

# The Lady Slipper Newsletter

September 2017



## PRESIDENT'S PLATE

*by Deb Warwick*

Hello dear friends. It's a little intimidating to be writing a President's Plate. But I usually enjoy writing and I do have something on my mind.

The State Fair 2017 has come to a close. Our exhibit was full of beautiful pieces! Congratulations to the many very talented people who took the time to enter their art. Thanks to all who demonstrated at the Fair. I am so grateful to Diane Chase for organizing this and to all the friends who volunteer. This is an excellent way to let people know about our art form. Also I'm grateful to Sharon Lindbloom for the idea and work to get business cards for the Guild. It was great to have these colorful cards to hand to people with questions.

I am eager to find ways to attract more people to china painting! We are usually quiet people who practice our hobbies at our homes mostly by ourselves. It would be wonderful if more of us became inspired to become teachers. I know there are many of you in our Guild who have already spent many years teaching others. Thank you for all your dedication and service. But there are many of us who have had teachers and painted for several years but who have not yet taught. I would like to encourage all of you to consider becoming teachers. I know it takes work and can cut into your time of painting for pleasure. But we need to be willing to share what we learn so others can grow. You don't have to be a master painter to be a teacher. Please consider taking students. I'm pretty sure we each have at least one friend who would be interested in trying it. If we painters don't teach others our art could fade away.

Another drawback to our quiet nature is that people don't know what we do or how we do it. We need to try new ways to let people know china painting is alive and kicking! Recently a young friend told me she thought I should put pictures of some of my china pieces on Instagram. It goes against my grain because it feels like I'm bragging. But I realized it's a good way to let young people know about this art form. Also, we can put our work on Pinterest and Facebook. For those of us who have access to computers and smart phones, these can be great resources. People may start asking questions and become interested.

Our evening paint-alongs at the Roseville Library can also help expose more people to our art. I know Sharon told you about the opportunity of painting thistle mugs to donate to a women's shelter. This can be very encouraging to the ladies who have been in very difficult situations. That is the real reason we want to do this. But we can also use this as an opportunity to spread information about china painting.

I have also been thinking that it would be great if we were able to teach in our local community centers. We are spread out around the area so we could have classes all over the cities. Most of you could come up with a simple design that wouldn't stress out students who aren't real comfy with a paint brush and could be done in perhaps two fires. If you don't want to make a design, tell me and I'll make one for you!

I hope you have all been enjoying your summer and have been finding interesting things to paint. I look forward to our meetings where we can encourage and inspire one another.

# ARDY BERNIER: A HAPPY PAINTER

I live in North Branch, Minnesota with my husband Jim. We moved up here 2003 from Lino Lakes, Minnesota. While we lived in Lino Lakes we raised three boys that are grown men now. We have six wonderful grandsons. (My oldest son is from my first marriage, my first husband passed away after a battle with cancer at the very young age of 22).

I didn't start china painting until 1986 when my mother (Vivian Rehbein Hanson) decided to teach a beginner class and wanted me to learn to china paint so I could enjoy it as much as she did. I didn't think I was interested or had the time, but after a few classes I couldn't wait for the next class. I painted at home as much as I could, but with working in the beauty shop, and a family still needing a lot of attention, there would be weeks without painting. After about a year of painting Mom said I was ready to buy my own kiln; she could see I wasn't going to quit painting anytime soon.

One day I was talking to Ruth Arndt. She mentioned she was taking classes from Jerry Simertz. I knew Jerry's work as my mother always bought some of Jerry's painted pieces when she went to the fair. As a matter of fact, that was the only reason she went to the fair -- sometimes she just went in to buy from Jerry and then went home. Well, when Ruth said she was taking classes from Jerry I asked if she would see if Jerry had room for me. When Jerry said yes, I was so excited and was in my happy place every week when it was time to go to class. Mom thought it was time for me to move on from her teaching and was happy I could go to Jerry's for classes. Jerry was a great teacher and is a wonderful person.

I think my favorite things to paint are flowers, but I really do like trying different techniques to keep china painting interesting. Animals are fun as well, but more of a challenge. It's very rewarding to paint an animal that looks like an animal when you're done.

I took watercolor classes from Mary Ann Putzier. She taught me a lot, but I still have a lot to learn. I only wish she was still living in Minnesota – I really enjoyed her classes and I still enjoy playing with watercolor on my own. I also like scrapbooking and make greeting cards. Doing these things is good therapy.

