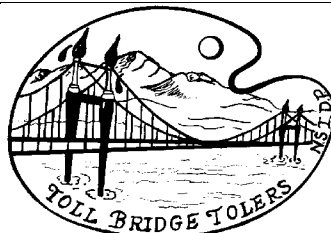


The Painting



Concord, California, U.S.A.

Connection

A Monthly Newsletter
Trish Bertolucci, Editor
Loretta Mateik, Webmaster
Website: www.tollbridgetolers.org
P.O Box 2671
Martinez, CA 94553

February

2017

Issue Number 2



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Cathy McCaughey
President

Hope everyone survived the January storms with minimal damage. On to sunnier skies in February after our much needed rain. If you read the minutes from our last chapter meeting you will learn that we have two meetings where we will be painting community service projects as a chapter. Our March Saturday meeting we will be painting Canvas Bags to donate to a battered women's shelter and at our April evening meeting Lisa Schall will have us paint stroke angels on marbles for Kaleidoscope to place in their baskets of Hope for people diagnosed with cancer. Please join us if you can for these wonderful activities to support very worthy groups in our community. In addition all members need to look over the handout Jann Otvos prepared (thank you Jann!) and that was passed out at the January meeting and included in this newsletter. At our February meeting we will need a show of hands and a head count of how many people would participate in a painting cruise in November. Remember family and friends are invited to join the cruise. We need to see if this is a feasible trip for our chapter or not (a Go or no Go). If it is feasible, we will then decide among

those who will be participating on dates and who we would want to teach painting sessions on the cruise.

We had a wonderful painting seminar in January with Carolyn Silvas with her Giraffes painted on an acrylic surface. The potato and dessert bar were delicious. Great job Merlene and Carrie!

Happy Valentine's Day.

Happy Chinese New Year (Year of the Rooster).

Cathy McCaughey



PROGRAMS

Marianne Simpson
1st Vice President

I wanted to send a big "Thank You" to Karen Vecchi for teaching some wonderful ornaments using Laurie Speltz background techniques at our January meeting. Fun was had by all! Jann Otvos will be teaching our February program which will be a tile coaster using alcohol inks. The cost of the project will be \$1.50 and Jann will provide everything needed. All you have to bring are your regular

painting supplies including a 10 or 12 flat, a small round (3 or 4) and a good liner brush. You may also want to bring a pair of latex gloves as the alcohol ink will stain your hands.

I've seen this coaster in person and it is very nice. It's going to be a fun project so I hope to see everyone there.



Marianne Simpson



MEMBERSHIP

Karen Vecchi
2nd Vice President

We welcomed new member Debbie Trapp last month. She is taking advantage of the first-time member special pricing offered by Decorative Painters Society. We are really happy to welcome her to our chapter. Please invite a friend or colleague to join us for a meeting or painting event and share our love of decorative painting.

Handbooks were handed out at the January meeting and Giraffe painting seminar. There are a couple of corrections that need to be made. I apologize for misspelling Sally Colclough's last name – please correct the spelling to Colclough. Also on page 4 – the Chapter Calendar for the March meeting we will **not** have the Easter Exchange so please delete just the Easter Exchange. The County Fair has been moved up to mid-May and it conflicts with our Saturday meeting so we will not be hosting a Kids-Make-It-Take on May 21st or any event that weekend but please plan to submit projects for display at the fair. I have printed out labels with our new member Debbie Trapp's information that you can add to your handbook. I will have Handbooks at the February meeting for anyone who did not receive one.

This year, the chapter is offering a trial membership for any new member in 2017. The new members pays \$15 for the 2017 chapter dues and TBT will pay \$30 for the trial membership dues. The trial membership does not include

the hard copy of the SDP magazine but the magazine can be accessed on-line. More information is available on the website

<http://decorativepainters.org/proddetail.php?prod=Triamber17>. Chapter dues are \$15 for 2017 and the National renewal dues are \$55. You can access the Membership Application form on our website at www.tollbridgetolers.org. Mail a check and form to Toll Bridge Tolers, P.O. Box 2671, Martinez, CA 94553 or bring it to a meeting. The Society of Decorative Painters website is www.decorativepainters.org to renew or join. The National dues are done through the Craft and Hobby Association

Karen Vecchi



WAYS AND MEANS

Trish Bertolucci

At our January meeting the special drawing prize was a handmade wooden cutting board and cheese spreaders made by Jay Otvos and also some spinach dip. The prize was donated by Jann Otvos. The lucky winner was Marianne Simpson.

