

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

Holidays and all their rush are gone . . . Now it's just Winter, Winter, Winter – Until Spring!



I wrote this article in for the **2002 February, March, and April** issue of the Southern Nevada [Country Register](#) – in the midst of January – brrr!

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

In that issue we thanked some folks who support a wonderful charity here in Southern Nevada – that eases the trauma and pain of people who have just had a bad shock in their lives.

We also announced what has become one of our most popular store features!

[Le Mélange Gifts & Collectibles](#) congratulates John N. and Mary M. for winning the raffle prizes (a collectible bear and wreath). Our thanks to them and our many other customers for their support of [Good Bears of the World](#), [Ted E. Vegas Den](#) and their valuable work supplying huggable teddy bears to trauma victims in our community.

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

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

- **Groundhog Day is Saturday February 2nd** Drop by and see if you see your shadow!
- **Chinese New Year begins Tuesday, February 12th** Stop in and help us figure out which year it will be and what it holds for us all.
- **Ash Wednesday is February 13th** Roll those Shrove Tuesday Pancakes the day before. What bad habit will you give up for Lent? (It starts Sunday, February 17th and continues through Palm Sunday). Better shop ahead with us – just to be safe.
- **Valentine’s Day is Thursday, February 14th** In our store, from February 1st through 14th. Make any purchase and register to win a Beautiful Valentine’s Day Basket for your Valentine -- or -- for yourself!

- ***Presidents' Day is February 18th*** February is Great American's Month according to the mom and brother who also have birthdays in this month.
- ***Eid al-Adha on Saturday February 23rd*** To learn without taking action is to plough without sowing. (Arab proverb)
- ***The first day of Purim is Tuesday, February 26th***
- ***Islamic New Year begins Friday, March 15th*** Stop in and tell us which year this new one will be – and how it will be full of blessings for you!
- ***St. Patrick's Day is Sunday, March 17th*** In our store, from March 1st –through 16th. Purchase \$17 of Irish Stuff (or more), and draw for a piece of Leprechaun's Treasure from our pot of gold! Could be a chocolate coin – or a chance to pick a prize.
- ***Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt! ...from March 19th through March 30th*** Again this year, in our store, as we ring up your purchase, draw an egg from the EB's basket and win jelly beans, prizes, or shopping discounts!
- ***Holy Week: Palm Sunday is March 24th The first day of Passover is Thursday, March 28th Easter is Sunday, March 31st***
- ***Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, April 7th*** Spring ahead one hour and don't miss church (or tee time)!
- ***Secretaries' Day is Wednesday, April 24th*** We feature a fine line of remembrances for the administrative professionals that make office life bearable. Buy early and save your (or your spouse's) professional life!

Winter, Winter, Winter! But it's not so bleak after all, eh? How many of these did you celebrate?

Did you see your shadow in our store? Did your sweetie get the holiday basket you won? (Oh, sorry...) 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 winter and spring that year!* ... Remember those days?

Well, you can still have this kind of fun in our store at those times of year! See 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.

***** Article follows! *****

Holidays and all their rush are gone . . . Now it's just Winter, Winter, Winter – Until Spring!

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

I don't know about your house, but ours sure got quiet after the holidays. Our children went back to their homes after their way-too-short visits (and they took the grandchildren with them) and our house guest and her children left too. No more exuberant greetings at the door as we returned from a long workday. No more breathless recounting of the adventures of roaming the desert searching for bunnies or toads. No more carefully drawn stick pictures to hang on the refrigerator – the really good fresh (flat) ones, you know, that have no creases in them from mailing. Children always brighten up the place. But now we have to face an again empty nest and make the best of it to cheer us up without the 'chirping birds' that were with us over the holidays.

Well let's see what we can do this winter with the décor in our homes to brighten our place and our lives up a bit -- and get us on a good start anticipating spring's natural regeneration.

