



INSIGHTS

THE EXCLUSIVE CLUB MAGAZINE



SPECIAL SURPRISES,
JUST FOR YOU!

HONORING
AN ARTIST

A MOTHER
TO REMEMBER

SPIRITUAL
MASTERWORK



Respect the past, look toward the future

Dear M.I. Hummel Friends:

This is an issue for fond memories. We look back with affection on the years we spent with Gerhard Skrobek, a masterful artist and an amazing person. Skrobek was a renowned interpreter of M.I. Hummel artwork. During his career at Goebel, he created some of the most beloved M.I. Hummel figurines. He traveled extensively to share his insights vision and artistic gifts with fans around the world, and he was an enthusiastic ambassador for M.I. Hummel.

Skrobek would have been 95, and we honor his memory this year. Please read the story of his fascinating life, and get to know one of his newly released PFEs, the first in a series of six leading up to the 100th Anniversary of Skrobek's birth.

We also look back on the life of Viktoria Hummel, mother of Berta. Viktoria's strength, love and support for her family were inspiring, and a fitting story to be told while Mother's Day is fresh on our minds.

Finally, we honor two members of our M.I. Hummel family who have recently passed. Dieter Schneider led W. Goebel Porzellanfabrik, the company where M.I. Hummel figurines were born. He was the founder of our Club and a towering figure in the world of M.I. Hummel.

And we fondly honor Natascha Nelson, the warm, energetic wife of Bill Nelson, former head of the International M.I. Hummel Club in Rodental. Natasha was a wonderful friend to Club members on both sides of the Atlantic.

While we treasure our memories, we also look forward with excitement to our upcoming Club Convention next September, and to a new Club Year which will soon begin. The past is worth cherishing, and the future is worth celebrating!

Cordially,
Ken and Chuck
Managing Partners
The M.I. Hummel Club of North America
Newboden Brands

IN THIS ISSUE



We bring you a 95th birthday tribute to Gerhard Skrobek and an homage to Viktoria Hummel. Plus we explore German baking, Sister M.I. Hummel's magnificent religious artistry and plenty more. Keep reading!



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IN TRIBUTE

The M.I. Hummel family has lost two shining lights. One was a CEO, the other simply a friend – but both were beloved by Club members and these losses will be deeply felt. Luckily, we have fond memories to look back on, and make us smile.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF DIETER E. SCHNEIDER FOUNDER OF THE M.I. HUMMEL CLUB

On January 15, 2017, the former CEO of W. Goebel Porzellanfabrik, Dieter E. Schneider, sadly passed away.

He was an important person to every member of the M.I. Hummel Club. It was Mr. Schneider who, in the late 1970s, with great dedication and personal commitment, aided only by his small team, founded the M.I. Hummel Club in the United States.

His club idea was original and transformative – the first collector's club of it's kind in the world. The idea expanded to Europe and the rest of the world in the late '80s. Thanks to his efforts, the M.I. Hummel Club today proudly unites a community of thousands of collectors worldwide in the enjoyment of their favorite hobby – collecting M.I. Hummel figurines.

We send our sympathies to his family. And we will always hold the memory of Dieter Schneider in the highest esteem.



? HUMMEL TRIVIA

Test your knowledge by answering this Trivia question:

Let's Tell the World (Hum 487) features children spreading good news with a:

a) megaphone b) bell c) newspaper

Look for the answer hidden on the pages of this issue.

REMEMBERING NATASCHA NELSON WITH RESPECT AND AFFECTION



Natascha Nelson passed away on March 3, 2017, at the age of 67.

When the idea of the M.I. Hummel Club first blossomed in Europe in the mid-1980s, William (Bill) Nelson played an important role in starting and building the International Club outside of North America. His wife,

Natascha, was by his side, an essential part of the spirit of the Club.

Natascha discovered her passion for M.I. Hummel figurines and was involved and committed from the beginning. Her words were always warm and encouraging to our M.I. Hummel Club collectors. Through the years, Natascha forged friendships with the Club staff and Bill's colleagues, as well as countless members.

