



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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May, 2008

President's Message □

Our recent Student Awards program did go beyond our expectations. The participants were extremely talented as evidenced by their entries in the various categories. Most students were present and spoke about their respective pieces. I believe that the arts and crafts movement is alive and well. We as the Reading-Berks Guild will continue to work to build a relationship between these young artists and craftsmen to ensure ongoing interest in the arts and crafts. To all the young artists, we wish you continued success in your future endeavors. I want to thank everyone who helped make our Student Awards program 2008 a success. I appreciate all your hard work for this very worthwhile event. Student Awards program is very special to our Guild.

Another special event for our Guild, next month, is the annual picnic at Gring's Mill. Rain or shine, the picnic will go on at the barn. So bring your favorite covered dish and we will all partake in another art form, the art of overeating! Great food, great conversation with friends--Sounds like a great start to Summer!

"If you are yearning for the good old days, just turn off the air-conditioning." Griff Niblack
Barry Bennecoff, Your President

BCTV "Your Berks Craftsmen"

The May program will feature pre-taped highlights from the recent Student Awards Program as well as the prize winners of each category will be in the studio with their work talking with host Gene Burkhart and Charlene Keller, Education Chairperson.

For the June program Dave Fooks and artisans participating in this year's Kutztown Festival will be in the studio to discuss the upcoming festival. Videotape from last year's festival will possibly be shown also. **W. Eugene Burkhart, Jr., Host, "Your Berks Craftsmen"**

Program □

Actually there is no program for June. This is the time for our annual picnic. Join us at Grings Mill just a short distance from the Red Bridge picnic area. (Directions are listed elsewhere in the newsletter) Our event will be held in the barn, which means neither rain nor... will impede our festivities.

Pat Oxenford is compiling a list of items people are bringing for the picnic so contact her and let her know what you will be bringing. As always we anticipate that everyone will have a great time. The food is always good, and the company pleasant. So join us.

For July we will suspend our meeting for our summer break. I'm working on a program for the August meeting and that will be reported in a later newsletter.

Program Chair – Michael Wargo

Annual Family Picnic

The chapter will provide the meat (meatballs and turkey barbecue), as well as the rolls, beverages, paper products and plastic utensils. You supply the remainder of the covered dish meal. A sign up sheet was available at the May meeting. If you have any questions contact Judy Boyer, Elaine Vardjan or Pat Oxenford - phone numbers are on the last page of this newsletter. **Gather at 5:30 PM and the meal will be served at 6:00 PM RAIN OR SHINE**

DIRECTIONS TO GRING'S MILL BARN PICNIC

AREA: Exit Route 222 on Broadcasting Road, go past the entrance to Penn State (*where we have our Holiday Show*) for about a half-mile to the stop sign. Turn **right** on Tulpehocken Road and go about ½ mile. Watch for the parking area on the left. (Across from Berks Campus PSU). The stone barn is at the bottom of the hill. (*If you can't walk down or up the hill, we'll provide a shuttle van service.*)

2008 Holiday Show

There are a few things that need to be addressed for this year's Holiday Show.

Yes, we passed the **DUE DATE**. BUT, we are still accepting applications. Do you want to have a change in booth sizes? We have just a few of the 10x10 ft. and corner booths available.

We also would like to see group booths, especially for members that can't fill a booth by themselves. If you are interested email Kelly Brown Brehm at, kbrehm@teddybears.com or call at 610-370-2951.

So if you have that application on your desk, by all means fill it out and send it in to our chapter's PO BOX. If you don't have the application, get it from the Chapter Website or, email me at wc1860@verizon.net.

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 available at the meetings. If you would like to have some sent to you please call Carol Haile at 610-374-7048, please leave a message, or email at inkpencjh@msn.com.

Our goal is a two-fold mission -- presenting an excellent show floor and increasing all of our sales for a profitable show for YOU. That means your commitment as a juried Guild Member. Thank you, **Terry & Judy Boyer Show Chairpersons.**

3 Table-top Displays Available

Our chapter has been given 3 tabletop displays, each consisting of two 4-ft panels and one 3-ft. panel that need to be clamped together as well as clamped to the top of several tables.

All three are made of thin paneling, lightweight, and easy to handle. Two booths have stenciled borders and molding along the top and the third has a window in the center section with an outdoor scene painted to resemble looking out your window. A cute small white dog sits "outside" looking in.

These are available for your use, especially to those who do not have backdrops as yet. Also, "group booths" may use them as well to set up your display.

If you are in need of a booth, please contact Ray and Pat Oxenford at 610-385-3431. Once the log cabin is completed we will store them there.

