

# The Painting



# Connection

Concord, California, U.S.A.

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

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**June 2010**



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Jann Otvos**

As most of you know, I have just returned (as in last night!) from a two and one half week trip to Greece. At this point it is hard to separate jet lag from culture shock. Spending time looking at the fruits of such an ancient civilization makes one realize that human beings have not changed much in the past 4,000 years. We saw incredible works of art and architecture, attended plays and read works of literature written long before the birth of Christ. We learned about the politics, religions, legal codes and daily life. Ancient civilization; yet still having the same wants, needs and desires as we have today. The sculpture, pottery and fresco paintings are amazing and many depict everyday life.

I know that the need to create has been a reoccurring theme in my messages, however it has never been so strongly reinforced in my mind as it was on this trip. It is overwhelming to see that so much time and so many resources were spent on purely decorative items, when one realizes that ancient life was short, hard and often brutal. Everyday clay pots used in cooking and other household tasks were painted, often crudely, but often with a high degree of skill. This pottery is found in small villages as well as palace grounds, demonstrating that people at all economic levels were creating.

As for modern Greece, we found the people warm and friendly. They are struggling with the same current economic crises we are and have the same extremists grabbing news coverage. The people we met and talked to are going to work every day, paying their bills, raising their kids and wondering what to cook for dinner just as we are. The biggest difference we found is that their English is flawless – from hotel bellboy to grocery store clerk. Also of note is that a member of our group tripped, cut her lip and required a couple of stitches. Our group leader called an ambulance – it arrived in less than 10

minutes. She was taken to the emergency room where she was seen, received her stitches and returned to our group via taxi in less than 1 1/2 hours --- all at no cost! She said that the hospital was very modern, the staff caring and very efficient and the doctor was really cute.

I had an amazing time, saw incredible things, met some wonderful people. I am glad to be home and am itching to paint. Oh – and by the way – I did find a box to paint that I just had to buy. No trip would be complete without finding something for your painting stash!

Jann

## PROGRAMS

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

Thank you Jeanie for teaching your “Santa’s Helper” project at our May meeting. We had a great turn out and many of you stayed to paint the project which turned out very nice.

Our project for June will be taught by Jann Otvos and will be a Winking Santa painted on a funnel. This project is a dry run for our Chapter’s Make-it and Take-it for the NCCC Retreat in September. Please bring your normal painting supplies. The cost of the project will be \$1.50.





## MEMBERSHIP

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

The last meeting was a huge success with 32 members attending.

While it is still early we have had 4 members respond to the membership questionnaire. Since it was my idea to get a better understanding of who we all are, I will go first.

I was born in Wheatland, Wyoming, August 6, 1947 to John and Dorathy Gollow. I was the second live child my Mother had, the other being my sister Juanita. We always called her Nita. We moved to California in the summer of 1953, and have been here ever since. My childhood was pretty uneventful. I graduated from Tomales High School in Tomales, CA. After graduation I went to the College of Marin to become a nurse's aide and then worked in Marin County for 4 years. I then entered the California College of Medical Affiliates in San Francisco to become a Surgical Technologist. Most of my adult life has been working in the medical field until 1988 when Carole Strech and I started a general craft store in Healdsburg where we specialized in Toile and Decorative painting for 16 years. We were forced into retirement from the Craft Palace in December 2004.

Ernie, (Carole's husband) Carole and I traveled to such places as Hawaii, The Caribbean, Alaska, Tahiti, and a great part of the USA. Carole passed away in June 2006. Ernie and I were married May 9, 2009.

I have been a member of the Wine Country Decorative Artists, The Toll Bridge Tolers, and recently the Red Hat Decorative Artists. I am an NCCC rep for the WCDA and the 2nd VP/membership for the TBT.

I have been painting for some 23 years and must say that Maureen McNaughton is my favorite teacher because of her technique. My favorite color is purple---any shade.

My favorite animal is a dachshund dog but I have had the following pets: birds, fawns, skunk, cows, ducks, geese and fish--seahorses, bettas, goldfish, guppies, angelfish and last but not least a box turtle.

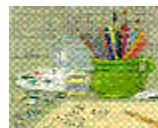
Well, now you have the rest of the Jeanie story. Hope you all enjoy the commentaries now and to come.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeanie Strech, 2nd VP/membership



## Seminars-PAINT-INS

Roz Borgerson and Connie Oakley



I have asked DJ West to bring in some shirt/sweatshirt designs to our next meeting. I have had several requests to have DJ teach another fabric class. If you would like to have a vote on what she teaches for our next paint-in, please join us at the June meeting.

