.
- To exchange extra accessories and duplicates with fellow collectors.
- To discover that a simple village display can become the centerpiece of family holiday memories.
- To challenge yourself each year to make your display just a little better than the last.

- To enjoy seeing how the same Department 56 piece can look completely different in another collector’s display.
- To encourage creativity by thinking outside the box—and sometimes outside the Department 56 catalog.
- To celebrate the excitement of unveiling a new display to friends and family each holiday season.
- To discover that the journey of collecting is just as rewarding as completing a collection.
- To become known as “the Christmas village person” in your neighborhood—and wear the title proudly. Ask Julie Rose!
- To realize that there’s always room for “just one more building.”

Sometimes it helps to remind ourselves of the great benefits we all have been enjoying as members of our time honored clubs. If they are so meaningful to us, why not become the “messenger” for others to experience the same? They are out there. As the NCC, we are designing new platforms to reach new members. But, as one who has “been around the block”, word of mouth remains a great way to introduce others to the NCC club family!

Guess what? It works!



Snow Village Harvest Oktoberfest Beer Garden.



Signing Events

Check with the Associate Member for event times.

August 29: All Through The House, Little Rock, AR
Featured Artist: Robb Miller

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Featured Artist: Paul Lundberg

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Featured Artist: Tom Bates

November 7: Bronner's Christmas Wonderland,
Frankenmuth, MI
Featured Artist: Robb Miller

North Star Villagers Demonstrations

By Barry — Making your own trees



Finished trees.

Additional Materials:

- 22 gauge floral wire
- Green floral tape
- Hot glue
- Acrylic paint
- Woodland Scenics Poly Fibre
- Woodland Scenics Clump Foliage
- Woodland Scenics Hob-E-Tac adhesive



Supplies and tools needed.

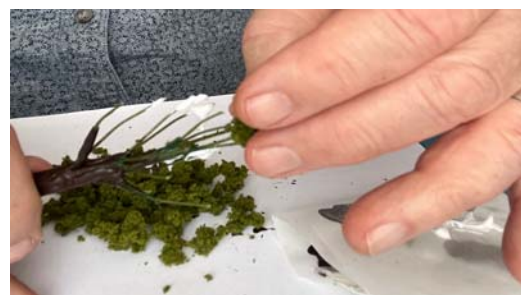
Making trees may require material you do not have in your 'vignette making stash', but can be easily acquired through our corner store Amazon... green floral tape and 22gauge floral wire, either the green coated or paper wrapped, both have pros and cons. I like the paper wrapper wire because it results in a more substantial trunk formation.

Tree trunks are made by wrapping the floral tape around single pieces of floral wire or groups of wire if you are looking for multi branch tree branches. Hot glue applied to the finished tree trunk bulks up the trunk and allows you to add trunk deformities. Once finished, the branches can be bent and trimmed to the final basic shape desired. Painting your trunks is the final step before adding the foliage.

Covering the branches with Woodland Scenics Poly Fibre as a base before gluing on your leaf material gives a rounder tree profile. If a more natural profile is desired clumps of Clump Foliage may be glued to your tree branches. Hot Glue or Woodland Scenics Hob-e-Tac adhesive would be my choice since they both dry clear. My personal preference would be Hob-e-tac because once dried it remains clear and tacky.

These trees are easy to make and can be used as fill-ins or as stand alone giving your vignette a personal touch.





*By Doug — Centerpiece for Canada Day Village***Supplies needed**

- XPS Foam
- Hot Glue
- Variety of Paints
- Sharp utility knife
- Woodland Scenic Talus (or other rocks) and Ballast
- Blue fine grit sandpaper (water)
- Mod Podge
- Florals
- Canoe from Dollarama

While doing the rocks, florals, etc. I put approx. 6-7 layers of glossy mod podge on the sandpaper, letting it dry completely in between coats to give the illusion of water.



Supplies and tools need.

I always have scrap XPS foam in my craft room and with any vignette or display I like to incorporate something homemade. This was a random piece of scrap foam and I wanted to make a water feature with a statue and some flower beds with red/white florals. I cut the sandpaper to the desired shape and glued it down. Using the talus rocks I used a hot glue gun to adhere them to the foam and around the sides and top edge of the water.

The flower beds are cut out with a sharp knife. I use a mixture of white glue and ballast to hold the floral in the beds. I do this as when it dries it also looks like dirt.

I created a tree stump out of a piece of foam to give the canoe statue some additional height.



Make & Take
Scarecrow Shack
6013598

Connecting with Our Clubs

REGION 1

Garden State Village Collectors (NJ)

May. Many thanks to Carol for hosting the final meeting of our 2025-2026 club year and to everyone who contributed to our pot luck luncheon. A special thank you goes out to Karolee for her generous donation of multiple Christmas In The City buildings. Every member selected a building to take home for future displays. Everyone enjoyed seeing photos from the Department 56 50th anniversary celebration at Graceland in Memphis, Tennessee as well as a video of village displays that club members submitted to Department 56 for this event. Also, we were able to see up close the rehab of the Snow Village *Queen Anne Revival B&B* created by Ms. Lit Town, Melinda Seegers. This piece was named in her honor and was won by Donna at the Gathering.



