

Celebrate the Harvest!

Introducing the M.I. Hummel Harvest Time HummelScape, yours FREE!

The Harvest Time Collection began in our 40th Club Year with your membership gift, *Always Growing* and companion Club Exclusive, *Sweet Harvest*. It will continue in Club Year 41, with a new Club Gift and Club Exclusive pair, each one celebrating the riches of the garden.

We're delighted to introduce the *Harvest Time HummelScape*, a beautiful garden-themed display to house your 4-piece collection. The Scape is YOURS FREE with the purchase of both Club Year 40 and 41 Exclusives. Or you may purchase it for just \$80. What a wonderful way to celebrate earth's bounty and your ongoing relationship with the M.I. Hummel Club.

Harvest Time - NEW!

6020004

5.75" H x 8.00" W

Price: \$80*

*FREE with purchase of
Club Year 40 and 41 Exclusives



M.I. Hummel Club
3 Third Street, Suite 210
Bordentown, NJ 08505

Telephone: 609.400.1647
E-Mail: Support@HummelGifts.com
Internet: www.HummelGifts.com



INSIGHTS

THE EXCLUSIVE CLUB MAGAZINE



FULL HANDS, FULL HEARTS

- Valentine's Day is on the way
- Brotherly love, Hummel style
- HummelScapes help tell the story

M.I. Hummel®

One-of-a-kind keepsakes



2017 is off to a rousing start!

Dear M.I. Hummel Friends:

A new year is here, time for a new look at what we love most about M.I. Hummel. First and foremost, we adore the classic artistry of these figurines, as evidenced by our newest Childhood Memories masterpiece, Joyful Gifts. The intricate figurine showcases the ceramic excellence of Hummel Manufaktur, and the traditional Bavarian themes we so enjoy.

Because M.I. Hummel figurines reflect the truth of everyday life, we've always been fascinated with the individuals that surrounded Berta Hummel and stimulated her imagination. In this issue, we profile the Hummel brothers, boys that grew up beside Berta, shared in family fun, and helped to shape the artist and woman she would become. We also take a look at the local characters of long-ago Massing, from the wash woman to the night watchman, interesting people who captivated Berta and inspired her artistry.

Another important aspect of M.I. Hummel is the friendships that these figurines have generated through the years. Those bonds will be strengthened in 2017 at our first-time-ever International M.I. Hummel Club Convention in Memphis. The event will be multi-national with Hummel friends from both sides of the Atlantic in attendance. We're in the planning stages now and couldn't be more excited about how the event is shaping up. Be sure to reserve your spot as early as possible – this is one Convention you won't want to miss.

We hope this issue of Insights, and the treasures and topics we highlight here, will warm up your winter. From all of us at the M.I. Hummel Club, we wish you a happy and healthy New Year!

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



In This Issue

Learn about the surprising origins of Valentine's Day and meet a new Childhood Memories figurine, trace the history of HummelScape displays, find out how you can get your figurines personalized, get a rundown of our recent European travel adventure. All this and more make for fascinating winter reading. Snuggle up with a cup of hot cocoa, and enjoy!

CONTENTS

Hearts and Flowers Romance is in the air. Here's how Valentine's Day started	4
Take it Personally Turn any figurine into a personal, one-of-a-kind keepsake	6
Good Night, Sleep Tight Every child loves a story at bedtime	8
Brothers Make the Best Buddies Meet the Hummel brothers, Franzl and Ady.....	10
Setting the Scene HummelScapes help your imagination take flight	11
Local Heros Berta Hummel delighted in the characters of her hometown	12
Community Buzz Tips, tidbits and items of interest	14
Sharing the Joy of a European Holiday Get the details about upcoming M.I. Hummel Club Travel	15



New Beginnings

Hope Lives On in 2017

Our beloved Hope Series continues with a colorful newcomer for 2017! *Gift of Hope* is a sweet child holding a bouquet – purple flowers with one bright red heart in the center, to match the bouncing bow in her hair.

