



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 □

Thank-you! Thank-you! Thank-you! To all the volunteers and there were many -- great job, to the craftswomen and craftsmen -- outstanding, to the artists -- fantastic, to the students -- brilliant and can't wait to see more, the Heritage Center staff -- we're ready for the encore, and Kutztown University -- great venue.

THANK-YOU!!

The Spring Festival was a very creative event and it all came together because of **YOU!** The customers of the Spring Festival were certainly treated to a professional and entertaining show. I am sure they are all glad they came to Kutztown.

It has been a busy beginning to 2008 for our chapter with our Spring Festival. Our Reading-Berks Chapter gains new members each month. We welcome you and your energy to our group. Reading-Berks does not let grass grow under their feet. The month of May will feature our Student Awards Program and this event is a treat for everyone. Trust me, you do not want to miss this.

In June we will all let our "hair down" and enjoy ourselves at our annual picnic at beautiful Gring's Mill. Bring your appetite. We have great cooks in this guild! In July, we don't have a meeting but that gives you plenty of time to be part of the Kutztown Festival -- a great summer experience! And, then, my goodness -- **THE HOLIDAY SHOW WILL BE HERE BEFORE WE KNOW IT!** The applications are coming in daily -- it looks like it could fill up early this year. So if you want to do this show, get your application in!

I found this quote -- thought it might be appropriate with April 15 just around the corner -- "*There is one difference between a tax collector and a taxidermist -- the taxidermist leaves the hide.*" Mortimer Caplin

Barry Bennessoff, Your President

Program

Students award night. The May meeting will feature the annual Students Awards night. Students from area High Schools will participate for cash prizes, and more importantly, needed recognition for their senior art and crafts projects.

Our hospitality committee headed by Pat Oxenford, along with Judy Boyer and Elaine Vardjan will once again create a table of goodies for us all to enjoy. So come on out and support this effort. The entries are usually outstanding.

Our June meeting will once again be at Grings Mill, for our annual picnic. This year as last, we will beat the heat. So mark your calendars and don't miss these events. *Program Chairperson-*

Michael Wango

Annual Picnic

Our annual chapter picnic will be held on Tuesday, June 3, 2008 - **rain or shine** - indoors at the Gring's Mill Barn (same location as last year). Our chapter will supply the meats, beverages, all paper products and plastic utensils. You provide the rest of the meal. Please bring a covered dish of your choice to complete the menu. We have a good start to a delicious meal with those who already signed up at the April meeting. The sign up sheet will be available again at the May meeting or call Pat Oxenford, Judy Boyer or Elaine Vardjan so that we know how many to plan for and coordinate our meal. We had a great attendance last year and look forward to having even more of you attend this year.

Support and encourage the Berks County area high school senior art students -- attend our annual Student Awards Program on May 6, 2008.

BCTV "Your Berks Craftsmen"

April's program will feature Ruthanne Hartung and her newly released book **HERITAGE CRAFTS TODAY *Fraktur*** published by Stackpole Books. The May program will feature area students who will have participated in our Student Awards Program. *W. Eugene Burkhart, Jr., "Your Berks Craftsmen" Host*

REPEAT INFO FROM LAST MONTH

BCTV Goes International

"*Your Berks Craftsmen*" goes international on BCTV **WOW!** When the show is presented live on BCTV (usually the 3rd Wednesday of the month from 7:00 to 8:00 PM), **go to BCTV's website www.bctv.org and click on watch the live show on your computer.** It is easy to do. This means that our one-hour show can now be seen internationally

In the future BCTV hopes that you will be able to download any program at any time, not just at the live telecast time slot. We will inform you as soon as this feature is available. Please keep this information in mind when it is BCTV's Octoberfest time. Hopefully you will be generous with your donations.

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Please keep **June Moyer** in your prayers. Continue to keep **Dominic Attili, Ray Oxenford, Judy Boyer, Kathy Harris, Lucy Neilson and her husband, and Anita Geiger** on your prayer list. Also, keep **Ruthanne Hartung's husband, Jim Mehaffey, and Carolyn Flickinger** in your prayers. We wish them all a speedy get well

Thank you

Dominic Attili wishes to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers these past few weeks. He appreciates your get-well wishes.

Memorial Service

You are invited to attend a memorial service for the folklorist Dr. Alfred L. Shoemaker on his 95th Birthday, Sunday, April 13, 2008 at 2:00 PM at Trinity Lutheran Church, 357 West Main Street, Kutztown, PA. Dr. Shoemaker was the guiding light behind the 1950 Kutztown Folk Festival.

Lost and Found at the Show

The following items were found at our show.

- A pendant of multi-color stone in silver finding (no chain)
- One (1) light jade green earring with gold wire
- A small silver charm "Charge Card"

If you or anyone you know has lost any of these items please contact Pat Oxenford 610-385-3431.

Show Report...

Spring Fine Arts & Crafts Festival

The show is now history. It has been a success along with many learning experiences.

This year's show included 65 artisans, the Pa. German Heritage Center's General Store, the Kutztown University Student Gallery of 18 students, The Acoustics Road Show and catering by Dori Martin. We also had many firsts with this year's show.

