

General Meeting Guest Speaker

Tuesday, July 21, 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM



Born in Singapore, Helen Morris spent her childhood in various countries. She went to an English boarding school where she developed an inventive approach to art, drama and rule bending. She had decided that when she grew up she would either be a famous movie star or a famous fashion designer but that was because she had never owned a stencil set as a child. If she had,

it would not have taken twenty-eight years before Helen realized that she was going to be a stenciler. Her company, The Stencil Library, is twenty-one years old this fall. It was by happy accident that Helen was there at the birth. She had just finished appearing in her first movie, the role was tiny but it was a good start. Stencils were far from her mind.

Helen's husband was a graphic designer; he made and used stencils in his work. She made a chance discovery that the British public might be in need of his stencil designing skills and it set them both on a new adventure. Their first 250 stencils were designed by Chips, Helen's husband. She hand cut every one of them with a surgical scalpel. The completed collection was brought to the public's attention by some wonderful praise in *World of Interiors* and *Elle Decoration* magazine, the two UK decorating bibles of the time. The demand for their style of stencils was higher than they had anticipated. In addition, publishers wanted them to stencil room sets for their books and magazines, customers wanted their homes stenciled and television programs wanted Helen to demonstrate what could be done with this wonder tool. People wanted to take classes. Helen had to learn to stencil.

That was the beginning ...

Chips has now designed around four thousand stencils. Helen taught herself to stencil and has since shared her techniques with countless people through workshops, writing, lectures and television in both Europe and America. She is said to be a leading expert on her subject. The Stencil Library is now well respected worldwide, a tiny company with a big reputation.

Helen will be delighted to share more of her story with you at this year's convention.

Website: www.stencil-library.com

Blog: www.designinspiration.typepad.com

Philanthropic Mural Projects

WINGS CANCER FOUNDATION

Bring your brushes to the lobby of the convention center on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, to be a contributor to this year's philanthropic mural project. It is a wonderful way to volunteer, alone or with a friend, to form new friendships, to network and to have fun doing something worthwhile and lasting.

The mural project is not restricted to IDAL members. Exhibitors, guests and community members are invited to grab a paint brush and participate. Supplies and materials are all donated, so everyone has the opportunity to participate.

Our Philanthropic recipient this year is Wings Cancer Foundation. Wings was founded in 1996 to address the emotional and psychological needs of cancer patients and their families. The mission of Wings is "to provide hope, education, research and support at no charge, to anyone touched by cancer. Much more information about this deserving nonprofit organization can be found on their website at www.WingsCancerFoundation.org. The IDAL mural will be on permanent display in the waiting area, to uplift and encourage cancer patients and their families.

Congratulations, Pam Cobb! Pam submitted the winning design, "Flight Begins with One Feather." Cobb said her winning design "is my way of giving back" to the Wings Foundation. Both her mother-in-law, who died of cancer, and her husband, who survives, were treated at the Wings Clinic. The three-panel design, Cobb explained, "is about pulling your life together, one feather at a time."

To schedule volunteer times, please contact Lori Wilson, IDAL 2009 philanthropic chair. Lori may be contacted by email at: lwilson@goldenpaints.com. The schedule will be posted at the philanthropic painting area. Come prepared to participate!

