

# CRICHE HERALD



The Newsletter of Friends of the Creche

Vol. 25 No. 3 Fall, 2021



## FROM THE EDITOR:

I hope to see many of you in Portland Oregon very shortly. In this issue we are bidding a not so fond farewell to the Covid Virus which has forced us and many other groups to cancel so many events last year. In 2020 and 2021, we also celebrated the 25th anniversary of this publication and so we have a look back at how it all started by our former editor and contributor, Rita Bocher. This issue we are highlighting the creches of Germany and Louise Polsky is our meet a member. Please don't forget to vote the enclosed ballot for our board members by snail or email. (MW)

On the cover is a creche from Portugal the very first nativity set obtained by our Meet a Member, Louise Polsky. Below one Louise knitted herself and one from Poland.



**Membership in Friends of the Creche Includes subscription to the *Creche Herald* Published four times yearly. To become a member, please send check payable to Friends of the Creche \$35.00 for USA addresses or \$40.00 in US dollars ( outside the USA) to: FOTC membership/Marilynn Gillespie 7564 S. 2020 E. South Weber, UT 84405-9641 Be sure to include name, address, and telephone number and email address**

## Thoughts from a founding member:

The creche was always central in celebrating Christmas in our family. Aunt Rose always took great care in setting up her "Bethlehem," "under her tree. Her "Bethlehem" creche was common before WWII. It was imported from Germany. The figures were detailed and all the animals had matched stick legs. In contrast, our post war creche figures were made of plaster and spray-painted.

When Aunt Rose died, my brother, Ray asked me what I wanted to remember her. My response was immediate, her Bethlehem. Ray retrieved her creche from the basement without the three kings.

My quest for replacement evolved into collecting the pre WWII compound made creche figures. During my years of collecting, I found that the compound made figures had been made in Luxembourg, Japan and France. My sister-in-law, Delores (Speed) wrote Rita Bocher to order a gift subscription to the *Creche Herald* as a Christmas gift. Speed's request included sharing my interest in creche collecting. I received the newsletter and a call from Rita, asking "would I be interesting in attending a meeting of collectors to form a national creche society." Many European countries had national organizations but the USA did not. I am a member of the Poor of St. Francis brotherhood which was founded in 1857. The founding members committed themselves to serve Christ by serving the poor on Christmas eve before the creche in a small chapel in Aachen, Germany. The renewal of the commitment before the creche each Christmas eve continues even today.

Before I accepted, I asked where the meeting will be? I live in Hoboken, NJ. Rita responded: Bethlehem, PA.

All those in attendance for the initial meeting under Rita's leadership agreed to form a board to begin the incorporation of a national organization, Friends of the Creche.

FOTC grew quickly in membership provided regional meetings and lasting friendships.

My involvement ended when downsizing and donated my collection to the Glen Cairn Museum in Bryn Athyn, PA several years ago. (Nativity window at the Glen Cairn above.)

By the way, Aunt Rose's Bethlehem each year during the museum's nativity display under the Christmas tree decorated with antique ornaments.

Brother Bob Reinke, C.F.P.



## **Creche Herald to Friends of the Creche**

By Rita Bonaccorsi Bocher

In 1995, I was the Market Research Manager at the Franklin Mint in Pennsylvania. FM was known for the desirable collectibles and they had just produced a very beautiful Nativity set in the Italian Renaissance style. I was asked to look into the possibility of initiating a series of other nativities. In doing so, I found an organization called the Golden Glow of Christmas Past and a copy of the Golden Glow's newsletter. Coincidentally, at the time, I also was looking for a short term hobby and a newsletter seemed like a very do-able hobby-like thing.

But what would the newsletter be about?

One of my colleagues, Michele, was engaged in a project to categorize all the FM's products. She had pasted up pictures of everything FM had produced on her wall. In dead center of the paste ups were two nativities. The happy subject was decided, a Nativity newsletter.

