

The Painting



Connection

Concord, California, U.S.A.

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

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Karen Vecchi

Our January planning meeting and chapter meeting set our goals and budget for 2011. As usual we are an ambitious group with lots of exciting events. This month members will be presenting charitable organizations for our chapter to consider at our monthly meeting. If you know of an organization that is in need of donations and would like our chapter to consider donating to it, please bring information about the charity, the work they do and the people or animals they serve. Last year our charities were Meals on Wheels and Bay Area Crisis Nursery. Both charities warmed our hearts with how much the money we donated would help people and families in the bay area. Charities will be presented this month and we will vote at the March meeting.

This is our 15th year as a chapter. I know it sounds cliché to say it has gone by fast but it really has. I am in the process of putting together an Anniversary committee so if you would like to be on the committee or can help with the event, please let me know as we need to hit the ground running to plan this celebration. Barb Flavin is working on our chapter handbook which has our members address, phone and e-mail information. She is trying to contact members to make sure the information is up to date and accurate. She will be printing and publishing it in the near future.

Karen Vecchi
President

Bereavement Donation Correction

In reviewing the chapter guidelines, it was brought to our attention that chapter bereavement donations should only

be made for chapter members. A donation was incorrectly made for a chapter family member which has been corrected and the funds have been replaced back to the Chapter. We apologize for this error and certainly did not mean to offend or hurt anyone's feelings.

PROGRAMS

Connie Oakley
1st Vice President



Happy Valentine's Day

Our Program for this month has been developed by Jann Otvos and will be a Shrink Plastic art project. You will not need to bring any special supplies. Jann will have everything you need to complete the project at our meeting. The cost will be \$2.50.



MEMBERSHIP

Jeanie Strech
2nd Vice President

Hurray!!!! and congratulations to all 28 attendees at our fun filled and informative meeting.

We want to welcome Suzanne Olson as our newest member as of this meeting. Welcome Aboard Suzanne. We look forward to a very rewarding relationship.

As membership chair, I have proposed a \$5.00 late fee to our existing \$15.00 membership dues. The dues are due October 1 and are delinquent November 1 each year as stated on the membership application. This additional fee would not go into affect until December 1, 2011. There was some discussion about the proposal at the January 18th meeting and it was tabled to a later date so that all of the members can be notified. Hopefully we can get some feedback before the next meeting. Please e-mail me at jeaniepaints@comcast.net, to voice your opinion on this issue. I understand that the current economy is affecting some of us but processing late dues causes a lot of extra work. I am sure the Chapter would be willing to work with anyone who finds themselves in a financial bind at the time the dues are due, however these individuals must come forward and this information would be in the strictest confidentiality.

Our Chapter has lost members since last year when we had 74 members compared to 62 as of the January meeting. Some members belong to one or more chapters and have decided to drop their membership in out of their area chapters. Some have issues with distance and night driving, all which are understandable issues. We wish the best for our past members.

Respectfully Submitted
Jeanie Strech
2nd V/P membership

WAYS & MEANS

**Vivian Roubal, Merlene Ryan,
Carrie Garrett & Eileen Galea**

The committee is off and running again this year with Carrie and Eileen volunteering to coordinate the monthly meeting basket and Merlene *already* securing Plumber's Hall for our annual Bunko fundraiser! Mark your calendars for **August 27th**. More information on the Bunko Fundraiser to follow as the date draws closer. In the meantime, Carrie and Eileen will need items for the monthly basket. Any donations for basket items are greatly appreciated.

A special thank you goes to Cathy McCaughey for donating the cutest frog bedecked utensil container in January! Tamara Mannon was the lucky winner.

Respectfully submitted,
Vivian Roubal



SEMINARS & PAINT-INS

Liz Doran

I will be mailing out a questionnaire to members to let me know what types of Seminars/Paint-Ins you would like to have this year. It's important that you answer and return this questionnaire as soon as possible. Please bring your completed questionnaire to the next meeting and turn them in to me or Marianne Simpson if I am not there.

Please call me at 925-634-5137 if you have something in mind that you would like to do this year. I'm waiting to hear from you so I can get some dates set.

Liz

NCCC UPDATE

DJ West, Connie Oakley, Roz Borgerson



The NCCC Reps met January 8, 2011 to discuss the location and theme for our next Retreat in 2012. From the input that was received from those who attended the Retreat in 2010, the majority wanted to return to the Doubletree in Modesto for our next Retreat. The theme for our 2012 Retreat will be *Carnival of Color*.

