

The Painting



Connection

Concord, California, U.S.A.

A Monthly Newsletter
Marianne Simpson, Editor
Loretta Mateik, Webmaster
Website: tollbridgetolers.org

2009 Issue Number Four
April 2009

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Jann Otvos



Don't you just love the longer evenings? It seems like the dark winter days are behind us and that spring is here at last. Of course, we do need some spring rains but I am requesting that they fall during the night.

Once again, the egg exchange and potato buffet was a huge success. I continue to be impressed by the talent and imagination we have in our group. The array of Easter eggs and decorations exchanged were a treat for the eye. The potatoes were a treat too! Be sure to check out the web site to see all of Loretta's great pictures. Thanks to one and all for participating and making this such a fun social event. It has truly become one of the highlights of the year.

Two worthy charities have been selected for 2009 - the Alameda/Contra Costa Food Bank and Kaleidoscope. As poverty and health needs grow, we can take pride in doing our part within our community. Painting raffle prizes and selling bunko tickets will help both of our selected charities to do their special work.

I look forward to painting Eileen's frog at our April meeting and exchanging ideas and spring fever enthusiasm with you all!

Jann

PROGRAMS

Connie Oakley
1st Vice President

Our Program for this month will be an adorable frog plant stick taught by Eileen Galea and designed by Chris Haughey. The cost of the program is \$4.00. Please bring a sea sponge and your normal painting supplies.



MEMBERSHIP

Jeanie Gollow
2nd Vice President



Our egg exchange meeting in March was a grand success with 23 members attending with 2 guests of which one became our newest member Carrie Rice. We have officially 64 members as of the March meeting.

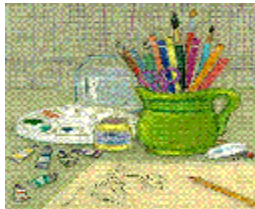
We feasted on baked potatoes with every trimming imaginable and 2 salads and a whole host of desserts. There was one Birthday Girl in attendance ~ Rosemarie Roza ~ and several others having birthdays the rest of the month. The egg exchange was as usual FANTASTIC, so many talented ladies with unusual and beautiful projects. Check some of the pieces out on the TBT website. Loretta is doing a grand job of getting up-to-date material on it so check it out.

We look forward to seeing and sharing with all our members so please try to come to as many meetings as possible during the year. Merlene Ryan has offered rides to whoever needs a ride in the general area. I'm looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our April meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanie Gollow

SEMINARs-PAINT-INS

Roz Borgerson and Connie Oakley



Our watercolor class with Claudette Garcia is scheduled for Saturday, April 25th at the Live Oak Club House in Concord. The cost of the class is \$40 and this fee will cover the class, a picture, watercolor paper with the pattern transferred on, mat, paint and loaner brushes. We will not be serving any meals for this class. There will be water and sodas available. There is a refrigerator and a microwave at the Club House.

Important Dates to Remember:

April 25, 2009 – Watercolor Class with Claudette Garcia
February 20-21, 2010 – Arlene Linton Seminar

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FAIR

Fair Dates May 28th thru May 31st

“IT’S A BLAST”

From DJ & Becky



Boy oh boy! Does time fly! The fair is fast approaching. So look around, see what you have painted this year and enter it!

Or find something that just need to be finished!

Entry forms are due no later than May 5, 2009
The Fair Office is Open 8am – 12pm & 1pm - 5pm,
Monday ~ Friday.

Special office hours on May 5, 8am to 8pm

Division 55

Crafts & Hobbies

The fee to enter \$1.00

Limit of 8 per division, 2 per class. State Rules

Division 63

Professional Crafts

The fee to enter \$2.00

Limit of 8 per division, 2 per class. State Rules

You can enter on line at www.ccfair.org

Fair Dates May 28th thru May 31st

We are planning to be at the fair.

Thursday 11:00

Special Project TBT class 1:00

Bring what ever you would like to paint!

Friday 11:00

Special Project TBT class 1:00

Cards for the troops

Saturday 11:00 start

Adult free class project 30-45 min.

Detailed painting class, to be announced

Sunday 11:00 start

Kids free project 1:00-3:30

Chip clip & magnet

Please let Becky, Beth or me know what day you would like to come so we can acquire the pass that you will need to enter. I will have a sign-up sheet at our next meeting or you can call me at one of the following numbers:

676-8288 ~ Work.