Rehab of Queen Anne Revival B&B.

REGION 2

The Village Landlords (FL)

We are ready to leave behind our summer hiatus and begin planning for a new fiscal year which includes monthly meetings, presentations, Make 'n Takes, publication of our newsletter *The Village Press*, Halloween party and anniversary celebrations, Toys 4 Tots, Grinch Exchange, Bring a Friend and Picnic, and if these were not enough, the board will come up with other activities to keep our members involved and informed. Our next fiscal year is looking good!"



Original Queen Anne Revival B&B.

REGION 3

Hoosier 56'ers (IN)

May. A great turnout of 32 collectors! This will be our last meeting for the summer until August.

Our NCC rep, Eleanor Swiecki, asked our collectors to give her ideas on what type of presentations they would like to see at an upcoming Fall NCC virtual Zoom meeting.

Our former Region 5 rep, Ellen Somerwill, shared about the exciting time she had at the Graceland Gathering and the new Department 56 museum. The 2027 Gathering will be held in Phoenix, Arizona. The 2028 Gathering will be held in Chicago.

The 50th Anniversary pieces were shipped early and Pete had them all on display. Peter talked about each piece and explained some of the new improved features. First: the variable lighting has been corrected, when the power is turned off and on, the light comes on without resetting the light switch. Second: collectors were worried that the houses, being made of resin, would be very translucent like Harry Potter and would not look right with the present ceramic village houses. This was not the case. Thirdly: the detail was extremely good, especial on the accessories. Lastly: the price of under \$200 and the size of the houses, was a win-win for our collectors.



50th Anniversary pieces.



Pete discussing the improved lighting cord.



Ellen sharing Gathering information.

Queen City Villagers (OH)

June, July and August, we are on vacation from our in-person meetings.

We are looking forward to starting up again September 20 and working with 3D printing to create accessories for our villages!

And kick off the start of holiday displaying.

The Four States Village People (MO)

July 2026 marked not only the 250th anniversary of America's founding, but also the 35th anniversary of the formation of The Four States Village People collectors' club. After 35 years, five original charter members remain. Current members celebrated both milestones during their annual indoor picnic, where they shared American history games, special memories, and a report on the "50 Years of Department 56" Gathering at Graceland.



REGION 4

OKC Class Of 56 Collectors Club (OK)

June. The OKC Class of 56 Village Collector Club met on June 14, 2026. Gathering attendees, Ronald Cox, Sybil Connolly, and Deborah Kahmar presented a quite interesting slide show of the Gathering and discussed the highlights for them. They also brought their wonderful 50th anniversary purchases to show to the club.



At the Gathering, L-R Back: Jasmine Morales, Ronald Cox
L-R Front: Deborah Kahmar, Karen Cox.



At the Gathering at Jeffrey Kirchner's Make 'n Take
L-R: Gayle Morris, Sybil Connolly.

Lisa Remy did a Show-and-Tell about *Scooter's Diner* and *Shelly's Diner* and showed her display, "Happy 50th Anniversary, Department 56 Parking Lot Party", that was to have been entered at the Gathering if Lisa hadn't become ill and had to miss it. The display included both buildings and even a parade. Finally, Lisa presented a quick Make 'n Take where everyone made welcome signs for their villages using water slide decals and a marble tile.



At our June meeting, Ronald Cox describes his gold cap and pins.



At our June meeting, April Foster and Pam Cheyne show the signs they made with water-slide decals and a marble tile.



At our June meeting, Club President Lisa Remy's Parking Lot Party Display. The parade members are carrying signs that say, "Happy 50th Anniversary" and "Department 56".

July. The OKC Class of '56 Collector Club met July 12, 2026 at April and Kevin Foster's home. We enjoyed our club picnic/potluck. After the business meeting, the great meal, and some discussions of good ideas, everyone viewed April's amazing Area 51 village. Her hours of work and attention to detail were quite obvious.

Club members also enjoyed shopping the show and sell tables from other club members. We had items ranging from Hallmark ornaments to Department 56 pieces and much more.

It is wonderful that many of our members plan to attend the August 16 meeting in Tulsa and Brandon Taylor's All Thru the House open house on August 22. We are so excited to be invited.



At our July meeting, April Foster describes how she constructed her Area 51 display. L-R: Sybil Connolly, Peggy Owens, Ronald Cox, Karen Cox, April Foster.



April's display.



April created this toxic swamp with poured resin and lots of paint. It was fabulous.

River City Villagers (TX)

Club members met for the June meeting to celebrate and discuss the fun and excitement of the May Gathering in Memphis. Carol and Ken Graham brought cupcakes and brownies for all to enjoy while sharing their thoughts about the recent event.

Sharon and Bob told us how they stopped at a signing event at *All Through the House* on their way to the Gathering. They were also able to purchase *Puckett's Funerarium* at the Gallery to add to their Halloween display.



