



# READING-BERKS CHAPTER

*Pennsylvania Guild of Craftsmen*

P.O. Box 85, Mohnton, PA 19540

*Reading-Berks Guild Website: [www.rbcrafts.org](http://www.rbcrafts.org)*

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## *President's Message*

March Madness strikes at the Reading-Berks Guild of Craftsmen. Of course, you all know about this, but I am so excited about our gallery show this month in the Vist Room on the third floor of the googleWorks. "One-of-a-Kind" opens this month featuring us. Special thanks to the goggleWorks for giving us this fantastic opportunity to highlight our creative and talented artists and craftsmen. Reading-Berks Guild of Craftsmen will also have a booth at the Home and Garden Show, March 13, 14, 15 at the Expo Center. Again, another golden opportunity for us to highlight what we do and to show that "Made in America" is alive and well. And last but not least our Spring Festival at Kutztown University the last weekend of this month, showcasing the fine craftsmen and artists of the Guild and new aspiring artists from Kutztown University. I hope you will be joining your fellow craftsmen at this event. Call Terry Boyer our show chair and reserve your space for the end of the month. This is an opportunity to

support your Guild, support the arts and support yourself. Let's give our patrons of The Reading-Berks Guild of Craftsmen a show of shows! (Remember, our Holiday Show in 2009 will be this new venue.) No one knows what the immediate future will bring in regards to the economy. Our guess is as good as the experts. The arts and crafts industry will survive because it is more than just a job. It is a passion with most of us. It is what puts a smile on our face at the end of a hard day, an accomplishment, a source of pride.

And don't think you can let grass grow under your feet after the Spring Festival because Easter-on-the-Farm is happening at the Heritage Center in April. Enjoy!

I have two quotes this month: "*Nothing is a waste of time if you use the experience wisely.*" Rodin ... "*Things turn out best for the people who make the best of the way things turn out.*" John Wooden *Barry Bennehoff, Your Chapter President*

## **CORRECTIONS TO THE 2009 HOLIDAY SHOW APPLICATIONS:**

***Please note the pricing for the 2009 Holiday Show as listed below. Some booth sizes were omitted and/or incorrectly denoted the size. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused. Please complete this section, cut out and include when submitting your 2009 Holiday Show Application, or print a revised copy from our Website. Thank you. NOTE CHANGE IN BOOTH WALL HEIGHT - MINIMUM 6 FT HIGH. Anything less requires a pipe and drape booth walls.***

\_\_\_\_\_ \$160.00 for a 10 ft. x 10 ft. booth  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$160.00 for a 5 ft. x 20 ft. booth  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$235.00 for a 10 ft. x 15 ft. booth  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$175.00 for a 10 ft. x 10 ft. corner booth  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 75.00 for rental of pipe and drape fixtures if you do not have this required backdrop\*\*(*booth space additional*)  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 20.00 assessment if unable to volunteer for show duties  
\_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_ CHECK NUMBER

## **Program**

Note the change in the April program. **We will not hold our annual Student Awards Program**, but will present three awards to worthy students in three categories as part of the BCIU High School Art Exhibit at the goggleWorks. Louise Mehaffey and several members of our Standards Committee will review the senior entries to select our Reading-Berks Chapter winners.

As a result of this change, the April program will be presented by Elaine Vardjan on the subject of "Eggery". Elaine enjoys creating many different PA German styles of egg decorating, so it is sure to be a great program.

If you were a recent recipient of a Mini Grant (the past 2 years), as part of your fulfillment of receiving those grants, the guidelines state recipients are required to present a program on how they used their mini grant funds. Michael is looking for you to present a program in May. Please contact him if he doesn't call you first, *Michael Wargo, Program*

*Chairperson*

## **BCTV - "Your Berks Craftsmen"**

The March 18th "Your Berks Craftsmen" program will feature Terry and Judy Boyer, Spring Festival Chairpersons along with artisans who will be exhibiting their work at our upcoming Spring Festival.

The April 15th program will highlight the senior winners selected from the BCIU High School Art Exhibit along with Nancy Lemmerhart, and the 2009 Senior Festival of the Arts sponsored by the Berks County Office of Aging. *W. Eugene Burkhardt, Jr., Your Berks Craftsmen Host*

***In all object making, that aspect which relates to its conceptual interpretation is ART. That which relates the object to an intended purpose is DESIGN -- and the quality of its execution is CRAFT.***  
*Anonymous*

**Volunteers are still needed for the Spring Festival Admissions table and greeters. If you can give an hour of your time at the show please contact Pat Oxenford ASAP.**

NEWSLETTER: April newsletter deadline is Wednesday, April 8, 2009. Please submit info to Pat Oxenford at [paoxenford@dejazzd.com](mailto:paoxenford@dejazzd.com)

## **Spring Show News**

Everyone please encourage your customers to attend the Spring Fine Arts & Craft Show. What does this show have to offer for you and your customers:

- Juried Crafts and Fine Art
- One-of-a-kind art work
- Made in the USA
- Up and coming artist from KU displaying and selling their work
- The PA German Heritage Center's members will be demonstrating
- The PA German Heritage Center will have their store set up
- We have a cafe' set up for your enjoyment
- Hot food by Dori Martin
- Live music by the Acoustics Road Show, featuring artists from KU.

**You, as a member of the Reading Berks Guild, have a responsibility to promote all of the guilds activities.**

## **Holiday Show News**

Pay close attention to your newsletter. There already have been changes to the application for the Holiday Show.

