

November 2008



TAMPA BAY 56ers BEACON



**Membership Meeting
Sunday, November 9, 2008
Clearwater Countryside Library
1:30 PM**

Come join us for our next meeting. We will have a demonstration on creating and using lighting in backdrops for your displays. Join us for the fun and games.



If you would like to bring a snack or dessert, please contact Marlyn King at 727-692-6562 or 727-367-4226. Marlyn is planning an early turkey dinner. Remember the club no longer provides soft drinks. Be sure to wear your club shirt or your SSRG shirt for an extra prize drawing.



President's Message

By *Vern Schwieterman*

Looking forward to the mystery dinner theater program on November 1! I hope it isn't too scary because my grandson Dalton will be with me. Judy will be at a baby shower for our sister-in-law Lesette. Don't forget

next weekend will be our regular meeting at the Countryside library.

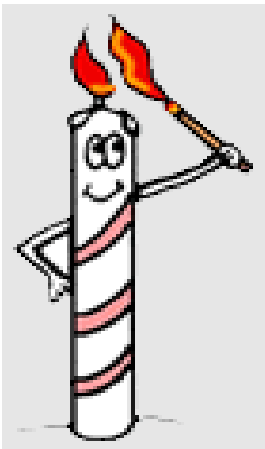
Thanksgiving and Christmas are knocking on our door so we have a lot of loose ends to tie up. The Christmas tour and party will be one of the things discussed at the next meeting. We can use help to get this project completed.

We also need suggestions for attracting new members. With every new members, we get more new ideas that we could use in our displays.

Remember we still have 10 more football games to work. Let Marlyn King know if you can work because this is where the money comes from that we use for things like our mystery theater bus trip. Maybe you can come up with a good idea for the next trip.

We were given a Department 56 piece, the hot air balloon, from Larry and Marie Almeda and have several members interested in it. We will have a silent auction for it at the Christmas party after the house tour.

We are planning the picnic for March 15, 2009 and will have another pig roast. If anybody is interested in helping with games or food, please let me know.



Happy Belated Birthday!

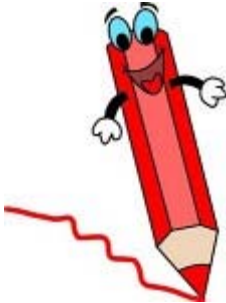
9/12	Delbert	Everett
9/24	Wolfgang	Paltian
9/27	Donald	Crowley
9/28	Cindy	Swinehart
10/5	Larry	Almeda
10/11	Linda	Grieves
10/13	Lorraine	Crowley
10/28	Diana	Cortright
10/31	Ron	Ayers



Happy Birthday!



11/14	Ellen	Wilcox
11/19	Marie	Almeda
11/26	Agnes	Mularoni
11/29	Jack	King
11/30	Joy	Lowe
12/1	Sally	Colangelo
12/10	Barbara	Wallis
12/18	Chuck	McGeary
12/28	Denis	Gillen



My apologies for not sending out a newsletter since August. I have been extremely busy at work. I was also in Tallahassee the weekend that I should have been producing the newsletter before the October meeting. I offer the following news article in my defense.



Ellen Wilcox, FDLE Special Agent, is pictured with her husband, Dennis Hoffman, her in-laws, Don and Alice Morris, owners of H & R Trains and FDLE Commissioner Gerald Bailey after being presented a proclamation by the Florida Cabinet. The resolution was sponsored by Chief Financial Officer Alex Sink.

Special Agent Ellen Wilcox, in recognition of her devotion to duty, many accomplishments and exemplary service, was honored by FDLE as the 2007 FDLE Special Agent of the Year. Promoted to Special Agent in July, 1981, Wilcox regularly works with law enforcement agencies, regulatory agencies and industry organizations to identify strategies to combat mortgage fraud, is a member of several professional organizations such as the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, and is a nationally-recognized expert in the field of mortgage fraud. She is recognized for her work as a case agent of a complex mortgage fraud investigation impacting Florida, as well as the nation, involving both brokers and lenders responsible for almost 200 fraudulent loans worth nearly \$18 million.