Sharon and Bob showing us their *Puckett's Funerarium*.

Carol and Ken liked the train presentation and brought their Department 56 Snow Village Train that they bought in San Diego in 1998.



Ken and Carol's Department 56 Snow Village Train Set.

Margaret was so excited about the AirBright Lighting System demonstration, that she purchased one. Mags highlighted the different workings of the lights and what she really liked about the product. Sharon and Bob mentioned that they attended an impressive Make 'n' Take on laser cut trees. Lori talked about the fact that the *Village D-Lights* magazine was back up and running and hoped members would subscribe and give them another try.



Margaret's Air Bright Lighting System.

Overall members were excited about the Gathering and looking forward to the next one.

Southwest Villagers (AZ)

July. Members were given the option to use club provided supplies to create vignettes celebrating our nation's 250 birthday.



Supplies provide by the club.



By Carol Ankley.



By Mary Jewell.



By John Autore.

Additional 4th of July vignettes by members



By Jim and Martha Draper.



By Roger and July Powell.



By Roger and July Powell.



By Roger and July Powell.



By Mary Jewell.



By Leigh Gieringer.



By Patty Duncan.



By Patty Duncan.



By Sue Chretien.

REGION 5

Bay Area Village Collectors Club (CA)

The Bay Area Village Collectors are a small but busy group. After the break from Christmas and Easter, the members took a vacation so they would be ready to gear up for the Halloween and Christmas season.

A couple of the club members have already started on their designs for Halloween. Shown below, is Laura Gozzo with her built in stairs. Can't wait to see what else she has in her arsenal.



By Patty Duncan.





Joe and Laura's creativity using Styrofoam

Our activities in August are the regular meeting followed shortly afterwards with our annual BBQ at the Vento's. We will eat hardy and play some games with prizes being awarded.

Up and coming event will be the Halloween open house tours on October 17. We open our homes to friends, family members, and any area collectors.

If you are in the San Jose area on that day, you are invited to join us. (PS. We feed people) Email Sue Cunningham at Skunkhollow44@sbcglobe.net for duration and times and location.

Have a happy and busy fall season.

California 56 Collectors (CA)

June. Nearly 60 members and friends joined the June Zoom meeting to enjoy a lively presentation from Rachel Drollinger, manager of Kris Kringl in Leavenworth, Washington. Rachel led a virtual tour of the store's two floors, highlighting their extensive Department 56 displays— Snow Village, North Pole, Harry Potter, themed collections, and their 50th anniversary pieces. Kris Kringl generously provided a special vignette featuring new Snow Village Halloween items, with one lucky member (Donna Wollman) winning it in a post meeting drawing. Members were encouraged to join the store's loyalty program at kriskringl.com.

The meeting continued with door prizes, June and July birthday celebrations, and updates on upcoming club events.

The club also welcomed several new members. Members also reflected on the recent 50th anniversary Gathering in Memphis. For the bimonthly interview, new member Ethan Hyman shared his early love of Department 56, sparked by seeing Snow Village at age three or four. He recalled his first purchases, a Halloween accessory bought

with spelling bee winnings, and his excitement after attending the recent Memphis Gathering. He's already designing his Christmas village.

Esme noted a special hidden message item in our informative newsletter, and Kris Kringl's vignette giveaway was announced for those present on the Zoom.

A Special Outing . After the June Zoom meeting for the California 56 Collectors, a few of the local members attended a German dinner at the Old World Village's Biergarten, followed by the Broadway-styled musical production of Jekyll and Hyde, with our own club member, Patrick O'Connor, playing Sir Danvers Carew, a prominent part of the cast. The play was performed at the Westminster Rose Center Theater.



Club Members enjoying a great show.

July. Our July meeting at the beautiful Green Thumb Nursery in Lake Forest was filled with warmth, generosity, and community spirit. Special appreciation goes to Meagan, Green Thumb's manager, and Lisa Johnson for providing refreshments, dessert, and an impressive selection of donated door and raffle prizes. Thanks also to Marvella for organizing the Jersey Mike's lunch order and to the Luker's for pickup.



Our club at Green Thumb.

The main focus of our meeting was our solid programming. Debbie Shelgren presented a long planned program that focused on creating realistic water. Then, Jim Luker made a creative presentation of using toilet paper and Elmer's glue to create water. If you'd like his step-by-step instructions, check our club Facebook page from July 19th. Esme highlighted the club's world class newsletter and announced winners of the semi hidden message challenge.



Debbie Shelgren presents to the club.

The Sunshine Report was shared by Alita, offering updates and encouragement for members. We joyfully recognized July and August birthdays, followed by a spirited singalong. Door prizes, regular raffles, special raffles, and the 50/50 drawing added excitement throughout the afternoon.



Patrick O'Connor and Roger Zambrano choose tickets our raffle prizes.

