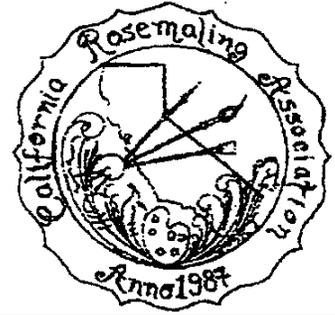


California Rosemaling Newsletter



June 2009

www.califrosemler.org

No. 100



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CRA Convention Santa Rosa November 13 –15, 2009 With Jo Sonja



Lonningdahl/Henderson Family Norwegian Trunk 1862 believed to have been painted by Ole Lien Midtho.
See Astrid Fisher's story of the trunk and additional photos on pages 6 & 7

From the President...



First off I would like to thank Wendy Porro for all she has done in getting our newsletter out over the past couple years. Due to personal circumstances, Wendy is stepping down, but says she'll see all of us at the upcoming convention. I'd like to welcome Karen Willman who has graciously stepped up and has taken the position as Editor of the CRA Newsletter. Please submit any news or articles of interest to Karen at newvikings@sbcglobal.net.

On another note two or three volunteers are still needed for the Nominating Committee or better yet, let me know what office you would like to consider running for. Without the continued involvement of our membership, our organization will cease to exist. So take the challenge and be "involved." It's a great way to get to know your fellow members. If you have any questions you can email me at onyadesigns@cox.net.

Karen Gibson, Joyce Fields, and Yvonne Thomson are currently going over our By-laws and Standing Rules with the proposed changes being published in the September Newsletter and voted on at our Annual Business Meeting.

Hildy Henry and her helpers are busy making this the best ever convention which will be held in Santa Rosa at the Flamingo Spa and Resort with Jo Sonja Jansen teaching a wonderful Os piece. The Registration Packets have been mailed. If you haven't received your packet, contact Hildy at 707.526.1730. We are once again having a Trade Floor where members are welcome to sell their items (e.g. Packets, rosemaking books, wood, etc.) A small percentage of the sales go to CRA and the rest to you. If you have any questions, give Hildy a call.

I hope to see you all in November.

Onya Tolmasoff



Changes to Directory

Please make the following corrections and additions to your 2009 CRA Directory. If your name or information is incorrect, please let me know so that we can have accurate records. Either e-mail me at mweflen@yahoo.com, or send me a note at my mailing address: 6842 Rolando Knolls Dr., La Mesa, CA 91941. Thanks ----- Mary Weflen, Membership Chairman

Welcome New Members

Please add these new members to your directory:

Cara Colletti
(408) 316-2865
5747 Meridian Ave.
San Jose, CA 95118
c.colletti@sbcglobal.net

Donna Singer
11469 Winding Trail Lane
Dublin, CA 94568
(925) 803-4172
donnasinger@sbcglobal.com

Peggy Kramer
424 Oxford St.
Hayward, CA 94541
(510) 278-3049
Tinpeg@aol.com

Gwendolyn Pitney
510 Camino Elevado
Bonita, CA 91920

Elaine Thompson
Winter—Nov1-April 30
2673 S. Jamaica, #15
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86406
(928) 523-3797
Summer –May 1-October 31
3497 Sun Circle
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83404
(208) 523-5087
Email (both places)
evthomps1@yahoo.com

Yvonne Thomson
Correct phone number
(310) 837-1150

Karen Montagne
Correct phone number
(360) 568-5278

Karen Willman
Correct area code
(951) 687-7490

Please add the following renewals to your directory:

Denise Voll
1147 Foothill Street
Redwood City, CA 94061
(650) 366-8095
voll@msn.com

Thelma "Lucy" James
1454 Lassen Ave.
Milpitas, CA 95035
(408) 263-3279



Jo Sonja

in the Wine Country November 13, 14, 15

Jo Sonja is coming for the CRA annual convention again at the Flamingo Hotel in Santa Rosa by popular request after last year's wonderful workshop. Convention will be here before we know it! By now you should have received your registration and hotel forms with all the information. Convention registration deposits should be in to CRA by October 7 to avoid late charges. Room reservations must be made to the hotel by October 12. See registration information on page 12.



