



# Tole Friends' News

**JUNE 2008**



*Welcome to the Tole Friends' Newsletter!*

## ARE YOU OUR NEWSLETTER CELEBRITY FOR JUNE?

Does YOUR name appear in "sections and parenthesis" somewhere in this newsletter?

While reading through this newsletter, if you see your name scattered throughout, it means you are the winner! Contact [submissions@tolefriends.net](mailto:submissions@tolefriends.net) within one week of publication to claim your prize. What is this "Celebrity" stuff you say? Well, it's one of the perks of this job, I get to close my eyes and point a finger and... There really is no magic recipe but I do kinda look for those who are actively participating on our painting list (at least on a semi-regular basis) and this month's "celebrity" is no exception. She's active, positive, sharing, caring, chatty, looking to grow in her Artist's Journey. Yup, this describes a LOT of you, but I can only pick one at a time and only 6 a year, so... start searching for your name. And... you lurkers (avid readers and sponges I like to call you), c'mon, sing out occasionally. We don't bite and besides the BIG reward of being a part of this totally awesome community, I get to hand out tangible treats occasionally and you never know when you might be in the spotlight <smile>.



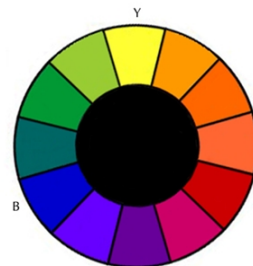
Congratulations to our April Celebrity, Jeanie Dixon of Richland, WA! With school and work and family and... life pulling her every which way, Jeanie needed a little lift and got a helping hand from another ToleFriend who "whispered in her ear" (almost the instant the newsletter hit inboxes across the world no less!) that she might have a surprise awaiting her in the TF's newsletter. It was a welcome exclamation of joy that we all heard from Washington as Jeanie did indeed find her name and got to choose one of the awesome ePackets from the 21 projects featured on the [TF's Fundraiser CD](#).



Ahhh, summer... gardens and dirt and birds and flowers and... painting? Yes, we can fit in our painting passion. Schedule yourself some "me" time (just like you'd schedule other appointments – write it in your daytimer/calendar). Stop and smell the roses and flowers, listen to the birds [London] singing and be inspired to run in and pick-up those sketchpads and/or brushes. Then... boot up your computer and tell us about it. Ask questions if you need some clarification on terminology, techniques, methods, mediums... that's what our busy little list is for and we're still here and checking on you and listening. Show 'n' Tell. It inspires us all.

## **JUNE FEATURETTE – our Website gets a Spring Cleaning**

During the month of May, our Webmaster Supreme, Anne Strebe (Annie to us), undertook the massive job of spring-cleaning our website and all it's content (menus, links, articles, painting projects, categories...) – HUNDREDS of pages! I don't think many of us realize what a huge undertaking this is/was, let alone the regular maintenance of a community such as ours. The behind-the-scenes scurrying in order to keep us all up-to-date and the "interfaces" necessary to make the content compatible with the majority of computers/servers is, well... to put it simply: complicated and mind boggling. This is a labor of love, one that we all do willingly and happily. Thank you, Annie.



And lo and behold, didn't a few articles and painting projects that were hiding, suddenly make an appearance, lol. You'll find an awesome and very informative series of articles on everything you ever wanted to know about Color Theory by none other than Pat Wakefield, MDA. You can find this series under the heading "Articles" at <http://tolefriends.net>.

And where is this going you say? Well... I would like you all to take a few moments here and there and surf our website, the public pages at <http://tolefriends.com> and the companion members' pages at <http://tolefriends.net> (which you can get to through the Members' Link/Access on the Public/main page at the .com site). For the most part, the new menu headings/organization are intuitive (user friendly). Painting-related articles have been rounded up and placed under... you got it... Articles! Our Lessons and our Publication are under Education. Our Archives, ToleFriends' History, Board, renewal information, links, changing your mail settings, Inchios, Recipe Exchange, are all under Links & Other Features. Check out the Painting Glossary, Donated Designs (under TF's Publishing) and all the other tabs you haven't been to lately. You will be glad you did.

## **BUTTONS! WE'VE GOT ... BUTTONS!**



Something old is something new again! We've always had Advertising Buttons viewable on hundreds of ToleFriends' pages on both the Public and Members' Only sections, but now we have state-of-the-art technology with everyone having "equal viewing". All advertising buttons are now visible on the top ½ of each page throughout the public and members' sections, each one "spins" for several moments in time and is then followed by the next. There is plenty of time in between to view and click and hovering your mouse will "freeze" them in time, lol. Where else can you have this kind of advertising to a target audience for only \$60.00 annually? Nowhere but here...on ToleFriends'!

