

California Rosemaler



Washington Island, Wisconsin

One of the earliest immigrant settlements in Wisconsin. The town dates back to 1865. Icelandic and other Scandinavian immigrants made this island their home. Before these times the Island was populated by American Indians. Long known for abundant fish in the waters surrounding the island, it is also well known for some of the most treacherous water conditions on Lake Michigan. Hundreds of wooden shipwrecks are located here and your passage to the island takes you thru port des mortes or Deaths Door.

Washington Island is located about seven miles off the tip of Door County peninsula. Geologists say that millions of years ago the island was part of the mainland. It is one of a group of 20 islands that separate Wisconsin and upper Michigan. Many of these islands have interesting histories, but are now isolated. Washington Island alone has an interesting past and a promising future.

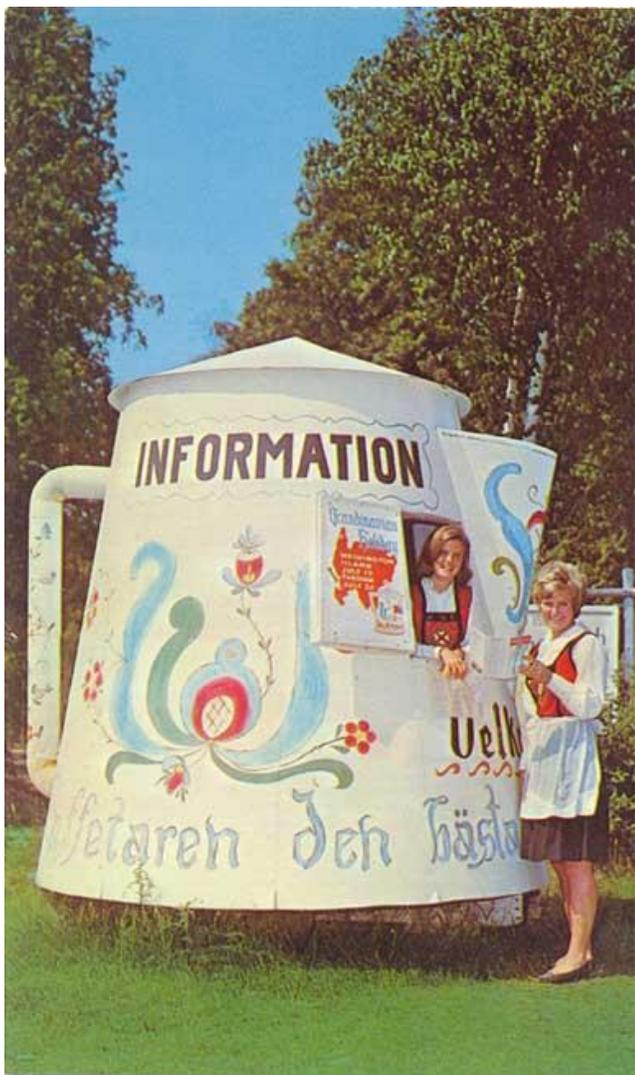
☛ Inside

Sympathy to Ruth Ann Petro

Pattern from Jurene

Thank you to
Karen Willman

Announcements
& More



This postcard shows an information booth on Washington Island, Door County, Wisconsin. The giant coffee pot was made of galvanized steel in 1941 and is painted with a Norwegian Rosmaling design. It has a door and two windows. It was originally used as a store and then as a tourist information booth, but now it is just a local landmark.



President's Message



Condolences are extended from all the members and friends to Ruth Ann Petro. Her husband Michael Petro passed away suddenly and unexpected in Southern California at home from a massive heart attack.

Ruth Ann said she is in a state of shock, and denial. She has posted more on her Facebook, and there is a lovely tribute made about him. Please send her a card, or thinking of you note, as she journeys through this most difficult time.

R.I.P. Michael C. Petro

February 5, 1953-February 6, 2015



2015 CRA Board

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Gone From My Sight

*I am standing upon the seashore. A ship, at my side,
spreads her white sails to the moving breeze and starts for
the blue ocean.*

She is an object of beauty and strength.

