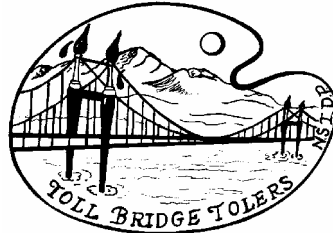


# The Painting



# Connection

Concord, California, U.S.A.

**A Monthly Newsletter**  
**Marianne Simpson, Editor**  
**Loretta Mateik, Webmaster**  
**Website: [tollbridgetolers.org](http://tollbridgetolers.org)**



**2010 Issue Number Three**  
**March 2010**



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Jann Otvos**

Looking at my Arlene Linton lace project and remembering how much fun we had painting lace and learning new techniques, I was struck by what a life lesson Arlene's career is. Arlene talked about all of the countries she has visited while teaching her techniques and all of the wonderful friendships she has developed. She has tapped into an almost universal love of lace, which is an ancient art form. Of perhaps even more importance to us, she has built a very successful painting career using primarily one paint color and one brush! As I begin painting projects, I spend a great deal of time picking out paint colors – often having to hunt down who sells that one elusive color – and pondering which brush will work best for me. My painting table is cluttered with paint, brushes and dirty water. I constantly have to refer to the directions to determine which color goes where and “fixing” color mistakes. Don't get me wrong – I love painting and do it as a creative outlet – but it is seldom relaxing. While painting Arlene's lace, my table was clear of clutter and my mind was free to concentrate on only technique. Although I still struggled with brush control, I found the process relaxing. Isn't life the same way? As we clear the clutter from our daily lives, we find that we can concentrate better and accomplish more – leaving us more mental and physical time to enjoy life. Although always painting with one color could eventually lead to boredom, Arlene has shown us that it can free up our creative minds to concentrate on other areas, such as design. I can't help but feel that the same might be true with life as well.

A question regarding our “egg exchange” from a new member was recently forwarded to me. At the meeting prior to Easter – usually March – we have a potato buffet supper and those members who wish to participate

bring items in a plain paper lunch bag to exchange. These items are placed in a basket and at the end of the meeting those who are participating choose a bag from the basket. Bags are opened and the contents are shown for all to enjoy. Exchange items may be hand painted or purchased and are Easter or Spring themed. Participation is voluntary. As Liz Doran pointed out last meeting, we often assume that everyone knows the “what and why” of what we do as an organization, leaving new members confused and feeling left out. Please don't hesitate to ask for clarification on any issue. If you are confused, I guarantee that others are as well!

Jann

## PROGRAMS

**Connie Oakley**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**



Our Program for this month will be our Easter Egg Exchange and the Potato Bar. It is always nice to see how creative everyone is and what they come up with to paint and exchange. A sign-up sheet for the Potato Bar was passed around at our last meeting. If you were not at the meeting and would like to sign up to bring something, or for a reminder of what you signed up for, please email Connie Oakley at [oakley1@ltnl.gov](mailto:oakley1@ltnl.gov) or Barbara Bouchet at [audret9@hotmail.com](mailto:audret9@hotmail.com). (Editor's Note)



## MEMBERSHIP

Jeanie Strech  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

The TBT Olympics are on and many of you are in good standing for a medal. Remember there are many events you can attend which you can accumulate points for the gold "Can't Beat Um's", silver "Carr-O-Lots" and bronze "Sweet Peas" medals.

We only have 7 months before the NCCC Retreat and if those months go by as fast as January and February it will be here very, very shortly. Fortunately, we have a tremendous amount of work already done toward the decorations. The next paint-in will be March 20th at my home in Windsor. Please let me know if you plan to attend as I will provide dessert and drinks. Hopefully we can get all the center pieces completed on that day.

When: Saturday, March 20, 2010

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

I would like to welcome back all returning members and to especially welcome the new members. We are very fortunate to have a new member in our midst; however she is not a total stranger. I am speaking of Kathy Prewitt from Grants Pass, Oregon. Kathy is one of the founders of the NCCC organization and is the originator of the NCCC Logo. Welcome Kathy! I am sure we will all be honored to have you in our chapter.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeanie Strech  
2nd VP/Membership



## Seminars-PAINT-INS

Roz Borgerson and Connie Oakley

I would like to thank everyone who attended the Arlene Linton seminar and I hope you all had a positive experience. I thought she was a fantastic teacher and taught us many great techniques.

I would also like to thank all the wonderful gals who helped with set up, meal preparations and clean up. You

really helped make this event a success. You all were so fantastic, I cannot thank you enough.

Blessing to everyone!