To take advantage of this offer, go to the ToleFriends' Boutique at <http://tolefriends.biz> and search for the advertising button or [click here](#). We'll do the rest of the work for you. All you need do is submit an image of your logo and pay through the boutique and we'll design an advertising button for you with a link to your homepage. How easy is that?

Go see, go see, it's like our very own slideshow and a quick click on any button will take you directly to that advertiser's homepage and there are some awesome websites. I haven't been on some of them for awhile so I've been clicking away the last bit and really, REALLY enjoying the eye candy and some new advertisers as well. Find a few minutes and take a walk thru some of the sites - they're great and it's like strolling thru our member's online albums.



## **NEW MEMBERSHIP DRAW**

Do we have a deal for one lucky new member... For any NEW registrations (sorry, renewals don't count) during the period June 15<sup>th</sup> through to July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008, we will have a random drawing and ONE NAME will be chosen to win... drumroll please... a 2 year membership for the price of one!

That's like BOGO (buy one, get one), bonus, a steal, a deal, a windfall. Okay, I know you get the picture. But why would you let your friends stay on the outside looking in when they could be a part of [ALL THIS](#). The more the merrier. More members means more friends, more messages, more of a painting fix, more information, more programs, maybe even more ... giveaways.

So... tell all your friends, pass this along. To become a member, register at <http://tolefriends.com> under Members/Become a Member or [click here](#).



Membership is only \$18 for the first year (and \$15 for each year after that when you renew) and includes four quarterly lessons per year; countless painting-related articles; tips, tricks and techniques; freebies from our members; painting projects; new product alerts; an active list where you can get almost instantaneous answers/responses to painting-related queries 24/7; and friendships that are immeasurable.

What are you waiting for?!

## **CONVENTIONS/HAPPENINGS 2008**



Well, our big, national, SDP Convention is over this year and preparations are already being made for 2009. Hope that many of you are already making plans to be there next year. If you missed this memorable convention, fear not, there are still some regional conventions happening throughout the country (see below). For ideas on what to bring/pack, read the article by Jenny Langford under Creative Brushtales, The Travelling Painter <http://brushtls.tolefriends.com/32-travelling-painter.pdf>. Grab your calendars and jot down these dates to help you plan your vacations this year:

[Artist's Expo](#), Houston, Texas – July 22-26 <http://www.artistexpohouston.com/>

[HOOT](#), Columbus, Ohio – Aug 11-16 <http://www.heartofohiotole.org/>

[Northwest Regional Exposition](#) – September 18-21 (alternates yearly between neighboring chapters)  
[http://www.nwtoleliners.com/regional\\_convention.htm](http://www.nwtoleliners.com/regional_convention.htm) (2008)  
[http://www.raindropchapter.org/regional\\_expo.htm](http://www.raindropchapter.org/regional_expo.htm) (2007)

[Tole Country](#), Oklahoma City, Oklahoma – September 17-20 <http://tolecountry.com/>

[Passion Couleurs](#), Montreal, Quebec, Canada – Sept 26-28  
<http://www.ausecretdepolichinelle.com/spc/>

[New England Traditions](#), Providence, R.I. – Oct 8-12 <http://www.newenglandtraditions.org/>

If you have a convention link you would like added, please contact us at [newsletter@tolefriends.net](mailto:newsletter@tolefriends.net)

Links for most of the large conventions [Thompson] can be found in the [Painting Links](#) section of our website, everyday/all-day, 24/7

Subscribing to and receiving this free newsletter does **NOT** include or constitute a membership or subscription to Tole Friends' Association. All of the following items marked with \* in this newsletter are **ONLY available to PAID MEMBERS** of Tole Friends' Association. These are **only part** of all the information that is available for TF members. Non-members are welcome to visit our album site to [view photos](#) of previous lessons painted by our members.

#### Highlights for current and future events are:



**Lesson 21 – A Bouquet of Summer** is the very latest in Tole Friends' offerings to you, its members. It teaches pen and ink with acrylic paint washes in easy to understand steps peppered throughout with full color step-by-step photos (the pdf file alone is 32 detailed pages! A mini book!). This lesson will be up until the end of June and will then make way for Bubba by Moe Shier, Lesson 22 on July 1, 2008 (a preview can be seen further in this newsletter).

