



READING-BERKS GUILD

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

WOW! What an experience a few of our members had this past week, working on Extreme Makeover, Home Edition in Berks County. Several Reading Berks members helped out in "ArtWorld". Here the designers gave us drawings, pictures and ideas and then let us be creative with an extremely short deadline. Now, it is time for me to remind you of several deadlines. Our next chapter jurying session is September 14, 2010. Harvest Fescht at Kutztown is September 25 and 26, 2010. OctoberFest is October 21 and Christmas ornaments for the Governor's mansion and Wood to Wonderful items are due. Our Holiday Festival is the first weekend in November. Take a breath! I won't go into December activities but you get the point. Reading-Berks is VERY BUSY!

Let's continue to promote our guild with every chance we get. If you are doing other shows and need updated rack cards, give me a call or pick them up at our meeting in September.

"In life you can never do kindness too soon because you never know how soon it will be too late." Ralph Waldo Emerson *Your President,*

Barry L. Bennecoff

Labor Day is just around the corner, followed closely by our Holiday Show! *Hope to see you there!*

Program

The September 7, 2010 program will be presented by Patrick Donmoyer. The program will be "Pennsylvania German Barnstars: Celestial Symbolism in Folk Culture." This will be a photographic presentation of field research conducted from 2007 to the present throughout Southeastern PA in 6 counties, as a survey of decorated Pennsylvania Barns and the content of their decorations. The photographs reveal a diverse and colorful tradition of folk art that has persisted to the present day and overlaps with many other architectural traditions. In addition, the content of the designs will be compared to trends in Pennsylvania German folklore, especially as it pertains to beliefs and practices associated with the agricultural lifestyle and observations of the heavens.

Patrick, formerly of Lebanon is a graduate of Kutztown University and currently employed by the PA German Cultural Heritage Center as the Historic Building Conservator. He began his research of PA German Barnstars after receiving a research scholarship from the Peter Wentz Farmstead Society of Montgomery County. Patrick is planning to publish his research in the near future.

Acting Program Chairperson, Elaine Vardjan

BCTV "Your Berks Craftsmen" and Octoberfest

Our president, Barry Bennecoff is the featured artisan for the August "Your Berks Craftsmen" program. The Holiday Show preview will be the September program and rerun throughout October until the Holiday Show. Octoberfest occurs during the week of our regularly scheduled October program, so there is no program scheduled at that time, HOWEVER, tune in or stop by Fairgrounds Square Mall to participate in the annual Octoberfest auction to benefit BCTV. When Gene or Carolyn request donations, please be generous. BCTV is a major contributor and supporter of our work. THANK YOU, *W. Eugene Burkhardt, Jr., Program Host*

Show News

Hello to everyone. The summer's going so fast we turn around and it is the middle of August. The last 7 weeks were filled with tons of work, the Folk Festival, vacation, yard work, shows and volunteer time with the Extreme Makeover show. Somewhere in there is house cleaning and sleep.

Now it's time to get back to business. Once again it's the "extreme invite" to all juried craftsmen from the state level to participate in our local Reading-Berks Chapter's **Holiday Show on Nov. 6th & 7th; set-up is Friday, Nov. 5th.**

Deadline for your application is Oct. 1st, after that date it's \$10.00 extra and you would be put next in line with the floor layout.

To those that are not doing the show please volunteer your time with admissions and the raffle tables. This year additional help is needed due to the Tree Ornaments from 2009.

If you have any questions email me at wc1860@verizon.net or call at 610-693-5467.

Thank you to all and enjoy the rest of the summer.

Terry & Judy Boyer, Show Chairpersons

MORE Show Volunteers Needed

Many hours go in to the planning of a show, all this is behind the scenes, so to say. Likewise, MANY volunteer hours are also needed during set-up, the 2-days of the show as well as clearing out the show by 7:00 PM at the latest on Sunday evening!

The electrical system takes a lot of "manpower" both to set up and pack up, this does not happen in the blink of an eye! Setting up and cleaning up, as well as loading up the screen panels used by students is a job requiring a lot of time. After each of the committee members set up and/or pack up their own booth, they still have major undertakings that requires a lot of assistance.

There are many other things requiring volunteer hours ... working at the admissions table, greeters at the door on show level, selling raffle tickets -- this year we have two different raffles, our regular raffle and the special raffle of the holiday ornaments from the 2009 Governor's Mansion that will be displayed on Swedish Christmas Trees. And booth sitters to assist those who are alone and need someone to be at their booth for a lunch break. Just to name a few things, the list goes on.

So, if you can give a few hours of your time, we would be grateful, even if you are not doing the show, we need your help.

Through volunteers we are able to keep our show expenses down, so please consider giving of your time. For more information contact Pat Oxenford at 610-385-3431 or email at paoxenford@dejazzd.com, or sign up at the September meeting. **THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR VOLUNTEERING!** *Pat Oxenford, Volunteer Coordinator*

Standards

The Standards Committee will meet on Tuesday, September 14, at 7:00 PM at the Goggleworks for a jury session. Members who have belonged to our chapter for a minimum of 3 months are eligible to present their work for jurying. The room will be open at 6:30 PM and jurying will begin at 7:00 PM. Check the board at the entrance of the Goggleworks for the room number. Members will be asked to leave before jurying begins, and can return in 1- 1 ½ hours for the results. The cafe on the first floor will not be open, but there are tables and chairs there. **Any Standards Committee member who can't attend, please let me know.** For more information or for an application, contact Louise at 610-373-6493 or louise@eglassplace.com.. *Louise McHaffey,*

Standards Chairperson

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Continue to keep the following members and friends in your prayers: **Eileen Flickinger, Lillian Walter, Roy Bubbenmoyer and Skip Hamaker.**

Continue to remember **Katie Bauer**, fiancée of Dave Fooks, in your prayers. Katie is undergoing treatments to prepare for a bone marrow transplant in September; we wish you God's blessings and may you have a speedy recovery. **Get Well Soon, Katie!**

Also, continue to wish **Carol and Darryl Yeager's son** a speedy recovery, please keep their family in your prayers.

