

Midwest Miniature Guild

Guild Newsletter

February 2015

February Meeting



Meeting Date February 7, 2015

Meeting Schedule

-	
Sales Set-Up	8:00-9:30
Registration	9:00 -9:30
Morning Workshops	L0:00-12:00
Morning Sales	.9:30-12:00
Lunch	12:00
Business meeting and a	auction
Business meeting and a	
•	.12:00-1:00
	.12:00-1:00 1:00-4:00
Afternoon Workshops	.12:00-1:00 1:00-4:00 1:00-4:00

Due Friday, January 23, 2015: Meeting Registration

Workshop Registration Sales Table Registration

Future Dates –

Teacher Workshop Application Forms for May 2015 Meeting Due April 20, 2015

May 2015 Newsletter Deadline March 1, 2015

Future Guild Meeting Dates May 9, 2015 (Second Saturday in May) October 10, 2015 (Second Saturday in October)

Future Guild Board Meeting Dates: January 24, 2015

An Interview with Charter Member Lynn Snyder



I joined the Guild in my late teens or very early 20's. My mother, Ethel Chmiel, and I were both NAME (National Association of Miniature Enthusiasts) members, and we went to NAME conventions together. My mother enjoyed coming up with little projects that could be done easily -- like roundtables in NAME. When she passed away I was amazed at how many room boxes and other miniatures she had. She never had a dollhouse, but she liked to play with the dollhouse that she had made for me, and that's how the two of us ended up joining Guild together. When the Guild came about, I think she saw it as opportunity to belong to a large, more local club for people who were interested in miniatures. I remember her saying "Let's join the Guild!" and me being the teenage kid saying "Ahhh -- OK."

I remember that the Guild met in an old high school in Edina that I think was called the Edina Community Center. It was located off Highway 100. We met on the second or third floor. We met there for a number of years, and I think from there we started meeting at a hotel off Highway 394 toward the airport, and later a Holiday Inn -- or maybe it was a Sheraton? -- off Shingle Creek in Brooklyn Center. Then later we met at a Best Western, again in Brooklyn Center but this time off Highway 694, and then a Holiday Inn which I think was in or near Shoreview, and then the Mermaid, and then the Shoreview Community Center where we meet now. That's to the best of my recollection, anyway. So the Guild has bounced around a bit over the last 30 years!

Interview with Lynn Snyder continues on page 3

From the Board

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I hope everyone enjoyed our 30th Anniversary celebration last October. I had many comments from members - all good. I was very pleased that so many members wore hats, and such incredible hats they were. Members felt that the hats added a lot of fun to the day and asked if we could do it again. Give the Board your suggestions. What are your suggestions for adding some fun to each Guild meeting?

Thirty years the Midwest Miniature Guild has survived and thrived, but it needs YOU. We heard from Lois MacKinnon that during the Guild's first years members were assigned tasks, such as bringing a snack (there wasn't any lunch being served then) or teaching a workshop. We need you to come forward to share with your fellow miniaturists what you have learned. Half of the teachers in October were Board members. We currently have 150 members, please volunteer to share your knowledge. The Board does have ideas for workshops so you don't have to come up with your own idea. Contact Mary Breslin about teaching a workshop.

We also are in desperate need of a Board Member to be the Secretary of the Guild. Mary Breslin, our Workshop Coordinator, has been filling in as Secretary also for the last year. Please contact any Board Member and volunteer for this position. We need you.

Carol Blanchfield

CHANGE OF DATE - MAY 2015

The first weekend of May is our usual date for the Guild Meeting. That weekend in 2015 is also the date that NAME will be having a house-party in Madison, Wisconsin. We know that many Guild members will want to attend the NAME Small Scale House-Party, so we have scheduled the Guild meeting for the second Saturday in May. May 9, 2015. Please mark your calendars.



MAY GARAGE SALES

The May Guild meeting comes up fast after the February meeting. Start getting your miniatures together that need new homes -- we all have some of those. The Guild has many items that will be for sale in May. Registration for a sales table can be sent in with your May meeting registration and will be initially limited to one table per participating member.

