



# 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*

I believe someone forgot to turn the page on the calendar. It seems that the April showers are pouring into May. I better get myself out into the shop right now because if the sun does happen to shine soon, there will be an unbelievable amount of grass to mow.

The state retreat went very well on April 18. Reading-Berks Guild of Craftsmen seems to be a very active group. I barely had enough time to mention all of our activities in our three minute time frame. Our student awards program went well (differed from previous years). Members of our Standards committee judged the event and were very impressed with the students and their work. Fear not, the arts are alive and well in Berks County. The Reading-Berks Guild also got a little press from The Reading Eagle with our participation this year. Our next general meeting is all fun. We will be at the beautiful Gring's Mill and I hope you all decide to come out and just enjoy an evening of great food and fellowship. We're in the barn so if the May showers we are now experiencing pour into June, the picnic is still a go.

Our 60th anniversary Holiday show by the Reading-Berks Guild is October 31 and November 1, 2009. I encourage you to get your applications in early. You will certainly want to be part of this historic event. Annie is working hard on putting a tabloid together for this show. Please call her soon to place your ad. You do not want to miss out on this advertising opportunity.

*"If you want truly to understand something, try to change it." Kurt Lewin*

*Your President, Barry Bennecoff*

## *Program - Annual Family Picnic*

Come rain or shine - our picnic is scheduled indoors at the Gring's Mill stone barn on Tuesday, June 2, 2009

The chapter will provide the meat (hot dogs with sour kraut and baked ham), 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 previously held 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).*

## *BCTV "Your Berks Craftsmen"*

Linda Beiler will be the guest artisan on the May 20th program with her newly released book "*Heritage Crafts Today - Wheat Weaving*". Linda is the fifth chapter member to write and have a book published in this series.

The June 17th show will feature artisans who will display and demonstrate their work at the upcoming Kutztown Folk Festival.

It's never too early to start planning for BCTV's Octofest to be held the week prior to our Holiday Show - what an excellent way to promote your work by giving a donation to BCTV! *W. Eugene*

*Burkhart, Jr., "Your Berks Craftsmen" Host*

### *Another reminder -- RAFFLE DONATIONS*

Because the date of the Holiday Show has changed, the deadlines for donation forms and raffle items will be earlier. All donation forms must be turned in by June 2 to reserve your table space. Raffle items should be handed in by the Chapter Picnic on June 2 in order to be photographed and put on the Web site. At the latest, have your item in by the September Chapter meeting. Any questions contact Cindy Foley.

Let us give thanks this Memorial Day for all our service men and women who have given their lives so that we may have our freedom. Let us also pray for all our service men and women who are on foreign soil defending our freedom - may they all return home safely.

**The 2009 Mini Grant Application** is included as an insert in this newsletter. Please note the deadline for submission to Charlene Keller is Friday, May 22, 2009. She'll draw four (4) winners, each to receive a \$50 mini grant at our annual picnic on June 2, 2009. Please be aware that a requirement of receiving a mini grant is that you must present a program on how you used this grant at a future meeting. Also, the mini grant funds must be used by 12/31/09 or refunded to the chapter.

## Congratulations - Winners

On Sunday, April 19, 2009, the Berks County Intermediate Unit hosted the 2009 Secondary Art Exhibit at the GoggleWorks Center for the Arts. Because the dates for this exhibit were changed from the original dates, this exhibit did not coincide with our regular monthly meeting.

After being notified about the date change, the Board made a decision to issue a limited amount of awards to the Senior Class participants at the show. Members of the Standards Committee took the opportunity to jury several pieces of work and issued certificates, ribbons and monetary awards. Listed below are the award winners:

- **Tylor Parenti**, Oley Valley HS - 1st Place Crafts for his Face Pot
- **Hannah Christ**, Daniel Boone HS - 1st Place Fine Arts for her Black and White Acrylic Painting of Children at the Shore
- **Carrie Daigle**, Antietam HS - 2nd Place Fine Arts for her Oil Painting of a Park
- **Jessika Tirado**, Reading HS - Hedwig Miller Fiber Arts Award for her Batik of a Lion
- **Kayla Freudig**, Brandywine Heights HS - 3-D Mixed Media for her Telephone Pages Dress

*Congratulations to all of the students who participated in this exhibit!*

For this exhibit, the Guild became the largest financial contributor (\$450.00). For our contribution, we received publicity through the hundreds of pamphlets that were printed as part of the show. Also, any person who toured the exhibit saw our name next to the winning student's work. Our monthly program, "**Your Berks Craftsmen**" was dedicated to showing the highlights of this show.

In closing, I would like to take a moment to send a huge THANKS to all of the art teachers. Your abilities and patience with students produced wonderful pieces of art for all people to enjoy.

