

Artist Doll & Teddy Bear Newsletter

Post-Philadelphia Convention Issue

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2016 Quinlan Artist Doll & Teddy Bear Event Revisited

The 6th annual Philadelphia Artist Doll & Teddy Bear Convention, otherwise referred to as the “Quinlan Show” by the artist community, was held April 29-May 1, 2016. Friday offered optional workshops where collectors and artists learned the techniques used by some of the leading and renowned artists in creating dolls and bears. The workshop fees of \$20-\$100 were a token of what you would pay elsewhere to learn from so many award winning and leading artists. The Quinlans and students were honored to have this group of artists participate as instructors this year – a who’s who of the artist community:

Doll Artist Instructors

Lynne Burnett	Lee Feickert	Marla Niederer
Mark A. Dennis	Barbara Felts	Donna May Robinson
Linda Ehrenfried	Diane Keeler	Debbie Weimert

Bear Artist Instructors

Deb Canham	Michelle Lamb
Armella Dana	Cindy McGuire
Allen Hsu	

Below are samples of what students learned to make in 4-7 hours from these leading artists.



Child's Head
by Diane Keeler



Expressive Faces
by Mark A. Dennis



11" Teddy Bear
by Allen Hsu



Bear Noses
by Michelle Lamb

Students are busy learning and creating at some of the workshops.



*Allen Hsu Teddy
Bear Making Class*



*Mark A. Dennis Doll
Face Making Class*



*Barbara Felts Baby
Sculpting Class*

There was even a 3-hour workshop on “How to Brew Beer at Home” – a favorite of spouses in attendance. We hope Daniel Kelly will offer this workshop again in 2017. Not only is it an interesting experience, but the attendees really enjoyed sampling the various types of beers. Daniel is the owner/brewer of Bright-Head Brewery, spouse of doll artist Theresa Kelly, and a U.S. Marine Corps vet – our kind of guy.

The actual convention did not start until late Friday afternoon. This year’s convention package included one-of-a-kind limited edition pins honoring leading doll and teddy bear artists Diane Keeler and Cindy Malchoff, as well as our first commemorative pin honoring bear artist Barbara Burke. The collectable pins are only available to attendees at the convention.



Barbara Burke



Diane Keeler



Cindy Malchoff

The first event at the convention was the “Boot Camp Indoctrination” session conducted by Susan and Terry Quinlan where you learn what to expect for the next two days and receive “tips” on how best to shop and experience this event. Attendees have affectionately referred to this convention as a “boot camp” because you get up early

every day to face a whole new world of doll and bear experiences at a go-go-go pace, in between hearty meals provided to keep up your energy. There were opportunities to do exercises too. The convention continues to be “the best deal and fun event in the doll and teddy bear world.” For the nominal \$195 registration fee, you always receive six (6) buffet meals, nightly cocktails, all day refreshments, lectures and activities that are all free.

Prior to the Friday banquet was the preview, sale and judging of one-of-a-kind, signed artist doll and bear entries for the 2016 Helen Bullard Award for Excellence among the artist doll entries and the Beverly Port Award for Excellence among the artist teddy bear entries. Here are some shots of the crowd before and after the gallery doors opened.



Early arrivals for award preview while enjoying refreshments



Award preview voting, purchasing & socializing



Susan & Terry Quinlan collecting ballots for voting

Although doll and bear entries in the Bullard/Port Award judging generally range from a few hundred dollars to a few thousand dollars, this year’s entry entitled “Briar Rose” by artist Rafael Nuri was priced at \$50,000 – a record price at the Quinlan convention.



At the Friday banquet, all collectors were automatically entered in a drawing to win one of the pieces so generously donated by five previous recipients of the Helen Bul-lard and Beverly Port Awards. Young Ethan Thomas, who has brought his grandparents to the convention for the past six years, volunteered to pick the lucky winners. He was the only one present that the Quinlans trusted with the responsibility. The five drawing winners are pictured with the artist piece they chose and the artist who created their prize.