We would like to say, "Thank you, Natascha" for almost three decades of support and friendship. All of us who knew her will keep Natascha's memory in our hearts, always.



ARTISTRY REMEMBERED



At the age of five, Gerhard Skrobek received a supply of modeling clay from his mother, who was an accomplished painter and encouraged creativity in her children. The gift was the beginning of Gerhard's lifelong devotion to sculpture. In his biography he describes the early blossoming of his talent:

"As if awakening from a dream, I leaned back and looked at what my hands had created: an entire play dough menagerie – dogs, birds, an elephant, a rabbit and small, almost human figurines...A happy feeling flowed through me: I had created something that had not existed before."

Gerhard Skrobek was born in 1922 to an upper class German family. At the age of nine, the Skrobeks moved to Berlin, where Gerhard was enriched by the cultural attractions of the city. His visits to Berlin's zoo, its museums and its famed observatory all contributed to the development of his art and intellect.

The world took a nasty turn for the Skrobeks in the 1930s. The depression destroyed the family business. Even worse, the Nazis came to power, and the family spent the war years in fear, dodging bombs in Berlin and hiding their mother, who was Jewish.

In the early 1940s as war raged, Gerhard apprenticed at the Kollmorgan Company, an optics factory, working in the experimental unit. Because of his specialized training in work considered vital to the war effort, he was not drafted into the German Wehrmacht. "Papa"

Kollmorgan, who ran the optics factory, had connections to high-level staff in the German army, and his protection allowed the Skrobek family to survive the war years. In addition to grueling work at the factory, Gerhard pursued the study of drawing and sculpting at Berlin's acclaimed Reimann Institute.

For Gerhard, these were intense times. The optics factory was destroyed in an air raid, and the operation moved to Coburg. Gerhard's father was taken to a labor camp because he refused to renounce his Jewish wife. In January of 1945, Gerhard undertook the daring rescue of his mother and sister from a besieged Berlin after their home was destroyed in a bomb blast. He brought them to Coburg where they waited for the war to end, taking refuge with a group of artists whom Gerhard had befriended.

Finally U.S. troops arrived in Coburg and the war came to a close. Much of Germany was in ruins, people were displaced, but the Skrobek family, finally reunited, could breathe a sigh of relief.

In the late 1940s, Gerhard Skrobek, determined to pursue an artistic career, applied for employment at W. Goebel Porzellanfabrik in nearby Rödental. Despite being an accomplished artist, Skrobek had a lot to learn when he joined Goebel, especially the process of casting. It took a few years for Skrobek to master the skill of designing models that could be successfully cast into ceramic figurines. In the early years, Franz Goebel, the demanding head of the company who masterminded the development of the

M.I. Hummel brand, personally inspected Skrobek's clay models. It wasn't until 1954 that Skrobek developed the skill necessary to create his first *M.I. Hummel* figurine, *Birdwatcher* (Hum 300).

From those early days, Skrobek's career at Goebel took off and he would sculpt hundreds of *M.I. Hummel* figurines, becoming one of most respected interpreters of Sister *M.I. Hummel's* artwork in three dimensions. Among other accomplishments, Skrobek developed the first synthetic resin molds which revolutionized casting, sculpted the "Big Boys," the enormous *Merry Wanderer* statues for Germany and the U.S., and modeled some of the most impressive *M.I. Hummel* Limited Edition figurines including *Land In Sight*, *Pleasant Journey*, *A Story From Grandma*, *At Grandpa's*, and many more renowned *M.I. Hummel* figurines. Skrobek traveled

extensively on behalf of Goebel, demonstrating ceramic artistry and becoming a tireless and much-loved ambassador for *M.I. Hummel*.

Skrobek retired in 2002, but he did not relax. He was a devoted sportsman who loved to sail, swim, scuba dive and ski. A fascination with volcanoes drew him to some of the most rugged and remote areas of the world. He lived a full and fascinating life, and in his biography he shared his philosophy of aging:

"The basic requirements for a carefree old age are healthy nutrition, exercise, many hobbies and an open mind, even a certain curiosity, about changes in our world. Most important, however, is a positive attitude towards life and the ability to enjoy every moment."