Like all our Hope Series figurines, *Gift of Hope* is designed to be an inspiration and motivation for anyone who's been touched by breast cancer. A portion of the proceeds supports the vital breast cancer research and education efforts of the National Breast Cancer Foundation. For over a decade, more than \$108.611.77 has been donated through our Hope Series figurines.

We're pleased to announce that the European *M.I. Hummel* community will now strengthen our effort to fight breast cancer. A partnership has been formed with the Burstkrebs Deutschland e.V., the German Breast Cancer Association, which supports early detection, better diagnosis and improved treatment options. A portion of European sales of the Hope Series will benefit this respected organization.



Gift of Hope
1000516 Hum 2377
4.00"



As a boost for patients and caregivers, or in memory of a loved one, *Gift of Hope* represents a much-needed ray of sunshine. What a wonderful way to lift some spirits in the New Year!

Winter News Flash

Special offers and special savings are now available, right at your fingertips. You'll find it all in the latest *Treasures* catalog, included in your INSIGHTS packet to make your winter shopping quick and easy. Don't miss our exciting figurine re-introductions—including *Daddy's Girls* and *Pocket Full of Posies*, FREE personalization opportunities and more.

INSIGHTS TRIVIA

The very first M.I. Hummel musical instrument was a...

- A Trumpet B Mandolin C Fiddle

Look for the answer hidden on the bottom of this page!

A Joyful Farewell

More than eighty years ago, Master Sculptor Reinhold Unger depicted a sweet girl, eyes closed in song and strumming a small instrument. Her name at the time was *Banjo Betty*, and she was one of the earliest and most adored *M.I. Hummel* musicians.

Renamed *Joyful*, the figurine underwent frequent size changes throughout its eight-decade history. There was even a rare version created with an orange dress instead of the usual blue. One of the most striking features of the figurine is the lack of a traditional base, since she's sitting on the floor with her legs straight out in front of her.

In 2017, *Joyful* will play her last tune. Ready for retirement, she's available this year as a Final Edition, with a special Backstamp and commemorative hangtag. If she's not already part of your collection, this is the perfect time to make her yours, before we all bid her a *Joyful* farewell.

Joyful
Final Issue 2017
1000519 Hum 53
4.00"



Hearts and Flowers

Why is a pagan festival named after a Christian saint? How did a martyred priest become a symbol of romantic love? There are many paradoxes and puzzles swirling around that starry-eyed February holiday, Valentine's Day.



I bring viel Lieb — Wee Three, H 357

Let's start with the earliest known origins of the day, the Roman festival of Lupercalia. It was celebrated in mid-February as a raucous festival of fertility, led by the Luperci, an order of Roman priests.

These priests conducted animal sacrifices in a secret cave, believed to be where Rome's founders, Romulus and Remus, were raised in infancy by a wolf. Animal hides dipped in sacrificial blood would be carried through the streets and used to slap women along the way, which was believed to boost their fertility. Then young women's names were placed in an urn to be chosen by eligible bachelors – an early version of

Match.com – with many pairings ending in marriage. Enter Christianity, and an attempt by the Church to adopt pagan holidays as their own. In 498 AD, the name of the mid-February festival was changed to St. Valentine or Valentinus, commemorating the martyrdom of a Saint.

There are actually three different martyred priests known as St Valentine recognized by the Catholic Church. Which one do we honor on Valentine's Day? It's hard to tell – one St. Valentine was put to death for performing secret marriages for Roman soldiers. Another Valentine was imprisoned, fell in love with the jailer's daughter and wrote a message to her signed "From Your Valentine." This may have been the world's first Valentine's card!

The holiday fell on February 14th, considered to be the beginning of birds' mating season. And mid-February was a time when men

typically began looking for brides. All this contributed to the holiday's association with romance.