The 2012 Retreat Chapter responsibilities are as follows:
Moderator – Jeanie Strech
Class Sales – California Heart of Decorative Artists
Signs – Monterey Peninsula Decorative Artists
Chapter Sales – Gold Country
Registration – Grapevine Tolers (Jean Dorn)
Make It Take Its – Magic Palette of Northern California
Pins/Historian/Surveys – Northern California Decorative Artists
Welcome/Check In – Grapevine Tolers
Raffle – Toling Belles of Santa Clara
Retreat Catalogue – Toll Bridge Tolers (Connie Oakley)
Teacher Coordinator & Logo Contest – Vaca Valley
Decorations – Wine Country will coordinate
Facilities/Retreat Advisor – Roni Marks
Website – Leah Luper



AWARDS & RECOGNITION Tamara Mannon

I have something special lined up for this year for those individuals who have gone out of their way, done an outstanding job or did something special, so please let me know so they can receive an award.

Thanks,
Tamara

LIBRARIAN Lucille Hart

I will have all CD's with me at the monthly meetings. For the new members, you can check out a CD for the month, and return it at the next meeting.

I will be going to Las Vegas and hope that they will have some CD's that could be added to our Library. If anyone knows of any tapes on painting please let me know so I can view them.

Thanks,
Lucille

COMMUNITY PROJECTS Roz Borgerson

Hi everyone. I want to thank everyone for always being so generous with your talents and caring natures. We have such a wonderful chapter. I will bring memory boxes to the next meeting for anyone who would like to paint one. Also, Merlene has cut out squares for the child's quilt we will be painting for the Food Bank raffle. We will also have patterns. If you have any questions, please call me at 925 825 6547.

Fondly, Roz Borgerson
Community Projects



2011 COUNTY FAIR Marianne Simpson

Mark your calendar and start planning your entries! 2011 County Fair dates are Thursday through Sunday, June 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th. The Theme for 2011 is "The Tradition Continues". The fair office is currently updating their website, so I'll have more information for you as soon as it becomes available.

I know DJ appreciated all the help she had in the past years and I'm hoping that I can count on many of you to help me out this year. Please let me know if you are available.



SYMPATHY

Agnes Ketterman-Dobert's mother passed away on January 22nd. Services are planned for Saturday, February 5th at 1:00 PM at the Calvary Baptist Church, 2140 Olivera Court, Concord 94520.

Agnes, your friends at TBT are thinking of you and wishing you comfort during this difficult time.

We wish time spent with those we love could last forever...

...And in our hearts it will.



2011 CALIFORNIA STATE FAIR NEWS

The California State Fair dates are July 14th through July 31st. The Creative Arts Exhibit Calendar dates have not been released to date but I will keep you informed as information becomes available.

Thank you,
Marianne

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.

CHILE RELLENOS CASSEROLE RECIPE

Lucille Hart submitted this recipe which was given to her by Marilyn Macdougall, Lucille's water color teacher.

3 large cans roasted chilies
1 large can-chopped roasted chilies, undrained (optional)
grated cheeses - white & yellow
shredded chicken breast (I used 1/2 chicken breast, simmered in water for 20 min. or until done)
3 eggs
1/2 cup flour
1 can (12 oz.) evaporated milk

Line pan with chilies that have been cut in half. Layer cheese and chicken and top with remaining chilies. Mix together the eggs, flour and evaporated milk (and chopped chilies if desired). Pour over the chilies lifting the layers so the liquid gets to the bottom of the pan.

BAKE at 350, 35-40 minutes or until lightly brown on top.
ENJOY!!!

“THE TRADING POST”

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

To Luci Flynn for giving me a 12 pack of new light bulbs and to Merlene, Jann, Liz Doran and Sue for giving me new and old used light bulbs. I'm having a ball painting Bunnies, Snowmen, Santa's and more light bulb ornaments. Don't be surprised if you see some coming your way in the future! Marianne :o)

GIVE AWAY: Luci Flynn has a tri-colored ink cartridge “HP97” that she would like to give away.

Luci had to get a new printer which uses a different ink cartridge and is unable to return the “HP97”. Please email Luci at lucimarie@yahoo.com if you can use it.

FOR SALE: Shirley Irwin has a number of large volume books that she would like to sell.

Shirley is asking \$12.00 for the following books:

3 Brenda Harris Books ~ Volume I, II & IV

1 Kerry Trout Book ~ “Mini Murals”

1 Book by Plaid with Various Artists ~ “Decorative Painting Projects for Your Home”

The asking price for the following book is \$15.00:

Priscilla Hauser's “Book of Decorative Painting”

\$20.00 for “The Best of Decorative Painting”

\$25.00 for Jo Sonja's “Guide to Decorative Painting”.

If you are interested in purchasing any of these books, please call Shirley at 925-458-3454.



