



CELEBRATING
25
Years
Of connecting
collectors to clubs,
and clubs to each other
1992-2017

NCC Silver Rush 2017 *25th Anniversary Gathering*

Silver Express News

JUNE 14-18, 2017 | WWW.NCC56.COM

This is the last newsletter before the Gathering! We will have a recap of the Gathering in late July. The committee will need some R&R before we finish up all the details.

GATHERING REGISTRATION: REGISTRATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY JUNE 9

Diane Welch,
dianewelch@hotmail.com
210-842-2622

Registrations postmarked after June 5, 2017 can not be guaranteed. All registrations need be received by Diane on or before June 9. If in doubt, either overnight or use priority mail.

The registration fee is **\$185.00** for the entire weekend, which includes three meals and general admission to the seminars, display contests, and marketplace.

The **Registration Form** is on the website. Diane will e-mail a confirmation when your form and payment have been received. Please make sure to have a Registration Form for each person attending. Haven't received a confirmation yet? Please check your junk/spam folder before contacting Diane.

A PARTY JUST FOR YOU...

*Sue Chretien, Co-Chair
schretien@cox.net*

It's our Anniversary! The planning has been done, the final dotting of the "i's" and crossing of the "t's" is being done, and soon it will be time to celebrate! An anniversary is a milestone, and with this being the NCC's 25th – an even bigger milestone. The gathering team has given their very best to make this a one of a kind celebration just for you.

Our vision has been to bring our clubs, our seasoned collectors as well as those new to collecting, a gathering filled with new ideas, new techniques and new experiences. Department 56 has been truly amazing with all of the support they have given the NCC, from the number of folks they have attending, along with several "goodies" from the conference bag to the seminars, to the live auction, all geared to celebrating with us. We are so very blessed to be able to have Michael, Lisa, Melinda, Jackie, Scott, Tom, Paul and Anita join us. Here's your chance to share with them your passion for and love of collecting their "little lit houses" as Mike (Goode) likes to say. We are so very grateful to them – thank you Department 56!

Five fabulous collectors will open up their homes and workshop to you for "oohing and ahing" and ideas and inspiration to take home with you. For those lucky enough to secure spaces on our tour buses, you are in for a treat indeed. Not only do you get to see these terrific displays; you also get to rub elbows with one of our Department 56 guests, as there will be one on each bus. Here is your chance to get to know one of them better and I'm sure they will be open to receiving your ideas for new buildings and accessories. And to round out your day, our NCC Associate Member, Millie's Hallmark is ready to welcome you with the sights and sounds of Margaritaville, and a "cheeseburger in paradise." Department 56 Possible Dreams artist, Ann Dezendorf will be on hand, as well as the others that I mentioned, to sign your purchases. Millie's also has a very special, hand painted ornament; your gift with purchase. It's beautiful and quite a treasure to commemorate this anniversary!

In addition, we have a lovely hospitality suite and there will be prizes there; a full house in the Marketplace where you can pick up those NCC exclusive accessories and quite a number of other items; there will be prizes; wonderful, never been seen before seminars; two display contests; prizes; amazing centerpieces that you can win; and Bingo with...you guessed it - prizes! There is also an amazing array of items in our Silent Auction (and a huge thank you for all those that donated, and those that made them into stunning vignettes); and a killer Live Auction, where we finally get to see who will take home Ms. Lit Town's gorgeous quilt (thank you Melinda!). All of this has been designed with you our clubs and collectors in mind. And you get to celebrate and have the opportunity to give back with our charity, Crops of Luv. We have the first ever Make 'n Donate – where you can put those crafting skills to use and make items for the memory albums that Crops of Luv creates for children and families to preserve their "wish trip" memories. And you can continue to give back to our charity via Bingo, and the Silent and Live auctions. We know what big hearts you all have, and we're hoping you'll step up and help us help them to continue to preserve those special "wish come true" memories.

There is a lot of information outlined in this last edition of the Silver Rush before the 25th Anniversary Gathering – make sure you take the time to read it – we don't want you to miss out on a single thing!