It was Ruth that talked to me about Guild when she was in the evening guild; it didn't work out for me with working in the beauty shop, so when we moved to North Branch I retired from working and was free to go to day guild. I have been Corresponding Secretary, 2nd Vice President (4 years), and am currently Corresponding Secretary again.

The artists I've had seminars with are:

Frank Albrecht  
Paula Collins  
Peter Faust  
Cherryl Meggs  
Harun  
Ivonne Planos  
Mariella  
Barbara Bougher  
Mary Ellen Haggerty  
Val Naber  
Nancy Bergman  
Alzora  
Jane Wright  
Kathy Lewis



# FOUNDERS DAY EVENT COMPETITION

Congratulations to the Winners of our Annual Competition.

- ★ **Ladyslipper Award** went to Sandy Jarosh for her beautiful violet tray (pictured at right). She will now compete in Master Class and Paint a Ladyslipper disk for the next winner.
- ★ **Leta Clemons Best Ornament** went to Ardy Bernier for her winter scene.
- ★ **Junne Link Portrait Award** went to Colleen Stephens for her self-portrait.
- ★ **Best of Master Class** went to Val Naber for her wood ducks.
- ★ **Rose Wynne Award** went to Val Naber for her modern vase.

There was no Donna Casey Realistic Flowers Award given.

The Board would like to thank all who participated in the competition, helping us maintain our club motto:

*"Keep Porcelain Painting a Lively Art."*

Visit the gallery on the Guild website to see more photos of winning pieces!



*A special thanks to our Judge for this event, Kathy Barker.  
She hopes that her judging comments will encourage you to improve and keep painting.  
Thank you, Kathy!*

## PRODUCT INFO: INTERFERENCE

Do you have a vial of white powder that says "Interference"? Well, what *is* interference?

The best way to describe the interference effect is to think about the feather on a hummingbird or mallard duck. You see the green on the duck's head but when the sun hits it, you see the strong color flash metallic right in that highlight area. That's interference.

Interference colors are bits of mica that are treated in a way that reflect color. They all look white in the jar but when seen in the light, an iridescent shimmer of color appears.

Interference colors are mixed like china paint, with the medium of your choice and they are fired like china paints. They can be painted on white china for a slight shimmer, but the beauty is when they are thinly painted over fired black china paint. Don't apply too heavily or they will turn white from the buildup of mica.

Interference colors can also be layered over other colors. Example: Complete your painting of a ruby throated hummingbird and fire it. Then come back with interference green or pink, paint over the ruby throat, and fire. When viewed straight on it looks ruby but when viewed from an angle, light hitting makes it look metallic.

Interference colors differ from metallic even though they both contain Mica. The difference is in how they are coated. Metallic colors are opaque and will cover anything, showing their metallic color. Interference colors are transparent at one angle but opaque at another angle. On white, they are nearly invisible whereas on black they are beautiful.

*—Learned from Marci Blattenberger.*

*Interference paints are available from Held of Harrogate, Marci Blattenberger, and numerous international porcelain artist. They fire at regular china paint temperatures, cone 017-014.*

# PROJECT: THISTLE MUGS

Back in the “old days,” the Minnesota Porcelain Art Guild painted Christmas ornaments every year for charity. That is such a wonderful endeavor, to use our art to help those who are struggling! This fall, we again have an opportunity to encourage and lift others through our art.

Janet Nobel, a porcelain painter from Pennsylvania, began painting five years ago. She wanted to paint for hurting people, to show them that they are valuable and cared about. She started something she calls Thistle Sisters, which consists of painting and donating mugs with a thistle theme, to abused women living in shelters. Janet donates the mugs in October, to coincide with Domestic Violence Awareness Month. We have been invited to participate in this effort!

First, why thistles? The thistle theme was chosen because many people see thistles as weeds, unwanted and prickly; but they are beautiful plants, strong survivors, ample providers of nectar to birds and bees. In thistle lore, the thistle plant is associated with protection, having saved the Scottish nation from a surprise attack by Vikings. Today the thistle is the symbol of Scotland.

The idea is to give thistle-painted mugs as gifts of love and encouragement, to communicate that the women who receive them are valuable and strong, that they are cared for and not forgotten. Janet includes a note with each mug that explains the symbolism of the thistle, along with a Christian message of hope.