UFOs Are Landing! Just a

reminder, Vivian Roubal is inviting all chapter members to UFO (unfinished objects) gatherings at her house **each month**. She's opening her home the second Monday of the month from 9:00am to 4:00pm and the 4th Tuesday evening of the month, from 6:30pm to 9pm. She has plenty of space to spread out, and just asks that you call to let her know you're coming. Vivian Roubal 925-216-8761. (1425 Highland St., Martinez).

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



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH ANNUAL CRAB FEED

Thank you to everyone who donated silent auction items for the First Lutheran Crab Feed. It was a very successful fundraiser for the Church's preschool and our donations were very well received and much appreciated. Thank you! Darlene Smith

SUNSHINE

Genie Miller



February 2011

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
2/26	Holley Yarberry
2/28	Delta Lamb
2/28	Carl Larson



March 2011

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

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.

FEBRUARY 2011 HOSPITALITY



Barbara Bouchet

Snacks: Carrie Garrett, Lucille Hart, and Loretta Mateik

Drinks: Holley Yarberry and Cathy McCaughey

Ice: Jann Otvos

Thanks,
Barbara Bouchet, Hospitality

TOLL BRIDGE TOLERS PLANNING MEETING

January 16, 2011

First Lutheran Church, Concord

PRESENT: Darlene Smith, Jeanie Strech, Vivian Roubal, Jo Iaconis, Liz Doran, Karen Vecchi, Cathy McCaughey, Connie Oakley, Roz Borgerson, Jann Otvos, Merlene Ryan, Marianne Simpson, Barbara Flavin, Carrie Garrett, Eileen Galea, Barbara Bouchet

The meeting was called to order at 3:10 pm by President Karen Vecchi. Connie Oakley will email a copy of the latest Chapter By-Laws to Karen for a mass mailing to members. Discussion followed on the use of seminar and fundraiser profits and this will be brought up at the January meeting. Two charities are selected each year and any excess has been placed in the Education Fund for member appreciation such as an ornament frenzy or to offset the cost of a seminar.

The Board and General Meetings will continue on the third Tuesday of each month at the First Lutheran Church in Concord. The Board will meet at 6:45 pm in a separate room and the General Meeting will begin at 7:30 pm in the usual place. The Christmas dinner date was suggested for December 13, 2011 and will be voted on at the January meeting.

Newsletter/Handbook: Marianne Simpson advised the current due dates (end of each month) are working for the newsletter and will continue. Barbara Flavin will bring a draft of the handbook to the January meeting for members to review and approve their information. Barbara will call any members not in attendance for any corrections.

Membership: Jeanie Strech indicated we currently have 61 members, noting that many members did not renew their membership promptly. Membership renewal is due October 1 and delinquent November 1. She recommended a \$5.00 late fee be assessed on anyone who has not

renewed by December 1. This will be discussed and voted on at the January meeting.

Chapter Goals: The 2011 goals similar to 2010 were discussed. (1) Eliminate distractions during programs including waiting to clean-up the meeting room until the program is concluded. (2) Community Awareness: Charity donations, teaching children (at the County Fair), community projects (memory boxes/Food Bank raffle donations. (It was noted children's items given for the Food Bank raffle were the most popular. It was suggested that rather than make a full size adult quilt as approved at a prior meeting, we consider making a child's or baby quilt. Merlene Ryan has received donated materials for the quilt and Jann Otvos suggested smaller squares be parceled out to many members rather than a few to complete the project.) Vivian Roubal noted there may be a need for set painters for a local theater. Jann Otvos received 50 bell ornaments from a Food Bank worker who is doing a personal project and asking that we decorate them for distribution to 65 families in the Concord area. This will be brought before the members at the January meeting. Encourage more Chapter entries to the County/State Fair. Marianne Simpson will keep us informed of entry dates for the fairs. (3) Membership: There is a need to increase our membership by placing flyers in public spaces such as libraries, and Pleasant Hill Adult Education. Barbara Flavin advised Michaels is doing classes again. It was felt we should focus on recruiting new members and mentoring new painters. It was suggested guests at our meetings be identified in some manner and a Board member be assigned as a "buddy" to the new person. Jeanie will work on this. Look for opportunities to arrange fun things to do such as tole trains. Liz Doran will look into developing and planning for a member appreciation event such as an ornament frenzy, paint-in or Big Brush seminar partially or fully funded through the Chapter Education Fund. She will send out a questionnaire to determine members' wishes.

(D) Painting Opportunities: Provide paint-ins, seminars with diverse surfaces, notify other Chapters of our seminars and our members of other Chapters' seminars. (E) Ways and Means will arrange for the Bunco location as soon as possible.

