

PRESIDENTS LETTER

Happy New Year Gypsy Tolers!

I hope this finds all of you happy, healthy and rested up from the beautiful holiday season we just had! This is the time when we reflect on the past year and make resolutions for the new one. Well, I won't be making any resolutions but do plan to make some changes in my life. The most important one is to slow down a bit and enjoy each and every minute I have. I hope you all do the same.

What an amazing Christmas party/seminar we had! Thank you so much to Patti, Carolyn and all their helpers! It was magical other than the issues we had with technology. We will be taking care of our zoomers, not to worry. As for the virtual cookbook, I am working on it but could really use some more recipes. Things got a little hectic that day and I am afraid I didn't get all the recipes. If you would like to email me your favorite cookie or even soup recipe, please do. This is for all Gypsy Tolers, not just the party attendees.

At the party, a scalloped heart cutout was handed out with a little paper written by Lisbeth. It talked about a possible Valentine swap using this cutout. Did you get one? Are you wanting to participate? Let me know asap please. This swap doesn't have to be a big one with all the extras. You can just paint your heart and decorate it any way you like. This will keep the shipping cost down for you too. Could be fun...

Your board is busy planning the year and if you have any requests or wants, please let me know. One very important thing I would like to know from each of you is, if we had a Summer Sleepover event would you attend? It has been a few years since we were able to have this fun filled event and we would like to bring it back but only if we have interest. If not an entire weekend, how about a one-day painting event? This could be with a local teacher or two or we could bring in an out-of-town teacher and treat it as a seminar instead. Please let me know your thoughts.

IF we can secure a location to hold our monthly meetings, would you attend in person this year? We would continue to zoom regardless because we have so many out of the area members, but I have had several requests to get our group back together in one place each month. Our members miss the fellowship, potlucks and raffles along with all the other good times we have had.

There was a recommendation by a member to change our name to Gypsy Tolers Artist Guild. We will vote on this at our January meeting. Please log on to vote even if you aren't planning on painting the cute Sandra Malone Valentine piece Terri Mullins is teaching. We will also be discussing bylaw and standing rule changes that night. This month is a very important month to speak up if you have any thoughts or ideas.

Take care and I look forward to serving all of you again this year!

Heidi

GYPSY TOLERS MEMBERSHIP 2024

It is that time of year - Gypsy Membership for 2024. You won't want to miss out on any of the exciting classes/events that could be in store for the upcoming year (2024). Your board is hard at work planing some great things so join today so you don't miss out!!

The 2024 Membership form is attached. Please fill out the form in its entirety – EVEN if none of your information has changed

RECAP:

1. Provide a fully completed New/Renewal Form
2. Provide your fee in the amount of \$20 or let me know if you wish to be invoiced by PayPal

Please feel free to share the New/Renewal form with family and friends who would enjoy joining our chapter. The more, the merrier.

Please feel free to call me at 760-900-9343 if you should have any questions.

The Gypsy Tolers Board and I look forward to another creative, exciting, fun year in 2024.

Janet Mitchell

2023 Membership Chair

Membership

Happy New Years! It's the start of a brand new year and the board is planning lots of fun programs for 2024 so if you haven't renewed yet get your membership in, just fill out the form and you can email it to me if you want to be invoiced by PayPal or mail it to me with your check.

We currently have 61 members that have renewed and 11 new members

Let's welcome our new 2024 members:

Carmen Almanza	Janice Davis	Kay Fradeneck	Milena Lanka
Nancy Nass	Deena Robinson	Bonnie Rucker	Linnea Rydout
Christine Taylor-Leonard	Debbie Warren	LeeAnn Washatka	

PROGRAMS

I'm looking forward to our upcoming program with Robin Mani on January 18, 2024. I hope that you've received your surfaces and are busy basecoating! If you still wish to join us for the evening and haven't signed up, there is still time! Robin will be teaching from O'Flanary's in Redlands. Kreative Klutter will also be open for those wishing to paint with others.

