



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

The Reading-Berks Guild of Craftsmen ended 2009 grabbing headlines in several publications with their beautiful hand-made Christmas Tree Ornaments. The staff at the Governor's Mansion stated they never had such large crowds or so many photographers for a Holiday Season. Not a group to rest on their laurels, let's just say here we go again. We will be back to the Governor's Mansion in 2010 with more hand-made decorations, both contemporary and traditional. Don't miss this exciting opportunity. It is a great time to be a member of the Reading-Berks family.

We will be participating at the Home and Garden Show in March. Kelly Brehm is waiting to hear from you. We need you, the members of The Reading-Berks Guild, to volunteer to man our booth. Take this great opportunity to educate the public about our Guild and you, the craftsmen. We use this venue to advertise our Spring Festival also; and speaking of the Spring Festival, have you mailed in your application?

As a group, we successfully moved our Holiday Show to our new location at Kutztown University during these hard times. We need our craftsmen to support our two shows at Kutztown. In order for us to grow the attendance to both shows, we need you, our best asset, to be there. It is of the opinion that Spring shows are not successful; let's prove that opinion wrong.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all our members for being supportive. Together, we have the Guild moving in a positive direction and I believe the future of our craftsmen is looking pretty bright.

"Great players are willing to give up their own personal achievements for the achievements of the group"

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar *Your President, Barry Bennessoff*

Program

Happy New Year. Well it seems like time is flying by, but not fast enough to warm things up. The February program will consist of Rob Reynolds from the Kutztown Heritage Center. He will talk about the Heritage Center, it's goals, and future plans. This should be an interesting presentation.

I am looking for someone to take over the reins of Program Chair. I have been slowly running out of ideas and presenters for our meetings. I would be happy to discuss the activities involved with this position. Please, if you have any skills, contacts, ideas, etc. get in touch with me. I will continue until someone is in place to take my spot. Thank You, *Program Chair,*

Michael Wargo

BCTV "Your Berks Craftsmen"

The January 20, 2010 program will feature the taped segment from the 2009 Kutztown Folk Festival this past July. The Kutztown Folk Festival is the primary sponsor of our "Your Berks Craftsmen" show.

The February program, on Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2010, has not been finalized. *W. Eugene Burkhardt, Jr., "Your Berks Craftsman" Host*

Pick A Prize Spring Festival Raffle

This will be the first time that we host a raffle drawing at our Spring Festival. Donations of hand-crafted items are currently being accepted by Carolyn Handwerk and Cindy Foley. Deadline for accepting raffle items will be the March 2nd Chapter meeting. If you cannot attend the meetings and wish to donate an item, please contact Carolyn or Cindy to make arrangements for delivery / pick-up.

Apologies: The December newsletter had many pictures of the Governor's Mansion Christmas Tree and I was hopeful to be able to have it printed in color as stated on page 2 of last month's newsletter. However, due to extremely high printing costs, color was out of the question. So, it was in the traditional black and white.

Standards - March Jury Session

The Standards Committee will hold a jury session on Tuesday, March 9, 2010 at the Goggleworks. Members who have belonged at least 3 months are eligible to have their work chapter juried. Contact Louise at 610-373-6493 or louise@eglassplace.com <<mailto:louise@eglassplace.com>> for an application or questions. Check the Goggleworks board at the entrance for the room number, which will be open at 6:30 pm for setup. Jurying starts at 7 pm. *Committee members, please let me know if you can't attend. Louise*

Dehaffey, Standards Chairperson

PA Home and Garden Show at the Greater Reading Expo Center-March 12 -14th

Juried Members are invited to display 3 to 4 pieces of their work in the RB Guild's double booth. **There is no selling**, but you can provide printed collateral to hand out and portfolio to show potential customers examples of your work.

There is no charge to participate. However, donations are accepted to help defer expenses.

You do not need to be present to participate. I will be collecting items at the February and March general meetings. You can also deliver items Thursday and early Friday morning. You will need to contact me for delivering schedule closer to the show. Items will be returned at our 2010 Spring show and the April general meeting.

If you want to help tend to the booth, contact me by Feb. 1st. *Kelly Brown Brehm, 610-370-2951, kbbrehm@epico.net*

2010 Mini Grant

The 2010 Mini Grant application for RB chapter members is planned for inclusion in the February newsletter.

Members in the News

The work of **Judy Moses** will be included in an exhibition at Yocum Wyomissing Institute of Fine Arts from February 19 through March 7, 2010. Opening reception is scheduled February 19th from 5 to 7 PM. For more information contact 610-374-6727.

Memories of Grandmom's Garden, pressed botanicals by **W. Eugene Burkhart, Jr.**, is on exhibit in his Goggleworks Studio 215, through January 31, 2010.

Wood to Wonderful

Here's another opportunity for you as a result of our 2009 ornaments and "Your Berks Craftsmen" show. If you would like to participate by making holiday ornaments to sell to a local non-profit organization for the 2010 holiday season, please contact Gene Burkhart for more information. The organization is in need of 180 ornaments to purchase in the range of \$7 to \$10 each. This will be a collective effort of our chapter, so if we each make a few this will be another great opportunity for us. Thanks.

RB-PGC Show News

Thank you so much to everyone for a successful Holiday Show 2009.

Note: **Get those applications in for the Spring Craft festival in ASAP.** If you know of someone that makes crafts encourage them to log on to the guilds website, www.rbcrafts.org Fill out the application and send it in to the address on the application.

The Spring Craft Festival is open to all Guild members and **a one-time non-guild craftsmen. However, no assemblage work accepted and it is an invitational, pending successful show jurying acceptance.** If you have any questions email me at wcl860@verizon.net.

