



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 □

Thanksgiving last week, Reading-Berks Guild Holiday party this week; I think I may need to ask Santa for a bigger belt. I guess the extra calories I've been consuming lately will help keep me warm in this cold weather. Our Holiday Social was loads of fun and again kudos to the committee for pulling it altogether.

Our annual charity was the goggleWorks scholarship fund so with the generosity of our members and our guild we will be giving \$400. I want to wish everyone a Very Blessed Holiday Season and a Joyous New Year. Take time to enjoy the holidays with your family and friends and experience the best the season has to offer.

Shifting gears, on November 28, 2008, we received an e-mail from Penn State Berks Campus that they can no longer rent their Field House to us for our Holiday Show. Their enrollment and athletic involvement has grown larger than the facilities they presently have. Your Board of Directors and Show Committee are working on finding a new location and hope to have good news very soon.

"May all your troubles last as long as your New Year's resolutions." Joey Adams *Barry Bennessoff,* your *President.*

Program

In January we will meet Carl Constein a local educator (retire) and author. Carl is a native of Berks County and has written several books covering a wide variety of subjects. Carl will be discussing his new book *"From the Rhine To Penn's Woods"*. This story was inspired by a stroll through Saint John's Haines cemetery. The subject is a history of a family that migrated from Germany in 1753. The session should be interesting from many aspects, so plan on attending. Carl will sell and sign copies of this book at the conclusion of the meeting. *Program Chair, Michael Wango*

BCTV "Your Berks Craftsmen"

Do you need last minute holiday decorating tips, if so, don't miss the December 17th *"Your Berks Craftsmen"* when host, **W. Eugene Burkhart, Jr.** and **Judy Boyer** will share holiday decorating ideas and tips.

Just another reminder, if you can't get BCTV on your television, you can go to www.BCTV.org on your computer. Also, thanks again for your donations to the recent Octoberfest.

Wishing you a joyous holiday season, from your host and staff of BCTV. *W. Eugene*

Burkhart, Jr., "Your Berks Craftsmen" Host

Wishing you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year!

Show Committee News

We hope everyone had a bountiful Thanksgiving. The Show committee is meeting on Dec. 10th at the GoogleWorks. We have much to plan for the upcoming year.

The Spring Show is just around the corner. **So get those applications in.** The Show committee would like to keep our momentum going since we had such a wonderful Holiday Show.

I would like to know if any of you would like to teach a class at this years Spring Show? The thought is since we have the college students involved with our show what better time to encourage them in a class! Think about it; let me know if you would be interested. More news next month on this.

We do have some challenges for 2009. The Holiday Show is our 60th anniversary, just think 60 years in doing the Chapter Show. Are there any of you that were involved with the first show? We want to celebrate it in a big way. Since we must leave Penn State due to the increasing growth of its students, we will be working on this at the Dec. Meeting. Lots more to come in the next Newsletter.

Have a wonderful Holiday and great New Years. From *Terry & Judy Boyer, Show Chairpersons.*

Belated Birthday Wishes

Belated Happy 98th birthday wishes to Lillian Walter, our oldest chapter member. We wish you many more happy and healthy birthdays!

Website

"Chapter Members Only" Information

user name:

password:

- Update Your Website Member Information
- Order Reading-Berks Guild of Craftsmen Badge Form
- Chapter Jurying Standards Statement and Form

If you have any questions, contact **Kelly Brown Brehm** at 610-370-2951, *Kelly Brehm, Web Administrator*

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Belated get well, speedy recovery wishes to **Marie Schildt, Ken Handwerk and Terry Boyer.**

Belated get well wishes to **Lillian Walter** who recently was hospitalized for a few days. You may send your get well wishes to Lillian at The Highlands, 2000 Cambridge Avenue, Wyomissing, PA, 19610

Continue to keep the following members and friends in your prayers, **Carolyn Flickinger, and her husband John and daughter Eileen.** Also, **June Moyer, Ruthanne Hartung's husband, John,** as well as **Jim Mehaffey, Lucy Neilson and her husband, and Don Levensgood** in your prayers.