Gerhard Skrobek has helped us enjoy our lives with the gifts he's bestowed upon us – *M.I. Hummel* treasures, crafted with skilled hands, that make the world a happier place for us all.



A NEW SKROBEK FIGURINE DEBUTS

This little boy, out for a ramble, has come upon a surprise visitor! **Summertime Surprise** was sculpted in 1980 by Gerhard Skrobek, and the 5¾" size has been waiting in the wings as a PFE (Possible Future Edition) ever since. We're proud to release it as a special Club Exclusive Figurine for Year 41 in honor of the 10th Anniversary of Skrobek's passing and to commemorate what would have been his 95th birthday.

Summertime Surprise marks the beginning of a new Club Exclusive Series devoted to Skrobek PFEs. We'll introduce a new one each year, leading up to the Master Artist's 100th Birthday. It's a wonderful tribute to the life and work of Gerhard Skrobek, and a chance to keep his memory and artistry alive.

CLASSIC FROM THE KITCHEN

A combination of sweet, rich chocolate and the tangy taste of cherries – it’s truly a recipe for happiness! The classic German confection known as *Schwarzwälder Kirschtorte*, or Black Forest Cake, is believed by some historians to date back nearly 500 years to the sixteenth century, when chocolate, then very expensive, was first baked into cakes and cookies.



The Black Forest, or *Schwarzwald* region of Germany is located in the southwest, bordering France and Switzerland, in the state of Baden-Württemberg. It’s a land of mountains and pine forests so dense that the sun barely penetrates. It’s also known for cuckoo clocks, fairy tale villages, and Kirsch or *Kirschwasser* a clear, double distilled brandy made from the sour Morello cherries grown in the region.

No one knows for sure who first married the German passion for chocolate with the tantalizing taste of Kirsch – but *Schwarzwälder Kirschtorte* most likely takes its name from that popular brandy. And there has been a regional form of the dessert combining cherries, cream and brandy from the earliest days. There is some speculation that the women’s costume of the Black Forest might have inspired the dessert – the skirt is black, like chocolate, the blouse is white like cream, and the hat is adorned with red pompoms, definitely reminiscent of cherries!

An early form of the dessert was most likely assembled from cooked cherries, cream, Kirsch and a biscuit – similar to a layered shortcake. But let’s travel forward to the twentieth century, for a more contemporary look at this classic dessert.

There are competing claims about who invented the Black Forest Cake in its present form. Some say the confectioner Josef Keller concocted it in 1915. Keller worked at the Café Agner in Bad Godesberg, which is now a suburb of Bonn, Germany. Keller later opened his own café and employed an apprentice, August Schaefer. He gave Schaefer his recipe, which was later passed on to Schaefer’s son Klaus, current head chef at Triberg’s Konditorei Schaefer. Klaus claims to have Keller’s original recipe for *Schwarzwälder Kirschtorte* in his possession.

There is also some evidence that Master Confectioner Erwin Hildenbrand, who worked in the Black Forest in the 1920s, introduced Black Forest Cake at the

Café Walz in Tübingen in 1930. The first time the cake was mentioned in writing was in a 1934 German cookbook. By this time, the delicious cake was beloved in Berlin and other German cities as well as in cafes in Austria and Switzerland. The dessert’s fame grew, and today it is known throughout the world as a premiere German delicacy.

Black Forest Cake is chocolate layer cake with some delicious surprises. In the traditional recipe, the dense chocolate sponge cake is moistened with Kirsch syrup, then layered with whipped cream and Kirsch-soaked Morello cherries. More cream and dark cherries go on top, along with a generous sprinkle of shaved chocolate.

If you don’t have a good German bakery or restaurant nearby that makes this classic dessert, perhaps you’d like to try it yourself. We offer a recipe from the Convent of Siessen, with slight modifications for American kitchens. Please call Customer Service at 609-400-1647 or visit hummelgifts.com and click the Clubhouse tab for the recipe. Enjoy!



