



April 2007

# TAMPA BAY 56ers NEWSLETTER

**Membership Meeting  
Sunday, April 15, 2007  
1:30 PM**

**Clearwater Countryside Library**

Vice President Cindy Swinehart will be running the meeting as our president, Joyce Gillen, will be out of town. Roger Fournier will be presenting a seminar on his approach to all those electrical problems everyone seems to run into with their village displays.

Barbara Wallis is no longer able to serve as the food coordinator and no volunteer has been located that will fill this position. Therefore, only cookies and drinks will be served at the April meeting. Soft drinks left over from the picnic will be served.

The following names for this newsletter have been submitted for the contest:

- Times 56 -submitted by Terri Williams
- The Penny Press -submitted by Terri Williams
- Tampa Bay 56ers Tinsel Times - submitted by Judy Schweiterman
- Tinsel Times - submitted by Judy Schweiterman
- Village Grabber - submitted by Jack King
- Tampa Bay Tidbits - submitted by Ida Johnson
- Tampa Bay 56 Building Editions - submitted by Lorraine Crowley

The members will vote during the meeting - see ballot on page 9. The winner will receive a one year subscription to Village D'Lights.



# President's Message

By *Joyce Gillen*



The Tampa Bay 56ers had another wonderful spring picnic this past month at Phillippe Park in Safety Harbor. The weather co-operated nicely and it was enjoyable getting together with members of the Orange Blossom 56ers and the Tri-County Department 56 club. As usual, the food table looked like a bountiful feast fit for a king.

Thanks to Kathy Dorsey and Diana Cortright for coordinating the food, Ida Johnson for getting all the games organized, Jack King and Vern Schwieterman for handling the cooking and all the other members who pitched in to help.

Once again, the array of cakes provided by everyone for the cakewalk was outstanding. I know those cakes tasted as good as they looked. We definitely have some creative cake makers.

Congratulations to Terry Rhodes who won the 50/50. It was worth \$72.00.

Denis and I, along with Judy and Vern Schwieterman, will be attending the Middle Atlantic Gathering in Portsmouth, VA during the next weekend and will miss the Tampa Bay 56er meeting on Sunday, April 15. Cindy Swinehart will run the meeting. Roger Fournier will be presenting a seminar on his approach to all those electrical problems everyone seems to run into with their village displays. The only bad part is that I'll miss it and I will still have to listen to Denis when he's tangled up in wires under the display table.

Sally Colangelo suffered a stroke last week and was rushed to the Helen Ellis Memorial Hospital. Danny says they were lucky to respond so quickly and the outlook for her recovery looks good. This week, she was transferred to Health South Rehab Hospital on North Clearwater-Largo Rd in Clearwater to begin rehabilitation. I know everyone joins with me and wishing her a speedy recovery and remembering her in our prayers.



*Spring Fling Picnic, March 2007*



*Cake Walk*



*Socializing*



*Raffles*





*Grilling and great food!*



*Shopping*



*Games of skill*



*Games of chance*



*Winning and  
lots of fun!*



# Happy Birthday!

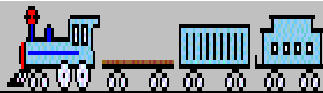
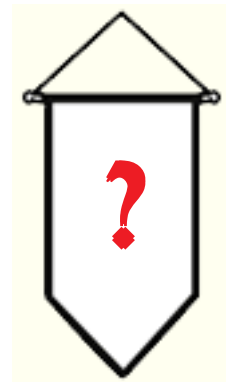
- 4/3      **Jim Williams**
- 5/7      **Dennis Hoffman**
- 5/12     **Sharon Smith**
- 5/19     **Barbara McGeary**



Is Your Birthday Missing? Please let Ellen know when it is.

## CONTEST ANNOUNCEMENTS

**BANNER RE-DESIGN:** Only two designs were brought to the picnic, so we extended the contest deadline until the April meeting. All entries will be on display at the meeting so that everyone can vote on their favorite - see ballot on Page 9. The winner will be given a \$25.00 gift certificate to Robert's or Skip's. We hope to see more entries as we know that we have many talented members.



## 52nd H&R Train Show April 13, 14, & 15, 2007

Pierre Adrian (The French Singer) will be at the show all three days serenading customers with songs about French Brittany, the Sea, the Sailors, and Fishermen from yesterday and today.

Gustav Taus, the owner and founder of ETS (Electric Train Systems) from Praha in the Czech Republic. Gustav has been making trains for H & R Trains, including their "Heritage Railroad Collection". Gustav and Gustav Jr., will be at the show all three days representing ETS Trains.