Interview with Lynn Snyder (Continued from page 1)

Another big difference was vendors – 30 years ago, there just wasn't anything like that. With Guild today, I really appreciate the vendors, seeing the things they have for sale -- I think having the vendors there is a real plus. I remember Arla Johnson being one of the first vendors. There was a store in Columbia Heights, originally called Penney's Doll Hospital, that sold dolls and miniatures, and that's where we first started the miniature club that I first belonged to. It later became Manti's Dollhouse, and that's where we met Arla. There were more retail stores in those days -- of course, these days we have Little Enchantments in Edina. I remember getting new Guild members because they were customers of one retail store or another, and heard about Guild that way.

One thing that was different about the Guild 30 years ago compared with the Guild today is that everyone worked on the same project. We made lots of things: an old-fashioned bread box designed like a roll-top desk, a little scene in a heart-shaped candy box at one February meeting – lots of little things.



We learned to make wicker objects out of wax cord – it's like string or thread that's coated with wax. We did a table, and a chaise lounge with an upholstered cushion-- I think the lounge is still one of my favorite pieces. When I look at it, it reminds me of when I learned the technique, and I think that it's fun to realize that it's just winding the waxed cord around a simple frame. I really enjoy projects that are not necessarily large, but maybe something like a small piece of furniture that I can incorporate in a scene somewhere.

We did d. Anne Ruff projects as time went on; we made screens that were pretty easy to do by layering paper to get dimension and thickness. And before that we did a Christmas scene of d. Anne Ruff's -- a little like a scene in a hat box, with a little platform and a little screen, and I think we made a table to go with it. And that was all made at Guild one day. My sense is that projects have become more complex and perhaps a bit more difficult. It would be nice to see some beginner skill level projects come back to Guild again, especially for the newer members.

I didn't do any of the larger Guild projects. For example by the time the Secret Garden project came along, I didn't have a lot of room left! But while I was looking over some projects that I made over the years in Guild, I remember the fun I had doing one room box project that all the Guild members received. It was a four- sided display, and I had no clue what I was going to do with it, but it ended up that three of the four sides have something that I made in them -- the chaise lounge is in one of the sides, and the d. Ann Ruff screen in another. I was looking at it the other day and I thought "You know, that came out really pretty cool!"

It's really funny to think back that far and try to remember what it was like and what we did. Guild has changed, obviously -- everything changes. Now we have so many skill levels represented in Guild, but at the beginning I had the sense that everyone was at about the same skill level -- except for one or two who were already experts, who were the teachers back then. But it's kind of nice now, too, because there are all different skill levels.

article by Mary Breslin



Guild Bits and Pieces

- Chicago International April 17 to 19, 2015
- May 1 3, 2015 NAME Small Scale House-Party in Madison, WI
- Guild Meeting May 9, 2015
- July 30 August 2, 2015 NAME Convention in Indianapolis
- Guild Meeting October 10, 2015
- July, 2016 NAME Convention in Seattle
- July 27 30, 2017 NAME Convention in Alexandria, VA

SUGGESTION BOX

We always have a "suggestion box" plus paper and pens sitting on the table next to registration, yet it seldom gets used. You are a part of this GREAT group and your opinion does matter. Let us hear from you, and you, and you over there, and you, you and you.

A HOLIDAY DISPLAY TRULY WORTH SEEING!!!

A wonderful miniature village and a collection of nativity scenes from all over the world are on display at St. Peter's Catholic Church, 6730 Nicollet Ave. S., Richfield. The village and the nativity scenes have been a hobby of Father G. Dvorak for many years and they are a feast for the eyes (as well as the soul). December 14 - January 17; Monday - Friday 8:30 am - 8:30 pm; Saturday 9:00 am - 6:00 pm; Sunday 9:00 am - 12:00 pm. Call for holiday hours as they may vary.

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Member News MINNESOTA FUN DAY

Our second annual Minnesota Fun Day was Saturday, October 25th. Thirty-three miniaturists were involved - as attendees, builders at home, or joined us for lunch.

Thanks to our volunteers: Kathy Goettsch, Lynn Snyder, Marge Steffen, and Mary Wallace who helped everything run smoothly.

Everyone enjoyed the door prizes, silent auctions, vendors, and delicious lunch.

A special thanks to Patrick Kinney, who designed and helped us build our road side/state fair stands. Patrick already has ideas for next year's Minnesota Fun Day.







