

2026 Tea Leaf Club Annual Convention Bulletin

Let's Congregate in the Prairie State

July 30—August 2, 2026

Holiday Inn & Suites

East Peoria, IL



This exclusive bulletin will focus on this year's convention. The convention registration form is included in this mailing. At last year's convention, we conducted a survey to gather thoughts and ideas regarding future conventions. We will be introducing some of these ideas this year. This communication will help to highlight some of the changes.

Important Dates

July 30—August 2—Convention!

May 15—Readings advertising submissions

June 29

- Convention registration deadline
- Hotel registration deadline
- Vignette submission deadline

Hotel Information

Holiday Inn and Suites

101 Holiday St., East Peoria, IL 61611

309-698-3333

Room Reservation Instructions

Use this link [Tea Leaf Club](#) to reserve a room at the \$139 rate for the Tea Leaf Convention. The link will take you directly to the Holiday Inn website. Enter your arrival and departure dates and then click the *Search* button to view available rooms.

Please note that this reservation link may not be compatible with some mobile devices. It is recommended to access the link using a desktop computer or laptop for the best experience.



The majority of rooms at the hotel are King Standard, with only a limited number of rooms offering two queen-size beds. If you need to book a double queen room, you will need to click the wheelchair emoji under *Select your room* during the reservation process. We encourage you to book the King Standard rooms, so the few doubles can be reserved by those who require that layout.

If you prefer, you can also call the front desk directly at 309-698-3333 to book your room and let them know you're with the Tea Leaf Club International.

Key Highlights:

1. Registration fees will cover the group lunch and dinner on Saturday.
2. All other information requested on the Registration Form is required for restaurant reservations and hotel planning purposes only.
3. Friday hospitality will be in two parts:
 - a. Afternoon, beverages only.
 - b. Evening, snacks and beverages during Silent Auction.
4. Meals on Thursday night and the Friday Tour

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will be “pay as you go.”

Individuals will select their meal from the restaurant menu and pay individually.

5. Vignette Competition – Friday Night – Theme: Celebrations – Deadline June 29 – See details later in this bulletin.
6. There will be two distinct auctions. See details for each auction later in this bulletin.
 - a. Silent Auction – Friday night
 - b. Live Auction – Saturday night
7. All auction and selling activities will be **free** to sellers. **There are no fees.**
8. All proceeds from the auctions will go to the sellers. **There are no commissions.**
9. The Live Auction will NOT have a catalog with photos or descriptions.
10. Tea Leaf Market – Buy, Sell, Trade, or Give Away – Saturday Afternoon – See details later in this bulletin.
11. Sellers are encouraged to promote their Silent Auction, Tea Leaf Market, and Live Auction items on the Tea Leaf Facebook page or in *Readings* (See Readings Requirements for Marketing later in this bulletin).

Daily Schedule

Thursday, July 30

Welcome Dinner

The Thursday Night Welcome Dinner will take place at 5:30 p.m. at Johnny’s Italian Steakhouse, which is attached to the Holiday Inn & Suites Hotel. We will order off the menu and pay individually. They have a gluten sensitive menu in addition to their regular menu

Johnny’s is a top-rated restaurant in East Peoria. Their regular dinner menu includes appetizers, entre salads, soups, pastas, steaks, chicken and seafood options, and, of course, desserts! You can find the complete menus at:

www.johnnysitaliansteakhouse.com

Friday, July 31

Tour

For this year’s tour, we will carpool to Tanner’s Orchard near Speer, IL, which is approximately 30 minutes from East Peoria.

Tanner’s Orchard was established in 1947. The

day-to-day operations are currently run by the family’s fourth generation with help from their fifth generation children. Tanner’s Orchard has been in the same location for over 75 years. They are most well known for their ap-



ple orchards & pumpkins, especially in the Fall. However, they also have over 20 acres of fruits, vegetables, and flowers. They are open late July through December. Tanners has a wonderful multi-room enclosed Farmer’s Market, bakery, gift shop, and restaurant that change seasonally.

Our tour will be on the opening weekend of this year’s season. We expect to have a family member share the amazing story of their family & orchard. We will have lunch in the restaurant, order off the menu, and pay individually.

Hospitality

One of our goals this year is to provide more opportunities for socializing. We hope to have a common gathering area with tables and chairs available throughout the weekend. This provides a central location to gather between events.

