



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

Did someone shorten April and forget to let me know? It went by way too fast. There were many decisions to make for everyone concerning our Holiday Festival with the date change. With the help of our great Guild members our first annual and hope only sticker party went well and we have amended our rack cards with our new date, November 6 and 7, 2010. Thank you to the officers who went to the state's annual retreat at Millersville university. I found the retreat informative and interesting. I enjoy learning what other guilds are doing. Berks County has a lot of talented students in the art world and that was very apparent at our Student Awards. Our judges had a most challenging but enjoyable time choosing the winners because of the many entries. We gave out over \$600 in awards to seniors in different categories. These students will be invited to be part of our Holiday Festival 2010.

In June we will kick off the summer with our annual picnic at Gring's Mill. So if you like quality and quantity, be there. Quality time with your friends from the Guild and vast quantities of great food made by your friends of the Guild in a beautiful natural setting in Berks County and rain can't even put a damper on this event because we are in the barn, so, don't miss this great social time.

Harvest Fescht at the Heritage Center is in September this year. I would like to encourage our guild members to help expand our presence there. By moving the date into September, the weather will be nicer but it will still have great Fall atmosphere. There are tents available so many craftsmen can be accommodated. Please consider putting this event into your Fall Schedule.

"Be as smart as you can, but remember that it is always better to be wise than smart."

Alan Alda Your President, Barry L Bennecoff

Program - Annual Family Picnic

Come rain or shine - our picnic is scheduled indoors at the Gring's Mill stone barn on Tuesday, June 1, 2010.

The chapter will provide the meat (meatballs and another entree), 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 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. *We will begin setting up the tables, chairs, etc. at 4:00 PM. We can always use help with set up and clean up.*

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*).

*** * * Just a reminder... * * ***

**No June Board Meeting
NO CHAPTER MEETING IN JULY.**

BCTV "Your Berks Craftsmen"

Don't miss the May "*Your Berks Craftsmen*" program, it will feature Berks County's high school art students whose work was entered in BCIU's annual High School Art Exhibition held at GoggleWorks. Our annual student awards, given to seniors, were presented by Gene in conjunction with this show and noted in this newsletter. Our Chapter presented over \$600 in cash awards and a certificate to each winning student. (*Thanks to Louise Mehaffey, Carol Haile and Michael Wargo who juried the senior entries*).

June's program will feature artisans who will be exhibiting and selling their work at this year's Kutztown Festival. Hope you will tune in to see these programs.

Just a reminder, beginning at the Kutztown Festival, both Gene Burkhart and Carolyn Handwerk will begin soliciting and collecting items for BCTV's annual Octoberfest Auction, their annual fundraiser held at Fairgrounds Square Mall in October. Please consider a generous donation for BCTV's auction. Thank you for your consideration and generous donations.

W. Eugene Burkhart, Jr., Host, "Your Berks Craftsmen"

EDUCATION: MINI GRANTS

The following members submitted applications for the Mini Grant Awards 2010: **Louise Mehaffey** for open torch session; **Terry Boyer** for a book and CD on Berks County; **Michael Weaver** to purchase 3 books of tartans; **Sheila Shuman** to take an enameling course at Kutztown University; **Ann Steen** for a class in contemporary design and composition in porcelain; **Nancy Ballantyne** for a painting workshop of pet portraits. The 4 winners were randomly drawn at the May 4th meeting and the lucky members are: **Terry Boyer, Nancy Ballantyne, Sheila Shuman** and **Ann Steen**. Congratulations to each of them, they will each receive a \$50 check via mail. We look forward to hearing how their Mini Grand Awards were used in a program later this year.

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU to everyone who attended the May chapter meeting and helped apply the 20,000 labels on the Holiday Show Rack Cards. The Show Committee sincerely thanks you and appreciates your help.

Holiday Show 2010

Hello to all.

Hear ye, Hear ye, if you have not heard yet, the date for this year's Holiday Fine Arts and Crafts Festival is, Nov. 6th & 7th, 2010, set-up will be Friday Nov. 5th. If you're in need of an application please email me at, wc1860@verizon.net or call 610-693-5467. Remember there will be an extra charge of \$10.00 if sent in after Oct. 1st.

If you have Rack Card without the date-change label, please notify us for labels which you can put on those rack cards. We re-labeled over 20,000 cards. If you're in need of rack cards call Barry, Carol Haile, or myself and we will get them to you. You also can pick up rack cards at the Picnic in June.

