



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 □

Happy New Year to Everyone! I certainly hope your Holiday Season was filled with everything good.

The holidays are a time when sharing is abundant. I hope we, as a Guild, will continue this fine tradition of sharing into 2008.

At our next meeting in February, members of the Board of Directors will present a program on ideas for both our Spring Festival and our Holiday Show. We will be describing some new ideas, ways to make our shows the best they can be. We will describe ways of volunteering in different areas of planning, preparing, arranging, set-up, telephoning, cleaning up.

Then, we will take all this enthusiasm, harness it and try it out at the Spring Festival. Craftsmen, college students, young artists, all together under one roof! Think of it, the Reading-Berks Guild of Craftsmen sharing their knowledge, positively influencing young talent and creating an atmosphere to be enjoyed by all. The positive influence that we can ignite could help to solidify the future of craft guilds here in Pennsylvania and across the nation. So before we meet in February, send in your application, craft those new ideas that you have envisioned and get ready to have a lot of fun with your good friends at the Festival. Great crafts and art, great food, great music--an excellent way to spend a Spring Week End!

"There is no duty so much under rate as the duty of being happy. By being happy we sow anonymous benefits upon the world." ---Robert Louis Stevenson
Barry Bennecoff, Your President

Program

Time marches on. Here we are in the middle of winter. That's the bad news. The good news is that we are halfway to spring. February is fast approaching and we have an unusual program for our meeting.

You will be involved in this effort. The Board of the Guild will be presenting ideas for change. Entering the Guild as a new member is quite a daunting experience. One never knows how they will fare and when they will be able to enter our shows. What will it take to be accepted? What skills are welcomed and what skills are not? The guild's rules have not changed in many years. Our board feels that this may be the time.

Many ideas have been suggested for change. The board wants to present these ideas to the general membership. How you feel is important. So, come on out to the next meeting. Take part in a revolutionary session. Voice your opinion. Get involved! *Program Chairperson, Michael*

Wargo BCTV "Your Berks Craftsmen"

Please note that there will not be a "Your Berks Craftsmen" televised in January due to special programs the week of our regularly scheduled show. Telecasts will resume with the February program with the pre-taped segments from last summer's (July 2007) Kutztown Folk Festival.

Also, BCTV was recently one of the first stations to be upgraded to "HD" by Service Electric Cable TV in anticipation of the upcoming national upgrades to be effective February 2009. *W. Eugene Burkhardt, Jr. "Your Berks Craftsmen" Host*

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Spring Festival

Our Reading-Berks Chapter PGC membership has approved that the Spring Show Committee and our Reading-Berks Board members move forward with all activities of our Chapter. Yes, the Lehigh Valley Chapter board members broke away from the venture of the spring show at Kutztown but we are still continuing with the show. Both chapters in the last 5 years had a profit of almost \$8,000 each for our educational funds and also paid the partnership of the Pennsylvania German Cultural Heritage Center a donation of \$1,000 per year.

So now this is a Brand New Day. It's amazing to say "*When one door closes another door opens*". ***We need to clarify that***

- **All guild members of the PGC are invited to do this show. (Eligibility requirements do apply and are mentioned on the application).**
- **All non-juried artisans, both 2 & 3 dimensional work, are invited to do the show.**
- We have received many applications, we are filling the show ***but we still have room for many more.***
- We have increased our advertising monies ***backed by the Reading-Berks Chapter.***
- The Reading-Berks Spring Show committee has been working with the full art department of Kutztown University, ***and we are also accepting application from them and other college students as well.***
- As of this date ***we have 7, one-person shows; many art students selling their work and the NAEA (National Art Education Association) will be doing activities for children.***
- A new section of the floor layout will be created ***for the College students as well as the layout of the show will be changed for a more professional floor plan.***
- We have our ***Café' with catered food, Music and a seating area for your enjoyment.***

We, the Spring Show committee and Reading-Berks Chapter Board members, are looking toward the future and working for the greater good of our educational program. Yours truly, Terry & Judy Boyer. Spring Show Chairpersons

Holiday Show:

Happy January! As this New Year begins we look forward to a fresh start and begin with the end in mind. My fellow artisans who have talents for visualizing their art before they begin will understand what impact that little statement really has. To begin with the end in mind is to know what direction you are moving. This can impact every aspect of your life. To begin with the end in mind is to be able to picture that show day 11 months from now and be able to see the impact of all the efforts. I know that we want a successful show, we know the customer demographic we want we know what that initial rush will look like and what *we want it to look like.* The Holiday Show Committee and your Board will be looking at the Holiday Show from this perspective.

Attached to this newsletter is the 2008 Holiday Show Application. We've turned things around and will continue to bring in more customers and make this show a holiday favorite. Warm Regards,

Karen Myers Holiday Show Chairperson

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Please keep **Sylvia Hendershott** and **Dominic Attili** (a former member who now resides in Florida) in your thoughts and prayers. Continue to keep **Judy Boyer, Kathy Harris, Lucy Neilson and her husband, and Anita Geiger** on your prayer list. Also keep **Ruthanne Hartung's husband, Jim Mehaffey, Leon Schultz, Ernie Fredericks, Skip Hamaker, and Carolyn Flickinger** in your prayers. We wish them all a speedy get well.