Upcoming events were also highlighted including our August Zoom meeting with Hot Wire Foam Factory, where company employee will Victoria Lohman focus on tool use and display techniques. A week later, we will have a rare Friday outing to Christine's Collectibles in Arcadia, California followed by lunch in the same city. The July meeting reaffirmed our identity as an extended family—celebrating shared history, creativity, and the joy of Department 56 collecting. Members departed with plants, Department 56 treasures, and smiles.

Club 56 (CA)

We are thrilled to report that our small group has added a new member this month! We are happy to welcome Carol Clarke to our ranks. Carol has been a long-time collector and sure to bring fun and enjoyment to our team.

Our members are so spread out around the San Francisco Bay Area that we rarely get together in person at this time of year. We've been meeting only via Zoom. That's why we are looking forward to our annual bar-b-que in August, hosted by Jaylene Wilson. It's always great food and games, in addition to talking about plans for the upcoming holiday season.

The next get together will be to River Bank for a tour of Morris Nursery and their extensive collection of Department 56 houses and accessories for sale. Then we'll make the trek to Incline Village in October for our first member display at Sue Parker's house. If we don't have an early snow, Reno and Carson City may be in the cards.

We hope everyone has a few more relaxing weeks as the end of summer approaches.

San Diego 56ers (CA)

May. At the May meeting, we saw some Department 56 50th Anniversary pieces.

Our V.P., Lauren, did a great job at our meeting, recapping the magical moments, presentations, and the NCC Gathering experiences had by those of us who attended. We look forward to next year's gathering in Phoenix, AZ, again hosted by the NCC. West Coast club members are excited that we can drive there, and yes, that means more room to bring more goodies home!



Jim's vignette of 50th Anniversary Releases.

Village Addicts Anonymous (CA)

June. Our June meeting was the first time at our new meeting location and it seems to have been a hit. We are so happy that the Ackermans offered it to us for a rate that we can afford. There will be a learning curve as to the best way for us to set up but it seems we are off to a good start.



First meeting in new venue offered by Christ here in foreground.

At this particular meeting we were very lucky to have David Urban drive all the way to north Los Angeles from San Diego to give us a terrific presentation. He described and showed progressive photos of his Harry Potter display at City Lights. He spoke about how different it is to design a display that only contains items that the store has in stock for sale. He also referred to the small allotted space where making levels upward was the solution. During the questions period the discussion led to his own displays at his house and what he created in a storefront window in the village near his house.



Every Alpine Village piece is in this display window in San Diego by David.

July. On July 12 Karen Holley had a "Christmas in July" open house. She had created several displays, had lunch catered and had desserts from a new bakery/restaurant nearby. It is thought that there were probably 60 people in attendance representing two of the Southern California clubs, neighbors and family. The weather cooperated pretty well as it was warm but there was a nice cloud cover to keep it from being miserable.



Small Architectural Series in the bathroom.



David shows Paul Lundberg the Harry Potter display at City Lights.



Forma Vitrum display on top. Christmas In The City on bottom.



Karen with her big mountain city display. Forma Vitrum is the name of the village on the upper shelf of display.

Village Idiots (OR and WA)

We are very sad to share news of the passing of longtime Village Idiots club member Dick Nichols. Dick and Lynn joined the club almost three decades ago. Back then they owned a gift store and were Department 56 dealers, and often donated village pieces to the club for door prizes and raffles. From the beginning both have been active participants in the Lemon Drop Committee that makes displays for St. Mary's Home for Boys. Dick helped transport the Department 56 vignettes to/from the school every month, and (along with Hal Beighley) took photos of the displays. In addition, Dick was the link with local businesses to get special treats for the St. Mary's students for holidays and events. He always took part in delivering the treats to the school, and was the person the school sent "Thank You" cards and letters to, which he passed along to everyone in our club. Dick will be greatly missed by so many!



Dick Nichols delivering treats to the students at St. Mary's.



Dick Nichols taking photos of the new displays at St. Mary's School for Boys – something he did every month throughout the year.

The only club activity we have this summer is a backyard picnic get-together on August 2. Janet and Marv Miller are hosting this year. Rob Guth has created a fabulous Bingo game that features our club and Department 56 in the Bingo squares. We can't wait to play it!

Our first club meeting of the fiscal year will be the 3rd Tuesday in September. It's always fun to get together again.

REGION 6

Club Lamplighters of Québec (CN)

Our members seem more energized this year; Maybe it's due to our new meeting venue or we're just having more fun together. Many had suggested that we should meet more often so we had our first meeting at Linda and Pierre's home in January. Everyone brought their favorite finger food and it turned out to be a great tasting experience surrounded by Christmas décor.

Thanks to our Italian “chef Pietro”, the club profited from our annual spaghetti sauce sale again this year. Instead of having our spaghetti supper in our usual hall, we opted to all go to an Italian restaurant therefore everyone had a chance to relax and enjoy themselves including our hard-working committee members.

We also dealt with very sad news when our dear friend Jean-Claude Forand passed away following a long illness. He brought so much to our club over the years and will be remembered fondly by all who had the good fortune to rub shoulders with him. He was pleased to have been chosen Collector of the Year for 2025 in recognition of his devotion to the club.

