
Friends and Company

Rubber Stamping and More...

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M-F 10:00-7:00 p.m. Sat 10:00 - 5:00 p.m. Sun 12:00 - 4:00 p.m.

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What's New?

Greetings Everyone! It is absolutely amazing that we are entering the year 2003 already. Just where does all this time go? We have obviously survived the holidays and hope that all of you did as well. It is clear to all of us here at the shop that many of you got your stockings filled and wish lists seriously considered. Those significant others are finally beginning to understand that the only gift with an electrical cord attached to it should be a heat gun.

We hope you spent a joyous time with family and friends and took time to play and enjoy the holidays. We did our share here at the shop and would like to take a minute to say thank you for all the wonderful cards, treats, and familiar greetings from so many of you. We are truly blessed to be a part of this environment and love all of you for being there also.

As we briefly look back on 2002, we can honestly say it was an awesome year for growth, renewal, and new undertakings. We could never have done it without our own awesome and incredible staff, including all those fabulous instructors, our terrific customers, our sale representatives, and the many who are behind the scenes and have touched our lives in one way or another. Many thanks to each and every one of you for the success of 2002. In one way or another, you are always part of it. We are looking forward to an already evolving new year and are approaching it with renewed energy

and heightened enthusiasm to meet the challenges that only a new year can bring. Our commitment to you, our valued customers and friends, is as big a priority as ever, and together, we will make 2003 one of the best years ever.

Our class schedule for January and February is as dynamic as usual. It continues to offer many great and satisfying classes to suit all of the particular needs out there. Be sure to treat yourselves to some of the classes available. You will be glad you did since they are some of the best!

As a final note - Happy New Year! Our wish for you is that 2003 be prosperous, rewarding, challenging and all that you want it to be. Let's make it count!

Newsletter Renewal

In kicking off each new year, updating our database has always been a priority and 2003 is no exception. We love to introduce new folks to our newsletter, however, the database has grown to huge proportions so updating helps us to minimize associated costs. Each January we ask you to return your mailing label so that the database can be updated. As an incentive, we include a 40% off coupon good for any rubber stamp that we have in the shop (excludes holds) valid for all of January. If we do not hear from you, you will be archived so please take a minute to let us hear from you. If you are unable to make it to the shop, simply give us a call. We want to make sure that all our valued

customers get all the information they need to have a fun and fulfilling year so don't delay. The newsletter is now also available on the internet. For those of you interested in receiving the newsletter via this method versus snail mail, just please let us know. Read on for more internet information.

O "New" Stuff. Although much of our attention had been focused on the holiday season, we have not forgotten to continue filling the shelves with new and exciting merchandise. Lots of Valentine stuff has already arrived and more is on the way. We wanted to be sure you could get those "love" cards started early.

The Hobby Industry Association (HIA) is making its yearly pilgrimage to Anaheim, CA, at the end of January so we are expecting to see even more new stuff. Our industrious representatives are all participating and promise to keep us posted of any new finds.

Several orders are expected soon which include Amuse Art Stamps, Penny Black, Serendipity, and Paper Inspirations to name only a few. These all include Valentine images both old and new. We have already received orders from Stampscapes, Peddler's Pack, Hero Arts, Stampers Anonymous, and PSX.

Included in the Hero Arts order are several of the Design Notes series which include a small rubber stamp, inkpad, and tiny envelopes and cards. These not only make a great

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gift but are wonderful to have in the toolbox as well.

If you have not seen some of Peddler's Pack background rubber stamps, you are in for a treat. These are absolutely fabulous with lots to choose from. Lots of the Spring choices are already in.

As usual, there is always lots more. We will be surfing the internet in the upcoming months looking for new and innovative companies. If you have a particular one in mind, please let us know. We would love to make a connection with them.

O *Accessories and More.*

We all love those new and innovative accessories as much as we do the rubber stamps. We are confident that manufacturers at HIA are going to introduce some great stuff that will keep us excited and energized so stay tuned for those details as the year evolves.