### **FLORIDA'S LARGEST TRAIN STORE**



## **H&R TRAINS**

There will also be representatives from Bachmann, LGB, Learning Curve, Brio, Suns Out Puzzles, Playmobil, and Random House Children's Books. Author Phil Gulick will also be present to sign his books: *Rails on the Wind*, *Ride the High Iron*, *Thunderheads and Rainbows*, and *Escape to Shangri-La*.

Hope you can plan to attend!



## THINKING VILLAGES



One of the 2007 Department 56 introductions for the New England Village is the Union Oyster House. Here are some facts regarding this famous Boston landmark.

Even today, the Union Oyster House is always bustling. The famous bar where Daniel Webster tossed back sliders is turning out plates of half-shells as fast as they can be shucked. Tourists are prowling the gift shop for trinkets. Upstairs, students are eating chowder in the John F. Kennedy booth, the one he sat in every Sunday, reading the newspaper over a bowl of lobster stew.

The Union Oyster House, a stop on Boston's famed Freedom Trail and the only restaurant in the country that has been named a national historic landmark, is the oldest restaurant in Boston and the oldest restaurant in continuous service in the U.S. — the doors have always been open to diners since 1826.

Union Street was laid out in 1636, but there are no municipal records documenting the Oyster House's date of construction. All that is known is that the building has stood on Union Street as a major local landmark for more than 250 years.

In 1742—before it became a seafood house, the building housed importer Hopestill Capen's fancy dress goods business, known colorfully as “At the Sign of the Cornfields.” At this time, the Boston waterfront came up to the back door of the dry goods establishment, making it convenient for ships to deliver their cloth and goods from Europe.

In 1775, two years after the Boston Tea Party, Capen's silk and dry goods store became headquarters for Ebenezer Hancock, the first paymaster of the Continental Army. There is no reason to doubt that Washington himself was familiar with its surroundings. At the very spot where diners today enjoy their favorite New England specialties, Federal troops received their “war wages” in the official pay-station.

During the revolution the Adams, Hancock, and Quincy wives, as well as their neighbors, often sat in their stalls of the Capen House sewing and mending clothes for the colonists.

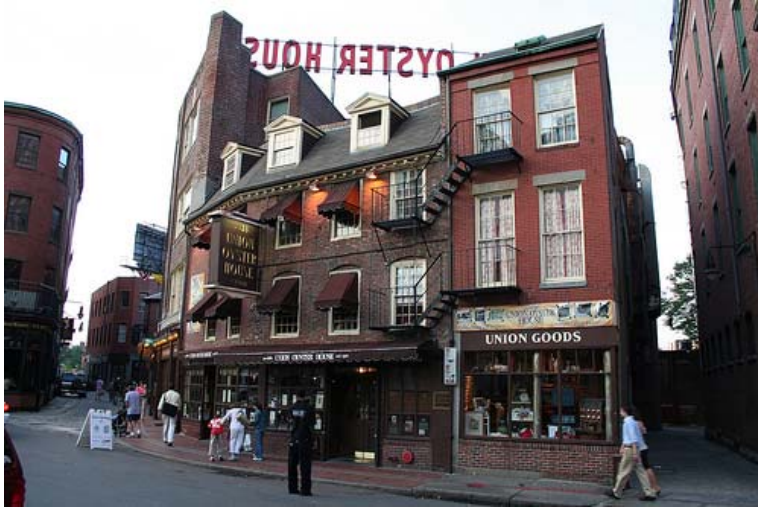
In 1796, a future king of France lived on the second floor. Exiled from his country, he earned his living by teaching French to many of Boston's fashionable young ladies. Later Louis Phillippe returned home to serve as King from 1830 to 1848.

This marked the end of Capen's Dry Goods Store and the beginning of Atwood and Bacon's establishment. The new owners installed the fabled semi-circular Oyster Bar — where the greats of Boston paused for refreshment.

It was at the Oyster Bar that Daniel Webster, a constant customer, daily drank his tall tumbler of brandy and water with each half-dozen oysters, seldom having less than six plates.

## Union Oyster House - continued

The Kennedy Clan has patronized the Union Oyster House for years. J.F.K. loved to feast in privacy in the upstairs dining room. His favorite booth “The Kennedy Booth” has since been dedicated in his memory.