Ethan Thomas waiting in the wings before drawing



Pat Joas & artist Joy Calhoon



Lindi Engelbrecht from New Zealand & artist JoAnne O'Hanlon



Artist Sue VanNattan & Joan Williamson



Artist Diane Keeler & Juanita Zientara



Marge Pierce & artist Mark A. Dennis

So attendees could learn more about other leading doll and bear shows and organizations, a representative from each took a few minutes at the Friday banquet to discuss their organization and annual event.



Good Bears of the World's executive director Terrie Stong



Hunt Valley Teddy Bear Show's artist Donna Nielsen



Teddy Bear Artist Invitational's artist Cindy Malchoff



*Original Doll Artist Council of America's
artist Christine Shively-Benjamin*



*National Institute of American Doll Artists'
artist Shelley Thornton*

Early Saturday morning, convention attendees were treated to a special event. Terrie Stong donated two cases of teddy bears on behalf of Good Bears of the World to the Tincum Township Police Department in Essington, PA. The bears will be used by the police to comfort children who need love and hugs. Policemen, firemen, emergency workers and grief counselors agree that the teddy bear's magical healing power is invaluable when given to children and their families in traumatic situations.



*Terrie Stong donating bears
to the local police department*



*One of the three busy rooms
used for the Market Place*

After a hearty buffet breakfast Saturday morning, everyone descended on the Artist and Collector Market Place where you can buy trims, material, furs, supplies, trinkets, do-dads and silly things for designing, creating and accessorizing your own dolls and teddy bears.

Among the most anticipated events at the convention are the Special Artist Galleries where all pieces are signed, one-of-a-kind and for sale. The purpose of these galleries is to motivate the artists to think outside the box – to try entirely new designs, materials and techniques – in order to enter new and broader markets for their creations. This year there were six special galleries:

- Heroes and Role Models for Children Gallery
- Bride and Groom Gallery
- Star War Characters Gallery
- Military Figures Gallery
- Comic Book Characters Gallery
- Hand Painted Dolls and Bears Gallery

Below are some examples of the special gallery pieces.



*Noah's Ark
(Heroes & Role Models)
by Audrey Howell*



*Gypsy Wedding
(Bride & Groom)
by Natalie Ruiz*



*Yoda – Judge Me By My Size
(Star War Characters)
by Michaelleen Munrow*



*George Washington –
Naming a Village
(Military Figures)
by Betsey Baker*



*Wonder Bear
(Comic Book Characters)
by Diana Ussery*



*Eden's Rose
(Hand Painted Dolls & Bears)
Michele Freeman*

The Special Artist Galleries also provided an opportunity to express feelings and emotions, such as the two bride dolls below that support lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LBGT) human rights. There was the emotional home coming soldier and the tribute to “Jakey” in memory of Jacob McAllister killed in action during World War II.



*The Brides Morgana and Lola
(Bride and Groom)
by Bing Ruiter*



*Welcome Home
(Military Figures)
by Tina Parsons*



*“Jakey”
(Military Figures)
by Mary Beckner Houseman*

All day Saturday there were free concurrent presentations to improve collectors' appreciation of artist dolls and bears and to improve artists' ability to create their pieces. A new fun event was offered this year by bear artists Audrey Howell and Agnes Intelicato who conducted bear-aerobic classes during three of the coffee breaks over the two days. They provided a little bit of exercise mixed with fun to work off some of those hearty meals, which also re-enforce the "boot camp" reputation of the conference.

Throughout the day there were free One-on-One Mentoring Sessions for New Doll and Teddy Bear Artists. Some of the most experienced and renowned artists provided advice and guidance to new artists on how to fine-tune their craftsmanship. The mentors let them know what is working and suggested improvements for their consideration. The purpose is to encourage new artists and to focus on the positives of their skills in order to carry on the artistic creation of these precious keepsakes and collectables.

