



READING-BERKS CHAPTER

Pennsylvania Guild of Craftsmen

P.O. Box 85, Mohnton, PA 19540

★ ★ *Reading-Berks Guild Website:* www.rbcrafts.org ★ ★

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President's Message □

WOW! What a wonderful opening weekend for the month of November! What did you do? Hey, if you weren't at the Reading-Berks Guild of Craftsmen Holiday Show this past weekend you missed a lot. A lot of teamwork and the show went as smooth as one of Wilfriede's silk scarves. The rumors of how great the show was got around fast. Frances and Dominic Atilli heard about it. They got here from Florida by Sunday afternoon.

It sure was great to see them. I hope they got to talk to everyone. I am going to take this time to thank all the volunteers and vendors for the past weekend. Without each and every one of you, this weekend would not have happened. It takes a great guild to produce a great show. Kudos to Karen Myers and her committee for keeping the best of what we've had in the past and the courage to try something new for Holiday Show 2007. And speaking of Holidays, the Holiday Social committee said you should bring your appetite and your favorite dessert to our December meeting. Our charity this year is for the kids at the Reading Children's Home. Let's help to give the kids at the "Home" a happier new year with our generosity.

Another Holiday event just around the corner is at the Heritage Center, "Christmas on the Farm". If you want to feel some of that old-fashioned holiday spirit, I recommend that you attend this event. Bring the kids and grandkids. You will have a great time! And, then, finally, after the holidays are over and we are sitting back to take a much needed nap, we can start dreaming up our new ideas for this and that and try them out at the Spring Festival at Kutztown. The Reading-Berks Guild is just too good to be true! A quote to remember when you sit down to that Thanksgiving dinner... "*My doctor told me to stop having intimate dinners for four; unless there are three other people.*" Orson Welles. P.S. I wish you all a very Blessed Thanksgiving. *Barry Benneoff, Your President*

Program

Our annual Holiday Social is set for Tuesday, December 4, 2007 at the Goggle Works. Check the signboard for the room location. Bring your appetite, your favorite dessert to share, and a white elephant gift to exchange along with your holiday spirit. We'll gather at 6:00 PM and the buffet dinner by Boscov's Ala Carte Catering will be served at 6:30 PM.

The cost is \$12.00 per person; reservation deadline is Monday, November 26, 2007. Look for the reservation form in last month's newsletter, or call the Oxenford's at 610-385-3431 to reserve your spot and forward *a check payable to the Reading-Berks Chapter PGC to Ray Oxenford, 805 Hill Drive, Douglassville, PA 19518.*

The buffet meal will include **Field Greens Salad with Assorted Dressings, Boneless Breast of Chicken with Lemon and Julian Vegetables, Burgundy Beef Tips, Oven Browned Potatoes, Green Beans Almondine, Rolls and Butter, Relish Tray, Coffee, Tea and Punch. Plus assorted desserts prepared by our members. The cost is \$12.00 per person and by ADVANCED PAID RESERVATIONS ONLY, so don't delay, send in your reservations and come out for an evening of good food, fun and fellowship.**

The white elephant gift exchange is always good for a few laughs; we'll sing a few Christmas carols and maybe play a game or two.

Even if you can't attend, although we'll miss you, remember our charity for this holiday season, The Children's Home of Reading. Please be generous with your donation, make checks payable to Reading-Berks Chapter PGC and mark it for *The Children's Home of Reading.* We'd appreciate your donations even if you can't attend. If you can't attend, forward your charity donations to the attention of John Haile, Treasurer at our P.O. Box. Thanks. *The Holiday Social Committee*

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Let us give thanks for our many blessings and those serving our country as we gather around our Thanksgiving table and share the traditional holiday feast.

Holiday Show

WOWEE What a show!