679-0676 ~ Home

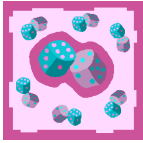
367-5925 ~ Cell

Thanks, DJ & Becky

NCCC UPDATE

Jann Otvos, Karen Vecchi, Barbara Flavin

We have no NCCC news to report--we will be meeting again on April 4th to visit some possible venues in the Sacramento area, but until then, nothing to add.



WAYS & MEANS

Liz Doran

Our third annual Bunko Party is scheduled for Saturday, August 22nd at the Plumbers Hall in Martinez. This will be our only fundraiser for the year. Final plans will be announced later.

We need your help for the raffle! Donated items such as PAINTED wood, metal, canvas, candles or whatever you like to paint, any size-framed or unframed would be great.

Any other hand crafted items

Gift certificates for-dinners, store spa, etc.

Gift baskets-any theme you choose.

Single items- I can use to make up gift baskets etc. These will need to be new items-no raw wood as we will have guests.

Packages of coffee/tea.

Mugs

Painting supplies

Scrap Book supplies

Books- painting or good reading

Brushes

Candles

Note paper

Lotions or nice soaps

If it is an item you like, I am sure someone else would like it also.

Twelve (12) raffle tickets will be given for each complete prize donated. Small pieces will receive some tickets also.

I will accept your donations at any time. This will be the only raffle for this year.

All of us working together will make it a fun day again this year.

Any questions, give me a call.
Liz Doran

NEWSLETTER

Marianne Simpson



Note: The following is our policy regarding the method by which you will receive your newsletter:

If you have Internet access, you will be receiving an email to let you know that the current month's newsletter is available online at our website -

www.tollbridgetolers.org

You will need to log onto the website and read or print the newsletter from there. If you need assistance, please contact Marianne Simpson at maritoler@comcast.net or Loretta Mateik at lmateik@comcast.net. You must have Adobe Acrobat Reader to access and print your newsletter. There are instructions on our website which will allow you to receive your FREE copy of Acrobat Reader.

If you do not have Internet access, you have the option of receiving your newsletter via the mail or as an email attachment. You need to let me know if you choose either of these options.

“THE TRADING POST”



The following metal etching experiment was performed and submitted by Barb Flavin with the help of Vivian Roubal and Karen Vecchi:

I thought I'd pass along a technique I tried which seemed to work really well--I had purchased a camping coffee pot to paint Rosemary West's fruit project onto. It's a metal pot which is enameled bright blue with white speckles. I thought it would be easy to quickly sand through the enamel finish so it would be roughened enough to accept paint. Hah--what a joke! I couldn't seem to get through it at all and I was running out of time! Trying to get around the handle and spout seemed totally impossible!

In the wee hours of my sleep, I dreamt of the solution to try, which ultimately worked great! I brushed glass etching paste all over the pot--it makes going around handles, spouts, fancy trims, etc., very easy!

Initially, I left the solution on for the recommended 5 minutes, but it wasn't enough. After 3 tries, I discovered that 18 to 20 minutes is perfect.

When I told some of my painting buddies about it, Vivian Roubal gave me another tip--use vinegar + water (she said, "use enough vinegar to make the water stink."). So, at Karen Vecchi's suggestion, we decided to try both techniques and have Marianne publish the results.

Karen donated two identical dark blue enameled metal cups for the "Great Experiment." I'll bring both cups to the next TBT meeting so you can check them out in person, but here's my written findings.

I used 1 cup of white vinegar plus about 1/2 cup of apple cider vinegar (that's all that was left in each bottle and it was way too late to go out to the store). I put the vinegar in a gallon-sized Zip Lock baggie and to the vinegar I added about 6 cups of water (that's how much it took to cover the cup). I wasn't sure how "stinky" the water should be, but it certainly did stink. I sealed the Zip-Lock baggie, but just to be safe, I also put it inside an old rubber dishpan, just in case the solution made the baggie leak.

And Vivian was right--it did a nice job of etching! On the plus side, the vinegar solution is cheaper and safer to use. On the down side, it takes a really long time--I soaked the cup for 8 hours; also, if you want to have the inside of the cup remain enameled, it would be very tough to use this method; if not impossible. The surface is also much slicker than the etched surface is. Perhaps if I had left it in the solution longer, it would have etched deeper.

I left the etching compound on the cup for 16-20 minutes and after painting the compound on the cup, I put it in the old rubber dishpan too. When the timer went off, I scrubbed lots of baking soda over the cup to neutralize the acid, then took it outside and rinsed it well with the garden hose and disposed of the water down the sewer drain.