I am in the process of working with Linda Sharp, who received her MDA Stroke Certification at National in May, to teach a paint-in. Congratulations Linda! Once we have met and I have some samples of projects, I will bring them to our meeting for the Chapter to select what project they would like to have taught.

If you have other projects/teachers you would like to be a paint-in, please let Roz or I know. Additionally, we just had Arlene Linton to our Chapter in February and we do not have another "Big Brush" scheduled in the future. Please let us know who you would like to come to the Chapter so we can find out their availability and start scheduling.

### Important Dates to Remember:

June 26, 2001 – Ferdinand & Croak Paint-in taught by Merlene Ryan 9:00 a.m., Plumbers Hall, Martinez





## CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FAIR

June 3,4,5,6

<http://www.contracostafair.com/>

The fair starts this Thursday June 3<sup>rd</sup> and runs through Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup>. Hope to see everyone there.

For those of you who have entered Exhibits this year, you may pick them up on the following dates:

- **June 7 Pick up Exhibits 10:00a.m. – 8:00p.m.**
- **June 8 Pick up Exhibits 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.**



## WAYS & MEANS

Liz Doran



At 11:30 AM Aug 28, 2010, we will have our 4th Charity Bunko at the Plumbers Hall, Martinez. Ticket price is \$25.00 and will be available at the June meeting.

Our theme this year will be "A Hukilau", when Hawaiians would gather their nets for a fishing party.

It will be a salad luncheon and Rosemarie will have a sign up sheet for salad and cookies at the June meeting. If you miss the meeting, Rose Marie will be calling you.

We need painted pieces or something you can donate to the raffle. You will be given 12 raffle tickets for each complete raffle prize. Our cut off date for tickets and raffle prizes is Aug 18, 2010. If you have any questions please give me a call.

Liz Doran

## PAINT FOR FREEDOM: PASS IT ON PROGRAM

I found 2 more Paint for Freedom card patterns in the Spring and Summer 2008 issues of the Decorative Painter Magazine. You may want to select one of those patterns, or create a design of your own. (Marianne)

## TOLL BRIDGE TOLERS BOARD MEETING

First Lutheran Church, Concord, CA  
May 18, 2010

PRESENT: Connie Oakley, Darlene Smith, Lisa Schall, Rose Marie Roza, Liz Doran, D. J. West, Marianne Simpson, Jeanie Strech, Karen Vecchi.

Connie called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in President Jann Otvos' absence. The agenda for the general meeting to follow was reviewed and finalized. Connie noted the main topic of discussion would be the configuration of the tables for the meeting. Roz Borgerson has suggested we have a greeter at the door to meet guests and introduce them to members. Follow-up after the meeting with these guests was suggested. Connie will ask for a volunteer to do this and possibly serve for three to six months at a time.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Darlene Smith, Secretary

## TOLL BRIDGE TOLERS GENERAL MEETING



First Lutheran Church  
May 18, 2010

The meeting was called to order by Connie Oakley in President Jann Otvos' absence at 7:40 pm with a quorum present. The minutes of the April meeting were approved as published in the May newsletter (D.J. West/D'Ann Hayes). The Treasurer's report was available for review.

Room Arrangement: Various room configurations had been previously discussed with pros and cons noted. Roz Borgerson has suggested having a volunteer door greeter

who would introduce guests to members and make them feel welcome. It was suggested this person serve for three to six months. After discussion it was agreed to add a line in the Hospitality book for a volunteer greeter at each meeting.

Correspondence: Connie read a thank you note from Delta Lamb for the Chapter's support following the loss of her husband. Karen Vecchi read a thank you note from Carl Larsen for the NCCC teacher's award he received.

Bunko: Liz Doran reminded us that the bunko party is August 28, 2010 at 11:30 am at the Plumbers' Hall in Martinez. Tickets remain at \$25 per person and will be available at the June meeting or contact Karen Vecchi. The theme is a "Hawaiian Hukilau". Rose Marie Roza will have a sign-up sheet at the June meeting for the salad luncheon. Raffle prizes are needed. Liz advised Loretta Mateik has donated a hand made pillow and Christmas wall hanging; Delta Lamb's daughter made an American flag afghan with flowers representing the 50 stars; Darlene Smith donated a painted floral tray; Jeanie Strech painted a summer tray; and Carl Larsen donated a painted plaque. Also exhibited was a painted child's rocking chair from Shirley Irwin for the Food Bank auction. August 18 is the cut off date for Bunko tickets and raffle prizes.