*I stand and watch her until, at length, she hangs like a
speck of white cloud just where the sea and sky come to
mingle with each other.*

Then, someone at my side says, "There, she is gone."

Gone where?

*Gone from my sight. That is all. She is just as large in
mast, hull and spar as she was when she left my side.*

*And, she is just as able to bear her load of living freight to
her destined port.*

Her diminished size is in me -- not in her.

*And, just at the moment when someone says, "There, she is
gone,"*

*there are other eyes watching her coming, and other
voices ready to take up the glad shout,*

"Here she comes!"

poem by Henry Van Dyke 1852-1933

Henry Jackson Van Dyke was born in Germantown, Pennsylvania, to Henrietta Ashmead and Henry Jackson Van Dyke, a respected Presbyterian clergyman. The son was influenced by his father's role as minister, though the boy was not necessarily a model child. As his father said of his two sons, "Paul was born good, but Henry was saved by grace." In 1868 Van Dyke met Robert E. Lee, who gave him a ride on his horse, Traveller.

The CRA Board has been working hard for the last four years in their current positions, (other than Jill Beatty, who is new this term). They will be featured over the next year, as we get to learn more about them, their personal lives, and love for rosemaling.

I would like to feature other CRA members as well, please send me a photo with a little bit about yourself, and how you came to be painting rosemaling.

Contact: Jill Beatty
1124 Eddy Street #D
San Francisco, CA 94109
NorskJill@gmail.com
415-350-6492



Meet our CRA Board Members



Hello! I'm Beth Twogood, your Secretary.

Many years ago I made a friend who rosemaled. From the beginning I loved her work and purchased many pieces. Finally in the year 2000 I decided I needed to learn how to paint the way she did. I took a basic painting class, then taught myself to rosemal from books and by copying my friend's pieces. Through this first friend, I met and became friends with Marley Smith, an original member of CRA. She convinced me to join CRA and I am so glad she did! I enjoy getting to know other members, and attending Convention. I even enjoy serving on the CRA Board!

Over the years Marley and I have represented CRA at Norway Day in San Francisco; demonstrating, selling items, and talking about rosemaling to anyone and everyone. Recently I have represented CRA at the Scandinavian Festival in Thousand Oaks and at Danish Days in Solvang.

I love rosemaling big pieces - cedar chests, hutches, secretaries, and chests of drawers. It is really fun for me to search out old pieces of furniture that I think would look great rosemaled. Try it sometime.



Greetings! I am Lotte Sather, Membership

My heritage is German and French. I was raised in Tacoma, Washington, where my best friends were Norwegian. I met my Norwegian Husband, while he was stationed in the Army at Fort Lewis, Washington. We married and moved to Vallejo, California 50 years ago. His parents preserved, taught, and celebrated everything Norwegian including our becoming involved with Sons of Norway. I have traveled to Norway five times and to Vesterheim once and have fallen in love with Rosemaling and all things Norwegian.

I began Rosemaling with ladies from our local Sons of Norway lodge in 1980. By 1982, my life was busy raising two teenagers, working full time, and trying to complete my education -so the paints and brushes were put away. In 2006, I attended a seminar at Camp Norge, sponsored by Sons of Norway. There I met Astrid Fisher. I have attended at least one seminar at Camp Norge each year since then. When I retired in 2007, my Sons of Norway friends asked me to join them in a community college class in Napa. When the class was removed from the curriculum, we began our own group in Vallejo, vowing to concentrate on Rosemaling and the designs of Gary Albrecht. We contracted with a teacher for a few years, but decided to paint on our own – six of us paint together every Monday for three hours. I joined CRA about five years ago and have attended the past three conventions. I enjoy the continued learning of this beautiful art.



Announcements and Events



Norwegian Rosemaler Bjorg Kleivi Seminar

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.

CRA Facebook page — CA Rosemaling Association. Please visit and join.

Daughters of Norway will have a convention in July of 2016 in the SF Bay Area. , Contact Katie Allen if you can help and donate any items from CRA members. www.daughtersofnorway.org

CRA convention: October 29 - November 1, 2015 at the Courtyard Hotel, San Diego.

