California Rosemaler Newsletter

December 2013 www.califrosemaler.org No. 118

Save the Dates!

San Diego

November 7-9, 2014

(Nov. 6 for prep)

In addition to CRA's fabulous **rosemaling convention**, there is something for everyone in San Diego!

Rosemaling

isn't just for plates anymore...

This beautiful art form is being used in a variety of places. What unusual places have you seen Rosemaling?

Share the experience with us by sending pictures to me by email or snail mail, or whatever works for you. It doesn't matter who the artist is. These are simply to be used for our enjoyment at the 2014 CRA Convention in San Diego. Please participate and make this fun for everyone!

Astrid Fisher
AEHF1@cox.net
(*note that is the number one, not an L*)
3412 Avenida De Loyola
Oceanside, CA 92056

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Rosemaling at the Movies

Norwegian trunk from the collection at Vesterheim, the Norwegian American Museum, in Decorah, Iowa.

Photo, left, courtesy Ruth Ann Petro

President's Message

Dear Rosemaling Friends,

Best wishes and Happy Holidays to everyone! I hope those who were able to attend our 26th annual Convention in Sacramento enjoyed it and learned something. I really enjoyed both of our wonderful teachers. I've wanted to paint at least one Gudbrandsdal piece for a long time. What could be better than having Judy Ritger, VGM as the teacher? It was awesome just to watch her paint. I was also privileged to be in her pre-Convention Kolrosing class. I have little hope of mastering either but loved the classes.

And, then there was Ruth Green, VGM teaching Rogaland. Her paintings are just beautiful and everyone I spoke with really enjoyed Ruth's design and her class. We loved the colors.

A big thank you to both!

The outgoing Board also did a wonderful job with the Convention and many thanks to each of them: Karen Nelson - VP Programs, Onya Tolmasoff - Treasurer, Joyce Field - Membership, Carole Hood - Secretary, Karen Willman - Newsletter, and Jurene While - Historian and Trade Show. Thank you, thank you, thank you. These ladies are all very committed to the organization and do everything in their power to make Convention go smoothly. They gave significant amounts of time and energy to making 2013 such a success.

I believe the incoming Board will live up to the same standards. Please join me in welcoming: Astrid Fisher - VP Programs, Onya Tolmasoff - Treasurer, Lottie Sather - Membership, Beth Twogood - Secretary, Joyce Field - Trade Show, Karen Willman - Newsletter, and Jurene While - Historian. I'm looking forward to working with all.

Our 2014 Convention will be in San Diego! Please mark your calendars for November 7—9, 2014 (November 6 for prep) and plan to come.

Again, Happy Holidays and all the best in 2014.
Ruth Ann

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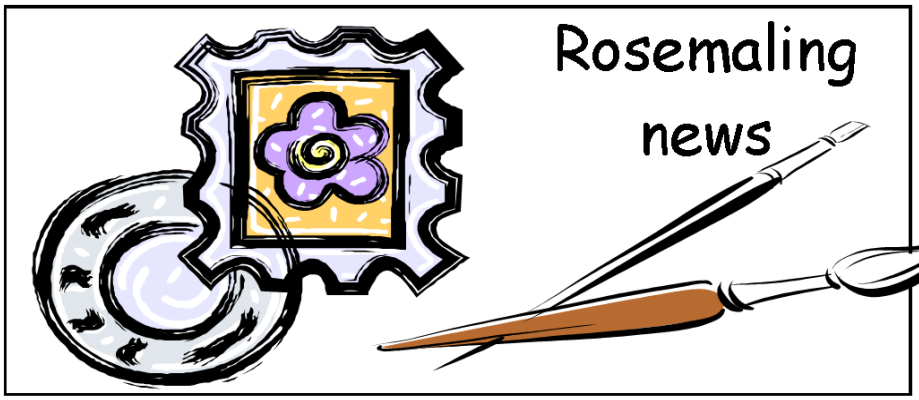
Rosemaling Award

Congratulations to CRA's Carl Larson for his Vest Agder Rosemaled Tankard.entry at the Alameda County Fair earlier this year. His tankard was awarded Best of Show and Judge's Favorite Award.

Photo courtesy and © Carl Larson.



Joyce Stegeman Featured in SDP's Decorative Painter

CRA member Joyce Stegeman of Arizona has a rosemaling project in the Fall 2013 issue of Society of Decorative Painter's magazine.

