

The Painting

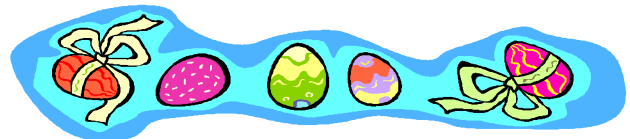


Connection

Concord, California, U.S.A.

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

2011 Issue Number Four
April 2011



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Karen Vecchi

We voted on our chapter charities and the two selected were the Blue Star Moms and the Independent Living Skills Program. Our chapter will be donating the proceeds from our Bunko fundraiser on Saturday August 27th at the Plumbers Hall in Martinez. We have had very successful raffle drawings and hope this year will be just as spectacular so please get your raffle donations to Vivian Roubal. All donations are welcome – nothing is too small and can be combined with other donations. A gift card, massage certificate, restaurant gift card, painted piece and anything you would want to receive is always a good bet.

The East Bay Blue Star Moms (www.bluestarmoms.org/) are gearing up for their next care package mailing to the troops this June. They will be hosting several drop zone donation events throughout April, May and June. If you are interested in donating please check their website for exact dates, times and locations. It's easy to get involved, whether you want to donate goods, write a note of thanks or appreciation to tell the troops thank you for their service, sponsor a care package mailing (\$12.95/box), or help out on packing and shipping days. You can help them bring smiles to the faces of our military personnel by supporting the Blue Star Moms.

The Independent Living Skills Program helps kids who age out of foster care with transitioning and assisting with housing, jobs skills, furniture, etc. (www.cocoilsp.org). You can touch the life of foster youth by donating items from their Wish List which is available on their website. Cash donations may be earmarked for college or training scholarships. Other financial donations will be used to help

emancipating youth with rental and utility deposits, transportation, clothing and the purchase of household items. They ask that you donate only new items or those that you would be pleased to have your own youngster use. All donations are tax deductible.

We reserved a date and place for our chapter 15 year anniversary celebration. It will be on Saturday July 23rd at the atrium at the Crowne Plaza in Concord. It should be an exciting celebration so please mark your calendars and plan on attending! In order to schedule the anniversary party we had to forego our barbeque at Loretta Mateik's in Petaluma but we hope to have the fabulous event again next year.

This is the month for Easter and Jeanie taught the cutest white bunny to get us in the Easter spirit. She was wonderful and base coated all the surfaces for us. The bunnies looked like they were ready to start hopping by the time we left the meeting. Thank you Jeanie for all the work you did in preparing the project for us and teaching it to us. I hope you are all working on your project for the Easter exchange and potato boat dinner. Plan on having a potato dinner with more toppings than you can imagine!

Karen Vecchi
President





PROGRAMS

Connie Oakley
1st Vice President

Our Program for this month will be our Easter Egg Exchange and the Potato Bar. I hope you all are painting away making a wonderful keepsake for our exchange. It is always nice to see how creative everyone is and what they come up with to paint for our exchange. I passed around a sign-up sheet at our last meeting. Below is the sign-up information. If you were not at the meeting and would like to sign up, please email (oakley1@l1nl.gov) or call me (825-3851) with what you would like to bring. Thank you.

Borgerson, Roz	10 Potatoes	Oakley, Connie	10 Potatoes
Doran, Liz	Green Onions	Olson, Suzanne	10 Potatoes
Flavin, Barbara	Dessert	Roubal, Vivian	Dessert
Flynn, Luci	Olives	Schall, Lisa	Butter
Fuller, Karen	Chili	Simpson, Marianne	Cheese
Galea, Eileen	Sour Cream	Smith, Darlene	Sour Cream
Garrett, Carrie	Dessert	Strech, Jeanie	Deviled Eggs
Irwin, Shirley	Bacon Bits	Vecchi, Karen	10 Potatoes
Little, Liz	10 Potatoes	Vernon, Bonnie	Diet Root Beer
Mateik, Loretta	Dessert	West, DJ	Iced Tea
McCaughy, Cathy	Chili	Wilkerson, Sonia	Cheese

Shirley Irwin and Liz Little will be bringing their roaster ovens to keep the potatoes warm.

Display Cases in Martinez Courthouse

We have been asked again to put our painted pieces in the display cases made by the Diablo Woodworkers in the Martinez Courthouse. If you are interested in selling your piece, you may list a phone number to be contacted, but no names are to show on the pieces. The dimensions on the display case are 3' 6" wide, 18" deep and the height between the bottom shelf and the second is 2', between the second and top shelf is 21" and between the top shelf and the case top is 13". Our timeframe will be early July for two months. I will be asking for pieces to show once I have been given the exact date from the Diablo Woodworkers group. I have included a picture of the case so you can see what the case looks like. These cases are locked and the general public does not have access to the items on display.