The downside of the etching compound is that it is so easy to apply, one tends to forget how caustic it really is. When I prepped my pot for the Rosemary West seminar, I got one tiny drop on a favorite sweatshirt of mine and it ate through the material! The bottle's instructions say to wash the compound off with ordinary tap water, but it doesn't tell you that if that stuff sits on your porcelain sink surface for long, it will etch that too! My husband is the one who told me to neutralize the compound with baking soda and it seemed to make the rinse water feel significantly different this time--not at all slithery like the feel of bleach water on fingers. (Hmmm, I wonder if a bleach solution would also work on the cup? Well, that will have to be another experiment because I have to get these findings to Marianne in time for the next newsletter!)

Both techniques resulted in the same degree of slight fading of color.

If any of you have a favorite technique--new or old--or even if you think that everyone already knows it (which is probably not the case), I hope you'll share it/them with all of us too! Barb Flavin

If you have something you would like to sell, trade or give away; or if you have a recipe or idea you want to share, just send me an email with your tips, recipes, questions, comments or wish lists and I'll publish them in the newsletter. Then look in the following month's newsletter for responses from other members. It's that easy but the only way this feature works is with YOUR input. So please, send your emails to maritoler@comcast.net.

Thanks,
Marianne Simpson

BOARD MEETING

First Lutheran Church
Concord, CA
March 17, 2009

PRESENT: Loretta Mateik, Jeanie Gollow, Karen Vecchi, Darlene Smith, D. J. West, Lisa Schall, Rose Marie Roza, Marianne Simpson, Connie Oakley, Jann Otvos, Liz Doran and Shirley Irwin.

Prior to the meeting, President Jann Otvos asked Treasurer Karen Vecchi to write the annual donation of \$300.00 to First Lutheran Church in appreciation for allowing the chapter to use the church facilities.

President Jann Otvos called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. The agenda for the general meeting to follow was reviewed and finalized. Treasurer Karen Vecchi will have a copy of the Treasurer's Report available at the general meeting for member review.

Connie Oakley will have photos of the Claudette Garcia watercolor project choices at the general meeting. Members will vote tonight on the project to be taught on April 25, 2009.

Jann advised the meeting and egg exchange would follow the potato bar dinner this evening.

Connie reported on her exploration of five public storage sites in the Concord area. The average price was \$50 to \$60 with extra charges for set up and a lock. Jann stated she would check the cost in her area. Jeanie Gollow suggested a member might have the room and be willing to place a small shed in their backyard.

Jeanie also suggested that the time of the Board meetings be changed to 7:00 p.m. as they generally only last 15 to 20 minutes. Unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Darlene Smith, Secretary



GENERAL MEETING

First Lutheran Church, Concord, CA
March 17, 2009

The meeting was called to order by President Jann Otvos at 8:00 p.m. with a quorum present. The minutes of the February meeting were approved as published in the March newsletter (Barbara Bouchet/Connie Oakley). The Treasurer's Report was available for review at this meeting.

Correspondence: Jann reviewed various pieces of correspondence received: Wine Country Chapter fabric painting seminar on April 25; Yellow Rose Chapter of Texas is hosting a seven day painting cruise departing Galveston, TX on January 24, 2010 on Royal Caribbean – Voyager of the Seas; catalogs for the September 25-27 Portland, OR painting convention; literature from JoSonja on the use of various products and mediums; new Toll Bridge Toler flyers for posting at local stores; a notice from the Monument Crisis Center regarding upcoming events; a “thank you” note from the Contra Costa/Solano Food Bank for the Chapter's charitable donation; and notice of the Lois Mueller seminar May 16-17, 2009 hosted by the Monterey Chapter.

Shirley advised that club notices may be placed in the local “Concordia Newsletter” free of charge and Jann will look into it. Vivian Roubal provided information to Jann regarding printing TBT information on postcards and Jann will explore it further.

2009 Charities: Ballots were distributed and members were asked to vote for two charities. Ballots were tabulated and the Contra Costa/Solano Food Bank and Kaleidoscope Kids were selected.

Storage Facilities: Jann reported the sites explored charge between \$50 and \$60 per month. She asked if any member

was interested in or willing to placing a portable storage unit in their backyard.

Committee Reports: Ways & Means: Liz Doran asked for painted items for the Bunco raffle on August 22, 2009.

Election Workers: Merlene Ryan advised the special election will be held on May 19 and several members have indicated interest in working the election. She has a form for those workers to sign if they wish to donate their earning to the TBT Chapter. The regular chapter meeting is also that night and the current meeting location is a polling place. Darlene Smith has arranged for the chapter meeting to be held in the multi-purpose room at the church at no charge.

