



# Let It Be Told

*Prescott AZ Chapter*

An affiliated chapter of the Society of Decorative Painters

**Volume 24, Issue 8**

**AUGUST 2022**

**10:00 am Member Meeting and Paint-in will be at  
Mountain Artists Guild  
9:00 am Board Meeting**



## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

August is the start of "Dog Days", it has nothing to do with dogs. It has to do with the star constellation, the "Dog Star" being present in the night sky. Our Lunch Box auction was a success due to having 10 people participating in the auction and the fun bidding for the pieces. Thank you to everyone that participated. Thank you, Judy for a wonderful class. It is a joy to have you teach. Next month we will be painting "treasure" boxes for our charity at our Paint-In. It should be a relaxing, enjoyable time of sharing. Do not forget our other charity St. Vincent de Paul. Please bring a non-perishable item or two to the meeting. I want to thank everyone that helps set up before the class and clean up after the class. It is a group effort and it helps everyone get started on time and get finished at a reasonable time. Last, there is a questionnaire in this newsletter, the board would like you to fill out. If you are not coming to the meeting, please fill it out and e-mail it to me. It will help with future seminars.

Sincerely,  
Pat Kaminsky

## 2022 Board of Directors

President	Pat Kaminsky
Vice President	Barbara Cowley
Secretary	Marcia Mallicoat
Treasurer	Cheryl Jacobson

### Committee Chairs

Attendance	Jo Pruett
Historian	Jody Glaser
Library	Marcia Mallicoat
Memory Boxes	Barbara Cowley
Newsletter	Cheryl Jacobson
Seminars	Bev Morn
Ways and Means	Jo Pruett
Sunshine	Nancy Emeigh
Paint-Ins	Sherry Cooke-Hurm
Web Master	Sharon Carlson and Kathy Bigham

## Next LIBT Meeting

# Saturday, August 6th

### 10:00 am Meeting

Paint-in begins right after the meeting and this month we will be doing Treasure Boxes together but without a teacher. Pattern of your choosing.

The projects can be viewed on our website [www.libt.org](http://www.libt.org)

Contact Sherry Cooke-Hurm for more information and to sign up.

Regular meetings begin at 10:00 am and are on the first Saturday of each month with a number of exceptions. They are held at Mountain Artists Guild, 228 N. Alarcon, Prescott. Paint-ins follow the meetings and cost only \$5.00.



## EXCHANGES

Share your amazing talent!

We will have one more exchange this year - Christmas. Christmas is an ornament to exchange at the Christmas Party in December.

## CALENDAR AT A GLANCE 2022

All meetings and Paint-ins will be hybrid - in person and on zoom.

August 6	Treasure Boxes
September 10 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat	Christmas Truck with Judy Lopez
October 8 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat	Amish Country with Arla Gill
November 5	Ornaments with Pat and Tava
December	Christmas Party and Ornament Exchange



### *Happy Birthday to Our August Gals*

<b>Tava Ekstrom-Lang</b>	<b>August 1</b>
<b>Sandy Smith</b>	<b>August 2</b>
<b>Donnamari Smith</b>	<b>August 3</b>
<b>Bev Morn</b>	<b>August 4</b>

**Sending you a birthday wish for sunny days  
and happy times. Have a wonderful day!**

Birthday Raffle: This is a monthly fundraising raffle so please paint something to auction. Refreshments are provided by birthday girls and all who wish to contribute goodies.

# LUNCH BOX AUCTION

The Lunch Box Auction was awesome! It is always delightful to see what everyone has painted and to be able to take home a new treasure. There was a lot of laughing as everyone got into the spirit of bidding. Thank you all for your participation and making this a successful fundraiser for our Chapter.



# THE JULY PAINT-IN WAS ENJOYABLE!

The July Paint In was very relaxing and ran smoothly. This was the third in the truck series. Judy's interaction with attendees makes the class very enjoyable. Having all the prep work done before class allows all the attendees to work at the same level/steps of the piece. It was nice to have the piece very close to completion by end of class. All the pieces looked great! One less UFO to complete. We had eleven painters for this class. We enjoyed Jo's birthday cake and other tasty snacks.

Sherry and Tava



# PAINT-INS

## AUGUST

We will each be painting a Treasure Box. We won't have a teacher. We are to get a box from Barbara, pick a pattern and we will have fun painting together!

## SEPTEMBER

The September paint-in is the Merry Christmas Truck taught by Judy Lopez designed by Laurie Speltz. This is the fourth and final truck in a series of four. Most of you have your surfaces for this series. If you need a surface, please contact Sherry Cooke-Hurm.