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Hours: Monday: by appt. only Tuesday-Friday: 10-7 • Saturday: 10-5 Sunday: closed

MMG BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2014

Carol Blanchfield, President 952-936-0383 caroljoyb@comcast.net

Mary Wallace, Treasurer 507-288-5853 mwwallace@charter.net

Jane Sanem, Vice President 612-822-3738 janeannsanem@gmail.com

Brad Bradshaw, Librarian 612-720-9271 bradbradshaw2009@gmail.com

Ruth Hynes, Centerpieces/Favors 651-776-2616 ruth.hynes@childrensmn.org

Jan Rasmussen, Newsletter Editor 612-721-8626 mahli214@hotmail.com

Mary Breslin, Workshops 612-309-5371 marybreslin@earthlink.net Elaine Steinbach, Membership esteinb837@yahoo.com

Rhea Wise, Membership 651-638-0370 rheawise@outlook.com

Appointed Positions:

Historian– Joanne Baier

Website– Jane Sanem

Scholarship Committee:

Rebecca Bryden, Coordinator Kate Jangula Alice Ann Roberts Jane Sanem

Rebecca's Dolls & Miniatures



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From the Board (Continued from page 2)

THANK YOU



Picture by Joanne Baier, Guild Historian

Thank you to Carol Blanchfield and Jane Sanem for filling the beautiful terrariums that graced the tables at the Guild's 30th Anniversary.



Thank you to Mary Huffer of MJ Miniatures for the tea trays, and Joan Purcell of Joanie's Little Treasures for the ceramic teapots. Both of these vendors gave us a very good deal so everyone could have a special remembrance of the Guild's 30th Anniversary.

30TH ANNIVERSARY MINIATURE EXHIBITS

I can't believe that we have so many talented members. The miniatures displayed last October were fabulous, so varied and so creative. A special "Thank you" to the committee responsible for arranging the display and making signs – Pam Rouleau, Carol Dyson and Carolyn Nelson. Thank you!!

Diane Dalton	Jean Kurkowski		Melanie Lady
13100 30th St. N Stillwater, MN 55082 princess3124@comcast.net 651-439-0681	October to early May: 12853 Tall Cypress Ct. W. Jacksonville, FL 32246 (H)904-220-0160 (M)904-234-5352 k	May to September: 216 High St. Park Rapids, MN 56470 (H)218-237-5864 urkowsl@bellsouth.net	1702 Thunderbird Rd. #4 Marshall, MN 56258 <u>melaniejlady@yahoo.com</u> 612-205-6483
Kathy Larson 1078 Hillvale Ave. N Oakdale, MN 55128 <u>mich518@msn.com</u> 651-738-9454	Debby Vander Waal 9554 Oxbourgh Curve Bloomington, MN 55437 <u>debravw66@icloud.com</u> 763-807-8024	Jules Carter and Ninna Gosman 616 Stoltzman Road Mankato MN 56001	Linda Olson 2005 East County Road C Maplewood, MN 55109 <u>lindamae5185@msn.com</u> 651-777-1288



Photo and article by Joanne Baier Guild Historian

VIRGINIA JAMES

As a member of MMG for 21 years, Virginia James, has made many friends. Like so many of us, she has loved miniatures "forever!" Owning a completely furnished metal house was not enough fun, so her daughter designed a wooden colonial style dollhouse, which understandably became Virginia's favorite. "The front opening house was designed without stairs to leave more room for decorating," Virginia stated. It is also home to a 150 year old antique china doll.

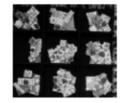
Virginia's hat, that she wore for MMG's tea party, was purchased in England and is merely one of hundreds from her collection. Her rose and cream colored tea cup is English Copeland China and was a gift from her father, who once owned a china shop in Rochester, MN.

The creative thinking involved with "how can I make that" is Virginia's favorite part of our hobby. One example she shared with me, is the joy of finding and drying tiny flowers from her garden, later placing them in her dollhouse. Now that's an idea I haven't tried, have you?

AIN'T NO BIG DEAL

Our Christmas "store" will be open all year round, filled with our stack packs and other packages that are ready for your doll house, trees, decorated or undecorated so you can do it yourself, santa, snowmen wreaths, magnets, Christmas cards, wall-hangings and more...

