

The Painting



Connection

Concord, California, U.S.A.

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

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February 2010

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Jann Otvos



I must admit that I am excited about beginning a whole new year of painting. I know that the activity of painting is not divided into calendar segments, however I do think in terms of seasonal painting which, I guess, then translates into painting years. Our upcoming seminar with Arlene Linton has been anticipated for almost two years, and here it is! What a wonderful way to start 2010. She is such an upbeat, inspiring teacher - one of those gifted people who can magically get more out of you than you think you have. I took a class from her when I was a very new painter, and am amazed at my finished piece. I only hope that I will be able to do as well this time.

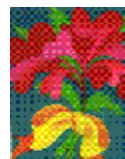
2010 is NCCC retreat year, as well. The class submission pieces were all so beautiful that the committee had a hard time picking which projects to schedule. I know that you will be eager to attend once you see the class selections. Although I haven't seen it, I understand that this year's venue is perfect. Rooms are very nice and reasonably priced, classrooms are large and well lit, and the dining area is comfortable. No booklets will be printed this year, so be sure and visit the NCCC web site - ncccinfo.com - to print the registration form and select your classes. A PDF form of the booklet will be made available thanks to Karen, and I will be happy to print a copy for any member who needs a hard copy. As an added bonus to those who attended the 2008 retreat, the NCCC committee has emailed a \$20.00 discount coupon that can be applied to your 2010 registration payment. This coupon will expire on 3/31/10, so be sure and register early! If you did not receive the coupon, let Karen, Barb or me know ASAP. A fun way to get excited about the retreat early is to join the Wine Country Chapter at one of the decoration paint parties at Jeanie Strech's Windsor studio.

I will be attending the Las Vegas Convention again this year. Although the trade show has gotten smaller over the last few years, it is still a treat to see what's new in the way of techniques, products and designs. If there is something special that you would like me to see if I can find for you, please don't hesitate to let me know. Shopping is one of the joys of attending a convention, and doing it with other people's money is the way to go.

Here's to a full painting year. Let's get some of those stash items painted so we can add new pieces without feeling too guilty.

PROGRAMS


Connie Oakley
1st Vice President



Our Program for this month will be a Bunny Pin designed and taught by Loretta Mateik. You'll have him done just in time to wear to our Easter Exchange next month. The cost will be \$3.50. Bring your normal painting supplies.



Easter is April 4th this year so we will be having our Easter

Egg  exchange and Potato Bar at our March meeting. If you haven't picked out an item to paint for the

exchange, maybe this cute little bunny of Loretta's will inspire you. I will have a sign-up sheet at our February meeting for the Potato Bar.

MEMBERSHIP

Jeanie Strech
2nd Vice President



Our Chapter has 63 paid members to date, with our newest member, Sue Lane of Antioch.

In the long range planning meeting I brought three awards which will be given out at our 2010 Christmas Dinner. They are the "Sweet Pea", "Carr-o-lots" and "Can't Beat Ums". These awards will be given depending on the amount of points collected during the year in which each member will gain points based on participation in the various activities sponsored by TBT. Some examples are attending monthly meetings, Paint-in / Seminars, election boards, painting memory boxes, etc. I have my spies out so help make this a 100% award evening.

In retrospect: Any person unable to come to the meetings due to a conflict of interest, distance, or family concerns, should not be dissuaded from joining or re-joining our chapter! After all, the main goal of our Chapter is the preservation and encouragement of decorative arts. Having fun and meeting new friends are just some of the fringe benefits. All are welcome....we love to share!

Thank you and Happy Painting!

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanie Strech
2nd VP/Membership



SEMINARS-PAINT-INS
Roz Borgerson and Connie Oakley

Important Dates to Remember:

February 20-21, 2010 – Arlene Linton Seminar.

Below are the two projects that have been selected to be taught at the seminar.



We are now taking registrations for Arlene Linton's seminar. The registration form is posted on our website.

Roz and Connie

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FAIR

June 3,4,5,6
D.J. West

Mark your calendars! The 2010 County Fair will be held Thursday through Sunday, June 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th.

It's time to start thinking about what you can enter. It is lots of fun to see your work on display and to show our community what we can do, and what we can learn to do. Spread the joy of painting!

Thank you all, for all your help in the past, and to all of you who will help again and again and again!!!!!!