Highlight on Local Art

From Marley --My son in Denver has been doing Videos about Artists, Art projects and Festivals. If I must say so myself, they are very good and getting better. They are under the title of AART, American Artist Road Trip, and posted on UTube. For those who haven't seen them I would like to introduce you to them. Especially the one he did on me a couple of years ago.

Go to:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=URYOjxpefdE&index=26&list=UUSCe6b3LdFaABIXHU6UOpbg>

to view it and while there check out some of his other Videos, including Chalk Art in Denver and the Murals in Hayward. Marley Smith

Please see the rosemaling pattern Jurene shared with you in this newsletter! Thank you very much Jurene, and for being our fabulous historian and founder.



OPEN HOUSE

At Jurene & Richard While's HOME

Thursday, October 29th, 2015

6:00 pm

A Perfect way to Welcome everyone to

Convention!

Transportation arranged from the hotel for those without cars..... _____





Vesterheim 2014 trip to Norway



Journey to Joy with Vesterheim

Once upon a time in the land of Norge there arrived a band of merry travelers from Vesterheim in the year of our Lord 2014, June. They flew into the country on the back of a giant bird, Iceland Air, which the following day decided to stop flying! But that didn't bother the merry band because they were traveling the rest of the way via bus, a rolling land beast known for swallowing passengers and luggage whole, then spitting them out again at appropriate places along the way. This unusual beast had a captain, Per Anders, a gentle giant who often stopped right in the middle of the road to check his maps and make sure he was indeed going the right way. But I digress.

The merry band opened their eyes wide as they rolled past charming villages, quaint stave churches, centuries old graveyards, and fascinating museums. They tiptoed through sawdust filled rooms of local woodcarvers and learned how they selected their trees, chopped them down, dried them for two and a half years, and then began to carve them into fascinating pieces. Anyone who can draw can carve wood they were promised.

Seeking lodging for the night, they pulled up to King's Meadow (Kongsvold Fjeldstue), a very old establishment from the 1700's built to accommodate weary travelers from the south heading north and vice versa. They dined on reindeer meat and fresh vegetables, then tucked themselves in for the night in quaint cottages.

The following day they traveled south rumbling through mountains and cascading waterfalls, past meadows and small villages in the valleys. They saw sheep, cattle, and goats nibbling grass on the hillsides while farmers worked in the fields amongst scattered "troll marshmallows" dotting the landscapes (white plastic encased bales of hay pickled for preservation.)

The merry band realized that this land was some of God's very best work and reasoned that must be why He kept it light twenty hours each day since such beauty should not be covered in darkness for very long.

Stabbur Day

The merry band of travelers said their good-byes to warm showers, elegant surroundings, and tasty buffets. They each packed a small bag of necessities for the big adventure ahead, a nights lodging in genuine stabburs scattered across the countryside in the Numedal valley. Once on board their transportation, Gottfried began chanting, "Stabburs! Stabburs! Stabburs!" He seemed very eager to head off into the woods with his lovely bride. Soon the beastly bus dropped little Bergitta and Gottfried off at a nearby farm, along with their assigned traveling companions.

Bergitta's eyes opened wide at the centuries old lodging she was to call "home" for the night. Cheerful red geraniums greeted her by the front door and giant stacked stones led up to her portal. This stabbur had two floors, a lower floor which once stored food and grain, and an upper floor where clothing and other treasures were kept. Both floors had built-in beds with fluffy down comforters, a small table and chairs, and old Rosemaled trunks filled with additional blankets for warmth. A tiny one foot square window allowed light on the west side of the old log structure, and decorative wood cut outs allowed light on the east. A very, VERY tiny spiral staircase connected the two floors.

Bergitta was assigned the upper floor so she carefully placed her size ten feet on the teeny tiny steps and began the steep climb to her quarters while also hoisting her rather heavy bag of necessities. "What have I gotten myself into now?" she mused. Life back home was not usually this perilous.