We make much of our own wrapping paper and have wood cut in lots of different doll house sizes... We also have a lot of everyday and every occasion patterns in miniature size paper. We are also the home of AGOTCHA APRONS. If you are a crafter, YA GOTTA GET AGOTCHA!



Check out our website at: www.aintnobigdeal.com ...it is a work in progress so and if you have any questions, or see something you are interested in, just give me a call or email me. Pat Shogren and Helen Rapoport 763-205-6420 (Pat's phone) Email: pat@aintnobigdeal.com

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Patrick Kinney



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Veteran Owned

At the February Meeting

CHARITY RAFFLE

We will donate to the Ralph Reeder Food Shelf again in February. After the holidays food shelves have a problem supplying all the people in need with essentials and they need our help. We will accept food, paper products, cleaning products, etc. However money is the most useful. They can purchase so much more for their dollars than we can, and they can purchase fresh products that we can't donate. Please make checks payable to "Ralph Reeder Food Shelf". A maximum of ten raffle tickets per person, please.



AUCTIONS



The Guild has received quite a few donations since the October meeting. Karen Hall, a former Guild member and part of the team of miniaturists who restored in the restoration of the University of Minnesota President's mansion in miniature, passed away recently. Her family was very generous in donating her miniature collection to the Guild. We have a large, 9 room dollhouse to auction in February. This house features a 3rd floor ballroom. The house is almost completely decorated with many unique touches. All windows, doors, flooring, trim pieces and paint are included. (The ballroom chandeliers are not included - these will be sold at a later date.) An unopened Greenleaf kit "The Pierce" will be offered at the auction in February. Karen's estate included many Bespaq pieces that the Guild will be using as door prizes and for fundraising. There are also drawer storage units, tools and supplies that will be sold at the May Guild meeting.

Katherine McIlquham donated an unopened Greenleaf kit to the Guild at the October meeting. This kit is called "Brimble's Mercantile". We will auction this house in February.

Just today a former member, Carolyn Finnegan, donated 15 books to the Guild. These books will either be added to the Guild library or sold at the library table, so look for them.

Thank you to everyone for your donations, they are put to good use. All donations help us keep costs down for our members, plus give all of us a chance to purchase miniatures at greatly reduced prices.

At the February Meeting (Continued from page 9)





Also available for auction is a nine-room colonial dollhouse ready for decoration. The wood house includes working windows and front door. Both the interior and exterior have been sanded, primed, and are ready for your imagination!

SPONSORED CHARITIES AT MMG MEETINGS

Do you have a favorite charity you would like to sponsor at Guild meetings? Contact Jane Sanem for details - janeannsanem@gmail.com or 612-822-3738.

Member News (Continued from page 8)

MARY WALLACE UPDATE

Earlier, we notified Guild members about the medical issues that Mary Wallace has been experiencing. We want to update members. Mary is still in the Mayo Clinic, and her team of doctors is working on getting Mary back with us soon. Mary has been diagnosed with Merkel Cell Carcinoma. She has a small group of friends that have been visiting her, and of course, her family is there every day. The family asks that all communications go through her "Caring Bridge" site. Updates are posted every day or so and will keep us all informed. The thoughtful messages that friends and family have left on the website are being read to Mary every day. She draws great strength from them.

This link will take you to Mary's Caring Bridge site - http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/marywallace

Jane Sanem and Carol Blanchfield are sharing Mary Wallace's Treasurer's duties. (Yes, it takes two of us to fill in for Mary Wallace.) Please mail all newsletter forms to Carol Blanchfield. Jane and Carol will be at the registration desk at the February meeting. Be patient with us, we're new to these duties.

Please keep Mary in your thoughts and prayers.

Member News (Continued from page 10)

GUILD CHARTER MEMBERS AT THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY

Joanne Baier, our Guild Historian, took this picture of the Guild charter members at the 30th Anniversary meeting.



From the left: Carol Gorder, Jo McCracken, Barb Warner, Arla Johnson, Mary Brinkman, Lynn Snyder, and Vera Sullivan

Bits and Pieces (Continued from page 4)

CONTEST AT LITTLE ENCHANTMENTS

Little Enchantments held their first Christmas display contest. Customers and MMG members were invited to display their work. Six displays were submitted. Customers were asked to vote on their favorite. Winners received Little Enchantment gift cards: 1st (Olivia Gallagher - \$100), 2nd (Carol Blanchfield - \$75) and 3rd (Jane Sanem - \$50).