Jo Sonja Jansen

Her favorite description
of a folk artist::

One who finds sheer joy
in painting simple
straight forward decorations
in rich beautiful colours,



Sonoma County is in it's full glory in November. The grapes are being harvested and the crush is going fast and furious. The grape vines are turning yellow, orange and red to treat your eye with a rainbow of color. There is excitement in the air and visitors are having a great time tasting wine and taking pictures. We hope you will join us again this year with another great painting experience with Jo Sonja.



We will have a separate room for the sales, drawings and raffle prizes. It will be opened when JoSonja feels that it is time for a break. We have almost as many goodies for drawings and purchase as we had last year. Again, much is from Mary Lou Reid! Last year's sales were great! The second room frees up painting space in the main room — this will enable us to have more room for painters, up to 80 members this year. If you wish to have items for sale at the convention, be sure to read the vendor rules in this issue (page 5).

With Norwegian heritage from her father, Pennsylvania Dutch, English and a bit of Spanish from her mother, combined with her interest in art and painting, it's little wonder that folk art became a major focus for Jo Sonja.

The National Society of Tole and Decorative Painters awarded her a Master Teacher's Certificate in 1974 and the Silver Palette award in 1980 in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the advancement of Decorative Art. And in 1996, Jo Sonja earned the Vesterheim Gold Medal (VGM) in Rosemaling from the Norwegian-American Museum in Decorah, Iowa. In 2007 she received the Presidents Commendation award for service by the Society of Decorative Painters.

From her studio in Eureka, California to venues around the world, Jo Sonja's classes, artwork and books (60+) have drawn acclaim. She highlights the rewards of sharing the joy of folk art expression: "We've created a revival of interest in the decorative arts, the scope of which is still rapidly expanding. . . We try to keep an emphasis on individual participation and personal contribution — the heart and soul of decorative folk art." There's lots of joy to come. . . .

Visit Jo Sonja's website for more information: jasonja.net

Hildy Henry

Convention notes from Hildy Henry

This year we will paint a traditional trunk with curved top and a till inside (perfect for jewelry). It is 9" wide, 6" high and 4 3/4" deep, made by Creative Woodworks in San Jose. The design is 'The Little Mermaid' that Jo Sonja is teaching in a seminar this summer. The background will be Storm Blue. We will **NOT** base coat it in advance. You can pick up the chest Thursday afternoon at the Flamingo. We will do our best to have the tables set up for you in the classroom or you can take it to your room to paint it.

Paints and mediums are being

supplied by Jo Sonja, Inc. All you need to bring is your painting supplies, containers and tools. If you have plug-in lights we will have the power strips for your convenience. Tim plans to check the ceiling lights before our convention to be sure all are working. The little chests will be available on Thursday afternoon for you to apply the base coat and design. The big screen on the stage is wonderful. There isn't a bad seat in the house!

Classes begin on Friday, Nov. 13 promptly at 9:00 a.m. Please have your supplies at your place before Jo Sonja begins teaching. If you must talk during class please whisper. There were

numerous complaints about talking in class last year. This is difficult for the teacher who is gracious enough to come to teach as well as the rest of us. There will be breaks when Jo Sonja wishes, with an hour at 12:00 for lunch. Afternoon class is from 1:00 to 5:00 each day. The classroom will be open evenings from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.

There will be coffee, tea and water in the classroom each day. If you wish soft drinks plan to bring them with you each day or get one from the machines or the stores across the street. All the hotel rooms have refrigerators to keep them cold.

Convention Schedule

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12

Register in the lobby any time after 1:00 p.m.

Flamingo Room

Pick up chests. If the tables are set up you may paint the chests any time, or go to your room. Help is always appreciated so if you have free time we can use you. The evening is yours. No food service in the classroom (you can bring your own). Open until 10:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Class 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Open until 10:00 p.m.
7:30 p.m. Annual business meeting with election and installation of officers

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Class 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Banquet 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.
in **Empire Room**

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Class 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (or whenever you have to leave).

Getting to Convention

A

ir travel to either San Francisco or Oakland with a shuttle bus to Santa Rosa works well.

The most economical and convenient way to get here is with several of you meeting at the same airport and sharing a rental car. It can be a lot of fun on the way with many places of interest from East Bay or San Francisco to visit. There are also flights via Horizon Air to Santa Rosa.

If you take the shuttle (\$32, \$30 senior, one way) from the airport, the driver or you can call (707) 540-2759 to let us know your arrival time at Santa Rosa airport. Someone will come to meet you with a sign "CRA." It will take approximately two and a half hours to get your luggage and then drive to Santa Rosa. (The shuttles leave Oakland from 5:15 a.m. every 2 hours; and leave SF from 5:30 a.m. every hour). Taxis are also available from Santa Rosa airport for about \$20/\$25 to the hotel.

