



January Newsletter

HAPPY NEW YEAR

2024!

Our next meeting is scheduled for **February 4, 2024.**

Doors open at 9:30 AM, and painting begins at 10:00.



*Soup is a hug
in a bowl.*



I hope everyone enjoyed the Christmas party! For February, Fran will be making her stuffed pepper soup, Donna will be making her kale soup, and Vickie will be bring turkey noodle soup. The board members will bring crackers and breads.

Members are to bring as follows:

A-H: Morning snacks

I-O: Desserts (chance to get rid of those leftover Christmas cookies in the freezer)

P-Z: salads, fruit, veggies

I hope everyone had a great Holiday Season. Stay safe & warm! See you in February.

Vickie Kennedy, Hospitality Chair, 724-831-8624, vickie.ann.kennedy@gmail.com)

From the President's Desk

WOW!! I can't believe that its already the last month of the year. We have had a busy time in club. Make it– Take it's new schedule worked out very well. There was lots of laughter while learning new projects. We are really going to work on getting new members next year to strengthen our club. Think of what you would like to teach or demo, or if there is a subject you would like to learn better, let some of the teachers know. Thanks to all my officers. You have done a wonderful job & I know you will continue to do so: our club is very giving.



Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and I sure hope to see YOU Next Year.

Our 2024 meeting dates are February 4, April 14, June 2, August 4, October 13, and December 1.

Your President, Linda Lineman 814-671-6502 lpmchina@gmail.com

Program and Service



We would like thank our teachers who did the great Make-It Take-It projects at the last meeting. If you missed it, you missed a great day of painting and fellowship.

At the February meeting we will paint the bags for VOICe. These are used to help those who are needing to leave violent situations and are much appreciated.

Carol was sorry she missed the meeting in December, but she will be doing a delivery to VOICe on January 25. Remember, they are only accepting seasonal (winter) clothing. They are also looking for

Boxes- Small, Medium, and Large, a Carpet Scrubber with carpet cleaner solution, Phone Chargers - Samsung, iPhone, and Android phones, Phone Charging Blocks, Buckets, Trash Bags- black and white, and Straight Talk phone timecards 30-day supply.

If anyone has items they wish to donate, let Carol know and she can pick things up at your convenience, or you can bring it to the January board meeting.

The painted bags will be due at the June meeting and will be delivered at the end of that month.

Thank you, thank you to everyone who donated toys at the Basket Luncheon for VOICe. They were just amazed at the generosity of our members. You really made Christmas special for a lot of kids.

We hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and has a Happy New Year.
Blessings,

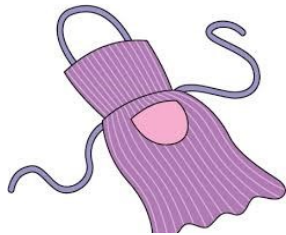
Carol Sexton and Donna Michael, Service and Program Co-Chairs

casexton@zoominternet.net, dcm2@zoominternet.net

Nominations/Election

A slate of officers for 2024 was presented and voted upon at the December meeting. Your 2024 officers are: Linda Lineman, President; Deb Laney and Carol Sexton, Co-First Vice-Presidents and Program; Barb Leffler, Treasurer; Mary Frances Deah as Recording Secretary; Kathy Schweikart as Corresponding Secretary, Wendy Cornman for Ways & Means; Dot Hoffman as Newsletter; and Stephanie Perne for Seminar Chair. Viki Sherman was elected Second Vice-President, Membership with the understanding that someone else needs to step into this position. Donna Michael will be Co-Corresponding Secretary while Kathy is recovering.

Let's get behind our board and step up to make our club the best it can be.



A Sweet Retreat

Life Is What You Bake It- Whisk Me Away!

April 25-28, 2024

We hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas. Now we can look forward to the next big holiday—April 25!

Have you painted your apron for the competition yet? Did you choose a favorite recipe to share? Have you chosen your classes yet? Aren't they all great?

