

Hello! And welcome to the [Southern Nevada Country Register](#)'s archived coverage of

## [Le Mélange Gifts & Collectibles](#) Moves to Henderson.



In the **2002 August and September** issue of our hometown [Country Register](#), we reported to the gentle readers that on June 30, 2002 the sands of time had run out for our shop at its 19-year Flamingo and Eastern location. With the final moving sale there, the packing, and re-set-up in our new Henderson NV location behind us, we opened at our new Horizon Drive location with a national *Annalee*® event on July 6<sup>th</sup>! (WHEW!)

In the [Country Register](#)'s Marketplace section, we thanked all of our loyal "Flamingo at Eastern" customers:

[Le Mélange Gifts & Collectibles](#) says "Thanks!" to all of our faithful customers and precious friends made during our nineteen-year stay in the Sugarhouse Shopping Center. We were privileged to serve you there and we hope that our new location in Henderson will be even more convenient to you.

And the [Country Register](#) covered our move in their paper first – a NATIONAL SCOOP (!) and we shared these up-coming calendar items as well...

[Le Mélange Gifts & Collectibles](#) wishes all of our customers and friends a lovely late summer and early fall! Please mark these events on your calendar:

- **August – Back to School** Don't forget to get an apple for the teacher!
- **August 15-31<sup>st</sup> GRAND OPENING** at [Le Mélange Gifts & Collectibles](#)!
- **September 2<sup>nd</sup> Labor Day** The last chance to work on that summer tan.
- **September 7<sup>th</sup> Rosh Hashanah**
- **September 8<sup>th</sup> Grandparents Day** Time for cards and pictures – we have just the right picture frames to highlight those bright summer smiles!
- **September 11<sup>th</sup> A day of tragic national memory** Red, White, and Blue for our American Heroes – both those trapped and lost and those sacrificed trying to save them.
- **September 16<sup>th</sup> Yom Kippur**
- **They still have birthdays in the fall!** Better shop ahead with us – just to be safe.

Well ... was your summer as exciting for your family as ours was for us? – *Those sure were the days!* You can see what is going on in our store now in the most current (and complementary) [Country Register](#) – available in our store and many other fine country-oriented stores in Southern Nevada.

\*\*\* News Coverage Follows \*\*\*

*Ed. Note: Two summers ago we wrote: “Customers who visited [Le Mélange Gifts & Collectibles](#) during their [Christmas in July and August Learning is a Lifelong Experience](#) Back to School events this summer know that big changes have been in progress in this charming store. Recently completed renovations have added spaciousness and new display, but retained the “full-shelves and fuller service” character that its customers have grown to love.” **Well, she has done it again**, this time moving to the southeast corner of the valley and into an even bigger store.*

## **[Le Mélange Gifts & Collectibles](#) is now BIGGER . . . AND BIGGER . . . AND EVEN BIGGER!**

“What a summer,” says Georgia Ritter, relaxing for a moment in a comfortable chair at the coffee table in her new and even bigger shop. “We spent three months packing up and only had one week to unpack and set up to accommodate the *Annalee*® Dolls National Summer Event.”

“We managed to get about half of our store arranged, displayed, and ready in just the first week we were in here, but we had a wonderful time and the customers who came really enjoyed it.”

Spacious and friendly, Georgia’s new store now displays many new treasures, many old friends, and many long-forgotten ones! She still carries the lines that were favorites, but they have popped up in new displays and groupings – which reveal both old friends and new accents on every shelf.

Those who remember this charming store in its old Las Vegas location know that there was a lot to move. “Friends packed us up and helped with the move,” Georgia says, “I don’t know what we would have done without our friend Kep, who spent countless hours packing the shop into boxes – inventorying each piece as he went. I think he packed up about half of the shop by himself!” Georgia, Kep, and ‘the girls’ (Regina, Linda, and Stephanie) spent over three months carefully wrapping the stock back into its collectible boxes and then into the moving boxes. “I think there are over a thousand boxes, some of which went into storage and some to the new store.”