3rd Annual

Hosted by Regency Oaks

Tis The Season Holiday Display

Grand Opening Event

December 10 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Meet the artist and enjoy refreshments.

Display continues throughout January 7

Wednesday and Saturday from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

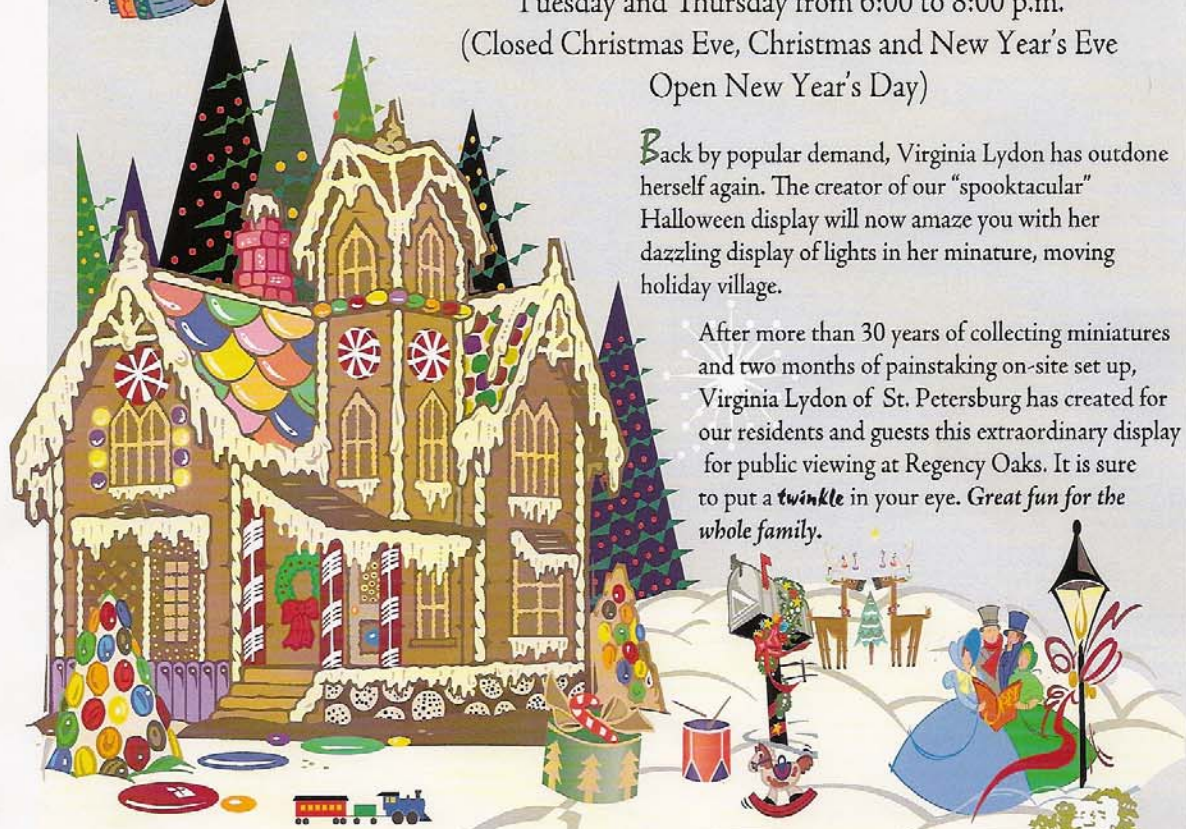
Tuesday and Thursday from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

(Closed Christmas Eve, Christmas and New Year's Eve

Open New Year's Day)

Back by popular demand, Virginia Lydon has outdone herself again. The creator of our "spooktacular" Halloween display will now amaze you with her dazzling display of lights in her miniature, moving holiday village.