There were many great presentations during our March meeting:



Linda presented her St-Patrick's Day vignette.



Ginette Forest presented this very colorful spring vignette which included a sing along of old French songs. Many memories and lots of fun.



Josée Fleury presented this wonderfully detailed village depicting a festive sugar shack.



Linda presented a vignette for the Chinese New Year. Jean-Claude Forand created the decorations on the gold trees which were painted by Pierre Di Tomasso.

The following were presented during our May meeting:



Linda presented her daughter's first Dept 56 piece: Teddy Bear Training. It will always be special to both of them.



This remarkable zoo was presented by Josée Fleury. All her villages have so many details.



Denyse Cardin spoke of her and her husband's two passions: Department 56 North Pole and Disney. Their whole family shares many souvenirs at Disneyland and growing up surrounded by North Pole villages.



Linda presented the 3 toy shops from her Christmas In The City collection: Scottie's Toy Shop, Nicholas & Co Toys, Topsy Toys.



North Star Villagers (CN)

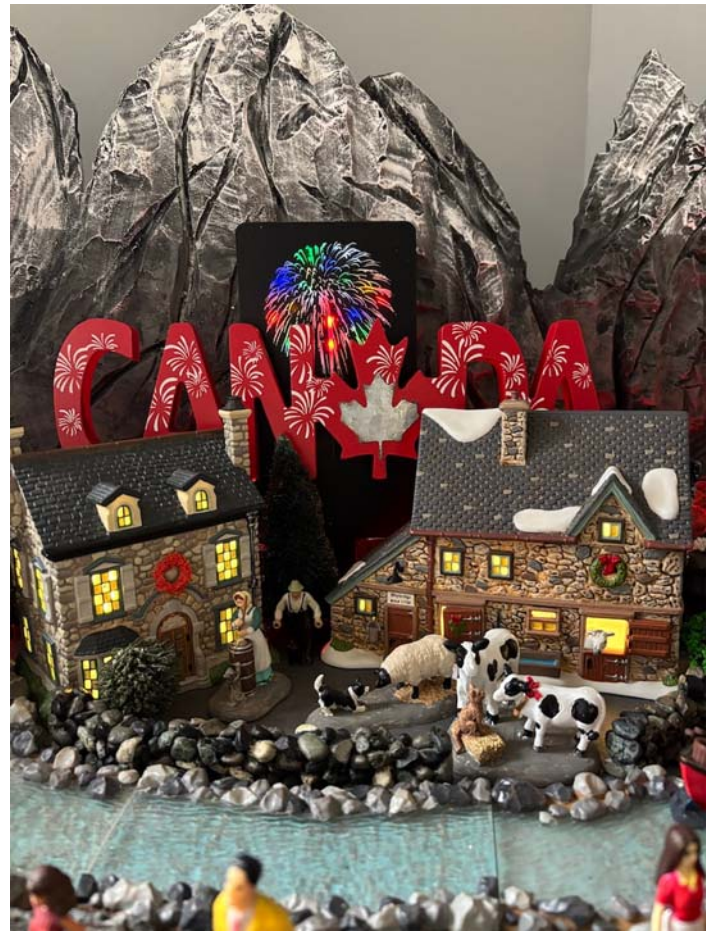
Member Displays

Martha and Barry — Canada Day is so important to us all, especially right now! I like to focus on our wonderful country and it's wide variety of cultures. The small vignette shows some of our mountains in the background and then the things we like to do on Canada Day...as we have gotten older, we now like to sit by a fire and watch the sunset, or go for a hike or to a cottage. We love our country and what it stands for around the world.



Norm, Hilary, Martha and Barry's Condo Lobby - This larger display we did shows urban life with a parade and people enjoying it. It shows rural Canada in the center and how life might have been in 1867 when we became a country and where our strong core values of hard work and respect for others were

reflected in the foundations of our democracy. The right side shows a cottage with people enjoying the great outdoors! The fireworks show it is a time for celebration!



Doug — When I think of Canada, I always come back to the beauty of our Provincial Parks, especially here in Alberta. We have villages such as Banff and Jasper with the glorious mountains, abundance of lakes and vast areas of forests. It is the great escape for not just Canadians but for people from all over the world. I used a few Dickens buildings that you would find in our parks. Lodging, coffee shops, antique stores and of course pubs. Canada Day is in our summer, and yes we can even get a bit of snow up in the mountains.



Barbara — Here we have a waterfall, connecting to the babbling brook that flows into one of our beautiful lakes. Whether you are enjoying the views from a Adirondack chair, fishing in the brook/ lake or taking in some of the wildlife, Canada will always put on a show of beauty.



Barbara — This is the *T.L.Buckingham Doll Shop* vignette that is featured in the Q2 edition of *Village D-Lights* magazine. Surrounding the Doll Shop are City Fences, Uptown Street Lights, child from Visiting The Nativity and cat from Stray Cat Strut. The flowers are from sprays bought from the dollar store, feathered paintbrush bristles, clay cobbles and static grass all create the cottage garden.