Iced tea and lemonade will be served during the afternoon hospitality. Also, snacks and beverages will be served during the Silent Auction. later in the evening.

Silent Auction

What can you bring?

- Lustre decorated items.
These are always a favorite for convention attendees. You might consider bringing an item in honor of, or as a memorial to, someone who is dear to you—a family member, a friend, or a club member past or present.
- “Shelf” pieces as a part of seasonal or holiday decorations or repurposed ironstone.
- Tea Leaf themed items and member’s handiwork.



Consider gift baskets, handmade baskets, needlework, jewelry, lamps, pictures, decorative

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items, and garden decorations.

- Certificates for services like photographing a collection, assisting with collection inventory, or cleaning.

Please be very clear and detailed about what is included, like the number of hours, travel distance limitations, work to be completed.

Seller Information

- There is no cost to submit items to the Silent Auction.
- All proceeds go to the seller. No commission will be charged.
- Indicate the number of lots you will be bringing on your convention registration form.
- If you submitted an item with a special meaning, consider sharing your story. If you would like to share, include a short explanation about your submission. Does it honor someone? Is it from someone's collection? Is it something you love to collect? Is it a hobby? Include a picture if you like.
- Sellers are encouraged to promote their Silent Auction items on the Tea Leaf Facebook page or in *Readings* (See Readings Requirements for Marketing later in this bulletin).
- The seller is responsible for removing any unsold items at the end of the auction.

Other Information

- Winners will be announced after the Virtual Vignette Competition.
- Buyers must remove all purchased items at the end of the auction.
- Any items remaining at the end of the auction become the property of Tea Leaf Club International and will be disposed of at the Club's discretion.

Virtual Vignette Competition



The Virtual Vignette Competition is back, and there are great prizes! All prizes will be awarded in Tea Leaf Dollars that are good for any purchases during the convention and for membership renewals. First prize is \$100, second prize is \$50, and third prize is \$25. You must be present at the convention

to win. Convention attendees will vote for the winners, and winners will be announced when voting is complete. Deadline for submitting your vignette is **June 29**.



Virtual Vignette Rules

1. Submit 1-2 photos of your vignette (Celebration theme recommended).
2. Must feature lustre decorated ironstone.
3. Must be your own photos.
4. Photo quality counts! Please make sure your photos are clear.
5. Include a brief story to promote your vignette during the contest.
6. Each convention attendee may submit a maximum of two entries.
7. Email each entry **separately**. Include photos and story. Use the subject line "Convention Contest." Email to jcchrisman@aol.com.

You will receive confirmation. If no confirmation is received, call or text 407-341-6459.

6. **Deadline is June 29, 2026**, for contest entries.

NOTE: By entering this contest, you grant Tea Leaf Club International permission to use your photos in future *Tea Leaf Readings*, Tea Leaf Facebook group, education, and other public relations communications.

Vignette Tips

1. Select a celebration theme:
 - a. Holiday: religious, secular, etc.
 - b. Milestone: birthday, anniversary, etc.
 - c. Accomplishment: graduation, etc.
2. Select your vignette style: elegant, casual, picnic, everyday, etc.
3. Select an ironstone body style, motif, or mix and match
4. In addition to lustre ironstone, use any other antique, vintage, or new decorative items to support your theme. Be careful not to clutter.



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5. Think details: color palette, textures, depth, and dimensions (varying heights)
6. Pinterest, Google, and YouTube can provide numerous ideas.
7. Taking photos of your vignette
 - a. Most phones take great photos, no fancy camera is required.
 - b. Please make sure your photos are clear. Photo quality counts!
 - c. Taking photos in daylight is best. Avoid flash photography glare.
 - d. Take a close-up of your vignette. This brings attention to the details.
8. Have fun and let your creativity shine!

After Hours Party

Join Margaret Payne and Annalea and Jon Cable for a casual gathering to wrap up Friday and Saturday evenings. Grab a snack, kick back, and visit with your Tea Leaf friends. Room number will be announced at the convention.

Saturday, August 1

Education—Name That Body Style Workshop



At the 2026 convention, Mike Compton, TLCI Education Chair, will host an interactive session to delve into how we name new-to-us body styles. We continue to find items that have not previously been identified, so this session will discuss factors that can be used in naming a new body style. Tables/teams will be given unnamed body styles and asked to brainstorm possible names. Report outs will follow. Then, the Education Committee will take this input and ultimately use it to document and communicate the new body styles. If you've ever wanted to name your own body style, this is your chance! If you have something that you think is still unnamed, reach out to Mike prior to the convention! "Fun" is the password here!