DEPARTMENT 56 SURPRISES AT THE GATHERING

Melinda Seegers

A couple of surprises are in store and may be announced or hinted at, when you attend the upcoming *NCC Silver Rush 2017—25th Anniversary Gathering* celebration in Arizona. Our divisional president, Michael Griffith will share some exciting news at the opening ceremonies on Friday morning. It will be a great opportunity to meet our new leader and learn a little about his background with our company. You won't want to miss it.



And speaking of the Gathering, for the first time, there will be three *Department 56 Village* artists at the event—Scott Enter, Tom Bates, and Paul Lundberg. Together they bring over 62 years of design experience to the table! They will take part in a panel discussion that is scheduled to occur immediately after the opening ceremonies. Please come with your questions and suggestions for our artists. This is a rare opportunity for collectors!

I look forward to meeting new friends and seeing familiar faces at the collectors' event in a couple of weeks.

BISTRO 56

Richard Puckett
rchpuc@aol.com

In honor of the 25th Anniversary of the NCC, Department 56 is pleased to announce a one-of-a-kind, exclusively tailored variation of our newly released *Bon Appétit Bistro* restaurant and its coordinating accessory *Musique De Café*. These items are being offered for use in the Live Auction to raise funds for the Crops of Luv Charity.

Additionally, this very special variation has been named *Bistro 56*. This charming French restaurant features a brand new ruby red color pallet and special signage on the marquis and story board reflecting the new name. The coordinating accessory has also been repainted with a new color scheme making both pieces truly unique. The building is also signed by our Department 56 Sculptor Kiri Namtvedt who drew from her own experiences and talents to create this very one-of-a-kind variation.



CHARITY MAKE 'N DONATE EVENT

Becky Blue
rblue1950@yahoo.com

Come to the Make 'n Donate at the NCC Gathering Saturday afternoon to meet Jody McNelis, co-founder and president of Crops of Luv. Join us in making embellishments for "wish" kids' memory albums. There is no fee for the Make 'n Donate. Thank you for your support from Crops of Luv.

Crops of Luv, the NCC 2017 Gathering's charity, works with other volunteer groups in Arizona to create memory albums for "wish" kids. Each year in March the Tucson Pantano Christian Church Women's Group holds a 24-hour Crop to create 20 or more COL memory albums.

Because Crops of Luv is a 501(c)(3) organization, Kohl's Department Store Associates who participate in the company's Volunteer Program donate their personal time to make a difference for Crops of Luv. Once a month a group of 5-10 local Kohl's volunteers help with various projects at the COL studio.



Both Starlight Foundation and Hope Kids, organizations whose goals are to brighten the lives of critically ill children and their families, work with Crops of Luv at their events to spread the good works of Crops of Luv and set up scrapbook stations where families are invited to make memory album pages.

TOURS

Vanessa Taylor
vtaylor@fastq.com

The tours are full, all five (5) of the large buses are filled to capacity. Due to cancellations we have been able to accommodate everyone who was on the original waiting list. If you would like to go on the tours, you can check at the registration desk to see if there were any last minute cancellations. You will need to pay for the tour at that time. Everyone on the tours will have a ticket and only those with tickets will be able to enter the homes. Please do not try and follow any of the buses. The buses are on a schedule and the homeowners can only accommodate so many people at a time. Please be respectful of their request to not have people in their homes that are not on a tour bus.

You can go to Millie's event which starts at 5:30 p.m. without going on the tours. The bus leaves the hotel about 5:30 p.m., the ticket will be in your registration packet. If you are driving or can ride with friends, feel free to do so. Millie's address is listed in the Gathering Booklet.

CLUB SEMINARS ON WEDNESDAY

Richard Puckett
rchpuc@aol.com and
Pam Orman
photowizard@bellsouth.net

Membership Recruiting

All club officers and members are invited to participate in this informative and interactive, group session in which attendees will learn the importance of recruiting Members and Retailers/Sponsors for club growth. Topics covered will include Establishing Goals and Motivating the Membership, Prospecting and Why Growth is Important, The Importance of Recruiting Tools, How To Approach Potential Members, Creating A Need and Want with Potential Retailers/Sponsors, and the importance of Social Media and modern technology in today's society.

