

**Hello!** And welcome to my archived article originally published in the [Southern Nevada Country Register](#) ...

## Decorating for Fall -- the “Warm Colors” Months



I wrote this article in for the **2002 October and November** issue of the Southern Nevada [Country Register](#) – in the midst of our summer’s heat that year!.

Our Back-to-School season had finally wound up, we had just moved into our new store location in Henderson (of course – in the hottest part of summer!), and we were all ready for some cool evenings and football weather here on the Southwest Desert of southern Nevada.

In that issue we again thanked those who helped us over the summer...

[Le Mélange Gifts & Collectibles](#) says “Thanks!” to our very special and faithful friends who gave their time and energy this summer and fall to move our shop to its new location: Kep, Russ and Ruth, Viki and Carla, Maria, Chad, Meri, Andrew, and Katelynn, and “the Girls” – Regina, Stephanie, and Linda.

And we shared these up-coming calendar items as well...

[Le Mélange GIFTS & COLLECTIBLES](#) wishes all of our customers and friends a pleasant fall and a good Thanksgiving! Please mark these events on your calendar:

- **October 1-26.** Our 24<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and Sale.
- **October 1-26.** Our 24<sup>th</sup> Annual MUG Sale.
- **October 5.** National Lizzie High<sup>®</sup> Event – Celebrate it with Cake at our place!
- **October 12.** Our **WORLD FAMOUS** Sidewalk Sale.
- **October 14.** Columbus Day – take an Italian to lunch and say thanks!
- **October 19.** Dean Griff – Charming Tails<sup>®</sup> National Event.
- **October 31.** Nevada Day.
- **October 31.** Halloween – **BOO!**
- **November 9.** **Fontanini<sup>®</sup> Nativities** Open House.
- **November 16.** Our 24<sup>th</sup> Holiday Season Open House.
- **November 24. (Sunday) Chuck Thorndike, Annalee<sup>®</sup> Appearance and Signing . . .**
- **November 28. Thanksgiving Day.** Give thanks -- surrounded by family and friends.
- **They still have birthdays in the fall!** Better shop ahead with us – just to be safe.

See how busy our schedule got only a couple of months from move-in? We still have this kind of fun in our store! See what is going on now in the most current (and complementary) [Country Register](#) – available in our store and many other fine country-oriented stores in Southern Nevada.

\*\*\* article follows! \*\*\*

## **Decorating for Fall -- the “Warm Colors” Months**

By Georgia Ritter, Owner, Le Mélange GIFTS and COLLECTIBLES

Fall is a transition season. The heat of summer is behind us – the winter ahead. School is in full swing, the first exciting days settling into the routine. Friends are back from vacation with stories and pictures of far-away places, but are not yet off to the ski slopes. The crack of wood on horsehide is replaced by the ‘thunk’ of the shoe on pigskin -- as baseball fades into football. Take care driving! Cross-country teams ‘round neighborhood blocks readying for the big meets.

The colors are changing too. Our gardens lose their brilliant summer splashes of the bursting blooms and go to mainly green, perhaps heading for “the beauty of stark structure” as the leaves drop ‘til spring. In our mountains, the color change started in September this year, as yellow leaves appeared between the dark evergreen – a thrilling visual “paint streak” down the ski trail slopes.

Further north, where hardwoods and other seasonal leaf-droppers grow, fall brings a riot of warm colors: reds, rich yellows, even deep browns to warm our spirits as the temperatures drop. So loved is our response to this change, our family gave the mom and dad an “up-north-this-fall-for-the-color-show weekend” as its (June) wedding anniversary present.

Its time to change the season in your house now, too. Time for yellows! For oranges! For browns, and even for black -- as the holidays drift away from Labor Day and head for Columbus Day, Nevada Day, Halloween, and Thanksgiving.

These are the colors of the harvest. In days gone by, they were the colors of the community’s completed work. Colors of its joy, contentment, thankfulness, and celebration. You might pick two holidays in particular as decorating themes this season -- which actually work well together with their colors: Halloween and Thanksgiving. These tie together well through an underlying harvest theme. The oranges and black of pumpkin and scary cat blend and transition nicely to the wild gobbler’s black and brown. Blending your décor accents to these color themes can cheer your family through these two months and make your home a warm refuge from the accelerating rush of the season and from the cooler nights and snappier days, as well.

