

the Village Voice

River City Villagers
San Antonio, TX

Volume 32, Issue 2
April 2024

Road Trip to Giddings

On January 17, several members took a road trip to Giddings, Texas where Melissa Misselhorn delights her small community with her public displays each year. One is at the local bank that we unfortunately missed as she had to take it down

using foam covered in opaque, sparkly fabric. Her amazing variety of trees also added to her displays. The trees different colors and sizes and made from a variety of materials. All of the characters from the Rudolph movie were represented



prior to the new year. However, she had another display at the Giddings Public Library where she filled the display cabinets with her Rudolph Village. Melissa enhanced her displays with beautiful fabrics for both water and skies. The fabrics consisted of a variety of blues, aquas, whites, greens, and pastels. She had ridged icebergs carved out of foam with the edges painted to create depth. Melissa also created beautiful, iridescent mountains

in Melissa's displays to include one of the most beloved characters, The Abominable Snowman putting the star on the tree. One of the most recognizable scenes from the movie was also among the displays. The Island of Misfit Toys showed Rudolph, his friend Hermey, Yukon Cornelius, Abominable, and all of the other misfits. After viewing the cabinet displays, we moved inside the library to the glass enclosure.

(continued on page 5)

Inside This Issue

Club Stuff	2
Buzz From the Board	2
Look Again	3
Rudolph Display	5
News From D56	6
Fun & Games... Spring Trivia	7
Contact Info	11

Next Event

Club Meeting

April 16,
7:00 pm
911 Melissa Dr

(in the San Antonio
Genealogical Society
building)

Club Stuff

Extra Door Prizes!

In honor of our 32nd Anniversary, we will have three additional door prizes at our April meeting — each worth \$32 to local restaurants. Everyone who attends (whether in person or via Zoom) will be eligible to win.

Upcoming Events

April 16
Club 32nd Anniversary Meeting
Club meetings are the third Tuesday of Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, and Oct.

Club Shirts

We're ordering club shirts soon. Club logo embroidered free when you purchase the shirt. Margaret will have samples and more information at the April meeting.

New Board Members

Congratulations and a big thank you to Carol Graham and Albert Serenil for becoming our new president and secretary!

Buzz From The Board

32 Years Old and Still Rocking

It is mind boggling that years seem to come and go so quickly. The River City Villagers will be celebrating their 32 year anniversary at the April meeting. What is more amazing is that, after all these years, members are still passionately pursuing collection of their Dept 56 village favorites and are still active participants in the club. Over the years, many clubs have ceased to exist. What has been unique to this club is that even with the fluctuating membership, a core number has remained and continue to support the club and its endeavors. The club has also

been fortunate in attracting new members that have helped foster our continual success.

As the incoming president, I look forward to a great 2024. We are fortunate to have Margaret Farris, Marcie Helmke and David Grubaugh who have had numerous years of board experience. In fact, David has been newsletter editor for 20 years or more and deserves our gratitude. I also extend a hearty welcome to our new secretary, Albert Serenil. Also, thanks to Lori Knapp for being past secretary, & for staying on as NCC representative. Also, I wish to thank Sharon Piechnik for past service as President. "A great team makes success attainable and fun!"

Going forward, plans for 2024 are to continue the club's legacy of fun, and fellowship while collecting Dept 56. I encourage everyone to attend the upcoming April 16 meeting. Natalie Lundschen and Janna Raley will be demonstrating tree making techniques and other tips. We will also be celebrating the club's anniversary with yummy birthday cake and all attendees will be eligible to possibly win one of 3 gift cards valued at \$32 each. The \$32 signifies the club's years .

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the April Meeting.

Carol Graham

Look Again...at the February Meeting

The River City Villagers met both in person and on Zoom for their February meeting, with a total of 19 members attending. Our first order of business was election of officers. Members elected Carol Graham as our new President, Albert Serenil to serve

please let the board know. We are also looking for someone to sign up for the June meeting, so jump on in if you have an idea.

Marcie gave an update on the Father Christmas Store. She took a poll on how many members would be interested in taking a class on a Saturday in August or September. She will keep us updated.

Greg Roth brought a myriad of D56 donations to give to members. Everyone had an opportunity to 'shop' in the give-away bin! Thanks Greg! Brandon Taylor of All Through the House sent D56 Catalogues to distribute to members. Thanks Brandon!!!



Jody also suggested a brunch before the retirement party. Something for members to think about between now and November. The last order of business was that RCV will reimburse up to \$25 for program supplies. Keep your receipts!

(continued on page 4)

as Secretary, and David Grubaugh was re-elected as Newsletter Editor. A big thank you to all three of them for stepping up! Margaret Farris will continue to serve as Vice President and Marcie Helmke will continue as Treasurer.