Joyce's project "Rosemale Greetings" explores rosemaling with colored pencils for greeting cards. She will be teaching at SDP's Convention in San Diego next spring.

She's taught painting, including rosemaling and decorative painting, at Arizona Western College in Yuma, AZ for the past 30 years. This January and February (2014) she'll be teaching oil painting and watercolor classes in Yuma.

Camp Norge

The Spring Rosemaling Seminar at the Sons of Norway's Camp Norge is set for April 26/27, 2014. Our teachers will be Carl Larson, Mardella Ivers, and Karen Nelson.

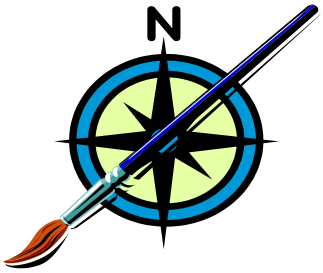
Details will be on the website late January/early February: www.campnorge.org

Penny Knudsen

Photos from the fall rosemaling retreat with Marley Smith, Onya Tolmasoff and Mardella Ivers. Photos courtesy and © Onya Tolmasoff

Vista's Viking Days

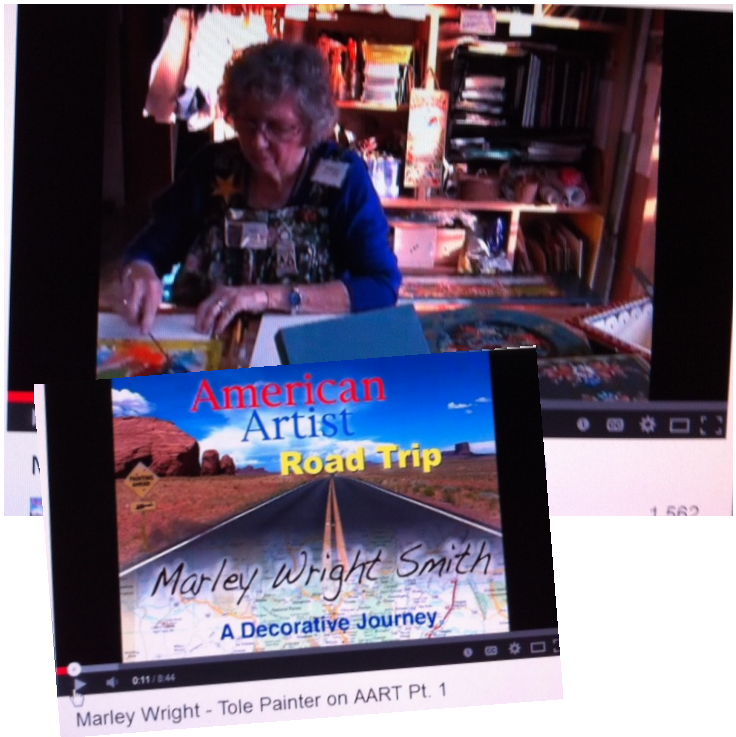
Vista, a small Southern California town north of San Diego, celebrates Vikings every year at the Sons of Norway Lodge, but Ruth Ann Petro (standing) and Lynne Bradley (seated with brush) made sure rosemaling had a strong presence, too.



Around & About with CRA

Some pictures & news on what some of our members are up to….

Rosemalers on a break at JoSonja's class in Eureka CA earlier this year. Lots of California Rosemaling Association members there… ***Photo courtesy Arlene Rounce***



You Tube Series Highlights Marley Wright Smith & Rosemaling

The internet and You Tube are fun to browse for hints and helps and tips, and in the case of Russ Wright's road trip series on American artists, a chance to visit CRA's Marley Wright Smith and her painting studio.