I passed around a sign-up sheet for the special drawings for the year of 2017 and we will have prizes for the whole year. Our chapter is so generous. Thank you to everyone who signed up.

Trish Bertolucci



SEMINARS

Merlene Ryan, Carrie Garrett and Cathy McCaughey

We had another successful seminar on the 21st. Thank you Carolyn Silva for a really fun, informative day. Thanks especially to Carrie Garrett and Cathy McCaughey for helping with lunch and set up. And more thanks to all who brought things for lunch and helped clean up. I have a good job because of all of you.

I need suggestions for next year. It's not too early to ask an artist and to do the scheduling.

Merlene, Carrie and Cathy



COMMUNITY SERVICE

Roz Borgerson

Hello painting friends. I have not heard from Contra Costa Regional Medical Center, so all is well with memory boxes, but would like to build up a reserve. So PLEASE CALL ME. I have many unpainted boxes you can paint. Please do not buy your own. You can call me at (925) 825-6547 to come pick some up.

Roz Borgerson



AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Shirley Irwin

The award that was handed out at the January meeting was to Marianne Simpson for working on the Christmas Installation dinner.

If you would like to see someone get recognition for doing something extra special for the chapter, please let me know.

Shirley Irwin



TOLL BRIDGE TOLERS CRUISIN' TO MEXICO INFORMATION

Jann Otvos

Toll Bridge Toler Cruise
Planned for October/November 2017
Options/Prices/Considerations

QUESTIONNAIRE AT THE END OF THE NEWSLETTER. PLEASE FILL OUT AND RETURN TO JANN OTVOS FOR INPUT ON CRUISE AND CHOICES.

*Plan on passports being required on all cruises to Mexico, despite what may be said in literature.

*Airfare is not included in prices

*Tips are not included in prices

*Shore excursions are not included in prices

*Drinks are not included

*All prices are per person based on double occupancy

*Price not fixed or guaranteed until final booking paid in full.

Carnival Cruises

Ship leaves from Long Beach dock. Transfer from LAX to Long Beach dock for Carnival Cruises is \$30.00/dock to airport - return is another \$30.00.

Interior rooms sleep from 2 to 5 people and have either queen bed or twin with upper pullman bed and/or sofa bed.

3 day Ensenada – Nov 3- Nov 6 (Friday to Monday) – aboard Carnival Inspiration

Interior room = \$309.08

Ocean view = \$359.08

Suite = \$634.08

4 day Ensenada – Nov 5-Nov 10 (Sunday – Thursday) – aboard Carnival Imagination. Includes stop at Catalina.

Interior room = \$337.94

Ocean view = \$387.94

Suite = \$697.94

****Carnival Cruise line does not offer a guaranteed or reserved private painting room. Area where we can paint may or may not be available and advance notice of room availability is not offered.

Princess Cruises

4 day Ensenada – Nov 17-Nov 21 (Saturday-Tuesday) – aboard Emerald Princess. Includes stop at Catalina. Pricing includes transfer from LAX to Long Beach dock.

Interior room = \$584.00

Ocean view = \$684.00

Balcony = \$834.00

Suite = \$984.00

7 day San Francisco, Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, Ensenada, San Diego, San Francisco – Oct 15- Oct 22 (Sun-Sun) – aboard the Grand Princess

Pricing includes \$100.00 per person ship board credit.

Interior room = \$884.00

Oceanview = \$1004.00

Balcony = \$1134.00

****Princess will reserve and guarantee a private room for painting. Fee will be approximately \$50.00 per day. Audio/visual equipment also available for approx. \$40.00.