The celebration spread to France and England during the Middle Ages, and it became customary for lovers to exchange Valentine's Day messages. One of the earliest survives in the British Museum, a Valentine poem written in 1415 by Charles, Duke of Orleans, who was imprisoned in the Tower of London. The sad message to his wife, written in French, translates to:

*I am already sick of love,
My very gentle Valentine...*

Europeans migrating to America brought the holiday with them. Revolutionary and Civil War soldiers sent handwritten messages to their sweethearts. By the early 1900s, lace-adorned Valentine's Cards made appearances on store shelves all over the country.

In Germany, there was no strong tradition of Valentine's Day until modern times. But Germans today wholeheartedly embrace the holiday in traditional ways, with Valentine's greetings, chocolate and flowers. There

are also a few traditional German ways to celebrate the day.

Germans give large, aromatic gingerbread hearts on strings to loved ones on Valentine's Day, beautifully decorated with candid expressions of affection. These hearts can be found at Christmas and Oktoberfest as well, but they've become popular gifts for Valentine's Day. Another German Valentine icon is a comical pig holding flowers or four leaf clovers, sometimes in a provocative pose to symbolize good luck and a bit of lust.

No matter how you choose to celebrate, romance is most definitely in the air on February 14th. We wish you and your special someone a very Happy Valentine's Day!



*Joyful Gifts (PFE)
Childhood Memories
Limited Edition 1,999 pcs
1000522 Hum 605
8.75" H x 7.50" W*

INTRODUCING JOYFUL GIFTS (PFE), CHILDHOOD MEMORIES EDITION

Three little girls with radiant smiles have their hands full, bearing gifts. The original artwork by Sister Maria Innocentia Hummel had a German inscription which translates to: *I am bringing much love, and I much joy, and I strength for the hard time. The phrases are separated by symbols – a heart, a flower, and a bunch of grapes – to correspond with each gift.* (see pg. 4)

The original artwork was given by Sister Maria Innocentia to the publishing house, Ars Sacra, likely in the year 1941. It was wartime in Germany, and the Siessen Convent was suffering under Nazi regulation.

It is important to understand Joyful Gifts in the context in which the drawing was created. It speaks to the determined spirit of the artist, always striving to inspire joy and happiness, even in times of distress.

The figurine was created by Helmut Fischer in 1989, the prototype approved in 1990, and it has waited as a PFE (Possible Future Edition) ever since. Now Joyful Gifts makes its debut as a Childhood Memories edition, a continuation of the former Moments in Time series. This is the first time in 16 years, since the series began, that an original motif has been selected.

Take it Personally

Some milestones deserve special notice – the joy of a wedding day or the birth of a child, an important anniversary or a graduation. These are the occasions that shape our lives. To help you hold on to these cherished moments and memories, why not create a customized M.I. Hummel keepsake that is as special as the occasion it commemorates?

We're happy to announce that the M.I. Hummel Personalization Program is back, only bigger and better than before. For the first time you have the opportunity to turn **ANY** M.I. Hummel figurine you purchase into a truly one-of-a-kind memento.

Here's how it works: Simply fill out and return the **Personalization Form** included in your INSIGHTS kit when you make a direct purchase. Or click the Personalization tab in the main header at www.HummelGifts.com.

Let us know the message you'd like to appear on your figurine, limited to 24 characters and spaces. You can include a name, date, event, a heartfelt "I Love You" or whatever you like. The customized message will be hand-lettered and permanently fired for you at a cost of **just \$24.95**. You'll receive your personalized figurine in about 3 to 4 weeks.

Whether you're celebrating something as wonderful as your retirement, as exciting as your team winning a trophy, or as romantic as Valentine's Day, there's an M.I. Hummel figurine to mark the moment. And it can be even more meaningful when you

add a personal inscription that's all your own.