MEMBERSHIP

Jeanie Strech
2nd Vice President

Our March meeting was a very wet event, but thanks to the 24 members who came to have fun painting the Baby Bunny and Tulip plaque, we had a nice evening. What a great class and all finished the bunny except for his whiskers. I want to thank you all personally for staying to do the project. We had a special guest and her name is Alexis---she is a great help in many tasks and we look forward to having Alexis as one of our future members.

Please bring your new SDP cards to the meeting April 19th for verification

I would like to report that we have a new member, her name is Lisette Jones. Good to have you join our fun loving painting group.

Respectfully submitted,
 Jeanie Strech
 2nd VP Membership

WAYS & MEANS

Vivian Roubal, Merlene Ryan,
Carrie Garrett & Eileen Galea

Congratulations to Luci Flynn for winning the prize that Carrie Garrett donated at the March meeting. Thank you Carrie for donating such a nice St. Patrick's Day surprise.

I've seen the painted pieces donated so far and you are going to want to buy lots of tickets in August for these Bunko prizes! We've had items contributed from D'Ann

Hayes, Merlene Ryan, Jeanie Strech and Connie Oakley this month.

We are looking for all sorts of basket items for our fund raiser as well as painted pieces. Baskets, and things to put into baskets such as gift certificates, wine, stationary, and any other fun items are also needed. They can be given to anyone on this committee. Don't forget, contributing prizes earns you tickets for the drawings!



SEMINARS & PAINT-INS

Liz Doran

Come paint a Halloween Candle Holder with Vicki Gardiner, Sunday, May 15, 2011 from 9 AM to 4PM at The Plumbers Hall.

Embellishments are going to be about \$17.50. Vicki will provide these and will include the following:

- a. Pattern Packet
- b. Beads
- c. Candle and candle cup
- d. Fence
- e. Excelsior, raffia, spray paint and garland
- f. Paint

Students will need to supply:

- a. Spool of black wire 26 or 24 gauge is best
- b. 1/8 inch Wire Curler
- c. Krylon 1311 Spray
- e. Regular painting supplies
- f. Identi-Pen

The wood surface and elements are included in the \$35.00 registration fee and will be prepped and given to you on the 15th.

You will need to bring a brown-bag lunch; water, coffee & tea will be provided. You may bring snacks to share if you wish. And don't forget the money for the embellishments.

Pictures and registration forms are at the end of this newsletter.

DEADLINE For Signups is April 7th.

Any Questions, please call me at (925) 634-5137.

Liz Doran



AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Tamara Mannon

There is much enthusiasm in awarding members for their time and efforts. February's pins with hearts were given to:

Merlene Ryan – (January) donating to the church for the crab feed

Cathy McCaughey – painting a memory box

Marianne Simpson – painting a memory box

Vivian Roubal – painting a memory box

Keep up the good work ladies! Please let me know if you would like to award someone for doing something special for the chapter.

Thanks everyone, Tamara

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Roz Borgerson

Thank you to all the wonderful memory box painters. They are all so beautiful. We will be painting more memory boxes at the fair, so if you have patterns along with the paint you would like to use please bring them.

Merlene and I would also like to thank the following members who painted squares for the Food Bank quilt:

Jann Otvos, Roz Borgerson, Holly Yarberry, DJ West, Connie Oakley, Jeanie Strech, Barb Flavin, Karen Vecchi, Shirley Irwin, Lucille Hart, Liz Little, Barb Bouchet, Marianne Simpson, D'Ann Hayes and Cathy McCaughey.

Sue Shimansky and Teri Hallock are the sewing and assembly ladies for the project.

The quilt is progressing nicely although we were not able to come up with a juvenile pattern for the sashing so it may turn into a summer throw instead of a child's quilt. It is all sewed together and is at the quilters so it might make it for the April meeting.



2011 COUNTY FAIR

“The Tradition Continues”

www.contracostafair.com

Mark your calendars! The dates for the County Fair are Thursday through Sunday, June 2, 3, 4, 5.

The proposed agenda for the fair is painting Memory Boxes on Thursday and Friday, an adult free make it and take it project on Saturday and a kids make it and take it on Sunday. The adult project will be a tote with the American Flag painted on it and the kid's project will be light switch covers. I'll be passing around a sign-up sheet for volunteers at the April and May meetings. I'll need all the help I can get so please sign up.

It's also 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 learn to do. Spread the joy of painting.

