



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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June - July, 2009

President's Message

This is going to be a "short and sweet" message. The annual June picnic at Gring's Mill was great! Great food, great weather, great conversation, great friends. (Tony himself couldn't have said it better)

Thank you to the Picnic Committee for a job well done. Don't let summertime pass you by without doing some of your favorite pastimes. Indulge yourself with a great book, a trip to the beach or a trip to the mountains. Enjoy a swim in the lake, an afternoon rainfall while sitting on the porch or watching fireworks or fireflies on a summer night. While the headlines may make us just shake our heads and wonder what is happening--just stop--and count your blessings. Ahhh, the future doesn't look so bad after all.

Please get your donations in for BCTV Octoberfest and for our raffle for our 60th Anniversary Holiday show. It seems far away but it will be here before we know it. Gene, our host for BCTV, would like to be able to say that Thursday evening of the auction is totally supplied by our members. Let's see what we can do.

On July 17, The Reading-Berks Guild will be co-hosting with PA State Guild a reception at the Reading Public Museum for "Raw to Refined". Fourteen of our members will be featured in this display. It runs from July 17 to October 31, 2009. Come out and support this exhibit.

"People need responsibility. They resist assuming it, but they cannot get along without it." John Steinback

Your President, Barry Benneceff

Board Members Reminder: No regularly scheduled board meeting in June - next meeting will be Wednesday, July 29, 2009.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Many volunteers are needed by our chapter - check out the options and give some time. We need assistance with the opening reception for Raw to Refined, and our upcoming Holiday Show has endless possibilities that we could use your assistance. See details in this newsletter. Hope we can count on you!

August Program

Please note that there is no regularly scheduled chapter meeting in July. The next meeting will be Tuesday, August 4, 2009.

The program for our August meeting will be our newly juried members presenting a show and tell on their craft. Come out and support these newly juried members of our chapter and see what they do! *Michael*

Wargo, Program Chairperson

BCTV - "Your Berks Craftsmen"

The June 16th program will feature our program sponsor, The Kutztown Festival, when Dave Fooks and artisans and vendors from this year's festival will give you a sneak preview of what you can expect to see and do at the Kutztown Festival in 2009.

The State PA Guild of Craftsmen's upcoming exhibit, **Raw to Refined**, will be featured in both the July and August programs. The July 15th program, just prior to the official opening of **Raw to Refined** at the Reading Public Museum, will be another sneak preview presentation. Sherry Boyer, State Executive Director and others will present a behind-the-scenes glimpse of the pending exhibit.

The August 19th program, **Raw to Refined**, will feature the local artisans who have work exhibited, as well as show pieces from the exhibit. You can visit the Reading Public Museum from Saturday, July 18th through October 31, 2009 to tour the exhibit. Opening reception is Friday, July 17, 2009 from 5:30 to 8:00 PM.

Please be generous with your donations for the upcoming BCTV's annual Octoberfest auction. Your donations to Octoberfest is a way in which you can help BCTV raise funds for their continuing programs. BCTV - "**Your Berks Craftsmen**" is a great media tool for our chapter - let's show our support for BCTV and have an outstanding crafts night for them! See Gene or Carolyn Handwerk if you have any questions. *W. Eugene*

Burkhart, Jr., Your Berks Craftsmen Host

Chapter's Show Report

Well it's June and the craft shows are starting up. That means your Holiday Show application is due. If you can't find yours call or check the chapter website for the application at, www.rbcrafts.org

The committee is very excited with our new location. We have tons of room for, you the Artisans, raffle, music, café, the Student Gallery and The Heritage Center. We can double the number of booths and have room left over. Keep in mind we no longer have 8'x10' booths, they are all 10'x 10', x 15', x 20' or 5'x20'. Whatever your needs are we can accommodate them.

To really promote yourself we have different things you can do.

- Advertise in the Chapter's Holiday Show Tabloid. The tabloid will be in the Thursdays *Reading Eagle*, before the show.
- Pick up Rack Cards and put your name and phone number on them. Hand them out to your customers. This will remind them of your craft and that you will be at the Holiday Show.
- We have Post Card; get your mailing list up to date. You could forward your mailing list to the
- chapter's list and then we can include them when we do our mass mailing in September. Or you could request some post cards that you can mail them yourself. (*Reminder, you must add the proper postage - imprint is for our bulk mailing only*).
- You need to place a post card stamp on them.
- Volunteer to do BCTV, *Your Berks Craftsmen* with Gene Burkhart. Let one of us know and or mark it on your application.
- Donate an item for the Chapter's Holiday Show Raffle. These items are going to be used for advertising.
- Donate an item for the Octoberfest Fund Raiser for BCTV.
- Your item will be publicized and auctioned off the Thursday night during Octoberfest.
- You can also talk about your piece on TV. This is great way for people to recognize you and your work

I've mentioned just a few ways that our chapter has to offer you, the artisan of the Reading Berks chapter PA Guild of Craftsmen, assistance to promote you and your work at our holiday show.