Now to get serious. I came up with a business plan. My goal ultimately was to get 100 subscribers. We needed a name for the newsletter. I came up with a batch, but Michele had the winning name: *Creche Herald*—inspired by Hark, the Herald Angels sing... Then she lost interest.

I created the masthead which essentially was a simple line drawing. My neighbor had a small print shop and he gave me a reasonable price. The newsletter was black and white. A few issues in, one of my subscribers, Michael Stumpf, created a nicer version of the logo, that inspired another of my readers to create a sterling silver pendant of the logo which became a huge attraction. Another logo was developed later by my graphic artist at the time, James Brack.

Higher up staff at FM turned out to be very supportive of *Creche Herald*, even supplying me with address lists, which I used along with church lists. And of course, I offered a discount to early subscribers: The regular price was \$12 for four issues, but early birds paid only \$9.50.

In those early days, looking for material, I sometimes included ads from FM's nativity makers who were happy to get free advertising even from a publication with a limited circulation. I tried to find writers willing to write for free. That's where family came into play. My most interested and interesting writer turned out to be my sister, Mary Herzel. Mary traveled a lot, and made it a point to find a nativity maker wherever she went, or if not a craftsman, then an interesting set.

One of my earliest subscribers was Father Johann Roten. I had seen an interview of Father Roten, in the *Saint Anthony Messenger*, a Catholic publication to which my family subscribed. I couldn't believe what I was reading. This priest had *thousands* of nativities. He certainly seemed like a possible subscriber. I wrote to him, and while I can't remember,

I think I included a copy of the publication. My biggest surprise was receiving back a check from Father Roten.

By 1998, just a year into publication of *Creche Herald*, Father Roten already was asking about forming a creche society. I am afraid I was less than enthusiastic, but Father Roten gently persisted.

Somewhere along the line, I heard about a creche convention in Pamplona, Spain. Not only did that sound interesting, but it was a chance—hopefully-- to get more subscribers.

And so it was, that on the front page of the Fall 1999 *Creche Herald*, there was an update notice about the Pamplona convention as well as a notice about an exploratory creche society meeting to take place December 4 in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. The latter location came in a moment of inspiration. I contacted the Central Moravian Church there and happily connected with someone called Fred Cole who turned out to be a wonderful support in meeting plans. But who would show up?

On December 4, imagine my surprise: We had fifteen people from six states. Our sign-in sheet for that meeting showed: M. Jay Bullock (Columbia, MD); Frederick Cole (Bethlehem, PA); Mary & Frank Herzel (Harrisburg, PA); Julie & Dave Colflesh (Folsom, PA); Roy Ledbetter (St. Louis, MO); Mike Whalen (Clinton Twp, MI); Carol Reifinger (Bethlehem, PA); Karl Fluck (Bethlehem, PA); Brother Bob Reinke (Hoboken, NJ); Fr. Johann Roten, Dayton, OH); Marjorie Yefchak (Dayton, OH); Rita & Bud Bocher (Wynnewood, PA).

A creche society was inevitable. I had to admit Father Roten was right.

The agenda for the Bethlehem meeting was straightforward. I opened the meeting as host; Rev. Reifinger of the Moravian Church said a prayer and Rev. Roy Ledbetter was selected as temporary chair. We had a tour of Central Moravian's elaborate Putz and then settled into a meeting.

The business included a discussion as to whether we should organize a society, what the purpose was and what would be the benefits; what the organization should look like. The name was decided to be Friends of the Creche and the *Creche Herald* was decided to be the official publication. James Govan (Arlington, VA) who was not present because of the terminal illness of his wife, was selected as President of the new organization.

The first official meeting as Friends of the Creche took place at the University of Dayton in August 2000 with Father Roten as host. That same year in October, about a dozen of us attended the International convention in Pamplona. Pamplona showed us what a creche convention could be like. In 2001, I chaired our first convention. It was in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

## Christmas groups and Corona

By Jan van Hulst (Krimpen aan den IJssel)

In the Netherlands

The pandemic has gripped the world. The coronavirus has disrupted social life and all hope is now placed on the vaccination program to combat the virus.