Member News (Continued from page 11)

IN MEMORIAM

JEAN OCKEN

Jean Ocken, a charter Guild member, passed away on November 17, 2014. Jean was a very kind and generous woman who truly was a renaissance woman! She was General Mills' Betty Crocker for many years. A lifelong artist, Jean was well known for her calligraphy. Her passion later in life became dollhouses and miniatures and her collection was always open at her Golden Valley home for the "short" tour --or the three-hour tour. Jean took on the responsibility of the registration table at every Guild meeting for many, many years. I remember Jean as so welcoming to new members. Jean's miniature group was the Daisy Do-Littles. I'm proud to say that I am one of Jean's Daisies.

Jane Sanem – Vice President

FERNE SIMPSON

Ferne Simpson, a long-time member of the Guild, passed away Wednesday, November 26. She had medical problems for a year but was back doing miniatures and enjoying her new apartment. She had been in the hospital a few days and was planning on being home for Thanksgiving when she had a heart attack. She was a wonderful painter before getting into miniatures where she used her talents making quarter scale houses. She will be missed.

Lois MacKinnon

Bits and Pieces (Continued from page 11)

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS WELCOME!

This fall, Cheryl Korn applied for and received a MMG Scholarship to take a class at Molly Cromwell's Sarasota Festival, January, 2015. Within a year of taking the workshop, Cheryl will teach a class at Guild that will highlight the skills that she learned.

If you would like to take a workshop at a miniature event, e.g., Tom Bishop, Three Blind Mice, Philadelphia Miniatura, we encourage you to apply for a scholarship. You only need to submit the application, found on the MMG website (<u>http://midwestminiatureGuild.org</u>) at least 60 days before the workshop commences. Financial need is not a consideration, but your experience, past MMG activity, and your desire to teach and share your knowledge to our members are considered. Instructions are on the application form. Applications should be sent to Rebecca Bryden, chair, at <u>rbryden@comcast.net</u> (preferred) or sent by US Mail.

SEEKING OWNERS

We gave away and sold many items at our October meeting. Unfortunately, some small parts got misplaced and did not go to the new owners.

- To the person who got the "Pets on Parade" room box: I have all the small parts for this project. All that you received was the basic box.
- Whoever bought the man figure bathing in the half barrel: one of the barrel rings was found on the registration table.
- To the winner of the charity raffle who chose the Chrysnbon stove: There is also a bag of accessories.

All of these items will be brought to the February meeting. Please see Carol Blanchfield to get your missing parts.

WORKSHOPS

From the Workshop Coordinator:

Many thanks to Pam Rouleau, Ruth Hynes, Jan Rasmussen, Jane Sanem, Barbara Nygaard and Mary Wallace for the wonderful October workshops and roundtables!

I hope that you'll find a February Guild meeting workshop to your liking. Please do consider teaching a workshop at a future meeting. If you have an idea for a workshop that you would like to teach or would like to take, let's talk.

All the best,

Mary Breslin, Workshop Coordinator <u>marybreslin@earthlink.net</u> 612 309 5371



MORNING WORKSHOPS

SKIRTED TABLECLOTH

Make a skirted tablecloth from d. anne Ruff's instructions for the setting of your choice. The instructor will provide most materials. You supply the main fabric, so pick out a fabric you love.

Instructor: Lois Erickson Scale: One inch Skill Level: All Tools/Supplies: Fabric scissors, 8 inch square of 100% cotton fabric (print or plain) preferably from a quilt shop Cost: \$10.00 Class Limit: 11 Extra Kits: No



Mini Easter Workshop

In this mini workshop, participants will decorate a pre-made Easter egg cake with flowers and three bunnies covered with foil or chocolate. An assortment of things will be provided to spark your decorating imagination. The result will make a nice addition to an Easter scene.

