

# California Rosemaler Newsletter



*Thank You  
to all  
who joined us at  
CRA's  
2014 Convention*

*Special thanks to Gayle Oram  
and Andrea Kerkert (right), our  
VGM instructors and to  
Astrid Fisher for putting the  
convention together.*



☪ Inside ☪

Convention  
Pictures

Member News  
& More

*A selection of antique  
wooden containers on  
display at Vesterheim  
Norwegian American  
Museum in Decorah,  
Iowa. The pieces are  
by various artists and  
represent a number of  
rosemaling styles.*



# President's Message



Dear Rosemaling Friends,

Best wishes and Happy Holidays to everyone! I hope those who were able to attend our 27th annual Convention in San Diego enjoyed it and learned something. I really enjoyed both of our wonderful teachers. We always enjoy Gayle Oram, VGM and are grateful she lives on the West coast. Her Os is beautiful. If only I could paint like that!

Our second teacher this year was Andrea Herkert, VGM. She taught Telemark and did a great job. I heard many comments about what a wonderful teacher she is as well as many who wanted her back for another Convention. High praise indeed.

A big thank you to both!

Although Convention was wonderful, we didn't have as many people in attendance as we'd hoped. Before the January Board Meeting, we'd love to get some feedback from those who weren't able to make it. Please email me at [rpetro1@mac.com](mailto:rpetro1@mac.com) or Astrid Fisher at [AEHF1@cox.net](mailto:AEHF1@cox.net). It would be really helpful to know what would entice you to come or why you chose not to. Cost, location, projects not to your liking, etc. What would help you decide to come in 2015? Please take a moment to give us feedback. Thanks in advance.

The outgoing Board also did a wonderful job with the Convention and many thanks to each of them: Astrid Fisher - VP Programs, Onya Tolmasoff - Treasurer, Lottie Sather - Membership, Beth Twogood - Secretary, Karen Willman - Newsletter, and Jurene While - Historian; also to Joyce Field - 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 2014 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, Jill Beatty - Newsletter, and Jurene While - Historian. I'm looking forward to working with all.



Our 2014 Convention will also be in San Diego! Please mark your calendars and plan to come.

The hotel was great, so we expect to be back at the same place. It's convenient to the airport and is about two blocks from great food in Old Town San Diego.

Again, Happy Holidays and all the best in 2014.

**Ruth Ann**

## 2014 CRA Board

President (760) 212-7524	Ruth Ann Petro <a href="mailto:rpetro1@mac.com">rpetro1@mac.com</a>
1st Vice-Convention (760)721-4194	Astrid Fisher <a href="mailto:AEHF1@cox.net">AEHF1@cox.net</a>
Membership (707) 374-1384	Lotte Sather <a href="mailto:rgransather@aol.com">rgransather@aol.com</a>
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Historian (619) 465-5178	Jurene While <a href="mailto:jandrwhile@cox.net">jandrwhile@cox.net</a>