CLUB YEAR 41 IS COMING... AND SO ARE THESE SPECIAL TREATS!

Your free gift: *Country Kitchen*

When you renew your membership for Club Year 41, we’ll express our thanks with a free gift figurine. This year’s treasure is **Country Kitchen**, a little girl with a sweet offering. Her treat, fresh from the oven, applauds the commitment to making something by hand, with love – just like *M.I. Hummel* figurines! **Country Kitchen** will take her place with the other figurines in the Harvest Time Collection, complete in Club Year 41.

Club Year 41 Exclusive Edition: *Sweet Bounty*

This year’s Club Exclusive figurine is **Sweet Bounty**, a proud gardener who’s just picked a giant pumpkin. He’s a perfect addition to the **Harvest Time** series, and to your collection. What an irresistible way to start a new Club Year!

GET CRACKING!

Festival Journey (Hum 2380) and *Festival Tradition* (Hum 917)



When winter is on the run and a new season is ready to blossom, most everyone feels like celebrating. Festivals are held throughout Germany to herald the arrival of springtime, from Munich to Stuttgart to Nurnberg. Rivaling the merriment of Oktoberfest, these celebrations feature music and dancing, traditional food, flowing beer, carnival rides and other springtime fun.

Among the most interesting regional customs common in springtime is *Goasslschnalzen*, a loud and rhythmic cracking of whips, performed in unison. *Goasslschnalzen* developed in centuries past as carriage drivers used elaborate whip cracking to announce their approach. Although the carriages are gone, the custom remains with concert-like performances of whip cracking. *Goasslschnalzen* and has even become a competitive sport in Bavaria.

In the Alpine region near Berchtesgaden, the custom is known as *Aperschnalzen*. It takes years of training to perfect the technique so that all whips are cracked in the same rhythm, with sounds generated by quickly changing the direction of the whip. Some believe the custom had pagan origins and the loud noise was

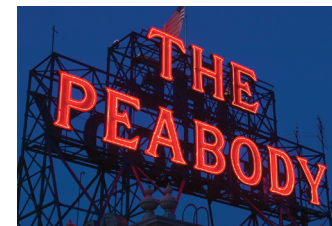
intended to drive away winter.

Two new *M.I. Hummel* figurines welcome springtime and honor the tradition of festival going as they joyfully set off for a traditional celebration. *Festival Journey* has a big pretzel to munch on as she enjoys her day. And *Festival Tradition* is an *M.I. Hummel* lad bringing along his whip to participate in the typically Bavarian pastime of *Goasslschnalzen*.

It's not easy to find a performance of *Goasslschnalzen* on American shores, but there are Bavarian Clubs throughout the country bringing the tradition to life here. We do have our own, American variety of whip cracking. It's the Western version, developed by cowboys and demonstrated at rodeos.

To learn more about the history of whip cracking, click the Clubhouse tab on our website, www.hummelgifts.com. Those not currently enrolled on the website can call Membership Services for assistance at 609-400-1647.

If you're ready to welcome spring, why not have a celebration of your own with one of our newest and most festive *M.I. Hummel* figurines. Have fun and get cracking!



DUCKS IN A ROW

The historic Peabody Hotel in Memphis is host to our 2017 Convention and some famous feathered friends.

In the 1930's, the General Manager of the Peabody Hotel in Memphis returned from a weekend hunting trip with a friend. Back then it was legal for hunters to use live ducks as decoys, and the men thought it would be amusing to place some of their ducks in the Peabody fountain. Three small English call ducks were selected to have a swim, and they started a Peabody tradition that would develop into an internationally famed spectacle.

In 1940, Edward Pembroke, a former circus animal trainer, was working as a bellman at the Peabody. He taught the ducks to walk through the lobby to the fountain in a parade now know as the Peabody Duck March. For a half century, Mr. Pembroke served as the Peabody Duckmaster until his 1991 retirement.