Keeping It Fresh: Meeting and Program Ideas for Your Club

Club Officers and members are highly encouraged to attend this very important breakout session devoted to the challenges of keeping meetings fresh and new as well as the importance of ensuring that members are engaged. This group participation meeting will challenge attendees to think outside of the box while sharing successful programs that have been proven to be effective in clubs throughout the NCC membership.

Club Presidents and Officers Round Table

All Club Presidents and Officers are invited to join the NCC Executive Board and Board of Directors, as well as representatives from Department 56 in an open forum discussion regarding the unique challenges and opportunities that they face. Participants will be encouraged to share individual thoughts, experiences and ideas with fellow club officers in search of overcoming obstacles and barriers that they have experienced.

TIDBITS ABOUT THE GATHERING



The hotel offers a free shuttle from the airport (from 5:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.). Call the hotel (480-894-1400) when you have your baggage. Note: Sky Harbor baggage claim can be slow, so don't get too impatient while waiting for your luggage.



If you are driving, the hotel offers free parking for hotel guests. Valet service only at the front entry of the hotel (gratuuity expected for valet parking). There are parking machines for attendees who are only coming for the day. See page 14 for parking instructions that you can print and bring with you.



There isn't an ATM at the hotel, however, there's a Bank of America and a Wells Fargo on Mill Avenue (within a few blocks from the hotel) if you need cash.



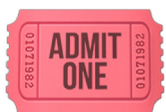
Cash will be needed for the Table Hop on Saturday night. For the Make 'n Takes, Friday Night Bingo, and the NCC Table in the Marketplace you will need either cash or check (no credit cards). Not all the vendors in the Marketplace will accept credit cards or checks so cash may be needed.



Cash, check or credit card (MasterCard or Visa) will be accepted for the Silent and Live Auctions.



It's summer in the desert so expect temperatures to be 100+ degrees. If it's under a 100, we are having a "cold" wave. The seminar rooms and other areas of the hotel may be cold to compensate for the heat, so you may want to dress in layers/bring a sweater so that you aren't uncomfortable. Average high temperature is 104 degrees, average low temperature is 70 degrees. Evenings and early mornings should be pleasant. Sunrise is around 5:15 a.m. and sunset is around 7:40 p.m. June is normally a dry month with little or no rain.



In your registration packet, you will find tickets in different colors, for the tours with your bus number and time to be in the lobby, meal tickets with your table assignment, and People's Choice ballots for the Display and Rehab Contests. Your badge holder has plenty of room to keep all your tickets. Each ticket is a different color to be easily identifiable.



The hotel business office will have shipping available on both Saturday and Sunday. Check the schedule in your booklet for times shipping will be available.



It's Margaritaville Thursday for attire. In honor of the new Margaritaville village, and our Associate Member, Millie's Hallmark having an event just for us—put on your favorite Hawaiian or Jimmy Buffett/Margaritaville shirt, shorts and comfortable walking shoes.

Friday daytime is casual dress and wear your club shirt if you have one.

Friday evening and Saturday daytime is casual, be comfortable.

Saturday evening dress attire. Since this is a milestone gathering we are asking everyone to dress nicely—or resort dressy. A suit jacket and tie are optional but please no jeans, sneakers, polo shirts, flip-flops, etc. Dress like you would if you were going to a fine dining restaurant that has a dress code.



Lunch for Friday and Saturday are on your own. The hotel has several restaurants that will be serving lunch.

If you need to cancel your hotel reservation please do so with Sue Chretien (schretien@cox.net), NOT the hotel. This way we can keep our room block intact and those that may need a room will be accommodated. We appreciate your help on this!

MILLIE'S HALLMARK GATHERING EVENT

Lisa Johnson
johnsla@dept56.com

Millie's will be hosting a Margaritaville-themed event on Thursday, June 15, 2017 from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Cheeseburgers in Paradise (cheeseburger sliders) and margaritas will be served. Wear your Hawaiian or Margaritaville theme shirts, or if you're brave your grass skirt.