There is no complimentary cabin. If 8 cabins (16 people) reserve, a group booking rate can apply:

Interior room = \$784.00
Oceanview = \$984.00
Balcony = \$1084.00

Pricing includes \$25.00 per person ship board credit.

Jann Otvos



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FAIR INFORMATION

Karen Vecchi and Luci Flynn

The County Fair is May 18th to May 21st. Please plan on submitting completed projects to the fair this year. There is no cost to submit a project and it keeps the decorative art category viable as well as sharing our art with others. The application will be available soon and the forms are generally due a month or so before the fair. We will not be hosting any children's programs this year since we have a Saturday meeting and painting project scheduled for May 20th. So, get some varnish on those projects so they are ready for the Fair.

Karen and Luci



ANNUAL BUNKO FUNDRAISER

Karen Vecchi and Connie Oakley

The Bunko date has been set for Saturday, August 26, 2017 so mark your calendars!

It is never too early to donate to the Bunko raffle. Connie has agreed to Chair Bunko and will be coordinating the event for us again this year. Yeah! Karen will be collecting the raffle prizes. The prizes can be painted or handmade items or gift cards (something you would like to win). There is a donation form on our website which really helps us keep track of the prizes. We have a very generous chapter and this one event funds the donations to our chosen charities. Our President Cathy is asking for nominations for charities to consider at our next meeting. Bunko will be at the Plumber's Hall in Martinez and includes lunch, bunko and a raffle. Tickets are \$25 and everyone is invited to join us – friends, family, and co-workers. Please let Connie or Karen know if you have any questions.

Connie & Karen

TOLL BRIDGE TOLERS BOARD MEETING

First Lutheran Church, Concord CA
January 21, 2017

Present: Cathy McCaughey, Karen Vecchi, Darlene Smith, Marianne Simpson, Shirley Irwin, Barbara Bouchet, Trish Bertolucci, Carrie Garrett, Loretta Mateik, Liz Little, Jan Voester

President Cathy McCaughey called the meeting to order at 6:45 pm. She distributed cruise information provided by Jann Otvos, asking everyone to review the information. The options will be included in the February newsletter with a vote at the February meeting on whether the cruise is a go.

Cathy received an email from Loretta Mateik indicating Vicki Gardiner's sister-in-law would like to attend a meeting to sell patterns from Vicki for \$.50 each. The Board members discussed this and it was the consensus that we are not interested, but will bring it to the General meeting for discussion.

Cathy advised Jeanie Strech has a lot of painting supplies to give away and suggested those interested carpool to her home in Windsor with lunch provided. She sent some surfaces and paints to the meeting to be given away.

Christmas Dinner: Cathy received positive feedback about Mangia Bene in Martinez and going there again this year.

The meeting adjourned at 6:56 pm

TOLL BRIDGE TOLERS GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

First Lutheran Church, Concord, CA
January 21, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Cathy McCaughey with a quorum present. The minutes of the November 15, 2016 meeting were approved as published in the December newsletter (Shirley Irwin/Sally Colclough).

President's Report: Debbie Trapp was welcomed as a new member. A thank you note was received from the National Museum of Decorative Painting for our donation in Vicki Gardiner's memory. A thank you note was received from the Bay Area Crisis Nursery for our donation. Jeanie Strech sent some items to the meeting to give away and also has invited members to her home in Windsor to take other items she is giving away. She will provide lunch. Cathy suggested carpooling and a note will be placed in the newsletter. Vicki Gardiner's sister-in-law, Nancy Salmon, contacted Loretta Mateik regarding attending a TBT meeting to sell Vicki's patterns for \$.50 each. This was discussed and agreed that we are not interested as most members are downsizing and do not even take items

given for free. Cathy will send her a response and a note will be placed in the newsletter for anyone interested in contacting Nancy directly.

Cathy distributed cruise information compiled by Jann Otvos for October/November 2017. She asked that members review the information on various trips for a final decision at the February meeting. Direct any questions to Jann. Family members are welcome to participate. Nominations for our 2017 charities are requested at the February meeting. Karen noted at least 80% of the proceeds must go to the charity's work. The location for the Christmas dinner was discussed and it was agreed to return to Mangia Bene in Martinez in 2017. Darlene Smith thanked everyone who donated items for the First Lutheran Church/Preschool crab feed raffle.