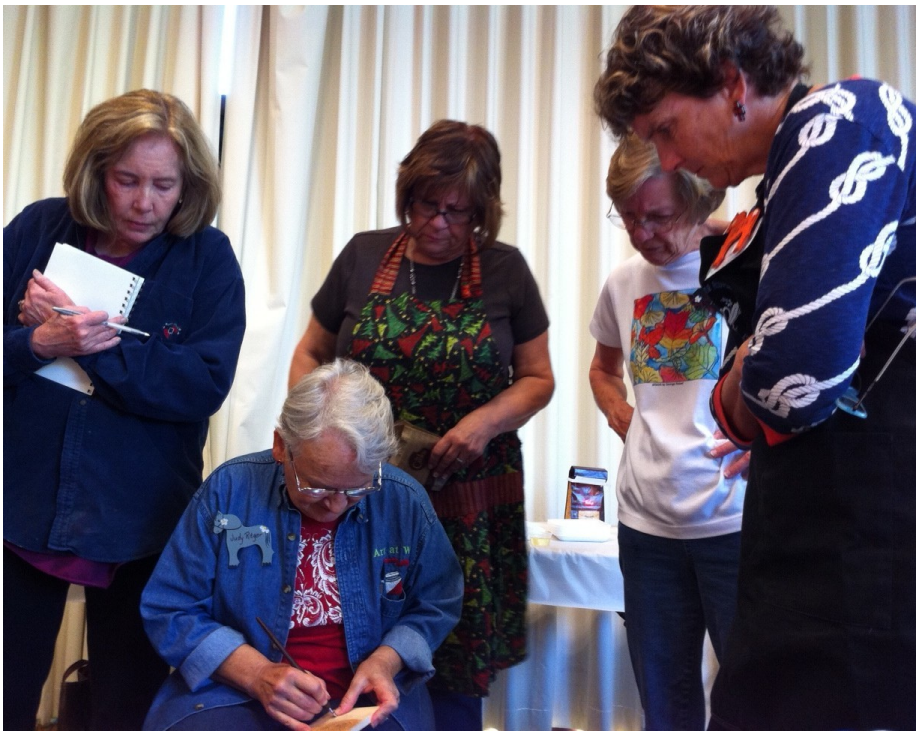
Marley has been active teaching and painting rosemaling in the Northern California area, including Camp Norge. She's featured in a two-part series on decorative painting and rosemaling and the Scandinavian traditions.

To see the series, go to:

www.**youtube.com**/watch?v=URYOjxpefdE

An Adventure in Kolrosing

The Kolrosing class Judy Ritger, VGM in wood carving held before convention came with a caveat: "you never want to do anything too big — it would kill you!" As it was, the afternoon class was a perfect starting point for an introduction to the tradition dating back to Viking times — decorating wooden objects with an incised design and then bringing out the cuts with a darkening compound such as ground coffee, and finishing with sanding and coating with oil.



CRA's Sacramento Convention October 2013

Featuring VGM's Ruth Green and Judy Ritger

A fun fall gathering for Gudbrandsdal and Rogaland rosemaling. Lots of ideas and inspiration!

THREE DAYS OF ROSEMALING classes with excellent teachers, a day for prep painting and a chance to learn Kolrosing, a chance at the Trade Floor for rosemaling supplies and books, entertainment by Sacramento's El Dorado Scandinavian Dancers and a dinner banquet, time to visit with friends — and meet new ones… Another great CRA convention!

Karen Nelson, VGM, received special greetings from rosemaling friends — a piece started at JoSonja's and completed at convention… Karen put together the last two CRA conventions in Sacramento.

"Thank you for your participation. I hope you had a good time and I look forward to seeing you again. If you didn't have a chance to be there, hope you can go to the convention in 2014!"

Karen Nelson
1st Vice– Convention

Inspiration everywhere… Four Vesterheim Gold Medalists were at CRA's convention in Sacramento… (left to right) Judy Ritger, Karen Neson, Ruth Green and Jurene While

Vesterheim Gold Medalist
Rosemaling & Wood Carving

Vesterheim Gold Medalists
Rosemaling

And, a very special raffle at convention ...

Many thanks to all who contributed convention photos for this issue…
Olga Kutuyev, Ruth Ann Petro, Onya Tolmasoff, Jurene While and Karen Willman

A look at Rosemaling's role in Disney's new hit movie Frozen…

Courtesy and © Disney. All rights reserved.

And CRA's Rick Marzullo's connection….

"I spent a day with the Disney group, took them around Solvang. Talked Danish clothing, architecture, Danish folk painting. It was a lot of fun. So honored."