Dearly Beloved
1000131 Hum 2003/2/0
4.25"



Wake Up! (PFE)
1000518 Hum V656
6.75"

Chick Girl
1000230 Hum 57/1
4.25"



Good Night Sleep Tight

What toddler doesn't love being lulled to sleep by the gentle cadence of a nursery rhyme? What youngster can resist the enchantment of a fairy tale, priming the imagination for dreams to come?



Bedtime Story Please
1000517 Hum 2383
4.25"

For many children around the world, bedtime begins with the opening of a book. There's no more special moment shared between parent and child than snuggling together, turning pages, and fantasizing about faraway worlds and mythical characters.

Most German children grew up with the classic fairy tales of those renowned yarn-spinners, the brothers Grimm. Berta Hummel and her brothers and sisters were surely familiar with fanciful tales of witches, giants, trolls, and princesses in need of rescue.

Another famous German children's series was *Der Struwwelpeter* by Heinrich Hoffmann. These were scary tales intended to teach lessons in good behavior, with frightening consequences for wayward children who disobeyed. You can just imagine an exasperated nanny

turning to *Der Struwwelpeter* stories in an attempt to settle down the Hummel brood at bedtime!

Veronika Hummel, grandniece of Sister Maria Innocentia, recalls some bedtime stories that she enjoyed as a child. Her favorites were the stories of Swedish author Astrid Lindgren, best known for her *Pippi Longstocking* series as well as *Emil i Lönneberga* and other tales. Lindgren is the third most translated children's author of all time after Hans Christian Anderson and the Brothers Grimm.

With a rich tradition of children's literature as inspiration, we're proud to introduce this adorable M.I. Hummel child getting ready for bed, companion to *No Bed Please*. We're sure you'll agree, there's nothing quite as satisfying as a spellbinding tale to send them happily off to dreamland.

Brothers Make the Best Buddies

If you could close your eyes and travel back about a century to the Hummel home in Massing, Germany, you'd find rooms filled with children, playing amid a clutter of toys, books, blocks and balls, surrounded by all the typical trappings of childhood long ago.



You'd see a home alive with activity as the six children studied their lessons, played games, drew pictures and interacted in the rough and tumble way that siblings often do. In the midst of the commotion you'd most certainly notice two boys who never seemed to tire of making mischief. They were Adolf and Franz, known to the family affectionately as Ady and Franzl, the two

Hummel brothers. These boys were high-spirited, filled with good humor, and their hijinks knew no bounds. Based on family memories, Veronika Hummel describes her great-uncles as "real Bavarian scalliwags."

According to the family, Berta Hummel had a very close relationship with Ady, who was born in 1910. Sister Centa was closest to Franzl, who was born in 1912. Together, the family's four younger siblings took great delight in tormenting Kätl and Viki, the dominant older sisters. Even as an adolescent, Franzl quipped to his sister, "Hey Kathi, when was the last time I got smacked by you?"

Eventually the children went off to boarding school, and their energetic "team" was broken up. Ady attended

the Institut Mariental, a boys school tucked away down in a valley, while Berta and Centa attended Marienhöhe, a sister institution for girls perched on a nearby hilltop. Adolf Hummel longed to become an architect – he had a creative inclination like his big sister, Berta. However he never pursued that career, instead settling in Massing and taking over the family business in 1939.

Franz also had artistic interests – in fact, his talented sister provided some artistic coaching. There is a letter from Berta to Franz advising him on nature drawing. "Lie down in the grass sometime," she wrote to her brother. "Take a little flower and a blade of grass, look at them closely and compare how different and manifold their shapes are. Then go home and draw

what you have seen and observed. You will realize, first, how necessary it is to learn to really look, and then, how important it is to grasp the essence..."

Despite their artistic connection, Franzl's life took a very different turn from his sister's. He went to boarding school in Fürstenried, a district of Munich and stayed in the area to study medicine at the renowned Munich University, Ludwig Maximilian Universität. When war broke out, Franz became a medical officer. He eventually started his own practice in Arnstorf, a town about 20 minutes away from Massing.