For us, as collectors in the Netherlands, this meant that in 2020 meetings of our association could not take place and exhibitions were canceled or had to be ended prematurely.



At the beginning of November an article appeared in the newspaper stating that the nativity scene builders in the stalls on Via San Gregorio Armeno in Naples (Italy) had already provided the figures in the nativity scene with masks. Humor did ease the seriousness of the situation, although I was also amazed by people's creativity. For example, on the internet I came across this Christmas group that was made up entirely of face masks.

Naturally, commerce also came into play. Because wearing masks became mandatory, commerce saw a gap in the market. Face masks appeared with images of the birth story printed on them. They were available in various sizes and even equipped with interchangeable filters.

A downside was that the demand for Christmas groups was significantly less due to corona. People in the poor wage market such as Mexico and El Salvador saw their source of income disappear. Fairtrade organizations rightly drew attention to the problems of these small entrepreneurs, who had financial difficulties to make ends meet.

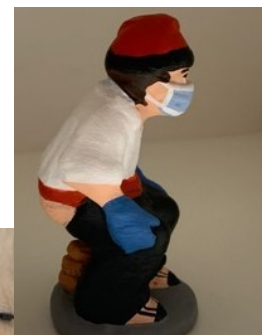
Others saw their chance and took advantage of the situation. For example, the famous "pooper" from Barcelona (the caganer) appeared, completely in a different version and now equipped with a mask and gloves.

I also encountered ceramic groups whose holy fam-

ily was equipped with masks, situated in the middle of skyscrapers and the Statue of Liberty in New York. It could hardly be more symbolic and also in a group from Malta the mouths of Jesus, Mary and Joseph are covered. The groups are made by Peruvians, whom I would call the "Chinese of the West".

In addition, Christmas cards appeared on the market that responded to the virus. For example, I came across a Christmas card from Australia (design@ilovejaddan) that left nothing to be desired in terms of clarity. The map depicted the stable of Bethlehem where the manger was visited by the three kings, who carried disinfectants instead of gold, myrrh, and frankincense. In the manger, unfortunately, no Jesus child but an image of the coronavirus.

Let's hope together that soon everything will be back to normal and that we can visit each other's exhibitions again and reflect on the miracle of the birth of the Christ child.



## The Nativities of Germany

By Rita Bonaccorsi Bocher

No one nativity style typifies the whole of Germany

One can start with the charming innocence of the figures painted by Berta Hummel, a Franciscan sister. Born in Massing, in Lower Bavaria, Hummel early had shown her talent for painting. After she became a member of the Franciscan congregation, her art soon attracted the notice of Franz Goebel, a manufacturer. He was given sole rights to create porcelain figures based on her work. During her lifetime, Hummel closely oversaw the manufacture of the figures, later overseen by a committee of the Congregation. Hitler was no fan and denounced the pictures of the children as having “hydrocephalic heads.” Always frail, Hummel suffered from hardships during World War II, and died from tuberculosis in 1946 at the age of 37. The figures became popular in the United States when American soldiers brought them home after the war. In 2008, Goebel Germany ceased production of the figures.

An important region for nativities is the beautiful mountain area known as Erzgebirge, or Ore Mountains in the eastern part of the country in Saxony. The Ore Mountains form a border with the Czech Republic. Mining was known in the area from the 12<sup>th</sup> century; metals extracted included silver, lead, copper, tin, and uranium in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In 2019, the area was declared a UNESCO World Heritage site. However, over the centuries, the mining industry has waxed and waned. When mining declined, residents switched to other industries, often wood products, toys, pyramids and nativities. Erzgebirge nativity figures are known for their simple but graceful rounded form; their pyramids frequently are copied.