Be aware that a week later can mean possible showers and a bit cooler weather. Check the weather reports to have some idea of the clothing to bring. It can be **HOT** or **Cold**.

My crew of helpers and I are looking forward to having you back in our location. If you have any questions feel free to call me (707) 526-1730 or email (hildy@sonic.net).

Hildy



Lonningdahl/Henderson Family Norwegian Trunk 1862

Painted in the Os style of rosemaling, our family's Norwegian Trunk originated in Lonningdahl, Norway located on Norway's coast, west of Bergen, 1862. Genealogical research and information gathered from family members has made it possible to trace the history of this trunk from Norway to the present time.

The trunk was made and painted for Hans Steensen in Lonningdahl, Hordaland, Os Parish, Norway. It is painted in the Os Style of Rosemaling. When discussing this trunk with the staff at Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum in Decorah, IA, it was thought to have been painted by Ole Lien Midtho (1831-1925), an apprentice of Nils Midthus. Vesterheim's Curator also indicated that the iron work on this trunk was very impressive.

Hans Steensen's son, Steen, brought the trunk to America about 1862 and changed his last name to Henderson. He settled on a farm in the Orleans Township, near Cresco, just outside Decorah, IA. He married Anna Kari Kragerud. Here he invested in multiple farms. Steen's siblings also settled here and purchased land. Steen died about 1890, in Orleans Township, IA. When he died, Anna, his wife, left the trunk with his brother, Hans Engle Henderson and moved her family to Fergus Falls, MN. For many years the trunk was stored in a barn on Han's farm near Cresco, IA.



Steen's son, John Manuel Henderson, married and raised his children in Fergus Falls, MN. He accompanied his son, John Stanley Henderson, to Decorah, IA, when John Stanley was ready to enroll in Luther College. During this trip they visited relatives who still lived on Hans' farm. This whole time the trunk continued to be stored in the barn. At this time Hans' son, Engle Johann Henderson, continued to live on this farm. John Stanley became very close to these relatives and spent a great deal of his free time during his college years at the farm. He was also informed during this time that the family trunk was still being stored in the barn.

John Stanley Henderson completed his education at Luther College where he met and married Helen Louise Nelson. John Stanley became a military pilot. By the time World War II was over, he and Helen had 4 children and returned to visit their family at Hans' farm. They were also informed that the family trunk was still being stored in the barn.

Major John Stanley Henderson (USMCR) died in 1952 in a plane crash at the beginning of the Korean War. He had received orders to report to El Toro Marine Base, near Santa Ana, CA. John Stanley had been in the process of moving his family to Santa Ana, CA. Helen and their then 5 children, continued with the move to CA..

In 1956 Helen and all 5 children drove from CA to Decorah, IA. Here they attended Helen's brother's graduation from Luther College. During this visit the family Norwegian Trunk was given to Helen by Engle's wife, Hilda. At this time a smaller trunk was given to Helen and John Stanley's oldest child, Kristin Louise Henderson. The trunks were stored on the back tailgate of the family station wagon on the return trip to CA.

The trunk was always part of the family and prominently displayed in Helen's home in CA until she passed away in 2001. At this time the trunk was willed to the oldest son, Dr. Bryn Jarold Henderson. Currently it is displayed in his home in Orange, CA.



Many thanks to
CRA member
Astrid Fisher
Oceanside, CA
for sharing her family's
story and pictures

*Detail photos of the
Lonningdahl/Henderson
Family Norwegian trunk
from 1862.
The trunk is believed
to have been painted by
Ole Lien Midtho.*

Astrid recalls,
“As children we played
on the trunk —
it was in our entry way.
Mother finally had
to tell us
to leave it alone...”





Norway Day Features Rosemaling on a Big Scale

Another great Festival was held in San Francisco co-sponsored by the Norwegian Consulate General. Our own Jill Beatty and Marilyn Hansen were the top shakers and movers this year and they put on a very successful weekend May 2 and 3.

Our CRA booth was among the more popular booths. We were given a really great spot with plenty of room for an impressive display. Plus we were right next to Sigmund Aarseth's booth.

Sigmund graciously did a two day workshop with approx. 20 in attendance, prior to the Festival. This is always such a treat to paint with Sigmund. I personally did not attend but several of our girls did and hopefully we gained some new members because of it. Maybe one of them will write something about the Workshop.