After more than 30 years of collecting miniatures and two months of painstaking on-site set up, Virginia Lydon of St. Petersburg has created for our residents and guests this extraordinary display for public viewing at Regency Oaks. It is sure to put a *twinkle* in your eye. *Great fun for the whole family.*



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On Saturday, November 1, 2008, 26 members traveled by bus to the Sleuth Mystery Dinner theater in Orlando. On the bus ride, we discovered that we don't know very much about our past presidents, except for Denis Gillen. We also played bingo and Christmas trivia. Our new members, Shelley McGarry & John Gancar, joined us at the theater where we watched the murder of radio host Tipton at the WKZY radio station (kneeling in the tan suit). It turned out that Tipton was murdered by his partner "Bill" (leaning over behind Tipton). The "ladies" all had really good motives, but they turned out to be innocent. Our expert sleuth, Joyce Gillen, deduced the correct murder suspect and won the grand prize, a large magnifying glass!



THE 21 CLUB



Just in time for a little ragtime dancing, the "21 Club" is an early release lit building for Christmas In The City® and will only be available through Fortunoff Department store in NY this fall. In 2009, it will be a regular introduction for Christmas In The City. The building was inspired by the famous New York night club with a rich history of fine foods, great wines and famous patrons. It will sell for \$95.00. There will be a coordinating accessory, "It's a Wrap", set of 2. It also will be an early release for Fortunoff 's this fall. It will be added as part of the new introductions for Christmas In The City in December, with shipping starting early in Spring, 2009.



Once a glamorous speakeasy, today '21' is one of the most celebrated restaurants in New York City. In addition to its two restaurants, the Bar Room and 'Upstairs', this four-story townhouse features ten private party rooms ideal for celebrations, meetings and banquets, including the legendary Prohibition-era Wine Cellar.

In 1920, over three-quarters of a century ago, Congress passed the Eighteenth Amendment ushering in the Prohibition Era. In New York, as in every American city, 'speakeasies' mushroomed, but none was more celebrated than "Jack and Charlie's '21'", founded by two collegian cousins from the West Side, Jack Kriendler and Charlie Berns. To earn night school tuition, the cousins open their first speakeasy, The Red Head, in NYC's Greenwich Village. Later when condemnation proceedings start to make way for a subway around Washington Place, Jack and Charlie move the business uptown to 42 West 49th Street. They named their new bistro The Puncheon, but (partly to confuse the federal tax men) it is also known as The Puncheon Grotto, Grotto, 42, 42 Club, Jack and Charlie's, and Keyburn Club (its name when raided).

In 1928, they were given \$11k to vacate the site that was zoned for Rockefeller Center development, and moved to West 52nd Street into a bordello previously owned by Hildegard Adler. They purchased the house and spent the next year converting it into a speakeasy and restaurant. With the help of their patrons, Jack and Charlie unhinged the wrought iron gate that had been the portal to #42, and installed it three blocks north at 21 West 52nd Street. They opened Jack and Charlie's '21' Club in the wee hours.



Daily Mirror gossip columnist Walter Winchell (the inspiration for *Sweet Smell of Success* character J.J. Hunsecker) was banned from '21'. As retribution, he ran a column noting that '21' had never been raided by Prohibition agents. The next day, '21' was raided. Soon thereafter, Jack and Charlie hired architect Frank Buchanan to install a complex system to hide and destroy liquor in case of future raids, including the infamous '21' Wine Cellar, now considered one of the world's most coveted private dining rooms.

Although '21' was raided more than once, federal agents were never able to pin anything on Jack and Charlie. At the first sign of a raid, they would activate an ingenious system of pulleys and levers, which would sweep bottles from the bar shelves and hurl the smashed remains down a chute into the New York sewer system! It was during this period that '21's famous secret wine cellar was built. The great mystery as to why the agents never found the liquor? '21's secret Wine Cellar, built to be invisible. Behind several smoked hams (in the Wine Cellar) that hung from the basement ceiling and a wall filled with shelves of canned goods, stood a perfectly camouflaged two-and-one-half ton door that appeared to be part of the wall. Only opened by inserting a slender 18" meat skewer through

one of the many cracks in the cement wall, would the secret door silently slide back to reveal '21's most covered treasure: two thousand cases of wine. Investigators were further confused by the fact that the cellar was located not in number 21, but number 19, the house next door.