Contact Mike at comptonml@aol.com or 630-669-5823.

Tea Leaf Market—Buy, Sell, Trade, Give Away

The Tea Leaf Market is new this year. This is your opportunity to bring lustre decorated ironstone and related items, such as repurposed lustre ironstone,

Tea Leaf arts and crafts, and other items related to the Club to offer for sale, trade, or to give away.



There is no cost to participate. You must reserve the number of three-foot table spaces you will need on your convention registration form.

Sellers are encouraged to promote their market items on the Tea Leaf Facebook Page or in *Readings*. See Readings Requirements for Marketing later in this bulletin.

Live Auction

Seller Information



- Only Tea Leaf Club members may sell items in the live auction.
- Individuals who are not currently members are welcome to join the Club, so they can sell items in the auction.
- The seller does not have to attend the convention but must arrange with another attendee for transportation of items to the convention and checking in/setting up items for the auction. Shipping items directly to the convention hotel is not permitted.
- Submitting lots to the live auction is free. There is no cost to the seller.
- Proceeds from the sale goes to the seller. There is no commission.
- Indicate the number of lots you will be bringing on your convention registration form.
- Sellers are encouraged to promote their auction items on the Tea Leaf Facebook Page or in *Readings* (See Readings Requirements for Marketing later in this bulletin).
- The seller (or person representing the seller) is responsible for removing any unsold items at the end of the auction.

Lot Information

- A maximum of 100 lots will be available for the auction

If more than 100 lots are indicated on convention registration forms, the numbers will be reviewed, and sellers may be contacted with

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lot adjustments. If lots must be adjusted, sellers may consider moving items to the Silent Auction or Marketplace.

- A maximum of 10 lots per household is allowed. Indicate the number of lots on your convention registration form.

If you are interested in bringing more than 10 lots, add a note with your registration. If spaces are available after the registration deadline, we will contact individuals who have indicated interest.

- Please notify Lara Brown if you need to adjust the number of lots you need after you submit your registration, but no later than one week before convention.

Contact Lara at dlnbrown@yahoo.com or 812-241-7563.

- It is recommended to include no more than 5 items per lot, unless the lot is a set (e.g. child's tea set).

Item Information

- Items must be ironstone decorated with copper or gold lustre.
- Items may be decorated with Tea Leaf, Moss Rose, or other motifs.
- Consult the Tea Leaf Online Identification Guide and Handbook at <https://guide.tealeafclub.com>
- When choosing items to bring, consider interest, appeal, quality, and quantity.

Other Information

- Buyers must remove all purchased items at the end of each auction.
- Any items remaining at the end of each auction become the property of Tea Leaf Club International and will be disposed of at the club's discretion.

Readings Requirements for Marketing

- Send a good quality, digital photo. See Photo Hints later in this bulletin.
- Identify where this will be available-- Silent Auction, Tea Leaf Market, or Live Auction. Seller's name will be included ONLY for Market items, so buyers can easily find the seller and the item.
- Email description and photo(s) to Annalea Cable at gardengirl2128@gmail.com

- Deadline for submission is **May 15, 2026.**

Photo Hints

- Use a digital camera, cell phone, or download a picture from the TLCI Online Guide.
- Use a black background for better contrast and visibility.
- Most phones take great photos. No fancy camera is required.
- Make sure your photos are clear. Photo quality counts!
- Taking photos in daylight is best. Avoid flash photography glare.
- Take a close-up. This brings attention to the details.
- If the lot has multiple items, consider taking a group photo as well as individual photos.

Convention At a Glance

Thursday, July 30

- Board Meeting (Officers, Board, interested members)
- Welcome Dinner

Friday, July 31

- Tour
- Silent Auction Setup
- Rehearsals & AV setup
- Hospitality
- Silent Auction & Snacks
- Virtual Vignette Competition
- Winners announced – Silent Auction & Vignettes
- After Hours Party

Saturday, August 1

- Live Auction Check-in
- Tea Leaf Market Setup
- Education
- Live Auction Preview
- Lunch
- Annual Meeting
- Tea Leaf Market
- Banquet & Awards
- Live Auction
- After Hours Party
- Board Meeting