Those of you who were at the show are probably sick of hearing me talk however, I never thought of myself as a big talker (hard for some of you to believe), or that I say the "right things" when I open my big mouth; but I do want to say this loud and clear: Chairing this show was definitely on the top of my list as a great experience! I have learned a lot about the dedication of my committee, I've learned we need to expand our horizons as a Chapter and just as important we need to celebrate our exhibitors. It takes an enormous amount of energy to drag your self and your work to a show and put your talents on display. Even with all the challenges and changes to the show, my committee's dedication to the artist and continued support of the show exceeded my expectations, **BRAVO!**

This show was a success and most have heard through the grapevine the preliminary findings of a whopping 260% increase in revenue for the raffle and a 12% gain in overall profit will keep customers coming back again and again. We have worked feverishly to find the most value for our buck and make smarter measurable decisions. Everything cost more this year from the PSU rental to the cost of printing and postage. This will continue to be an uphill battle for us. The changes to the raffle as well as the additions of Photography, Glass Blowing and Watercolor made an enormous impact on the customer. Those of you who were witness to this customer reaction will agree. We will be working on reaching more customers over the next year and we hope that you will volunteer your time to help make this happen.

I am honored to be a part of this excellent group of artisans and hope the word spreads that our success and recent win-win changes to the Holiday & Spring Shows, Committee and Board will continue to inspire more of you to participate in any capacity next year.

For cool jobs and awesome opportunities stay tuned and be sure to come to the Feb meeting!

Congrats to all! *Karen Myers Holiday Show*

Chairman

Looking to the Future

2007 is flying by quickly, so please mark your calendar for our first meeting in the new year as **Tuesday, January 8, 2008, at 7:00 PM at the Goggleworks** (because New Year's Day is Tuesday, January 1st).

Another very important date is **Tuesday, February 5, 2008** when our Board of Directors will present the program outlining the new direction of our Spring Festivals and Holiday Shows. We look forward to your attendance at this important meeting.

With Our Sympathy

Ralph DeStefano passed away on Friday morning, November 2, 2007 at the age of 48 years. Ralph was an outstanding blacksmith who enjoyed demonstrating his talents at local historic events. He also enjoyed being a member of the First Pennsylvania Regiment of the Continental Line, elected to full membership in 1996 and served in many positions and held the honor of the best shooter in his regiment. Ralph was a master craftsman who restored pre-1916 Brass Era cars, his talents were known nationally and internationally in the "antique car circle" and many people sought him to restore their vintage vehicles. He hosted a segment "Teck Talk" on BCTV as part of the "Wheels Along the Road" produced by the Boyertown Auto Museum. Ralph was a wonderful friend to all who knew him, and will be missed by many people.

We extend our prayers and sympathy to his beloved wife, **Becky DeStefano**. We also extend our prayers to **Carol and John Haile**, (Carol and Becky are sisters).

Thinking of You

Please add **Kathy Harris, Judy Boyer** and **Lucy Neilson** to our prayer list.

Continue to keep **Ruthanne Hartung's husband, Jim Mehaffey** and **Leon Schultz**, on our prayer list. Also **Ernie Fredericks, Skip Hamaker, Carolyn Flickinger** and **Lucy Neilson's husband** in your prayers as well. □We wish them all a speedy get well.

Congratulations

Belated congratulations to grandparents, **Chris and Alan Wert** whose daughter **Andrea and husband Doug Clipsham** announced the arrival of **Abigail Christine**, born Monday, September 10, 2007 in the Reading Hospital. Abigail attended our Holiday Show on Saturday with, mommy, daddy and her "big sister".

Terry and Judy Boyer announced the arrival of their grandson, **Kameron Scott Boyer**, born on Tuesday evening, October 9, 2007 in the Reading Hospital. Their son, Mark and his wife Leslie Boyer are the proud parents. Kameron also has a "big sister" too.

Newsletter

If you have anything to include in the holiday edition of our newsletter please have it to me by Tuesday, December 4, 2007 via email at paoxenford@dejazzd.com or give to me at the Holiday social. Thanks, *Pat Oxenford*,

Newsletter Editor

State Rep Report

The Pennsylvania Guild is still in the process of moving their headquarters to Lancaster; a location has not been announced to date. 10 major workshops will be moved to the Goggleworks for 2008. A new committee has been formed to work on mentorships, apprenticeships, business tools, advocacy and sales.

