

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

Finding That Winter Spirit in Sunny Las Vegas.



I wrote this article in for the **2001 February and March** issue of the Southern Nevada [Country Register](#) – in the midst of January.

Our Christmas season had finally wound up, we had returned to our shop after a “long winter’s nap,” and we were getting into the swing of Winter on the Southwest Desert here in Nevada.

In that issue we also announced what has become one of our most popular store features!

[Le Mélange Gifts & Collectibles](#) Announces its *NEW Frequent Buyer Program*.
Save your store receipts and turn them into gifts to you! Complete rules are posted in our store. Ask us about this exciting new program that rewards your support! **Join the fun!**

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

[Le Mélange Gifts & Collectibles](#) wishes all of our customers and friends a warm and cheerful Las Vegas winter! Please mark these events on your calendar:

- **February and March The January Market Orders begin to roll into our store!** We are open during our regular hours Tuesday through Saturday: 10 am to 5 pm. Come and see what we found new and the best of two winter gift markets.
- **February 14th St. Valentine’s Day is Wednesday this year.** Don’t forget your sweetie! Even our [Snowbuddies](#) snowmen and Snowladies have a heart this season.
- **March 17th St. Patrick’s Day and our open house is on Saturday this year.** The corned beef and cabbage will be ready for all our Irish (and Irish-for-a-day) friends.
- **March 20th – April 14th** Our annual Easter Egg hunt. Come and enjoy the fun! Find just the perfect things to fill those bunny baskets.

Well ... Did your sweetie get a St Valentine’s Day Snowbuddy – all wrapped and bowed -- from our shop that year? Did you come in for our corned beef and cabbage on St Patrick’s Day? Did the Easter decor in your home include a bunny dressed in Easter finery from our *Annalee*® doll collection? *Oh, we did have fun in the spring that year!* ... Remember those days?

Well, you can still have this kind of fun in our store at those times of year! See our what is going on now, though, in the most current (and complementary) [Country Register](#) – available in our store and many other fine country-oriented stores in Southern Nevada.

Finding That Winter Spirit in Sunny Las Vegas

Georgia Ritter, Owner of [Le Mélange Gifts & Collectibles](#)

For a long-time Minnesota refugee, winter is rich with nostalgic childhood memories even in our desert home here in Las Vegas. Sledding down the back steps. Skating on the rink Dad's magic made (with the hose) in the back yard. Hot cocoa. Mulled cider.

And the front yard winter scenes! Up and down the block, where ever children played, whole towns full of snowpeople, snowforts, snowballs, and snowangels. Boldly posed they reached from the snowplow's ridge all the way up to the houses' front doors. Vibrantly decorated with Dad's hat, Mom's scarf, and a host of frozen vegetables. The giggles and shouts of their little makers -- and the snappy chill -- still ring in the air.

It isn't hard to recall these scenes as I gaze at Mt. Charleston's snowcapped peak. Today is a special treat - the weekend's clouds having left a powering of white all along the Spring Mountain and Sheep ranges, west and north. In this morning's bright sun, it is lovely, lacy, and white up there. *But there's **not a flake of it** in my yard.* While we are blessed with nothing to shovel, we don't see our children's (or our grandchildren's) creativity in their monuments to "good packing" (or even better, to "school is closed today because of the snowfall.") Any snowmen made or snowballs thrown this week were left in the mountains, I fear, only their memories (and the pile of jeans, sweatshirts, and mittens for the wash) made it back to the house.

Thankfully, I am surrounded by a batch of warm-weather-friendly snowmen at my shop! This year, *Annalee* has provided me with a whole yard full of white chubbies, red-cheeks, and cheer. Darling [Snowbuddies](#) grace the slopes of a white mountain scene in my front window. [Snowbabies](#) exuberantly play with igloos, penguins, elk, and moose on my mantle. Winter elves and angels dance on the snow-covered roof over the teddy bears. [Brownlow's Winter Wassail](#) mulled cider fills the air (and me) with pleasant warmth.

At my house, red ribbon and a few hearts turn these winter treasures into a Valentine's Day wonderland. Later, green ribbon and shamrocks peek from under the "snow" to hearken the coming spring and create a good St Patrick's Day cheer.

I hope that you will visit my Las Vegas winter – and make some of it your own. Ex-Minnesotan or not, those winter childhood memories don't have to be that far away.

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

Georgia has owned her delightful shop for over 22 years and she keeps Christmas and seasonal decorations on display all year long. Now; she has turned her windows into a winter wonderland with unique selections and warm displays that will help you find just the thing to cheer up the mantle, tabletops, shelves, or doors in your home. Visit her in her shop, [Le Mélange](#)

[Gifts & Collectibles](#), Suites A-11 & 12 in the **Sugarhouse Shopping Center** at Eastern at Flamingo in Las Vegas.

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

[Le Mélange Gifts & Collectibles](#)

(702) LOV-XMAS – or (800) 731-5730

email me at: Georgia@AGRitter.com

© Georgia Ritter, 2009.