That evening the proprietor entertained them with accordion music, laughter, and old Norsk tales before everyone turned in for the night. The cold night air seeped in through the numerous cracks in the old stabbur logs, but little Bergitta and her bus buddy snuggled under layers of fluffy covers. The next morning she awoke to troll music wafting through the floor boards below. (Troll music in this instance equals snoring)

When morning fully arrived Bergitta snuggled further down in her comforter enjoying its warmth and wishing

she could stay until August when maybe the morning air wouldn't be quite so crisp. But alas, duty called. The bus would soon return to swallow them up again and carry them off to their next day's adventure. Once on the bus, Gottfried, our resident man of the cloth/court jester, who was a little uncertain of his primitive stabbur experience began chanting to his female tour guides, "Stab her! stab her!"

Rosemaled Vikings

Today the merry band of travelers headed further south to the Valdres Folk Museum and then climbed up into the hills to visit the very animated Tove Ness, a bundle of enthusiasm, creativity, and knowledge of her native art, rose painting. The journeymen lunched on "matpakkes" while instructed on the fine art of addressing "poo" and "pee" in this lovely mountain home. With a group our size, thirty-eight, this was a very necessary conversation. Each added a few strokes to a collaborative, impromptu Folkart canvas and then departed for the Culture House to bow at the feet of Nils Ellingsgard and Tore Christianson.

As Nils was speaking to the group in the open air museum, it started to rain. The merry band tossed their hoods up or opened umbrellas but poor Nils had no protection from the falling drops. Little Bergitta noticed his plight and hastened to share her tiny traveler's umbrella with him. She held it high over his head so he might continue speaking, but he greeted her with "I've been waiting for you" and wrapped his arm around her so they might stand together in the rain. The crowd roared with laughter turning Bergitta fifty shades of red, but her heart was bursting with joy at this most unexpected blessing. The group dined together that evening and then visited Tore's studio as a further burst of inspiration from these Vikings of Rosemaling.

Passion and Pizza

Every painter and/or wood carver loves and appreciates good wood pieces, so a visit to Lars Stana's studio was a must. Expertly turned bowls, plates, spoons and delicately carved wood figures in all shapes and sizes beckoned the merry band to dig deep for more Kroner. Going home without more wood for our "stash" was NOT an option! Let the buying begin! (Or should I say continue?)

Nothing fosters an appetite like a buying binge, so off to the historic Utne Hotel in Tyssedal for a scrumptious lunch over-looking fjords and a true Thomas Luras piece as a feast for our eyes.

We climbed the hills of Hardanger Folk Museum afterwards exploring more old Stabburs and many more exquisitely painted pieces within, but soon we must play "bag tag" again, this time at the lovely old Thon Hotel in Norheimsund. This majestic hotel had no elevators on the historical side (our choice), so this added a new dimension to our otherwise ordinary game of unloading fifty plus pieces of luggage and then getting them all delivered to the appropriate journeymen in their respective new homes.

Bergitta was overcome with delight when her "bag tag" game ended on the second floor in front of a door bearing a gold plate announcing this was the "Sean Connery" room. Curious she and her bus buddy stepped inside through double doors opening into a spacious living area, adjoined by a tub/shower area flanked by a wall of mirrors. Also included were 6 closets, a spacious bedroom, second WC room, and lovely French doors opening unto a spacious balcony overlooking the water. A newspaper clipping of Sean Connery's visit to this hotel in the nineties was proudly framed and displayed inside. We must have the wrong room they reasoned. This was much too nice for us! But they were assured this was indeed their lodging for the night.

Bergitta and Bus Buddy decided to explore the little town and then celebrated with local pizza which they carried to their room and delightedly gulped down out on their spacious balcony, the perfect ending to yet another perfect day.

Homeward Bound

The last leg of their journey took them to Bergen, Norway's second largest city and nearby summer home of Ole Bull. Unfortunately shortly before departure toward home, one of the journeymen was capturing her final digital memories only to discover someone wanted her wallet as a souvenir. We picked her up at the politi before heading to the airport so she could file a report of this one misfortune.

At this point in our journey we began to part ways and find our respective roads home. This tiny tale of thirty eight journeymen is but a mere glimpse of the multiple memories made while traveling through the picture postcard of Norway. Lessons learned here cannot be found in books or on the internet. These lessons are imprinted on our hearts and minds and will be passed on through our art, through our work, and through our stories.

May God bless you, fellow journeymen, for blessing me.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Svendsen

Mange Tusen takk Karen!