**To our membership and state members that have done our Holiday shows in the past.**

Last year's 2008 Holiday Show, with the declining economic situation, we had record sales. Why was that? We jury this show and only the juried artists from the Guild are allowed to do this show.

We were always limited to 99 booths at the past location. That's not the case in our new location, we can accommodate double that amount and then some.

**This is your chance to apply early, don't wait until the last minute.**

We are going to have an active cafe' with live music and food on site, and a Youth Gallery for up and coming college artists.

**There will be more information on the advertising in next month's newsletter.**

***Keep Art and Crafts alive get involved with the Reading Berks Guild of Craftsmen. Thank You. Terry & Judy Boyer, Show Chairpersons***

## ***PA German Cultural Heritage Center***

Just a reminder that Easter-on-the-Farm is Saturday, April 4, 2009 from 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM. Our log cabin will be open.

Artisans are still needed for the log cabin for Saturday, April 25 and Sunday, April 26, 2009 for the Plow Boys Spring event to celebrate their 20th anniversary year. If you would like to display and demonstrate your craft please contact Pat Oxenford at 610-385-3431.

Elaine Vardjan is still looking for more artisans to share their craft with the children at Kids Kamp the end of July. Please contact her if you can help. There are three age groups and both morning and afternoon sessions.

The work on our log cabin is progressing, Bill Scheirer, Matt Vardjan and Scott Meyer are working on the winder staircase.

On April 18, 2009, the first Traditional PA German Crafts Day, in partnership with the Heritage Center and Northampton Community College will take place. Members of our chapter will teach workshops on Paper Folk Art; Pressed Flower Art (2 sessions); Redware Pottery (2 sessions - plate, bowl); Wheat Weaving (2 sessions); Fiber Art (full day session); Fraktur Art (full day session); Penny Rugs (full day session); Toile Painting (full day session). For more info or to register, contact Northampton Community College at 1-877-543-0998.

We're hopeful this will become an annual event. If you are interested in joining us next year, please contact Pat Oxenford for more information.

## ***VIST GALLERY SHOW***

The Vist Gallery Chapter Show at the goggleWorks on the 3rd floor is set up and ready for you to visit. Show runs through March 25, 2009. Gallery items may be picked up on March 26, 2009.

## ***Classified:***

**Berks Visiting Nurse Association** is sponsoring a 1-day outdoor, rain or shine, Fall Fest event on Saturday, October 10th from 9 am - 3 pm at 1170 Berkshire Blvd., Wyomissing. Space is one parking lot space at cost of \$25.00, including 1 table and 2 chairs. Contact Melissa Wenzel at 610-378-0481 for more info or an application.

**15th Annual Arts on the Avenue** on Penn Avenue, West Reading is scheduled for Saturday, June 20, 2009 from 10 am - 5 pm, rain or shine. Cost is application fee of \$15 and Single booth fee of \$75. For more info contact West Reading Main Street Office at 610-685-8854. Application deadline is March 31, 2009.

**See you at the Spring Festival March 27, 28, 2009**

## ***In Our Thoughts and Prayers***

Please keep **Bill Leinbach** in your thoughts and prayers, we wish him a speedy recovery from recent surgery. Also, keep **Kathy Harris** in your thoughts and prayers. We're glad to hear that **Lillian Walter** is back at the Highlands and wish her a speedy return to good health.

In addition, continue to keep **Carolyn Flickinger, June Moyer, Ruthanne Hartung's husband, John; Jim Mehaffey, Lucy Neilson and her husband, and Don Levengood** in your thoughts and prayers.

## ***CHAPTER PICNIC - JUNE 2, 2009***

At the April and May meetings we will be passing the picnic sign-up sheet around to get an estimate of how many to prepare for as well as an idea of what you will provide for the picnic meal. The chapter supplies the meat(s), beverages and paper products. You supply the rest --- from soup to desserts. Hope you'll join us at this annual event. We meet indoors overlooking the water at Grings Mill, so the event is rain or shine.

## ***Members in the News***

**W. Eugene Burkhart, Jr.** has been in the headlines this past month. There was a feature article in the *Reading Eagle* on Monday, February 23, 2009 on page B1 entitled *Special-ed surrogate parent finds job rewarding*.

This year **Gene** was a judge at the Philadelphia Flower Show, where he was the Pressed Flower Judge for the International Pressed Flower Competition, and Best of Show Judge.

**Gene** also did a lecture on Pressed Flower Art as well as book signings for his *Heritage Crafts Today - Pressed Flower Art* book, at the flower show.

On March 14 and 15, 2009 at the Southeast Home and Garden Show at the Reading Expo Center he will give seminars and have a booth on the Main Stage on the subject of pressed flower art. Congratulations, **Gene!**

The February 28th edition of *Lancaster Farming*, had a full-page article and pictures, entitled *Hooked on Rug Design*, featuring the work of **Janice Sonnen**.

**Pat Oxenford** was featured in the March 4, 2009 issue of *The Southern Berks News* entitled *Douglassville resident inspired by folk art*, discussing her book, *Heritage Crafts Today - Toile Painting*.

**Denise Wilz** will be demonstrating the Pennsylvania German sgraffito decorating technique on pottery at the Philadelphia Museum of Art's Family Program "Experience Colonial Life at Mount Pleasant" in Fairmont Park on April 26th.