To start with, we carefully put away the holiday decorations – after twelfth night (when we remembered how the wise men came to visit the nativity). Back to their boxes went the carefully tissue-wrapped, delicate tree ornaments and rolled-up the mini lights kept from tangling. We will fix the burned out lights next year. The tree was boxed again -- top in first, then middle, last the bottom and stand, for easy setup next year. Branches folded neatly against trunk (after a good shaking out doors to get any dust off them). And all the rest of the things neatly boxed and labeled. Well, . . . neat for us. (Now we will remember that the champagne box has the nativity in it next year, won't we?) Any way, it is all put away in that funny shaped closet under the stairs (where nothing else seems to fit) protected from the extremes of temperature out in the garage or up in the attic.

Now what will make us lift our spirits when we see it and feel good about being home?

At the shop, I took down the patriotic theme Christmas tree I had put it right in my front window for all to see. But I left the theme – the green background, the red, white and blue display items, and the patriotic messages. It still says to passersby: United we stand. We are one nation under God. We are confident in His Spirit that this country is made great every day and we are mindful of those who sacrifice so much every day to keep our country free. And in this New Year, I will continue to wear my red, white, and blue lapel pin (as do most of my customers and friends) -- mostly to remind me of my gratefulness for those who have made and keep my life free. The seasonality of the theme is changed, but the uplifting message remains for us and for those who pass by.

So if the theme of your décor made you feel good over the holidays, keep the theme and change the things that tie it to a season. Snowmen stay, the nativity is packed away. Skating figures on

the mirror pond twirl gaily, the bright gold balls and angel hair that surrounded them are replaced by softly twisted, bright fabric or silk flowers.

I always feel that as long as I can see snow on Mt Charleston, a snow scene of folks having winter fun brings just enough of it into my home to help me: cherish my Minnesota childhood memories, snuggle with that good book in the overstuffed chair (with a comforter, of course), and enjoy the mulled apple cider just a little bit more!

This year is different from most, because we have the Winter Olympics just up the road. Add the interlocking rings and lots of streamers and flags to your winter scene and you have an 'E' ticket seat for those sold out events! The Olympics give you the excuse to bring out that Mishka collectible bear from the Moscow Olympics – of which few were produced and even fewer remain. Talk about a collectible coup! (And they will.) Maybe that will give those long-lost, sports-nut family members (who visit this year on their way to or from) something to talk about that they saw at your home, too!

This winter can be exciting if we surround ourselves with reminders of the things we find most important in our lives. These collections give us roots, familiarity, humor, reflection, a sense of challenge, a sense of peace.

But it isn't long till spring. Can you believe the clocks reset an hour on April 7th! So make some of those winter scenes 'shoot up' the first signs of spring. 'Flowers coming up through the snow' is a good way to start. Pastel colors as backdrop begins the mood change. Consider an Easter tree to display colored eggs or other Easter ornaments. Put away your *Snowbabies* collection and get out the *Snowbunnies* to take their place. These delightful figurals have the feel of their winter siblings, but bring the joy of the Spring's new growth with them.

Gift occasions coming up? You bet. Your Valentine in February, your Leprechaun in March, and your secretary in April are just a few of the special people to keep in mind this season. The winter and early spring are full of times you need that special card or memory maker. Each occasion has its own way to celebrate. Again I find that I have been helping my customers -- more than ever -- select gifts that convey the sense of the personal, human value and care they have for their gifts' recipients. We help them wrap and present their gifts in a way that shows the importance they place on these relationships, as well. Present your gift in person (if you can), especially this year. Accompany it with a hug and warm words of affection, joy, and encouragement. Re-connecting in a physical way is both reassuring and important -- for both you and your special person. The hug is a moment of wonderful feeling. The thoughtful gift makes the feeling last and then, be recalled -- over and over. If you can't be there, find exactly the right card -- the one that conveys their care and reflects the importance they place on the relationship made distant by circumstances. The right card and the right personal sentiment conveys the hug -- not as physically, but as meaningfully.

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

*Ed. Note: Georgia has owned her delightful shop for over 23 years and she keeps Christmas season decorations on display all year long. Now; however, she goes all out with unique selections and warm displays that will help you find 'just the thing' for the difficult person on your list or to decorate your hall, tree, or the door in your home. Visit 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

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