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Newsletter Editor (415) 350-6492	Jill Beatty <a href="mailto:NorskJill@gmail.com">NorskJill@gmail.com</a>
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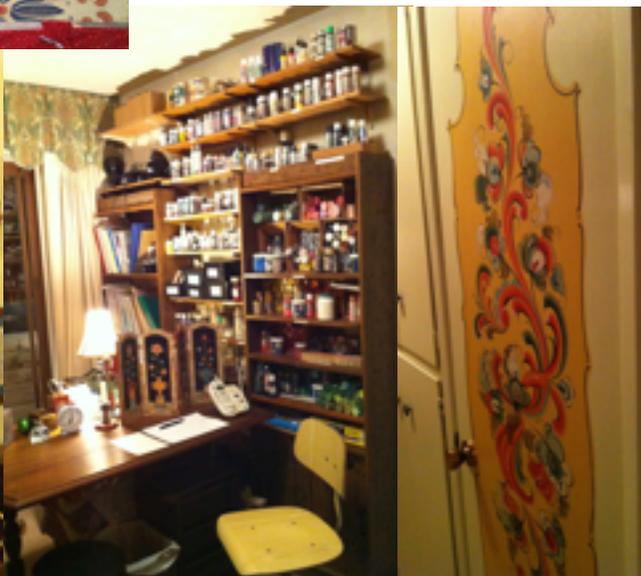
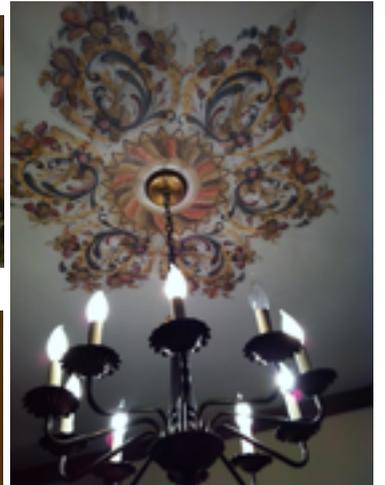
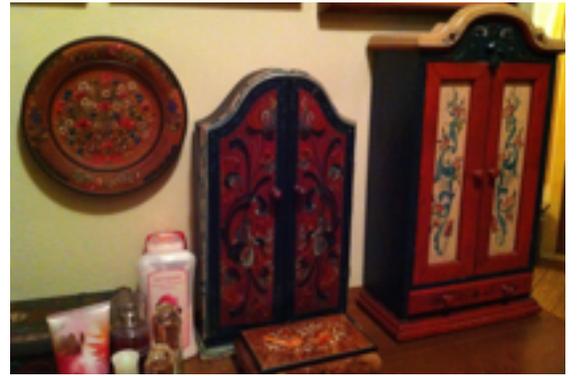
# *Open House... An Enchanted Evening*



*Jurene and Richard White*



It was a very special evening to welcome members to CRA's convention. Desserts were on the menu, but the feast was in the looking. Everywhere. Jurene's rosemaling and decorative painting was evident in every room — on the walls, the ceilings, the furniture, you name it... Plus there were wonderful pieces they've collected over the years by various artists. The hospitality and inspiration was enjoyed by all!



# Great Teachers, Friends and Fun...



Gayle's  
Os Class



Gayle introduced a number of floral variations and design elements to consider in designing individual pieces.



Thank you

Gayle Oram,<sup>VGM</sup>  
and  
Andrea Herkert,<sup>VGM</sup>





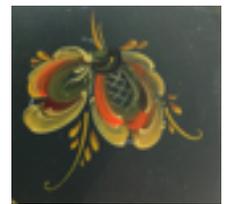
## Andrea's Telemark Class

*Greetings to All!*

*I just want to thank you all for your gracious invitation for me to teach during your convention in November! I enjoyed meeting everyone in the CRA and feel that I have some new and dear friends on the West Coast. It was truly an honor for me to share my love and passion for Rosemaling with all of you and your enthusiasm and warm welcome meant the world to me. It was so fun to paint together and learn about your organization and projects that you all are working on and to get to know you. I was thrilled with your accomplishments and talent as well as your love of Rosemaling, which is so dear to my heart! I have memories of our time together to last a lifetime. And of course, meeting and working with Gayle Oram was the frosting on the cake.*

*I so look forward to keeping up with the activities of the CRA and hope our paths will cross again someday! Keep painting those C's and S's and bring out the artist within!*

**Andrea**





## Fiesta and Song

Entertainment for the banquet was provided by Southern California Damekor, a singing group led by CRA member Lynne Bradley, (surprising us with a fun, specially adapted rosemaling song) New member Kris Pilkington was one of the lucky raffle winners, shown here with a rosemaled and chip carved plate by Judy Ritger.



Convention photos for this issue courtesy  
*Katie Allen,  
 Astrid Fisher,  
 Linda Grondahl,  
 Kristine Pilkington  
 Doris Weber  
 Karen Willman*

## Convention 2014

It was definitely a packed 4 days... An incredible welcome at the home of VGM Jurene While and her husband Richard. And the opportunity to study with two other VGMs over the next three days, exploring two different rosemaling styles. Lots of tips and techniques shared and many questions answered in addition to the many demonstrations... Lots to take in — and lots to put into practice...A great fiesta. Hope you'll join us at Convention next year, October 29 - November 1, 2015.



