



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

'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house, not a craftsman was stirring because he was taking a much needed nap by this time of the year! I guess that kind of sums it up. We are just about ready to put 2007 to bed and we will start up again in 2008. I am hoping you are all planning to come out to our meetings in 2008. A reminder, our January meeting will be January 8, not January 1, 2008. Come and get involved. Volunteering your time is a good thing for our Guild and having you at our meetings and participating in our shows is a great thing! Speaking of shows, the students of Kutztown University are getting involved with the Spring Festival for 2008 and we need Guild support of this event. Students of Kutztown University and Reading-Berks Guild members together in one show, sounds like a winning combination to me.

My wish for everyone is a Blessed Holiday Season! "*No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.*" Aesop *Barry Benneceff, Your President.* □

Program

Well the New Year is practically here. I have had a lot of help getting the programs arranged and scheduled from a lot of people. So the job has not been too bad.

The program for January will be a little of a surprise for everyone. We will have a guest visiting from a far off place. I'm sure the information that we will hear will be wondrous. That's about all I can say now, but plan on getting to the next meeting, I'm sure you will not be disappointed. I will mention again that the January meeting is the **second (2nd) Tuesday** of the month. Remember the 1st Tuesday is New Years Day.

One last note - It would be rude of me to not acknowledge and thank Pat Oxenford and everyone that assisted in planning and arranging the Holiday party for our December meeting. One of the provisos I had when I took this job was that I had no expertise, or skill for planning social events. As usual there are those in the Guild who are always ready to step up and fill a void. And boy! What a terrific job. Thank you Pat. *Program Chairperson,*
Michael Wargo

Holiday Show

By now everyone is enjoying the benefits of another great year and hopefully slowing down long enough to enjoy some quiet time with their family and dear friends. We hope you look back on this year's Holiday Show with a smile and remember that the gate was up, the raffle was up and the exhibitors list was up. We hope you will join us again next year as we have a lot of super ideas to implement.

We have some exciting news to tell you about the Holiday and Spring Shows for 2008. Please plan on coming to the February meeting to hear our ideas and how you can help make 2008 a success.

Warm Holiday Regards, *Karen Myers*

Chairperson Holiday Show

Congratulations

At our recent Holiday Social it was unanimously agreed upon to present *Carol and John Haile* and *Annie Harlin* with *Life Memberships* to both our Reading-Berks Chapter and our State PGC. We thank each of you for all you have done on behalf of our Reading-Berks Chapter throughout the many years you each have been a member. Again, congratulations to each of you for your many years of service to our chapter, and we look forward to many more.

BCTV Your Berks Craftsmen

Gene Burkhart and Judy Boyer who will be giving you ideas for holiday decorations will present the December 19th program. They will be making their arrangements and centerpieces right before your eyes as they present the evening's program. If you need any last minute fresh holiday decorations, don't miss this program.

Please note there will not be a January 2008 program due to other special BCTV programs the third week of January. Regular scheduled shows will resume in February. *W. Eugene Burkhart, Jr.*

"Your Berks Craftsmen" Host

Newsletter

Deadline for information to be included in the January 2008 newsletter should be submitted by the meeting on January 8, 2008.

Spring Fine Arts & Crafts Festival

We have made a great break through and a wonderful partnership with the Kutztown University Students. In fact, through the NAEA (National Art Education Association), and the determination of Martha Weber, several members of our committee made a presentation to both art majors and NAEA members on December 4th. The lecture hall was set aside for our presentation from 11 AM to noon and many interested students attended.

At least 8 students are interested in participating by presenting their "1-person" art exhibits as part of their senior projects. And many of the NAEA members are interested in participating with make-it-take-it projects for children along with children's activities as part of their semester requirements to work with children.

We have also received several inquiries and emails of students presenting photographs of their work so that they too may set up displays of their work.

The PA German Cultural Heritage Center is also advertising our Spring Show in everything they publish and at all their events. So, now is the time for all our chapter members to also support our show - if you have not yet submitted your application, we look forward to receiving it soon.