The Reading-Berks Guild will be sponsoring an award at the Holiday F&M Show Gallery. The award will be for "The Best Traditional Craft - Wib Lauter Award" the prize is \$100. The 2008 PGC Shows will be the Summer Show at Chase Center, July 25 - 27; The Fall Show in Richboro, October 18 & 19; and The Holiday Show in Manheim, November 8 & 9. *Lynn Comch, State Rep*

BCTV - "Your Berks Craftsmen"

Many thanks to everyone who donated items for BCTV's Octoberfest. The Thursday evening crafts auction began at 6:00 PM and the final item went up for bidding at 12:45 AM. Even though the week fell short of the goal, it was a great event. The "Pig Fest" created a lot of excitement and bidding duals, with **Carolyn and Ken Handwerks** entry bringing in \$700!

Gene Burkhart will present the November program about his Artist in Residence at Muhlenberg Township Schools. The students are making more than 400 individual pressed flower designs as he returns to his alma mater to teach the art of pressed flower designs.

Holiday Decorations will be the theme of the December "Your Berks Craftsmen" program. If you need some last minute ideas for your holiday decorating this is the program to watch. *W. Eugene Burkhart, Jr., "Your Berks Craftsmen" Host*

The Log Cabin

For the past several weeks, **Bill Schreier** and **Ray Oxenford** have been working on cleaning up the Log Cabin to begin work on the flooring as well as add some additional electrical outlets. **Terry Boyer**, **Matt Vardjan** and **Mr. Meyer** are also working on the flooring and insulation while **Bob Schultz** is installing the additional electrical outlets. We are hopeful this work will be completed in time for "Christmas on the Farm". *I guess you can say, "all good things take time"!*

PA German Cultural Heritage Center

Dates to Remember

- Saturday, December 8, 2007 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM - Christmas on the Farm
- Saturday, March 15, 2008 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM Easter on the Farm
- Saturday, & Sunday, October 18 - 19, 2008 Heritage Harvest Fescht

2008 Spring Fine Arts & Crafts Festival

Have you received your yellow Revised Show Application? The blue one is also ok. Have you filled it out and sent it in? What are you waiting for?

Here are reasons why you should get that application in A.S.A.P.

- As you can see the Reading-Berks Guild is in partnership with the Pa. German Heritage Center.
- Yes, our guild is fully in charge of the Festival.
- Through our Log Cabin we are part of the K.U. Family.
- We have a great facility for the Festival.
- We have made great strides with the Art Dept. of K.U. and we are adding a Gallery of Art for College Student & Professors.
- There will be 1-person shows, students selling their own artwork, demonstrators.
- And Art activities for children and families.

For our Advertising campaign, we have a brand new advertising program to better all of our Guilds shows. NO more waiting until the booth money comes in because artisans forget to send in their application way passed the due date. I must come clean I have done that and I will change.

We are still having the Food, Music and Café setting. That will never change. This Works.

The Guilds' People that have been running the 2 Shows, The Guilds' Board and the PA German Heritage Center is in full swing in helping to make this Festival a Show for the Future.

This is the time for you, (the Membership), to HELP make this happen and take our Guild and MOVE FORWARD.

There will be more information on the NEW way of doing business, at our February Meeting.

Terry & Judy Boyer, Spring Festival Chairpersons

Annual Dues Renewal Time

By the time you receive this newsletter you should already have received your dues renewal information from the state PGC. Just a reminder, both the chapter and state dues are payable to the state. Review the information you received from the state to make sure all your information is correct and return it to the state with your check for both the state and your local Reading-Berks Chapter dues for 2008. The completed form and check must be returned to the state office before December 31, 2007. If you have any questions contact our RB Membership Chairperson, June Mover.

❖ ❖ *Important Dates to Remember* ❖ ❖

Board Meeting: Wednesday, November 28, 2007 7:00 PM at GW

Holiday Social: Tuesday, December 4, 2007, 6:00 PM at GW