

Southern Stars

"Roaring 20's at the River"

Southern Stars once again, out does themselves at our Annual Laughlin Retreat. We were thrilled to have 45 participants and of course some hubby's join us too!!!! Isn't this a great looking group????



If you can't figure out who this is??? Its our host for the event Marley Maplin (Charley Chaplin). Marley ran the event and did a great job as usual.... For those of you who are wondering this is non other than our very own Arlene Smith.

The weekend started off with four great project, taught by our members. Helen Castaneda (Zeta Zarbo) walked us through how to create this great silhouette using Duncan Concept, Sprinkles and French Dimensions. As you can see she used herself as the model for the plate.



Our Vice President Linda Davis (Mona Crawfish), showed us how to combine Satin Glaze, Shimmers, French Dimensions mixed with slip to create this wonderful platter, just in time our the upcoming holidays.



Our next project was presented by Kathy (Denham) Gabrisch (Hal Sapone, Mob Boss). We had 3 choices to choose from, And let me tell you some folks got really creative, with good reason, we did not want to upset the Mob Boss. It was great to see folks begin to think outside the box or I guess I should say out side the CUP.



To finish up the day, Aprille Johnson (Kara Low) walked us through how to paint a large soup/capacchino cup to look like a flower. The great thing was there was not pattern and there were no two cups alike either.



That wound up the days projects and we all headed back to our rooms to prepare for the great event starting at 7:00pm...

When folks registered they each received an invitation, inviting them to the "Grand Gatsby Speakeasy". They had to remember to knock 3 times and give the password in order to enter. A lot of us were on pins and needles as we just knew there was going to be trouble between the North Side Chicago Gang and South Side Chicago Mob.



South Side Mob Boss
Hal Sapone and his broad
Zeta Zarbo

North Side Mob Boss
Beanie O'Dannon and his
Broad Mona Crawfish.



Guests — Rosann Roelandts, Jean Kidwell,
Sandy Hennion, Caroline Kortas and Scarlett
Hatcher and the Handsome MR HATCHER.





Our Cast: Back Row—Norrah Andersen, Kathy Gabrisch, Jeanne Walker, Dru Woodward, Arlene Smith, Helen Castaneda. Front Row—Aprille Johnson, Joyce Wright, Linda Davis.



The Grand Gatsby Speakeasy guests

We have decided that if we every decide to give up ceramics, we could go into acting!

"Sunday"

Sunday morning we began again, this time David Hoff teaching and showing us how to paint incised tiles. What great fun, antiquing, blending, and also learning to grout.



Everyone loved their pieces and there were no two a like.

At lunch we had a great surprise for one of our members. We presented her with the Shining Star Award. The Helen O'Donnell Shining Star Award is the highest award given by our Southern Stars Chapter. It is awarded for 'Unending inspiration and everlasting dedication to the Southern Stars Chapter'. Helen was presented with the very first "Shining Star Award on December 7th 1997. It was also awarded to Arlene Smith, Dru Woodward, Jeanne Davis, Dean Saether, Norrah Andersen and Kathy Gabrisch.

This Award is named in the honor of Helen O'Donnell. Helen was instrumental in the organizational aspects of starting our Southern Stars Chapter and consequently became a charter member when the Chapter received its very first charter form International in 1991. She was our chapter Treasurer from 1991 until her death in 1998. As a firm believer in ceramics education she set a precedent for the quality of educational programs while chairing our chapters' regional programs and subsequently became IADCCT Educational Director in 1996. Helen was also on the IADCCT International Nominating committee in 1993/1994, and she became the first chairperson for the newly created IADCCT Educational Showcase Programs.

This award is not given every year, only when one of our members is nominated by fellow chapter members, as deserving..

This year Helen Castaneda received the award and it was well deserved.



Congratulations Helen — Surprise!!!!

We wrapped up our event at about 3p.m. and a great time was had by all.

We also announced the dates and theme for next year:

Southern Stars Laughlin Retreat 2015
"Top Chef Comes to the River"
August 15-16, 2015

If you have never attended before, please plan to join us in 2015, you will have a lot of fun, great education, meet great folks who love ceramics as much as you. I guarantee you will not be disappointed..