Village artists Tom Bates, Scott Enter, Paul Lundberg and Possible Dreams artist Ann Dezendorf will all be on hand to sign your pieces!

Millie's is offering a flat fee of \$12.00 to ship your purchases.

FREE with qualifying purchase is this beautiful, hand-painted ornament by local Arizona artist Brenda Schodt. "NCC Silver Rush 2017" is painted on the back of the ornament, making this a keepsake to remember this special milestone gathering.



If you are on the home tours you will be going to Millie's. If you signed up to take a bus from the hotel to Millie's, the bus will leave the hotel at about 5:30 p.m. If you are driving and not on one of the buses, you can still go to Millie's. Millie's is about 20 minutes from the hotel.

FORGOT TO ENTER THE DISPLAY OR REHAB CONTEST?

Joe Meyers
NCC25DisplayCont@aol.com
and
Brandon Taylor
mbrandontaylor@aol.com

We want this milestone anniversary gathering to have the most entries ever for a display contest! Since we have a new contest, the Rehab Contest, we are allowing people to enter either contest until **Thursday, June 15!** So if you didn't enter and would like too, just bring your display and entry form (www.ncc56.com) to the hotel. See the schedule for setup times on Wednesday and Thursday.

The contest rules are on the entry form and you need to be registered for the Gathering in order to enter.

Tentative Schedules

**THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.
THE FINAL SCHEDULE WILL BE IN YOUR GATHERING BOOKLET.**

WEDNESDAY TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Time	Event	Location
8:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.	Display Contest Setup Rehab Contest Setup	Cavetto
10:00 a.m.—7:00 p.m.	Event Registration Conference Bag Pickup Volunteer Check-in	Hotel Lobby
Noon—6:00 p.m.	Marketplace Setup	Abbey
1:00 p.m.—2:00 p.m.	Membership Recruiting	Palm D
2:15 p.m.—3:15 p.m.	Keeping It Fresh: Meeting and Program Ideas for Your Club	Palm D
3:30 p.m.—4:30 p.m.	Club Presidents and Officers Round Table	Palm D
5:00 p.m.	Annual NCC Board Meeting	Palm D

THURSDAY TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Time	Event	Location
7:30 a.m.—8:30 a.m.	Event Registration Conference Bag Pickup Volunteer Check-in	Hotel Lobby
8:45 a.m.—8:00 p.m.	Home Tours	Hotel Lobby
1:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.	Marketplace Setup	Abbey
1:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m. 9:00 p.m.—11:00 p.m.	Display Contest Setup Rehab Contest Setup	Cavetto
5:30 p.m.—8:00 p.m.	Millie's Hallmark Special Event 5027 East Elliot Road Phoenix, AZ 85044	Millie's Hallmark
7:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m.	Event Registration Conference Bag Pickup Volunteer Check-in	Hotel Lobby

FRIDAY TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Time	Event	Location
7:00 a.m.—8:15 a.m.	Make 'n Take Tickets on sale for Friday sessions	Colonnade
7:30 a.m.—8:15 a.m. 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.	Event Registration Conference Bag Pickup Volunteer Check-in	Hotel Lobby
7:30 a.m.—8:15 a.m.	Display Contest Setup Rehab Contest Setup	Cavetto
8:30 a.m.—9:45 a.m.	NCC 25th Anniversary Gala Kick-Off and Presentation by Department 56 Divisional President Michael Griffith	Palm A/B/C
10:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m.	Department 56 Artists Panel	Palm A/B/C
10:00 a.m.— Noon	Silent Auction—Morning Session	Dolores
10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.	Hospitality Room Open	See Booklet
10:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.	Make 'n Takes	Colonnade
10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.	Prize Room Open	Xavier
10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.	Hands-on Display Creation	Joshua Tree
10:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.	Marketplace Open	Abbey
10:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m.	Display & Rehab Contest Viewing and People's Choice Voting	Cavetto
11:15 a.m.—3:30 p.m.	Seminars	Palm D/E/F
12:15 p.m.—1:15 p.m.	Lunch Break	On your own
1:30 p.m.—3:30 p.m.	Silent Auction—Afternoon Session	Dolores
5:30 p.m.—6:30 p.m.	No Host Reception	Palm Foyer
6:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m.	Silver Mine Dinner	Palm Ballroom
8:30 p.m.—10:00 p.m.	NCC Bingo	Palm Ballroom