[The lesson can be downloaded by members.](#)

#### ARTICLES:

- [Product Review](#)-#1; \* Nancy Snellen showing us what to do with all those wonderful products and gadgets we bought at one time or always wanted to buy and we do not know how to use.
- [Product Review](#)-#2; \* Nancy Snellen giving us more information on what to do with all those wonderful products and gadgets we bought at one time or always wanted to buy and we do not know how to use.
- [Product Review](#)-#3; \* Nancy Snellen giving us more information on what to do with all those wonderful products and gadgets we bought at one time or always wanted to buy and we do not know how to use.
- [Product Review](#) \* So Soft Fabric Paints and More by DecoArt. Learn all the new things you can do with fabric paints.
- [Product Review](#) \* Loew-Cornell gives us an inside look at many newer items and products available today.
- [Decorative Arts Collection - A Little History Lesson](#) \* Andy Jones writes a fabulous history article on Peter Hunt and Peter Ompire, both very influential to decorative art as we know it. The "Fathers" of Decorative Art. Find out that neither of these two was really named "Peter" [and more.....](#)
- [Color Pencil Pattern-of-the-Month Club](#) \* Kelly Hoernig writes about her love of color pencils and wanting to share this love with those interested in this "new-to-many" and so very portable and versatile medium
- [History of Bauernmalerei](#) \* - by Anne Strebe
- [Pen & Ink with Acrylic Washes](#) \* by Karen Chase – Karen takes us through a lively discussion of how-to's from choosing and cleaning a technical pen, surfaces, application and finishing basics
- [New Product Review](#) \* – All About Americana Acrylic Paints from DecoArt. Including the introduction of their on-line store
- [History of Decorative Painting](#)\* - One Legacy by Phyllis Tilford. An informative, balanced, interesting and fun read featuring Jean Wortham and many other notables who paved the way for Decorative Art as we know it today in America.
- [Dimensional Pastes](#)\* - For the Fun of It! by Chris Thornton-Deason. Be creative, have fun and let your imagination run wild!

- [History of Hexmalerei](#) (Hex painting)\* - by Anne Strebe
- [Product Review - meet Della Wetterman\\*](#) - Influences from some notables in decorative art have shaped Della's very distinctive style; her love of collecting old things as led to her pursuit of having some of the antique tin toys reproduced and packets developed for other collectors of heirloom pieces

**PAINTING PROJECTS:**

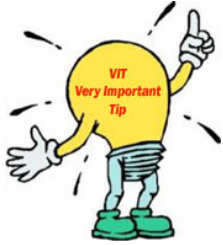
		
<p><a href="#">FunTest</a> by Phyllis Tilford</p>	<p><a href="#">Santa Flies Over the Moon</a> By Jill Paris Rody</p>	
		
<p><a href="#">Butterfly Coasters</a> By Sue Cochrane</p>	<p><a href="#">Flower Shed</a> By Chris Thornton</p>	<p>Bubba By Moe Shier Coming in July</p>
		
<p>Angel Pin By Sue Beckerton Coming in September</p>	<p>Gourd Santa Card Catcher by Jean Zawicki Coming in October</p>	

For our non-members, some of these In-depth Lessons and Painting Projects will be made available for purchase of a digital download through our [Boutique](#). Check often for what's new and available.

*Lessons, articles and projects are only available for a limited time; so do be sure to download them now while they're still available. If you missed a lesson there still might be a chance for you to purchase it as a downloadable e-packet through our Boutique. (Not all lessons are offered in the boutique)*

Tole Friends' monthly free newsletter  
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## FUN AT TOLE FRIENDS'



The list has been a-hoppin' for the last few weeks as our own Sue Mitchell has been egging us on and challenging us to come up with bigger and better tips, tricks and techniques. The old tried and true have been outpacing the new; however, all are new to many of our new members on the list. Some of the gasps of "why didn't I think of that?" have been audible even to me, way up here North of the border <grin>. You can find many of these tips in our archives. Check the last week of May and look for a subject line with the word "tips" in it.

## MEMORY BOX PROGRAM UPDATE

Well... we have good news and bad news. What do ya want first? Good news?! Yes!



Well, big congratulations to the first quarter winners of the ToleFriends' Memory Box Contest:

Group Winner – Gateway Decorative Artists represented by Gloria Falk. The Gateway Decorative Artists will receive Paper Maché Box Sets generously donated by Vicky Ausmus.