Today, the Peabody ducks, five North American mallards, reside on the hotel's rooftop in their Royal Duck Palace, a \$200,000 marble and glass dwelling with a fountain all their own. The ducks make their march to the lobby fountain twice daily at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.



Raised by a local farmer, each five-duck team lives at the hotel for just three months before returning to the farm and living as wild waterfowl. The hotel does not domesticate the ducks or treat them like pets, recognizing their need to return to their natural habitat. It is interesting to note that duck is not on the menu at The Peabody and has not been served for more than 35 years!

As a member of the M.I. Hummel Club, you are invited to witness the world-famous Peabody Duck March for yourself during our Club Convention in September. You can also participate in some good-natured duck-related Convention activities, including the appointment of our own Honorary M.I. Hummel Club Duckmasters.

Convention details and a registration form are available online at www.hummelgifts.com. Just click the Clubhouse tab. Or to book by phone, call Membership Services at 609-400-1647.

Join us for the fun, the figurines, and the friendship. We promise the 2017 Convention will be everything it's "quacked" up to be!

TAKE A SNEAK PEAK

BRAND NEW INTRODUCTIONS! For the first time in M.I. Hummel Club Convention history we are giving you a SNEAK PEAK of two of our Convention Exclusive figurines, **Mr. Pembroke** and **Miss Peabody**, in honor of the famous Peabody Hotel Duck Parade. Both are limited editions of 90 pieces in honor of Elvis' 90 Gold Records. Don't miss out on all the fun in Memphis, TN this September!



A MOTHER'S DEVOTION

Get to know the caring parent who nurtured and inspired the artist.

Viktoria Anglsperger was born in 1885 in the market town of Massing, Germany. The daughter of the town baker, she was raised in a religious home, steeped in strict tradition.

At the age of 21, Viktoria married Adolf Hummel, son of a prosperous Massing merchant, and the young couple took over the management of the family's general store. Under the direction of the new managers, the Hummel store was enlarged and modernized, and became a hub of the town of Massing. Due to the tireless efforts of Adolf and Viktoria, the business generated a prosperous living for the Hummel family. Six children were born in quick succession – the eldest, Katherina, in 1907, Viktoria in 1908, Berta in 1909, Adolf in 1910, Crescentia in 1911, and Franz in 1912.

The Hummel family's comfortable existence was interrupted in 1914 as the world began a frightening spiral toward the first world war. Throughout the summer, German men were called to arms to fight France, and Adolf Hummel was caught up in the mobilization. He was forced to leave his children, household and business in the hands of his young wife, Viktoria.

Imagine what a burden Viktoria now had on her shoulders. The store took up nearly all her time as she handled the ordering and bookkeeping, and spent long days selling and serving customers. She supervised store employees and household staff, and managed

home and family expenses. She assumed all this responsibility in the face of constant worry about the well-being of her husband, who was facing the brutality of war.



Viktoria Hummel was a highly effective business-woman, a non-traditional role for women during this era. With her husband away, Viktoria rose to the challenge and maintained the family's livelihood, shielding her children from worry and providing a secure and comfortable existence for them despite the hardships of the times. Although the children rarely recalled their mother relaxing, laughing or cuddling with them, they respected her competence and grew to appreciate how hard she worked to preserve the family's stability.

During these demanding years in Viktoria's life, the children's supervision was largely left to nannies. But Viktoria kept close tabs on her six children, and it was clear to them that their mother loved them and was on their side. Viktoria looked in on them in the

nursery daily to make sure all was well. On one occasion she caught an ill-tempered nanny administering harsh punishment. The nanny was immediately sacked.

Viktoria especially had her hands full with her middle daughter, Berta. The talented girl had a hard time adjusting to the strict rules of school, where in the early years she got little individual attention or encouragement. One teacher was particularly hard on her, and Berta was becoming quiet and sullen. Viktoria

went to school and intervened on behalf of Berta, insisting that the girl be treated with kindness. Once Berta was given a different, more sympathetic teacher, she began to thrive in school.