The ever popular Artist Doll & Teddy Bear Sale Discount Coupon Drawing provided the collectors an opportunity to buy tickets to win discount coupons for any item from their favorite artists' sales tables at the Saturday evening and Sunday Show & Sale. Discounts ranged from 10% to 50%.



Artists lined up from the ballroom and out to the hotel front door

In spite of all the planning and effort of the "Blue Crew" (the Quinlans and their relatives from California and Washington who run the convention) there are some things that are apt to go wrong, such as the line of artists waiting 30-60 minutes to set up their sales tables due to the late start by the hotel set up staff.

At the Saturday banquet, the winners of the 2016 Helen Bullard and Beverly Port Awards for Excellence, as selected by the convention attendees, were announced.



Left to Right: Sandra Wright Justiss, Mark A. Dennis, Diane Keeler, Nina Tugarina, Joanne Livingston, Svetlana Khabarova, Ginger Brame, Michelle Lamb, Donna Mae Robinson, Katherine Hallam, Natalie Ruiz, Diana Watts

Those attending the Sunday Show & Sale were rewarded with drawings throughout the day. Winners were able to choose from over sixty doll and teddy bear related prizes.



Filling out entry forms for the all-day drawings



Drawing winners struggle with so many choices



Nothing like a Sunday outing with the family

To experience the 2016 Artist Doll & Teddy Bear Show, join Vee Lee on her guided tour of the event. Just go to Twitter at <https://mobile.twitter.com/AngelDollCo> and click on the May 4 entry “Vee Lee takes a walk thru 2016 Quinlan Doll and Teddy Bear Show (Part 1 of 2)” and the May 3 entry “(Early Bird) 2016 Quinlan Doll and Teddy Bear Show (Part 3 of 3).” You can also access the video on her website at www.theangeldollcompany.com. Here are some late afternoon shots from the Sunday Show & Sale after things quieted down.



Vanessa “Vee” Lee filming and recording the show & sale



GBW supporters Leah and Wayne Kieffer dropped by to see Terrie Stong



Amy Yascavage with one of her beaded bears



Always a colorful, cheerful display at Gwen Jackson's table



Maggie Newman with her den of bears, critters and accessories



Doll artist Shelley Thornton with her new creative venture – bears



Donna Nielsen was settled in at her Cookie's Critters Corner



Lee Feickert is a regular from across the country – California



Diana Ussery – another regular from California (San Jose)



Diana Watts with her winner of the 2016 Beverly Port Teddy Bear Artist Award for Excellence



Donna May Robinson with her blue jester – winner of the 2016 Helen Bullard Doll Collector Award for Excellence



Natalie Ruiz with her punk weather mobile – winner of the 2016 Helen Bullard Doll Artist Award for Excellence

As they say, “Behind so many successful artists is a supportive spouse or partner.” Here are a few of the twenty-nine spouses of artists in attendance this year.



Michael Beaudry and artist Madeline Beaudry



Kelly Dennis and artist Mark Dennis with the suspended African-American figures – winner of both 2016 Helen Bullard Doll Artist Award and 2016 Helen Bullard Doll Collector Award for Excellence



Robert Justiss and artist Sandra Wright Justiss with George & Martha Washington – winner of the 2016 Helen Bullard Doll Artist Award for Excellence

If there was a “Most Honored Guest” Award, the Quinlans would give it to Sandra Wright Justiss and Robert Gray Justiss (pictured above) for taking the time out of their busy lives to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary at the convention with the artists, collectors and friends who enjoyed a special anniversary cake at the Saturday banquet.

You always know who had the best time at a doll and teddy bear show and sale by the number of bags they are taking home.



Susan and Terry Quinlan want to thank Lloyd Wilson, who was the in-house photographer at the 2016 convention, for so many of the pictures used in this newsletter. We hope you will be back in 2017. We also wish to thank all of the artists and collectors who attended our event this year and hope the rest of you will put this event on your “bucket list” to attend this unique experience on Thursday-Saturday May 4-6, 2017. You never know how many more opportunities you will have to do so.