Roz

## CONDOLENCES

As two of our members have lost loved ones recently, we would like to acknowledge them in this issue:

*A Loved One is not gone, until they are forgotten!*

*And to Live in the Hearts of those left behind is to Live Forever!*

Our thoughts and prayers are with Connie Oakley and her family over the loss of her father.

Our condolences go out to Barb and Jimmie Flavin and Barb's mom over the loss of Barb's stepfather Justin.

Your friends at TBT are thinking of you and wishing you comfort during this difficult time.



## NCCC UPDATE

Jann Otvos, Karen Vecchi, Barbara Flavin

The registration is open for the NCCC 2010 Retreat. The Retreat is Sept. 30th - Oct. 3rd in Modesto. New this year to help defray costs - you can send in your registration form with a deposit/partial payment to hold your classes and submit the remainder of the balance by June 1st. You can view and print the Retreat booklet from the TBT website or contact Karen Vecchi or Jeanie Strech to look at a hard copy of the booklet. There are many wonderful projects to choose from on Friday and Saturday. Thursday night starts the retreat with a make-it and take-it night and a choice of 3 projects from 7:00 - 9:45. The retreat ends with brunch on Sunday morning. Lunches and dinners on Friday and Saturday are included as well as Sunday brunch. Get your registrations in now to hold a spot in your favorite classes! Don't forget to make a reservation for your room. Room rates are \$84 per night under the NCCC group rate at the Doubletree Hotel (209-526-6000).



## **WAYS & MEANS**

Liz Doran

Saturday, August 28th, 2010 is the date for our 4<sup>th</sup> annual Charity Bunko fundraiser; we need you so please save this date and tell your family and friends.

Theme: Hawaiian Beach Party

Time and Place: 11:30 AM, Plumbers Hall in Martinez

Tickets: \$25.00 non refundable.

Luncheon: Salad - dessert cookies - drinks. Rose Marie will be calling you to find out what you would like to bring.

I can use some medium and large wicker baskets if you would like to donate them.

For the raffle we need hand painted pieces, any size, wood, glass, fabric etc. If you have another talent and would like to donate a piece, that's fine also. Please, no raw wood or painting supplies.

I am looking forward to our fourth charity Bunko! If you have any questions, give me a call.

Liz Doran



## **COMMUNITY ROJECTS**

Merlene Ryan

Thank you for finishing and turning in your memory boxes. And the rest of us need to keep them front and center so they don't get forgotten. This is a continuing commitment; I have boxes to distribute when you are ready to paint another. Merlene



## **ELECTION FUNDRAISER**

Merlene Ryan

Just a reminder: I will be collecting signatures for those who wish to work the primary election on June 8 and donate their earnings to TBT. If you have any questions or will not be at the meeting to sign up, please contact me before the March meeting. Merlene

## **TOLL BRIDGE TOLERS BOARD MEETING**

First Lutheran Church, Concord, CA  
February 16, 2010

**PRESENT:** Liz Doran, Shirley Irwin, Roz Borgerson, Jann Otvos, Marianne Simpson, Karen Vecchi, Barb Flavin, Jeanie Strech,

President Jann Otvos called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m.

Jann announced that Merlene Ryan is out of town tonight, as is Darlene Smith (on a Panama Canal Cruise!). Barb Flavin will stand in as secretary for tonight's minutes.

Karen is to discuss the NCCC catalog-where it can be found and whether we have printed copies available for those who don't have Internet access.

Jann discussed correspondence received from SDP which include a thank you letter for the TBT \$500 donation; SDP Conference announcement; and a Freedom to Paint Program being sponsored by a Rhode Island chapter.

Jann will request nominations for our 2010 Charities. Voting on the 2010 charities will take place at the March meeting.

Liz Doran will discuss our upcoming Bunko event—date, time, theme, call for raffle prizes, etc.

Jeanie Strech will discuss the upcoming Scottie Foster and Carl Larsen seminars as well as giving a report on 2010 membership

The upcoming County and State Fairs will be discussed by DJ West.

Barb Bouchet to discuss upcoming hospitality needs (esp. regarding those who signed up for next month's meeting).

In Merlene Ryan's absence, Jann will thank those who have painted memory boxes and remind members to bring finished boxes to the next meeting. Merlene has additional boxes if anyone wants more. A reminder of poll worker opportunities will also be given.

Shirley Irwin is to announce and distribute awards.

Jann to make the following announcements: Death of Connie Oakley's father; upcoming Easter Exchange and Potato Buffet; Chapter Picnic date and location; Holiday Dinner.