CRA's convention chairperson, Astrid Fisher (left, in bunad) with sister Kris Henderson. Many thanks, Astrid, for all the special details and all the time and work!



## Celebrating Design

Photos, left are details from the apron **Rick Marzullo** made for Solvang's 2010 Danish Days Maid Heidi Anderson who has both Danish and Norwegian heritage. Her dress is fashioned after those worn in Mols, Denmark, but to bring in some of her Norwegian heritage also, Rick designed the apron "Forklaede" with rosemaling and local wildflowers, hand printing it with fabric dyes

Rick is known for his expertise with Danish folk dress and embroidery as well as being a master paper cutting artist (see California Rosemaler December 2012)

He says the Julpynt heart-shaped ornaments below are painted all year long at his house, but they don't mention Christmas/Jul until after Thanksgiving. This ornament (both sides are shown) is styled after Numedal rosemaling.

*Photos courtesy & © Rick Marzullo*

**Around & About  
with CRA**

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



## Norwegian Rosemaler Bjorg Kleivi Set for Seminar

Notice: April 7-10, 2015 Bjorg Kleivi is coming to Vista in Southern California for a Seminar. If you would like to be put on the waiting list, please contact Joyce Field at [jafield@verizon.net](mailto:jafield@verizon.net). Class will be approx. \$325.00. plus lunch.

*Joyce Field*

## Rosemaling in Santa Cruz

I am teaching a Rosemaling class at the Scandinavian Cultural Center of Santa Cruz on March 7, 2015. A pattern has not been selected yet.

Contact person for signing up for this event is Ms Duane Adams, phone 831/479 4376.

**Mardelle Probasco**



## Ghoulies and Ghosties and.... Yorick?

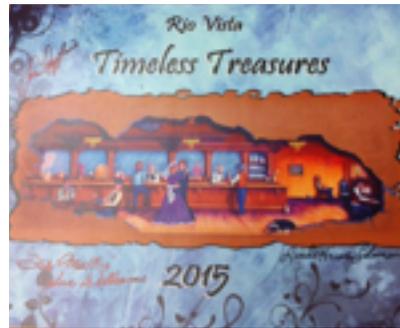
Not what you'd call traditional, but for Halloween this year **Katie Allen** painted this Yorick skull, embellishing it with a touch of rosemaling.



## Showcasing Their Town...

If you give a painter a brush, there's no telling what can be done, especially with a group effort. CRA's **Lotte Sather**, (holding brush and seated next to the dog) took part in the community effort to spruce up and revitalize the Sacramento River delta city of Rio Vista. The city's history is being highlighted on murals around the downtown area. Lotte said it was a fun project, but that painting a design on stucco was a whole new challenge...

Photos courtesy Lotte Sather



## Cat and the Trolls: The Film's Getting Closer



A family reunion of sorts for sisters Karen Loveless and Sue Hughes, above, greeted by some of Karen's children at convention.

Filming is set to begin in 2015 for *Cat and the Trolls*, Michael Amundsen's Christmas-themed story of a Scandinavian immigrant family's adventures and hardships.

Touché International Films LLC New Mexico are now in partnership with Michael Amundsen in *Cat and the Trolls* Production Company LLC to produce what they hope will become a Christmas classic for families.

There was an article in the June 2014 newsletter featuring the rosemaling **Karen Amundsen Loveless** had done on a large trunk for the film. Karen and **Sue Hughes**, both CRA members, are sisters of Michael Amundsen; their Norwegian family were homesteaders in Montana at the beginning of the twentieth century.

Although the summer Kickstarter fund ended without reaching its goal, Amundsen said the film company is still seeking financial support and he plans to offer various levels of rewards to current donors to the film.

You can follow the film's progress through the website, <http://www.catandthetrollsfilm.com> or <https://www.facebook.com/CatAndTheTrolls>

Photos at right courtesy and © Michael Amundsen. Michael Amundsen, center, with new partners from Touché International Films





## Introductions to Rosemaling

CRA member **Ingrid Pratt** gave a rosemaling demonstration and talk at the Vasa District Convention earlier this year in Woodland Hills. Ingrid brought a number of pieces she's painted to illustrate the various styles of rosemaling. She followed it up with a rosemaling class in Carpinteria in September, inspiring Kris Pilkington to join CRA and come to CRA's convention.