Trillium Village Collectors (CN)

May. The May group planned a White Elephant sale and as usual it was a success. Items sold in \$1, \$2, \$5 and \$10 amounts. All money collected was given to the club.

The theme for the display was water. That could mean anything from a mill to ducks in a pond. Whatever you can think of...bring your imagination!



By Gail H.



By Cherie S.



By Dennis T.



By Tyler C.



ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

ARKANSAS

All Thru the House

11316 Huron Ln.
Little Rock, AR 72211
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Email: thruthehouse@yahoo.com
Facebook Page: All Thru the House

All Thru The House is a family owned business of over 30 years located in Little Rock, Arkansas. They specialize in home décor, baby items, and collectibles. It's also part of Market Place Pharmacy... a one-stop pharmacy and gift store all wrapped up into one, if you will! They have anything you need "all through your house" including a wide variety of home décor and all of the Department 56 villages!



CALIFORNIA

City Lights

Brian Young
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San Diego, CA 92110
Phone: 800-262-5335
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www.citylightscollectibles.com

City Lights Collectibles, Southern California's largest holiday store with over 28,000 square feet of displays and product, would like to welcome you. The store is one big holiday wonderland, where children and adults alike get whisked away into the holiday spirit, viewing awe inspiring displays of villages, collectibles, wonderfully decorated trees, and trains that will blow the mind.



ETI

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ETI (Etherdyne Technologies, Inc.) is the inventor of the AirBrite™ lighting solution. This technology delivers power wirelessly using magnetic energy, eliminating the need for cords and batteries. AirBrite unlocks new levels of creativity, productivity, and seamless interaction with electronic devices.

ETI is preparing to release AirBrite 2.0, which expands creative freedom by covering larger areas and powering more lighting and animated elements from a single plug. Designed for permanent or semi-permanent installations, one system supports over 10 lighting pieces and up to 10 animated pieces, enabling rich, dynamic, and wire-free displays.

The AirBrite systems are available at one of our other NCC Associate Members, William Glen/Christmas & Company. <https://williamglen.com/collections/airbrite-lighting>

Hot Wire Foam Factory

216 East Laurel Ave.
Lompoc, CA 93436
Phone: 805-735-9255
Email: faqs@hwff.com
www.hotwirefoamfactory.com

Hot Wire Foam Factory provides professional quality foam cutting tools that make cutting EPS foam (polystyrene foam and Styrofoam) fast, fun, and easy.

COLORADO

St. Nick's Christmas and Collectibles

5221 So. Santa Fe Dr.
Littleton, CO 80120
Phone: 630-232-4200
Email: admin@stnicks.com
www.stnicks.com



St. Nick's is a family owned and operated Christmas store in Littleton, Colorado. In their 22 rooms they feature over 90 inspiring theme trees with thousands of ornaments and collectibles from around the world. They also specialize in artificial trees and lighting for all your decorating needs. Please come in and visit one of the most beautiful Christmas stores in America.

Colorado Model Railroad Museum

680 10th St.
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Contact: Michelle Kempema
Phone: 970-392-2934
Email: Michelle@CMRM.org
www.cmr.org
www.facebook.com/ColoradoModelRailroadMuseum

Colorado Model Railroad Museum, formerly known as Greeley Freight Station Museum, houses America's largest HO Scale prototypical model train layout.

The building has 9,500 square feet on the main floor and another 2,000 feet in mezzanine, storage and break room space. The featured element, a 5,500 square foot HO gauge model railroad layout, has ten separate wiring systems, 20+ scale miles of mainline track, hundreds of buildings (many of which have been scratch built), thousands of handmade trees and scenery never before attempted on a model railroad. The layout is configured so that it might operate automatically in a "show" mode (called docent mode), and in manual "operational" mode for train running sessions. The wharf areas feature ships that are fully operational "in the field", along with a full-scale model of the 729 foot ore carrier, Edmund Fitzgerald.

ILLINOIS

The Thoughtfulness Shop

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www.etsy.com/shop/MyLittleBowPeepsShop
www.instagram.com/explore/tags/mylittlebowpeepshop
www.pinterest.com/MyLittleBowPeepsShop/

The Thoughtfulness Shop has existed on the Woodstock Square for over 50 years and has been a Department 56 retailer for many decades, under former ownership and it continued under Janice and Craig from March 2020 to present. In the past two years Craig has also purchased collectors private collections so our inventory contains the new pieces, and over 1,000 retired pieces in all lines. We maintain our three-tiered display on the main floor, it currently has retired North Pole, retired Snow Village, and retired Christmas in the City displayed. One of our favorite events is during the holidays having The Madrigal Carolers singing in the shop surrounding the Victorian Dickens' display.

INDIANA

Cynthia's Hallmark

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www.cynthiashallmarkstores.com



Cynthia's Hallmark prides itself on its large variety and plentiful stock of Hallmark favorites. However, at Cynthia's, you will find interesting and unique gifts for anyone. Many of your favorite lines are in stock year round at Cynthia's, including Yankee Candles, Willow Tree, Nora Fleming, Department 56, RibbonWick and WoodWick Candles, Fannie May Chocolates, Lolita Hand Painted Wine Glasses, Tervis Tumbler, and Jim Shore.