As difficult as it was to remain close during the war years when they were scattered and each following their own path, the Hummel



siblings were always in each other's minds and hearts. As a physician, Franz was involved with his sister's care, monitoring her condition and consulting with the clinic director when Sister Maria Innocentia was gravely ill with tuberculosis.

It was their solid bonds of affection, forged in youth while sharing a typically boisterous childhood, that sustained the Hummel siblings through the challenges of life. Those family ties were celebrated many times over in the endearing artwork of Sister Maria Innocentia Hummel.

INTRODUCING COMPANIONS (PFE)

Here are two "Bavarian scalliwags" on the way to market. With their smiling faces and an impish spirit, they bear a striking resemblance to the Hummel brothers, Ady and Franzl.

The figurine is the 1964 work of famed Master Sculptor Gerhard Skrobek, and old company records list the piece as *Brotherly Love*. For over half a century, *Companions* has been a PFE (Possible Future Edition) waiting for the right time to make a debut. Happily, that time is now.

Companions (PFE)
1000514 Hum 370
5.00"



Franz Hummel and the Resistance

While Franz was in Munich at medical school, he was likely acquainted with a famous pair of siblings who attended the school at the same time, Hans and Sophie Scholl, renowned members of the resistance movement in Nazi Germany. This brother and sister team belonged to the White Rose, a student group in Munich that advocated non-violent resistance, and Franz Hummel was also a member. Like many White Rose students who opposed the Nazis, Franz was apprehended by the Gestapo and interrogated, but luckily he was set free.



Above: Berta, Franz, Centa and Ady

Left to right: The Hummel Family, 1926, Viktoria and Adolf Hummel, Franzl, Viki, Ady, Centa, Kätl, Berta; Adolf and Centa

Setting the Scene

Imagine a cozy kitchen, with a pot bubbling on the stove and an eager dog begging for a bite. Imagine a snowy Bavarian hillside dotted with pine trees and neat cottages, as a boy speeds by on a sled, eager to get home for the holiday. How about a schoolroom complete with a chalkboard, textbooks and an apple for the teacher?

M.I. Hummel children live in a world of innocence, simplicity and wonder. Thanks to the magic of HummelScapes, your M.I. Hummel figurines can step right into a scene that tells a vivid story – a perfect environment where they feel very much at home.

The idea of the HummelScape was born in the early 1990s, developed by Chuck Harley and Kenneth LeFevre, who are today the Managing Partners of Newboden Brands. The original displays, *Home Sweet Home*, *Heavenly Harmonies* and *Little Music Makers*, were designed to hold four small figurines that were sold as a unit at an affordable price.

Ken and Chuck then expanded that successful idea to create Hummel Landscapes, shortened to HummelScapes – enchanting, Hummel-inspired environments in which individual figurines could dwell. The first HummelScapes were designed for Goebel of North America by the Cameo Guild Studios in California, successor to the

Goebel Miniatures Studios, which was founded by Chuck Harley.

Following the initial success of HummelScapes, a display was created for a larger figurine, *Ride Into Christmas*. That Scape, *Winter Rides*, was offered on QVC as a Christmas special. It had such irresistible appeal that it sold out before the end of the show.

More HummelScapes followed, each one designed to expand a figurine's story. Chuck Harley explains: "If the figurine is a girl holding flowers, we had the opportunity to stand the girl next to a flower cart in the Scape as if she is carefully choosing the flowers for a loved one. The Scape can include a squirrel watching her, or a pair of songbirds

inspecting her choice of flowers. With each new added element, the story gets bigger."

M.I. Hummel artists direct the meticulous process for making HummelScapes, a practice that continues today. First the Scape is sculpted in clay, and an epoxy master created. That master is sent to a trusted factory in Asia that produces cold cast porcelain, a white compound of porcelain powder and resin that hardens under pressure at room temperatures. The stone-hard whiteware is removed from the mold and carefully hand-painted, and the process is overseen by a skilled quality control team. We've been using the same factory for the last 16 years, and our quality control team has been in place for 20 years.