Publicity: Lisa Schall brought copies of the Discover Bay newsletter with a photo of the five painters from TBT who painted a door for Kaleidoscope.

County Fair: D.J. West has tickets tonight for fair helpers.

Seminars: Connie has the wood and ornaments for Merlene Ryan's moose project on June 26, 2010. She also has copies of Jeanie Strech's ornament frenzy 'basket ornament' for those who could not attend her painting party.

Phyllis Josephson announced that Jaime Price-Mills will have seminars again starting October 16-17 and October 23-24. Information is on her website at Between the Vines.

Jeanie shared photos of Carl Larsen's trunk seminar in May, 2011. She noted the project can also be done on wall plaques.

Connie asked that anyone with ideas for seminar teachers contact her by email.

Memory Boxes: Lucille Hart announced she delivered 10 boxes to the hospital and has three with no identifying information. She asked that the boxes be signed (full name), Toll Bridge Tolers and the year painted on each.

Awards and Recognition: Shirley Irwin presented awards to Tamara Mannon and D. J. West for painted pieces they donated for the Arlene Litton seminar and to Marianne Simpson for prepping memory boxes.

Special Drawing: The special drawing basket was won by Carrie Garret.

Donated Wood: A large amount of free wood was donated to the Chapter from a friend of Darlene Smith and Connie asked for the names of organizations for donation of any leftover pieces.

Charities: At Liz Doran's request D'Ann Hayes described the work of the Bay Area Crisis Nursery, one of the charities selected this year. The other charity is Meals on Wheels.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 pm to a Santa project taught by Jeanie Strech

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](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"

Lost: Agnes has lost a black apron that says "I survived the NCCC". It has a lady in curlers, apron, etc. on it. Agnes painted it back in 1996 or some where in that neighborhood. It was from the Redwood City Nunnery.

She is hoping that someone found it and picked it up from where ever she left it. It's been missing for quite a while. Agnes would love to have it back, to prove that she went! Please call Agnes @ 925-228-3266 if you found it and thanks so much for looking.



**Going to Seattle in Sept ?** If you would like to drive and share expenses instead of flying contact Merlene 925-754-7997 or D'Ann 925-457-7211.

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

### **June 5 and 6, 2010: Walnut Creek Chamber of Commerce Art & Wine**

Saturday, June 5, 11am-7pm, and Sunday, June 6, 11am-6pm., at spacious Heather Farm Park. Non-stop music & entertainment, art and crafts, wines & microbrews, festival fare, children's activities, and the crazy Grape Stomp.

**June 26, 2010: Mrs. Grossman's annual summer warehouse sale.** 9 to 3 (six hours only!). This is always a huge happening and everyone, from our employees to our shoppers, love this event.

**July 17 and 18, 2010: Carl Larsen Hungarian Style Folk Art Chest** seminar in Fair Oaks. If anyone wants info they can contact, Carl, Jeanie Strech or Jann Otvos.

**Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano County:**  
The food bank lady - Kathy Gleason, emailed me with the link to their auction fund raiser. The site is quite impressive and I think everyone should check it out: [theeventofthesummer.com](http://theeventofthesummer.com). I'm thinking Jay and I might have to check it out.

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.

## **SUNSHINE**

Genie Miller

### **June**

6/7	Merlene Ryan
6/12	Vicki Gardiner
6/14	Bev Canty
6/15	Barbara Flavin
6/19	Virginia Davison
6/20	Cookie Tillman
6/21	Kathy Prewitt
6/25	Darlene Smith
6/26	Agnes Ketterman Dobert
6/26	Linda Sharp

### **July**

7/1	Liz Little
7/4	Cathy McCaughey
7/15	Barbara Stierwalt
7/22	Eleanor Metzgar
7/27	Patricia Barcelona
7/29	Carrie Garrett

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: Liz Doran, Darlene Smith and Luci Flynn