Entry Form and Exhibit Delivery Deadline Dates

- **May 3** – Forms and Entry Fees must be received; postmarked *deadline*
- **May 8** – Online Entries *deadline*
- **May 15** - Hand delivered entries 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- **May 16** – Hand delivered entries 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- **June 6** – Pick up Exhibits 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- **June 7** – Pick up Exhibits 12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Make checks payable to: Contra Costa County Fair

Forms and Fees may be mailed to: Contra Costa County Fair, 1201 West 10th St., Antioch 94509



2011 CALIFORNIA STATE FAIR NEWS

www.bigfun.org

State Fair entry forms are available on the website listed above and the deadline date for entries is April 22, and again we are Division 130. Please enter and keep our passion going. Remember, NCCC has donated to the cash awards. You could be a winner.

NEWSLETTER

Marianne Simpson



All Chapter members are welcome to submit painting or craft related articles for the newsletter. Send the articles to me via e-mail. The deadline for newsletter articles is the last day of each month.

I try my best to keep up to date on members email addresses. However, if you are not receiving your newsletter notification, please contact me as I may have old or incorrect information. Please send any e-mail or address changes to me at maritoler@comcast.net.

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”

Kaleidoscope's 1st Annual Golf Tournament is on Monday, May 2nd. They are doing a silent auction and raffle to raise funds for their cancer support programs. If anyone has any painted pieces they would like to donate, it would be very much appreciated. You may bring your pieces to the April meeting and give them to Lisa Schall.

Luci Flynn has shared her delicious almond Cookie recipe. Everyone enjoyed the cookies at March's TBT meeting.....

ALMOND COOKIES

Makes about 3 dozen

2 Large egg whites
¾ cup powdered sugar
1/8 tsp. salt
½ tsp. pure almond extract
½ tsp. pure vanilla extract
3 cups almond slices, blanched or natural (I got mine at Trader Joe's)

Center a rack in the oven and preheat to 350. Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper or silicone baking mats.

Place the egg whites in an extra large bowl; add the sugar and salt, and whisk together just until the sugar is incorporated. Stir in the almond and vanilla extracts. Add the almonds and toss the ingredients with a rubber spatula until the nuts are evenly coated.

Working in batches, scoop 1 TSP to 1 TBSP (depending on how large you want them) cookie mixture on the prepared baking sheets. Flatten with tines of fork. Space 1/2 inch apart.

Bake until the cookies are amber-gold and the undersides are not moist (13-15 minutes).

Place baking sheets on a wire rack and let cool about 2 minutes; transfer cookies to another rack to cool completely. Allow sheets to cool slightly before continuing with the next batch.

Only 59 calories per cookie.

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

SUNSHINE
Genie Miller



April 2011

- 4/5 Diana Cuva
- 4/8 Sonia Wilkinson
- 4/16 Karen Fuller
- 4/18 Karen Vecchi



May 2011

- 5/10 Jacqueline D'Annuzio
- 5/13 Robin Achterberg
- 5/14 Patricia Brookshire
- 5/24 Connie Oakley

We always strive to be accurate but sometimes we do make mistakes. If we miss listing your birthday, or if the letter carrier doesn't deliver your birthday card, please contact Genie Miller and Marianne Simpson. As always, if you know of someone in need of a little "Sunshine", please let us know.

**APRIL 2011
HOSPITALITY**



Barbara Bouchet

I will be thinking of you all while I am on vacation. See you in May. Cheers, Barbara Bouchet

**TOLL BRIDGE TOLERS
BOARD MEETING**

First Lutheran Church, Concord, CA
Tuesday, March 15, 2011

PRESENT: Karen Vecchi, Marianne Simpson, Merlene Ryan, Darlene Smith, Barbara Flavin, Liz Doran, Roz Borgerson, Jeanie Strech, Lisa Schall, Vivian Roubal, Connie Oakley

President Karen Vecchi called the meeting to order at 6:45 pm.

Anniversary Party: The party will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel on Concord Avenue in Concord on July 23 in lieu of the annual barbecue in Petaluma. No raffle will be included in the festivities as the Bunko fundraiser is coming up in August.

Food Bank: Karen was approached by the Food Bank lady requesting more jewelry boxes for their raffle in June. Karen expressed her concerns about the way our donations were handled at the raffle last year and the low minimum bids placed on items. They could have seen a much bigger profit if items were properly labeled. Karen advised her that we would only be donating a child's quilt for the event this year. Members brought in the completed quilt blocks this evening for Merlene Ryan to have quilted.

Charities: Seven charities have been nominated this year and members will be asked to vote on two at the general meeting to follow.

Decorative Painting Month: This is held in October and items will be requested for display in area libraries.

Community Project: Vivian Roubal advised she painted a backdrop for the set of Falstaff by Verdi. This opera production was presented by the North Bay Opera from March 6 to 12 in Fairfield. The program gave credit to the Toll Bridge Tolers for the set painting. She will obtain a photo to submit to SDP.