And then there was finding the new store, itself. “We knew that we were leaving long before we knew where we were going,” Georgia notes, “Not much different from the house and shop moves we made in the Air Force. This is our shop’s fifth move, but we were in the same place for over 19 years – you just don’t appreciate how much stuff accumulates in that length of time until you have to put it in a box! We spent many a day driving the valley, looking at new and old centers, and checking out the many suggestions from our customers.”

Then, just when it looked like the store would be closing for lack of a location, one of Georgia’s customers suggested a shopping center in Henderson, farther east than had been reviewed before. Right off US 95 at the Horizon Ridge exit, this location turned out to be more convenient than the elegant (and smaller) locations in Seven Hills, Summerlin, or Anthem which were all actually much further from the valley’s easy travel routes.

“Barbie saved our search (and my living room which was getting pretty well stuffed),” Georgia says. “This center turns out to be very convenient and our space is even bigger than our last shop, even though we had doubled in size only two years ago. With that expansion, we widened the aisles and changed almost every display in the store – thanks to the suggestions and help of many of our dear customers. We couldn’t have made it happen at all, tho, without the help of Chad, Russ, and Ruth and their faithful vehicles. Countless trips brought the big pieces from the old store to the new and got us in here. A special blessing was a loaned truck with a lift gate.”

“Three years ago, one of my *Annalee*® collectors, on his regular visit from Maryland, had said that he sure hoped that we wouldn’t lose the character and charm of the store in its renovation. I don’t think that we did that then, nor have we in this move -- we worked very hard to stay ‘us’ and provide the ambiance and service our customers have grown to enjoy with us. Again the shop is finally ready to provide the kind of experience my customers really like, to both those who loved the crowdedness of it, and their spouses who usually waited in the car, lest they knock something over! We can finally fit them all in, in a light and spacious setting – at each of their comfort levels.”

That is quite a statement. Those who remember the gift-crowded shelves, aisles, and even the crowded ceiling (!) will be amazed what a little relocation has done. You can still find a wide selection of collectible gifts from all over the world. Now you can see even more of the selection, thanks to the display talents of Georgia and the girls.

“After 24 years, it feels like we now have room to visit while you shop,” Georgia notes with pride. “We dedicated space to sitting and relaxing. We have coffee to sample, too. My customers have long enjoyed browsing with a cup of our mulled cider in hand. They often share their reactions, finds, and advice on collections and gifts with each other. And now, as we are winding up the summer, we plan the shop’s grand reopening for August 15<sup>th</sup> through the 31<sup>st</sup> -- two weeks of invited events and fun in the shop during our day hours to find out how we did it all in so short a time. My husband appreciated that he didn’t have to build a whole new set of fixturing. He adapted our shelf units and just had to construct some new back stock area.”

Nevada’s oldest sponsor store, [Le Mélange Gifts & Collectibles](#) will continue to be the home of the *Annalee*® Mobilitee Doll National Open House events, Lizzie High Dolls Store Celebrations, and many other events for the favorite gift lines she carries – on into the fall.

“Don’t forget our 24<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Sale, this October,” says Georgia. “We plan to continue our annual mug sale and our annual Sidewalk Sale in October, as well. They always delight bargain hunters and find good homes for many items that need special love and attention. Of course, the store becomes Halloween headquarters in October -- for all of the themed collectibles that bewitch this season from *Annalee*® to the Dean Griff’s Charming Tails.”

“My heartfelt thank you to all those of you who made suggestions, helped, fed, or gave moral support to us while we transformed the shop to the fun place it is today. If you haven’t seen the results of their contributions, come in soon and enjoy.”

Whew! What a summer! Thanks for reading through these memories with me!

Stop in and reminisce in our shop's "new" location (well, "new" since this big, 2002 move of ours -- in the *summer*, of course, -- to Henderson -- *of course!*).

That sure was enough for us. We still 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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