CALIFORNIA STATE FAIR NEWS

The California State Fair moved its dates; we will now open July 14 and run through August 1, 2010.

Tell your family, neighbors and friends we have moved our dates. We would miss you if you were not there. Look for the 2010 Creative Arts Handbook on our website late December 2009.

CALIFORNIA STATE FAIR CREATIVE ARTS EXHIBIT CALENDAR

(key dates only)

- Ø **April 16** Summary Forms and Entry Fees must be received, postmarked or submitted online.
- April 21** Signature Acquisition Form Due for on-line entries.
- May 14** Shipped Entries Due by 4:30 pm

May 14 Hand Delivered entries, Expo Center - Building 8, 12 noon to 6 pm
May 15 Hand Delivered entries, Expo Center - Building 8, 9 am to 1 pm
May 19 Creative Arts Closed Judging
June 4 Pick up non-selected entries, Expo Center, Building 8, 12 noon to 6 pm
June 5 Pick up non-selected entries, Expo Center, Building 8, 9 am to 1 pm
TBA Award Ceremony
July 14 California State Fair Opens
August 1 California State Fair Closes
August 6 Pick up Exhibits - Expo Center - Building 8, 12 noon to 6 pm
August 7 Pick up Exhibits - Expo Center - Building 8, 9 am to 1 pm

QUESTIONS? PLEASE CONTACT:
 Ø **California Exposition & State Fair**
 P.O. Box 15649, Sacramento, CA 95852
 Entry Office entrvoffice@calexno.com
 Nancy Emelio ncmelio@calexoo.com
 (916) 263-3134

Thank you, DJ

PAINT-IN FOR NCCC RETREAT DECORATIONS

Jeanie Strech

The second painting session will be held at Jeanie Strech's home studio in Windsor as follows:

When: Saturday, February 6th

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Where: 7807 Dove Lane, Windsor, CA (Note that this address differs from the one shown in our handbook.)

Jeanie's Phone Number: 1-707-838-6489

Jeanie will be providing paints and patterns--we just need to bring our own painting supplies (brushes, palettes, water bins, paper towels, graphite, etc.)

If you plan to attend this Paint-In, please call Jeanie so she knows how many people to expect.



WAYS & MEANS

Liz Doran

Ways and Means is busy working on fundraising activities for 2010. More information will follow in future newsletters. (Editors Note)



COMMUNITY ROJECTS

Merlene Ryan

We had a great memory box painting event at the last meeting. Thanks so much, everyone! Now just finish them up and bring them back---this many should keep us supplied for a while. So just every now and then, be inspired and paint one or two and we should be on track again. I ordered boxes, so just ask when you want one.

Special thanks to Agnes, Gloriann, Jann, Jo, Marianne and Virginia for helping prepare the boxes for the meeting.



ELECTION FUNDRAISER

Merlene Ryan

Check your calendars and keep June 8th free. I'll be collecting signatures for working the primary election at the March meeting or contact me before that. Merlene

TOLL BRIDGE TOLERS PLANNING MEETING

First Lutheran Church, Concord, CA
 January 10, 2010

PRESENT: Jann Otvos, Connie Oakley, Jeanie Strech, Darlene Smith, Karen Vecchi, Marianne Simpson, Liz Doran, Loretta Mateik, Roz Borgerson, Lucille Hart, Becky Nivolo, Jo Iaconis, Barbara Flavin, Merlene Ryan, Lisa Schall

The meeting was called to order by President Jann Otvos at 1:42 pm. Job responsibilities for each officer and committee chair are on the website along with Chapter bylaws. Jann advised the Chapter library has been reduced to a small number of items. Her husband, Jay, is converting the VHS tapes to DVDs for the library with the original tapes to be stored in the new storage shed located in Shirley Irwin's side yard at her home at 90 Lincoln Street, Bay Point. The shed has a combination lock and is available 24/7 to members.

2010 Meeting Dates: The Chapter meetings will continue to be held on the third Tuesday of each month at First Lutheran Church with the Board meeting starting at 7:00 pm. and the General meeting starting at 7:30 pm. Jann has tentatively reserved the Holiday Inn for our Christmas dinner and there was discussion regarding changing the December 21 meeting to the second Tuesday or Thursday. Jann will bring this up at the January meeting and alert members prior to the meeting so they may consider it. The July picnic will be held on Saturday, July 17 unless there is a race that day at the Infinion Racetrack. The Bunco party is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, August 21. There are no changes in the newsletter due dates for articles and reports.