Liz Doran will explain the history of our chapter's drawing, its function, and will then conduct the drawing.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Flavin

## TOLL BRIDGE TOLERS GENERAL



### MEETING

First Lutheran Church  
February 16, 2010

President Jann Otvos called the meeting to order at 7:31 pm with a quorum present. The minutes of the January 19, 2010 meeting were approved as published in the February newsletter (Shirley Irwin/D'Ann Hayes).

Treasurer's Report: Karen reported that the Treasurer's Report is available for review; there are no changes to it from last month.

Correspondence: SDP sent a letter and pin thanking TBT for its generous cash donation. The letter states that we have qualified for "Emerald Donation" status, entitling us to a 15% discount when we order service pins as well as a 1/6 page, full-color advertisement, Chapter Promo or personal message in The Decorative Painter. Jann took a count of all members who need a service pin hanger and will order them.

Paint For Freedom: A Rhode Island chapter has sent an invitation to join them in their "Freedom to Paint" chapter project. If we agree, they will send us ten "Freedom to Paint" cards for free. The terms require that we paint the ten cards and then send five of those painted cards back to them and send the remaining five cards to our local troops. They'll display the cards they've received from all participating chapters at the SDP convention (May 18-22) as well as the New England Traditions convention in October. The absolute deadline for returning the five painted cards to Rhode Island chapter is August 30, 2010. Jann notified them that we would be happy to participate. Please let Jann know if you'd like to paint one of the cards. You can paint your own design choice on the card or you can get free patterns at SDP's website: <http://www.decorativepainters.com/paintforfreedom/index.php>

NCCC: Karen announced that the NCCC Catalog has been put on the TBT website for viewing/printing. In addition, Karen has printed five copies (cost to print five copies was \$11.00) and Jeanie Strech has printed four copies. These nine copies are available for viewing/borrowing, but please return them as soon as possible so others can view them. Also, important to note that for the first time ever, registration fees may be paid separate from class/surface fees. You may send in your registration form and registration fees by the June 1<sup>st</sup> deadline (and avoid future late charges) and then later send in payment for your classes/surfaces (prior to September 30, 2010). DJ West won the NCCC 2010 Retreat Logo Contest along with the \$100 prize.

TBT Handbook: Karen brought handbooks for all members. Members not present will have handbooks mailed to them.

2010 Charity Nominations to be voted on at our next chapter meeting: Jann requested charity nominations. Two charities will be selected by majority vote at next meeting. Nominations were as follows: Bay Area Food Bank (Barb Flavin); Bay Area Crisis Nursery (D'Ann Hayes); Meals On Wheels.

2010 Bunko Charity Bash: Liz Doran announced that the date would be August 28, 2010. We'll probably keep with the Hawaiian theme to keep expenses down (and cash available for charities up); however, we may call it something different. Please note that Liz desperately needs medium sized baskets—not small. She also needs donations of painted pieces of any theme or design. Suggestions for donations are: Scrapbook designs; sewn objects; beaded ornaments; quilts; painted shirts; painted (or decorative) tote bags; spa items such as lotions, soaps, etc.; gift cards, new musical CDs. NO RAW WOOD FOR

BUNKO EVENT because we will have visitors at this event who do not paint).

Membership: Jeanie Strech announced that we currently have about 70 members who have paid their membership dues. She also asked that in the future, to be sure to print out the membership form, fill it out completely and send it with your check. The information on the form is needed to keep our handbook up-to-date and it also keeps your membership payment from getting lost in the shuffle.

County and State Fairs: DJ asks that we refer to the February newsletter for submission dates for both fairs. Unfortunately this year the County Fair and State Fair submission dates collide. DJ suggests that you enter your “best” pieces in the State fair and your “not best” pieces in the County Fair. DJ is available to hand deliver your pieces to the Fairs. At the present time, the County Fair does NOT have their forms online yet; the State Fair does. Karen Vecchi reminds us that NCCC donates \$100 to the State Fair to be used as prize money and the Sacramento chapter donates \$100 as well, so there is a chance for you to win \$\$\$\$\$. Another perk is that if your entered piece is awarded an Honorable Mention or above, you’ll receive a free fair entry ticket.

Arlene Linton Seminar (February 20, 21): Roz will be acting as lead for this seminar because Connie is away due to the recent death of her father. The wood has not yet arrived but is expected any day. Roz will let all of us know as soon as it comes in; also, you can use an alternate wood selection—just make sure it is large enough to accommodate the design.

Hospitality: Barbara Bouchet announced that she would move those who signed up to bring items in March to April, since March will be our Potato Buffet.

Memory Boxes: Many completed Memory Boxes were turned in tonight and they are all beautiful! Loretta will post photos of them on the website. Jann and Merlene extend a special Thank You to everyone who is participating in this very worthy cause.

