I LOVE this time of year! All the earth is coming alive after the dormancy of winter. The new leaf buds are such a vibrant green and bright yellow. The birds have returned from their winter homes and are busy making nests. And, yes, the dandelions are alive and in bloom.

Soon we will be experiencing the great smells of lilacs, honeysuckle bushes, Lily of the valley, and all of the other spring flowers and bushes. Each year, I am in awe that those bushes and trees which looked like dead sticks, pop open and show new growth.

Each spring, I start anew and vow to become more alive. Personally to get moving, get more accomplished and experience new personal growth and get healthier.

Artistically I hope to “see” the awakening of Spring before the Summer leaves of the deep greens colors are here. They arrive in a short time! That means I need to take walks soon, see and hear the new life and “enjoy.”

I think we all get so busy with everyday chores that we forget to live in the present, or “stop and smell the roses” as the saying goes. We need to look at our schedules, decide what has to be done and what we can change or eliminate. Hopefully, we can free up some time to do more of what we want and possibly do more volunteering.

The Guild is always looking for volunteers – officers, demonstrators, workers for socials, workers for our sales, instructors for our Schools or paint-along teachers. Please do not say that you are not a leader! Most of us have been a 4H leader, Girl Scout leader or Religious Ed leader at some time in our life. Even leading a family would qualify.

We are now looking for demonstrators for the rest of the year, and for the MN State Fair. Soon, we will be getting together a nominating committee to search for officers for the 2017-2019 term of office. If you are hesitant, please don’t be. All former officers will be willing to help with any of your concerns. An organization keeps improving and is revitalized with new leadership and new ideas. If you are approached, please renew your commitment to the Guild and respond with a “yes.”

Keep appreciating the newness of the season and paint the arrival of spring with its vibrant colors.

Happy Painting!
This issue's victim for the interview is Kathy Barker. I sure enjoyed learning more about her and I think you all will, as well.

Kathy's grandparents lived and worked in Manhattan. But they saved their money and bought a small farm in the Green Mountain area of New Jersey. They let someone else use the land and Kathy's grandmother stayed there with their children while Kathy's grandfather worked in Manhattan and commuted to the farm on weekends. After serving in World War 2, Kathy's father built a home on some of the farmland, and that is where he and Kathy's mom had their family. Kathy's father worked in a paper mill in New Jersey, and one of Kathy's aunts worked for Binney and Smith, makers of Crayons. They always had plenty of paper, crayons, paints, and other art supplies while Kathy was growing up. She knew from an early age that she enjoyed art.

Kathy received a scholarship at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa. Her major was biology. She had never really traveled before she boarded that bus for a 31 hour ride from New Jersey to Des Moines. There were people who were going to meet her at the bus station but when it arrived at 8:30 PM, they weren't there yet. Fortunately, they did arrive after a half hour nervous wait, on Kathy's part.

While she was in college she was given a job in the lab at Methodist Hospital in Des Moines. One day, the man who was in charge of the United Fund in the area was hospitalized and Kathy was sent to draw his blood. He had a young employee visiting him who had recently moved to Des Moines from Minnesota. Later the hospitalized gentleman called the lab requesting Kathy to come back to his room. Kathy felt odd about that and didn't want to go. She ignored several requests and was finally told by a coworker to go. When she did he asked her to show his employee, Rick, around Des Moines. It was basically a blind date. Rick invited her to a symphony concert in a park which Kathy found boring. She hadn't yet learned to appreciate classical music.

Kathy went home for the summer and Rick wrote to her but she didn't write back. When she returned for the next school year she was reluctant to date but he invited her to an Art Center. He was persistent and she eventually fell in love with him, and even learned to like classical music, too. They were married in 1964 so they celebrated their 50th anniversary over a year ago! Congratulations Kathy and Rick!

Eventually they made their way back to Minnesota where Rick worked for 3M. They always had a supply of paper, crayons, paint, and tape at their home and now all three of their children are graphic designers!