The largest state in Germany is Bavaria which is about one-fifth the size of the entire country; it is one of sixteen federated states. Its varied landscape includes the Bavarian Alps and extensive forests which provide the wood associated with the beautiful wood carved German figures. Ideally, the figures are carved from a special pine--Arolla pine. This desirable wood also grows nearby in the Swiss Alps and the Carpathian Mountains of central Europe. Sometimes, however, other types of pine also are used.

It is not unusual for craftsmen to carve their own nativity figures. These figures, although sometimes simple, have an innate dignity. They are hand painted. In the

pages following are some of the wood carved figures gathered for this article by Johann Dendorfer, formerly president of UN FOE PRAE, the international creche society centered in Europe. Dendorfer lives in Furth im Wald in southern Bavaria. While in Spanish nativities the landscape and surrounding diorama play an important role in setting the stage for the presentation of the scene, in German nativities, the figures often stand alone without a landscape.

A great center for wood carved figures is Oberammergau. These carvers call themselves *Herrgottschnitzer* (God carvers) as they mainly carve saints. Oberammergau also is famous for its Passion Play. In the mid 17<sup>th</sup> century, Germany, like most of Europe, was wracked by the Bubonic plague, a pestilence carried by fleas, mostly on rodents. By about 1633, nearly every family had experienced a death from the plague. In response to the tragedy, families in Oberammergau vowed to perform a play depicting the Passion of Jesus-- the suffering and death of Christ-- if there would be no more deaths from the plague. The first play was performed at the cemetery over the graves of those who had succumbed to the pestilence. Since that time, the play has been performed every ten years, except for 2020 when it was postponed for two years because of the pandemic. It is expected to be performed in 2022. While there are Passion Plays in many places, even in the United States, probably, the most famous is the one at Oberammergau.

I had the pleasure of attending the Oberammergau Passion Play in 2010. Needless to say, the town was crowded; the shops were crowded; the play was crowded. But it was great fun. The quantity and variety of beautiful nativities was astounding. One often could see the carvers at their work. And the town itself is so charming as are many of the villages in Bavaria: facades of most houses are beautifully painted, often with extensive religious scenes. Brightly painted window boxes overflowing with colorful flowers are everywhere. It is a trip worth thinking about.

In addition to the full blown nativity set, at times, the Infant Jesus is shown by himself in a crib or decorative setting. This is the *Fatschenkind*--usually associated with women's convents. Known from about the Middle Ages, figures of the Infant Jesus were given to novices. Preciously dressed and decorated, the figures were to inspire personal piety. Traditionally the figures were made in Bavaria, Austria, and Switzerland. These figures are now known as “convent works.” In the 1980s and 1990s, convent works enjoyed a renewed temporary popularity as a hobby among women's groups.

German nativities highlight the beauty of their forests, the talent of their carvers, and their ingenuity.



**GERMAN NATIVITY SCENES**

Reinhold Schmitz (D)



With many thanks to Johan Dendorfer, former president of Un Foe Prae, for use of his pics on the red stripe of the German flag.



## Meet a Member:

### Louise Polsky

By Marguerite Hoxie Sullivan

“A lot of the fun is the searching” says Louise Polsky, describing her passion for collecting creches.

And search she and her late husband did: more than 500 nativities over several decades. Folk art was their focus. “We collected folk art nativities because we liked them,” she admits.

Louise’s interest in nativities started when she was growing up in Monterey, CA. “I grew up in a Portuguese Catholic home. We had a simple nativity from Woolworth’s at Christmas time and sometimes viewed Maderian Portuguese ‘lapinhas’ in other homes.”

With lapinhas, she says, anything goes. They “are composed of a nativity in a cave setting with figurines, toys, fresh fruits, lights, tchotchkes and sprouted grains.”

In 1965, Louise married Alan Polsky, who was Jewish. Initially, she says, they celebrated Christmas “with a tree topped with a star of David. We didn’t have a nativity.”

