

2008 January Newsletter



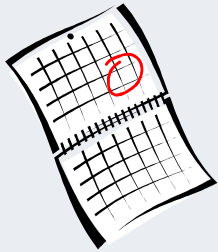
JANUARY 29, 2008

ISSUE 2008 NUMBER 7



Art is long,
life is short.

~ Hippocrates



Upcoming Dates:

02/04 Roundtable
Meeting

2/11 Gold Leaf
Part II

03/10 Brushes

Message from our President

Dear Members,

Welcome to 2008! I hope everyone's arrival into the new year was happy.

My focus for NTA this year is to be sure we're offering our members what they need to grow their business or find more passion for their art. Be sure to email or call me with any ideas you'd like to experience with NTA.

We are currently looking at another national instructor for the fall. More information will be available as we work out the details. Learn about Rebecca E. Parsons at www.fauxisme.com. We will need at least 15 students to hold this class. The class will take place in October or November of this year and will cost approximately \$150 per student.

I have been in touch with Dakota Woodlands again for our Philanthropic project this year. Volunteers are needed for this committee. There will also be a Donation Drive created for NTA to help Dakota Woodlands with their current needs. Watch for this email coming soon.

Creative Wishes,
Jennifer Huehns

Announcements:

Welcome New Member:

Terri Roberts; Addy's Room; from Chanhassen.

Philanthropic:

Dakota Woodlands Birdhouses

Birdhouses will be available to pick up in February. Each of us will take one or two home to prime. We will design our birdhouses in May at our final meeting of the year.

Adel Bishop Scholarship: SALI announced this scholarship has been raised to \$850. New guidelines will be announced soon. This is a terrific chance to raise money to bring in a teacher.

MEETING NOTES

January 14, 2008

Our meeting came to order at 6:00pm.

Another request for volunteers was announced. Please see Jennifer if you would like to be a part of the Philanthropic project, or join the Publicity/Outreach committee to help generate new members and teachers, or help generate Fund Raising by joining this committee.

The group discussed a few fund-raising ideas. One idea was to have a garage sale in April. West Lutheran High School, where we hold our meetings, may be able to give us space for this. Dianne Merten will research this and we will discuss at the next meeting.

Our education coordinator, Rebecca Klein, has been in touch with Rebecca Parsons, a national instructor, to hold one of her business seminars for our chapter. Rebecca Parsons has guided hundreds of would-be entrepreneurs with her sound business practices and down-to-earth advice. She is known as the Business Guru to artists, artisans, writers, musicians, dancers, craftspeople...all creative souls. More information coming soon.

Meeting closed at 6:45pm.

Leanne Schmeising's class was very well attended. She showed us how to grid a mural using perspective drawing. Some of us knew slightly how to do this, some didn't know at all. It was very exciting to see the drawing come to shape. We all left having learned a little more about putting things in "perspective". Thanks Leanne!

Northern Territory Artisans Treasury Report

Year End Totals:

Total Income: \$4,097.00

Total Expenses: \$4,103.55

Net Income: \$38.45

Upcoming Class:

February 11, 2008 - Gold Leaf II

Cost for members \$25.00 (non-members \$35.00)

Instructed by Amy Ouradnik

Produce a Renaissance finish to amaze your friends and clients! We will apply gold leaf to a candlestick or molding sample. Then through the use of aging glazes, wax, and other products, we will produce a fantastic aged gold leaf finish! This can also be used over picture frames, cabinetry, moldings for accents, or furniture items. Basic supplies.

Advertise with NTA!

Be a part of our "find an artist" web page. Simply fill out a form and the cost is only a one-time fee of \$25. The form can be collected at any NTA meeting, or you can contact Jennifer Huehns (jenrebstudio@yahoo.com).



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

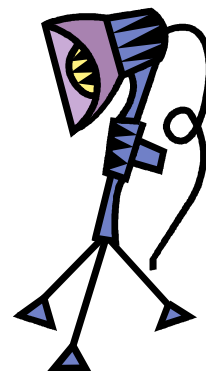
This section is reserved for "member news". Be sure to submit your accomplishments, ideas or thoughts to have your news in the spotlight!

Email jenrebstudio@yahoo.com

Dianne Merten

Hi everyone! My name is Dianne Merten
and I love to paint!!!

I am a self-taught artist with many years of art experiences. It all began with the DNA--my great aunt was an oil painter and became a prolific rosemaler—winning prizes, designing and teaching. She passed her interests to my mother. I became "hooked" on decorative painting when my mom took me with her to a painting class back in 1985. Before long, I couldn't get enough--I collected books, and patterns, bought a band saw, and took classes, and joined the Society of Decorative Painters.



Mom and I teamed up and did craft shows together. All this was happening while my kids were babies and I was determined to be a stay-at-home mom. So the crafts shows were my "job" for 10 years. Later, Mom and I opened a small shop together. We rented an 8 x 16 space in a co-op of small shops called "The Market" in St. Charles, IL. Sales were great and we expanded twice! We also teamed up as teachers--Mom began teaching classes in her home and I was hired to help. To this day, Mom still keeps a small shop at the Market and teaches painting once a week. Some of her students have been coming for 20 years!

In 1996, my husband's job moved us to Minnesota. The art world was changing--the handmade world of art was taken over by China, but now, people were hitting the walls with their brushes and sponges and rags etc... I thought--"I can do that"! My kids were growing up too, and now I had to come up with some serious money to pay for high school and eventually college tuition. I was praying hard that it could be done through painting. It became my dream to have my own decorative painting business combining my decorative art skills with the new wave of faux finishing.

When we moved here, I was also asked to begin an Art program at West Lutheran High School where my husband teaches. For 4 years I taught art to high school students and worked another job. I taught art first hour every morning, most of the time under great stress--I had to teach in a storage room, sometimes it was the cafeteria or the gym! We had no storage or running water and we got moved whenever some other faculty need took priority over mine. Then, after teaching 1st hour everyday, I ran off to work another job. Part of that time I worked for Budget Wallpaper and it was through that job that I came upon a painting contractor who hired me to paint and hang wallpaper, but also to do faux finishes for him. I started taking faux classes from Kathy Carroll in Chicago. I joined SALI and NTA. Once again, I hooked on faux finishes of all kinds and love it to this day!

After 1 year working for the contractor, the telephone began to ring and I suddenly had enough clients that I could quit my job---my dream came true! My own business became a reality in Sept of 1999!

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Dianne Merten Continued:

All these years of painting have really added up the experiences. I've learned stenciling, theorem painting, rosemaling, free-hand paint florals and landscapes, hang wallpaper, paint murals for nursing home halls, glazing and plastering, design and paint commissioned art, color consult, and decorate! I have to learn it all!

Over the years there have been ups and downs, but my dream business has been successful. The tuitions got paid, the cars repaired and the kids got married! My husband and I built our dream home this past year. (Of course it has numerous faux finishes and decorative painting with more planned for the future!) And assisted in the design and decoration of our new Church building. This business always seems to open up doors--meeting wonderful people and helping them create a joyful space is the most rewarding part of the job. There is nothing more satisfying!

Now, in 2008, once again life is changing. I'm a Grandma now! We want to travel more and climb ladders less. I still love to paint, design, and decorate but the future is unknown. I still hope I can continue my dream job but perhaps in a different form. Will it be a future that includes teaching art? Becoming a decorator consultant or painting commissioned art? Or maybe all of that and more! God only knows! See you in the future!!
To God be the Glory!

Dianne Merten

ORDER YOUR NTA T-SHIRTS TODAY!



\$20.00 each

A great idea to help advertise our chapter!