The Convent of Siessen has provided Hummel Manufaktur and Newboden Brands with guidelines for developing HummelScapes, and we strictly adhere to their principles.

Most every HummelScape is submitted to the Convent of Siessen for approval. First the Convent approves the drawings, then photos of the clay sculpture are approved, and finally the finished pre-production piece gets the Convent's sign-off. The Convent has always been rigorous in their scrutiny of the Scapes, down to the look of the snow melting on a pine tree, or the color of wood trim on a window. No detail is too small to escape their notice, in an effort to make the Scape true to the Hummelesque scene it represents.

How do we decide which figurines will be accompanied by a HummelScape? Today, an international marketing team reviews upcoming figurines, and in some instances recommends the creation of a HummelScape, often to help connect a figurine to a season, holiday or special occasion.

INTRODUCING HARVEST TIME HUMMELSCAPE

Harvest Time is the second release in a collection of HummelScapes by Hummel Manufaktur, continuing a tradition enjoyed by Hummel Club members and collectors for over two decades.

Crafted in cold-cast porcelain and hand-painted, Harvest Time was commissioned as part of the M.I. Hummel Club's year-long renewal celebration. With a scarecrow, chicken, rabbit and newly-harvested crops from pumpkins and apples to bright sunflowers, this farm market is the perfect gathering-place for your Club-members-only Harvest Time figurines. Your HummelScape display will bring you pleasure, season after season.

(Please avoid continuous exposure to direct sunlight.)

Harvest Time - NEW!
HummelScape
6020004
5.75" H x 8.00" W



Local Heros

A cobbler sits at his bench, hunched over a pair of boots, surrounded by scraps of leather, nails and the tools of his trade. A washwoman is up to her elbows in suds, scrubbing the grime out of a heap of laundry. A night watchman slowly makes his rounds, a comforting presence assuring the village that all is well.



©Alfred Hummel

Peasant, standing, 1929/30, watercolor, 19.75" x 12.75", HM 338b

It's quite evident that Berta Hummel loved her hometown, Massing. In tribute, and as a way of sharpening the honesty of her art, she focused on some of the interesting local characters that lived and worked in and around town. Examining these works today is like opening a window into another era, revealing the reality of ordinary life in those bygone days.

Like most towns, Massing was a mix of occupations and economic levels. The Hummels were a family

of prosperous merchants, with the advantages of a comfortable home and access to education. Even during the war years, the Hummel children had full bellies, warm clothing and a happy life. Yet Massing was located in a rural area, and peasant farmers inhabited small farms in the surrounding countryside, eking out an existence from the land. Others plied their trades in the town's shops and commercial spaces, making a living with strong muscles and skilled hands.

It was these rural residents to whom Berta was drawn, attracted by their careworn faces and rough country clothing, which told the stories of their hard lives. The local people intrigued Berta, seeing them as she did with an artistic eye, and it was often her father who helped her find them.

Adolf Hummel was himself a frustrated artist, and took great joy in fostering Berta's budding talent. From the first time he granted his young daughter's request for a paint box, to the exciting day he took her to Munich to enroll in the State School of Applied Arts, he proudly supported Berta's artistic efforts.



©Alfred Hummel

Portrait of Jakob Huber from the Grangerfinger property, 1929, watercolor, 13.75" x 9.50", HM650

Throughout her student years, Adolf readily helped out by locating people for Berta to paint. The artist was away at school most of the time from her teen years onward. But when she came home for holidays and summer breaks, she was eager to keep up with her artwork. Familiar as he was with the local population, Adolf would seek out willing models and arrange sittings, looking for people with interesting and compelling faces, performing typical tasks.

