

The Lady Slipper Newsletter

August 2016



PRESIDENT'S PLATE – OPTIMISM

by Pat Meyer

In my last President's Plate in May, I said that we all get so busy with everyday chores that we forget to live in the present. Well, with this hot weather and all my family commitments, I haven't had time to "stop and smell the roses" as I suggested, or do as much painting as I would like. The hot weather means that my flowers must be watered every other day. The garden is flourishing so it needs picking and taking care of the produce daily. The hot weather and rain produce lots of weeds that should be pulled. On the plus side, the flowers are beautiful and the garden bounty is enough to share with others.

By the time this Lady Slipper is printed, our school will be over. A big thank you to Cherri and the Education Committee for organizing the school. A special thank you to Nancy and Val for being teachers and a huge thank you to Dolores Garbarini for hosting the Guild at the Rosewood Village Condominiums. Let's start now to secure a place for our school in 2018 so we can have a bigger school with more teachers.

The MN State Fair is underway. I hope that all of you who entered pieces in our Event have entered them as well as items you have painted since. We need to have many pieces on display to increase our exposure and hopefully spark some interest in new painters. We will be demonstrating from 9-2 in the Creative Arts Building on Thursday, September 1st. Thank you, Diane, for coordinating the demonstration.

The summer is flying by and soon we will see the beautiful fall color in our area. Time to paint my challenge piece – Angels this time.

In the last couple of months, I have heard some negative comments from some of our members. One even suggested that our Guild would soon be going the way of the World Clubs because no one was volunteering and many members don't participate! Let me say this! I don't run with this theory and I will be the first to disagree with these negative attitudes and statements. Our Guild is alive and thriving. We always get members to volunteer when we need them and our finances are fine. We are low in the number of members attending meetings. Personally, I think a calling tree to remind members would help increase our monthly attendance.

If each person on the permanent list would make a couple of calls it could work. I have heard negative comments about our demo's not being of interest to them or that we should hire an outside teacher do to a paint-a-long. I always learn a lot from our demonstrators and look forward to each of them. If you personally hear a negative comment, please tell the person to STOP! Negativity feeds on itself. If you doubt that, look at our elections! We each need to be Positive. I guess I am an optimist! I always think I can do more, be more, and keep improving. I trust that God will help me. Maybe to be an optimist, you have to have a positive attitude. What is your attitude? Are you a person who volunteers, cheers others on, and are helpful? Or are you the "downer" in the crowd with negative attitudes and always complaining? I think our painting reflects our emotions. How is your painting?

A WONDERFUL MIXTURE OF SCIENCE, ART, AND FAITH

by Deb Warwick

Interviewing members for the Lady Slipper is one of the most fun jobs in the Guild!

For our August issue I had a chance to visit with Glo Carlson De-Haan. Glo was born in Denver, Colorado but her family moved to the Milwaukee area of Wisconsin when she was three years old. When she was in ninth grade they moved to Minneapolis where she met her future husband, Sonny. They began dating in their senior year, dated for six years while they both finished their college years, and married in 1959.

Glo trained to become a licensed practical nurse. She worked as a surgical technician in St. Barnabus (now Metropolitan Medical Center) in downtown Minneapolis, in doctor's offices, and was a school nurse.

After they married they spent one year in Watertown and then moved to Bloomington where Sonny became head football coach and teacher and later athletic director. They have two children, Mike and DeeAnn. Glo has one grandchild who at 14 is already very artistic and enterprising, taking wedding videos and graduation pictures. He has won some awards for his work!

In 1986, Glo and Sonny joined a missions group serving in Amsterdam, Netherlands with Billy Graham. This began their journey of serving others through various missions groups. During some of the years Glo was raising their children her nursing took a back burner. After her missions trip she saw an opportunity to use her nursing skills in missions and went back to school to be relicensed.

The Carlsons made four trips overseas for mission work. Along with going to Amsterdam, they served in Africa two times, and the Ukraine. This is not surprising for someone who had a pastor for a father.

After Sonny retired, they built a new home on Lone Lake south of Aitkin in 1992. In approximately 1993 they began vacationing in Florida. The office of a Bible translation ministry, Wycliffe Associates, is nearby and they began spending a lot of time helping



there. They decided to have vacations with a purpose and continued serving there for eight years until Sonny passed away in 2012.

Glo knew Jim De Haan from serving with Wycliffe. He had been a widower for eight years and Glo had been a widow for two when they married. They continued helping at Wycliffe.

Jim lived in Michigan. Now this busy couple divides their time between their Lone Lake home, their Michigan home, and three months in Florida every year!

I asked Glo when she first realized she was artistic. She said she always liked doing crafts but when

she was in high school she loved science. She thinks she liked it so much partly because there was so much there to draw; plants, animals, muscle structure, etc. As a married lady she began having craft sales every year. She did many crafts with her kids and neighbors. She took various art classes over the years including home decorating at the U of M. She made dough babies, did ceramics, worked in clay, but not so much in painting.