KENTUCKY

Madeleine's Gifts

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www.madeleinesgifts.com
Facebook: madeleinesgiftsky
Instagram: madeleinesgifts.lou

Possible Dreams, Snowbabies, and many other collectibles. They have been in business for 20+ years and the staff post weekly Facebook Lives.



MARYLAND

The Forget-Me-Not Factory

Barry and Nancy Gibson
8044 Main Street
Ellicott City, MD 21043
Phone: 410-465-7355
Toll Free: 1-866-445-4879
Email: fmnf2000@yahoo.com
www.forgetmenotfactory.com

The Forget-Me-Not Factory is a store where bubbles and fairies meet to create shopping magic, both in-store and on-line. We are in the largest and one of the oldest buildings located in the heart of Historic Ellicott City, Maryland. Browse 3 floors loaded with items ranging from Department 56 Villages, dragons, fairies, toys, jewelry, Snowbabies, costumes, and more! Even a player piano on the 3rd floor!



MICHIGAN

Bronner's CHRISTmas Wonderland

Maria Sutorik
25 Christmas Lane
Frankenmuth, MI 48734
Phone: 989-652-9931
Email: msutorik@bronner.com
www.bronners.com

Bronner's CHRISTmas Wonderland...making Christmas memories since 1945. The Bronner family and staff hope you enjoy visiting our web site and invite you to visit our store located in Frankenmuth, Michigan's "Little Bavaria." Home to over 50,000 gifts and trims for all seasons and reasons, Bronner's is the world's largest Christmas store.



MINNESOTA

Department 56

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Phone: 800-548-8696
Email: MsLitTown@Dept56.com
www.department56.com

Some forty years ago, Department 56 began as part of Bachman's, a premiere retail florist in Minneapolis. Bachman's used a numbering system to identify each of its departments. The number assigned to wholesale gift imports division was, you guessed it, 56.

NEW YORK

Evolve For The Home - The Christmas Store of New York

57 William Street
Lyons, NY 14489
Phone #: 315-937-8409
Email:
ElfHelpDesk@EvolveForTheHome.com
www.evolveforthehome.com

Upstate New York's ONLY year-round Christmas store with over 7,000 sq. ft. of everything Christmas through three historic properties in the Downtown Historic District.

Our year-round displays featuring over forty fully decorated Christmas trees in various themes to provide you plenty of inspiration to help create your own magic scenes.

The store is also home to the acclaimed Village Room, featuring the largest collection and showroom of Department 56 Villages in the Finger Lakes!



Fitzula's Gift Shop

Bill Fitzula
140 Windermere Ave.
Greenwood Lake, NY 10925
Phone: 845-595-1550
Email: bill@fitzulas.com
www.Fitzulas.com

Fitzula's Gift Shop has strived to stay at the cutting edge of meeting the needs of their customers though their many business ventures. Fitzula's began over 52 years ago as a variety store through the efforts and vision of Bill and Rosanne Fitzula. This family owned and operated business is well known for its small town charm, variety of product, and superb customer service.



PENNSYLVANIA

Just for Fun!

Mike Karchner
3956 Ridge Pike
Collegeville, PA 19426
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Email: MikeKarchner@gmail.com
Retired Department 56 villages.

TENNESSEE

Enesco Gallery & Gift Shop

3717 Elvis Presley Blvd.
Memphis, TN 38116
www.graceland.com/enesco

The Enesco Gallery & Gift Shop featuring Department 56 is the ultimate destination for collectors and fans. The one-of-a-kind gallery, now open here on the grounds of Graceland, features the world's largest display of Department 56 Lit Villages. Over 1,500 in total.

The gallery's full collection, spanning almost 50 years of collectible history, leads visitors on a nostalgic trip through the collectibles inspired by their favorite movies, music, books and comics from 1976 through today. Guests will see classic designs inspired by Disney, Peanuts, Harry Potter, The Grinch and more!

The centerpiece of the gallery is a soaring, 7-level display of almost 300 pieces from The Original Christmas Village collection dating from the early 80's through today, culminating with a whimsical recreation of Graceland Mansion.



TEXAS

Good Things for All Seasons

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contactus@goodthingsforallseasons.com
www.goodthingsforallseasons.com



We are located in the beautiful historic downtown of Grapevine, Texas — quaintly nestled between Dallas and Fort Worth. Since 1998 we have been decorating the lives and homes of North Central Texas and beyond. We are a Club 56 and Gold Key Dealer for Department 56, with an incredible display of their villages, as well as their everyday and holiday lines. Good Things For All Seasons also has a large selection of Byers' Choice Carolers and Mark Roberts' Fairies. But there is so much more to our store! So look around and stay a while. Or better yet, stop by and say hi, and you'll find out why our designers have won so many awards. Be sure to bring your camera, our village room is a showstopper! If you're just visiting online, take your time and look around. We pride ourselves on fabulous displays and great customer service. We always do our best to please our customers.