Chapter Goals: Jann advised the 2010 goals are the same as the 2009 and are attached. Jann commented on the change in the table set-up for the meetings and that configuration will continue this year.

2010 Charities: Jann will ask members at the January meeting to bring their suggestions for charitable donations to the February meeting with a vote to be taken at the March meeting.

County Fair: Becky was shown a thumbprint project as a suggested project to be done with the kids at the fair this year and Merlene advised she has additional patterns available.

Community Projects: Memory Boxes – Lucille advised the hospital uses 40 to 50 boxes each year. Merlene requested additional monies be included in the budget to cover purchasing more memory boxes and other items needed. It was suggested and agreed to include a memory box display and description of the program in the libraries in October along with our regular items for Decorative Painting month. Members will be asked to bring items for these displays to the July BBQ. A discussion will be held at the next meeting regarding what boxes are suitable for painting and the purpose of the boxes.

State Fair: Becky was advised the fair dates have been changed to July 14 through August 1. Entries are due by

April 16 and the pieces due in May. The County Fair is the end of May.

Membership: Jeanie asked that we continue to bring in new members. Jeanie handed out Sweet Taters at the 2009 Christmas dinner and is working on other vegetables (carrots, sweet peas and beets) for presentation at this year's dinner.

Painting Opportunities: Members will continue to be notified of upcoming painting opportunities at other chapters; i.e. Maxine Thomas in Livermore March 5-6, Carl Larson teaching a Heide England project March 6-7 and finishing it March 27-28, the Grapevine Chapter will host Vicki Rhodes April 17-18, and Shirley Wilson will be in Fresno next October. As the information is received it will be e-mailed to members.

Sunshine: Jann advised that Genie Miller will be our Sunshine Chairperson for 2010.

Awards and Recognition: Merlene asked that the names of the award recipients be included in the newsletter each month.

Ornament Exchanges: The Easter egg exchange will be held March 16th this year. Lisa asked that we have a Halloween ornament exchange on September 21st. November 16th is the date of our Christmas ornament exchange.

Tumbler: Jeanie has purchased a ticket tumbler for TBT to use when needed.

Budget: Karen reviewed the 2009 actual and 2010 proposed budget and minor adjustments were made for the Historian, Librarian, NCCC, Community Enrichment and Sunshine accounts. The budget as adjusted was finalized. Karen suggested we have a silent Tupperware party mid-year if members are interested.

NCCC Retreat: Jeanie announced there will be a painting party at her home on January 16 with beach patterns following the NCCC retreat theme.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Darlene Smith, Secretary

TOLL BRIDGE TOLERS GENERAL



MEETING

First Lutheran Church
January 19, 2010

Due to the Planning meeting on January 10, no Board meeting was held this evening.

The meeting was called to order by President Jann Otvos at 7:20 pm with a quorum present. The minutes of the December holiday dinner meeting were approved as published in the January newsletter (Shirley Irwin/D'Ann Hayes).

Guest: Merlene Ryan introduced Sue Lane who joined TBT this evening.

Correspondence: Thank you letters from Kaleidoscope and the Food Bank for our donation in 2009. The Monument Crisis Center announced they are holding a fundraiser on February 11 at the Concord Hilton from 6 to 9 pm. The cost is \$50 per person.

Jann advised there is a Maxine Thomas seminar in Livermore March 5-6, 2010. Carl Larson is teaching a Heidi England project March 6-7 and finishing it March 27-28. Jeanie Strech brought the finished project to the meeting. The class registration is \$165 and the project piece is \$45.

2010 Planning Meeting: The Board and Committee Chairpersons met on January 10. Jann reviewed what was discussed at the meeting: i.e., the Chapter goals remain essentially the same as last year; the storage shed is now available in the side yard of Shirley Irwin's home. Shelves may be added later if needed. The shed has a combination lock which Jann gave to the members present. The video library has been converted to DVD's and Jann advised Lucille Hart is our librarian this year.

July BBQ: The BBQ was originally scheduled for July 17 in Petaluma but due to a conflict with Loretta's schedule, it has been changed to July 24.