*Charlene Keller, Education Chairperson*

## Show Rack Cards and Post Cards

Holiday Show post cards are expected to be available for distribution at our annual picnic on June 2nd. *Please note both the rack cards and the post cards have a presort postage paid permit NO 102 Hamburg imprinted. This is for our bulk mailing use only!*

**If you mail these cards, PLEASE ATTACH THE PROPER FIRST-CLASS POSTAGE! If you prefer us to mail your cards along with our bulk mailing, please provide us with the names and addresses from your mailing list. Contact Karen Myers or Terry Boyer for more information to submit your mailing lists.**

## Newsletter

Information for the June/July issue of the newsletter should be to me no later than Wednesday, June 3, 2009. **Please note that we will not publish a newsletter in the month of July.** *Pat Oxenford,*

*Newsletter Editor*

## Membership

The Reading-Berks Chapter of the PA Guild of Craftsmen is happy to welcome the following new member:

**Cheryl L. Bower**, *Lampwork Glass & Precious Metal*  
331 Henry Avenue  
Hughesville, PA 17737  
Phone: 570-584-5225

*June Moyer, Membership Chairperson*

## Members in the News

**Judy Moses** and **Nancy Speicher** each created a pottery bowl for the recent "Souper Bowl" for Opportunity House.

Recently the Berks County Historical Society honored five of their volunteers, including RB member, educator and crafts person, **Elaine Vardjan**, who uses her classroom-honed skills to guide and educate visitors to the Historical Society

**Trudy Kauffman**, **Janice Sonnen**, **Sandra Jean Coldren** and **Shirley Sacks** will be instructors at Landis Valley's Summer Institute.

**Shirley Sachs** has been knitting since the age of 8, and now is 83 years young! Her first projects were hats and scarves for the Red Cross during WWII. She has been professionally involved in needlework since 1970 when she opened her shop, Crewel World. She attended Elsa Williams School of Needleart and received her teacher's certification in counted thread in 1990. She has taught classes at several historic sites, including Burnside Plantation, The Philadelphia Museum of Art, Schaefferstown, the Kutztown Festival, and the Kutztown PA German Cultural Heritage Center. Shirley is a juried member in both the RB chapter and PA State Guild of Craftsmen as well as a Master Needleworker of the Embroiderers Guild of America.

## Standards

The next chapter jury session is Sept. 8th at the Goggleworks. For information or an application, contact Louise Mehaffey ([louise@eglassplace.com](mailto:louise@eglassplace.com)). Our standards committee can also help any member planning to apply for state jury status- they are welcome to bring their items to a chapter jury session for some input and advice. Please tell Louise you are planning on doing this before the session *Louise Mehaffey, Standards Chairperson*

## In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Continue to keep the following members and friends in your prayers as well, **Kathy Harris; Bill Leinbach; Lillian Walter; Don Hendershott; Warren E. Burkhart, Sr.; Carolyn Flickinger; June Moyer; Ruthanne Hartung's husband, John; Jim Mehaffey; Lucy Neilson and her husband.** We also wish **Kathryn Schultz** and **John Haile** a speedy recovery.

## Belated Sympathy

First, thanks to everyone who kept **Don Levengood** in their thoughts and prayers this past year. After a courageous battle with cancer, Don passed away on Friday, April 17, 2009. Memorial service was April 23, 2009. Thank you to all those artisans who attended.

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

**Volunteers are what keeps the cost of our shows to a minimum!** As stated previously, we need a minimum of 30 volunteers to work at our admission table and entrance/exit door on Saturday and another 22 volunteers to work on Sunday, for a total of 52 volunteers for the weekend. With 52 volunteers providing 1-hour of service, each person will only need to work that length of time. HOWEVER, if we do not get enough volunteers those who do volunteer will need to put in more time. So, come out and support our chapter's holiday show. If you are not setting up a booth, we ask that you try to volunteer your services at our admission table. **In addition to the admission table we would like to have additional volunteers to take charge of setting up and putting away the tables, chairs, and tablecloths for the café area. Someone to greet the incoming artisans to hand out the welcome packets. And at least one, but preferably two people to place the show signs out and about campus and in Kutztown on Friday early evening and take them down again on Sunday evening. Also check as you arrive on Saturday and Sunday morning that these signs are still in place. If you could give of your time to do any of these jobs it would be a great help to the set up committee -- please contact Pat Oxenford ASAP to discuss these jobs.**

## State Rep Report

There are many things being offered at the PGC. Eighteen workshops are being offered, these range from broken chair repair to internet marketing. They have the 3 fine craft fairs, plus FlavorFest, Thread Count, from Raw to Refined, and 2 guild store opportunities: In the Kitchen and Handmade Holiday. They also have 2 levels of websites available. A 4 page for \$240 a year plus \$120 one time set up fee and a 1 page for \$70 a year plus \$30 one time set up fee.

The Standards committee has decided to continue with the lifetime jury status and to do a more complete floor jurying process. The PGC has an article: **Ensuring quality audiences and quality craftsmanship** on their website.

There was an Officer's Retreat on April 18<sup>th</sup>, hosted by the Membership Committee. Each Chapter spent three minutes talking about their Chapter. The Membership Committee presented their new category and due structure proposal. The PGC board has approved their proposal pending bylaw changes being approved in August.