We hope everyone is as excited as we are. How blessed we are to be able to spend four days doing what we love with people we truly care about.

Barb Leffler and Carol Sexton, Retreat Co-chairs
bleffler18@gmail.com, casexton@zoominternet.net

A note from your retreat program editor:

I made a few errors in the retreat booklet. Page 13, the "Monochromatic Rose Study" will be taught by Rosemary Habers. It's a 4-hr Beg/Int/Adv acrylic class, 8" x 6.5" x 3" paper mache' box, \$18. Page 17, "Squirrely" will be taught by Linda Lineman. It's a 4-hr Beg/Int acrylic class, 13" x 14" wood piece, \$20, regular painting supplies.

On the back of the registration form, under the part that says, "If you do not want one of these packages..." the cost for a single room is \$90, not \$75. The double would be \$45 (half of \$90,) and the triple \$32 (a triple room is \$96, so 1/3 of that.)

Each mailed booklet had an envelope with a recipe card in it. Unfortunately, some of them fell out, although we sealed them on all sides. If you did not get a recipe card, you can use any recipe card you have. Fill it out with your favorite recipe and send in with your registration to Fran.

The corrected retreat booklet and registration form are available on our web site.

Sorry about that.

...Dot..

Ways and Means

Thanks so much to everyone who donated or participated in our meeting raffle, the big yearly raffle, or the 50/50 at the December 10 meeting. If you are able to donate for the February meeting, you have your choice of several themes. Valentine's Day, Mardi Gras, Presidents' Day, St. Patrick's Day, First Day of Spring, Good Friday, and Easter.

Congratulations to Gerry Olinger, the winner of the beautiful table painted by Linda Lineman. Way to go, Gerry O!!!

December Winners.....

50/50– Fran Deah

Prize

Duck Plaque
Snowman Coffeepot
Poinsettia
Bear & Snowman
Nativity Puzzle
Poinsettia in Snowman Bucket

Donated by

Karen Schnell
Carol Fair
Charlotte Rankin
Fran Deah
Cindy Lamb
Elaine Walker

Winner

Mary Jane Griffith
Lynn Campbell
Jennifer Calvin
Dot Hoffman
Elaine Walker
Marie Uncapher

Thanks again for your generosity.

Wendy Cornman, Ways & Means Chair
winburt61@yahoo.com



Basket Luncheon

Cindy Lamb and Mary Jane Griffith had such a great time planning last year's Basket Luncheon that they have offered to do it again! Thanks, ladies! We look forward to seeing what great ideas they come up with for the theme and centerpieces. Start thinking about your basket theme!, everyone!

Membership

We had 40 paid members last year. Your dues are due February 4. All members who pay their dues on or before that meeting will receive a free class! Look for more details in the next newsletter.

Viki Sherman Membership Chair,



Points

Don't forget to turn in your points sheets to Marilou Grace on or before the February meeting!

Cheer



Happy birthday to our January and February birthday crew.

January

Deb Laney
Viki Sherman
Jaime Homison
Vickie Kennedy

January 3
January 7
January 10
January 27

February

Donna Michael
Mary Ann Dunbar
Mary Jane Griffith

February 7
February 18
February 20

If you know of anyone who would appreciate a card, whether for get well, accident, or a word of encouragement, please contact Donna. We all are sending Kathy Schweikart our prayers for her recovery. If you would like to send Kathy a card, please ask Donna or Linda for the address.

Kathy Schweikart, Donna Michael, Co-Chairs
kschweik@hotmail.com, dcm2@zoominternet.net



Check out our web site at www.townandcountrydecorativepainters.com

News from Your Webmaster and Newsletter Editor



Happy New Year! All through the year(s), we bring you many ways to take classes, find painting materials and ideas, and find where to go for information. This month, we are presenting to you a printed article about one of our friends from TCDP. If you need that other stuff, look back through the newsletters from the past year. You'll find it. By the way, a gift certificate for an online class is a wonderful gift. I'll be painting with Louise Jackson, thanks to my lovely daughter, Elyse! See you in February!