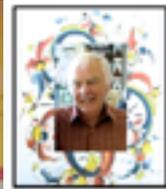
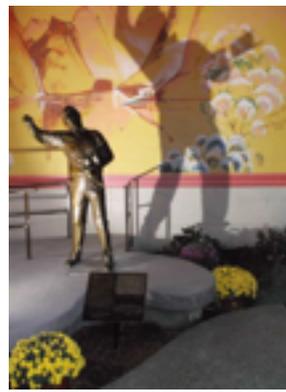
Photos courtesy and © **Ashley Vikander**, Glenn T Seaborg Lodge Vasa Order of America



## Viking Festival

CRA was well represented at the Viking Festival in Vista in September.

**Lynne Bradley**, far left, and **Astrid Fisher** demonstrated and were on hand to answer questions about rosemaling, with Astrid's husband, Bob, displaying his wood carvings. Astrid teaches rosemaling in the Vista area.



Photo, courtesy Karen Willman

Photos courtesy & © Giants of the Earth Heritage Center. Doug Eckheart and Sallie DeReus with tribute murals; sculptor Craig Bergsgaard and bronze statue of Sigmund; Sigmund's family with his statue, (below)



## A Tribute to Sigmund Aarseth (1936-2012)

The call for photos of works by Norwegian painter and rosemarler Sigmund Aarseth and the students he inspired brought hundreds of submissions to The Giants of the Earth Heritage Center in Spring Grove, Minnesota this past October.

Sallie DeReus and Doug Eckheart painted tribute murals in honor of Sigmund in the center's garden. They were based on murals Sigmund had designed and painted with Sallie in the center's Immigration Hall. And a life-size bronze statue created by sculptor Craig Bergsgaard was unveiled by Sigmund's widow Ingeborg and daughter Halldis, with other family members in attendance.

For videos on Sigmund and the tribute murals, go to:

<http://springgrovemnheritagecenter.org/celebrating-the-legacy-of-sigmund-arseth/>



# Living a dream...story telling immersed in a world of traditions & folk arts...



► I happened on a fun website... Author Kathleen Ernst has embraced so many handicrafts and folk arts, working history and traditions into her books. And, she's spent a lot of time at Vesterheim, researching as well as taking classes... She has written some 30 books including the Chloe Ellefson Mystery Series, many in the American Girls series as well as a number of books on the Civil War. I asked her to share some of her journey and her thoughts on folk arts and traditions. Here's some of our interview...

Karen Willman



I learned to love history as a young child when my parents introduced me to historical fiction, and made historic sites and museums part of every family vacation. After college I went to work at Old World Wisconsin, a huge outdoor living history museum focused on the immigrant experience. I loved working in the restored homes and farms and getting all kinds of hands-on experience with domestic crafts and foodways. I was an interpreter there for two years, then became curator of interpretation and collections.

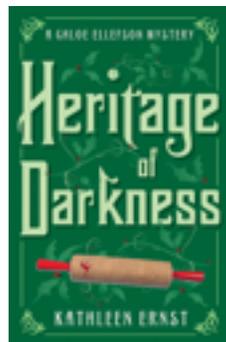
I love folk art because so often it is the only tangible thing the creator left behind.

Kathleen Ernst

I really am living my dream! As a child I dreamed of being an author, and I feel as if everything I've done up to this point led me to write the Chloe Ellefson books. I learned a great deal about history and folk art while working at Old World Wisconsin and also later when I spent a decade writing and helping to produce video programs for public television.

In each Chloe book I get to choose a wonderful historic site or museum as setting, and explore themes that intrigue me. So many immigrants left no record behind...in my small way I hope to pay tribute to everything they did and accomplished.

I love folk art because so often it is the only tangible thing the creator left behind. So often pieces in museum collections have no known provenance. I love looking at a folk art piece and trying to imagine who made, owned, or used it. What stories can this object tell? In my job as curator I could speculate, but not fabricate. One of the reasons I love weaving folk arts through the Chloe Ellefson mysteries is having the chance to create those stories.



