

The Lady Slipper Newsletter

April 2018



PRESIDENT'S PLATE

by Deb Warwick

Hello dear friends. I hope your end of Winter and start of Spring have been good. I've just gone through almost a whole month without painting! Some of you know my father passed away, actually about 12 hours after our March meeting. I received a lovely card on behalf of the Guild from Dolores, made by Helen Petersen. And I've heard from a few Guild members who talked with me about my dad. It is all very comforting. Thank you so much.

Many of you know I took china painting classes with Thelma for a couple years in the mid 1980s. When she retired I stopped painting. Then nearly 20 years later we bumped into each other and she told me she was teaching again, so I began taking classes again. As I continued to paint Thelma would tell me about the Guild, and one day she invited me to join her. So I did.

Little did I know how much my life would be enriched by getting involved. I wonder how I got to be so blessed! First of all, I'm so grateful to God for the gifts of sight and artistry. Then it's pretty amazing how God planted a seed in me about wanting to learn about china painting AND provided such a skilled, kind, patient teacher as Thelma – who even lives in my same community! How amazing is that?!

When I walked into my first Guild meeting (I believe it was in 2009) it was a bit overwhelming to be meeting so many people at once. But everyone was so friendly and encouraging. I couldn't predict what great friends you would all become. And then add to that the wealth of information we all share and the great painting ideas I have gotten from each of you, it's inspiring!

Next my two dear friends (Sharon and Barbie) became interested in china painting AND in joining the Guild. It was like the whipped cream and cherry on top of a banana split! How grateful I am for you all and your influence in my life.

We are all really blessed with our artistic gifts and with the relationships we've developed through those gifts.

So now that I'm back from Pennsylvania I'm also back to painting and it feels so good! I'm excited about new projects and our upcoming Founder's Day Event! Remember to paint for the People's Choice competition with the theme of insects/bugs. Also paint for our annual competition! I find it SO helpful to get the judges' critiques. Get your reservations in to Ardy if you haven't already. And remember to be grateful for each other and our gifts. With love, Deb



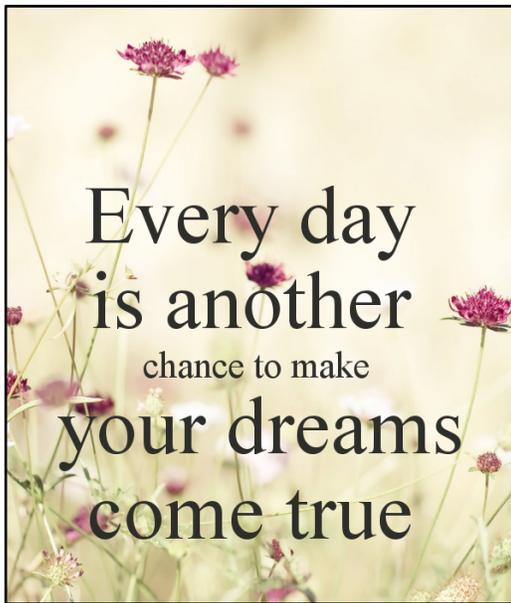
DREAMS CAN COME TRUE

by Bev Johnson

Ever since I can remember, I have loved to draw, paint, sew, and make things in many different media for fun and to use. In first grade, I won a blue ribbon at the county fair for my “finger painting” where I used my whole arm to depict what looked like underwater weeds using black paint with red accents. Through college, I came upon this new paint called acrylics and really liked the fact that it dried so quickly and had very little smell. It wasn’t until after college and after marriage that I was introduced to the art of porcelain decorating through my then mother-in-law who had been an art teacher for many years and retired to Arizona with her husband. She taught me a few things, but recommended I find my own teacher in Minnesota. I found Jerry Simertz and I couldn’t wait to go to class once a week.



I had to work full-time then, so I didn’t do more than the basic lessons. I tried leaving it behind to get other things done. Well, I missed it too much and decided to “make time” for this interest I



had. I started lessons with Gladys Norquist. It was a life-long friendship with Gladys and Rick that lasts to this day. I was overjoyed when the Evening Guild began and we could enjoy our demonstrations in spite of the fact that most of us had to work during the day.

I have studied with many different artists in our field over these forty years at conventions and seminars too numerous to name here even if I could

remember. I do remember the wonderful times we all had and I have many notes taken in hopes that I would be teaching one day. That dream has come true. I have my own studio, which was another dream at one time, and I have a small class that meets once a week, so things are good.