"I have a few characteristic faces for you again," Adolf would announce to Berta when she arrived home from school, "I'll take you there." And off father and daughter would go in search of artistic inspiration.

Art historian Genoveva Nitz, who has commented extensively on the works of Berta Hummel, writes: "During later school vacations spent at home, Hummel saw familiar things with fresh



©Alfred Hummel

Peasant woman with head-scarf, 1929, watercolor, 10.75" x 18.50", HM 479b

eyes." Those familiar things included the people of Massing, whom she depicted with empathy, "...in an attempt to transcend a mere record of physiognomical traits and capture her sitters in all the complexity of their personality."

Because of her father's efforts, and her interest in understanding the real people around her, Berta's artwork grew richly detailed and true to life. Adolf Hummel was an important contributor to his daughter's artistic legacy, and we can still admire the results today.

The cobbler Johann Hubert at his work, 1929.03, watercolor, 14" x 9.75", HM 644



©Alfred Hummel

Community Buzz

What's new and noteworthy in our Local Chapter Community

Hummeling in Harrisburg

The Pennsylvania Christmas & Gift Show has been held in Harrisburg, PA for the last 33 years. But there was something extra special about the 2016 event – Hummel was there! For the first time, shoppers at one of the largest holiday shows in the country were treated to Hummel-themed treasures, from candles to snow globes to religious items to authentic M.I. Hummel figurines. Some of our Club members took the time to pay us a visit, and it was a great opportunity to share our gifts with a wide audience. Hope to see you in Harrisburg next holiday season!



Clockwise: Ken LeFevre, Principal of Newboden and Herta Keeble, President of the **Blue Ridge Mountain Chapter**; Jimmy and Celia Johnson proudly displayed their personal Latest News, Hum 184 collection; Taken during the door prize drawing portion of the conference; Mary Eichholz and Claire LeFevre celebrating after Mary's big Grand Prize win of Adventure Bound, Hum 347; Linda LeFleur & Mary Parker assisting in drawing numbers for the event raffle prizes.

Fall Fling in Virginia

The **Historical Triangle/Hampton Roads Local Chapter** hosted an Inter-Chapter Conference in Williamsburg, VA on October 14-15, 2016. Local Chapter members came from far and wide and coast to coast with 17 chapters represented. Attendees were treated to four seminars on Saturday, including a lively session with Newboden principal, Ken LeFevre.

Other speakers included members Jimmy Johnson, George Gavrell and Wolfgang Seidl. Claire LeFevre conducted a Q&A session to catch everyone up on all the National Club business. There were games, door prizes, a wonderful Saturday night dinner and lots of laughs and mingling among Local Chapter friends. Thanks to all who attended!



Merry Wanderers Celebrate a Merry Christmas

Inn 422 in Lebanon, PA, was the scene of a Christmas Party hosted by the **Berks County Merry Wanderer Chapter**. Members enjoyed fun, friendship and raffles prizes, including a Grand Prize Mail is Here Clock Tower. We can't think of a nicer way to ring in the season!

Sharing the Joy of a European Holiday

Chestnuts roasting on an open fire, cold noses and warm, red Glühwein made for an unforgettable week-long tour to enjoy the sights, sounds and aromas of a storybook Christmas.

Twenty-seven Club members traveled the highways and bi-ways of Europe together for a magical Christmas Experience Tour in the company of Chuck Harley, later joined by Ken LeFevre, principals of Newboden Brands.

The Tour began in Munich under a bright blue November sky the week after Thanksgiving. Over the next eight days, members visited seven Christmas markets, the Hummel factory in Rödental, the Siessen Convent and Sister Hummel's family home and Das Berta Hummel Museum in Massing. There was also plenty of time

built in to explore castles and cathedrals in South Germany and Switzerland. One highlight was a back-stage visit to the Passion Play Theater in Oberammergau, leaving many in the group desiring to return for the performance in 2020.