Kathy's mother-in-law was a china painter during the early 1900s and, though she died while Rick was young, he and Kathy came to own several of her beautiful pieces. This got Kathy interested in learning how to paint on porcelain. In 1975 she read an article in the Minneapolis newspaper about a woman named Valerie Pa- genkopf who taught china painting, and Kathy began taking classes from her. Kathy also began getting together to paint with Bonnie Zopfi. Kathy really enjoyed painting birds, so they became subjects of many of her pieces. After

Kathy continued on page 3
a few years, Kathy began taking lessons from Jean Myllenbeck. Jean sponsored Kathy to join the Guild around 1980. About three years later, Kathy joined the Teacher’s group. There were several steps to qualify for that distinction. Alaine Wood was one of the ladies who helped Kathy become a member. Kathy also went on to get accreditation as a teacher with IPAT, completing arduous steps to do so. Kathy has done oil painting and water color painting as well. She has painted kitchen tiles to make murals, painted murals with acrylic paints, and also painted porcelain sinks.

Now she really enjoys painting roses, doing banding work, and loves lusters (thought she feels she has more work to do in order to become proficient with lusters). She also loves embellishments on painted china.

She has been instrumental in several offices in the Guild and has organized several china shows. She is an honorary member of the Minnesota Porcelain Art Guild and a great asset to us all! Thank you, Kathy.

Kathy continued from page 2

 PropTypes

LETA CLEMONS AND DONNA CASEY:
LEGACY OF LOVE AND LAUGHTER

by Deb Warwick

Alas, we lost two of our great friends and painters recently. We recently had a biography of Donna in our Lady Slipper, but we wanted to say something more. And Lois Pribble is working on a large article about Leta Clemons for the porcelain magazines and we will copy that here in our next issue. But in order to have something about these dear ladies in this issue, I spoke with Thelma Granquist and Lois to put together a little remembrance about Leta and Donna.

I’ll start with a fantastic love story, not from Nicholas Sparks but from Leta and Lawrence Clemons. They were happily married for a long time and had a large family. Lawrence was very supportive of Leta’s china painting and accompanied her on most of her travels, helping everyone wherever he could. They were so devoted to each other that Leta passed away less than a month after Lawrence.

Pat Casey was also a very supportive husband and traveled with Donna. He also was happy to help with setting up for Guild Shows and many other activities, like Lawrence. These were great men behind their ladies, always helping in the background.

Both Leta and Donna were nationally known teachers and painters giving seminars all over the country. They were highly regarded. They both had large families which prevented them from traveling quite as much as some of the other great teachers, but this didn’t detract from how highly they were esteemed. Leta was famous for her Dresden-style painting, but was a versatile painter who always had new ideas to try.

Thelma began painting large round tiles, and wanted to have nice tables in which to insert them.

Lawrence and Leta Clemons

Leta and Donna continued on page 4
She found a man in North Dakota who made them. But when Lawrence and Leta saw the tables, they decided that they could make them better and they would be closer for painters to get them.

Donna and Leta both had a big hand in building up our Guild. They were always cheerful and eager to share ideas. I didn't get to know Leta as well since she stopped attending Guild meetings after I had been in Guild only a few years, but I remember her showing some of her pieces for show and tell and they were amazing. I also remember her speaking about different projects she was doing involving her family. I began to wonder if she ever slept! She seemed like the Energizer bunny!

There was another common thread these ladies shared: hospitality. Both Thelma and Lois spoke about the wonderful luncheons at Leta’s where the food was fabulous and her large table was set so beautifully with her hand painted china. She painted at least 10 sets of china for her family. Thelma said the amazing preparation and presentation made you feel like you were a very important person to have been invited. When you attended a seminar there, not only did you have great food but you could stay with the Clemons. With so many children there were 4 bedrooms upstairs and a dormitory in the finished attic!

Donna would also have seminars in her beautiful lake home in Melrose. She hired a cook to make the wonderful food. After a day of painting everyone would put on their swimsuits and soak in the hot tub with a glass of wine, go for pontoon rides, and play cards. When San Do would come to teach there he always loved to go fishing and then cook and eat his catch. Donna had many wonderful teachers come give classes in her home, including Grace Moss.