Another dream of mine was to be with other painters more often than we can attend Guild. “Up North” we have started our own painting get-togethers which also help keep inspiration going. Encouraging other painters, whether you teach a formal class or offer advice now and then, is a great way to learn more yourself and stay energized in your art. Just remember, don’t give up your dreams. They have a way of coming true.

– FOUNDERS DAY LUNCHEON –

Don't forget to sign up for the Founders Day Luncheon. It will be at Midland Hills on June 1, 2018 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. In store for you this year:

- Painting demonstrations by:
 - Nancy Bergman: Jewelry Ideas and Techniques
 - Deb Warwick: Controlled Drip Landscapes
- Sharing fun, fellowship, and a delicious meal together.
- Viewing and voting for your favorite piece entered in the People's Choice Challenge (see page 5).
- Exchange painted mugs and/or boxes with each other, if you so choose.
- Viewing beautiful and amazing pieces painted by your fellow artists that have been entered in the annual competition, and applauding the successes of the award winners. (Enter competition pieces 8:30-9:30 a.m.)



- And be sure to keep your fingers crossed as winning names are drawn for door prizes and centerpieces.
- Cost: \$35.00. Meal Choices: Walleye Pike; Pork Tenderloin Medallions; Bourbon Street Penne Pasta with Chicken.

Your paid reservation is **due by May 22nd**. Please send a check, payable to Midwest Porcelain Art Guild, along with an indication of your meal selection(s) to **Ardy Bernier, 37468 Hearthside Lane, North Branch, MN 55056**. If you have questions, please contact Ardy at **651-674-8479**.

PAINTING IN LAYERS



It can be fun to paint in layers without firing between. Those of you who have taken classes with Kathy Lewis have perhaps done this with black grounding. The first layer is painted with a drying water-based medium then a second layer of a drying oil-based medium can be painted over the water-based layer. A third layer can then be added with a totally

oil-based medium, making sure that NO solvents are used in this layer.

So how could this be applied in your work? You could use the water-based medium to draw your design either with a brush or as penwork or however you decide to lay in the design. This layer will dry

fast and hard, ready to be painted over. So, a water-based medium is powdered paint and another substance which acts as a binder for the overglaze paint. Several possible binders are sugar, gum tragacanth, and ethylene glycol. Then use a semi-open medium (dries slowly) and paint right over the water-base you have done, perhaps laying in the base colors of your flowers and leaves. Then you use a fully open medium (like mineral oil) to add depth and shading. Now you have your first fire ready to fire at 017.

Most mediums sold these days say whether they are water-base, semi, or open. Likely you already have all of them in your stash.

You can always add more detail and do a second fire – or more.

Give this method a try, you might like it.

-Val Naber

TIPS AND TRICKS

Tips for Working with Mother of Pearl Luster

1. When we apply MOP luster we always do it in flow technique, that means we give 3, 4 drops (depending on how big the area is) of MOP on the porcelain. We then add turpentine or luster/gold thinners, quite a big quantity, that means about three times more than the quantity of the luster we took. Now we are mixing luster and thinner/turpentine and let the mixture flow from one side to the other. In case it makes too many stripes, change the direction. When it has spread nicely take the hairdryer and dry it thoroughly. Attention! Do not come too close to the porcelain at the beginning and constantly move the hairdryer. If you come too close you will blow the luster to the edges of the piece. With this technique we never let the lusters dry naturally because a lot of dust would be attracted during the drying process.



2. We always make sure not to take too much MOP luster. A thin layer is always better. The MOP luster has the tendency to flake off after the firing as soon as the coat of luster is too thick.

3. We never sponge MOP lusters. You would lose the rainbow effect and you would end up with a beige color instead of MOP.

4. You could brush on the MOP luster (without diluting it) and let it dry naturally. By doing this you would see the brush strokes, which can make a pretty effect.

5. MOP luster makes extremely nice effects on fired Bright Gold or fired Copper luster.

6. MOP luster mixes quite well with many other lusters. In some cases you will have astonishing results. Try once to mix:

- Rose luster and MOP. You will get a beautiful iridescent Light Blue luster

- Lilac luster and MOP. You will get a pretty Turquoise luster.

-Val Naber

Tips for Using German Gold, Silver, Liquid Bright

1. Use a separate Brush(s) for each type of gold or silver.

2. Never add a thinner or other oil or medium into your gold bottle. Take a little out onto a clean tile to thin. Do not return to the bottle.