SATURDAY TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Time	Event	Location
7:30 a.m.—8:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.	Event Registration Conference Bag Pickup Volunteer Check-in	Hotel Lobby
8:00 a.m.—9:00 a.m.	Make 'n Take Tickets on Sale	Colonnade
8:30 a.m.— Noon	Display & Rehab Contest Viewing and People's Choice Voting	Cavetto
8:30 a.m.—9:30 a.m.	Michael Griffith & Jackie Geiger	Palm A/B/C
9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.	Marketplace Open	Abbey
9:30 a.m.— Noon	Silent Auction—Morning Session	Dolores
10:00 a.m.—12:15 p.m.	Make 'n Takes	Colonnade
10:00 a.m.—2:15 p.m.	Seminars	Palm D/E/F
10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.	Prize Room Open	Xavier
10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.	Hands-on Display Creation	Joshua Tree
11:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.	Hospitality Room Open	See Booklet
Noon—4:00 p.m.	Display & Rehab Contest Viewing	Cavetto
12:15 p.m.—1:15 p.m.	Lunch Break	On your own
1:30 p.m.—3:30 p.m.	Silent Auction—Afternoon Session	Dolores
1:30 p.m.—3:30 p.m.	Make 'n Donate for <i>Crops of Luv</i>	Colonnade
2:00 p.m.—5:30 p.m.	Shipping Available	Business Office
2:30 p.m.—3:30 p.m.	Melinda Seegers	Palm D/E/F
5:30 p.m.—6:30 p.m.	Social Hour Auction Paddle Sign-up	Palm Foyer
6:30 p.m.—8:00 p.m.	Gala Banquet	Palm Ballroom
8:00 p.m.—10:00 p.m.	Banquet Program Live Auction	Palm Ballroom
10:00 p.m. — Midnight	Table Hop	Abbey

SUNDAY TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Time	Event	Location
8:00 a.m.—1:30 p.m.	Shipping Available	Business Office
8:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m.	Breakfast Buffet Closing Ceremony Display Contest Winners Rehab Contest Winners Collector of the Year NCC Presentation Charity Presentation Jake and Elwood Presentation	Palm Ballroom