In the meantime, Petite Motifs has done it again. This fabulous paper company has introduced six new absolutely gorgeous colors in their already great line of papers. For those of you who have searched for the perfect baby blue or baby pink, search no more. All six new colors come in either 8 1/2" by 11" and sold as single sheets or pre-cut to A-2 and scored in packs of 25. These very affordable papers will undoubtedly be a mainstay in your rubber stamping toolbox so do check them out.

Several new colors of Staz On Ink have recently been introduced by Tsukineko. These are so new that we do not even have the new colors yet but all of them have been ordered and we hope to see them on the shelves soon. These have proven to be perfect inks for some of the hard to stamp surfaces such as leather and metal. Re-inkers will also be available.

So many of you have requested that we carry fabric inks and we have been listening. We are, therefore, pleased to welcome the entire line of Fabrico Inkpads and their re-inkers to our accessory line. These inks not only work on paper and wood by heat setting but are terrific for fabric as well.

For all the Encore fans out there, we are happy to continue carrying this fine line of inkpads and the shelves have been restocked. These inkpads have always been a mainstay and continue to be with several wonderful colors to choose from. Re-inkers are also available.

We have received a ton of mat sets from Simply Stamped Papers. These A-2 pre-cut and scored mat sets include 10 notecards, 10 mats, 10 envelopes, and 10 stamping mats. For the individual in a hurry, these are perfect with a huge variety of colors to choose from.

As the year continues to evolve, we are sure that the accessories will continue to grow. In fact, we have made that one of our goals for 2003. You can also expect to see the bead department increase its inventory, findings, and other jewelry making "stuff". We are excited and hope you will be as well.

INTERNET NEWS

We are very excited to launch our very first web page featuring the entire Friends and Company line of rubber stamps. Our rubber stamp line is currently available as unmounted only but will soon be available with mounted wood blocks as well. Check it out at "friends-n-company.com" (without the quotes). We think it is very cool and would love to hear from you. Please let us know what you think and would like to see in a web page or any other suggestions you might have. Our web page will

continue to grow and will constantly change so be sure to check it often.

Our greatest and most sincere thanks are extended to Anita Wong from WebSight Designs who created and designed our web page. If you need help with your web page and are looking for speed and efficiency, contact Anita. She can be reached at 425-985-5714. Anita is exactly who you are looking for for a job well done! Thanks Anita!

ANNUAL HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

Many thanks to all of you who donated non-perishable food items during our annual holiday food drive. It was a huge success with an estimated 500 pounds collected. The West Seattle Food Bank has extended its gratitude as well. Something of this magnitude cannot be done without your participation. Again, many thanks to all of you for your participation.

CARD SWAP INFO

The "Winter" card swap is currently underway so stop in and take a look at these great cards. Consider joining this fun swap to help inspire and get your creative juices flowing. Space is limited so sign up early. Participants attending the night of the swap receive 15% off their entire purchase.

The next swap is Wed, 5 February 2003 and will begin at 6:00 p.m. The theme of this swap is "No Theme". Each participant needs to make enough cards to equal the number of participants up to twelve. Using rubber stamps *carried* by Friends and Company as the baseline is encouraged. Cards will be swapped with participants and a remaining card will stay in the shop for posting.

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SPECIAL EVENTS

Looking for something different for you or your child's birthday? Need a place to meet with your monthly group? Want to get together with some of your friends but don't want to clean the house? The balcony might just be your answer for any rubber stamping or scrapbooking related activity. Call the shop today for details.

"ENVY"lope Contest

Submissions for the "Envy"lope contest have come to a close. A total of twenty-five individuals are registered to participate and now it is time to cast your vote. All submissions have been posted at the HotWire Coffee House just north of the West Seattle Post Office where voting will take place for the entire month of January. Winners will be announced in the next newsletter and posted at the shop as well. Please take a few minutes to stop in, enjoy a great cup of coffee, and cast your vote. The winners will appreciate your vote. Just before visiting HotWire at 4410 California Avenue, S.W. stop at the shop and pick up a discount coupon so your incentive gets even better. See you soon!