P.S. Thanks to clipart-library.com and creativefabrica.com for the clipart this month.



Congratulations to our very own Carol Sexton, who recently had an article about her and her cookie making in the Butler Eagle. She definitely gives from the heart in all she does. Leave to the woman who likes to stay behind the scenes to have a whole article and no pictures of her.

East Butler baker makes cookies for charity, family, friends only

Paula Grubbs_Eagle Community Editor, December 02, 2023 Last Updated: December 04, 2023 05:05 PM Community

Jen Ford, of the Butler County Historical Society, organizes boxes full of cookies Friday, Dec. 1, for the annual Butler County Historical Society Cookie Walk. Mikayla Torrence/Butler Eagle

Everyone contributes to society in their own way, but Carol Sexton has the sweetest way to help those in need. Sexton, of East Butler, has baked mountains of cookies over the years for charitable events, including Bundle Up Butler and Twilight Wish. The biggest event she bakes for is the annual Butler County Historical Society Cookie Walk, which is slated for Saturday, Dec. 2, at the Sen. Walter Lowrie House on Diamond Street. There, cookie lovers pay \$12 for up to three empty bakery boxes, which they fill with cookies laid out throughout the historic house. Live Christmas music and Victorian holiday decorations throughout the museum greet those purchasing cookies at the Cookie Walk. The popular Cookie Walk is one of the historical society's biggest annual fundraisers, said Jennifer Ford, executive director.

Sexton is a huge contributor to the event each year, and will have made 70 dozen cookies for this year's Cookie Walk. That's 840 cookies of many varieties. "I really like the historical society," Sexton said of her reason for baking so many cookies for the Cookie Walk. "As a (amateur) genealogist, I've been tracing my family history for years." She said anyone who enjoys history should help out however they can at the historical society. "The historical society has been a great source of help and they need help, too," Sexton said. "They need more volunteers."

Some of the cookies Sexton bakes for the Cookie Walk are rocky road fudge bars, ginger cookies dipped in white chocolate, snickerdoodles, salty sweets, pecan bars, peanut butter cup and peanut butter kisses.

"The most popular cookie I get asked for all the time are the rocky road fudge bars," Sexton said. "It's a Pillsbury recipe." She heard through the cookie-baking grapevine that the rocky roads were snapped up quickly at the 2022 Cookie Walk.

The cookie her daughter requests is the ginger cookie dipped in white chocolate. Sexton favors the two types of biscotti she makes, which are cranberry pistachio and triple ginger. She explained the biscotti are created by making a loaf and slicing it into strips, which are baked twice to achieve the traditional crunchy biscotti consistency.

The most time-consuming recipe she follows each Christmastime is the one for sweet and salty butter pecan cookies, which must be mixed up and refrigerated to ensure all the ingredients' flavors blend before they are baked. "They are absolutely delicious," Sexton said.

She doesn't do a lot of decorated sugar cookies, which might surprise some. "For my family this year, I want to do a sugar cookie Christmas tree," Sexton said.

Other cookies that are very popular are the caramel tassies, which have a hard sauce on top.

"Transporting them is a pain," she said. "You can't stack them with the hard sauce."

One familiar confection that she has made many times is the dainty lady lock, a delicate curled cookie that is filled with cream and dusted with powdered sugar. "Lady locks usually go really fast," Sexton said. "That's a tradition on the Pittsburgh cookie table."

A pecan bar in Sexton's repertoire calls for the nuts to be toasted in butter in a skillet, then the butter is strained off and chilled to be used in the recipe. Sexton uses recipes she finds in various places, not her own recipes as some bakers do. "I think I'm pretty good at recognizing whether a recipe is going to work just by reading it," she said.