Election Board Sign-Up: Merlene will bring a sign-up sheet to the next meeting for anyone who wants to work at the Polls and donate their earnings to TBT.

Service Awards: Shirley passed out awards to the following individuals for their work at the Charity Bunko: Virginia Davison; Barb Flavin; Marilyn Grover; Cathy McCaughey; Zoe Ann Barbier; Vivian Roubal; Tamara Mannon; Rose Marie Roza; Jo Iaconis; Karen Vecchi; Lisa Schall; Marianne Simpson; Connie Oakley; Loretta Mateik; Jeanie Strech; Liz Little.

General Information: Liz Little will be going to Las Vegas—if you can’t go and have a wish list, see Liz and if it’s possible, she’ll try to find the item you need and bring it back to you.

Marianne Simpson asks: If anyone is not getting an email notification that the newsletter is available for viewing, please let her know so she can make sure she’s got your current email address.

#### Dates to Remember:

March 16<sup>th</sup> (next meeting) – Easter Exchange and Potato Bar

July 24<sup>th</sup>, TBT Picnic at Loretta’s house.

December 14<sup>th</sup>, TBT Holiday Dinner at the Holiday Inn

TBT Drawing: Liz explained the history of our chapter’s monthly drawing. When our chapter was new, it began as a raffle and was then changed to a drawing in order to comply with California law. One ticket per member is given for a donation in the amount of \$1 to \$3. The gifts are usually valued at \$25 and anyone can donate a gift. The money donated is put into the TBT treasury and used for things like the \$300 we donate to the church where we hold our meetings, etc. If you have any questions about our drawing, please ask Liz. Jann Otvos donated this evening’s basket and Barbara Bouchet’s ticket was drawn.

The meeting adjourned to Loretta Mateik’s bunny pin program.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barb Flavin

## 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](http://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](mailto:maritoler@comcast.net) or Loretta Mateik at [lmateik@comcast.net](mailto: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”**

**For sale:** Leprechaun wood, design from the book All Things Bright and Beautiful by Sharon Cook. Call Merlene

To those of you who bought the tin train to paint Rosemary West's gingerbread design, let's get together and paint. Not a class---just more fun to paint together and a way to get started. e-mail or call me. Merlene

**Swap Meet:** If you happen to have duplicate books or pattern packets that you would like to trade with someone, please let me know. I will list all those interested in next month's "Trading Post" so you can contact each other.

Several of the members have asked Jeanie Strech for her delicious recipe for her Holiday Biscotti. Here it is:

### **Holiday Biscotti by Jeanie Strech**

2 eggs  
1 cup sugar  
2 tsp. almond extract  
2 cups flour  
1/2 tsp. baking soda  
3/4 cup chopped dried apricots  
3/4 cup dried raisins  
3/4 cup shelled pistachio nuts  
3/4 cup whole almonds

Preheat oven to 350/F and line a baking sheet with parchment paper.

Beat eggs, sugar and almond extract together in a medium bowl.

Stir in baking soda and flour (adding 1/4 tsp salt is optional) mixing until a stiff dough forms.

Stir in all fruits and nuts. Knead for a minute on a lightly floured surface.

Divide dough into 2 pieces and pat into two 9"x 4" rectangles about 1/2" thick, on a prepared baking sheet. Bake for 30 minutes. Let cool slightly. Reduce heat to 325/F. Cut rectangles into 1/2 inch slices with a serrated knife and place back on baking sheet, flat side down and bake for 10 minutes. Flip all biscotti to the other side and bake additional 10 minutes.

Cool or eat warm. If you are eating them warm, they will not be quite as crisp as cooled biscotti.

Make them any time not just Holiday time. ENJOY!!!

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](mailto:maritoler@comcast.net).

Thanks,  
Marianne Simpson

## **ARTS AND CRAFTS**

Marianne Simpson

**March 12, 13 and 14: County Folk Art Craft Show** at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton.

**April 10 and 11, 2010: Crossroads Street Faire**

Manteca, California

Location: Downtown

Website: [www.visitmanteca.org](http://www.visitmanteca.org)

Hours: 10am-6pm

**Details:** Enjoy a wonderful event on the tree-lined streets of downtown Manteca. Over 400 arts crafts, food and entertainment.

**April 24 and 25, 2010: Walnut Creek Sidewalk Fine Art Fest**

Walnut Creek, California

Location: Cypress, Locust & Main Streets

Website: [www.pacificfinearts.com](http://www.pacificfinearts.com)

Hours: Fri & Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 10am-5pm

**Details:** The 63rd Semi-Annual event lines the sidewalks of downtown Walnut Creek, and has been ranked as one of the top 100 outdoor fine art shows in the country.