Individual Winner(s) – Mollia Stock and Donna Howard. Both ladies will receive a \$50.00 gift certificate to the ToleFriends' Boutique, generously donated by Donna Slutiak.

Many, many thanks to both Vicky Ausmus and Donna Slutiak. We truly appreciate their generosity and support of this most valuable program.

And to those who so willingly and lovingly paint for this extraordinary program, well, we cannot thank you enough.

Why is this such an important and worthwhile charity? The purpose of this program is to put something physical into the hands of the families that have lost their child, to prevent them from leaving the hospital empty-handed [Ontario] after the death of their infant. Inside these Memory Boxes, the nurses, pastors or social workers gently place identity records, hospital bracelets, nightie, bonnet, booties, photos and/or sometimes a clay mold or inked card of the baby's hands or feet. This allows parents and caregivers the choice of placing this painted box somewhere prominent in their homes, allowing them to discuss with family and friends or to keep it in a special, private place to keep the memories alive in their hearts.



Most of these infants have never been home, so there are no "firsts" to be recorded in a baby journal or their family's heart and minds. While this is a very sad turn of events that puts these boxes in these families' hands, it also brings joy to their hearts that someone cares enough to think of them in their time of need. Thank you to all of you that paint for this very worthwhile cause, for your selfless caring. Be it one or many boxes; know that you ARE making a difference in the lives of these families.

The bad news? Our numbers (and those for the program) have been way down. We only had 196 Group Boxes (represented by 3 groups) and 56 Individual Boxes (represented by 7 individuals) recorded for the first quarter of this year.

The First Quarter numbers for 2006 were 362 Group Boxes (4 groups); for 2007 - 249 Group Boxes (5 groups).

The First Quarter numbers for 2006 Individual Boxes were 446 boxes (represented by 32 Individuals); for 2007 Individual Boxes - 61 boxes (represented by 8 Individuals).

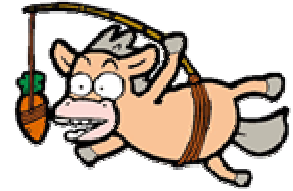
Tole Friends' monthly free newsletter  
You are receiving this newsletter because you signed up for it. If you want to  
unsubscribe from this newsletter, please send an email to  
[newsletter-unsubscribe@tolefriends.com](mailto:newsletter-unsubscribe@tolefriends.com).

More numbers: Marie reported that the International Memory Box stats at the end of March were 106,420 boxes painted/recorded. As of April, 831 more boxes were recorded for a total of 107,251. And by May we completed another 1088 boxes for a total to date of 108,339. She sends her love and thanks for a job well done.



Thank you to everyone who continues to support this program.

So... we are going to entice you, hold a carrot in front of your nose, incite, invite, induce, agitate, encourage, prod, stimulate, reward, motivate, lure, spur you on, persuade, sweeten the deal, provoke, bait you, whet your appetite... okay: **BRIBE** you <grin>.



Yes we are. At this end, the Individual who paints and reports the MOST boxes during the month of June 2008 will win a special book donated by Brenda Rickman, "Painting Tiny Treasures" by Cindi Gordon. Brenda says, "this book is really a treasure trove of instructions for small surfaces that are perfect for Memory Boxes. It covers a wide variety of subjects and techniques including landscape, Rosemaling, Roses, Lovebirds, Russian Florals, Swedish designs and much more!" Whet your appetite yet?

AND...drumroll puhleeeeeze... our very special ToLeFriend, Donna Slutiak, has again donated \$50.00 gift certificates redeemable in the ToLeFriends' [Boutique](#) to the Individuals who paint/report the most and second "most" <grin> boxes during the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. Oh, Donna, what a way to support two great causes that are so obviously near and dear to your heart – the Memory Box Program and ToLeFriends'. I'm sure I speak for all of us when I say thank you so very much.



"Boxes for Roses". Yes, the ToLeFriends' "Boxes for Roses" Campaign is well underway right now. You could win a beautiful hand painted T-shirt by our very own Gloria Falk. And what is on this T-shirt you ask? Roses! Beautiful, gorgeous, luscious roses! Roses to sigh over. Roses [Janet] you only wish you could paint so well. To the individual who paints and reports the MOST boxes OVER 15 go the spoils, er, the T-shirt. The deadline for this campaign is June 15, 2008. There's time yet.

Check out the rules for our ToLeFriends' Memory Box Contest at <http://tolefriends.org/index.html>.

