

Hello! And welcome to my archived article on

## Organizing for Gift Giving.



Way back at the beginning of the millennium, [Le Mélange Gifts & Collectibles](#) was still in the Sugarhouse Shopping Center at Eastern and Flamingo. We had moved our shop there from Fort Walton Beach, Florida (“home” for its first five years). Our shop had many great friends at the Sugarhouse – among the other businesses there and, of course, our dear customers – many of whom still shop with us today.

In the **2000 February and March** issue, we urged the gentle readers of the Southern Nevada [Country Register](#) ...

[Le Mélange Gifts & Collectibles](#) wishes all of our friends and family,

**“HAPPY SAINTS!”  
(Valentine in February and Patrick in March!)**

Please mark your calendar for these events during the next three busy months:

- **February 14<sup>th</sup> Saint Valentine’s Day.** Don’t forget your sweetheart as this romantic day falls on Monday this year. Le Melange will be open from 10 am to 5 pm on this Monday and will *feature elegant (and free) gift wrapping* – just in case you have had to hold off getting that perfect gift and special card till the last minute.
- **March 17<sup>th</sup> Annual St. Patrick’s Day Open House.** *Calling all Irish and Irish-at-heart!* Come celebrate with lots of Blarney and Irish soul food -- Corned Beef, Cabbage, and all the trimmings!
- **April 8<sup>th</sup> Annalee Mobilitee Dolls National Spring Open House.** The special event piece is “Flight of Fantasy” -- a darling mouse on a butterfly on a flower. Available today only, we have rain checks in case we run out of these charming felt dolls.
- **April 23<sup>rd</sup> Easter Sunday.** Get your Easter trees, bunnies, and spring flowers ready!

Well ... Did you come in then for our corned beef and cabbage on St Patrick’s Day? Did your sweetie get a St Valentine’s Day gift -- wrapped and bowed -- from our shop? Did the Easter decor in your home include a “Flight of Fantasy” mouse-on-a-butterfly or a bunny from our *Annalee®* doll collection? *Ahhh, yes ... 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.

In that same **2000 February and March** issue, I wrote the following article on **Organizing for Gift Giving ...**

**\*\*\* See the next page! \*\*\***

**What???** It's Her Birthday Tomorrow? . . .  
**His Graduation Today? . . . CHRISTMAS? . . . Again?**  
**Aaackk!**  
**I HAVEN'T BOUGHT ANY PRESENTS -- NOT EVEN A CARD!**

**Why does this always happen to *ME*?**

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

Now, maybe I have exaggerated just a little. It isn't quite that bad around your house, is it? Oops! Sorry! Well, with a little planning, it doesn't have to be.

I know ... you've been planned out with all that Quadrant II, Day Runner, this To Do list, that calendar, and the next. Let's take a different approach. Let's get control over those gift events that we know are coming. And let's develop a good feel for how to get the right gift (fast and ready to give) for those gift events that "pop-up" on the schedule themselves.

Most of us have a set list of relatives and friends with whom we exchange either cards or gifts for birthdays, special events, and Christmas or other holidays. You know these event dates and needs in advance (except for the odd Las Vegas wedding here and there). I suggest that you take time at the beginning of each year to record the names of those special people and these predictable event dates on your regular calendar.

I also suggest that you take one more step to make your gift/card giving an easier (maybe even fun) task: Record them on a small yearly schedule. This schedule should be only one page – small enough fold and carry in your purse or wallet. With this small reminder, you can refer to it to look forward to these events. Or (more importantly) as you are out there shopping for other reasons, you can find how many and what cards or gifts you will also need over the next few weeks or months and buy them at *your* leisure. And when you find "just the right thing" for Uncle Ed, you can get it right then, get it wrapped, and mark it off your schedule.

Be sure to mark special dates of events or vacation plans because these might impact how much shopping time you may have prior to some of the events you want to celebrate. We all feel terrible when we forget to send a card or gift in time to reach someone that we care about. It is even worse when we remember too late and can't do anything about it!

If you find a particular shop will be "the best" place to shop for Uncle Jim, but you don't want to buy at that time, just note the name of the shop next to his name. You might even note the particular item you like for him, to get it quickly when you go back – or to help the shop reorder it for you. Remember, if Uncle Jim's occasion is not too far ahead, you might place the item on layaway and have it wrapped and ready when you need it.

Now about those "pop-up" gift or card occasions. Some of these are happy (a friend's promotion or a housewarming). Some are not (a friend in the hospital or a lost job). And then, of course,

there is Aunt Mildred who calls to announce that “they are just in town for a few days to celebrate their 35<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary and wouldn’t you like to come to dinner with them at Andre’s? . . . tonite?”

If you shop with a few special shops (as opposed to department or discount stores), you will know the shop’s stock and you will establish a buying history with them. With a buying history, the shop develops a feel for the types of gifts you like to give and can help you select just the right gift quickly. After all, you will have enough to do getting dressed and on to the party. Wouldn’t it be nice to just call your favorite shop and have them help you select a gift, wrap it just so, and have it ready for you to pick up on the way to Aunt Mildred’s dinner? Each shop probably helps in a different way, but if they know you and your buying habits they can make these occasions much less stressful.

You can invent your own schedule or you can stop at [Le Mélange Gifts & Collectibles](#) and pick up one of our schedules for 2000. We have loaded it with gift buying hints and we hope it will help you plan ahead, buy better, reduce your stress, and actually have fun finding and preparing to give these tokens of friendship and care.

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

*Georgia owns a charming gift shop and has been helping her customers (both the frantic and the serene) with their gift and card buying needs for over 20 years. Her customers are a loyal bunch. Some have stuck with her even though she moved her shop from Florida to Las Vegas, over 15 years ago. Some shopped in person on their one memorable visit to Las Vegas and now continue to shop over the phone -- from Florida, Maine, Minnesota, Hawaii, and even Alaska (800 731-5730). Some even helped her expand and redecorate her store this summer. [Le Mélange Gifts & Collectibles](#) (4161 South Eastern Avenue, Las Vegas Nevada, 89119) is located in the Sugarhouse Shopping Center on the southwest corner of Eastern and Flamingo – about three miles east of the Strip.*

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](mailto:Georgia@AGRitter.com)

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