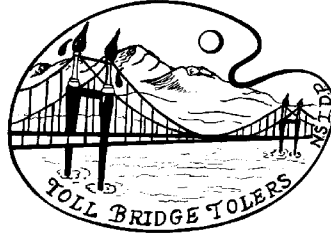


The Painting



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



2017
Issue
Number 3



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Cathy McCaughey
President

For those members who cannot come to our evening meetings due to work or driving at night concerns, we are meeting this month on Saturday March 18th at the First Lutheran Church for our community service project of painting and filling canvas bags to donate to battered women's shelters in the community. This is a time to paint, eat and socialize and we hope to see you at the meeting. Also, this month we will be voting on the nominated charities for 2017, so if you cannot attend the meeting, please let one of the officers know your selection.

I have heard from members who cannot attend meetings that they are kept well informed of what is going on in the group by reading the monthly newsletter, so big high fives to Trish Bertolucci and Loretta Mateik for their tireless efforts to keep the newsletter and web page up and running.

If you are joining us on the seven day Princess cruise out of San Francisco in October, please check in with Jann Otvos for details. Your deposit for the cruise is due this month. We will not be publishing specific details in the newsletter as they only apply to certain members.

There are lots of opportunities to stay involved in the chapter even if you can't attend meetings regularly. We have our annual Bunko fundraiser coming up again in August where any help with set up, donated raffle prizes, clean up and providing a salad or dessert is essential to keep this event running as smoothly as it does. Also, the Contra Costa County Fair is earlier this year, and although we will not be doing a painting project with kids, we do want to encourage members to submit items they have painted so that we can continue to have various categories that represent painting. Please read the article in the newsletter and consider entering the fair. Celebrating clearer skies, warmer weather and St Patrick's Day with an Irish blessing (since we can never receive enough blessings in our lives). "May good luck be with you wherever you go and your blessings outnumber the shamrocks that grow."

Cathy McCaughey



PROGRAMS
Marianne Simpson
1st Vice President

Our February meeting was a huge success thanks to Jann Otvos for teaching us a multi-media project using tile and

alcohol inks to make some beautiful coasters. We had a great turn out and everyone really enjoyed themselves. Be sure to check out the website for pictures of all the happy members with their coasters. Again "THANK YOU" Jann, you always have wonderful new creative ideas to share! Our March program is on Saturday, March 18th, where we will be painting canvas bags to donate to the battered woman's shelter. Karen is donating the canvas bags, so all you need to bring are your regular painting supplies and any patterns you have to share to paint on the bags. We also need fabric paint so if you have some to share, please bring them. This year we decided that each member painting a bag should bring personal hygiene products to fill their bag or bags with depending on how many bags you intend to paint. Listed below are some suggestions:

Brushes

Combs

Shampoo, Cream Rinse

Soap

Toothbrush, toothpaste

Socks, slipper socks

Lotion

Kleenex

Lip Gloss

(And whatever else you may think of. Most of these items can be found at your local Dollar stores.)

The meeting will be held at our regular meeting place from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM so bring your lunch and if you wish, some dessert to share. Hope to see everyone there.

Marianne Simpson



MEMBERSHIP

Karen Vecchi
2nd Vice President

We welcome any new or returning members who have not renewed for 2017. 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 the 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

We had two special drawings at our February meeting. The first one was a beautiful two-sided recipe stand hand painted by Holley Yarberry. It was won by Cathy McCaughey. Our second prize was a set of charger plates and glasses that were painted for our anniversary party and was won by Carrie Garrett. The prizes were donated by the chapter.

Trish Bertolucci



SEMINARS

Merlene Ryan, Carrie Garrett and Cathy McCaughey

The last meeting sounded like we had to have an ornament frenzy. Taking out all the maybe cruise times, we looked at September. Liz got the Plumber's Hall for us on September 30th. It will be a mini version of 4 ornaments and lunch. Price will be lower (\$28, I hope) and home earlier (end about 6 o'clock).

Help needed. To make this work I need 4 volunteers to teach and 4 or 5 to do food. Teacher will need to submit ornament for viewing /approval. If more than 4 are submitted, we will vote. You will need to e-mail instructions for prep and finishing, picture, line drawing, paint list, info on wood and any additions. My committee will do all the copying and ordering. Any questions, you can email me or call me at r.merlene@yahoo.com 925-754-7997.