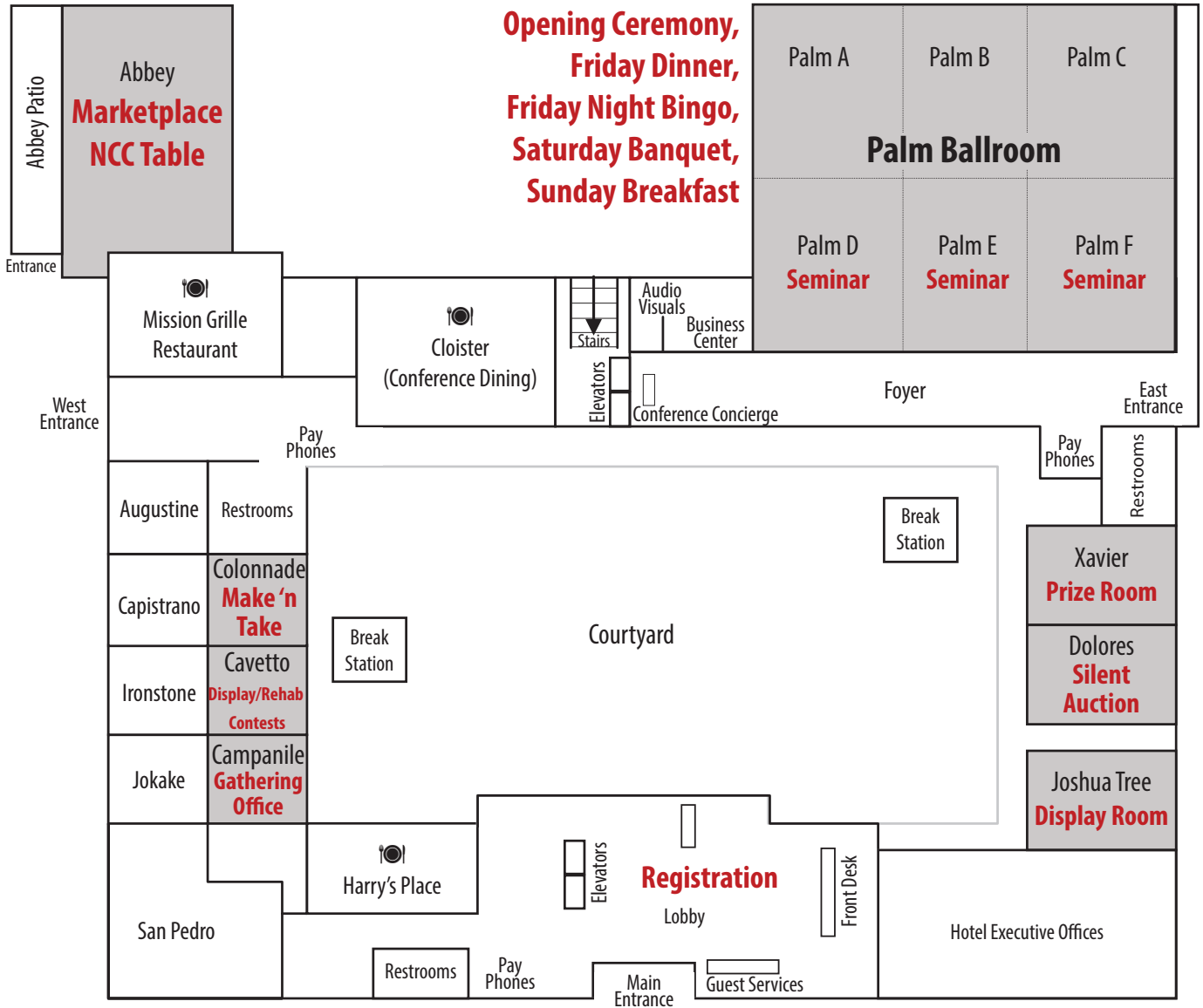
FRIDAY TENTATIVE SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Time	Session	Location
8:30 a.m.—9:45 a.m.	Gala Kick-Off with Michael Griffith	Palm A/B/C
10:00 a.m.—11 a.m.	Department 56 Artists Panel	Palm A/B/C
	Make 'n Take: Kelley Broadway Fence Me In (Christmas)	Colonnade
11:15 a.m.—12:15 p.m.	Ken Shirley Building Glacier Bay	Palm D
	Brandon Taylor Rehabbing a Village	Palm E
	Dan Collander 100 Display Tips and Tricks	Palm F
	Make 'n Take: Lynda Horinek, Mary Roth & Mary Ann VanMeter You Never Have Too Many Trees	Colonnade
1:15 p.m.—2:15 p.m.	Ellen Somerwill & Joe Meyers What's Happening At Your Village Church?	Palm D
	Scott & Nicholas McKeivitt Through a Child's Eye	Palm E
	Lottie Clinedinst Treasure Hunt	Palm F
	Make 'n Take: Linda Roberts Villages on Parade	Colonnade
2:30 p.m.—3:30 p.m.	Mike Sanders Lights, Camera, Action	Palm D
	Kirk Wyllie Running Out of Room?	Palm E
	Nichole Mitchell Is that really made of Styrofoam?	Palm F
	Make 'n Take: Mary Ann Krivacsy Silhouette Tree Fence	Colonnade