With Our Sympathy

We extend our sincere sympathy to **Louise Diener Stoudt** whose husband, **James Stoudt**, passed away on July 22, 2010. Memorial services were held on July 27th at the Highlands of Wyomissing. Both Jim and Louise were former members of our Reading-Berks Chapter. Jim, retired CEO of Gilbert Associates was also an accomplished woodworker and Louise was a tole and decorative painter.

We also extend our sincere sympathy to **Ned Foltz** and his wife, Gwen, upon the death of Ned's mother, Romaine E. (Long) Foltz. Ned also was a former chapter member.

September Newsletter

The deadline for submission of info for the September newsletter is **Wednesday, September 8, 2010.**

Members in the News

Extreme Makeover Home Edition was in Tilden Township, Berks County working from July 29 through August 5, 2010, rebuilding a home for Trisha Urban. Many months of behind-the-scenes planning took place to work out all the details. Our Reading-Berks Guild is proud to have the following people involved with the rebuilding project: **Barry Bennecoff, Terry and Judy Boyer, Brian Cunfer, Bill Scheirer and Dwayne Wendling.** Terry and Judy also created a miniature log home replica of Trisha's original log home; **Gene Burkhart** created several custom pressed floral designs, and **Dave Fisher** designed custom iron work for the new home.

Monday, August 2, 2010, *The Reading Eagle* featured an article and photographs of **Eric Claypoole** restoring barn stars on a barn in Perry Township.

A call from **Sherri Boyer** created an opportunity for several of our members to participate in the State Guild's Gallery "First Friday" on August 6th in Lancaster. With just a little over a week to pull the gallery show together, the following answered the call to participate: **Wilfriede Axsmith, Terry Boyer, Gene Burkhart, Joan Dunham, Pat & Ray Oxenford, Janice Sonnen, and Tammy Wilkinson** representing our Reading-Berks Chapter and **Linda Billet, Christine Goldbeck, and Roxan O'Brian** from the Yellow Breeches Chapter. Each artisan participating represented a different juried craft. It was amazing how a diverse group of artisans could pull this off in such a short time. Also, to see the gallery unfold in to a great exhibition representing a cross-section of artisans, was also amazing. Likewise, at 9:00 PM within less than an hour everything was cleared out. We also need to thank both **Nick and Jenny** of our state office for their help and support. Thanks to everyone for a job well done!

THANK YOU

A big THANK YOU to the following members who helped make this year's, our 10th year, Children's Cultural Camp at the Kutztown PA German Cultural Heritage Center a huge success, **Gene Burkhart, Pat Oxenford, Carol Haile, Shirley Sachs and Bill Scheirer.** *Elaine Vardjan, Cultural Camp Coordinator*

September is just around the corner, hope cooler weather comes our way.

PA German Cultural Heritage Center

Harvest Fescht or Heemet Fescht is scheduled for Saturday, September 25th and Sunday, September 26th, 2010. Contact Pat Oxenford if you would like to exhibit and sell your work in the log cabin. If you wish to set up your own canopy contact **Zach Langley at 484-646-4166** for more information and an application.

Mark the date of Saturday, December 4th, 2010 for the annual Christmas-on-the-Farm event. This is a fun day to learn the PA German holiday customs and traditions. See the farmstead decorated for the holidays. Artisans wanted for the log cabin.

REMINDER OF READING-BERKS OPPORTUNITIES

- We could still use more ornaments and decorations for decorating the rooms and trees in the Governor's Mansion for this holiday season. **Contact Gene Burkhart.**
- Our bus trip to see the Governor's Mansion on Sunday, December 12th still has seats available. If you have made tentative reservations, *now is the time to confirm those reservations and payment is due no later than November 2nd.* Cost is \$18.75 per person, (plus the cost of your dinner at the Fire House Restaurant in Harrisburg). We will have approximately an hour to view and take pictures (ropes blocking off rooms will be removed) after the public departs at 6:00 PM. **Contact Pat Oxenford.**
- Wood-to-Wonderful ornaments are due to Gene Burkhart by November 2nd.
- Poinsettias and Mums orders for the holiday show are due by October 15th. **Contact Pat Oxenford.**
- Mark your calendar for **Tuesday, December 7, 2010** for our annual Holiday Social and Buffet Dinner to be held at GoggleWorks. Catering by Boscov's Ala Carte Catering, and you bring the desserts! More information will be forthcoming. An evening of great food, fun and fellowship to start off the Christmas Holiday Season!

A Special Thank You!

We sincerely thank **Michael Wargo** for his service as Program Chairperson these past few years.

We also thank **Elaine Vardjan** who "stepped up to the plate" to full fill the unexpired term for Program Chairperson. Thanks to both of you for your service.