**AT THE AUGUST PAINT-IN, THE STENCILS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO USE ON THE TRUCK IN PREPRATION FOR THE SEPTEMBER PAINT-IN. TO USE THE STENCILS, YOU WILL NEED TO HAVE THE GREEN BASECOATED.**



# QUESTIONNAIRE FOR FUTURE SEMINARS

We need your input.

Please print it off, fill it out, and bring it to the next meeting.

If you are not coming to the meeting, please fill it out and e-mail it to Pat. Thank you.

1. What "Big Brush" artist or artist would you like to see come or return to our chapter? (Name no more than three).
2. What medium would you prefer (choose two: #1 being your first choice)
  - A. Acrylic
  - B. Colored Pencil
  - C. Pastel
  - D. Watercolor
  - E. Graphite
  - F. Mix media
  - G. Other (be specific)
3. What style or emphasis
  - A. Stroke work
  - B. Liner work
  - C. Zentangle
  - D. Floating
  - E. Dry brushing
  - F. Stenciling
  - G. Abstract
  - H. Whimsical
4. What theme (Pick three: #1 being the first choice)
  - A. Summer
    - 1) Leaves or fall floral
    - 2) Halloween
    - 3) Thanksgiving
  - C. Winter
    - 1) Snowmen
    - 2) Christmas
    - 3) Poinsettias or winter floral
    - 4) Winter animals
    - 5) Valentines
    - 6) St. Patrick
  - D. Spring
    - 1) Easter
    - 2) Floral
  - E. Animals
    - 1) Domestic
    - 2) Wild Life
  - F. Landscape
  - G. Floral
  - H. Gnomes

# TREASURE BOXES

Thank you, Marcia, for painting these two adorable Treasure Boxes.



# FUNDRAISERS

Artisans in the Pines  
910 W. Clubhouse Dr.  
Prescott

September 17, 2022 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Message from Jody Glaser, Chairperson

We still need ornaments for our Bazaars. Keep painting and hope to see you at Artisan in the Pines.

Thank you for bringing in your completed items in July.



# STUFF AND SUCH



The lucky winner of the brush in July was Bev!

## BIRTHDAY RAFFLE

Jody painted an adorable bunny and the lucky winner was Sherry. Jo painted a cute shovel hanging and the lucky winner was Beth.



## SHOW AND TELL

Jo has been hard at work completing projects and brought them in to share.





## ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CHARITY

We are collecting food and monetary donations for St. Vincent de Paul. It would be appreciated if you could bring in 3 non-perishable items to our next paint-in. And thank you to those who have donated in the past.

## TREASURE BOX PAINTING INFORMATION

This is information Barbara is sharing about painting Memory/Treasure boxes. Unfortunately, I couldn't figure out a way to include the pictures, thus the empty spaces. I couldn't close them up because of the way I had to copy and paste to the newsletter.

### Let's Paint a Memory Box

Those of you who know me, know that Memory Boxes are a real passion of mine.

A Memory Box is a box used by many organizations, such as a NICU or hospice, to contain the belongings of a deceased family members . Their exact purpose and suggestions vary from place to place. TCDP works with the local hospitals and uses the boxes for infant loss. Some boxes are also used in our program for foster children, as they age out. Paper mache boxes are supplied by TCDP and checked out and in to keep tally. Jewels are awarded for each box completed and an award is conveyed upon the member who paints the most boxes in a given year.

Here's my procedure and suggestions for your consideration. It is my way, based upon talking to nurses who dispense the boxes, but it has no official standing and is not a set of rules.

If you have any other tips for memory boxes (or anything else), please email me and I will include them in future newsletters.

1. Inspect the box for damage, tears, and cracks. If there is a broken section, tear (don't cut) some scrap paper into thin strips. Glue the strips over the break. Depending upon the size and severity of the break, you may have to repeat several times. Elmer's glue works fine. Glue the paper "bandaids" on both the inside and outside-of the box where broken. I pick up broken paper mache boxes often at thrift shops "for pennies."

2. You can also patch a broken box or reinforce a weak box with decorative paper, ribbon, or paper doilies.

3. Paper mache can be sanded, but it tends to get "fuzzy". If you must, do so with a very light touch and fine sandpaper and only after sealing. A thin coat of wood filler or paper clay to cover the area and build over flaws - is often better than sanding. A mottled, marbled, or sponged background will often disguise bubbles and other box flaws. The texture of the box (or sometimes there is embossing) is great for dry brushing.

4. Paper mache, like wood, absorbs moisture. In a humid environment, it is a real problem. And, as most memory boxes will be kept as momentos for years, sealing is a good idea.

1 of4 -

I always seal. I add a drop or two of an all-purpose glue (such as Elmer's) to my sealer. The surface may bubble when wet by sealer or basecoat (sometimes even during final painting or varnishing if you get an ornery box.) The bubbles may go away if you wait overnight.