Sigmund also demonstrated both Sat. and Sun on 5' x 15' canvases. He had them completed in 45 minutes. What a joy to watch from beginning to end. They were auctioned at the end of the demo, one for \$2400 and the other for \$1700.

We sold a lot of rosemaling. The people are beginning to appreciate the American rosemalers. Often in the past they only wanted what came



Left to right: Donna Reed, Beth Twogood, Marley Smith, Sigmund Aarseth, Kris Andrews, some stranger in bunad and Hildy Henry in front

from Norway. There were four of us selling; Beth Twogood, Margie Utzinger, Shaun Sasaki and myself. Plan to take part next year in some way.

Thanks to Beth Twogood who came up from San Diego and Donna Reed for all their hard work.

*Hildy Henry and Marley Smith
Co-Chairpersons*



Photo opposite page: Sigmund beginning on his 5'x15' canvas, and above, the painting completed. Below, Donna Reed in CRA's sales booth at Norway Day Festival



Sigmund Aarseth Class

The two days went fast with many design concepts (styles, form, color, balance, framing, and considerations for contemporary design). There was time for practice, but on the whole, the class could not get enough of Sigmund's demonstrations, practical tips, slides and one-on-one mentoring — and he graciously obliged. It was an outstanding opportunity to see a master rosemaler work, and his engaging personality and stories of painting — both rosemaling and the landscapes he's known for in Norway, and his overviews of the rosemaling revival, made for a not-to-be-missed experience. A great teacher in a great city in a great location with wonderful hosts — priceless.

Karen Willman

Norway's Sigmund Aarseth, demonstrating in oils, left. Below, he's with his Norway Day class — many (most?) are CRA members.



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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 150 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.

The \$15 annual membership dues includes a subscription to the California Rosemaler, published quarterly, March, June, September and December. We welcome articles, designs, photos and suggestions for future issues. The news deadlines for upcoming issues are: **August 20**, November 20, February 20 and May 20.

Classified ads are \$1 per line per issue. Business cards are \$5 for the first publication and \$2 per issue thereafter. Quarter-page ads are \$15 for the initial publication and \$10 per issue thereafter. Please send ad copy to the editor along with a check payable to **CRA**. Ads are screened for appropriateness, however, publishing them does not imply endorsement by the Executive Board. The CRA newsletter is the sole possession of the California Rosemaling Association. All rights reserved. Reproduction by mechanical or other means is permitted only with written permission from the editor. Patterns may be traced for personal use, not for resale. If you have something to include, please send it in by August 20 for the September issue.



Notes along the way...

Telemark: light, lyrical and asymmetrical • Stems should be worthy of the flowers • Letter in a color already in your design ☞ **Marlys Hammer** ☞ Be nice and flowing and round • No flat spots in scrolls • Work on your own designs ☞ **JoAnne MacVey** ☞ Don't overlap scrolls — just a kiss • Twist liner to get a point ☞ **Patti Goke** ☞ You don't need tons and tons of paint -- less is more • Mixing can be fun or torture • Try to be neat ☞ **Eldrid Arntzen** ☞ Lining — don't move your wrist — move the shoulder • Talent is interest pursued • Paint emotionally with your heart ☞ **Jo Sonja** ☞ If you sit more relaxed, your painting will be more relaxed, less strained • Better to sketch with a brush than a stiff pencil • You need a lot of knowledge to be free. It's like playing jazz ☞ **Sigmund Aarseth** ☞ The more mixing you do, the more your paints are dead • Impressionistic art should leave things to the imagination. The eyes will fill in ☞ **Karen Jenson** ☞ Lettering — always want it aimed at center of the plate • Don't copy old mistakes. Make them better ☞ **Ken Magnuson** ☞

Karen Willman

Vesterheim Needs Support



The hardships of the economy are having their effects on the Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum in Decorah, Iowa. CRA's Marley Wright Smith received an email from a woodcarver in Decorah noting the museum has had to lay off at least two people (in the Education and Development Departments); and that a curator and publications employee have been put on furlough until the museum's finances improve.

This museum is the reason that most of us are rosemaling in the United States. The Museum is responsible for the rebirth of rosemaling in the modern world. In Norway it had died out in the

mid-1800's. Vesterheim was very instrumental in reviving it, and continues today offering myriad classes in rosemaling, carving, and other Scandinavian arts, in addition to its highly acclaimed exhibits.