That changed in 1973 when a friend mentioned seeing a Portuguese nativity in a shop an hour-and-a-half from their home in Rancho Palos Verdes. Louise and Alan traveled there and accrued their first nativity. (See front cover)

Alan didn’t just go along with Louise’s interest in creches, he got very involved. “I was amazed at my husband’s interest in this collection,” Louise says. “Ultimately, he took over (the collection’s) care and started a catalog of our sets. He was very particular about the placement of the sets in our display, and their wrapping and storage.”

The Polsky’s joint collecting continued until Alan’s death in 1995.

Louise was the expert creche searcher. Once when the Polskys were in the Phoenix Airport, they saw a resin nativity set done by a New Mexico artist.

“Thinking that such a set would cost a lot more in an airport than from the artist directly, I went to a pay phone and called New Mexico information,” Louise recalls. “There was one phone book for the state! I asked if they had a number for (the artist) Paula Dimit. I called her and asked

if I could buy one from her directly.”

Dimit said yes, but it had to be different from the airport set, because of her contract with the company, which had made it. Louise agreed, and result was unique. “The three kings are offering panned gold, a saddle, and a ristra, an arrangement of drying chile pepper pods, common in New Mexico,” she says. (Below)



Louise commissioned other nativities by going directly to the artisan. When she attended an exhibit of Kentucky artists at a craft museum in Los Angeles, one piece caught her attention. She contacted the Kentucky Arts Council and asked for the contact information for the artist Donnie Brown. He said he could make her a creche in his own unique manner: with his pocket knife! This self-taught wood carver from the mountains of Eastern Kentucky whittled a unique nativity from natural materials he gathered from the woods. (Below)



In a letter to Louise describing the nativity, Brown wrote: “The figures are carved from Lindon tree. The shed is built out of buckeye. The donkeys’ bridle and the platted rope (are) made out of white oak and black walnut; the candle is bass wood; and the flame is cedar. The straw inside the shed is white oak shavings. The base of the scene is made out of black pine that came out of an old hued log cabin that belonged to a neighbor of mine, and according to what he told me his great, great grandfather came over from Germany and built the cabin in 1847.”



In the gift shop of Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, she and Alan saw a stack of Navajo rugs. “The one on top looked like a woman was making a tortilla,” Louise says. “We opened it, and to our amazement, it was a nativity. The tortilla was Jesus’ halo and Mary was tending to him.” They bought it.

The last creche she and Alan collected was out of carved glass. Again, she commissioned the artist, whose glass work she had found in a Carmel shop. “I asked the shopkeeper if the artist might have a nativity. ‘No, but she’s Heather from Heather Glass across the bay in Soquel.’ the store manager said. ‘Go ask her. We did and commissioned a beautiful piece, our last purchase together.’” (Below)



Looking back, Louise says her “nativities represent years of the hunt for the remembrances of places I’ve been and people I’ve known. Some are gifts.” Others were suggested to her by fellow travelers. “On trips, I usually let it be known what I collect,” she says, “And other tour members (would) let me know if they’ve seen some.”

While in a terminal in Brazil, a fellow traveler told her she had seen interesting nativities in the airport gift shop. Louise rushed over and bought two.

Over the years, Louise showed some of her nativities in her home, with other collectors in a specialty shop, at a local church, and at the Mary and Joseph Retreat Center in Rancho Palo Verdes.

Now she has about ten out in her house year-round. The remainder are stored.

Louise’s latest creche acquisition is less than two years old. It is a wood nativity built by her cousin’s wood-working husband.

Creches, however, are not her only passion. “I’m a collector,” Louise admits. “Usually when you collect one thing, you collect another.”

One of those “other things” are earrings of hands. She has at least a hundred. As a child she also collected old coins. As an adult, she collected “first day covers, when the stamp comes out.” And she quips, “I also collect dead relatives. I’m a genealogist.”

Her husband Alan was a collector, too. His passion: labels pasted at the end of wooden citrus crates that listed the grades of fruit.

Louise thanks the FOTC for having helped her make “some interesting trips to parts of our country with friends who understand this addiction of mine. This, along with the couple of other collections I have, add interest to my life. There’s no need to be bored.”