As a matter of record, '21's wine cellar was, and still is, in 19 West 52nd Street. When first opened, Jack and Charlie did not own the building at 19 West 52nd Street, they just borrowed the cellar. Because of this, when employees were asked by the feds if there was liquor on the premises, they could truthfully answer "No, sir!"

Another '21' legend: during Prohibition, New York City Mayor Jimmy Walker had a private booth in a corner of the cellar, where he would go to have a cocktail in peace as the feds were raiding the premises above for contraband. Mayor Walker's booth has been preserved, and can be viewed today by diners who can enjoy a seven-course tasting menu served with the finest wines under decidedly more favorable circumstances.



Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall celebrate their first date at Table 30. They first work together in *To Have and Have Not*, written by another '21' regular, Ernest Hemingway (who was caught making love to gangster Legs Diamond's girlfriend in the '21' kitchen in 1931). Notable writers frequenting '21' at the time include Dorothy Parker, Robert Benchley and Lillian Hellman. Every President since FDR has been a guest of '21' with the one exception of George W. Bush. In true fashion, JFK dined at '21' on the eve of his inauguration.

In 1931, a model of the British Airways "flying boat" became the first corporate toy hung from the '21' ceiling. In Today, hundreds of corporate logo toys, sports memorabilia and other mementos form a ceiling-scape, including a smashed tennis racquet from John McEnroe, Jackie Gleason's pool cue from *The Hustler*, and mics from every NYC-based television and radio station. Today, an eye-pleasing "ceiling-scape" mirrors the restaurant's varied clientele and are a reflection of the spirited history of the American people. Diners can view the helmets of football legends Frank Gifford and John Riggins, rackets of tennis stars Chris Evert and John McEnroe, Katarina Witt's figure skates, a golf club that once belonged to Jack Nicklaus, and baseball bats from fabled heroes Willie Mays and Joe Morgan. The restaurant's history as a playground for the world's industry giants is shown by the miniature gas truck presented to the restaurant by the late Leon Hess, model airplanes depicting major U.S. and foreign carriers, as well as countless replicas of products, early radio microphones, private executive jets, and other symbols that define the American lifestyle. Perhaps the most poignant item in the collection is a model of the PT-109, presented as a gift to '21' by President John F. Kennedy.

Some have speculated that '21's jockeys are mere decoration. The truth, however, is far more interesting than all of the theories combined. Thirty-one jockeys line the signature grand staircase and wrought iron balcony, with two more posted inside the front door--the latest of which came from Saratoga Stables, representing the 2003 Kentucky Derby and Preakness winner, Funny Cide. All myths aside, their origins can be traced to their affluent "horsy" clientele in the 1930's. It all began with Delaware native Jay Van Urk, such a loyal patron that he had, in fact, his own private table and the distinction of having a dessert named in his honor. Sometime during the '30s, Van Urk donated the first jockey as a token of his appreciation and a tradition was born. Over the years, some of America's most famous breeders and owners, including high-profile "regulars" from the Vanderbilt, Mellon and Ogden Mills Phipps families, as well as the Galbreath clan, owners of Darby Dan Farms, followed suit. In 2004, there are 33 jockeys; the most recent from Saratoga Stables representing the great NY horse, Funny Cide, winner of 2003's Kentucky Derby and Preakness races.



In 1950, the famous '21' burger was \$2.75. By 1987, it's the most famous burger in NYC and costs \$21. In 2005, it's \$30. Famous fans of the '21' burger include Donald Trump (well-done) and President Jimmy Carter. The late Ari Onassis would have one nearly every time he visited '21'. In 1997 the famous Wine Cellar was remodeled, becoming one of the most sought-after private dining rooms in the city. Patrons enter through the now famous brick wall "door" the the feds never found.



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CHECK OUT THE TWO NEW PIECES FOR DICKENS VILLAGE

Department 56 celebrates the silver anniversary of this beloved village. To commemorate this anniversary, Department 56 is pleased to introduce several inspiring new pieces to give collectors a fresh series of buildings based on the classic pieces introduced in 1984.