Guest Pin: Jeanie Strech has painted guest pins for guests at the meetings to wear to be more visible.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Darlene Smith, Secretary

TOLL BRIDGE TOLERS GENERAL MEETINGS

First Lutheran Church, Concord, CA
Tuesday, March 15, 2011

The meeting was called to order by President Karen Vecchi at 7:30 pm with a quorum present. The minutes of the February meeting were approved as published in the March newsletter (Shirley Irwin/Barbara Bouchet).

Anniversary Party: Karen announced the party will be held on Saturday, July 23, at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Concord from 12 to 4 pm. We will have lunch in the Atrium and have a conference room set aside for us afterward. There will be no raffle as the Bunco fundraiser is coming up in August.

Community Enrichment: Roz Borgerson displayed several memory boxes brought in by members this evening. Lucille Hart will be delivering them to the hospital. Members also brought in the 15 quilt squares for the Food Bank's raffle in June. Merlene will arrange for the child's quilt to be assembled and quilted.

NCCC Update: Jeanie Strech is the NCCC Moderator this year. In an effort to recruit more participation at the NCCC retreats she will be visiting all chapters in NCCC asking if there are any problems NCCC can resolve and asking chapter representatives to bring any problems to NCCC. She is making a history of NCCC and will provide each chapter with an informational book that can be passed on to the current representatives.

Martinez Display and Potato Bar Sign-ups: Connie Oakley has been contacted by the woodworking group again asking for items to display in their enclosed/locked cabinets in the jury assembly room in Martinez. Pieces are requested by the June meeting and may be displayed for a couple of months.

Connie circulated a sign-up sheet for food items for the March potato bar. Members are also reminded to bring ornaments for the exchange at that meeting.

2011 Charities: Karen advised that information about the seven charities nominated was included in the March newsletter and in an additional e-mail she sent out. Luci Flynn talked about the Independent Living Skills charity and the Ombudsman long term care program she nominated. Karen passed out ballots and the two charities selected for 2011 were the Independent Living Skills and Blue Star Moms. The nominators are asked to bring a representative of these charities to the November meeting for presentation of the checks.

Seminars: Liz Doran passed out registration forms for the first paint-in to be held on May 15 at the Plumbers' Hall in Martinez. Vicki Gardiner will be teaching a Halloween project from 9 am to 4 pm. The deadline for registration is April 9, 2011 as the wood has to be ordered. The cost is \$35 for members and there will be an additional cost (approximately \$12) for embellishments for the project. Forms are to be mailed to Liz Doran.

Awards: Tamara Mannon presented awards to Merlene Ryan and to Cathy McCaughey, Vivian Roubal and Marianne Simpson for memory boxes and Eileen Galea for donating last month's special drawing prize. Vivian Roubal was recognized for painting the set backdrop for the Falstaff opera production in Fairfield and giving Toll Bridge Tolers the credit.

Ways and Means: Vivian stated she will take Bunco donations at any time. Any type of donation is welcome except for raw wood.

County Fair/State Fair Dates: Marianne Simpson has the deadlines printed in the newsletter. The entry forms are on the fair websites and are due back by May 3 for the County Fair and March 21 for the State Fair. The County Fair information for our categories is on Page 27 to 29 on the website. We will once again do a children's project and adult project at the County Fair. Marianne has a large number of donated light switch plate covers for the children to paint on Saturday and on Sunday the adults will be painting a US flag on the back of City of Concord tote bags donated by Vivian, with a wooden star pin which may be attached to the bag or used as a pin.

Special Raffle: The St. Patrick's Day basket was donated by Carrie Garrett and won by Luci Flynn. Special thanks to Jeanie Strech for the Easter baskets this evening.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 pm. Connie Oakley introduced this evening's painting project of a bunny taught by Jeanie Strech.

Respectfully submitted,
Darlene Smith, Secretary

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



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The Toll Bridge Tolers
 are proud to present
 Vicki Gardiner
May 15, 2011
 Plumbers Hall
 1308 Roman Way, Martinez, CA
 9:00 AM – 4 PM
 Halloween Candle Holder

REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 CITY/ZIP: _____
 TELEPHONE: _____ EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

REGISTRATION FEES: This paint-in is offered for Toll Bridge Tolers or NCCC members. If you are a non-member, then please add \$5.00. Registration fees are listed below. Registration is due by, Thurs. April 7th. If you have any questions, please contact Liz Doran at (925) 634-5137 or email her at dbredbob@sbcglobal.net

Registration Fees	Toll Bridge Tolers/ NCCC Members	Non Toll Bridge Tolers/NCCC members
Sun May 15	\$35.00 (includes surface cost)	\$40.00 (includes surface cost)
Total Enclosed:	\$	\$

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

Please make checks payable to Toll Bridge Tolers and send Registration Form and fees to:
Liz Doran, 4920 Cabrillo Point, Discovery Bay, CA. 94505

VICKI GARDINER'S HALLOWEEN CANDLE HOLDER