Memory Boxes: Merlene reported that Lucille Hart had made two deliveries to the County Hospital and only has a few memory boxes left. Merlene has boxes with her for any member willing to paint them. Barbara Flavin will host a memory box painting party this Thursday at 10:00 a.m. Merlene asked that no black or dark backgrounds be used.

Awards & Recognition: Shirley Irwin asked that she be provided with the names of any member who had anything to do with the County Fair last year so awards may be presented.

Hospitality: Barbara Bouchet circulated the hospitality book for sign-ups for future meetings.

Tole Train: Jeanie Gollow advised mid-April is a good time to visit Apple Hill as the trees will be in blossom. She also thanked the chapter for her wedding gift of a night at Timber Cove. She displayed the plaque she received with the lodging information and advised that a second night was presented to her by the Wine Country Chapter.

County Fair: D. J. West circulated a sign-up sheet for County Fair workers.

Painting Class: Connie circulated photos of possible class projects for the Claudette Garcia watercolor class and asked members to vote for one. She will e-mail members not in attendance for their vote. Connie also advised the Pleasant Hill Woodworkers Club has built two display cabinets for the jury assembly room in the courthouse in Martinez. They have asked TBT to provide painted items to display in one of the cabinets for the next two to three months. Connie stated she would deliver any pieces provided.

Special Drawing: Kerry Rice won a large egg, painted by Merlene Ryan.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m. followed by the annual egg exchange.

Respectfully submitted,
Darlene Smith, Secretary



SUNSHINE
Jann Otvos

- April**
4/5 Diana Cuva
4/18 Karen Vecchi
- May**
5/13 Robin Achterberg
5/14 Patricia Brookshire
5/24 Connie Oakley



As always, if you know of someone in need of a little “Sunshine”, please contact Jann Otvos.



HOSPITALITY
Barbara Bouchet

Snacks: Cathy McCaughey, Carrie Garrett, Jann Otvos, Tamara Mannon

Beverages: Shirley Irwin and Barbara Bouchet

Ice: Barbara Bouchet

Thanks, Barbara Bouchet, Hospitality

Notice: First Lutheran church is collecting foodstuffs year round for Project Share. Any donations would be welcome. Contact Darlene Smith for details.

EXECUTIVE BOARD OFFICERS

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Hospitality	Barbara Bouchet	925-682-5312
	Audret9@hotmail.com	
Nominating	Lisa Schall	925-699-4226
	Tjschall01@yahoo.com	
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	nonajo@made4usa.com	
Decorative Painting Month – Central Cty	Lucille Hart	925-672-4169
	Lhart32@astound.net	
Website	Loretta Mateik	707-782-1082
	lmateik@comcast.net	

National & Chapter Purpose

The purpose of the society is a central dissemination point for information about activities related to decorating painting; raise and maintain a high standard for the art of decorative painting; and stimulate interest in and appreciation for the art form.

The costs of advertising in this newsletter are as follows:

		Monthly	Yearly
Business card	Member	\$ 4.00	20.00
	Non Member	5.00	25.00
1/4 Page	Member	7.50	37.50
	Non Member	10.00	50.00
1/2 Page	Member	10.00	50.00
	Non Member	15.00	75.00
Full Page	Member	15.00	75.00
	Non Member	20.00	100.00

THE TOLL BRIDGE TOLERS
Are Proud To Present

Claudette Garcia

April 25, 2009
Live Oak Club House

5051 SEMINOLE CIRCLE
10 AM – 5 PM

Field Flowers



REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

REGISTRATION FEES: This seminar is offered for Toll Bridge Tolars or NCCC members. If you are a non-member, then please add \$5.00 per event. Registration fees are listed below. **Registration is due by Monday, April 20, 2009.** If you have any questions, please contact Roz Borgerson at (925) 825-6547 or email rogerroz1@astound.net; or Connie Oakley at (925) 423-0704 or email oakley1@ltnl.gov.

REGISTRATION FEES	TOLL BRIDGE TOLERS/ NCCC MEMBERS	NON TOLL BRIDGE TOLERS/NCCC MEMBERS
Saturday, 4/25	\$40.00	\$45.00
Total Enclosed:	\$	\$

NOTE: All persons registering for the seminar must use this registration form. Payment must accompany registration form. All classes have a *No Smoking Policy*. Please remember that Registration Fees are *not refundable but are transferable*. If the seminar is cancelled, all fees will be. No meals will be provided.

Please make checks payable to **Toll Bridge Tolars** and send Registration Form and Fees to:

Connie Oakley, 1103 Crest Ridge Lane, Concord, CA 94521-4539