

COLLECTOR'S COURIER

THE HEART OF THE HOLIDAYS

Have you ever noticed how folks tend to gather in the kitchen during the holidays? No matter how splendidly the other rooms are decorated, there's something irresistible about the kitchen.

Perhaps it's the smell of fresh cinnamon and spiced cider. Or, it could be the anticipation of tasting a gingerbread cookie still warm from the oven.

But besides being a place to find good things to eat, the kitchen is really the heart of a home—a place where fellowship and fun happen naturally.

That's why, when my friends at the Keepsake Ornament Collector's Club were planning this year's EXPO, they decided to invite you to the cheeriest place they could imagine—my kitchen. They even featured me busily baking (with the help of some hardworking elves) in this year's Keepsake Signature Collection piece. In fact, an illustration of that scene appears on the limited edition print given to Club members who registered early for EXPO. The print is limited to an edition of 15,000.

The preparations for EXPO have often



Mrs. Claus and National Club Manager Lynn Wylie share a lighthearted moment during EXPO preparations.

reminded me of the activity that goes on in my kitchen each Christmas Eve. For me—and for all the folks who bring you EXPO—it's definitely a labor of love. I just know you'll find the results are quite delicious!

Just one reminder: As you make your way through all the special treats awaiting you in the magical world of EXPO, don't forget to savor the sweetest one of all—the warmth of friendship.

Yours truly,

Mrs. Claus

Mrs. Claus

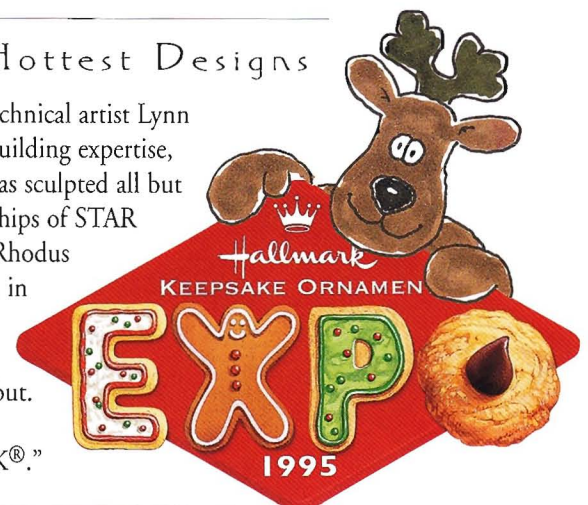
EXPO 1995

Cincinnati August 26	Houston September 30
Minneapolis September 9	Tulsa October 7
New York Metro September 16	Atlanta October 14
San Diego September 23	Seattle November 4



Serving Up the Galaxy's Hottest Designs

What's the recipe for a Starship? Hallmark technical artist Lynn Norton mixes over 29 years of engraving and model-building expertise, adds his love for STAR TREK® and stirs well! Lynn has sculpted all but one of the Keepsake Magic Ornaments featuring the ships of STAR TREK® since 1991 (Keepsake Ornament artist Dill Rhodus sculpted the 1992 "Shuttlecraft Galileo™"). This year, in addition to Lynn's "Romulan Warbird™," "Captain Jean-Luc Picard" and "Captain James T. Kirk"—both sculpted by Anita Marra Rogers—make their debut. To top things off, a set of three Keepsake Miniature Ornaments pays tribute to "The Ships of STAR TREK®."



AN EXPO COURIER EXCLUSIVE!

MEET THE NEWEST KEEPSAKE ORNAMENT STUDIO ARTISTS



Keepsake Ornament artist John "Collin" Francis played an important role in **Nina Aube's** decision to pursue a sculpting career. "I sat next to him during my early days at Hallmark," she explains. "Watching him inspired me to sculpt."

A native of Chicago, Illinois, Nina received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in design from the Kansas City Art Institute in 1981. Soon after, she joined Hallmark. In 1987, she began working as a freelance artist, sculpting many of the Merry Miniatures™ figurines. She joined the Keepsake Ornament studio last November. "I enjoy giving each character I create its own personality," Nina says. "Working at Keepsakes gives me the perfect opportunity to do that!"



Katrina Bricker came to Hallmark in 1994 after receiving her Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Columbus College of Art and Design in Columbus, Ohio, in 1993. Her dream of being a Keepsake Ornament artist came true this past February. "I came to Hallmark with Keepsake Ornaments in mind," she says. "Now I can really dive into my sculpting!"

Growing up in Erie, Pennsylvania, Katrina loved watching her grandmother bake pies. "She made 'whirligigs' for me by spreading cinnamon, butter and brown sugar over the leftover dough, rolling it up and baking it," Katrina explains. "She still makes them whenever I'm home."



Sue Tague grew up in Lynbrook, Long Island, New York, and graduated from Syracuse University with a major in illustration. Although she came to Hallmark to "get one year's experience," she ended up staying for more than 31 years. Sue has worked in "almost every area" of Hallmark, joining the Keepsake Ornament studio earlier this year.

Sue created many of the early Keepsake Ornament designs including the 1973 "Elves" ornament. She also began the Thimble and Bellringers Collector's Series. Of her work on Keepsake Ornaments, Sue says she most enjoys bringing "...dimensional, fanciful characters to life."

A Christmas Memory From Clara

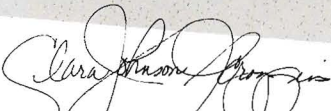
One of my favorite Christmas memories is from the mid-1930s when I was still the baby of the Johnson household. Times were tough as a result of the recent Depression. In fact, when my brothers, Charles and Hughey junior, went to the edge of town to cut our Christmas tree, they found none left in an appropriate size because men had cut and sold them to supplement their family incomes.

So, instead, my brothers brought back a four-foot holly tree filled with beautiful red berries. After being trimmed to a perfect shape, the tree was placed in a tin bucket wrapped in cotton batting left over from my mother's quilting.

I was too young to contribute to the preparations, but I watched with delight as my mother and oldest sister, Precious, made popcorn balls while Charles, Hughey junior, and my sister Freddye made star-shaped decorations with macaroni, cardboard, flour paste and glitter. My mother got out the old box containing our angel tree-topper, icicles and angel hair.

When the decorating was complete, the tree stood beautifully in its place of honor—the front window—for all of Lake Village, Arkansas, to admire.




Clara Johnson Scroggins

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