THINNERS:

Roman Burnish Gold: Gold Facilitator

Silky Matt Gold: Gold Facilitator

German Bright Gold: Essence

Liquid Bright Gold: Essence

Silver Platinum: Essence

Glass Gold: Essence

3. Store Gold, Silver and Liquid Bright Gold in a cool place.

4. Keep lids on tight when not in use.

5. Let Gold/Silver flow off the end of the brush. Overlap strokes slightly. Gold should fill in together on its own. Do not brush over again.

6. FIRE:

Porcelain Gold: Cone 017-018;

Glass Gold: Cone 022;

Porcelain Liquid Bright: Cone 018;

Platinum Bright Silver: Cone 018.

(Orton temperature chart)

022 - 1166 f

018 - 1386 f

017 - 1443 f

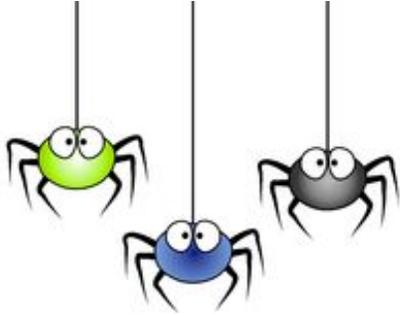
7. Pen Work with Gold: thin with proper thinners above to pen ink consistency. Clean Pen Nib with 99% alcohol.

8. When working with bottled gold set it in a low holder to avoid spilling.



-Val Naber

THIS & THAT



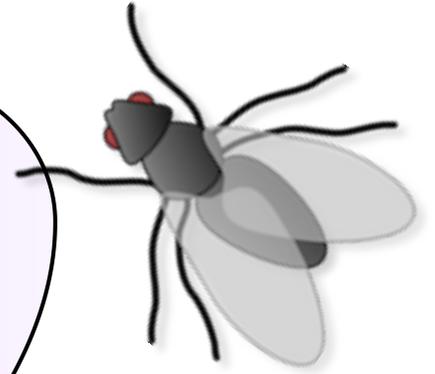
Dues

Don't forget, dues are due in 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 yearly dues are not paid by October 1, your info will not be included in that year's updated roster.*

- Sunshine Committee -

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, Dolores can be contacted, preferably at **651-485-2199**. Dolores' email is doloresgarb@gmail.com, but this is not checked regularly.



Challenge Piece

The spring challenge for our June 1, 2018 Event is to paint something with a bug, with or without wings. Your choice of style and techniques and on any piece of porcelain you'd like.



Some Things To Do:

"Inspire! Dream! Create!"

April 26-28, 2018

Upper Midwest Regional Porcelain Art Show

IOWA, ILLINOIS, MINNESOTA,
NORTH DAKOTA, WISCONSIN

Grand River Center, Dubuque, Iowa

President: Mary Ann Hoerstmann

608-748-4595 mahoerstmann@aol.com

WOCP Art Institute

June 24-28, 2018

WOCP Museum, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
www.wocp.org or wocporg@sbcglobal.net

**IPAT-The Mega Atlantic Porcelain
Convention & Exhibition**

August 13-18, 2018

Miami, Florida.

www.ipatinc.com

Porcelain Art School of Indiana

September 9-14, 2018

Contact: Ellen Wilson-Pruitt 317-341-4667

email: porcelainschool@gmail.com

website: www.porcelainartschool.com

MPAG's Porcelain Art School

October 11-13, 2018

Rosewood Condominiums

Hwy 36 and Fairview Ave N

1630 Highway 36 West, Roseville, MN 55113

Save the date!

Midwest Porcelain Art School

October 29-November 3, 2018

Excelsior Springs, Missouri

Contact: Peggy Adams 816-583-2376

Betty Bell 816-296-7314

Phyllis McElhinney 816-896-1131

www.MWPAS.org

UPCOMING GUILD MEETINGS

June 1	Founders Day Luncheon, Competition, and Challenge
June 22	Beth McCusker Demo (Subject to be announced) • <i>Dues due today!</i>
July 27	Ardy Bernier Demo (Subject to be announced)
August 24	Glo Carlson Paint-Along: Baby Roses
September 21	Note Schedule Change • Members' Sale
October 11-13	Porcelain Art School
October 26	Nancy Bergman Demo: In-Glaze Technique
November 16	Note Schedule Change • Kathy Svendsen Demo: Christmas Ornaments
December	Holiday Party (date to be announced)

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**

A Big Thank-You!!

Joyce Basham has stepped up to be our Historian. Her pictures of our events will be enjoyed by all on the website. *Thank you Joyce!*



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Minnesota Porcelain Art Guild
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