Merlene, Carrie and Cathy



AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Shirley Irwin

The awards that were handed out at our February meeting were:

Jann Otvos for painting decorations for our Christmas party

Connie Oakley for doing the 20th Anniversary party

Please let me know if you would like to recognize one of the chapter members for doing something extra!

Shirley Irwin



TOLL BRIDGE TOLERS CRUISIN' TO MEXICO INFORMATION

Jann Otvos

Members filled out their cruise preference forms at the February monthly TBT meeting. I have compiled them and prepared a spreadsheet, which shows a very close vote between the Carnival 4-day cruise from Nov. 3rd-Nov. 6th and the Princess 7-day cruise from Oct. 15-Oct 22 with the 7 day cruise winning by a slim margin. Please review the result spreadsheet and the cruise information sheets are included in this newsletter and let me know of any errors, changes or additions immediately. I will be meeting with our travel agent on March 8th to get information on our next step in the booking process. As a reminder, friends and family are invited to join us, so let me know how many people would like to sail with us as soon as possible.

Toll Bridge Tolars Cruise							
Member	3 Day Carnival	4 Day Carnival	4 Day Princess	7 Day Princess		No Reply	
Trish Bertolucci	N	N	N	N		x	
Roz Borgerson	N	N	N	N		x	
Barbara Bouchet		Y					
Sally Colclough	N	N	N	N			
Liz Doran							
Luci Flynn			N	N		X	
Carrie Garrett	N	N	N	Y			
Terri Hallock						*	
Lucille Hart						*	
Shirley Irwin						*	
Lisette Jones						*	
Agnes Ketterman-Dobert				2		x	
Liz Little	N	N	N	2		x	
Roni Marks	N	N	N	N		x	
Loretta Mateik	N	N	N	1		x	
Janet McCarthy							
Cathy McCaughey	2	2	2	2		x	
Connie Oakley		Y					
Wendy Oliver						*	
Suzanne Olsen	N	N	N	N			
Jann Otvos	2	2	2	2		x	
Sue Plantania						*	
Jeanne Press						*	
Vivian Roubal			2	2	N		
Rose Marie Roza						*	
Merlene Ryan				N			
Lisa Schall						*	
Sue Shimansky						*	
Marianne Simpson	2	2	2	?		*	
Donna Singer							
Darlene Smith	N	N	N	N			
Debbie Trapp		Y					
Pam Vandaveer						*	
Karen Vecchi	N	N	N	N			
Jan Voester				2		x	
DJ West	2	2	2	N			
Holley Yarberry						*	
Jeanie Stretch				2		x	
Unknown				Y			
Yes Votes	4	8	5	9			
No Votes	8	8	9	8		14	

QUESTIONNAIRE AT THE END OF THE NEWLETTER. 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
Oceanview = \$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 sign up and submit items to show at the fair. Merlene has offered to drop off the items and can pick them up after the fair. The Still Life Exhibit Handbook is available on-line (<http://contracostafair.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/2017-Still-Exhibit-Handbook.pdf>).

You will be able to sign up on line or you can mail in the form. Anyone can submit, even those from other counties, so put those last little touches on your piece and get some varnish on it so it will be ready for the Fair. Karen and Luci



ANNUAL BUNKO FUNDRAISER

Karen Vecchi and Connie Oakley

Thank you to Cathy and Darlene for submitting wonderful bunko raffle prizes. We hope to get many more donations. The prizes can be painted or handmade items or gift cards (something you would like to win). Please include a donation form, available on the TBT website, when you turn in your raffle prize. Proceeds from the raffle will go to charities. We will be choosing the charities at the next meeting. Be sure to save the date on

your calendar now – Saturday, August 26, 2017. Bunko will be held 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

SOCIETY OF DECORATIVE PAINTERS CONFERENCE



TOLL BRIDGE TOLERS BOARD MEETING

First Lutheran Church, Concord CA
February 21, 2017

Present: Cathy McCaughey, Darlene Smith, D. J. West, Shirley Irwin, Barbara Bouchet, Trish Bertolucci, Jann Otvos, Marianne Simpson, Karen Vecchi, Luci Flynn, Liz Little, Carrie Garrett

President Cathy McCaughey called the meeting to order at 6:45 pm. She reviewed the agenda for the general meeting to follow to include charity nominations for 2017 and information on the proposed cruise in November.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.