### Collectors' Surprise

Dept 56 just announced the introduction of four New 2007 Hand-Numbered Limited Edition buildings. Each building features:

- Exquisite architectural detail
- Interior scenes, flashing lights and more!
- Hand-numbered Limited Editions of 9,000 or 10,000

For Snow Village Halloween there is “Howl Radio”, a limited edition of 9,000. You can peer into the shattered glass window of the Wolf’s Den, where local celebrity, Wolf Man, howls the latest town news. It also includes a flashing lighted radio tower and moon lit scene. Price is \$90.00



For Snow Village they have brought out “Snow Village Museum of Art”, a limited edition of 10,000. Signage on the building indicates “Christmas From Around The world” is the current featured art show. Ornate cast iron street lights and a carved statue greet the visitors. Price is \$90.00



## Villages - continued

For Dickens Village there is “Pearce & Crump Silversmiths”, a numbered limited edition of 10,000. Wrought iron signs and lanterns hang from the ornate building with patina copper rooftops. The interior scene features a salesman offering a silver piece to an interested customer. Price is \$85.00



The fourth piece is for the North Pole Village. It is “North Pole Beard Trimmers” a limited edition of 10,000. Known for trimming Santa’s beard for hundreds of years, a clever sign made of scissors hangs from the stone entry. Peek inside the arched windows to see Santa getting a trim from his favorite stylist. Price is \$85.00



## TREASURER’S REPORT

Submitted by Richard Johnson

For March 2007



Beginning Balance	\$606.67
Deposits	\$272.00
Checks	\$221.88
Ending Balance	\$656.79



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**Skip's Florist & Christmas H.O.U.S.E.**  
**SKIP MASLOWSKI**  
 5324 Mile Stretch Dr. (727) 938-2274  
 Holiday, FL 34690 (800) 938-9048

941.488.1096  
 941.488.7551  
 Fax 941.488.2502

**The Christmas Room**  
 A Division of O.K. Tire Service of Venice, Inc.

Venice Shopping Center  
 Venice, Florida 34285

Featuring Lemax Ralph & Linda Comb Owners

**Robert's Christmas Wonderland**  
 2351 Gulf to Bay Blvd. (Highway 98)  
 Clearwater, Florida 33706

**(727) 797-1660**  
 Out of Area Call: (800) 861-6389  
 Fax (727) 799-2704

**FROM JUDY SCHWIETERMAN: Counting down to the Suncoast Southern Regional Gathering in August 2007.**



**I am still collecting then and now photos for a slide show. If you are attending SSRG, please send a high school photo and a present day photo. Also include a list of what you collect.**

**Pictures can be sent via the Internet to [DRNonna@aol.com](mailto:DRNonna@aol.com). Also feel free to snail mail CDs, disks, or photos to me. Copies of pictures will not be returned. My address is 8310 121<sup>st</sup> Avenue North; Largo, FL 33773. I will not be at the April meeting, but you can hand deliver them to me at the May meeting. My deadline is July 31, 2007.**



## BALLOT

### NAMING THE NEWSLETTER:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Times 56 -submitted by Terii Williams
- \_\_\_\_\_ The Penny Press -submitted by Terri Williams
- \_\_\_\_\_ Tampa Bay 56ers Tinsel Times - submitted by Judy Schweiterman
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- \_\_\_\_\_ Village Grabber - submitted by Jack King
- \_\_\_\_\_ Tampa Bay Tidbits - submitted by Ida Johnson
- \_\_\_\_\_ Tampa Bay 56 Building Editions - submitted by Lorraine Crowley
- \_\_\_\_\_ Name - \_\_\_\_\_ suggested by \_\_\_\_\_

### BANNER DESIGN:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Design submitted by Judy Schweiterman
- \_\_\_\_\_ Design submitted by Sharon Rhodes
- \_\_\_\_\_ Design by \_\_\_\_\_



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS



- April 15 -      Membership Meeting  
Sunday        1:30 PM  
Clearwater/Countryside Library  
Clearwater, FL  
Dealing with Electrical Problems  
Nomination of Officers
  
- May 6 -        Board Meeting/SSRG Meeting  
Safety Harbor Library
  
- May 20 -      Membership Meeting  
Sunday        Clearwater/Countryside Library  
Clearwater, FL  
Demonstration on Rock Casting  
Election of Officers
  
- June 3 -      NOTE DATE CHANGE  
Sunday        Membership Meeting

**Tampa Bay 56ers  
2006 Officers**

President: Joyce Gillen  
727-796-7606

1st Vice-President: Cindy Swinehart  
941-922-7419

2nd Vice President: Sally Colangelo  
727-784-5324

Secretary: Teresa Williams  
727-568-0172

Treasurer: Dick Johnson  
727-539-1076

NCC Rep: Bill Foelker  
813-657-8949

Director: Vern Schwieterman  
727-531-3112

Director: Roger Grieves  
727-581-8199

Past President: Marlyn King  
727-367-4226

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Ellen Wilcox, News Editor  
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**This newsletter printed  
especially for**