With Our Sympathy

We have lost two of our former long-time chapter members. **Erna A. Bauer** age 93 and formerly of Wyomissing was an accomplished seamstress and noted for her soft sculpture dolls, passed away on December 27, 2007, in the home of her daughter, Karen C. Lilly, Lititz.

On January 12, 2008, **John C. "Jack" Nichols**, age 85 of Birdsboro, died in the Reading Hospital following a 3-week hospitalization. Jack was known for his Nantucket Baskets. His wife, Evelyn, his children, grandchildren and a sister survive him. We extend our sympathy to their families.

Standards

The next chapter 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.

The Standards Committee had a special meeting scheduled on Tuesday, January 15, 2008 at 7:00 PM at the GoggleWorks. *Louise Mehaffey. Standards Co-Chairperson*

2008 Holiday Show Application included as an insert in this issue.

Bus Trip to Baltimore, Maryland

GoggleWorks is sponsoring a bus trip to "The American Craft Show", in Baltimore, Maryland on Saturday, February 23, 2008. The show features more than 300 of the country's leading artists exhibiting high quality handmade jewelry, furniture, clothing, home décor and much more. Cost is \$75.00 per person for non-members of GoggleWorks or \$67.50 per person for GoggleWorks Members – Bifocal and above. For more information or registration, contact **Sharon Giles** at 610-374-4600 ext. 115 or sgiles@goggleworks.org

Bus Trip to Harrisburg

The Pennsylvania German Cultural Heritage Center's Annual Bus Trip is scheduled for Wednesday, March 5, 2008 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.

State PGC Office Moved

The state office of The Pennsylvania Guild of Craftsmen has moved into its new office at 252 North Prince Street, Lancaster, PA. The location is on the corner of Walnut and Prince and is one block from Lancaster's Gallery Row and within a couple steps of the Pennsylvania College of Art & Design. If you are in need of contacting the office call 215-579-5997 or email Nick at nick@pacrafts.org.

If you have time to spare they could use help on Tuesday, January 22nd to assist with the finishing touches to the office.

If you forgot to renew your state and chapter dues the final deadline is fast approaching - January 31st is the deadline. If you misplaced your renewal application and need another copy it is available online at www.pacrafts.org and select "Join the Guild Today" in the top right corner of the homepage. You'll need to print off a new member application.

If you are planning to do any of the state shows, your show applications must be postmarked by January 28th. If you have questions regarding the applications or any of the shows, contact Nick at 215-485-1150 or nick@pacrafts.org. The application is available online at www.pacrafts.org/apply and details regarding digital image requirements are at www.pacrafts.org/digital.

Newsletter

Information to be included in the February 2008 newsletter should be emailed to me at paoxenford@dejazzd.com by **Tuesday evening, February 5, 2008**. Thank you.

Dates to Remember

Saturday, March 15, 2008 *Easter-on-the Farm* at the PA German Cultural Heritage Center at Kutztown. Our log cabin will be open as well as all buildings on the farm. Hours are 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM and admission is free.

Saturday, March 15, 2008. 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM and Sunday, March 16, 2008, 1: 00 PM - 4:00 PM *La Salle Academy PTO First Annual Egg Art Show* to be held at La Salle Academy, 440 Holland Street, Shillington, PA 19607. For information contact Diane Rollins at 610-378-1298 for more information.

Saturday, March 29 and Sunday March 30, 2008, Reading-Berks Chapter in partnership with **The PA German Cultural Heritage Center** will sponsor our annual *Spring Fine Arts and Crafts Festival at the Kutztown University Field House*.

Members in the News

W. Eugene Burkhart, Jr. was one of the featured artists on the December Lynne Doyle Show - "It's Your Call" CN8 Comcast Philadelphia. The show claims to have 10 million viewers and was one of her Christmas Specials. Gene decorated one of his tabletop trees with a Victorian Theme using dried plant material. Also, one of Gene's students was present to show how easy it was to create a dried flower Christmas tree. Lynn Doyle decorates up to 17 trees each year in her home. She and her staff were interested in learning how to create a Christmas tree with flowers from your own garden. The segment was taped at the GoggleWorks. During the Christmas Special at her home, the viewers could see Gene's completed tree that she had displayed in her home. ***Congratulations, Gene!*** Note the program aired on December 20th at 9:00 PM according to an article in the ***Reading Eagle*** on that date.

NOTICE TO COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Annual Reports of all committees are due at the February board meeting, Wednesday, February 27, 2008.

Inclement Weather

*In the case of inclement weather on our regularly scheduled meeting nights, please call our Chapter phone number 610-678-6650 to check if we have cancelled our meeting. **If the meeting is cancelled***

This winter has been a mild one so far, except for a few icy days, will the Groundhog see his shadow on Groundhog Day? Is Spring just 2 months away?