Our membership and those who work to better this organization are truly a treasure to CRA.

The CRA members extends a hearty thank you to Karen Willman, who for the past six years was dedicated to editing and creating the fabulous newsletter.

It has made a mark in the Rosmaling community and is recognized as a one of the best newsletters of its kind around. She was always very gracious when asking for information, and spent hours researching interesting feature articles. Please send her a note of gratitude for all her efforts!

Congratulations are also in order as she spends time with her new grandson, the first in her family.

This pattern is compliments of Jureen While. VGM

Send me a photo of your completed project for the next issue.

Enlarge this pattern to suit your project.

Jill





2015 Convention

October (29), 30, 31, November 1, 2015

Teresa McCue, VGM



Teresa will be painting in Telemark on a Scooped Ale Plate in Oil. Students may work in Oils or Acrylics. Paints, mediums and surface will be provided by CRA. The Ale Plate is being made by Turn of the Century Woodworks.

Lois Mueller, VGM



Lois will be painting in Rogaland on a 14 inch Candle Tree, in Acrylics, made by Lusk Scandia Woodworks. Paints, mediums, and surface will be provided by CRA.



In Old Town SAN DIEGO

(Yeah we're back!)

Courtyard by Marriott Old Town

2435 Jefferson St | San Diego CA, US 92110 – 1-619-260-8500

Reservations need to be made by Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Room Rate is \$99 per night plus taxes if you mention this is for CRA.

Parking at the Hotel is complimentary for the California Rosemaling Association.

Airport Shuttle Complimentary Service is provided if you make arrangements with the Hotel ahead of time. Shuttle provided by Marriott Old Town San Diego to and from the Airport



Make your plans NOW – don't miss out!!



28th California Rosemaling Association Convention 2015 Registration



Convention Registration is \$225

Registration includes: Instruction, Wood Pieces, Paint, Mediums, and the Banquet.

Banquet selections will be featured later. Banquet Guest = \$55

You may send the entire registration

or

a Deposit of \$50 by August 28, 2015

Balance of \$175 due by September 25, 2015

If it is necessary to cancel your registration you must contact Astrid Fisher by mail, phone, or email.

Deposit not refundable after October 2, 2014

The \$175 portion of the registration fee is not refundable after October 2, 2014

Make check out to CRA

Mail to: Onya Tolmasoff

27082 Paseo Activo

San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675

Cell: 760-533-3412 or email: AEHF1@cox.net (use a number one, not the letter L)

Please provide the following information and mail it with your check.

Name: _____

Email Address _____

Address _____

Full Registration \$225.00 _____

-Or-

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Deposit \$50.00 _____

Phone # _____

Balance \$175.00 _____

Banquet Selection (Details TBA) Chicken ___ Beef ___ Veg ___ (please indicate for guest too)

Guest Banquet \$55.00 _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Check # _____

Are you Painting in OIL _____ or ACRYLICS _____ for Teresa's class? _____

If it is necessary to cancel your registration you must contact Astrid Fisher by mail, phone, or email.



Artists and History



Rosemaling History—In the Norwegian Home by Erling Hagesæter

The rooms in the old farmhouses in Norway could be seen as austere and grey. It is the decorative paintings on the walls and ceilings, which made them inviting, even festive.

Cupboards and doors with their handmade panels were particularly suitable for this decorative painting. Woodcarving and smith's works both sprung from a very old tradition in the country farms. But rose-painting itself made its appearance as a popular craft towards the end of the eighteenth-century and literally blossomed throughout more or less the whole of the following century.

We can only make a guess as to how and why this particular floral painting craft became as popular form of art. The old painters died and took many of their craft secrets with them. Nevertheless we have acquired some knowledge, for example through the extensive work of Øystein Vesaas: "Rosemaling i Telemark". We have otherwise a rich heritage of handcraft such as bowls, cupboards and boxes as well as painted ceilings, walls or furniture that bear witness to the artist of the time. Artists and craftsman in Norway were above all inspired by Renaissance art and by Baroque painting, later on by the C and S patterns in Rococo art. Country painters worked at these motifs in their own particular way and developed their own original style. The good ones created what writer Vesaas calls "school of painting".