Instructor: Irma Escue Scale: One inch Skill Level: All Tools/Supplies: Small sharp scissors, pin-point glue applicator filled with Tacky glue, small paint brush. Cost: \$5 Class Limit: None Extra Kits: Yes

MORNING WORKSHOPS (Continued)



Vintage Double Coffee Urns

Whether you build a diner or a simple coffee stand, make it authentic with vintage double coffee urns! You'll learn how to construct these urns with everyday items—wood, clasps, copper tubing, spare parts, and more. Urn spigot, copper pipes, valve handles included. Urns will be placed on a small platform. Display them as a pair or individually. Height without the platform is 2 3/8". Bring a secure container to take them home in.

Instructor: Rebecca Bryden Scale: One inch Skill Level: All

Tools/Supplies: Bring basic tool box including: Two Tweezers (one with fine tip), small needle-nosed pliers, wire cutter, K&S tubing cutter (if you have one), Dremel minimite cordless drill with 1/6" drill bit (if you have one), small scissors, super glue, tacky glue, (Weldbond recommended), small stainless-tip glue bottle helpful, sanding sticks – fine & medium, small paint brushes, metallic paint – silver, copper, gold; acrylic- black & light brown. I will have glue & paint for sharing, but you might want to bring your own for efficiency and preferences. I will also have Dremel drill & K&S tube cutter **Cost:** \$40 **Class Limit:** 10 (minimum 5) **Extra Kits:** Yes, if class doesn't fill

AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS



Japanning a Coffee Table

Learn a miniature-friendly version of the japanning technique. We'll start with an unfinished coffee table with the top stained a red wood tone. Then we'll follow a multistep process to create the gold japanned images. On your own outside the Guild meeting, you can finish the remainder of the table in the same red-toned wood finish or in whatever way you like.

Instructor: Mary Breslin Scale: One inch Skill Level: Intermediate-advanced Tools/Supplies: Two fine paintbrushes (size 0000 or smaller) Cost: \$5 Class Limit: 12



FORSYTHIA

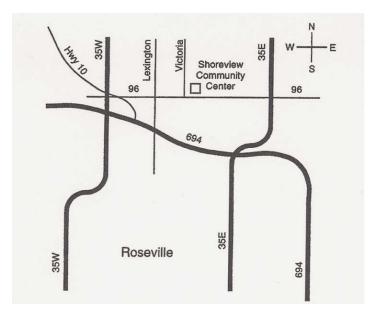
Get in the mood for spring by making this very easy and fast floral arrangement. Make this at the meeting or take a kit home to make later.

Instructor: Jan Rasmussen Scale: One inch Skill Level: All Tools/Supplies: Wire cutter, tacky glue, stylus Cost: \$5.00 Class Limit: 20

February 7, 2015

Guild Meeting and Workshops

Shoreview Community Center 4580 Victoria Street North Shoreview, MN 55126 651-490-4701



Directions to the Shoreview Community Center

From Minneapolis – Take 35W north to Hwy 96 (1_{st} exit past 694) take a right on Hwy 96 – go approximately 2 miles to Victoria St. Turn left onto Victoria and go $\frac{1}{2}$ block and turn right into our parking lot.

From St. Paul – 35E north to 694 west to the Lexington Ave. exit, turn right onto Lexington Ave. Go approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles to Hwy 96 (stop light) turn right onto Hwy 96 go $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to Victoria St. turn left, and go $\frac{1}{2}$ block and turn right into our parking.

From NE (Forest Lake, Hugo) – 35E south to Hwy 96, take a right and go approximately 4 miles, you will go past our building and take a right on Victoria to get to our parking lot.

From NW (Anoka, Blaine, Coon Rapids) – Hwy 10 south to Hwy 96, turn left on Hwy 96 and go approximately 1¹/₂ miles to Victoria St. turn left on Victoria, go ¹/₂ block and turn right into our parking lot.

From East (Woodbury, Oakdale, Eastern Wisconsin) – 694 west to Lexington Ave. turn right on Lexington Ave. go approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles to Hwy 96 and take a right, go $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to Victoria and turn left, go $\frac{1}{2}$ block and turn right into our parking lot.

From West (New Brighton, Fridley, Brooklyn Park) – 694 east to Lexington Ave. turn left on Lexington, go approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles to Hwy 96 and turn right, go $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to Victoria St. and take a left, go $\frac{1}{2}$ block and turn right into our parking lot.