Alexander Girard



Oaxacan

Louisiana



New Mexico

**With thanks to Victoria Villarreal  
for her photography.**

## PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Dear Friends,

I trust that this finds you well and enjoying the start of a wonderful fall.

### Portland 2021

I write this in August as the board members of the Friends of the Creche are still following all the health concerns of the nation. As I said in the email blast to members earlier this month (see below if you didn't get the notice), we are moving ahead with plans for our 2021 Convention in Portland November 4-7. Please be assured that if the city of Portland or state of Oregon mandates that we can't hold the convention, we will notify everyone as soon as possible and your money would be refunded.

The Portland Convention committee has been vigilant and responsive planning all aspects of this event. They have been working through more challenges than most of our previous conventions/meetings have had. But they are doing it for us, the Friends of the Creche. They are keeping our organization moving forward. Thank you to the committee for all your work!

Always remember that we all share a passion for the Nativity. The impact of the birth of Jesus has brought us together as Nativity enthusiasts. The value of our Friends of the Creche community is immeasurable. The pandemic has not diminished our value, it has only strengthened our resolve to promote our core values. When we are able to meet together in person or virtually, by email or by our *Creche Herald*, we celebrate our community.

### Email Information

Periodically I send out an email blast to the members of the Friends of the Creche. My email addresses are based on your membership form. If you have not received an email from me, it means I either don't have your email address at all, or I might have an old email or an incorrect email that bounced back to me.

If you would like to receive the emails, please be sure to send me your current email address. Send it to me at: [Sjongbloed@maryjoseph.org](mailto:Sjongbloed@maryjoseph.org).

If you would like to receive the email by US Postal mail, please send me your current mailing address. Email me or send me a note to: 1312 W. 37<sup>th</sup> St., San Pedro, CA 90731.

### Elections

You will find the ballot for our current election in this issue of the *Creche Herald*. We value your taking the time to affirm the candidates on the form. You can either email your vote or mail it. Your vote shows your continued sup-

port of the work the board does for the Friends of the Creche. As Uncle Sam has always said.... we need you!

### Jesus is the Reason for the Season

The Christmas season is quickly coming and hopefully, many of us may be able to mount or attend local nativity exhibits. This issue of *Creche Herald* lists some of the exhibits that are being held throughout the country. I hope you might be able to enjoy one or two.

Whether you attend an exhibit or put your own Nativity up in your home, you will share in the joy of the season, a season of hope.

### The best to you.

You are your own best steward of yourself. Please take care of you. If you find that you are challenged by the pandemic, please make wise decisions for yourself, whether it be about your attendance at the FOTC convention or even going to your local grocery store. We want to see you. If it is this year, great. If we see you next year that is wonderful. Take care of yourself. Your continued health is important to you as well as those around you.

Till the next time,

Sydne Yanko-Jongbloed

President, Friends of the Creche

### **A Blast from the Past.**

Mary Jo Riegel with Frank and Mary Herzel at our first gathering in Lancaster in 2001.

Mary Jo with Rita Bocher "hawking" the *Creche Herald* on Cape Cod in 2003.



## Creche displays and events for 2021

(Call first for all events as there may be changes with the ongoing pandemic.)

### California

“Mixed company— Visitors to the Creche”. December 2 through December 21. Mary & Joseph Retreat Center,

Call for hours or to arrange a program.

310-377-4867 ext. 221.