Author Kathleen Ernst at Vesterheim Museum researching the museum's collections and taking rosmaling classes. Bottom photo is in a Hallingdal class with instructor Donna Benson, VGM. Photos courtesy and © Kathleen Ernst.



Chloe, my main character, is curator of collections at Old World Wisconsin. For the first book in the series, *Old World Murder*, I knew I wanted to create a plot that focused on one missing artifact. Of the thousands of objects I could choose from, I decided to focus on a Norwegian ale bowl. I've always been intrigued by ale bowls, in part because they are often beautiful, and in part because they must have been awkward to pack into an immigrant trunk. Since so many bowls made it to the New World, they must have had special meaning to the people who brought them.

Chloe Ellefson was born and raised in the very Norwegian community of Stoughton, Wisconsin. Her mother Marit is a Gold Medalist rosemaler. I knew that if I was going to write about a rosemaler, I needed to learn more about the art. Since I'm a hands-on researcher, I took a beginner's class at Vesterheim and discovered that I love painting! I've been taking classes ever since, usually in Telemark, although I did try Hallingdal last summer.

In the fourth book, *Heritage of Darkness*, Chloe and Marit head to Decorah for a week of rosemaling classes at Vesterheim--advanced for Marit, beginning for Chloe. When an instructor is murdered, Marit ends up teaching Chloe's class, which does not help the mother-daughter relationship! In the story Chloe struggles to catch on, and many of her initial frustrations come from my own experience. Painting is challenging for me, and I'm usually the slowest person in the room. But I'm always delighted when I finish a piece, and by the end of the book Chloe does come to understand why her mother so loves rosemaling. This book also features chip carving, another folk art I admire.

And I love plunging into a new art and learning what I can. I have the most personal experience with textiles, so rosemaling has opened up a whole new world for me. (*For the third book, The Light Keeper's Legacy, Kathleen studied Hedebo, beautiful type of needle lace.*) The newest book, *Tradition of Deceit*, features the Polish immigrant experience, and the folk art of papercutting plays an integral role in the plot. I had no experience with paper, and I loved taking classes and learning something new. I've gotten a lot of good feedback, also. I always take show-and-tell items when I visit libraries and bookstores, and readers love having the chance to see examples of the folk art they've been reading about!

*Kathleen Ernst*

Cold winter day?  
Get some coffee or tea and explore the treasures on Kathleen's website. Her husband and business manager, Scott Meeker, aka Mr. Ernst, has the website packed with blogs and tidbits from her books, the stories behind the books, the arts and history along the way. There are a number of fun Vesterheim and rosemaling related features.

[www.kathleenernst.com](http://www.kathleenernst.com)



Photos, above left, some of the features on Kathleen's website. Left, Kathleen with VGM Joanne MacVey in rosemaling class at Vesterheim. Photos courtesy and © Kathleen Ernst.

# 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 120 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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If you have something to include, please send it in by March 1, 2015 for the spring issue. Comments and suggestions are always welcome. For 2015, send to Jill Beatty, [NorskJill@gmail.com](mailto:NorskJill@gmail.com).



*Just a note to say THANKS! to all those who have contributed ideas and photos over the almost 6 years I've done CRA's newsletter. Your help was wonderful — and I hope you'll continue to share info with Jill Beatty who's volunteered to take on the newsletter starting in 2015.*

*Karen Willman  
[newvikings@sbcglobal.net](mailto:newvikings@sbcglobal.net)*

ANNUAL DUES: \$15.00

Please send check payable to **CRA** to:  
Lotte Sather  
520 Twin Pines Drive  
Rio Vista, CA 94571

## **CALIFORNIA ROSEMALING ASSOCIATION**

Membership Application 2014 \_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

May we print the above information in the membership directory? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Do you teach rosemaling? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, where? \_\_\_\_\_

California Rosemaler Newsletter  
Karen Willman, Editor

December 2014 No. 122



Inside this issue:  
**Glimpses into the world of folk art  
and rosemaling...**

*Photo, left is a mirror reflection of a mural  
Jurene While, VGM, painted in her home.*

Save the Date:  
CRA Convention 2015  
**October 29 - November 1**  
San Diego