

January 15, 2022



January 2022

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 125 members. Some are expert Rosemalers, and others are beginning painters, all with a love to study this beautiful art form.

Membership in CRA allows you to attend the annual convention featuring renowned Rosemalers from around the world and a subscription to the newsletter for only \$15 in annual membership dues.

President's Column

Many of you know me already from either CRA, other painting seminars or zoom classes, or Daughters of Norway. If you don't, see the Member Highlight for my background. I hope to meet or get to hear from you and know you this year.

On behalf of all members, I'd like to thank 2021 officers who led us valiantly through another year of COVID:

- Ellen Soppet, President who despite other obligations, led us forward.
- Pennie Wilkins, Vice President/Programs who valiantly put together another convention that COVID cancelled. She continues with the board in this position and we hope that the third try will be an in-person convention.
- Marley Wright Smith, Secretary who has helped keep this organization vital and alive for so many years. Her return to the

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board for so many different positions over the year has helped keep us strong.

- Shaun Sasaki, Treasurer and jack of all trades filling in as Newspaper Editor, and with her husband Gary, maintains the Website. She continues as Treasurer and will be putting together for her last time this January 2022 newsletter!
- Ruth Ann Petro: our bastion ex-officio —continuing to ensure we keep the whole ball of wax going. We hope she continues to guide us.
- Linda Huber, Membership—thanks for keeping our membership base going!

I believe the returning and new members of the board (Karen Loveless as Secretary, Joyce Field as Membership and [once again] Trade Floor Manager, and Rhonda Payne McKanna as Historian (appointed) will make for a very strong board. Much of the efforts from the last years work on convention will help with a successful CRA Convention in 2022.

I decided to run for president very late in the game as I have been extremely busy since I joined the organization. This year, I had just finished two remodels and sales of homes when I saw that no one had agreed to run for office. Marley's final call led me to act I felt an obligation to keep this organization going in honor of the many charter members who I've met over the years and who have inspired my desire to continue to try to master this art form and who have made conventions and learning so fun.

After reading a recent article about the movie *It's a Wonderful Life* with Jimmy Stewart, one line stood out: it's not about having things that matter, but what you give of yourself to those around you. I also believe, belonging to an organization, inherently means supporting it to the best of your ability. In running for President, I feel this organization will continue because I was one of many who cared enough to not let it die on my watch.

One of my mottos is "It's always more fun to be on the board than not!" You make wonderful friendships and find a sense of purpose the more you become

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involved in an organization. We are missing one critical board member: Newspaper Editor. I'm hoping one or more of you will step forward into this role. I also would love for some of you to send in a short bio with picture, helping others get to know you and/or write an interesting article sharing your knowledge. You all have something to share that helps others. Articles by members help make our Newsletter more interesting. They also help make the position of Editor much easier and meaningful.

I believe if we all work together, we can make it the best year during another very interesting year with COVID. If any of you have suggestions for our officers or the board, please feel free to contact me either thru the website or my personal email. Joyce will be updating you with a roster as soon as she can.

In other matters, I have been following, the Milan Village Arts School (Milan, MN) presentations on Karen Jenson house Trestuen and their Legacy program hoping to purchase that house or items therein. They have a website and a Facebook . You can donate with a check payable to MVAS (Milan Village Arts School with a



1 Ceiling of Margie's Pool House, Painted by Karen Jenson

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note that it's for the Trestuen Legacy Campaign) and mail it to Milan Village Arts School, P. O. Box 230, Milan MN 56262 or use this link to donate to donate online: <https://www.givemn.org/organiza.../Milan-Village-Arts-School>. After spending years painting under her glorious ceiling in Margie Miller Utzinger's pool house, I had to make a donation! They urge you to move quickly on donating if you plan to support this project as time is running out on purchasing the property for the school's program. If they don't raise enough, they will need to purchase some of the art found in the house and it will be sold to an individual. Additional information can be found on their online site

https://milanvillageartsschool.org/?fbclid=IwAR2A7poV3YuvaOTWrQzCq60xv_Ho4t4y9gfb1tSdXX0DfMNU71lgGbp859uY.

Happy 2022 and may you all get your UFO (UnFinished Objects) painted!