- We established a different layout and entrance to the show.
- We lifted the electrical wires above the isles so no one would trip on the cables.
- We used the Universities new electrical system. The system worked great with ours.
- We switched to rack cards instead of postcards.
- The PGCHC re-erected their antique loom and a spinning wheel, both were demonstrated.
- We establish our First Annual College Gallery with 18 Fine Arts and Craft students and NAEA members working with children on make-it-take-it projects.
- Our Gallery was a super success. The students work was unbelievable and of great quality.
- There was a lot of interaction between our Guild members and the students.
- We highly recommended them to come to the guild meeting and encouraged them to become juried members of the Reading-Berks Guild and the State Guild.
- Our mission and goals are to help and encourage the growth of the Arts.

This is a jubilant time for our chapter, its membership and our Shows.

2008 Holiday Show

Now that the Spring Show has passed our attention will be focused on the **Holiday Show 2008**. With our reorganizing of both shows, we are very excited about the up and coming 2008 Holiday Show. Please, by all means, our main goal is presenting an excellent show floor and that means your commitment as a juried Guild Member.

We also would like to see group booths, especially for members that can't fill a booth by themselves. At this time we have almost half of the booths committed and we still have 7 months to go. So don't delay, to ensure your booth space, please complete and submit your application ASAP.

We are also accepting items for our annual raffle drawing. This has been a major promotion for all that donate. Karen Myers has been using these items to advertise the show. This gives you free advertising for your increased sales. Rack cards are also available. Contact Karen Myers or pick some up at the May meeting. *Terry & Judy Boyer, Show chairmen*

Standards

The following members have successfully completed the jury session on March 11, 2008.

Mike Brown - *Papier Maché*

Hilary Deighan - *Decorative Painting*

Paul Grecian - *Photography*

Wanda Kalbach - *Jewelry*

Wayne Kiser - *Photography*

Elizabeth C. Zipay - *Tatting - Jewelry*

Louise McHaffey, Standards Chairperson

Membership

Please welcome the following new members to our chapter.

Joanne & Marlin F. Kenney - *Woodworking*

87 Walnuttown Road

Fleetwood, P 19522

Janice Meyer - *Jewelry*

P.O. Box 93

Fleetwood, PA 19522

June Meyer, Membership Chairperson

PA German Cultural Heritage Center

The next event at PGCHC will be the Old Time Plow Boys spring plowing show on April 26 - 27, 2008. Our Log Cabin will be open and we have 8 artisans planning to set up in the cabin. Space is also available outside as well. Some of the Kutztown University students expressed interest to set up their work in the farm house also. Times of the show are Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM.

The Pennsylvania Artist Blacksmith Association will hold their annual Blacksmith Day on Saturday, June 1, 2008 at PGCHC. You are welcome to set up a display under your canopy or participate in the log cabin. If you want to set up under your canopy for this event, contact Dave Fisher at fforg@early.com or participate in the log cabin contact Pat Oxenford. Show time is 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM.

Help is needed with Kids Camp at PGCHC the last week of July. If you can give a few hours of your time to teach a craft class to children, contact Elaine Vardjan.

Newsletter

Information for inclusion in the May newsletter should be to me by **8:00 AM, Wednesday, May 7, 2008.**

Mark your calendar, June 3, 2008 - Annual Picnic at Gring's Mill Stone Barn

Members in the News

Gene Burkhardt's mixed media "Rhythm and Motion" Was selected for All That Jazz Gallery Show that was sponsored by the Berks Arts Council. This art show is in the second floor gallery at GoggleWorks, during the annual Berks Jazz Fest.

Marilyn Diener is pictured in her booth cutting a scherenschnitte design in this year's Christkindlmarkt application.

On Sunday May 25th from 2 to 6 PM **Michael Wargo** will be doing a wood carving demonstration at RACC as part of the Senior Festival of the Arts and Sunday with the Arts!

On Sunday, June 1st from 2 to 5 PM **Gene Burkhardt** will be demonstrating Pressed Flower Art at RACC for Sunday with the Arts! As part of the Senior Festival of the Arts.

More detailed information on **Terry and Judy Boyer's 2008 Flower Show entry** □ their entry, *The Sands of Time* won 3rd place in the Artistic Division for the Miniature Settings, Class Section 136 - My Favorite Things - Outside. The miniature setting was a constructed box of 1-in to 12-inch scale. The construction is to create a 3-dimensional scene of a subject. Horticulture had to be used throughout the scene, and were required to have a minimum of 8 plants, rooted and dressed to pull you into the created scene.

The judging of the miniature scenes were *focal point*- the intended scene, where does your eye take you to? *Craftsmanship* - the so-called "doll house" effect. *Scale* - a must through the whole scene. *Maintenance* - must be in tip-top shape for the whole 10 days of the show.

Denise Wilz's sgraffito plate, "Partridge in a Pear Tree", was the cover image of the April issue of *Antiques and Collecting* magazine. This is the second magazine this month that placed her work on the cover. The issue included an interview with Denise and many examples of her work.

CLASSIFIED

The Gallery School of Pottstown, a non-profit art school sponsors 6 weeklong day camps for children. They are looking for guest artists to visit and talk to the campers about their artwork, demonstrate or even do projects with the campers. Camps run Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM starting 3rd week of June. You can sign up for a single or multiple time slots from ½ hour to 1 hour in length. *If interested, contact Julie Tonnessen, The Gallery School of Pottstown, 254 High Street, Pottstown, PA 19464, 610-326-2506 FAX: 610-326-2507, or www.galleryonhigh.org*