The New Crowntree Inn
Available November 2008



Features of this new Crowntree Inn reflect the original building introduced in 1984; a similar color palette, slate roof, gable with three windows, and diamond leaded-glass windows on the upper level. A special bottom stamp has been added to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of The Dickens' Village Series. 805515

FIRST 2 IN A
CONTINUING SERIES
An Anniversary Collection
by Department 56

The Neilan Lund Gallery
Available November 2008



Featured in the gallery windows, are three replicas of Neilan's actual paintings - a rural farm scene, fall woodland landscape, and pear still life. A special bottom stamp has been added to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Dickens' Village Series. 805512



DEPARTMENT 56[®]
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An important Department 56 introduction in 1986 was that of the Snowbabies.

Snowbabies were figurines of toddlers bundled in fuzzy-looking snowsuits; they were made entirely of porcelain [bisque](#), which was also hand-applied onto the little snowsuits, creating the impression that snow crystals had fallen on the babies as they played outdoors in the snow.

The Snowbabies series reportedly took six years for designers Kristi Jensen Pierro and Bill Kirchner to perfect, and the concept could be traced back to the late 1800s. Although some collectors disagree on their origin, two theories have emerged. One is that the concept originated with explorer Admiral Robert Peary and his wife Josephine. The couple, residing in Greenland in 1893, had a daughter, whom the Eskimos referred to as “Ad-Poo-Mickaninny,” or “snow baby,” because of her white skin. The child was named after an Eskimo woman friend, who made the baby a one-piece [snowsuit](#). Josephine Peary later wrote two children’s books about a snow baby, and, as an adult, daughter Marie Peary published an autobiography in 1934 entitled *The Snowbaby’s Own Story*.

Others, however, trace the snow baby to 19th-century Germany, where “tannenbaumkonfekt”—small dolls made from sugar, flour, and a gum thickener—were a popular holiday decoration. The candy figurines became so popular that commercial confectioners could not keep up with the demand. One confectioner reportedly commissioned a German company to create “snow babies” out of hand-whipped bisque, and other German manufacturers were quick to adapt the designs. The bisque figurines remained popular in Germany through the 1930s.

Department 56 Snowbabies represented considerable [craftsmanship](#) and labor on the part of the company’s overseas manufacturers. Each design was transformed into a clay model, from which several [molds](#) were cast. The final production mold was then filled by hand with a hand-blended mixture of clay and water. All accessories, such as backpacks, wings, and stars were then attached to the dried, [hardened](#) figurine by hand, as were the fine grains of bisque known as snow crystals. Finally, facial features and coloring were applied by hand to each figurine. The popularity of the Snowbabies later prompted Department 56 to publish a hard bound book featuring poetry and stories on the adventures of the Snowbabies.





Minutes of Tampa Bay 56ers Meeting October 5, 2008

Submitted by Wayne Ingalis, Secretary

A regular meeting of the Tampa Bay 56ers club was called to order by Vern Schwieterman.

Carol Williams introduced Suzanne Bowman as a new member and Vern introduced Shelly and John Gancar and Alan and Patricia Ducal as new members.

Treasurers report was read and accepted after motion by Ida Johnson and seconded by Sol Gully. Secretary read the minutes of the last meeting and it was accepted after motion by Don Crowley and seconded by Nadine Carey.

Old Business: Marlyn King reported on the Buc's Volunteers and general information on any changes that had been made. She also spoke about plans for our participation at the Super Bowl. She thanked all who brought food for today's lunch. New date for Sleuth Dinner Theater is 11/1/08. There are presently 31 members signed up.

Shelter 5 has been reserved for our annual picnic on March 15, 2009. It was moved to book the same caterer as last year by Sol Gully. Passed. Meeting dates for the remainder of 2008 and into 2009 were announced. 11/9/08 and then 1/18, 2/15, 4/19, 6/21, 8/16, 9/20 and 10/18 2009.

New Business: Denis Gillen announced that the NCC has updated its web site and reported that he liked what he saw. They are also accepting orders from clubs and individuals. He suggested that individuals order through the club as we will get free items for every \$100 in purchases. It was announced the Skips annual open house (25th) would be 10/18 thru 10/25. Everything will be 25% off during that time. Roberts annual sale is in progress as of 10/4.