I have the following people signed up to paint at O'Flanary's: Heidi Allison, Carm Brooker, Irene Burris, Jolene Cooley, Corrinne Meyer, Jo Anne Stanton, Regina Taylor, and Linda Wheeler. Painting at Kreative Klutter are Carmen Almanza, Annette Lamarre, Donna Petrillo, and Kim Tamiazzo.

Our 2024 Programs are shaping up. I've included flyers for January, February, and April with this article. Still waiting for submissions and contracts to come in to finalize the rest of the year. Remember, our prices have slightly increased for 2024. The cost for programs will be \$15 for members and \$22 for nonmembers.

This is what we have thus far for programs:

January 18, 2024 – Robin Mani

February 15, 2024 – Liz Vigliotto

March 21, 2024 – To Be Announced

April 18, 2024 – Linda LaRocco

May 16, 2024 – To Be Announced

June 20, 2024 – Janet Mitchell

July 18, 2024 – To Be Announced

August 15, 2024 – Deb Ramo

September 19, 2024 – Heidi Allison

October 17, 2024 – Georgia Magarrell

November 21, 2024 – Judy Coates

Hope you will consider joining us for this coming year.

Carol Whitton

1st Vice President – Programs

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY FAIR

I hope you all have been setting aside pieces to enter in the 2024 San Bernardino County Fair this year. The theme is "Truckloads of Fun!" I don't have the timelines just yet. Generally, submissions need to be registered around the 15th of April.

The cost to enter is \$2.00 per item. What a deal! Remember, you will compete with fellow painters at the same skill level as you. There are four levels - Novice (1-3 years experience), Intermediate (4-9 years experience), Advanced (10+ years experience), and Professional (a person who paints as a livelihood i.e. teachers). I hope that each of you will consider entering at least one piece this year. This is a way for us to show our craft to the public and, hopefully, gain some new painters along the way!

I will again offer to accept entries from our members who live out of the San Bernardino County area. Just let me know if you would like to participate and I will provide you with my address for you to use when entering. Also, if you need help in getting your item(s) to the fair on the dates listed above, please contact me. I will be happy to pick them up at a prearranged place and deliver them to the fair. The same goes for picking them up and returning them to you when the time comes.

Carol Whitton

Ways and Means

Hope you all enjoyed your Christmas. The Gypsy party was really great. Ursula and Judy did a super job. If you didn't make it, try for next year. I hear Judy is going to chair it again.

I am looking forward to another fun year as Ways and Means chairman. With Cheryl's help, and yours, we will have lots of great items to raffle off at all of our functions. Here is wishing you all a very happy new year.

Carm and Cheryl

Each month you will find special recipes in our newsletter. These are some of the ones submitted to me for the virtual cookie cookbook that never was. Enjoy!

Heidi

RECIPE

Pumpkin Sugar Cookies

Ingredients:

3 C. All purpose flour

1 tsp. baking soda

1 tsp. cinnamon

1/2 tsp nutmeg

1/2 tsp ground ginger

1/2 tsp ground cloves

1/4 tsp salt

2 sticks unsalted, room temp butter (equal to 1 Cup)

3/4 C. granulated sugar

3/4 C. brown sugar

1/3 C. pumpkin puree (blot with paper towel to remove excess liquid) Instructions:

The dough needs to chill in the fridge for 30 minutes before baking.

In small mixing bowl combine, flour, baking soda, cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves and salt. Set aside.

In another bowl, beat the butter, sugar and brown sugar with electric mixer for 1-2 minutes.

Add the pumpkin and beat again to combine.

Gradually add in the dry ingredients on low or by hand. This dough will be thick.

Using your cookie scoop form balls. Roll in hand to make round balls. Place cookie balls on parchment lined cookie sheet and refrigerate for 30 minutes.

Pre heat oven to 350 degrees.

After cookie dough is chilled, roll each ball in sugar and place on cookie sheet 2" apart. Bake for 15-19 minutes or until edges have a faint golden color.

Allow cookies to cool on cookie sheet for 15 minutes and then transfer to cooling racks.

Enjoy!