Katie Allen

2022 CRA Board Members

President	Katie Allen	Katie.d.allen68@gmail.com	408-781-6450
VP Programs	Pennie Wilkins	penniewilkins@gmail.com	530-347-6434
Treasurer	Shaun Sasaki	shaun@rosemaler.com	408-981-5685
Secretary	Karen Loveless	kmaloveless@gmail.com	310-780-8328
Trade Floor	Joyce Field	jafield@verizon.net	310-292-1332
Membership	Joyce Field	jafield@verizon.net	310-292-1332
Historian	Rhonda Payne McKanna	rpmteach@gmail.com	949-872-2320
Past President	Ellen Soppet	ellensoppet@gmail.com	925-989-2095
Past President	Ruth Ann Petro	rpetro1@mac.com	760-212-7524
Newsletter Editor	Looking for an Editor		

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CRA Board Member Profiles:



President: Katherine (Katie) D. Allen

Luckily, I grew up in a family that appreciated art, music, history, travel, and culture. In third grade I had my first art class outside of school and created my first decorative painting (defined online as “any of those arts that are concerned with the design and decoration of objects that are chiefly prized for their utility, rather than for their purely aesthetic qualities”). The resulting salad bowl also was my first foray in using oils and wood! I believe my teacher must have helped me with the line work. I continued the following four years of extracurricular art with teachers from the Art Institute of Chicago. I’ve taken additional classes both in high school, night schools, seminars, conventions, and junior college. I’ve also explored various other painting and rosemaling via videos and now zoom classes.



My love of Norwegian Rosemaling was inherent in my upbringing. My mom collected lots of art, folk art, historical items, etc. and displayed them around the house and our cottage. One piece of decorative art stood out and because it was hung in the kitchen, we saw it multiple times a day. I didn’t realize it was Rosemaling and I was taught that it said something in either Norwegian or Swedish that roughly translated to “the

Smorgasbord is ready, help yourself”. I always thought of Smorgasborg’s as Swedish, so I didn’t realize it was Norwegian. Years later I learned that it was a

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work by Per Lynes. My mom continued to add to her collection of Norwegian rosemaling pieces through her lifetime and I eventually appreciated these after living and traveling in Norway in the 1970s.

I returned to decorative arts in 2010 when I was invited into Margie Miller Utzinger's weekly art get together group. I had previously known two of the members of that group (Dolores Lee Emrey and Shaun Sasaki) and had inherited my mom's book that Margie had written with Sigmond Aarseth: *Norwegian Rosemaling Decorative Painting on Wood*, with the thought I would want to try to do that painting sometime. It was at a Daughters of Norway event, that Dolores came up to invite me on behalf of that group. What an honor. Between Margie, Shaun and Deloris, I eventually made progress. Shaun eventually took over my forward momentum in rosemaling and she has been a wonderful teacher. I treasure her friendship and all that she's done to contribute to my painting skills and understanding of rosemaling. She made my first CRA convention a great learning experience because she took me under her wings. Other CRA members also made my many CRA conventions memorable and were very helpful. With each convention I have attended, I have made new friendships, enjoyed great projects, new skills, and won or purchased some treasures. I really love seeing how each step in rosemaling eventually leads up to a beautiful, finished piece.



Vice President: Pennie Wilkins

My painting journey began when I was about ten years old and my cousin was doing a paint by number. I asked her if I could try it and I did, and I liked it so I asked my mom if I could have one. She bought me one and that was my beginning. This led me to watercolor in high school. In my early twenties I started to do fine art and painted mostly landscapes, seascapes and florals. Decorative painting came into my life when I moved to Cottonwood from southern California, and a friend asked if I wanted to take a decorative painting class. This first class was painting JoSonja's "Biddie". This led me to painting with JoSonja for over 30

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years. So of course, this introduced me to the beautiful art of rosemaling. My interest has peaked to the point of my having entered my own designs in the National Folk-Art Exhibition held each year in Decorah, IA at Vesterheim the National Norwegian American Museum.



Treasurer: Shaun Sasaki

I grew up in the Northern California Valley. I lived in town and spent summers with my grandmother while mom and dad worked. I am an only child and enjoyed all the things that grandma and I did together. She taught me to sew, embroidery, cook and to knit when I was very young. My entire family is from rural Missouri and we knew we were Scotch Irish and Dutch (and more), whatever that meant. It is not until the last two years that I understand that Scottish people migrated to Northern Ireland to plantations run by the British, and then later immigrated to the United States in the 1700's. I always loved sewing and crafts and in the early 1980's a family friend had learned to Tole paint and inspired me to learn. I was married with one child on the way living in Cupertino so taking classes was difficult. In about 1990 I began taking German Folk art painting with Carl Larson and thru a friend I met Margret Miller Utzinger. In 1999 I began taking classes in Rosemaling with Margie and have painted with her until about 2015 when she moved to Wisconsin. She was a wonderful teacher, friend, and mentor. It is thru Margie and her painting friends that I learned about Norwegian customs, jokes, and food. It is a blessing for me to have her in my life. With Margie's mentoring I learned to design my own pieces, sell my pieces (not an easy thing to let go), and teach others to paint. I am inspired by Rosemaling and find so many other folk arts from around the world to have similar motifs. My life took a turn that I never thought possible when I was young, and I am so grateful that I had the opportunity to learn such a beautiful art form.