As we talked about at the July Guild meeting, our Guild is joining Janet Nobel and other porcelain painters around the country to paint and give these small gifts of encouragement to hurting women. Any of you artists who would like to join in, here's what you do:

***Paint one or more thistle mugs and bring them to the September Guild meeting.***

That's it! Under our president Deb Warwick's direction, a few of us will take it from there, printing notes to go with the mugs and delivering them to the Lewis House domestic violence shelter in Eagan.

Here are some additional ideas and resources for painting your thistle mugs:

- ★ Visit Janet Nobel's Thistle Sisters Pinterest board at [https://www.pinterest.com/thistle\\_sisters/thistles/](https://www.pinterest.com/thistle_sisters/thistles/) or search Pinterest for “Thistle Sisters.”
- ★ Do an internet image search for “thistles.”
- ★ Write your own note of encouragement to go with your mug(s) if you'd like.
- ★ Consider adding words to your mug designs. A few suggestions (provided by Val Naber): hope, love, encourage, hang in there, be positive, inspire, overcome, uplift, transform, renew, tender heart, tenacity, strong, courage, friend, valued, take heart, joyful, strength, survivor, look up, you matter, overcome, you're be-you-tiful, fearless, determination, victory.

***Thank you,*** painting friends, for your compassionate involvement in this effort. If you would like to be involved beyond painting, or have any questions, please contact **Sharon** at **952-937-9627** or **salindbloom@gmail.com**.



## PUBLICATIONS REVIEW

This time let's talk about the IPAT magazine, if you haven't looked at it in a while you need to take a fresh look. They have a new editor who is doing a wonderful job with interesting articles about the porcelain world. There is information from all over the world as well as studies you can follow and try for yourself. If you would like to support IPAT go to **www.IPATINC.com** for complete information.

# MPAG AT THE 2017 MINNESOTA STATE FAIR



Display cases were filled to the brim with beautiful porcelain art, painted by artists from both within the Guild and without. Many Fair-goers stopped to admire the pieces – and to express their appreciation for the art.



On Tuesday, August 29th, members of our Guild demonstrated porcelain painting throughout the day. Pictured here are Beth McCusker and Barbie Braman enjoying the chance to introduce people to the art of porcelain painting. Many stopped to watch and ask questions – and to take a business card for follow-up later!

## — NOVEMBER CHALLENGE PIECE —

As announced at the July Guild meeting, the Challenge Piece for people's choice at the November meeting is as follows: You will pick one of your unfinished works that you intend to complete but don't know how to complete, and bring it to the September meeting. You will show it to the group, who will offer you suggestions and ideas on how to complete the piece. The piece will be photographed at the meeting. You will then complete it and enter it in the People's Choice contest at the November meeting. If you are unable to have your piece critiqued by Guild artists, you may still enter the competition. Just take a photo of your unfinished piece before you begin working on it again. Email the photo to Sharon at [salindbloom@gmail.com](mailto:salindbloom@gmail.com), and then bring your completed piece to the November Guild meeting. Good luck, painters!

# UPCOMING GUILD MEETINGS

<b>September 22</b>	Members' Sale!
<b>October 20</b>	<b>Note Schedule Change</b> • Sandy Jarosh • Paint-along of Violets
<b>November 17</b>	<b>Note Schedule Change</b> • Bev Johnson • Necklace Bells
<b>December 8</b>	Holiday Party • Axel's in Mendota Heights

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**

## Sunshine Committee

We have had several questions concerning **Sunshine**.  
Dolores Garbarini is our Sunshine Lady—how appropriate, as she always has a smile on her face. If you have family news you'd like to share, she can be contacted, preferably at **651-485-2199**. Dolores' email is [doloresgarb@gmail.com](mailto:doloresgarb@gmail.com), but this is not checked regularly.

**Dues Due:** June of each year. If you have not yet paid for 2017-18, please send \$25.00 to Becky Thompson, 5491 Cottage Ave., White Bear Lake, MN 55110. *If dues are not paid by October 1 your info will not be included in the updated roster.*

**Liquid Bright Gold:** Did you know that if you put a piece that has Liquid Bright Gold on it into the kiln when you fire Mother of Pearl, it will enhance the effects of Mother of Pearl?

## FOR SALE

**Cress Kiln:** Model B-27-H High fire kiln with Kiln Sitter Model P

**Contact:** Merrie @ 651-437-2710 or Glenn @ 651-302-6241

Located in Hastings, MN. Make an offer.



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Minnesota Porcelain Art Guild  
N12011 County Road SS  
Wheeler, WI 54772