



January 1, 2009
ISSUE 1



A warm Hello and Happy New Year to our Finisher Friends!

This is our first issue of the Sisters Hands Newsletter!
We hope you enjoy and look forward to every issue!

APPLAUSE!



Yes, we are pulling you into the spotlight and giving you a HAND, Virginia Weathersby!

Sistershands would like to introduce you to a little known gem of the industry, Virginia Weathersby. Those of our group who have met Virginia agree she is truly inspirational and deserves a round of applause. She loves what she does, running an amazing school – The Southern Institute of Faux Finishing - where every detail is attended to; she is an FE dealer with an efficient and welcoming staff. In addition to running her school, she still works full time on the wall, keeping her completely in touch with what her students

In this issue:

Applause

Look what THEY can do!

Getting to Know Us

a HANDful of questions answered by one of our members

Get a Grip

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FREE Recipe!

Get your Hands on THIS

Product Review

AND THE WINNER IS... Melanie Kroll

Congratulations! We hope you enjoy your new Portfauxlio!



Sisters Hands, Decorative

go through every day - something we feel is imperative to being a great educator! She has a very loyal following of students and her classes are always filled!

Those of us who have met her personally feel that she is just one of those people you immediately want to know better and be able to count among your friends. It's hard to say what her best feature is.....she is multi-talented, a gifted artist, has an incredible eye for design, a wonderful gourmet cook, and successful business woman. Yet she is very humble with a heart of gold! She is the epitome of a "Steel Magnolia" and corners the market on southern hospitality...always very thoughtful of others. Her exuberance is infectious, you cant help but enjoy yourself around Virginia!

To view Virginia's works and learn more about her and her school go to www.fauxfinishbiz.com

Artists Consortium,
www.sistershands.com

Susan Bickford
Marti Carroll
Elaine Castronovo
Cindy Everett
Patty Henning
Renee Holder
Judy Norman
Krista Vind
Cait Whitson
Julie Young

Getting to Know Us...

Ten Questions: Each issue we present one of our members with 10 questions.

First up to share all is Marti Carroll from Baton Rouge, Louisiana!

Read on to meet Marti.



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What was your most interesting project this year?

I had one client who basically said "Here is my home. Here are six rooms that I want you to do your magic in. I trust you completely." You just don't get those kind of clients too often! I brought Renee, the sister from Arkansas in on the project and we had a blast! We put finishes on all the walls and ceilings of each of those rooms. And even did some cool finishes on the vanity cabinets. The client was thrilled and next year wants more rooms done!

How did you get into finishing?

I began as a novice, as most of us do, and had even made money faux finishing. However, my "real" job was as a legal secretary....not at just any law firm, but my then husband's firm. Unfortunately, the day I filed for a divorce is the same day I quit my job! So I found myself as a single unemployed mother all in one day!

As the quote by Thorstein Veblen says "Necessity is the mother of invention"...and I realized that I needed to re-invent myself and quickly! So I set my sights on what I knew; had cards made and started filling my calendar! I soon began learning professional

products and techniques, investing back into what I knew would sustain me....and it has for nearly 16 years!

What type of finish work do you enjoy most?

Oh that is such a hard question! I love it all! I'm the type that gets bored with the same old thing.....so I like to shake things up and keep it fresh. I love Italian plasters. I love finishing ceilings as they complete the room. I love the richness that metallics add to spaces. And I love to finish cabinets! Some days I'm just as happy with a simple glazed project as I am on other days after completing multi-layered finishes.

What do you think is the most important thing for new finishers to do when they decide to start this business?

I believe the most important thing for a new finisher to do is to learn the business side of this industry immediately! There are a lot of finishers who can do wonderful work, but don't last in this business for different reasons. This is not an occupation that is to be looked at as a hobby and it's definitely not for slackers. Know your market, know your market pricing, and know the ethics and the etiquette of this business! Knock on doors of designers, builders, architects, and other industry trades people. Always have a portfolio ready to show....no matter the size and business cards to hand out. Network, network, network!

What was the strangest thing you've done in this line of work?

I don't know if this is considered strange, but I had one client that I finished ceiling fans, trash cans, mirrors, and lamps to coordinate with the finishes in various rooms. They even had me finish the laundry room walls and ceilings and asked me to marble the shelves in their pantry....fortunately; I was able to discourage them from the pantry!

What do you like to do when you are NOT working?

There are so many joys in my life! I love to cook! I also love gardening, shooting skeet, playing golf and barrel racing!

If you could no longer be a Faux Finisher....what would you do?

I'd love to train horses for reigning and barrel racing!

If you were stranded on a desert island...what 2 things would you bring?

My Bible to keep me sane and my husband to keep me entertained!



Name someone you would like to meet who intrigues you.

Mary Kay Ash, for what she did for women in business.

Quote: "Do you know that within your power lies every step you ever dreamed of stepping and within your power lies every joy you ever dreamed of seeing? Within yourself lies everything you ever dreamed of being. Become everything that God wants you to be. It is within your reach. Dare to grow into your dreams and claim this as your motto: Let it be me."

Name 3 things on your "Bucket List".

Become a certified scuba diver.
Learn to read music.....instead of playing by ear.
Learn to speak Spanish!

Get A Grip!

Our Business Tips and Advice-
from the pen of Susan Bickford

It's that time of year; getting your year-end accounting together for tax time and filing all the necessary reports and tax forms. For those who use subcontractors, don't forget to file 1099-MISC (Miscellaneous Income) forms for independent contractors who have been paid \$600 or more for services over the past year. This is a cumulative total over the year, not a per occurrence amount. The forms can be picked up at your accountant's office or purchased at most office supply stores and must be filed by January 31, 2009.

One of the easiest ways to file your 1099's is through online processing. For several years I've been using www.filetaxes.com to process my 1099's. For a fee of \$3.79 per recipient, File Taxes will submit your 1099 to the IRS, send your subcontractor a copy, and send you a copy for your records. File Taxes offers the same service for filing W-2's for employees. When you sign on to File Taxes and set up an account, you will have your subcontractor and employee information saved in your account, saving valuable time when filing the next year.

Although confusing, it is your responsibility to understand the difference between employees and subcontractors and abide by IRS guidelines to avoid penalties in the event of an audit. To determine whether a worker is an independent contractor or an employee under common law, you must examine the relationship between the worker and the business. The facts that provide this evidence fall into three categories – Behavioral Control, Financial Control, and the Type of Relationship itself. Among other things, it's important that your subcontractors be independent and able to



operate and provide similar services to other businesses and individuals. For more details read IRS Topic 762 Independent Contractor versus Employee, <http://www.irs.gov/taxtopics/tc762.html>. If you file 1099s on your hired help, keep good records and be prepared to prove they are, in fact, a subcontractor and not an employee.

From Our Hands

In each issue we will share a [FREE RECIPE](#) available for download from our website

Follow the link below to download our current free recipe!



["Aged Bella Sabbia"](#)

Get Your HANDS On This!

Our most current THUMBS UP product review:

[Perfetto's Wall Leaf](#)

All of us in Sisters Hands would like to thank everyone for your continued support and encouragement for our group and its efforts!



A special thank you to those who signed up for our mailing list and the email responses we have recieved! We appreciate all of your input!

[Click here](#) to view a schedule of our upcoming classes in 2009!

Want to share something with the Sisters?
Questions, ideas for a future Newsletter?
Want to recommend someone for an Applause?

Please do not reply to this message-

[Contact us here!!](#)

Forward-to-a-Friend

**HAPPY NEW YEAR
and Happy Painting!**

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