As the call for grass roots support for the Vesterheim goes out, Marley said she's heard many rosemalers are coming to the plate: some are sending cash donations, some are offering rosemaled items for the Vesterheim's auction in October, some are placing items on eBay with the proceeds going to Vesterheim. Others are using the Museum Store to buy books and supplies. Another way to offer support is with a Museum membership (annual membership categories start at \$35 and Vesterheim offers a Rosemaling Letter subscription as well.

Vesterheim's National Exhibition of Folk-Art in the Norwegian Tradition is held in conjunction with Decorah's Nordic Fest each year in July.

The resources available at the museum (classes, exhibits, collections, tours, museum store) can be found at www.vesterheim.org



Please
send in any articles,
photos, suggestions
or advertising
for the September issue
by August 20

Rosemaling at the SDP Conference

I just returned from the Society of Decorative Painters Conference in Peoria, Illinois and Rosemaling was alive and well there.

Several members of CRA were in Lois Mueller's class with me. We painted an American Rogaland design. There were several people in the class who had never Rosemaled before and found it really fun. I think we even got a new member from the class.

Arlene Rounce and I also took Lois Mueller's folk art design class. Although I didn't get too far on my design, I learned a lot from what she told us about design and how to do it. On the trade floor, the wife of one of the woodcutters had beautiful Rosemaling to show (I can't remember their company name).

Two of Lois's books which are out of print are now on CDs---Lessons in Rogaland and Lessons in Telemark. The CDs contain every page of the books and you can print it or not as you desire.

I also talked to Mark Jansen and told him how much we enjoyed having his mother last year and were looking forward to this year's convention. He said they were happy to do it and had a great time last year.

Gayle Oram was there also — teaching rosemaling classes and with a booth with her beautiful painted pieces, patterns and wood.

Mary Weflen

CRA 2009 Convention Registration Form

November (12) 13, 14, 15, 2009
Flamingo Conference Resort and Spa
2777 Fourth St., Santa Rosa, CA 95404-47955

Contact the Flamingo Resort to reserve your rooms. **Tell them you are with CRA.**
Phone **(800) 848-8300** or online: **www.flamingoresort.com**
Daily Rates: **\$109**: Thursday or Sunday; **\$119**: Friday or Saturday. Tax & tips not included.

Convention Registration: \$150.00: Covers class, wood piece & banquet
\$ 50.00: Deposit will assure your space. Balance **must be received by Oct. 7**
\$175.00 Late registration (after October 8 postmark)
\$165.00: Non-Member
\$ 29.00: Non-Member Guest for Banquet

Cancellation Policy

Cancellation is effective when we receive your notice by phone, mail or email on or before November 2, 2009. \$100 will be refunded. (\$50 deposit is forfeited to cover costs for this event.) If other circumstances arise, it will be addressed by the board.)

CUT AND RETURN BOTTOM PORTION WITH **CRA** CHECK TO:
Hildy Henry, 2145 Slater St., Santa Rosa, CA 95404
Phone:(707) 526-1730 or email: hildy@sonic.net

Please keep a copy for your records

Name: _____ Phone _____

Address: _____

My roommate(s) will be: _____

I will be using: Oils _____ Acrylics _____ need Handicapped access _____ need a roommate _____

Saturday Night Banquet Choice:: *(All accompanied with Rice Pilaf and Salad.)*

- _____ Marinated Pork Loin (stuffed with Dried Apricots and Cranberries)
- _____ Breast of Chicken Florentine (Ricotta, Spinach and Pine Nut filling)
- _____ Vegetarian Entrée: Portabella Wellington (Stuffed) sounds delicious!
- _____ Special dietary needs accommodated. Let us know when you arrive.

Deposit \$ _____ Total Payment \$ _____

Late Registration \$ _____ Non-Member \$ _____

Guest Dinner(s) \$ _____

Make check payable to CRA

In Case of Emergency:

Contact: _____

Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ Fax: _____

CALIFORNIA ROSEMALING ASSOCIATION
Membership Application 2009
Dues are \$15.00

Name _____ New _____ Renewal _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

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

Do you teach rosemaling? _____ If so, where? _____

Please complete this application, **enclose \$15.00 dues** (check made out to CRA) and mail to:

Mary Weflen
6842 Rolando Knolls Drive
La Mesa, CA 91941