I'd already requested an interview through Disney's Studio when I saw Frozen over the Thanksgiving weekend. Glad it was still in the works — I spotted CRA's Rick Marzullo's name in the credits…

It turns out two years ago, Rick was one of the consultants the Disney Studios contingent met with in Solvang, CA, in researching the movie. Frozen's Art Director Mike Giaimo wanted to learn more about Scandinavian clothing and architecture, two areas of Rick's expertise. (Rick is also known for his Danish paper cutting (*see the December 2012 California Rosemaler newsletter*).

"The trip to Solvang was a game changer for this movie," Mike Giaimo explained in a phone interview just before Christmas. "Before this trip, we'd studied all things Scandinavian. But when we talked with the Solvang group, we realized there was such specificity for individual countries, it might be a disservice to the countries to make it a Scandinavian blend."

CRA's Rick Marzullo (featured in the CRA newsletter December 2012) ***Photo courtesy and © Rick Marzullo***

The story is loosely inspired by Danish story-teller Hans Christian Andersen's "The Snow Queen."

"The executive producer, John Lasseter, always wants us to do our research — to know the history, so we can build from the truth," Giaimo said.

Giaimo said the next stop was an extensive research trip to Norway — the mountains and fjords were the dramatic scenery they wanted and the stave churches provided the rich architectural look they could build on.

"The third element we found was rosemaling. You need all things great and small to tell the story, to create a picture," the art director said, adding, "Rosemaling was a prime element in the mix. We try to create a common language… I'm a very design-oriented person. We could take the small (the rosemaling) and use it throughout the movie.

"It helped us in a big way. Rosemaling is such a signature of this movie. It's in the clothing, the scenery, the snow and ice. It allowed us to create a signature look for the movie.

"There's a difference in how we approached rosemaling from the traditional rosemaling in Norway," Giaimo said, explaining the color palette and design were where the artists were able to create their fantasy world. "Rather than the more traditional primary colors, we used a jewel-like palette, drawing on deep

indigos and violet and lavenders.

"When studying the traditional Norwegian costuming — the bunads — generally they were very primary colors of blues and reds. We shifted to a secondary palette to transform the costuming into a fantasy… It's based on the real, but brings its own look…"

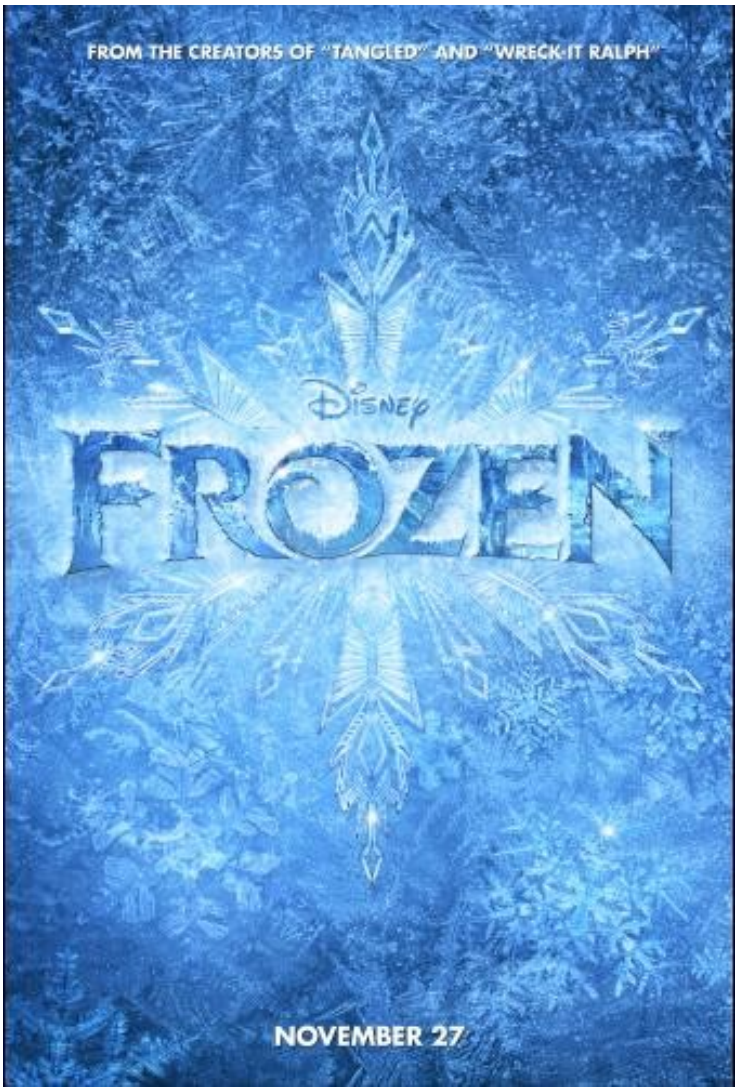
The rosemaling also helped to establish the characters, Giaimo said. The artists used cursive and floral rosemaling designs for Anna and her sister. The rosemaling was based on more geometric shapes for the male characters.