Bubbles can be fixed, but it isn't easy and they often remain somewhat, even after fixing. Use a straight pin or needle to puncture the bubble. If it is huge, cut a slit with a razor blade. Fill the bubble with glue and press down. If the box keeps fighting consider the options above: texture or decoupage.

5. You can use spray paint on the inside or you can choose to paint it with your other paints. I often use old house paint or paint samples.

6. You can drill holes in paper mache to afix hinges, latches, and other embellishments. A hole was drilled into the domed box shown below to attach a tassel. Several holes were punched into the rim of the red/gold box and ribbon was laced back and forth. Just be sure to support the paper mache from the other side while drilling.

7. Sometimes, there's a moving part, such as a hinged lid. The paint can crack when the paper mache is bent to open/close the box. One fix for this problem is to cover the area that bends with cloth adhesive tape, and then paint the tape.

8. Embellishments can be attached to the box. Think about emptying your sewing box trim - ribbons, lace, silk flowers, buttons, doilies, and paper trims can be added. Just use a good glue or holes/ties to attach. Also consider storage limitations. Once something is attached on top of a box, it may no longer be possible to nest it with other boxes.

9. Basecoat the box with the color of your choice. Some cultures consider black to be a color that expresses respect and dignity. Other people prefer to paint with light and cheerful colors. Any color is fine, and the

bottom, top, and inside can be painted differently.

10. Can't think of a design? Got any watercolor or colored pencil projects<sup>u</sup>- any finished project on paper - just sitting around? Experiment with a small scrap to see how it reacts to decoupage, glue, varnish, etc.. Once you know what can be used, fix your design to the Memory Box. The cardinal is colored pencil on watercolor paper; it is glued and sealed with DecoArt Ultra-Matte DS 124.

11. The design can be wrapped around the box and down the sides. Geometric designs or sponging can be a quick and easy way to add a design to the inside or sides of a box.

12. The actual design can be a hard choice. Remember that if you are painting the box because either an infant has died and it will go to NICU or an older person has died and the box is dedicated to a hospice facility, you are not painting for the deceased. You are painting for the family left behind.

Flowers seemed to be popular and liked by all. Mandelae, lace designs, rosemaling, different folk arts, and similar geometrics were suggested by some painters. Butterflies, cardinals, and doves, all of which are symbolic about loss of a loved one, are also thought to be good choices.

13. Sign the box as the artist. I usually decoupage a small card on the inner lid. It says, "This box was hand painted especially for you by a proud member of the TCDP Chapter of the Society of Decorative Painters." And I sign below that.

More than one nurse has said that your signature assures the recipient that there was a personal care in its creation. Do not be surprised if the family reaches out to you - even many years later.

14. Varnish the box - inside and out - with your favorite varnish.
15. After the varnish is completely dry, you can rub wax (most furniture waxes will do - but be careful, some of them are yellow) along the inside rim of the top and the upper rim of the bottom. Don't use liquid polish - use a solid wax. This will help prevent the top sticking to the bottom with years of storage. If you don't have any wax, rub with a similarly colored candle, soap, or wax paper. Test on a small spot, first.
16. Insert a sheet of wax paper between the box's top and bottom for interim storage and transport.
17. Bring the finished box into the next TCDP meeting and claim your Jewels!

There is a Facebook page that is dedicated to exchanging photos of memory boxes. It may help you get ideas. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1049988538423552/> In addition, there is a website for the administration of an organization that tries to gather and distribute funds for the program. <http://memoryboxes.org>

LET IT BE TOLED  
Member Meeting Minutes  
July 9, 2022

Start: 10:15

Guests: none

Paint-In: Sign up sheets are available for September is Judy Lopez with Xmas truck. October is Arla with Amish Country design. Think about next year and what you want to paint in the seminar and paint-ins. Medium and style of painting. August paint in is Treasure-Memory box with design of your choice.

Seminar: Bev. : Success. Income and expense summary available from Cheryl.

Treasurer Report: Mt. Artists Guild dues have been paid thru December for members. Remember that you get a discount at the Art Store by being a MAG member.

Charitable: Sand and seal your treasure box before painting. Use 200 grit paper to sand. Instructions are available.

Minutes: correction to April minutes. May minutes should have stated 26 boxes donated to Phoenix Children's Hospital

Membership: none. Tava to look into putting information on Facebook for new memberships.

Fundraiser: Our first boutique is September 17<sup>th</sup>, Artisans in the Pines.  
Way and Means: .Brush won by Bev.  
Birthday girl: Jody with bunny and Jo with shovel.  
Christmas Party news: none  
Library: books are available.

Other:  
Adjourned 10:30

Marcia Mallicoat

I don't have a list of books that I bring each month. I just have been going through the alphabet. The library is always open.

PUBLISHED BY:

LET IT BE TOLED

Cheryl Jacobson