Beverages: D.J. West and Barbara Bouchet

Ice: Barbara Bouchet

Greeter: Robin Achterberg

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  
[jjotvos@comcast.net](mailto:jjotvos@comcast.net)  
 1<sup>st</sup> V.P., Prog. Connie Oakley 925-825-3851  
[oakley1@lntl.gov](mailto:oakley1@lntl.gov)  
 2<sup>nd</sup> V.P., Mem. Jeanie Strech 707-838-6489  
[jeaniepaints@comcast.net](mailto:jeaniepaints@comcast.net)  
 Secretary Darlene Smith 925-689-8557  
[dsmi@astound.net](mailto:dsmi@astound.net)  
 Treasurer Karen Vecchi 925-228-0409  
[Karenvecchi@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Karenvecchi@sbcglobal.net)  
 Newsletter Marianne Simpson 925-754-1362  
[maritoler@comcast.net](mailto:maritoler@comcast.net)  
 Ways & Means Liz Doran 925-634-5137

**Committee Chairpersons**

N.C.C.C. Rep. Jann Otvos 925-706-8365  
[jjotvos@comcast.net](mailto:jjotvos@comcast.net)  
 Karen Vecchi 925-228-0409  
[karenvecchi@sbcglobal.net](mailto:karenvecchi@sbcglobal.net)  
 Barbara Flavin 925-779-9596  
[hlpinghand@aol.com](mailto:hlpinghand@aol.com)  
 Sunshine Genie Miller 510-223-5148  
[millereugenia@att.net](mailto:millereugenia@att.net)

Handbook Karen Vecchi 925-228-0409  
[karenvecchi@sbcglobal.net](mailto:karenvecchi@sbcglobal.net)  
 Historian Loretta Mateik 707-782-1082  
[lmateik@comcast.net](mailto:lmateik@comcast.net)  
 Seminars/Paint-in Roz Borgerson 925-825-6547  
[Rogerroz1@astound.net](mailto:Rogerroz1@astound.net)  
 Connie Oakley 925-825-3851  
[Oakley1@lntl.gov](mailto:Oakley1@lntl.gov)  
 Rewards & Recognition Shirley Irwin 925-458-3454  
[shirleyirwin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:shirleyirwin@sbcglobal.net)  
 County Fair DJ West 925-679-0676  
[debrwst@aol.com](mailto:debrwst@aol.com)  
 Librarian Lucille Hart 925-672-4169  
[Lhart32@astound.net](mailto:Lhart32@astound.net)  
 Community Projects Merlene Ryan 925-754-7997  
[Merlener@comcast.net](mailto:Merlener@comcast.net)  
 Parliamentarian Connie Oakley 925-825-3851  
[Oakley1@lntl.gov](mailto:Oakley1@lntl.gov)  
 Publicity Tamara Mannon 925-676-5492  
[temann@att.net](mailto:temann@att.net)  
 Hospitality Barbara Bouchet 925-682-5312  
[Audret9@hotmail.com](mailto:Audret9@hotmail.com)  
 Nominating Lisa Schall 925-699-4226  
[Tjschall01@yahoo.com](mailto:Tjschall01@yahoo.com)  
 Decorative Painting Jo Iaconis 925-432-6832  
 Month – East Cty [iaconis@comcast.net](mailto:iaconis@comcast.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



## MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONNAIRE

SDP # \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter affiliations \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ alt \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Married \_\_\_\_\_ Single \_\_\_\_\_ Divorced \_\_\_\_\_ Widowed \_\_\_\_\_ How long to any question \_\_\_\_\_

If married husbands name \_\_\_\_\_

Do you work \_\_\_\_\_ Retired \_\_\_\_\_ What is /was your work \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have children \_\_\_\_\_ Boys \_\_\_\_\_ Girls \_\_\_\_\_ Their names \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have Grandchildren \_\_\_\_\_ How many \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite pets...Dogs \_\_\_\_\_ Cats \_\_\_\_\_ Horses \_\_\_\_\_ Pigs \_\_\_\_\_ Birds \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Painting how long \_\_\_\_\_

Any offices held in the Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a teacher \_\_\_\_\_ what medium \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite tole painting teacher/artist and why \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Favorite paint color \_\_\_\_\_ Favorite brush or painting tool \_\_\_\_\_

Painting goal or dream \_\_\_\_\_

Hobbies other than painting \_\_\_\_\_

Please give any other information that might be of interest to fellow Chapter members.

Please sign this form if you give us permission

to use this interview in the newsletter \_\_\_\_\_