"We really wanted to make 'Frozen' a big costume movie. It's something that hasn't been done before. Costumes are always nice, but never to this level for artistry. In studying the Norwegian costumes, it's something that you could never do in a hand-drawn movie — it would be too time consuming. But in a CGI (computer-generated imagery) movie, we raised the bar," Giaimo said. "Teamwork — art and technology together — created something special, beautiful and elaborate."

Giaimo had said "We wanted to create an intimate world with an enchanting and dynamic setting that would be immediately identifiable for generations to come. Norway offered a cultural backdrop we'd never explored before and we thought, 'Wouldn't it be great to blend its dramatic natural environment, architecture and folk costume aesthetic?' It feels like a world from a classic Disney film, but it's completely new."

...Maybe it will introduce new generations to Norway's art and culture and create more interest in rosemaling...

Karen Willman



Images from Disney's Frozen courtesy and © Disney. All rights reserved.

Photo of bunad detail above, courtesy Karen Willman

Tips & hints...

What works best for you?
Please send in your tips for our March newsletter. Include pics, too if you have them….

Sewn fabric brush holder made to stand with aid of a standard glass

Acrylic stand up frame or small easel and page protector for protecting pattern or photo

Another tip: Place a piece of waxed paper on top of your tracing. Helps to see what has been traced!

Plastic bottle caps serve as handy paint cups for your palette.
And when kept in a closed plastic container, the paint stays fresher even longer….

Another simple palette idea for keeping paint fresher longer...

A simple clothespin and wood support for holding pattern pieces or photos

A wooden bridge comes in handy to aid in supporting your hand for hard to reach places. Also, a divided wood holder (or chopstick holder) comes in handy for resting brushes

California Rosemaling Association

The purpose of the California Rosemaling Association is to promote the traditional art of Norwegian rosemaling. Our members are committed to preserving rosemaling as a unique art form.

CRA has approximately 140 members. Some are expert rosemalers, others are beginning painters, all with a love to study the art form.

Membership in CRA allows you to attend the annual convention featuring renowned rosemalers from around the world. Members also receive an annual membership directory and a subscription to the quarterly newsletter.

The $15 annual membership dues include a subscription to the California Rosemaler, published quarterly, March, June, September and December. We welcome articles, designs, photos and suggestions for future issues.

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Patterns may be traced for personal use, not for resale
If you have something to include, please send it in by March 1, 2014 for the next issue.

Comments and suggestions are always welcome.
Send to Karen Willman, newvikings@sbcglobal.net.

Early Membership Bonus

Those who paid their 2014 dues by December 31, 2013 receive an ornament pattern designed by CRA's Jurene While, VGM.

CRA Membership

Thank you to all who have rejoined CRA in 2013 & to the new members we welcome you..
If you didn't pay your 2014 dues at convention, they are due now.
If you haven't yet joined us, send your check for $15 made out to **CRA** to:
Lottie Sather
520 Twin Pines Drive
Rio Vista, CA 94571

CALIFORNIA ROSEMALING ASSOCIATION
*Membership Application: 2014*_____

Name _____ New_____ Renewal_____

Mailing Address: _____

_____

Phone:
_____Cell:_____

Email: _____
May we print the above information in our membership directory? Yes _____ No _____

Do you teach rosemaling? _____If so, where? _____

California Rosemaler Newsletter
Karen Willman, editor

December 2013 No.118

Inside:
Pictures from CRA's convention in Sacramento. Here. CRA president Ruth Ann Petro receives rosemaling gift from the California Rosemaling Association, presented by board member Onya Tolmasoff (far left).

Inside:
Rosemaling on the big screen….Disney's Frozen highlights Norway's art and culture.
Courtesy and
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