5300 Crest Road, Rancho Palos Verdes CA 90274.

### Minnesota

The Nativity House (Helen Holder)

Dec. 1 to Jan 15, Call for apt. 507-433-2643  
606 Oakland Place NE Austin

### Ohio

Nativity of the Lord Jesus Catholic Church

Nativity museum and Bethlehem Cave

2425 Myersville Rd. Akron

[www.nativityofthelord.org](http://www.nativityofthelord.org) for more information

Dec 26-30, 2pm guided tour of museum and cave

### Pennsylvania

Harrisburg

Colonial Park United Church of Christ

5000 Devonshire Rd (717-545-3782)

Dec. 3, 1-7, Dec 4 10-7, Dec.5, 12-4

### Texas

Bethlehem in Denton County: gallery display of private collection of 3,700 nativities. Private tours available year round, by appointment only. Limit 8 per group. 940-231-4520, Judy Klein, Denton TX

### Utah

Anne Neville (Home tour by apt only)

2048 N 1250 E

North Logan, UT 84341

[Aneville77@gmail.com](mailto:Aneville77@gmail.com)

435-770-5713

### Wisconsin

Holy Cross Lutheran Church ELCA

W156, N8131 Pilgrim Rd

Menomonee Falls (262-251-2740)

[holycrosslutheran.org](http://holycrosslutheran.org)

Mon-Thurs 1-3pm, Sun 7:45-11:30 am

## Some Christmas Thoughts

By Bill Smith

Christmas is about miracles and Jesus. Looking at some of these miracles we find:

The miracle of birth, a healthy baby born to a young, exhausted mother who wrapped him in swaddling clothes to help shape his body as a proud father looked on.

Virgin, another miracle. Mary had not been with a man but was carrying the son of God.

Joseph believes in miracles and the angel of the Lord that came to him explained that Mary loved him and asked him to be Jesus' early father.

Bethlehem a four day journey north from Nazareth for a very pregnant woman riding a donkey only because the order for all to be counted in a census.

The shepherds' miracle. The angels saying, “We bring you good tidings of great joy, for today in the city of David a Savior is born for all people.” They listened and went to the stable and found the infant lying there as promised. God showing not great wealth but poverty. God showing for all people his humility.

The miracle of the star that leads all to the Savior, both fully human and fully Divine, sent to earth for all to know.

(Bill Smith is a retired board member and our official carol song leader.)



Some modern day shepherds come in search of the child Jesus.

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Rita Bocher, Editor Emeritus  
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## 2021 Convention in Portland Oregon is a GO!

If you are still undecided about attending with all that has been going on, let us give you a few reasons why you should.

- ★ We have a great program planned. Dr. Johanna Junker (The future of Nativity art), Sue Balotti (Walking the Labyrinth through the Nativity, Steven Overton (Puppets of the world, and Patti Rokus (Rocks tell a story) and many more.
  - ★ Celebrating with FRIENDS of the Creche –there is nothing like a FOTC convention. Catch up with old friends, make some new ones.
  - ★ Purchasing rare and unique nativities! We have 200 for silent auction and some unusual vendors.
  - ★ Carol sing along and banner presentation with Cindy and Alan Mair, **THEY ARE GREAT**
  - ★ See Holly Zenger’s amazing Polish collection
  - ★ Be the first to see the amazing news about our next meeting places (all will be revealed at the Portland convention)
  - ★ Receive a really, REALLY, cool ornament to add to your FOTC collection. This year we feature an egg ornament by Dan Stevens from Newburg, Oregon who created one for Bill Clinton’s Whitehouse.
  - ★ Find answers to your questions about nativities, our group is very knowledgeable
  - ★ Find out ways you can assist this great volunteer organization on our board or other committees etc..
- Many other fun things to do in the Portland area, call me for suggestions.
- See you soon, Neil.



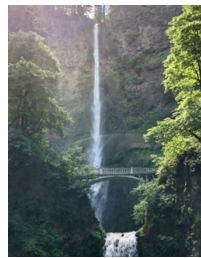
Pre convention day (Nov 4) on the Oregon coast in Lincoln City will include bus, lunch, shopping and a visit to the Christmas cottage. (Separate fee)

Stay an extra day and visit

Oregon’s Number one attraction:

Multnomah Falls

On your own.



Cindy & Alan Mair  
Will entertain us.



Auctions to bid on  
and  
Nativity collections  
to view

Go to our webpage: [friendsofthecreche.org](http://friendsofthecreche.org)

Watch the power point presentation with complete details about the convention program and download the registration form.