The Membership Committee is asking each Chapter to adopt simplified membership categories: Craftsmen, Friend and Organization. Another simplification will be that there will be only one price for the single member categories which will include the Chapter dues.

**Craftsman:** Craftsman are actively working in craft, doing shows at any level, doing retail/wholesale, creating, selling or teaching. You are eligible for the most benefits and privileges of membership. Benefits include holding office, event participation at Guild and Chapter levels, applications for juried status, PGC directory, one vote for craftsman board members, discounts on workshops and membership in a chapter of your choice, etc. Dues are based on Guild benefits. Additional Chapter benefits are a great additional value. Active Seniors (65 & over) and Students (18 to 25) receive a 25% discount. Existing seniors (62 & up) are grandfathered in. Suggested price of \$60.

**Friend:** Friends include Emeritus members (no longer active in craft, no longer doing shows or local events, and no longer creating, selling, teaching etc.), a non-craftsmen spouses, students ages 17 & under, or simply friends of the guild, this category. It's a hefty 50% discount from the craftsman dues. Benefits include holding office, maintaining juried status received while a craftsman, one vote for craftsman directors, listed in and receive our directory (emeritus members only), get discounts on workshops and be members in a chapter of your choice. Suggested price of \$30

**Organization:** Designed for the corporation, gallery owner, small businesses

Several steps still need to be completed:

1) The PGC board needs to approve the bylaw changes. These were sent out in a PGC newsletter. These changes include changing the more extensive membership list to the one above and changing the wording on Chapter dues. The current wording on chapter dues is "Chapter dues structure and amounts are set by the individual chapters." The wording proposal is "Chapters may set their dues in keeping with the PGC Policy & Procedures Manual and may be no more than 50% of the dues collected by the state." The PGC board will vote on the bylaw changes on August 18<sup>th</sup>.

2) The Membership Committee needs to figure out how to handle dues when a person joins multiple Chapters.

3) The Chapters need to adopt the new categories.

Other activities at the retreat included sessions on Bylaws, New Programs, Jurying and Websites. *Sandra Jones, State Rep*

## PA German Cultural Heritage Center

Artisans are still needed for Kids Camp the last week of July. If you can give a few hours of your time, contact Elaine Vardjan.

Plow Boys 20th anniversary celebration is August 8 and 9, 2009. The Log Cabin will be open. If you want to participate, contact Pat Oxenford ASAP to reserve a spot.

## Shows

### SPRING SHOW 2010

The 2010 show will be March 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> - Palm Sunday weekend. We talked about many things for next year's show and the #1 thing is Volunteerism. What does that involve, there are many things to do for a show. **It's not just setting up the floor plan and laying out the electricity.**

1. It's setting the cafés tables and chairs, putting the tablecloths on the tables. Then take everything down and pack away for the next function. And keep the table cloths clean for the show and during the show. Also placing the stanchions and chains around the café area.

2 Helping the Students, in setting up the booths, helping with everything from showing them how to hook-up pictures to draping material to selling their wares and presenting themselves.

3. Being available for anyone that needs help setting up to tearing down. If you have one issue then times that by 100.

4. The Parking Lot before and after the show. ONE big job, trying to keep people from the coned off areas. Helping to move cars around so others can unpack.

5. Entrance to the show, there's countless time spent on having the help for the front desk. The desk has to be manned and so does the door into the hall. The system that we have in place has been working for us as to the entrance desk. Volunteers to assist with these jobs would be a big help for the committee.

6. The signage has to be put out Friday evening and then taken down Sunday after the show. Also check that the signs don't get feet and walk away, so new ones have to be put there.

7. Sitting at the table for everyone to check into the show.

There are many more things that must be done and the committee can help you with one of the jobs. **This is besides taking care of our own booths. We Keep Our Fees Low Because Of The Volunteering.**

### HOLIDAY SHOW

The Holiday Show is moving along, before we can blink an eye the show will be at our doorstep.

We are working on the advertising. We are fortunate enough to have a person that has a studio at GoggleWorks and will take on the job of press releases. This is his profession and his cost is great.

We are looking for news worthy interest stories from you, Guild members and the Artist that are doing the Show. WE want to know about you and be able to use it in the press releases.

Check the March newsletter and or the Website for the updates for the Holiday Show.

If you don't have a booth to cover all of your neighbor's sides, you need to rent the Pipe and Drape system at a cost of \$75.00.

The Volunteering Is the same as the Spring Show **plus more.**  
**NOTE** Your donation for not volunteering goes to our Student Scholarship fund.

### **Get your applications in A.S.A.P.**

**There will be NO FESTIVAL OF TREES FOR THIS YEAR.**

May all have a safe and healthy May. *Terry & Judy*

*Boyer, Show Chairpersons.*

**Pick up your holiday show post cards at the June picnic.**

**Holiday Show dates: Saturday, October 31, and Sunday, November 1, 2009 at the Kutztown University Field House. (Same location as our Spring Festival).**

**We are accepting computer printer cartridges for recycle at Staples to help defray the costs of printing our newsletter. Bring them to any meeting.**