In the plain and austere rooms of the log houses, they had, as mentioned earlier, freedom with regard to placing of chattels and furniture as well as the painting of walls and ceilings. Some of these rooms

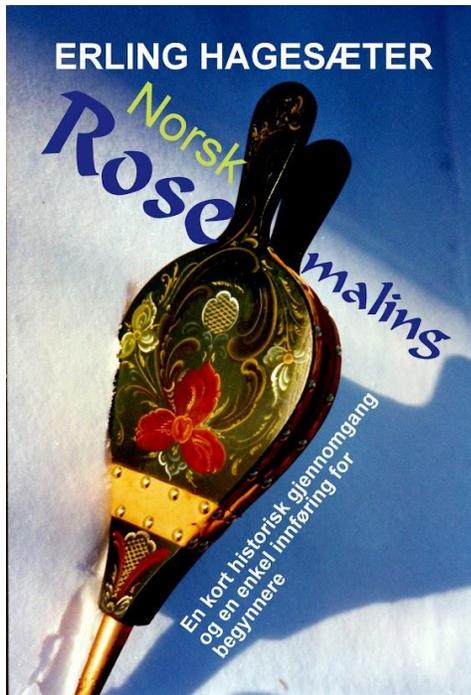
appear over decorated to us now, but we have to admit that the roses give life to an otherwise colorless interior.

In the beginning the choice of motif was simple. Ola Hanson (ca 1750-1820) is considered to be the first of the major painters in Telemark. His choice was obviously based on Baroque leaf pattern. He was a productive painter who left behind him paintings in both farms and churches. But he also painted smaller items such as bowls, platters, chests and furniture. His naturalistic leaf designs on walls and ceilings remind one of the early church paintings, which were quite recently first, discovered (Erdman, Oslo 1940).

Rosepainting was in constant development, and in course of time, Telemark produced quite a number painters. Knut Mevasstøl (1785-1862) was and is acknowledged as one of the best. His leaf motifs were obviously inspired by Rococo art. Starting from the basic C and S pattern, he developed an asymmetrical composition, which was open and airy, decorating the entire surfaces. One can see the way the leaf patterns are woven dynamically together in a natural and rhythmic whole. This tapestry of leaf design developed even further into what still to this day goes under the name of "smøyning". A painter unable to perform this art was not highly regarded, says Vesaas, even if his work was otherwise of high quality. Today when we meet tendencies to excessive decoration of surfaces, we jokingly refer to them as "the fear of empty space".

Mr. Hagesæter:

*Worked at the Oslo Commerce School
Attended University of Oslo
& Lives in Oslo Strømmen-
From the Internet*



Øystein Vesaas (born 1883 , died on September 28 1969) was an award-winning Norwegian rose painting and art historian.

He is best known for his three volume book-*Rosemaling i Telemark* that gave him the Fridtjof Nansen Award for Outstanding Research in 1960. It included rosepainting from 1730-1880, and references about 140 painters. Vesaas had worked with the book since 1943 when he moved to the farm Lofthus, which was a focal point for celebrities like Henrik Sørensen and Harald Kihle and home farm to Anne Lofthus .

On release of the book, Vesaas said that the work was requisitioned by Director for Cultural Heritage Arne Nygård-Nilssen , and that it was Henrik Sørensen who was an important academic supporter, and that photographer Nils Andreas Jacobsen (employed by the publisher Mittet & Co.) was behind all the bike tours.



Telemark style rosemaling on front panel and top. Back and side panels painted in background color.

Decoratively cut iron reinforcing bands are on the sides and down the center of the trunk and cover.

Painting resembles the work of Knut O. Mevasstaul (1785-1862) from Seljord.

—Nils Ellingsgard, 1979



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 Rosemalar, 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 May 25, 2015 for the summer issue. Comments and suggestions are always welcome.

Please send to Jill Beatty, NorskJill@gmail.com



ANNUAL DUES: \$15.00

California Rosemaling Association	
<i>Membership Applications: 2015 _____ 2016 _____</i>	
Name: _____	New _____ Renewal _____
Mailing Address: _____	

Phone: _____	Cell: _____
Email: _____	