Even when Berta was a student living on her own in Munich, her mother's watchful eye was upon her. We

Convent life. Separation from her family was required, and that was difficult. Yet when her daughter needed her – such as when the Nazis took over the Convent and expelled the Sisters – Viktoria supported her daughter and opened her home. A family member observed, "The Hummel home is almost a convent now."



We can only imagine the grief Viktoria experienced throughout her beloved daughter's struggle with tuberculosis. Periods of treatment were followed by hope, and then disappointment as the illness returned. When in 1946 it became clear that recovery was impossible, Viktoria stayed by her daughter's side and was with her when she passed away.

Three months after Innocentia's death, her heartbroken mother wrote, "Our child bore her long suffering so patiently and humbly, she was always cheerful, friendly and grateful. Innocentia was a giver of pleasure and wanted to give us pleasure even when she was ill. The

know from her letters that Viktoria forbid Berta to associate with a friend who was perceived to be a bad influence. And Berta made a solemn promise to her mother that she would not wear her hair cropped, a trendy 1920s style that was considered a bit risqué.

When Berta decided to join the Convent of Siessen, her mother consented, but worried about how her high-spirited daughter would adapt to the restrictive

pain, the sadness and the sympathy is great for our dear deceased."

Viktoria Hummel lived a long and full life. She was 98 years old when she died peacefully in her sleep in 1983. She was remembered and revered by her children as a devoted mother who dedicated her life to the well-being of her family. We are inspired by her life and honor her memory.



LOVING PARENTS, LUCKY CHILD

Every child blessed with caring parents is lucky, indeed. Berta Hummel was certainly lucky to have her mother watching out for her well-being. If you feel fortunate to have special people in your life, let them know with a new *M.I. Hummel* figurine, **Lucky Girl**.

This delightful figurine sports a pair of comfy red slippers to match her jaunty hair ribbon. And she brings a surprise – a potted plant with a sparkling four-leaf clover nestled in the leaves.

This accent of pure Austrian crystal is crafted by our longstanding partner, Swarovski, and highlights the skilled European artistry for which they are renowned. It's a glittering focal point for this Limited Edition treasure. Only 1,999 **Lucky Girl** figurines will be released worldwide, each bearing a special Backstamp and accompanied by a Certificate of Authenticity.

MAGNUM OPUS

We explore Sister Maria Innocentia Hummel's masterwork of spiritual artistry.



After taking her vows at the Convent of Siessen, Sister Maria Innocentia reached a turning point in her art. She was committed to doing contract work for the financial benefit of the Convent. Yet she was torn, wanting also to express herself creatively and pursue her personal artwork.

To ease the conflict and further the development of the artist, the Convent made the decision, in April of 1935, to send Sister Maria Innocentia back to the school where she received her initial training – the State School of Applied Arts in Munich. It was felt that additional training in Munich would help hone her skills and encourage her growth and maturity as an artist. Also in this vibrant artistic milieu, she would

be exposed to the latest artistic trends, to keep her vision fresh and current.

Once in Munich, inspired by the vibrancy of the art she saw around her, and fervently dedicated to the spiritual path she was committed to follow, Sister M.I. Hummel longed to create a work that would express her passion, her inmost joy in the Lord. She believed that God had given her artistic talent and the ability to pursue it, and it was her duty to bear the cross, or accept the life that was given to her.

And so she began the creation of the Way of the Cross, commemorating Jesus Christ's last day on earth, and illustrating fourteen events that took place on that day. The Way of the Cross, or Stations of the



Cross, is a Catholic devotion that usually takes the form of 14 icons or images used as a mini-pilgrimage, and prayed during Lent on Wednesdays and Fridays, and especially on Good Friday.

This was a momentous undertaking, but one she took upon herself as a living prayer and testament to her devotion during her two years of Munich study. For this work, she experimented with a brush, contemporary style.