Terry & Judy Boyer, Show Chairpersons

Our Sincere Sympathy

It is with our sincere sympathy that we note the death of long-time Reading-Berks Chapter member, **Ruthanne (Kramer) Hartung** on December 28, 2009. Services were held on December 31, 2009. Ruthanne was a long-time member of our chapter, an outstanding artist, and was internationally known for her frakturs.

Ruthanne designed our standards jury certificates, and graciously hand-printed each person's certificate who successfully passed our jurying standards. Also, she recently chaired the Standards Committee for several years.

Her work is displayed in many museums throughout the country, especially the Ephrata Cloister's and the American Folk Art Museum in New York City. In 2008 she authored the book "Fraktur" *Tips, Tools and Techniques for Learning the Craft*, in Stackpole Publishing's Heritage Crafts Today series. Ruthanne was a graduate of Kutztown University, earning a BA in art education.

She was pre-deceased by her husband, John, on November 21, 2009, and is survived by two sons and their families, a sister, Maryjane and a brother. Ruthanne will be missed by all who knew her.

Governor's Mansion Ornaments 2009

Thanks to everyone who participated by making ornaments for the tree or loaning us items for under the tree. It was very well received by all visitors and employees. Ornaments and items will be returned at our February meeting, or can be picked up at the Spring Festival. If you need to make other arrangements, please contact Gene Burkhart.

Newsletter

Items for inclusion in February's newsletter should be submitted no later than Wednesday, February 3, 2010. Any questions, contact me via email at paoxenford@dejazzd.com.

Thanks. *Pat Oxenford*

Classified

Art Plus Gallery, 604 Penn Avenue, West Reading, is looking for new members in the Fine Crafts category. If interested, please call Donna Unger at 610-926-3940.

Newsletter Mailings

Newsletters are mailed bulk rate, with return service. That means that if we do not have your correct address, possibly you moved and didn't inform us of your new address in a timely manner, your newsletter will be returned and we are required to pay first class postage. Or you may be on an extended vacation and your mail may be forwarded or even held by the local post office, however, bulk rate mail is neither forwarded nor held, but returned to sender and again we are required to pay first class return postage. So, please keep us informed of your current address to eliminate this duplicate postage charges for returned newsletters. Thank you.

Exciting Opportunities for RB Members in 2010 - Governor's Mansion

The 18-foot Christmas Tree in the Grand Foyer of the PA Governor's Mansion was a tremendous success. It was viewed by the most holiday visitors ever to visit the governor's mansion in many years. It also had the most press coverage; as Barry stated, TV stations, local as well as regional newspapers, State Senate and State House of Representative photographers also, plus our members and guests who went on our bus trip on December 13th.

WELL, MARK YOUR CALENDAR, we have been invited to decorate two trees plus complete rooms in the governor's mansion for the 2010 holiday season. We will be decorating the rooms just past the grand foyer.

CONTEMPORARY ORNAMENTS: The dining room will have a fresh tree at least 8 feet tall, and will be entirely in contemporary ornaments. We'll also be decorating the room, including the dining room table, fireplace mantel, and furniture within the room.

If you would like to help with this decorating project we request five (5) contemporary ornaments for use on the tree, plus larger items to compliment the room furnishings. Our deadline for receiving these ornaments and "borrowed" furnishings is Tuesday, November 2, 2010. So, you have about 10 months to work on this project. **Please advise either Gene Burkhart or Pat Oxenford is you wish to participate.**

TRADITIONAL ORNAMENTS: The Erie or Sitting Room will be in traditional decorations. It too, will have a tree at least 8 feet tall. This room also has a fireplace mantel and many other pieces of furniture to be decorated in traditional decorations. Again, we request five (5) traditional ornaments per person who wishes to participate in this decorating project. We'll also need to borrow other large items to compliment this room.

Please note you may participate in both the contemporary and traditional decorating projects. We'll also have several large arrangements in the a joining room to decorate with floral designs.

Again, whether traditional or contemporary, we invite you to participate in this 2010 governor's mansion holiday decorating projects. Please contact either Gene Burkhart or Pat Oxenford to sign up, or attend our monthly meetings to sign up. You do not need to be chapter juried, just an RB chapter member. Many have already committed to this project at our January meeting.

Bus Trip to Governor's Mansion

Mark your calendar for Sunday, December 12, 2010 for another bus trip to Harrisburg to see the Governor's Mansion in its Holiday Decorations, especially those by the Reading-Berks Chapter members.

Please contact Pat Oxenford if you are interested in going on this trip in December. Price is not yet finalized, however, as soon as it is available, we'll announce the fees -- most likely less than \$20 per person. We already booked two (2) buses for the 2010 trip and have 35 signed up thus far. Please note it is open to family and friends of our members as well. Again, each person will be responsible for their own meal expenses -- most likely at the Firehouse Restaurant again.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Spring Festival

The spring festival is just over 2 months away - time flies. We need many volunteers to have a successful and workable admission table. Thanks to those who have already noted on their applications they will help and to those who have already signed the volunteer sheet at our January meeting. If you are not exhibiting at our show, we hope you will volunteer your time to help at the admissions table and other jobs required for a successful show. Please consider giving an hour or two of your time to help us at the show. Contact Pat Oxenford if you have any questions, or sign up at the February meeting.

State Jurying Session

Wednesday, April 7, 2010, our Reading-Berks Chapter will host the State Standards Committee for the Spring Jurying Session at the goggleWorks. We need a few people to help at the morning and afternoon sessions. We also need to supply food -- snacks, beverages and lunch for the 15 or more state standards committee members. Any questions, please contact Pat Oxenford for more information or review the sign-up sheet at the February meeting. Thanks.

Happy New Year