To learn more about this OH-SO-VALUABLE/IMPORTANT program, visit the International Memory Box Program website at <http://www.memoryboxes.org/>

And don't forget that painting just three(3) memory boxes will give you an "in" to some truly gorgeous, inspiring, exclusive-to-ToLeFriends' Only designs. To preview these designs, you can go to <http://tolefriends.org/exclusive.html> and scroll down the page.

Keep up the good work everybody. The big winners are the families we are painting with love for.

## **SPECIAL TIP JUST FOR TOLE FRIENDS' NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIBERS**

One of the tips submitted during our "tip marathon":

Strokework - I have been using my leftover paint when I finish a project to practice my strokework. I have a spiral sketchpad I keep near my paint table, I use one side of the pad and when that's full I turn it over and use the backside. For me, I will also pull it out if things aren't going right on the project and watch TV and practice. Seems to relax me somewhat. Still not a good strokework person but I do get a great feeling when at least one stoke turns out. – *Patty-WA*



Thank you, Patty. Did you hear Everyone? Practice, practice, practice.

## OUT and ABOUT (TF's Community News)

SDP Member and Artist Susan Strauss of Sandwich, MA, passed away on May 5 of this year. Susan is best remembered for her folk-art style decorative painting on furniture and other decorative objects.

ToleFriends' Member Chieko Yuguchi is now Chieko Yuguchi, **MDA**. Yes, Chieko passed her final certification board toward that hard-won title on May 28, 2008, at the SDP Convention held in Tampa, Florida. Congratulations Chieko!

Many of our ToleFriends' members submitted certification boards this year and have shared their personal journeys of learning with us. I know they have inspired many more of us to consider this challenge and goal. We're proud of all of you. You can view and order the new 2009 designs on the [SDP](#) website. Also, the certification results have been published for all to see, as well as four new TDA's, service awards, scholarships and more. At the time of writing the newsletter, the 2008 Election results were still unconfirmed.

The new Decorative Arts Collection book, Celebrate St. Nicholas, was released at Tampa where the original pieces for the book were also on display. Our very own Phyllis Tilford and Helan Barrick were invited to paint one of the carved pieces for the book and the museum. What an honor. In fact, Helan's piece is featured and can be seen front and centre on the cover of this beautiful volume, with her signature children around the bottom of Santa's robes. All reports are this is a gorgeous, must-see book. To check it out and/or make a purchase, go to the [Decorative Arts Collection website](#).

And late breaking bad news/good news story: Maureen and Mel Smith (<http://www.packetsunlimited.com>) and Jan and Dwight Cumber (<http://www.jancumber.com>) went down to the SDP Convention in Tampa with their full booths and the DAC Museum's booth. On the way home, smoke was noticed coming out of the trailer. The two couples quickly pulled to the side of the road, unhitched the trailer and risked injury to themselves trying to save the trailer's contents – in particular, the irreplaceable DAC Museum property. Through their heroic and unhesitating efforts, only 8 of the recently painted carved Santas were lost. Sadly, one of these was our own Helan's; however, these Santas had been on display and already forever recorded in the new "Celebrate St. Nicholas" book. The complete booths, with inventory, of Packets Unlimited and Jan's Artistic Glass Designs, were lost in the fire that ensued. Other than some minor burns, no one was physically injured. Please keep these wonderful people/businesses in your hearts and minds. They are true heroes.



If you know of someone in our painting community that we should know about/mention, please send us an email at [newsletter@tolefriends.net](mailto:newsletter@tolefriends.net). This would include accomplishments (eg. Certification, awards, ribbons, first publication...), births, deaths... We can't promise to publish everything, but this is your newsletter and we do want to know and celebrate or cry along with you.

\* \* \*

We hope that as you visit our site, and read along and share on our active list, that we have inspired you to pick up those brushes, clean off your paint table, and to come paint with us!

**Come to paint, come to learn, come for the fellowship, and come for the fun!**

***Thanks for reading, and for your support! We'll talk to you again in September.***

*This is a secret too good to be kept... pay it forward - tell your painting friends, your chapter members, and anyone interested in painting. Go ahead, forward this Newsletter to them. You can also download/print a [flyer](#) to hand out. This can be found on our homepage at <http://tolefriends.com>*



**Questions or suggestions for the newsletter can be sent to [newsletter@tolefriends.net](mailto:newsletter@tolefriends.net)**  
(submissions for the newsletter should be received by the middle of the month prior to publication: next submission date August 15, 2008)

**Editor's Note – Many of the beautiful Memory Box photos you see in this edition are courtesy of Gateway Decorative Artists.**

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