The focal point of each picture is the cross being borne by Christ, dark beams visible, it's massive straight lines piercing through the heart of each scene. There are usually no more than two or three characters in a picture, keeping the view clean and riveted on the central action. Human bodies are rendered with bold strokes. Their muscular strength reflects the new physical ideal as embodied by the live models at the State School. She returned to the raw, rough style

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Returning to Munich was not easy for Sister Innocentia. The city had become the capital of the Nazi movement, and a rough, inhuman wind was perceptible in the State School of Applied Arts. She noticed the changed atmosphere and suffered under it.

The artist was well known at the time as 'The Great Hummel,' but in the eyes of most of her colleagues and professors, her artwork was dismissed as 'kitsch.' During her second study period, she copied a lot of ancient art and, in contrast to her first years of study, there were no sketches of her own inspiration. The only exception was the Stations of the Cross, which she began sketching only for herself, while preparing for her perpetual vows. The artwork was unknown in the Convent. It is my opinion that the Stations of the Cross allows us to examine the soul of M. Innocentia in this dark time of history, and was her expression of the Cross in an existential way.

– Sister M. Emanuela
Convent of Siessen

”

that she had begun to explore in the final charcoal portraits of her student days.

Approximately 50 sketches were created for the Way of the Cross in those relentless two years in Munich. For the artist, this was perhaps her most intimate and revealing work, though it was never completed. Once she returned to Siessen, many of her days were spent on the work she did to support the Convent. She was devoted to serving others rather than herself.

Sister M.I. Hummel's Way of the Cross was a great achievement, revealing in its emotion and intensity. This series of bold, expressionistic sketches was the artist's magnum opus, and perhaps her most heartfelt opportunity for a purely personal artistic statement.

WANT TO LEARN MORE? Go to the "CLUBHOUSE" tab on our website www.hummelgifts.com.

Community Buzz

What's new and noteworthy in our Local Chapter Community



CREATIVE RECYCLING

The Happiness Chapter of Niles, MI, found a fun way to recycle and reuse. Several members "Hummelized" their old bowling balls with bumblebee patterns found online. Add wings and antennae, and you're ready to fly! The creative force behind the project was Club member Cheri Hughes. Bowling ball bumblebees make great gifts and a fun addition to a flower garden.



Left to Right: Cecilia Hubbard, Margaret Smith, Valerie Kachur, Cheri Hughes, Erika Grisard, Jeanette Choate and Dorothy Duschek.

COMFORT FOR THOSE WHO SERVED

Our members' generosity is well known, and on colorful display in Virginia. Veterans at the VA Medical Center were the grateful recipients of lap quilts created by members of the Historic Triangle/Hampton Roads Chapter. Fifteen quilts were completed and donated, some of them in red, white, and blue. They were all designed to express sincere thanks and bring comfort to those who've served our country.



Left to Right: Shari Marchelya, Shirley Boyd, Anne Edelblute, Loye Spencer, Gordy Foxwell, Pat Parker and Helga Foxwell

HAVE A HEART

Every year, members of the Making New Friends San Francisco East Bay Chapter create heartfelt gifts for hospital patients, stitching heart-shaped pillows to help ease the pain of major chest surgeries. A total of 83 pillows were donated this year to thoracic and oncology patients at Mercy San Juan Hospital. What a wonderful way to "sew" the seeds of friendship and caring.



Back Left to Right: Jerry Johnson, George Gavrell, Kathie Nippert, Susan Eberhard, Steve Smith and Ingrid Sheipline

Front Left to Right: Joan Mumma, Brenda Smith, Marylee Johnson, Jill Shuey and Monica Sullivan