Budget: The 2010 actual and 2011 proposed budget was reviewed. The Chapter's 15 year anniversary is this May and Karen will research the cost of the 10 year anniversary party to determine the appropriate budget for this event. An anniversary planning committee will be formed. It was suggested that no raffle prizes be requested and the party be casual, fun and different. It was noted the Miscellaneous designations for the Bunco fundraiser and paint-ins are to be considered advances for the event expenses. The finalized budget will be presented to the membership at the January meeting for approval. The issue of bereavement gifts will be researched in the By-Laws.

Officer responsibilities were distributed and officers were asked to review them for any changes/ corrections.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Darlene Smith, Secretary

TOLL BRIDGE TOLERS GENERAL MEETINGS

First Lutheran Church, Concord, CA
January 18, 2011

The meeting was called to order by President Karen Vecchi at 7:30 pm with a quorum present. As the annual planning meeting was held on Sunday, January 16, there was no Board meeting this evening. Karen welcomed everyone to the first meeting of 2011. The minutes of the November meeting as published in the December newsletter were approved (Tamara Mannon/D.J. West).

2011 Charity Nominations: Karen asked that charity nominations be brought to the February meeting to vote on at the March meeting.

Food Bank Quilt: Making a quilt for the Food Bank raffle was approved in 2010. Merlene Ryan has the materials for this project. Karen advised that children's items, wine and airline tickets were the most popular items at the 2010 raffle and asked if we should consider making one or two children's quilts instead of a large one. D. J. West moved that we change from one large quilt to two children's quilts. Discussion followed. Barbara Flavin seconded the motion and a design committee of Merlene Ryan, Jann Otvos and D. J. West was established. Members were asked to bring square design ideas to the February meeting as the quilt needs to be completed soon. D. J. suggested that we keep the design simple.

Karen also advised that Kathy Gleason of the Food Bank is doing a personal project providing Christmas ornaments to residents on Montclair Drive in Concord. She has given Jann a large quantity of small metal snowmen ornaments to be painted and anyone interested in helping Jann is asked to contact her.

2011 Christmas Dinner: Karen suggested December 13 be selected for the dinner as our regular meeting date is December 20. It was moved, seconded (Carrie Garret/Beth Pierce) and approved to hold the dinner on December 13 at the Holiday Inn in Concord.

Hospitality: Barbara Bouchet has the Hospitality book for members to sign up for beverages, snacks and ice at 2011 TBT meetings.

Awards and Recognition: Shirley Irwin presented the final two awards for 2010 to Tamara Mannon and Vivian

Roubal for their work at the Bunco fundraiser. Tamara is the new Chair of this committee. She has new pins to present and asked for nominations of deserving members.

Programs: Connie Oakley asked members for their interest in continuing the Easter and Halloween ornament exchanges: both – one? Following a brief discussion she indicated she would put this question in the newsletter for members to vote on at the February meeting.

Toll Trains will be explored for 2011.

2011 Budget: Karen reviewed budget changes (increases/decreases) from 2010 to 2011 and noted the total budgeted expenses for 2011 are less than 2010. She looked at the cost for the 10th Anniversary Party and determined that \$1,000 needed to be budgeted for the 15th Anniversary Party this year. She noted that additional memory boxes will need to be purchased and Roz Borgerson has prepped boxes available for painting. Karen stated the NCCC retreat is held in even years and our ornament frenzy in odd years. It was moved to approve the 2011 TBT budget as presented (D. J. West/Connie Oakley).

It was also noted that members earned \$600 last year working on the elections. If there is another one this year Merlene will get the information to members.

Ways and Means: Vivian Roubal advised the Bunco fundraiser will be held on August 27, 2011. Her committee is working on the program details that include a theme change. She asked for raffle prizes for the event at any time as she has storage space.

Special Drawing: The drawing items were provided by Cathy McCaughey and were won by Tamara Mannon. Carrie Garrett and Eileen Galea are now in charge of the Special Drawing and would appreciate any donations.

Membership: Jeanie Strech advised she still needs information from three members and will contact them. Jeanie stated she will provide membership updates on a quarterly basis. Karen noted that the Chapter guidelines and by-laws will be put on the website. Jeanie advised the Chapter dues are due October 1 and delinquent November 1. She suggested assessing a \$5 late fee if member dues are not paid before December 1. Discussion followed of reasons why some members may not have paid on time (financial issues, etc.) Barbara Flavin is drafting the 2011 handbook and will ask for any corrections before it is printed. It is desired to have all current members listed in the handbook but Tamara suggested if a member has not renewed by the handbook printing deadline (February 1) their name be dropped from the handbook. This topic will be placed in the newsletter for member information and consideration during the year for a final decision.

New member Sue Olson was welcomed.

Loretta Mateik brought the updated/current 2010 Chapter scrapbook to this meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Connie Oakley introduced guest Linda Romer a Stampin' Up teacher who taught a butterfly pin and greeting card project.

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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