

My Dear Friends,

Thank you all for your love, patience and understanding. This has been a tumultuous activity; locating a venue that will cater to our needs, and be willing to do so for a smaller group. As a result we are a little late getting the Festival information out this year. I am so excited to announce the 22nd annual Universal Doll Society Festival will be held

SEPTEMBER 10-13, 2018 in..... BRANSON, MISSOURI!

There is an adventure awaiting everyone in Branson. From outdoor fun to amazing live entertainment, enjoy Bass fishing on Table Rock, scream with delight on thrill rides at Silver Dollar City, explore one of the museums! Race in go-karts! Play a round of golf, visit a local winery, fly over the Ozarks in a helicopter or soar on a zip line. Plan a tranquil day at a luxurious spa, enjoy live musical shows, catch up on retail therapy, Branson offers something for everyone!

Share in the Sisterhood of Universal Doll Society, with our Festival, Doll Competition, Workshops, Banquet and more! An exciting 3 days of surprises, food & fun. This year's theme:

-HALF DOLL RENDEZVOUS-

Enclosed you will find the registration form and a list of committee chairpersons. The workshop information will be sent to you after you send in your Registration form & payment. If you have already registered, you will be sent the workshop information in the order it was received. Please register early, we need your help to purchase the correct quantities of the many items needed, arrange for food, and gifts. Registrations paid by June 1, 2018 are \$250.00 (includes membership). Registrations paid by July 1st are \$275.00 after that date, registrations are \$300.00. If you would like to make installment payments, this is an option! Please contact our registrar; Patsy Meyer at Patsymeyer@netscape.net

We are thrilled to be staying at the Branson Inn - Branson Hills. There's a limited number of rooms with 2 queen beds, so, contact the Hotel as soon as possible with

your needs. Be sure to tell them you are with the Universal Doll Society to get the special rate! Breakfast is included with the room charge.

- Branson Inn tel. 417-243-7800 ~ 200 S. Payne Stewart Drive, Branson, MO 85616

If you would like to extend your stay after the Festival, please let Jean know ASAP by email (dollsnthingsjean@cox.net) so the rates can be extended. She also has a contact for renting family cabins at very good prices. Branson is known as "the" family vacation destination!

Please share the information about our Festival and encourage your other doll friends to join us that we may grow and prosper. We have so much fun, share so many exciting memories, great knowledge and skills. By sharing our doll making talents through organized events like this, can we keep the doll making hobby going and growing stronger!

We will once again be hosting our annual porcelain *Doll Making Competition*, and encourage all Festival participants to enter. Prestigious awards are given every year! Please check the website (universaldollsociety.com) for rules, categories and further information. Please note all entries must be pre-registered by August 1, 2018. contact Darlene Grant at dagrant1231@aol.com.

New this year will be the *Half Doll Challenge*! Enter any or all of your handmade half dolls, displays and fussy half doll items for a popular vote competition. Prizes will be awarded. Rules and information is included in this packet and will also be placed on the UDS website. Chairperson for this event is Stacey Reed at yellerhorse737@yahoo.com.

If you have antique, *vintage dolls or half dolls* that you would like to share, please bring them! We have a *Display Area* just for them, be sure to place your name and identifying marks & info about the doll on a 3 X 5 card attached to the doll for both learning and identification purposes.

If you have never attended a UDS Festival, we hold a *group workshop* each day, where we work on and generally complete a very nice project. This year it will be held after breakfast each morning; Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday. This amazing secret project is included in your registration fee and is always a hit with all attendees!

Workshops The listing for the paid workshops will be included with your receipt, membership number, list of items & tools to bring after you have paid your registration fee.

At Festival last year all participants were given a bisque half doll for the *Half Doll Exchange*, there were many different dolls handed out. We were asked to china paint them and finish them completely - into some type of pincushion, etc. then mark the bottom of the doll with your name, year and the state you are from. We will be using these dolls for one of our fun events! Please email Jean if did not attend and need a half doll. If you cannot make it to Festival this year, and are a current member of UDS, you are welcome to participate in this Half Doll Exchange by contacting Jean at dollsnthingsjean@cox.net.

Tee shirts will be available to commemorate this years' event! Pre-order basis, soft, tri-blend fabric, unisex sizing & short sleeves. Small to XL \$15.00 - 2X to 3X \$18.00 order & pay by August 15th.

We have such an amazing group and I feel so blessed to be part of all of this! Seems we all go through trials, large & small and we definitely need to rely on each other for support and love through it all. God be with each of you, and may you stay healthy, well, and lift one another in prayer always!

T. Jean Castille

For activities other than the Festival, be sure to check out www.exploreBranson.com for info on booking your show tickets, making travel arrangements, etc. There will not be any plans made by, or directed by Universal Doll Society.

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