December Christmas Dinner: Jann advised the regular meeting date is December 21 of Christmas week. She asked if the members wished to change the date to the preceding week. Barbara Bouchet suggested the dinner be changed to December 14. Following further discussion, DJ West moved that the dinner be moved to Tuesday, December 14. Barbara Flavin seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Budget: Karen Vecchi reported the budget is very similar to the 2009 budget and discussed the minor changes made at the Planning meeting; i.e., NCCC retreat; Historian; Librarian and Sunshine accounts. It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to accept the 2010 budget as presented (Connie Oakley/DJ West).

Handbook: Karen Vecchi circulated the handbook draft and asked members to make any needed changes and initial their entry. They will be available at the February meeting.

Sunshine: Jann reported Genie Miller will be our Sunshine Chairperson this year.

Bunco: In Liz Doran's absence Jann advised the Bunco fundraiser will be held on Saturday, August 28 at the Plumbers' Hall in Martinez.

Seminars: Connie Oakley had registration forms for the Arlene Linton seminar on February 20th.

Programs: Connie advised a Halloween ornament exchange was suggested at the Planning meeting. Discussion followed on having all three exchanges this year (Easter, Halloween, Christmas) or possibly alternating Easter and Halloween each year. It was decided to have the Easter exchanged at the March meeting, the Halloween exchange at the September meeting and the Christmas exchange at the November meeting. It was agreed that the September meeting would also include painting a project. This matter will be reviewed again next year.

Membership: Jeanie Strech reported a new roster is available. She noted 61 members have paid their dues for this year, she sent out 13 reminder letters and one person (Sally Rinker who now lives in Utah) chose not to renew.

NCCC: Karen reported the NCCC board met on January 9 and voted on the classes and schedule for this year's retreat. The class booklet will be available on line only the end of January. She announced DJ West won the logo contest and will receive \$100 in NCCC dollars. Several of our members are teaching classes. The retreat is being held in Modesto at the Doubletree Inn. Registration is \$135 and rooms are \$84. There are a lot of classes to choose from and many are 4 hours long. Our Chapter will be teaching a Santa funnel make-it-take-it.

SDP: Jann reported the SDP convention catalog is out. The convention will be held in Wichita, KS.

Hospitality: Barbara Bouchet passed around the hospitality book for sign-ups.

Award Presentation: Shirley Irwin was presented with an award painted by Merlene Ryan for all the work she has done painting member awards for several years.

2010 Charities: Jann asked members to consider charity nominations for the February meeting. They will be voted on at the March meeting.

Memory Boxes: Merlene explained the purpose of the memory box program. We paint these for the County Hospital and about 50 were used last year. The program tonight is to paint memory boxes and Merlene provided base coated boxes, patterns and paints.

Community Projects: The Food Bank has requested donations for a fundraiser auction next June. They also have a small rocker and Shirley Irwin offered to paint it for the auction. They also expressed interest in having a potter's shed. Barbara Flavin offered to find the pattern and forward it to Jann. Jann's husband may be willing to build it.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm to the memory box program.

Respectfully submitted,
Darlene Smith, Secretary

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"

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. 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

ARTS AND CRAFTS

Marianne Simpson

February 18-20, 2010 Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. **AMERICA'S 2nd ANNUAL QUILT, CRAFT & SEWING FESTIVAL.** San Mateo Event Center.

If anyone knows of any craft fairs or events coming up, please pass the information on to me so I can list it in the upcoming Newsletters. Thanks



SUNSHINE

Genie Miller

February

2/2	Roz Borgerson
2/4	Beth Pierce
2/9	Teri Hallock
2/12	Rosalie Reed
2/18	Lucille Hart
2/19	Shirley Irwin
2/21	Gloriann Lindberg
2/23	Sheila Stepp
2/26	Holley Yarberr
2/28	Delta Lamb
2/28	Carl Larsen



March

3/17 Rose Marie Roza
 3/18 Wendy Oliver
 3/19 Vivian Roubal
 3/22 D.J. West

If the letter carrier doesn't deliver your birthday card, or if you know of someone in need of a little "Sunshine", please let me know.

Thanks,
 Genie Miller, Sunshine



HOSPITALITY **Barbara Bouchet**



Snacks: Carrie Garrett, Virginia Davison, Jann Otvos,
 Karen Fuller

Beverages: D'Ann Hayes and Jeanie Strech

Ice: Shirley Irwin

Thanks, Barbara Bouchet, Hospitality.

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.

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

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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