Years ago, Donna's husband had an accident and broke his back. This meant a lot of extra work was Donna’s responsibility. Her friend, Elaine Scrivner, thought Donna needed something to get her out of the house and doing something fun. She invited her to take china painting with Thelma as the teacher. Elaine had been taking classes with Rose Winn at the same time as Thelma. Donna was a good student and loved her new art. She began teaching after taking classes for a year.

Once when Elaine, Donna, and Thelma were at a china show in Frankenmuth, Michigan they met a young lady who was a fabulous painter. Thelma approached her to see if she would be willing to come to her home in Richfield to teach a seminar. This painter had never done that before but decided to give it a try. That was Paula Colllins. There were nine painters plus Thelma who attended that seminar. They enjoyed their time together and got along so well that they decided to meet on a regular basis. They called it the Ten Group. Elaine, Donna, Leta, and Thelma were part of that group. They would talk about problems they were having with different pieces and brainstorm to try to solve it. They would share ideas, learn from each other, and challenge each other to be better painters.

Thelma also remembers Donna's generosity. She talked about attending schools, shows, and seminars in Phoenix and Florida where Donna owned condos. The fact that Donna invited Thelma to stay with her is what allowed Thelma to attend. They would gather to paint together whenever they were able. Thelma reflected on Donna's great sense of humor and how jolly she was. We can all say "amen" to that.

We all owe a debt of gratitude to Leta and Donna. They will be greatly missed.

Please let us know when one of our Guild friends is in need of special loving care.
Call our Sunshine Lady!
Dodie Henry • 651-463-3559 (home) • 651-428-3559 (cell)
2016 PORCELAIN ART SCHOOL
August 1 – 3, 2016 • 9:00am – 4:00pm
Rosewood Village Condominiums
1630 So. Highway 36 Service Drive St. • Roseville, MN 55113

Minnesota Porcelain Artists are pleased to present the 2016 Porcelain Art School! Please join us for a wonderful painting experience with our selection of two exceptional instructors: Nancy Bergman and Val Naber.

Nancy Bergman
Luster Landscapes

Val Naber
Japanese Flower Technique

Tuition for the three-day school (including lunches) is $225.00 for MPAG members and $250.00 for non-members. Registration begins June 1st. Find more information and registration forms on the MPAG website Special Events page. All levels of students are welcome. Tell your friends and register soon for this fun and engaging experience!

Questions? Visit http://porcelainartmn.org/activities/special-events/ or call Cherri at 952-920-1022

Time to get ready for the
2016 MINNESOTA STATE FAIR!

Start planning now for your entries for the State Fair’s “Free Hand Painting on Porcelain” competition. Registration is already open online and will continue until August 9th. Dates for entry drop-off (and in-person registration) are August 13th through the 15th. Pieces will remain on display at the Fair from August 25th through September 5th. Find all the information you need (and then some!) online at: http://www.mnstatefair.org/competition/creative_activities.html

Pieces can be anything from traditional to contemporary, while subjects must fit into the following 14 categories: Landscape • Portrait • Animals (wildlife, bugs, fish, etc.) • Still life • Fruit • Hand built – Painted • Contemporary • Flowers • Christmas • Birds • Luster • Jewelry • Mixed media (glass, transfers, etc. added to porcelain) • Not otherwise specified. Artists may enter one piece in each category!

Let’s get painting and fill that display case with beautiful art!
### Upcoming Guild Meetings

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<td>Spring Founders Day Event</td>
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<td><strong>June 24</strong></td>
<td>Nancy Bergman • Paint-along Egg Fish • Membership dues due</td>
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<td><strong>July 22</strong></td>
<td>Bonnie Martinson • Hand-formed and sculpted porcelain</td>
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<td><strong>August 26</strong></td>
<td>Ardy Bernier • Treatments for Jewelry Backs</td>
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<td><strong>September 23</strong></td>
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Regular Guild meetings are held at 9:30 am at Midland Hills Country Club, 2001 Fulham Street in Roseville, MN. Reservations: **BARBIE BRAMAN** at 952-240-6227 or barbiedoll6kids@gmail.com