Members in the News

The Saturday, November 29, 2008, *LifeStyle* section of the **Reading Eagle**, featured an article on **Wilfriede Axsmith**, and her art of fashion, painting on silk. Great article!

Congratulations to **Karen Bilak** who participated in the Holiday Gallery Exhibit this year at the PA Guild's Holiday Show in Lancaster. This year's theme was "Youthfulness". Karen was honored to receive the Pocono Chapter's John Bonjovi award for her framed patchwork quilt titled "Summer Camp".

Northampton Community College has teamed with our Reading-Berks Guild of Craftsmen and the PA German Cultural Heritage Center to offer 1-day classes in eight heritage crafts. The classes will be held at the Heritage Center on Saturday, April 18, 2009. Instructors will be **Shirley Sacks, Louise Hutchings, Janice Sonnen, Pat Oxenford, Elaine Vardjan, W. Eugene Burkhart, Jr. Tammy Wilkinson and Linda Beiler.** This will be the pilot partnership program and hope to expand and continue it twice per year, once each spring and fall semester. If you would like more information or to participate in future classes, contact Pat Oxenford.

Seasons Greetings

Thank You

Thank you to **Dana Hossler** for giving us a tabletop bulletin board for use in our log cabin to display the names of those members who are exhibiting their work. We used the bulletin board on Saturday, December 6th at Christmas-on-the-Farm. Thanks, Dana.

PA German Cultural Heritage Center

The events for 2008 are now behind us and we are working on the events planned for 2009. On Saturday, April 4, 2009 we will have Easter-on-the-Farm. It will be a day to learn the PA German traditional Easter customs.

April 18, 2009 will be the first Traditional Crafts Workshop sessions.

April 25th and 26th, 2009 will be the Plow Boys annual Spring Plow In event. Also, many 1-day craft workshops are in the planning stages, as plans are finalized, dates and workshops will be announced.

Gallery Show

If you signed up to be participate in our chapter's gallery show at the GoggleWorks, Gene Burkhart has the application/registration forms. If you did not attend and get your form at the chapter's holiday social, plan to attend the January meeting to get the form that must be submitted with your work.

Newsletter

The deadline for information to be included in the January 2009 newsletter will be Wednesday morning, January 7, 2009. Send information to me at paoxenford@dejazzd.com. *Pat Overford,*

Newsletter Editor

Classified

The LaSalle Academy's 2009 Egg Art Show will be held Saturday, April 4 and Sunday, April 5, 2009. If you are interested, contact Diane Rollins at 610-378-1298 or rollins.fam@comcast.net for more information and an application form. Registration deadline is February 1, 2009.

Standards

The first jury session of 2009 will be on Tuesday, March 10, 2009. Contact Louise Mehaffey for info and registration forms..

Holiday Social

On December 2, 2008, 54 members and friends attended our annual Holiday Social. It was an evening of great food, fun and fellowship. We wish to thank you for your generous contributions towards our annual charity, this year, the GoggleWorks Scholarship Fund.

Also, for the past several years, Boscov's Ala Carte Catering has supplied generous portions of food, more than we can eat. Likewise, for the past several years, we have been packaging the excess food to be distributed to the Opportunity House on South 4th Street by **Kathryn and Leon Shultz**. This year they also included several families on their block of South 4th Street who are having a difficult time at this joyous holiday season. Thank you, Kathryn and Leon, for spreading cheer to those less fortunate on behalf of our Reading-Berks Chapter.

*As we gather with family and friends to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child at this Christmas season, take time to pause and give thanks for our many blessings. **Take time to remember our service men and women who are defending our freedoms on foreign soil. Remember them and their families who are separated this holiday season, may God Bless Them and may they return home safely to their families.***

As the song goes, "Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me"

Peace on Earth - Good Will Toward Men