So all juried members of the State Guild and Reading-Berks Chapter are welcome to do our Holiday Show Oct. 31st & Nov. 1st. 2009 at Kutztown Field House, Kutztown PA.

Thanks, *Terry & Judy Boyer, Reading-Berks Chapter Show Chairpersons* 610-693-5467, wc1860@verizon.net

Standards

Fall chapter jurying session will be held Tuesday, September 8, 2009 at goggleWorks. If you have been a member of our chapter for a minimum of 3 months you are eligible to present your work for jurying. If you would like to participate in the Holiday Show, this is the last chance to be juried for the show. Contact Louise Mehaffey for more information and an application.

Louise Mehaffey, Standards Chairperson

Plow Boys 20th Anniversary

The Plow Boys have a big celebration planned for the weekend of August 8, 9. 2009 at the PA German Cultural Heritage Center. If you like hoedowning, then come out to see the tractor hoedown. BABA will also participate (Blacksmith's association) and we'll have the log cabin open. If you plan to exhibit and demo your work in the cabin, please contact Pat Oxenford ASAP so that final plans can be made and advertising through the Plow Boys can be finalized.

Thank you

Thanks to everyone who donated their leftover "covered dish" items to be given to the halfway house on 4th Street. Also, thanks to Kathryn and Leon Shultz for delivering the food. We do this twice a year, leftover food from our picnic and left over food and desserts from our annual holiday social are given to this location. According to Kathryn and Leon, everyone is very appreciative of the food.

Mini Grants

Four people applied for the Mini Grants and each were awarded a \$50 Mini Grant to be used before 12/31/2009. Recipients will be listed in a future newsletter.

Newsletter:

The next newsletter will be prepared August 5, 2009, so please have any info to me by that date.

Raw to Refined -- VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Raw to Refined, the State PGC's upcoming exhibit at the Reading-Public Museum will have its opening reception on Friday, July 17, 2009 from 5:30 to 8:00 PM. Our Reading-Berks Chapter will be host for this event, so VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED to help prepare food for this event. A tentative menu is planned, and if you can help prepare food or bake cookies, please contact Pat Oxenford ASAP.

We also need the use of handmade serving dishes, trays, baskets, utensils, etc. for the array of foods that will be served. If we may borrow your serving items for the evening, we thank you.

We'll also need people to help behind the scenes to keep the food tables supplied, so if you are planning on attending and can give some of your time that evening we're hoping you will help. If you do not have an item in the exhibit and are free that evening, we hope you'll consider giving time to assist with the food service.

If you have any questions or can offer assistance, contact Pat Oxenford at 610-385-3431 or paoxenford@dejazzd.com THANKS!

VOLUNTEERS -- Holiday Show

For the past several issues we have been requesting volunteer to help with set up, admissions and clean up at our upcoming holiday show. It takes many hours of planning, a lot of work to set up the floor before you, the artisans, can begin to set up your booth at a show, plus at minimum of 55 hours of volunteer work at our admission table throughout the weekend, and then the clean up after everyone removes their booth and merchandise. These jobs of set up and clean up have been falling on just a few people. WE NEED YOUR HELP! THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS ARE NEEDED, in addition to the committee members who have been doing the majority of these details.

- Someone to take charge of setting up the cafe set up, including arranging the tables, chairs, putting on table cloths, set up stanchions and then packing these up at the end of the show. This can be done once the initial floor layout is underway.
- Three volunteers are needed at the admissions table each hour - please consider an hour of your time sometime during the show weekend.
- Bob Schultz, our official electrician, would like at least two (2) apprentices to assist and learn the electrical cord layout -- this is a big job and Bob is looking for your help. A job that must be done before anyone can set up.
- Directional sign placements throughout Kutztown - this job can be done on Friday afternoon - early evening and picked up on Sunday after the show.

These are only a few of the many volunteer functions necessary for a successful show. Please consider donating some of your time to help. Please contact any committee member to offer your assistance, note your willingness to volunteer on your application, or contact Terry Boyer or Pat Oxenford to offer specific assistance or learn more on our volunteering needs. THANKS, WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU!

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Congratulations to those members who have been named to *Early American Life 2009 Directory of Traditional American Crafts*: Janice E. Sonnen, Sandra Jean Coldren, Lisa Teller Short, and W. Eugene Burkhart, Jr.

As we celebrate our nation's freedom please keep our service men and women in your thoughts and prayers - both here at home and those on foreign soil. Bring them home safely.

Let Freedom Ring!