Against a background of harvest-themed dried grass or flower bundles and fall colored draped cloth on the front door or on the mantle, both pumpkin and turkey play well allowing you to keep fall décor fresh with minimal changes in accent piece. Your arrangement of fall leaves, rich in their orange, yellow, and browns first hosts little masked “trick or treater” figures and then, thankful Puritans and Indians -- who bring chuckles in October and quiet gratitude in November from all around your table. For whimsy or thoughtfulness, use your collections to accent the arrangements. Personalize with the things you enjoy and love to share.

*Annalee*<sup>®</sup> devotees know well the dozens of Halloween characters that burst from the creativity of this treasured collection. Masked children of every description grin from under their costumes, clutching their bags of goodies. The wonder of these felt dolls is that they can be posed to almost any position – allowing you to personalize their presence in you centerpiece or

mantle arrangement. A black cat – and a turkey too! And pilgrims complete the fall holiday's characters.

Charming Tails® collectors have a wide variety of Dean Griff's woodland creatures costumed in nature's finery to accent both holidays in the fall season. This talented artist has an uncanny knack of posing and expressing humor for us all in his sculptured creatures.

Even Lizzie High® wooden dolls have kids in costume for this season. Based and on and “cast” from the members of the multigenerational family recorded in Grandma's Lizzie's Bible, two of the kid dolls appear dressed as Raggedy Ann and Andy, complete with paper face masks – and others are dressed as pilgrims headed for the Thanksgiving dinner.

This fall, we highlight these fine dolls and figures in our store with national events and with a very special personal appearance and artist signing. This is the first *Annalee*® signing in Southern Nevada. Are we excited? You bet we are!

The first is a National Event for **Lizzie High**® dolls. Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup> features these rustic and evocative dolls – pure Americana in design and outlook. We celebrate these dolls with the devoted collectors who have grown to love them dearly and display them so creatively in their homes. Join us for cake on this special fall Saturday.

The next National Event we celebrate is for Dean Griff's **Charming Tails**®. Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> features these cute resin figures – bunnies, squirrels, mice . . . each unique in outlook, pose, and attitude! Cast and painted in pairs, sets, and as single pieces, there is a little one just perfect for that holiday centerpiece and then to love the year through.

Our Very Special Fall Event this year is Nevada's first visit of Chuck Thorndike, son of Annalee Thorndike, the creator of the *Annalee Mobilitee*® **Dolls** collection. Chuck is the talented doll creator who now expands this wonderful collection each year. On the Sunday afternoon before Thanksgiving, Chuck will be in our store to sign his creations and share stories and memories of the collection, its history, and of the company his mom began in Meredith, New Hampshire. We are also happy to announce that we will have some newly produced, but not cataloged pieces available in limited supply!

We do get a jump on the Christmas season in November too, with our 24<sup>th</sup> Holiday Season Open House on Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup> and our *Fontanini*® **Nativities** Open House, the next Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. These open houses offer a first big peek into the Christmas season in our store. Of course there will be much more of this season to come in December!

And with all of this, we are also celebrating our 24<sup>th</sup> year in October through the 26<sup>th</sup> with a Sidewalk Sale (October 12<sup>th</sup>) and our Anniversary Sale indoors through the 26<sup>th</sup>.

The editor of the [Country Register](#) was kind enough to include this note:

*Ed. Note: Georgia has owned her delightful shop for 24 years. Now moved into her new location, she keeps Christmas and seasonal decorations displayed year 'round. Her shop brims with fall delights -- unique selections and beautiful display ideas for your home. She will help you find just the things to highlight your mantle, tabletops, shelves, and doors. Visit her in her shop, [Le Mélange Gifts & Collectibles](#), in the northeast corner of Horizon Drive and Pacific – just off US 95 in Henderson.*

Thanks for reading through these memories with me! Stop in and reminisce in our shop's “new” location (well, “new” since 2002!). We are at 120 Horizon Drive in Henderson – just one block east of the Horizon Drive exit off US 93/95.

## **Georgia**

Georgia Ritter, Owner

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