Membership

The Reading Berks Chapter of the PA Guild of Craftsmen would like to welcome the following new members:

Mary Rose Feldman, Paper – Elegant Boxes & Unique Gifts

119 Coventry Lane
Wyomissing, PA 19610
Phone: 610-927-4321

Steven Hunter, Clay- Pottery

620 Park Rd.
Lansdale, PA 19446

Lisa Short, Paper – PA German Folk Art & Fraktur

1725 Perkiomenville Rd.
Perkiomenville, PA 18074
Phone: 484-432-1537

Duane Wendling, Wood- Custom Furniture & Period Styling

1340 Eagle Point Rd.
Kutztown, PA 19520

June Moyer, Membership Chairperson

2008 Mini-Grant Winners

Sandra Jean Coldren

Stencil Artisans Convention in Charleston, SC

Todd Gladfelter

Two courses at the Touchstone Center for Crafts

Louise Mehaffey

Borosilicate lampworking class with Doug
Remschneider

Karen Myers

Two books – Moving Metal with Repousse and
the Ancient Art of Chasing

Congratulations!

Many **Thanks** extended to the following
Craftsmen who submitted applications for the
Mini-Grant:

Linda Beiler

National Association of Wheat Weavers
Conference in Peoria, IL

Adrienne Shuker

Stained Glass Class at the GoggleWorks

Brenda Wilton

Computer Design Class at the Baum School
Charlene Keller, Education Chairperson

Members in the News

Russ Hotzman of Oley was named Berks County's 2008 Outdoor Sports Person of the Year. He was honored at a banquet on Saturday, April 5, 2008 held at the Virginville Grange and hosted by Berks County Federation of Sportsmen's Club. Congratulation.

Congratulations to **Lillian Walter**, *our only remaining charter member*, who was honored at Alumni Day at Kutztown University on Saturday, May 3, 2008. Lillian and only one other classmate from the class of 1928, who graduated from (known then as the Keystone Normal School) Kutztown University that year, celebrated their 80-year reunion. CONGRATULATIONS!!!! She is 97 years young! We wish you many more reunions! We hope you all got to see her picture and read the article in the Sunday, May 4, 2008 *Reading Eagle*.

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Carolyn Flickinger was hospitalized this past month, we continue to keep her in our prayers.

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

Many of our members know **Don Levengood**, "Heritage in Miniature" craftsmen of salesmen samples furniture, please add his name to your prayer list. Thanks.

With Our Sympathy

It is with sadness that we note the passing of one of our long-time members, **Walter Liebich**. Walter passed away on May 14, 2008 at the Hershey Medical Center. He and his wife, Helga had just celebrated their 51st wedding anniversary on Saturday, May 10, 2008. Walter was an excellent cabinetmaker, working in his profession for 60 years. We extend our sympathy to his wife Helga, and their daughters Heidi and Sonja and their families.

Newsletter

Information for the June newsletter should be submitted by Wednesday, June 4, 2008. **Please note that there will NOT be a newsletter published in July.** *Pat Oxenford, Newsletter Editor*

REMINDER: No meeting in July. No newsletter published in July!

Book of Shows

Kelly Brown Brehm is maintaining a notebook of shows and applications for shows other than our chapter shows. If you are looking for other shows look through this book that Kelly places on the table by the sign-in book at meetings.

Classified

Craft People Wanted: Kindercare Learning Center is looking for volunteer craft people to share their interest in crafts for a day with 7 to 12 year olds at their 90th George Street facility. They are sponsoring a special club for students to learn about arts and crafts, starting Tuesday, June 9th and running through the summer until the end of August. Interested craftsmen can contact Donna Mast at 610-921-1414.

Fabrics and Notions Needed Looking for donation of all types of fabrics, thread and sewing tools to teach children sewing. Instructors are welcome. If interested, contact Kelly Brown Brehm, 610-370-2951.

Belsnickel Craft Show Any PA Guild members interested in the 2008 juried Belsnickel Craft Show, Friday November 28 and Saturday November 29, held this year at the Boyertown Area Senior High School by the Boyertown Area Historical Society, please contact MDMarkley@aol.com and reference the craft show, or call the Historical Society at 610-367-5255. It's a great show held for many, many years and now doesn't conflict with the Franklin and Marshall Guild Show.

Fundraiser for Breast Cancer Support Services of Berks County: *Summer Parrot Daze 08*, sponsored by the Berks County Parrot Head Club, will be held Saturday, July 19, 2008 from 1 to 9 PM at Fish Pond West in Bernville. Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door. Food and drink will be available for purchase. Live music for your dancing pleasure will be provided by Nautical Wheelers from 1 to 4 PM and by Jimmy and the Parrots from 6 to 9 PM.

The Breast Cancer Support Services of Berks County is hosting a silent auction at the event and is in need of donations for their auction. If you would like to donate an item to the silent auction, purchase tickets or need additional information, please contact Kelly (Oxenford) Simmons at 610-385-6598 or email her at msimmons@dejazzd.com

Thank you for your support of breast cancer awareness and the Breast Cancer Support Services of Berks County.

Memorial Day Take time to remember those who are currently serving our country, those veterans who have served in the military and the many veterans who have given of their lives so that we may enjoy freedom. God Bless Them and their families.