Says Chuck Harley of the experience, "The eight-days went too quickly. Somehow all the treasures purchased at the Christmas markets fit into suitcases and carry-on gear and made it to our departure airport in Zurich. By some means we all made it home. Time now to share our memories and keep in contact with new friends. And, remember just how many Glühweins it takes to stay warm at 0°centigrade!"



START PACKING FOR OUR NEXT M.I. HUMMEL CLUB TRIP

Our M.I. Hummel Club Travel Program is in full swing, and we are already planning next year's excursion. Details will follow shortly.

That's not all – due to Club member demand, preparations are underway for a 2020 trip to the fairytale village of

Oberammergau to see the famed Passion Play, which depicts the story of Jesus Christ's Passion and is performed only once a decade. This is a momentous event and hotels must be booked in 2017-2018. So please plan to join us, and be on the lookout for details in upcoming INSIGHTS issues.

Condolences

Raymond Hicks, Charter Member of the M.I. Hummel Club and former President of Oklahoma's OK Chapter, passed away in April, 2016 at the age of 82. Raymond was an enthusiastic collector and a beloved Club member, and he will be missed. On behalf of the M.I. Hummel Club, we express our condolences to his family and friends.

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.

■ Hummel® and M.I. Hummel® are trademarks used under license from the Franciscan Convent of Siessen, Germany. All trademarks are registered ©2016.

■ INSIGHTS is published by: M.I. Hummel Club, 3 Third Street, Suite 210, Bordentown, NJ 08505, 609.400.1647 ©2017 M.I. Hummel Club

■ All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced without the written permission of the publisher.

Product List

Front Cover and Page 4: Joyful Gifts (PFE), Childhood Memories, Hum 605, Item 1000522, 8.75" H x 7.50" W"	\$1,250	NEW
Pages 2 and 9: Companions (PFE), Hum 370, Item 1000514, 5.00"	\$650	NEW
Page 3: Gift of Hope, Hope Series Hum 2377, Item 1000516, 4.00"	\$185	NEW
Joyful, Final Issue, Hum 53, Item 1000519, 4.00"	\$185	
Page 6: Wake Up! (PFE), Hum V656, Item 1000518, 6.75"	\$275	NEW
Dearly Beloved, Hum 2003/2/0, Item 1000131, 4.25"	\$275	
Chick Girl, Hum 57/I, Item 1000230, 4.25"	\$350	
Page 7: Bedtime Story Please, Hum 2383, Item 1000517, 4.25"	\$200	NEW
Page 10 and Back Cover: Always Growing, Club Year 40, Hum 2371, Item 1010141, 4.25"	FREE*	
Sweet Harvest, Club Exclusive, Hum 2372, Item 1010142, 4.25"	\$195	
Club Year 41, Hum 2381, Item 1010145, 4.25"	FREE*	NEW
Sweet Bounty, Club Exclusive, Hum 2382, Item 1010146, 4.25"	\$195	NEW
Harvest Time Scape, Item 6020004, 5.75" H x 8.00" W	\$80	NEW

*FREE Gift with annual M.I. Hummel Club Membership Fee.

To order, please call Member Services at 609.400.1647, visit HummelGifts.com or visit your favorite authorized M.I. Hummel retailer. All prices shown are U.S. Suggested Retail.

Convention Year is Here!

2017 is Convention year for the M.I. Hummel Club, and our upcoming gathering promises to be the best ever. It will be held at the gracious and historic Peabody Hotel in Memphis TN, oozing with Southern hospitality and old-world charm. Some special M.I. Hummel figurines are being developed right now for the event – an unprecedented addition to our Convention excitement. We can't reveal these special figurines to you yet, but here's a hint: They'll be everything they're "quacked" up to be! Members and dignitaries from Europe and North America will flock to Memphis from **Thursday, September 21 through Saturday, September 23, 2017**, and we hope you will too. To reserve your spot at The Peabody, call **901-529-4000**.