Have a good month, *Terry & Judy Boyer*

Chairpersons of the Shows

PA German Cultural Heritage Center

- Tentative work day on the Log Cabin is Saturday, June 12, 2010. More information at the picnic. If you can help or have questions contact Barry Bennecoff.
- Kids Camp - we're in need of artisans and helpers for the 10th annual Kids Camp July 26th to July 29th. Contact Elaine Vardjan if you can help or have questions.
- Harvest Fescht, September 25, 26, 2010. Our log cabin will be open and we hope to have the official ribbon cutting ceremony. If you would like to display your work in the log cabin contact Pat Oxenford at 610-385-3431 or paoxenford@dejazzd.com
- There is a fee payable to PGCHC for selling your work at Harvest Fescht. For an application please contact Zack Langley at 484-646-4166.

Reminder of Chapter Opportunities

Please consider participating in these chapter opportunities. For more info contact Gene Burkhart or Pat Oxenford.

- The 2010 PA State Governor's Mansion decorating - ornaments (traditional and contemporary) and room decorations
- Wood to Wonderful ornaments
- Bus trip to the Governor's Mansion on Dec. 12, 2010.

Student Awards Recipients

Our annual Stanley G. Steltz Student Awards program is in conjunction with BCIU's annual Student Awards Exhibition held at GoggleWorks. Members of our Standards Committee have also viewed the entries to select the recipients of our awards. Gene Burkhart presented the certificates and award money at the reception. The following have been selected as the outstanding art students of Berks County and also have been invited to participate in our upcoming 2010 Holiday Show.

HUONG NGUYEN, Muhlenberg High School
1st Place, Fine Arts, \$100

ZACH KUTZ, Wilson High School
2nd Place, Fine Arts, \$75

SINI LEHTO, Boyertown High School
Stanley G. Steltz Award for Outstanding Achievement \$100

JING ZHENG, Schuylkill Valley High School
Ruthanne Hartung Two-Dimensional Award, \$100

KENDRA GAMPE, Schuylkill Valley High School
Hedwig A. Miller Fiber Arts Award, \$100

JULIE STOPPER, Wilson High School
1st Place, Crafts, \$100

APRIL STELTZ, Berks Career & Technology Center
2nd Place, Crafts, \$75

Congratulations to these students, we look forward to seeing their work at our Holiday Show 2010. And, just a reminder, **BCTV's "Your Berks Craftsmen"** show for May will feature these outstanding students and video excerpts from the BCIU Awards program.

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Please keep **Roy Bubbenmoyer** in your thoughts and prayers; we wish him a speedy get well.

Newsletter

The June and July newsletter will be combined issue and be published in mid July. Please have any information to be included in the next issue to me no later than July 12th for inclusion in that issue.

Kutztown Folk Festival -- July 3 through July 11, 2010 -- 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Come, spend the day... 200 juried folk & traditional artisans demonstrate and sell their wares, 2,000 locally handmade quilts displayed for sale, folklife demonstrations, folklore, dancing, live music, entertainment on 6 stages daily, antiques, collectibles, farmers market, children's activities and farmyard theatre plus great PA Dutch food!

Members in the News

Jacqui Hartranft is an avid Labrador Retriever rescue "mom", saving them from an unpleasant death and/or unwanted dogs, especially from the southern states. Jacqui has fallen in love with one such dog, Emmett, and she and Phil have adopted him to be a member of their family. Jacqui now has become a "dog trainer" recently, and she and Emmett are competing for certification in AKC. The end of March, in fact our Spring Festival weekend, Jacqui and Emmett showed his talents under Jacqui's training at a dog obedience show in Hatfield.

Emmett and Jacqui got first place in Novice A at the East Camden Dog Training Club Obedience Trial in Hatfield which was held on March 28, 2010. It was their first time in the ring in regular obedience. They both had previously participated in Rally Obedience which is a less exacting form of obedience getting all three titles in that with almost all place finishes. Their score was 195½ out of 200 possible points which is pretty good for a novice dog and a novice handler under very noisy conditions. Jacqui is very proud of Emmett. They had another show in Hatboro in April so we hope they got the second leg towards his companion dog title (CD).

Congratulations to Jacqui and Emmett on your training success.

On Saturday, May 1, 2010, Kentucky Derby Day, **W. Eugene Burkhart, Jr.** won the GoogleWorks prize for Most Coordinated Hat and Outfit at their Kentucky Derby Party. Congratulations, Gene!

Congratulations to **W. Eugene Burkhart, Jr.** and **Janice Sonnen** for being named to ***Early American Life's Top 200 Traditional Craftsmen for 2010***. Gene was honored for his Pressed Floral Designs and Janice for her Penny Rugs and Rug Hooking. Congratulations to you both and look forward to the June issue!

Apologies

Our sincere apologies to **Carol Rothermel** who successfully passed State Jurying on April 7th at GoggleWorks. Carol's craft is *fiber*. Her name was missed when noting the Reading-Berks members who successfully passed state jurying.

Memorial Day, take time to remember and honor our service men and women who have fought and died for our freedom. Also, keep those service men and women who are on foreign soils in your prayers that they come home safely.