A new recipe Sexton tried this year is an eggnog kringle. "It looks like a pretzel and there's eggnog in the dough," she said. "The icing also has eggnog."

Once recipe Sexton will not try is a European cookie that calls for powdered ammonia.

"There are no weird ingredients in my cookies," she said. Sexton uses only high-quality ingredients in her cookies, like real vanilla and butter. She uses only King Arthur flour, which she buys in 10-pound bags. Sexton also uses parchment paper on her cookie sheets to avoid the need to wash the pans while baking. While many cooks and bakers use parchment today, Sexton learned the trick many years ago, before parchment was readily available for home use.

"I worked at Kroger years ago, and I always hung around the bakery although it wasn't my department, and they used parchment," she said.

Sexton has advice for novice bakers if they wish to successfully whip up several dozen cookies. "Mix one day and bake the next, because it's too easy to make mistakes if the oven's on and you're mixing cookie batter," she said.

Sexton owns a one horsepower KitchenAid mixer that replaced her former KitchenAid, which she gave to her daughter. The larger version she now uses is more efficient for her purposes.

"I can do 14 cups of batter at a time," Sexton said.

While she loves baking, Sexton, who is retired from Cleveland-Cliffs, does not bake cookies as a side job like some baking enthusiasts. "My skills are limited. I'm not a techie person," Sexton said. "I worked in a mill, so one of the things I can do is bake." She finds the hobby relaxing and enjoyable. "It's a Zen thing," Sexton said.

She remains on the hunt for the perfect chocolate chip cookie, even after years of baking cookies. "Each one that comes along, it seems like there's one little tweak," Sexton said. "I don't think there's a bad chocolate chip cookie."

She does not partake of her tempting results while baking Christmas cookies. "But if there are cookies in the freezer, all bets are off," Sexton said.

Once completed and cooled, Sexton places her cookies in half-sheet aluminum pans she buys in bulk. Wax paper or parchment paper are placed between the layers to protect them while she drives them to their destination. Sexton and two friends have breakfast Saturday morning on the day of the Cookie Walk, then deliver the cookies to the Lowrie House. "But we don't help set them out because we're 'cooked' out," she said.

Sexton plans to continue making cookies for charities, friends and family for as long as she is able, but will never do it for income. "It's just not in me," she said. "It takes a lot more time and I have other things to do."

Asked how much she spends on cookie ingredients and aluminum foil pans for transportation each year, Sexton answers "I don't want to know."

TCDP GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING DATE: 12-10-2023

HELD AT: TANGLEWOOD SENIOR CENTER CALLED TO ORDER AT 11:00 a.m. ADJOURNED AT: 11:30 a.m.

Board members attending: Linda Lineman, Barb Leffler, Fran Deah, Donna Michael, Viki Sherman, Dot Hoffman, Wendy Cornman, Vickie Kennedy, Marilou Grace, Jennifer Calvin, Mary Jane Griffith, and Cindy Lamb

Quorum: General Membership meeting: 1/5 of total members (40/5 = 8, 20 in attendance) **QUORUM PRESENT**

2023 ELECTED OFFICERS

Ways and Means – Wendy Cornman

Due to the adjusted schedule, Wendy did the raffles at this time. Winners of today's prizes were: 50/50-Fran Deah, Poinsettia in painted pot donated by Elaine Walker – won by Marie Uncapher, winner of the 1000 pc. Puzzle donated by Cindy Lamb – won by Elaine Walker, winner of the Winter teddy bear plaque donated by Fran Deah – won by Dot Hoffman, winner of the Poinsettia donated by Charlotte Rankin – won by Jennifer Calvin, winner of the Snowman coffeepot donated by Carol Fair – won by Lynn Campbell, winner of the Goose Plaque donated by Karen Schnelle - won by Mary Jane Griffith. The winner of the large raffle prize of the morning glory table painted by Linda Lineman – was won by Gerry Olinger. Thanks to all who donated. February's ways and means will feature anything Valentine's Day, President's Day, St. Patrick's Day, or anything you wish to offer.