Standards

A **Standards Committee meeting** is scheduled for Tuesday, January 15, 2008 at 7:00 PM at the Goggleworks. The input of the committee about some important issues is very important. If you are unable to attend, it is important to let Louise or Ruthanne know.

A jury session is scheduled for March 11, 2008. If you would like your work to be juried, see Louise Mehaffey at a meeting for an application.

Louise Mehaffey, Standards Co-Chairperson

In Our Prayers

Please keep **Judy Boyer, Kathy Harris** and **Lucy Neilson** in your prayers. Also add **Anita Geiger** to your 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.

Members in the News

HAPPY HOWLIDAYS! Join author **Carol Haile** and author **Jeff Clineff** for a Book Signing at the Humane Society's 'Howliday Open House,' Dec. 15 & 16, 12 noon to 3 p.m. Jeff's fabulous book "TOO MANY KITTIES" and Carol's children's picture books will be available. Each purchase benefits the Humane Society of Berks County, 1801 N. 11th St., Reading, PA. www.berkshumane.org

Thank you

*Thanks to everyone who generously made a donation to our 2007 charity - **The Berks County Children's Home**, at our annual Holiday Social. We received \$260 in donations and our chapter will also make a donation as well.*

Also, thanks to **Kathryn and Leon Shultz** for delivering our "leftover" holiday social food to the "shelter" on 4th Street. The generous portions of food were packaged and given to those less fortunate and I'm sure they were very appreciative of receiving a great meal.

REMINDER Annual Dues Renewal

We're getting down to the wire, so to speak, time is running out if you have not already done so, don't delay, it is state and chapter dues renewal time. You should have received your notice from the state in November. 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 Moyer.

State PGC Office Moving

The state PGC office will be moving to the first floor offices at 252 N. Prince St. along the edge of Gallery Row in downtown Lancaster city. We will be on the same block as Isadore Gallery and the Pennsylvania College of Art & Design. We will be within one block of CityFolk, Red Raven Gallery and the other galleries that define the highly popular Gallery Row section of Lancaster. The possibilities are phenomenal. The move will take place the first week of January 2008. If you can help with the move on January 5th or with painting earlier in the week, contact Nick Mohler at the state office at Tyler.

PA German Cultural Heritage Center

"Log Cabin" The past several weeks **Bill Sheirer, Ray Oxenford, Matt Vardjan, Terry Boyer and Scott Mayer** have been working on installing the flooring, including insulation beneath the floor. They have worked many long days to get the cabin ready for Christmas on the Farm. Half of the flooring is completed, and temporary flooring was installed and covered by carpeting so that the cabin could be open for December 8th. Hope you were able to attend and see the progress of the cabin and how it was all decked in its holiday decorations.

Many people visited us on the 8th for the first time - many were members of the PA German Society who came for their annual members' book sale or visitors to Christmas on the Farm. The PA German Carolers who serenaded us with holiday songs in PA German, and also the Belschnickel, we had a constant flow of visitors.

Easter-on-the-Farm The next event will be Easter-on-the-Farm on March 15th 2008. Both the Heritage Center and PA German Society are advertising that event and including our chapter in their advertising.

Both the PGCHC and the PA German Society have invited our newsletter editor to write articles for each of their respective publications.

PGCHC Annual Bus Trip Mark your calendar for Wednesday, March 5, 2008 for the annual PGCHC bus trip to "Our Beautiful PA Capitol." Cost is \$70 per person for members and \$82 per person for non- members, includes all admission fees, bus, box lunch and dinner at Deitsch Eck in Lenhartsville. We'll visit our state Capitol, the State Museum, and a presentation in the Planetarium is included. Contact **Darlene Moyer at PGCHC (610-683-1589) if you are interested.**

*Wishing you all
A Blessed and Joyous
Holiday Season
And may 2008 be filled
With Good Health and Happiness.*