PRODUCT LIST

- Front Cover and Page 15:**
Lucky Girl, L.E. 1,999 pcs, Swarovski Series, Hum 2387, Item 1000531, 6"\$400
- Page 5:**
Summertime Surprise, L.E. 950 pcs, Club Exclusive, Hum 428/I, Item 1010147, 5 3/4"\$380
- Page 7:**
Country Kitchen, Club Year 41, Hum 2381, Item 1010145, 4 1/4"FREE*
- Page 8:**
Festival Tradition, (Boy) Hum 917, Item 1000529, 4 1/4"\$185
- Festival Journey**, (Girl) Hum 2380, Item 1000530, 4 1/4"\$185
- Page 9:**
Miss Peabody, (Girl) L.E. 90 pcs, 2017 Convention Exclusive, Hum V2393, Item 1010982, Size 4 3/4"N/A
- Mr. Pembroke**, (Boy) L.E. 90 pcs, 2017 Convention Exclusive, Hum V2394, Item 1010981, Size 4 3/4"N/A
- Back Cover:**
 (visit www.HummelGifts.com for complete collection of Napkins and Tin Postcards)
- Lunch Napkin, Goose Girl**, Motif 47
 Item 1080013, Set of 20, Lunch 13"x13"\$7.50
- Lunch Napkin, Umbrella Girl**, Motif 152/B
 Item 1080005, Set of 20, Lunch 13"x13"\$7.50
- Umbrella Girl**, Hum 152/B/2/0
 Item 1000114, 3 1/2"\$325
- Tin Postcard, Valentine Joy**, Motif 399
 Item 1090007, 5 3/4"x4"\$6
- Tin Postcard, Valentine Gift**, Motif 387
 Item 1090006, 5 3/4"x4"\$6
- Tin Postcard, Postman**, Motif 119
 Item 1090002, 5 3/4"x4"\$6



CONDOLENCES

To honor the memory of Deane Wilkeson of the Greater Zephyrhills Chapter of FL, family and members joined together to hang a candle on the Hospice Tree Of Life in Zephyrhills. We express our sincere condolences to Deane's family and friends.

HONORING DISTINGUISHED PERFORMANCE

Three wonderful Local Chapters are the proud recipients of this year's Distinguished Performance Award. Congratulations to The Villages Chapter, FL, San Francisco East Bay Chapter, CA, and Palm Beach Chapter, FL. Keep up the great work!



REMEMBER YOUR ROSTERS

A big thank you to all Local Chapters that have sent us updated rosters. Please remember it's a requirement to be an active M.I. Hummel Club Local Chapter, so keep those rosters coming!



PUBLISHING NOTES

CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS? Please notify Membership Services at 609.400.1647 with any changes to your name, address, phone number or e-mail address. It is important to keep your information current so you will receive news promptly. Remember, INSIGHTS is sent Third Class and the Post Office will not forward your copy.

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30TH ANNIVERSARY CHRISTMAS CHEER

Last December, the What's New Ocala Chapter of Florida enjoyed some merriment and marked a special milestone at their annual Christmas Dinner Party. It was the 30th anniversary of the Chapter's founding!

The Elks Lodge was the scene of the festivities, beautifully decorated for the 13 members and 2 guests. Attendees included three original members who established the Chapter -- Doris J. Ferguson, Dorothy Rubin, and Mary Kauffman. Mary was the lucky winner of the raffle figurine, *Bavarian Cheer*. And with typical Hummel generosity, members brought toys for donation to the Salvation Army. It was a fun celebration, and the Chapter looks forward to 30 more wonderful years!



CELEBRATE HUMMEL STYLE!

The next time you host a party, dress up your table with delightful Hummel Napkins. Ambiente Europe, located on the Dutch border, has been crafting paper goods for over a quarter-century. We worked with their design team to create environmentally friendly napkins featuring classic motifs on high-quality paper. The assortment is available in lunch and cocktail sizes.

Another new addition to your décor: Tin Postcards showcasing eight beloved Hummel motifs. It's a bit of nostalgia from Berliner Blechschildmanufaktur, a company that has been making similar products since 1904, for brands from Alfa Romeo to Coca-Cola. Each postcard can be displayed on the wall with an enclosed hanger and comes with an envelope for mailing. You can personalize the postcard with a handwritten greeting and send it to a loved one to mark a special occasion with some Hummel happiness!

Visit us at www.HummelGifts.com for complete collections of both the *M.I. Hummel* napkins and tin postcards.



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