Board meeting will be held on 11/7 at Jason's. This meeting was later changed to 10/28 at Jason's.

It was announced that Virginia Lyden would be hosting her annual displays again this year. Halloween from 10/8 until 11/1 and Christmas from 12/10 until 1/7. Wednesday and Saturday from 1 to 3 PM and Tuesday and Thursday from 6 to 8 PM.

Our display contest found three entries and these were judged by both a Judge and by popular vote. 1st was awarded to Jack and Marlyn King, 2nd to Judy Schwieterman and 3rd to Brenda Brown. All winners earned gift certificates to Skips. President Vern thanked Skip Maslowski for acting as Judge.



Minutes of October 5, 2008 meeting - continued

The Membership Basket was won by Jack King.
50/50 - Don Crowley
Raffle - Wayne Ingalls - Halloween house

Door Prizes - Denis Gillen - Good Day Rev.
Wayne Ingalls - Window Shoppers
Cindy Swinehart - Halloween
Leslie Gully - Ballet Class
Ellen Wilcox - Lemax

Moved to adjourn by Conrad Krause and seconded by Carol Williams. Meeting adjourned.

1st Place Winner - Jack King
(photo to right)
2nd place Winner - Judy
Schwieterman
(pumpkin photo below)



3rd Place Winner -
Brenda Brown
(photo to right)





Welcome

Welcome back to Alice Burak, Joyce Gillen and Denis Gillen



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We need volunteers to work the Buccaneer games and the Bulls games. Here's the remaining schedule:

DATE/DAY	TIME OF GAME	TIME TO BE THERE	EVENT
11/15/08/SATURDAY	TBA		USF vs. Rutgers
11/16/08/SUNDAY	1:00PM	7:00AM	Bucs vs. Minnesota
11/23/08/SUNDAY	TBA		USF vs. UConn
11/30/08/SUNDAY	1:00PM	7:00AM	Bucs vs. New Orleans
12/6/08/SATURDAY	1:00 PM		ACC Championship Game
12/7/08/SUNDAY	9:00 AM		Game Day of Champions
12/21/08/SUNDAY	8:15PM	2:15PM	Bucs vs. San Diego
12/28/08/SUNDAY	1:00PM	7:00AM	Bucs vs. Oakland
1/1/2009/THURSDAY	11:00 AM		Outback Bowl
2/1/09/SUNDAY	6:00 PM		Super Bowl



Please call Marlyn King @ 727-367-4226 to volunteer to work any of these games.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS



- Nov 9 Membership Meeting
Sunday Clearwater Countryside Library
 1:30 PM
- Jan. 10, 2009 Tour of Homes
 Christmas Dinner Party
 Clubhouse in Parrish, FL
- Feb. 15, 2009 Membership Meeting
Sunday Clearwater Countryside Library
 1:30 PM

Tampa Bay 56ers 2006 Officers

President: Vern Schwieterman
727-531-3112

1st Vice-President: Sol Gully
727-488-3743

2nd Vice President:
Marlyn King
727-367-4226

Secretary: Wayne Ingalls
813-989-8007

Treasurer: Dennis Gillen
727-796-7606

NCC Rep: Bill Foelker
813-657-8949

Director: Roger Fournier
727-515-8008

Director: Roger Grieves
727-581-8199

Past President: Joyce Gillen
727-796-7606



I took my dad to the mall the other day to buy some new shoes (he is 92). We decided to grab a bite at the food court. I noticed he was watching a teenager sitting next to him. The teenager had spiked hair in all different colors: green, red, orange, and blue. My dad kept staring at him. The teenager would look and find him staring every time. When the teenager had had enough, he sarcastically asked, 'What's the matter old man, never done anything wild in your life?'



Knowing my Dad, I quickly swallowed my food so that I would not choke on his response, knowing he would have a good one, and in classic style he did not bat an eye in his response.

'Got drunk once, and had sex with a peacock. I was just wondering if you were my son.'