Hooked on Villages

Allison.Hickey
Ponder, TX
Email: Allison.Hickey@hookedonvillages.com
www.hookedonvillages.com

I realized that there is a great market for retired buildings and accessories—so "Hooked on Villages" was born. I am enjoying meeting fellow villagers and hearing how they became Hooked. I would love to hear your story! Here's to being, and staying, Hooked on Villages!

Peddler's Emporium (formerly S & H Trading Post)

Hazel Willis
209 W. Polk
Burnet, TX 78611
Phone: 512-756-2820
Email: PEB2024@gmail.com

Peddler's Emporium is a 16,000 square foot store with an intriguing amount of merchandise to please everyone including a Man-Cave and a Christmas Everyday Room! Come see us!

William Glen

116 Old Agnes Road
Weatherford, TX 76088
916-737-5616
Email: info@williamglen.com
www.williamglen.com

Where it's Christmas everyday!

Founded in 1963, William Glen, Inc. is one of the premier specialty retailers of giftware, collectibles, housewares, and Christmas decor. Our products, selection and service are among the most notable and highly regarded in the industry.



WASHINGTON

Kris Kringl

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Instagram: [kriskringl](https://www.instagram.com/kriskringl)

Kris Kringl has a wide variety of Department 56 Villages, giftware, Possible Dreams, Snowbabies as well as many other holiday collectibles and gifts.



ONLINE ONLY

Showcase Displays

Stephen Pepin
www.showcase-displays.com

Stephen has over 200 Department 56 buildings, and his main collection series are Christmas in the City, Snow Village Halloween, and Winters Frost, but he also collects his favorite pieces of all the other village series that are displayed in vignette scenes.

The Village Chronicler

Email: Chronicler@TheVillageChronicler.com
www.thevillagechronicler.com

The Village Chronicler website is a free, online resource created for present and future generations of Department 56 collectors. The website provides a wide array of background information on the company and its history along with trustworthy, insightful, and informative information, in a "real-time" format, regarding anything Village related. This site also provides

the most accurate and up to date History List(s) of individual Villages including pictures, item numbers and years of availability. Every Village also includes a listing of the individual subseries' (past and present) that run in each, along with a direct linkage of all accessories to their respective buildings, product pictures, and much, much more!

The Village Chronicler is also on Facebook with real time news as it happens in the Department 56 world of collecting!

Tru-Tone

David Andora
Email: info@tru-tone.com
www.Tru-Tone.com

Tru-Tone is a lighting company providing vintage style LED lighting. Their C7 Candle Glow Bulbs are awesome in our villages especially in Dickens, older CIC, New England, Alpine, and others depending on the style of house and the look for your specific village. They sell more than just replacement bulbs they have light sets, and different styles of vintage lights.

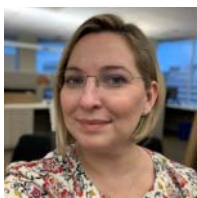
Village D-Lights

Owner: Ben Osten
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Email: info@villaged-lights.com
Web Site: <https://www.villaged-lights.com/>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/VillageDLights>
Village D-Lights magazine is the premier publication for Department 56 enthusiasts. Village D-lights is distributed quarterly via subscription to Department 56 collectors in the United States and Canada in hard copy and online distribution. The magazine focuses on the latest and most exciting news regarding the Department 56 Village lines.



denotes Platinum Key Dealer designation by Department 56. These retailers provide the ultimate in selection including current and hard to find retired products. Consider visiting one of these retailers or shop one of their websites with honored reputations. Platinum Key retailers will have early or exclusive access or new Department 56 product.

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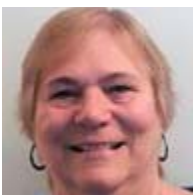
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Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Virginia, West Virginia, Vermont, Washington DC

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Region 4

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Region 2

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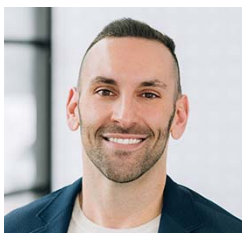
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Region 5

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Region 3

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Region 6

Canada, Philippines, and The Netherlands

Maddie Pimenta
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and



Norm Redpath
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upcoming EVENTS

Facebook Live

Melinda Seegers, Ms Lit Town, hosts a Facebook Live session with the latest introductions and news from Department 56. The sessions happen the first Thursday at 4:00 p.m. Central Time (unless otherwise announced). Check the Department 56 Facebook page for the upcoming sessions. You can find these sessions as well as other events on their Facebook page.

2026 Fall Virtual Gathering October 3, 2016

See page 3 for details about the Fall Virtual Gathering.

Next Club Connection November 1, 2026

Articles and club activities for the next *Club Connection* are due **November 1, 2026**.

2027 Arizona Gathering August 19-22, 2027

See page 6 for a sneak peek. Additional details will be provided as soon as they are available.



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