First VP - Programs: Marianne Simpson advised the Saturday, March 18, meeting will consist of painting tote bags for the Battered Women's organization in Brentwood and Concord. The bags will be provided and everyone was asked to bring personal items to include in the bags they paint, i.e., shampoo, lotions, socks, toothpaste and tooth brushes, slippers, etc. Also, bring patterns to the meeting. Shirley Irwin offered to donate fabric paint for the projects. It was agreed that everyone is to bring their own lunch and a dessert to share. It was unanimously decided to not do an Easter ornament exchange this year.

Second VP - Membership: Karen Vecchi reported we now have 37 members. New members this year are to pay the \$30 membership dues to SDP and be reimbursed by the Chapter.

The Treasurer's report will be provided at the February meeting.

Ways and Means: Trish advised the Special Drawing prize was provided by Jann Otvos and consists of a cutting board and cheese spreader crafted by Jay Otvos and an artichoke dip from Jann. Trish passed around a sign-up sheet for Special Drawing prizes for 2017.

Hospitality: Barbara Bouchet passed out the sign-up sheet for the February and April meetings.

Bunko: Members were asked to start painting items for the August 26th Bunko fundraiser. Karen Vecchi and Connie Oakley are the coordinators.

Seminars: Carolyn Silvas will be teaching the giraffes reverse painting on plexiglass class this Saturday, January 21st, with a potato bar lunch. Carrie Garrett is coordinating the food items.

Awards and Recognition: Shirley Irwin presented an award to Marianne Simpson for her work on the Christmas dinner.

County Fair: Karen advised the fair will be held on May 20 and 21. As our regular meeting falls on Saturday, May

20th, it was agreed we will not teach the children's classes this year. Members were encouraged to enter items in the fair. D. J. West noted she attended the State Fair last year and there were no entries in our categories.

Special Drawing: Marianne Simpson won the prize provided by Jann and Jay Otvos.

2017 Chapter Handbook: Karen passed out the 2017 Handbooks.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm to the snowman/penguin ornaments program taught by Karen Vecchi.



NEWSLETTER

Trish Bertolucci

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.**

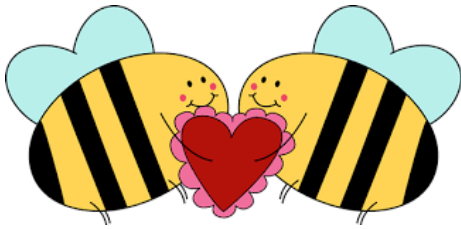
I try my best to keep up to date on member's email addresses. However, if you are not receiving your newsletter notification, please contact me as I may have old or incorrect information. Please send any e-mail or address changes to me at TBTNewsletter@comcast.net.

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 Trish Bertolucci at TBTNewsletter@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.



SUNSHINE
Holley Yarberry

We're saddened by the passing of Shirley Irwin's daughter Darla. We are keeping her in our hearts and prayers.



February 2017 Birthdays

Roz Borgerson	2/02
Terri Hallock	2/09
Lucille Hart	2/18
Shirley Irwin	2/19
Holley Yarberry	2/26

March 2017 Birthdays

Jan Voester	3/11
Jann Otvos	3/14
Rosemarie Roza	3/17
Wendy Oliver	3/18
Vivian Roubal	3/19
DJ West	3/22
Lisette Jones	3/25

The best way to contact me is either on my cell # (925) 890-7691 & leave a message or to send me an email at L.yarberry42@comcast.net as I may be traveling.

Holley Yarberry



HOSPITALITY
Barbara Bouchet

Thank you to everyone who signed up for snacks and drinks for our February meeting on the 21st.