TOLL BRIDGE TOLERS GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

First Lutheran Church, Concord, CA
February 21, 2017

Meeting was called to order by President Cathy McCaughey at 7:00 pm with a quorum present. The minutes of the January meeting were approved as printed

in the February newsletter (Barbara Bouchet/Debbie Trapp).

Announcement: Cathy brought some containers left at the Carolyn Silvas seminar lunch.

Guest: Liz Little introduced her mother, Carolyn.

Correspondence: Cathy read a note from Carolyn Silvas thanking us for attending her giraffe class and the lunch. Several members ordered her turtle project and the materials were passed out.

2017 Charity Nominations: Darlene Smith nominated the Food Bank of Contra Costa/Solano and Community Concern for Cats and shared information about each charity. Luci Flynn nominated Newberry's B.L.O.C.K., a non-profit organization providing underprivileged children the opportunity to participate in sports through scholarships, fundraising events, and community outreach. Cathy McCaughey nominated First Lutheran Church to receive \$300 each year for allowing us to use the church facility for our meetings. The information on the other three charities will be included in the March newsletter for voting at the March meeting. It was noted we usually select two charities each year based on the profits from the Bunco fundraiser.

2nd V.P.-Membership: Karen Vecchi passed out new 2017 handbooks noting two corrections—the correct spelling of Sally Colclough's name and the addition of new member Debbie Trapp. She also advised we now have 37 members.

Treasurer: Jann Otvos advised the current report is available in the binder for review.

Cruise: Jann discussed the information she provided on the proposed cruise in November and asked that the interest form be returned to her indicating whether the members planned to participate or not. She needs the information as soon as possible and a deposit by the March meeting.

Community Projects: Trish Bertolucci advised she has not heard back from the hospital regarding the lily pads and asked for any ideas for another hospital to contact, such as Shriners or Stanford.

Bunco: Four raffle prizes were brought this evening, three painted items from Darlene and a tote bag from Cathy. Connie Oakley has agreed to be in charge again this year.

Seminars: Merlene Ryan recommended if we do not do the cruise that we hold an ornament frenzy this year. It was suggested that we do both with an abbreviated frenzy with three ornaments and a potluck lunch. Teachers were asked to bring suggested ornaments to the March meeting.

County Fair: Karen advised that fair entries are being accepted as of March 1, 2017. There is no charge for

entries. Up to eight items may be entered in four categories including a fine art category. The entry form should be on line soon. The fair is May 20-21, 2017 and we will not be teaching children this year as our regular May meeting falls on the 20th.

Hospitality: Barbara Bouchet passed out the sign-up book for April and June. March is a Saturday meeting and everyone is to bring their own lunch and desserts to share if they wish.

Awards and Recognition: Shirley Irwin presented awards to Jann Otvos for her help with the Christmas party decorations and Connie Oakley for the 20th Anniversary party.

Ways and Means: Trish advised there are two special drawing prizes tonight – a reversible recipe stand painted by Holley Yarberrry (\$3 each for tickets) and painted charger plates and glasses from the 20th Anniversary party (\$1.00 tickets).

1st V.P.-Programs: Marianne Simpson reminded we will be painting tote bags for the Battered Women's Shelters at the March meeting and asked that patterns and fabric paints be brought. Shirley advised she will donate fabric paints. Skinny designs are requested and the dimensions will be in the March newsletter. Members were also reminded to purchase personal items to put in their bags and the Dollar Store was recommended.

SDP: Cathy passed out convention information and advised she has received an SDP Tool Kit to help publicize the Chapter to get new members.

Special Drawings: The recipe stand was won by Cathy McCaughey and the charger plates/glasses by Carrie Garrett.

The meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm to the alcohol ink program taught by Jann Otvos.



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.



HOSPITALITY

Barbara Bouchet

Hello everyone! Due to the fact that March 18th is a Saturday painting day, just bring your lunch and a drink. If you would like to bring treats to share, that would be great!!

Barbara Bouchet



SUNSHINE

Holley Yarberry



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
Debbie Trapp	3/23
Lisette Jones	3/25



April 2017 Birthdays

Jeanne Press	4/08
Karen Vecchi	4/18

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

TBT 2017 IMPORTANT DATES

- March 18- TBT Saturday meeting Painting canvas bags for donation 10:00am
- 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 10:00am
- June 20- TBT Meeting Cathy McCaughey- Dandelion T-shirt
- July - Date TBD- BBQ at Loretta's
- August 14-19- Heart of Ohio Tole 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. 10:00am
- 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.

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

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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



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.