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Membership & Trade Floor: Joyce Field

I started my painting journey after high school, but life got in the way and it wasn't until 1988 that I found Tole Painting. From there I was introduced to Jo Sonja and all her different styles including Rosemaling. I have been so blessed to take from so many excellent teachers such as JoSonja, Bjorg Klievi, Ruth Green, Sigmund Arseth, Karen Nelson, Karen Jenson, Jurene While, Lois Mueller, Marie Sollom and many more. Besides my love for Rosemaling I also do realistic still life in oils. A lot of you know me from the Trade Floor.

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From Ruth Ann Petro

During the past years while the world focuses on Covid, it's been difficult for me to paint. I've had to face the fact that my painting classes are just as much about seeing and socializing with friends as about painting. It's a sad thing that so many classes have been cancelled - for teachers and students alike.

I recently got to talk to Jo Sonja who was at the studio when I called. She said she misses her students so much! As a student who misses her teacher, this was a wonderful conversation to have. My greatest wish for 2022 is to have our Convention go as planned. Teacher, students, all together and having a blast. It feeds my creative spirit!

While pondering all this, I've had to think about what I've actually painted. It's a short thought process for me.

The list of things I haven't done is longer than the list of things I have done. So, I'm committing here and now to finish four UFOs this year. Who is with me? Let's all do it!

I remember the joy that comes from finishing something! I want to feel that again!

To the right are pictures of a little chest I bought in Norway. It was painted by Tore Christiansen. Nils Ellingsgard, who was with my group for that part of our tour said he thought Tore was one of the most creative rosemalers in Norway.

Love and happy painting wishes to everyone!



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Rosemaling Lessons in Covid Times

Want to take Rosemaling Classes by Zoom? Check out: RosemalingClasses.com

Shaun Sasaki also gives Rosemaling lessons via Zoom.

If you offer Rosemaling lessons via Zoom (or equivalent), let us know!

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Current 2022 CRA Convention Planning

Unless you've just joined us, you know that the CRA Convention was called off totally for 2020 and went to an online video type tutorial by Jo Sonja for the 2021 project. Of course, this was all due to Covid, which seems to keep coming back in unexpected ways. So, you will probably understand that plans for 2022's CRA Convention are still up in the air.

Further, the Red Lion Hotel that we'd been planning on using for the meeting was recently sold and apparently things are up in the air there. And the Clarion that is near Jo Sonja's studio was also recently sold.

It will take the folks in Eureka some time to sort things out and for us to negotiate the details that would affect our own convention plans. Very tentatively, we are looking at some time in September, but nothing is currently certain. So, please stay tuned.

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Membership Notice

We are in process of updating CRA membership for 2022. In the following pages is a listing of who is paid up until 2022 or later.

If you were a member in 2020 or 2021, your membership was extended to 2022. The date in the last column shows which year you are paid up for. (Note: Some paid for additional years, so they show as paid for 2023 or 2024)

If you do not see your name here or if there are any corrections needed (including if you've changed your address) contact the Membership Chair Joyce Field.

Or you can update your contact details on the website – califrosemaler.org
(There is a paper membership form on the last page of this newsletter.)

If you need to pay dues, please fill out the membership form on the website and send a check for \$15, payable to **CRA**, to Joyce Field (see address below).

It will be beneficial if you know of any members who are no longer with us, please let us know.

If you have questions, contact:

Joyce Field

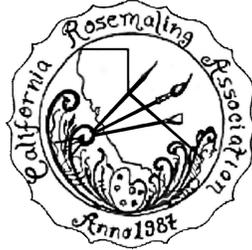
jafield@verizon.net

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CRA Membership Status (as of January 2022)



**California Rosemaling Association
Membership Application or Update**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Cellphone: _____

E-mail address: _____

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

New Members mail your check payable to **CRA** in the amount of \$15.00 to:

Joyce Field

jfield@verizon.net

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310-292-1332

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Membership List has been removed from version of the Newsletter posted on the website.