A sign-up sheet was sent around for upcoming programs. We are still in need of volunteers to fill a few slots. If you have ideas and would like to share,



Look Again

(continued from page 3)



The evening's program was presented by Lori Knapp and Hazel Willis. Members competed in a miniature vignette contest. Members were divided into groups of four and given one piece of 12"x14" Styrofoam. The back table was loaded with an amazing variety of craft supplies. The only instructions were to make a village scene of any holiday or season, use at

least one house, add any supplied crafts, and have fun! The result of the contest was four amazing vignettes... one fall scene and three Christmas displays. While the vote was very close, the winning vignette was created by Janna Raley, Albert Serenil, Greg Roth, and Susie Looney. The reward for first place was a \$25 gift certificate for each winner to Hazel's thrift store, Peddler's

Emporium. Who knew we had so much talent in our group!!!

See you at the April meeting!!!

Lori Knapp



Melissa's Rudolph Display

(continued from page 1)

There we found another Rudolph village complete with a train. Again, I found my favorite Abominable Snowman along with lots of quaint little houses and elves. The best part about this display was being able to push the button to make the train go around. Guess I'm a kid at heart. Melissa has an incredible imagination that she is able to bring to life in her presentations. Library patrons always enjoy Melissa's village displays. It's so nice to see what our talented members are doing with their villages! Hope you'll keep us posted throughout the year.

Lori Knapp



News From D56...Graceland Gallery

The Enesco Gallery & Gift Shop Featuring Department 56 is the ultimate destination for collectors and fans. The one-of-a-kind gallery, located on the grounds of world famous Graceland in Memphis, TN, 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.

Along with the pieces themselves, visitors to the gallery will see every step taken in the journey to bring their prized collectibles to life with detailed descriptions and insight into each phase of the creation process, from inspiration to manufacture.

And finally, guests can visit the gift shop, featuring a full array of collectibles from your favorite Enesco brands -- Department 56, Jim Shore, Lolita, Allen Designs and Possible Dreams. As well as a few items only available for purchase in-person at the Enesco Gallery & Gift Shop at Graceland. Those are sure to be a hit with collectors looking for the rarest of items.

To start planning your visit to the Enesco Gallery & Gift Shop Featuring Department 56 and subscribe to our mailing list, visit graceland.com/enesco.



Fun & Games...Spring Trivia

1. What is the first day of spring called?
 A. Spring Equinox B. Spring Solstice
 C. Passover D. Easter

6. What are English spring buns traditionally called?
 A. Spring Rolls B. Easter Buns
 C. New Rolls C. Hot Cross Buns



7. Which city was the setting for the 2012 film *Spring Breakers*, starring James Franco?
 A. Panama City, FL B. St. Petersburg, FL
 C. South Padre, TX D. Key West, FL



2. Who is the Greek goddess of spring?
 A. Venus B. Persephone
 C. Athena D. Flora
3. What's the earliest date that spring can occur in the northern hemisphere?
 A. March 16 B. March 17
 C. Marcy 18 D. March 19
4. What does the Easter egg symbolize?
 A. The Earth B. New Life
 C. Strength D. Circle of Life

8. Which city hosts the International Cherry Blossom Festival in mid-to-late March?
 A. Tokyo B. Macon, GA
 C. Washington, D.C. D. Cherry Blossom, VA



9. What landmark building's fountain has spouted green water every year since 2009 for St. Patrick's Day?
 A. The White House B. Notre Dame Cathedral
 C. The Luv D. The Alamo



5. According to Facebook, couples are most likely to break up during spring and what other time period?
 A. Winter
 B. Fall
 C. The 2 weeks prior to Valentine's Day
 D. The 2 weeks prior to Christmas

10. What do you call a group of butterflies?
 A. Gathering B. Kaleidoscope
 C. Spring D. Mothra

Answers: 1.a, 2.b, 3.d, 4.b, 5.d, 6.c, 7.b, 8.b, 9.a, 10.b

Contact Info

RCV Club Officers

President

Carol Graham
(210) 394-5660
1peewee@swbell.net

Vice-President

Margaret Farris
(210) 884-7463
mfarris80@gmail.com

Treasurer

Marcie Helmke
(830) 629-4029
mjhelm@satx.rr.com

Secretary

Albert Serenil
(210) 378-1251
disney9988@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor

David Grubaugh
(210) 273-7374
davidgrubaugh@gmail.com


We're On The Web!

RiverCityVillagers.org

Like Us On 
facebook

email: RiverCityVillagers@yahoo.com

When shopping for Department 56 or any of your collectible and Christmas needs, please visit the shops that support our club. And make sure to tell them you are with River City Villagers!



est. 1996

"Celebrate Always"
Where It's Christmas Everyday
1 Thessalonians 5:16

Emily & Tony Carvalho
132 South Main Street
Boerne, Texas 78006
830-816-2176
christmas.elves@gvtc.com
thechristmasshoppetx.com

S&H Trading Post and More



A 16,000 square foot store with an intriguing amount of merchandise to please everyone including a Man-Cave & a Christmas Everyday Room! Come See Us Today!

512-756-2820

Hazel Willis, Owner
Cell - 512-809-2770

Open Daily - 10:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
209 W. Polk Street Burnet, Texas, 78611
E-mail: sh.tradingpostandmore@gmail.com

Located on Hwy. 29 just off the corner of Hwy. 281.

New - Used - Vintage MERCHANDISE

"Like" Us On Facebook