Recording Secretary – Fran Deah

The minutes from the September 24, 2023 (October) meeting, were published in the November newsletter. There were no corrections or additions, and the minutes were accepted and filed.

Treasurer – Barb Leffler

Barb reported that the basket luncheon netted a profit of \$1,561.20.

President – Linda Lineman

Linda asked the attending members what they thought of the new early start time for our MITI December meeting. Fran Deah stated that as a second session MITI teacher, she was glad that the 2nd session classes were before our luncheon, that way people stayed for the class, and we all got to socialize during and after the luncheon. Those who voiced an opinion were in favor of having both sessions before lunch.

First Vice-Presidents and Program Co-Chairs – Donna Michael and Carol Sexton

Donna thanked the teachers who taught today, Lynn Campbell, Mary Jane Griffith, Dot Hoffman, Fran Deah, Linda Lineman, and Cindy Bocchi. Debra Laney will take over for Donna in 2024.

Second Vice-President and Membership Chair – Viki Serman (until someone fills the post)

Viki reported that we have 40 paid members, 20 are here with us today. Linda Lineman said that we are putting together a club information sheet, "Come Paint with Us", that we hope to circulate, looking for new members.

Newsletter – Dot Hoffman

The deadline for reports is December 15th for the January newsletter, which will go out after Christmas.

Corresponding Secretary – Kathy Schweikart

Linda reported that Kathy was in a serious car accident on November 9th and had emergency surgery for a broken neck. She is in Mercy Hospital Rehab and does not want to have visitors but would welcome well wishes/cards sent to her home address.

2023 APPOINTED OFFICERS

Hospitality – Vickie Kennedy

Vickie asked for volunteers for soup at our February meeting. Fran Deah and Donna volunteered to bring soup.

Service Co-Chairs – Carol Sexton and Donna Michael

Carol let Donna know that she is planning on delivering anything she has collected for VOICE at the end of January. If you have anything to donate, please let her know and she will come and pick it up from you!

Nominations Chair – Janine Stiffler

Linda read the slate of officers for 2024: Linda Lineman – President, Barb Leffler – Treasurer, Fran Deah – Recording Secretary, Stephanie Perne – Seminar Chair, Debra Laney and Carol Sexton - Program Co-Chairs, Viki Sherman -Membership Chair (Temporarily), Dot Hoffman – Newsletter, Wendy Cornman – Ways and Means, Corresponding Secretary – Kathy Schweikart.

Lynn Campbell made a motion to accept the slate of officers as read. Karen Schnelle seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the newly elected will take office and be inducted in February 2024. Donna Michael will be Co-Corresponding Secretary while Kathy recovers from her injuries in an accident.

Point System Chair – Marilou Grace

This is the last meeting for 2023, you must have your point sheets turned in no later than the February meeting. Point sheets can be downloaded from the web page.

Retreat Co Chairs – Barb Leffler and Carol Sexton

The 2024 retreat booklets were passed out to those members who were present. Several teachers brought their projects and displayed them on the retreat table. Barb thanked Dot for the beautiful booklet. There is a recipe card and envelope in the booklet this year. Barb has a plan for the recipes and wants to make sure you include a completed card with your registration!

Retreat Co-Treasurers – Fran Deah and Jennifer Calvin

The first retreat registration has already been received from Karen Schnelle

Basket Luncheon Co-Chairs – Mary Jane Griffith and Cindy Lamb

Net profit of \$1,561.20

New business: At the December board meeting, the board voted and approved continuing last year's free class voucher if a member pays their dues prior to or at the February 2024 meeting.

Bryson Kennedy would appreciate any pop can tabs or milk/pop/juice/water caps you have.

Respectfully submitted by Fran Deah, Recording Secretary