



**Oktoberfest 2015 Button Design Contest Winner:
Ann Garity**



Personal/Professional:

- A resident of Helenville, WI and employed in Demand Generation (Business Development) team for Spacesaver Corporation, in Fort Atkinson WI.
- Married to Dan Garity; we are parents to James (a student at MATC in Milwaukee) and Marcie (attends UW-Whitewater).

Interest in Art:

- Art has been a passion and part of my life for as long as I can remember and has honored me with some unique opportunities. Twice I was chosen to design and create the ornaments for the Wisconsin Christmas tree in Washington DC at the White House. I love experimenting with many different forms of art, I draw, paint, fuse glass, re-purpose items that other people think are trash and make them beautiful. My identical twin sister, Annette Yoshizumi and I have been a team since birth. Annette has the vision and we put it together. Annette has an amazing eye and is a gifted photographer. I can trust her to look at anything I create and give me honest feedback and make suggestions on areas that need change. I doubt everything I create. Annette has saved many pieces from the trash can, including this year's Oktoberfest button design. Only one other time did I enter a design for the button, because I just didn't think the others were good enough.

2015 Oktoberfest Button Design:

- When the theme of the Oktoberfest is announced, I think about its meaning, sometimes for days, before I put anything to paper. I visualize in my head what the button looks like, then I draw it. So, this year, I thought about my happiest times at fest and where they took place. You knew you were at the La Crosse

Oktoberfest when you walked toward the front of the southside fest grounds, then it came to me, "a cuckoo clock made out of the front of the southside fest grounds!" After it's drawn, I scan it into my computer and run off many copies, then start coloring. Thank goodness, the Oktoberfest encourages colored pencils because I am all about color. A person can get a depth of color with colored pencils that you can't get from paint or the computer. Using the eraser on a colored area, then going over it and repeating the process with different colors just gives an amazing effect.

Connection to Oktoberfest:

- Oktoberfest has been part of our lives since its beginning. Annette and I were about 8 months old when our parents, Bernie and Pat Mattie, took us to the very first Oktoberfest and we haven't missed once since. I am one of five kids, Annette, Mike, Mary and Ed (both of my sisters and Ed still live in La Crosse, as does our Mom). With so many kids, there was always a Mattie involved with Oktoberfest. We marched in the Maple Leaf parade many times; the last one for me was with our high school (GO CENTRAL!). I tell people that to us Oktoberfest is a holiday. You have Christmas, Easter, 4th of July and Oktoberfest. It just doesn't get any better!