Glo's sister, Tita Varner, is a well known porcelain painter from Colorado. When Glo and Sonny were building



This lamp Glo painted compliments the pretty tiles painted by her sister, Tita

their home in 1992, Glo asked Tita to paint tiles for her back splash, which she did. Glo described the beautiful blackberry and wild rose tiles. Then at the suggestion of a friend she asked her sister to paint tiles for trim above her window box. As Tita was painting she told Glo that *she* could paint them.

Tita bought china paints and some books for Glo in June of 1992. Glo began to paint on her own and sometimes with Tita for the next six to seven years. Tita invited Celee Evans to teach seminars at her home two times and Glo was able to attend. Since then Glo has also taken seminars taught by Paula White, Andrew Orr, Patty Ringer, and Nancy Bergman.

Around 1998 or 1999, Glo heard that a known

china painter was moving to Aitkin! She began painting with Bev Johnson and has learned a lot from her. Not long after, Dolores Garbarini moved to the area and became part of that happy group. Next Beth McCusker joined.

Glo has hosted a seminar at her lake home taught by Susan Peterson. They painted that lovely pine cone plate most of us have seen. Glo also got interested in making and painting porcelain tea cup dolls. Glo set up four different three-day china painting seminars for Tita, and has gone on to encourage those painters as they continue on after the classes.

As we all know, Glo is a joy to be with and I really enjoyed getting to know her better. Thank you, Glo, for all you do to further our art form and what you do for the cause of Christ.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GUILD'S 2016 MINNESOTA STATE FAIR WINNERS!

Nancy Bergman: 1st Place in Luster and Jewelry; 2nd Place in Animals and Contemporary; 4th Place in Mixed Media; Porcelain Color Design Award

Ardy Bernier: 1st Place in Contemporary; Porcelain Painter Award

Barbie Braman: 1st Place in Fruit; 2nd Place in Luster and Not otherwise specified

Diane Chase: 1st Place in Mixed Media; 3rd Place in Flowers; 4th Place in Animals, Birds, and Jewelry

Dolores Garbarini: 3rd Place in Luster

Kim Harms: 1st Place in Birds; 2nd Place in Handbuilt-painted; 3rd Place in Contemporary; 4th Place in Portrait

Sandy Jarosh: 2nd Place in Birds; 4th Place in Fruit

Carol Krech: 1st Place in Animals and Flowers; 2nd Place in Mixed Media; Sweepstakes

Sharon Lindbloom: 2nd Place in Landscape and Christmas; 3rd Place in Jewelry; 4th Place in Contemporary

Bonnie Martinson: 1st Place in Handbuilt-painted; 3rd Place in Christmas

Elaine Minwegen: 1st Place in Portrait

Susan Peterson: 1st Place in Not otherwise specified

Colleen Stephens: 2nd Place in Fruit; 4th Place in Christmas

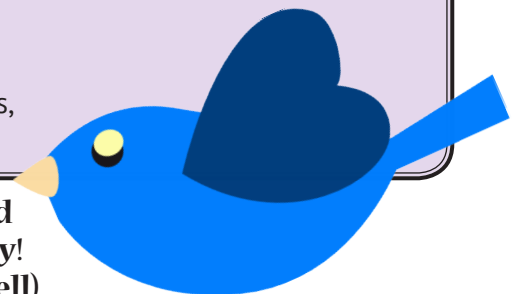
Kathy Svendsen: 4th Place in Landscape

Ann Wallen: 1st Place in Christmas; 4th Place in Luster

Deb Warwick: 2nd Place in Jewelry; 3rd Place in Landscape, Animals, Fruit, Birds, Mixed Media, and Not otherwise specified

**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)



ARE YOU A CURIOUS PAINTER?

by Sharon Lindbloom

A couple of months ago, as a gesture of thanks for my work on the Guild's new website, you generous Guild members presented me with a wonderful gift of two excellent books related to porcelain painting. I cannot thank you enough!

One book, *The Evolution of Porcelain Painting* by Etsuko Hanajima, is filled with color pictures of Etsuko's beautiful work, and includes information to help the reader duplicate her pieces. While it's pretty unlikely that *this* reader could ever paint like Etsuko, the book contains an unending supply of ideas and inspiration for experimentation—if you happen to be a curious painter who likes to experiment. And aren't we all just a bit curious and adventuresome in our painting?

The other book you ladies gave to me is a very different sort of book. This one, *A Book for The Curious Painter* by Gene Patterson, contains *no* color pictures. In fact, there are very few pictures at all. Considering that this is a book for artists, isn't that curious?

A Book for The Curious Painter was written by an artist—who was also a chemist. Take a moment to think about that. I am married to a man with a Chemical Engineering degree. When I began painting on porcelain a few years ago he asked me many questions, for which I had no answers other than, "This is how I was told to do it." This was highly unsatisfying for him, especially as he watched my recurring surprise almost every time I opened the kiln! When I tried to encourage him to join me in this wonderful art form he only shook his head and said he would never want to be involved in something so completely unpredictable. That's an engineer for you!