Snacks: Sally Colclough, Debbie Trapp,
Liz Little and Carrie Garrett
Drinks: Karen Vecchi, Loretta Mateik
and Luci Flynn
Ice: Barbara Bouchet

Barbara Bouchet



TBT 2017 IMPORTANT DATES

- February 21- TBT Meeting- Jann Otvos-Multi Media Project
- Feb. 26 to March 3- Creative Painting Convention Las Vegas, NV
- March 18- TBT Saturday meeting Painting canvas bags for donation
- April 18- TBT Meeting Lisa Schall-Kaleidoscope Stroke Work Angels on 1/2" acrylics marbles
- May 16-20- SDP's International Conference and Expo Daytona Beach, FL
- May 20- TBT Saturday Meeting- Ferguson the Frog Wine Glass
- June 20- TBT Meeting Cathy McCaughey- Dandelion T-shirt
- July – Date TBD- BBQ at Loretta's
- August 14-19- Heart of Ohio Toile 37th Convention, "Cooking Up Some Painting Fun", Columbus, OH
- August 26- TBT Annual Bunko Fundraiser Plumber's Hall, Martinez CA
- September 9- TBT Saturday Meeting-Jann Otvos Turkey on a Pumpkin on shirt, or canvas bag etc.
- September 13-17- Paint a Season of Memories Conference and Expo Portland, Oregon
- October 17 – TBT Meeting Liz Little Halloween Project
- October 23-28- Oklahoma City Painting Palooza, "Witchy Wonders", Midwest City, OK
- November 19- TBT Planning meeting for 2018
- November 21- TBT Meeting DJ West
- December 19- Installation Dinner

**Please check websites for confirmation of dates and locations, as one of the conferences changed dates from what they originally published. We are just collating data from websites of possible events chapter members may be interested in attending



TIPS, HINTS AND HELPS TRADING POST

This portion of the newsletter is to help out our fellow painters with hints, tips, shortcuts or whatever we can share to help each other become better painters! If you find something that helped you, send it to Trish Bertolucci at berts4@comcast.net and she will make sure it goes into the newsletter the following month! We can always use a little help.

TRADING POST****

At the January meeting Jeanie Strech sent a few boxes of free items and paint with Loretta and Jann that everyone got to choose from. A note received from Jeanie was read. She has been cleaning out several cupboards and discovered many items that she thinks chapter members may be interested in.

The items include and are not limited to:

Pine boughs	Pine swags
Slat boxes (various sizes)	Plastic Ornaments
Nutcrackers (large and small)	Wooden Angel
Ornaments (turned)	
Mini Snowmen	Various wood pieces
Watercolor paper	

She suggests if several people are interested in the items to get together, select a date when a car pool can be formed to go to Windsor and she will have everything on display. Confirm the date and time with Jeanie first. The items are free and she said she would provide lunch as well for people who drive up.

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	Cathy McCaughey Cbrazil73@aol.com	925-682-5311
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2 nd V.P., Mem.	Karen Vecchi Karenvecchi@sbcglobal.net	925-228-0409
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Ways & Means	Trish Bertolucci berts4@comcast.net	925-625-1439

Committee Chairpersons

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	Karen Vecchi karenvecchi@sbcglobal.net	925-228-0409
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Hospitality	Barbara Bouchet Audret9@hotmail.com	925-682-5312
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East County-	Cathy McCaughey Cbrazil73@aol.com	925-682-5311
Website	Loretta Mateik lmateik@comcast.net	707-782-1082

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



Toll Bridge Tolers Cruise Questionnaire

Please review the following cruise information carefully and return this questionnaire at the February monthly meeting or via email (jjotvos@comcast.net). If the group decides to go on a cruise, we will need to get our reservation and deposits into the cruise lines in March.

Circle the appropriate line, indicating your preference and the number of people who will be cruising with you. Family and friends are welcome.

Carnival 3 day Ensenada – Nov 3-Nov 6

Yes I want to take this cruise

No I do not want to take this cruise

Carnival 4 day Ensenada – Nov 5-Nov 10

Yes I want to take this cruise

No I do not want to take this cruise

Princess 4 day Ensenada – Nov 17-Nov 21

Yes I want to take this cruise

No I do not want to take this cruise

Princess 7 day San Francisco – Oct 15-Oct 22

Yes I want to take this cruise

No I do not want to take this cruise

Please circle all that apply. We will compile the responses and report the results at the February meeting.