SATURDAY TENTATIVE SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Time	Session	Location
8:30 a.m.—9:45 a.m.	Michael Griffith & Jackie Geiger Department 56	Palm A/B/C
10:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m.	Mike Sanders Lights, Camera, Action	Palm D
	Kirk Wyllie Running Out of Room?	Palm E
	Nichole Mitchell Is that really made of Styrofoam?	Palm F
	Make 'n Take: Kelley Broadway Fence Me In (Halloween)	Colonnade
11:15 a.m.—12:15 p.m.	Ken Shirley Building Glacier Bay	Palm D
	Scott & Nicholas McKeivitt Through a Child's Eye	Palm E
	Jan & Ridi Lauritzen Personalize Your Village Through The Use Of Ornaments and Themes	Palm F
	Make 'n Take: Cheral Crossland Holidays in a Saucer	Colonnade
1:15 p.m.—2:15 p.m.	Brian McLaughlin Painting Techniques and Supplies	Palm D
	Brandon Taylor Rehabbing a Village	Palm E
	Dan Collander 100 Display Tips and Tricks	Palm F
1:30 p.m.—3:30 p.m.	Make 'n Donate for Crops of Luv	Colonnade
2:30 p.m.—3:30 p.m.	Melinda Seegers , Department 56	Palm A/B/C

MAP OF THE HOTEL



Tempe Mission Palms Hotel and Conference Center

Parking Meter Instructions

These instructions are only if you are coming to the Gathering for the day. If you are staying at the hotel, use valet parking available at the front of the hotel.

The parking code is only good for June 14—June 18.

Please follow the steps below

If screen on meter is blank, press any button to proceed. Please allow a few seconds before proceeding to the first step for the meter to connect to computer system.

1. Enter the number of the parking space that is located in the white, rectangular box painted on the ground at the back of the parking spot; press OK
2. Press 1 to purchase ticket; press OK
3. Press 3 for Hotel Guest Only; press OK
4. Enter **261487** then press OK
5. Take Receipt. Receipt does NOT have to be displayed in your vehicle.

Please note that it will take a few moments for the receipt to print. If the receipt does not print, please refer to the screen to see if it is indicating that the code is needed again. If the screen indicates that the code is required, simply re-enter the code and press OK.

COMPLETE LIST OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Sue Chretien,
schretien@cox.net

Contact any of the committee chairs for information on their committee:

Co-chairs: Sue Chretien (schretien@cox.net) and
Mike Goode (mtgoode@att.net)

Treasurer: Tom Iacoviello (tiacoviello@yahoo.com)

Secretary: Judy Severance (jseverance@aol.com)

Gathering Registration: Diane Welch (dianewelch@hotmail.com)

Centerpieces: Debbie Shelgren (debbietcwga@cox.net)

Charity: Becky Blue (rblue1950@yahoo.com)

Display Contest: Joe Meyers (NCC25DisplayCont@aol.com)

Goodie Bags: Jerri & Doyle Fleck (jfleck52@icloud.com)

Home Tours: Vanessa Taylor (vtaylor@fastq.com)

Hospitality: Judy & Roger Powell (Judypowell9@gmail.com)

Hotel Decorations: John & Penny Kovach (plk1003@aol.com)

Live Auction: Richard Puckett (rchpuc@aol.com)

Make 'n Take: Dan Crossland (dwcross52@yahoo.com)

Marketplace: Wanda Hildner (detsnow56@aol.com) and
Tish Goscicki (parrott56@att.net)

Merchandise: Ellen Somerwill (meseashells@yahoo.com)

Prizes: Phil & Connie Volk (pdvsonoita@icloud.com)

Publicity: Sue Chretien and Richard Puckett

Rehab Contest: Brandon Taylor (mbrandontaylor@aol.com)

Seminars: Stephen Pepin (stephen@showcase-displays.com)

Silent Auction: Linda White (lgwhlw@aol.com) and
Donna Morrow (dsuemor@aol.com)

Volunteer Coordinator: Ethel Campbell (ethelcampbell3@suddenlink.net)

Website: Pete Baer (SocialMediaCoordinator@ncc56.com)

Wednesday Club Program: Pam Orman (photowizard@bellsouth.net)

D56 Liaison: Lisa Johnson (johnsla@dept56.com)