But Gene Patterson managed to be both a scientist and a porcelain painter. How did he do that? By approaching the mysteries of porcelain painting as a chemist, researching until he had answers for nearly all the unpredictable outcomes we painters experience. Gene explained in the Forward to his book,

"In the wonderful world of porcelain painting, there are many surprising, mysterious and downright confusing methods and materials. Added to the confusion are fellow painters who hold strong, but often erroneous, opinions about these methods and materials... Addressing the confusion and fear was a major impetus for this book."

The result is more than 152 pages of explanations, facts, tips, and wisdom regarding the materials and techniques we use in producing art on porcelain.

What cone should we use when firing bright reds? Gene says these colors are overly sensitive to heat; they should be fired last, at 017 to 019.

Mixing red with yellow? The book includes a helpful list of paints that "play well together."

Chapter 6, Oils and Mediums, contains a paragraph for each of 25 different oils, explaining what they are, what they are used for, and how to use them safely.

Chapter 8, Understanding Solvents, is a sobering but very helpful look at the toxicity of the products we artists regularly use. Twenty-three solvents are listed along with their uses, toxicology, and physical symptoms of over exposure. Some of the information is quite surprising. For example, Turpenoid has a "medium to high toxic rating," while Turpentine only has a "slight toxic rating," making it safer to use despite its strong odor. But even more surprising is that Turpenoid Natural is *completely* non-toxic, with no reports of health hazards connected to its use.

When I received this book as a gift from you, I thought it was a reference book that I would turn to now and then. Perhaps as a newer painter I am more curious than others, but I'd like you to know that I read *A Book for The Curious Painter* cover-to-cover in two days' time. I devoured it! I found the book interesting, sometimes funny, always helpful and insightful. Gene Patterson passed away in 2007 and his book had become quite hard to find. With permission from Gene's wife, Carol, IPAT (International Porcelain Artists and Teachers) produced a second printing in 2016, making the book available again. You can get your own copy from Nancy Bergman; all proceeds from the sale of the book go to support IPAT.

Like me, my husband is quite favorably impressed by *A Book for The Curious Painter*. Perhaps one day he will become a curious painter himself.



— 2016 PORCELAIN ART SCHOOL —

It is with great delight and appreciation for the Porcelain Art School sponsored by the Education Committee held August 1-3 that I write this.

Val Naber was our instructor. She is so organized and yet flexible. We could choose a piece of our own or one she would order for us in advance. We were doing Japanese Flower Technique and had many options from which to choose. The format was suggested, but you were free to select your own. Many techniques were taught, but only as they were relevant to the piece.

Val is one of the most well-read painters. She loves to experiment and we reap the benefit. She is so willing to share all she knows, which makes us better painters.

The facility was comfortable, the lighting good, and parking easy. It was great we could all gather for lunch (which was catered and delicious) and move away from our painting tables. It was helpful to have a critique at end of day. I have attended most schools in past years and look forward to attending the Porcelain Art School in the future.

Thank you, to all who made it possible. —Dolores Garbarini



Dolores Garbarini's piece in progress



First, we would like to thank Cherri Beisang for all of her work and leadership to bring this School into being. Secondly, we thank our wonderful, talented teachers, Val Naber and Nancy Bergman, for sharing your love of our art form with everyone.



Ruth Arndt working on her luster landscape

Thirdly, we thank Dolores Garbarini for arranging for us to use her condo's recreation building for our school. It was a great facility and very handy.

As one of the painters from Nancy's class (Luster Landscapes) I wanted to give a brief accounting of our time together. Nancy allowed us to paint on our own blanks or tiles. She encouraged us all to bring our own scenes that we could recreate. We began by masking off sections that weren't to be painted that day. As you know when working with lusters, we had to work quickly. Nancy came by each of us when we were ready to apply the lusters. She checked the consistency of our lusters and helped us get them to a good viscosity. She encouraged us and kept reminding us to keep moving. Work quickly. Keep dipping the brush

into the lusters to get more on the piece ("Dip, brush, brush. Dip, brush, brush."). This was very helpful!

On the next day we masked over the completed areas and went on to apply lusters in the white areas left. And on the last day she helped us work on more of the detail and add enamel where needed. She is very good at finding a way to work with the lusters even when they don't always turn out as we had hoped.

Everyone's pieces were beautiful and dramatic! We had a wonderful group of ladies. And at lunch time we joined the ladies from Val's class for visiting and seeing their amazing pieces.

I think I can say a good time was had by all! Thanks to the Education Committee and everyone else who helped to make our MPAG School of 2016 a success! —Deb Warwick

UPCOMING GUILD MEETINGS

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| August 26 | Ardy Bernier • Treatments for Jewelry Backs |
| September 23 | Members' Sale! |
| October 28 | Ardy Bernier • White Velvet on Christmas Ornaments |
| November 18 (Note Schedule Change) | Val Naber • Adding Glass Crystals to Your Work |
| December 9 | Holiday Party |

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**



Next Painting Challenge:

— *Angels* —

December 9th • Holiday Party

Guild Members will choose their favorite and a People's Choice Award will be given to the winner!



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Minnesota Porcelain Art Guild
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