

Winter Newsletter 2008

March is almost here and Easter will follow shortly. Wow, is this year moving fast or are we just getting older. Grandmother, did say something about, "The older one gets the faster time flies". However, I think the busier one is the faster time flies. To be sure with the first part of this year, that is the case. Already we have had a successful Reno event at the Peppermill, an outstanding one day class before the IADCCT event in January, an airbrush House Class the first of February, three full days at the Orlando show and in Florida five days of outstanding classes in Satellite Beach and Leesburg. Coming up by the time you read this will be Learn and Play House class. Busy to be sure and enjoying all of you who pass through my life.

News you can use for sure.

Cruise

Yes, we have a cruise coming this fall to the Eastern Caribbean and are we excited. We already have several signed up. We have negotiated a great deal with Princess Cruise Lines. We sail October 31st 2008, from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida and return 11 days later. We will have 10 nights onboard the ship. Our price for Balcony Cabins is \$1419 and unobstructed Ocean View (not Balcony) is \$1179. We can not wait. Click on the button (Info & Reg) for more information and the registration form. We only have room for 30 people and this should sell out fast. We need deposits right away to hold you space **(by April 15th)**. We do recommend getting the cruise insurance for full refunds, in case of illness or a injury that happens before the cruise. This trip will be a cruise to remember aboard the New Emerald Princess. Jim and I will be your host for the trip. We are planning at least one Cocktail party for our group. We have taken several groups in past years and had a blast, so now is the chance to join us for **lots of fun**.

You need to know we are not going to paint on ship. The logistics are just too hard, we have painted in the past but this cruise is for relaxing and playing for all. However, to all of you ceramic lovers, we will be giving you a technique book with 5 projects with patterns for you to paint when you get home. This will be our way of saying thanking you for sailing with us.

So, please get your deposits in **by April 15th**. Final payment will be due 70 days before sailing; which would be the middle of August. Princess Cruises accepts all credit cards for deposits as well as full payments. If you have questions do not hesitate to call 559 456-4726 or my cell 559 289-8476 or email us at dhhoff@pacbell.net.

Oh, yes we can help arrange your flights from your town to Ft. Lauderdale and return.

House Classes in Fresno

As many of you know I have been working for Duncan Ceramics and recently just finished writing their new Certification Program. I like the program to say the least so, we will be presenting this seminar as a four day house class in May.

Duncan Certification

May 23rd, 24th, 25th and 26th; this is Memorial Day weekend so many of you will not have to take a lot of time off from work. The weather in Fresno will be mild and we should have a great time. The price will be \$90 a day with everything included, ware, color, paperwork and lunch each day. You will need to bring your own brushes. You are welcome to stay at our house, if you decide to lodge with us, plan to arrive on the 22nd (Thursday) and leave on the 27th (Tuesday the day after the seminar), also add \$100.00 for food and lodging. This is a great chance to be certified in one weekend and be done with the program. In the evening for those of you who are staying us, we will just relax and maybe watch a movie or something fun. I hear Yatzee dice in the background. So, come and learn from the "Designer of this Seminar" or you could say from the horse's mouth. We have room for 10 people during this session.

We need a \$90.00 deposit to hold your space for this four-day Duncan Essentials class.

Design Class

June 21st, 22nd, and 23rd with arrival on the 20th and departure on the 24th. This class helps you design your own projects and will explain color wheel, balance, harmony, negative space, fundamentals of design, and more. This is the fifth time this class has been offered and it sells out every time. We have room for only eight people. We complete a number of pieces (10 at least) and the last project is a piece of your own design, with assistance from me. Class fee is \$465 which includes lodging, meals, color, manual, patterns, manual placed on a CD, and firing for most pieces. But, not including ware. Remember with the David House Classes we do work in the evening, so be prepared to learn.

A deposit of \$150.00 is needed to hold your space for all House Classes.

Advanced Airbrushing & Brushstroke

September 20th, 21st, and 22nd, with arrival on the 19th and departure on 23rd. This class will fill up quickly, several of you have been asking for it. This is a combination class designed to give you unique pieces; which feature advanced airbrushing techniques in conjunction with outstanding brushwork. Class fee is the same as the Design Class (\$465) all inclusive except for the ware. Again, lodging and meals are included. Mark your calendar to join us.

Everything about Brushstroke

November 22nd, 23rd and 24th with arrival on the 21st and departure 25th. We work on tiles, flat pieces and everything you wanted to know about Brushstrokes. The major brushes are covered: Liner, Round, Shader, Filbert, Dagger and even the Detail brush. There is an excellent manual with this class as well and a great brushstroke presentation with each and every piece. Class fee is \$465 with the same all inclusive materials, lodging and food. But, not including ware.

Deposit of \$150.00 holds your space for this event as well.

Join us before the Christmas rush starts.

AFAA comes to Fresno

July 23rd, 24th, 25th and 26th American Fired Arts Alliance presents their program at ST Paul Armenian Church in Fresno, CA. This event has been held in Green Bay, WI; Dayton, OH; Orlando, FL and now comes to the West Coast for all of us out here. Some of the teachers are Mike Harbridge, Paula McCoy, Marchelle Burnham, Mari Loomans and I will be teaching. I know we will have more at least 8 different teachers. Duncan is planning something too. This should be exciting and we have Jim Flint to thank for getting us the venue.

In conjunction with this event, we will be presenting a mini Reno/Fresno event the Sunday and Monday following. If you recall we could not get the Peppermill for the Summer-time function, so last year we had a smaller event in Fresno; with a great success. This class was held at Duncan and everyone enjoyed themselves. So, we will do it again in conjunction with AFAA event. I have not worked out a class fee but we will have two days of painting with lunches included. Of course all ware, color and materials are included as well.

One great thing about AFAA and the Fresno/Reno events are that everything is included and all you need to do is bring you, your brushes and some misc. supplies. So, plan on Fresno in July, it will be warm but fun.

Places	Dates
Dayton, OH	April 11-13, 2008
Green Bay, WI	May 1-4, 2008
Fresno, CA	July 23-26, 2008
Mini Reno in Fresno, CA	May 27 & 28

Club David

Club David is still going strong. New folks are signing up all the time and we are pleased that you like the club so much. If you are not a member, sign up today. Club Fee is \$60.00 per year, you receive 12 techniques (one per month) and the club has specials and other features.

General Information:

We are all well. Sharon is going to be a grandma again that will make four. Brian is still working on Club David. Jim helps with the house classes and I think he likes them. We have such great groups with these house classes. I am well, a bit overwhelmed sometime with too many irons in the fire, but getting back on track. I am traveling more with classes through out the US and Canada. Club David is caught up and should remain caught up. Duncan keeps producing color so I guess we can still keep painting.

For all folks in the Southern US there is a good possibility we will bring the Reno event to your state; presenting the same class and format in two locations of the country. This is still in the negotiation stage but just might work.

Again, let me thank you for taking time to read this letter. I hope you can join us for one or two of these events and maybe even the cruise.

Take care,

David