If anyone knows of any other 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

### March

3/12 Melina Lanka  
 3/14 Jann Otvos  
 3/17 Rose Marie Roza  
 3/18 Wendy Oliver  
 3/19 Vivian Roubal  
 3/22 D.J. West

### April

4/5 Diana Cuva  
 4/7 Sue Lane  
 4/8 Sonia Wilkinson  
 4/16 Karen Fuller  
 4/18 Karen Vecchi

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

A sign up sheet for our "Baked Potato Bar" was distributed at our February meeting. I will be calling those of you who signed up to remind you of what you need to bring to the March meeting. .

If you have any questions, or would like to volunteer to bring something if you have not already signed up, please contact me or Connie Oakley.

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.

### EXECUTIVE BOARD OFFICERS

President	Jann Otvos	925-706-8365
	<a href="mailto:jjotvos@comcast.net">jjotvos@comcast.net</a>	
1 <sup>st</sup> V.P., Prog.	Connie Oakley	925-825-3851
	<a href="mailto:oakley1@lntl.gov">oakley1@lntl.gov</a>	
2 <sup>nd</sup> V.P., Mem.	Jeanie Strech	707-838-6489
Secretary	Darlene Smith	925-689-8557
	<a href="mailto:dsmit@astound.net">dsmit@astound.net</a>	
Treasurer	Karen Vecchi	925-228-0409
	<a href="mailto:Karenvecchi@sbcglobal.net">Karenvecchi@sbcglobal.net</a>	
Newsletter	Marianne Simpson	925-754-1362
	<a href="mailto:maritoler@comcast.net">maritoler@comcast.net</a>	
Ways & Means	Liz Doran	925-634-5137

### Committee Chairpersons

N.C.C.C. Rep.	Jann Otvos	925-706-8365
	<a href="mailto:jjotvos@comcast.net">jjotvos@comcast.net</a>	
	Karen Vecchi	925-228-0409
	<a href="mailto:karenvecchi@sbcglobal.net">karenvecchi@sbcglobal.net</a>	
	Barbara Flavin	925-779-9596
	<a href="mailto:hlpinghand@aol.com">hlpinghand@aol.com</a>	
Sunshine	Genie Miller	510-223-5148
	<a href="mailto:Pushkin1215@aol.com">Pushkin1215@aol.com</a>	
Handbook	Karen Vecchi	925-228-0409
	<a href="mailto:karenvecchi@sbcglobal.net">karenvecchi@sbcglobal.net</a>	
Historian	Loretta Mateik	707-782-1082
	<a href="mailto:lmateik@comcast.net">lmateik@comcast.net</a>	
Seminars/Paint-in	Roz Borgerson	925-825-6547
	<a href="mailto:Rogerroz1@astound.net">Rogerroz1@astound.net</a>	
	Connie Oakley	925-825-3851
	<a href="mailto:Oakley1@lntl.gov">Oakley1@lntl.gov</a>	
Rewards & Recognition	Shirley Irwin	925-458-3454
	<a href="mailto:shirlevirwin@sbcglobal.net">shirlevirwin@sbcglobal.net</a>	
County Fair	DJ West	925-679-0676
	<a href="mailto:debrwst@aol.com">debrwst@aol.com</a>	
Librarian	Lucille Hart	925-672-4169
	<a href="mailto:Lhart32@astound.net">Lhart32@astound.net</a>	
Community Projects	Merlene Ryan	925-754-7997
	<a href="mailto:Merlenery@comcast.net">Merlenery@comcast.net</a>	
Parliamentarian	Connie Oakley	925-825-3851
	<a href="mailto:Oakley1@lntl.gov">Oakley1@lntl.gov</a>	
Publicity	Tamara Mannon	925-676-5492
	<a href="mailto:temann@att.net">temann@att.net</a>	
Hospitality	Barbara Bouchet	925-682-5312
	<a href="mailto:Audret9@hotmail.com">Audret9@hotmail.com</a>	
Nominating	Lisa Schall	925-699-4226
	<a href="mailto:Tjschall01@yahoo.com">Tjschall01@yahoo.com</a>	

Decorative Painting Jo Iaconis 925-432-6832  
 Month – East Cty [jaconis@comcat.net](mailto:jaconis@comcat.net)  
 Decorative Painting Vivian Roubal 925-216-8761  
 Month –Central Cty [msroubal@hotmail.com](mailto:msroubal@hotmail.com)  
 Website Loretta Mateik 707-782-1082  
[lmateik@comcast.net](mailto:lmateik@comcast.net)

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