Happy Birthday

Receive 25% off on any one rubber stamp as our special gift to you for your birthday. This offer is good only for rubber stamps we have in stock and can be used any one time during the entire month of your birthday. We will continue to verify your special day with your driver's license or other appropriate ID. Another safety idea prompted by a personal incident is to make it a practice in your birthday month to

replace all the batteries in your fire detectors. It's an easy day to remember to do this and could save you or your families lives. We'll even give you a 9-volt battery to start with when you come into the shop to pick out your rubber stamp. Don't wait! Do it now!

HOLD IT!!

Wish list items which have been received will be held for two weeks only. Held items with no pre-arranged holding plan will then be placed back on the shelves. Thank you in advance for understanding.

SENIOR NEWS

Our senior classes continue to be lots of fun. Classes begin at 10:00 a.m. with pre-registration required. The fee per class is \$9.50. All other class guidelines apply.

WEDNESDAY CLASSES

- 15 Jan-Winter is Here
w/Sandy Huff
- 22 Jan-Special Birthdays
w/Sue Cramer
- 29 Jan-It's A Mystery
w/Sandy Huff

- 5 Feb-Quick Valentines
w/Sue Cramer
- 12 Feb-Simple and Sweet
w/Sandy Huff
- 19 Feb-Fabulous Florals
w/Sue Cramer
- 26 Feb-Thinking of You
w/Sandy Huff

FRIDAY CLASSES

- 10 Jan-One Stamp-2 Cards
w/Doris Goulet
- 24 Jan-All Occasion
w/Doris Goulet
- 31 Jan-Shadow Stamps
w/Sue Cramer

- 7 Feb-All Purpose Cards
w/Doris Goulet
- 21 Feb-Bleachy Clean
w/Doris Goulet

Class Notes

Our class lineup for January and February 2003 is full of new opportunities and is as terrific as always. It also offers a wide range of techniques and class themes. Always sign up as early as possible and please make note of the following guidelines.

- Receive a class discount of 10% off your purchase the day of class. This discount excludes already discounted or sale items and magazines.
- Pre-payment required on ALL class registrations. No exceptions.
- Acceptable payments are cash or checks which need to be made out directly to the instructor.
- A 3-day grace period for called in registrations is provided, however, the space must be held with a credit card until the payment is received.
- Cancellations require a 3day notice for a refund.
- Workshops and all-day classes require a 5-day notice for a refund.
- Should you become ill or are unable to attend for any reason, you are encouraged to send a friend or pick up your packet at your earliest possible convenience.
- Class packets must be picked up for unattended classes within two weeks of the scheduled class. Unclaimed packets will be donated.
- Most classes require cutting. If you have a favorite pair of scissors, please bring them. If you have an OTT light and want to bring it to class, please feel free to do so. Bringing other items to class unless specified could result in the loss of your own tools so please refrain if possible.

We appreciate your becoming fully aware of these class policies. We know that you understand the need for them and appreciate your continued support.

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Carolyn's Corner

Dear Carolyn – What can I possibly be doing wrong? It does not matter which rubber stamp I use or from what company, I can never seem to get a very good image pressed onto my cardstock. I have been through nearly a half ream of 80# cover paper stock just trying and still at the point of great frustration. Please help. Veronica

Dear Veronica – Although I do not have much information to go on here, I highly suspect that the problem is your stamping surface. In other words, the table or whatever you are stamping on is not level for one reason or another. Most surfaces are not level and may contain warps, grooves, or who knows what. Believe it or not, this is a common mistake for both seasoned and new stampers. To eliminate this problem, try using a cushion of some sort. A very inexpensive cushion would be an old magazine which has just enough give to it. You could also invest in a “foamie” for under \$2.00 which works great as well. These can generally be found in most rubber stamp stores or craft stores as well. Best of luck.

Dear Carolyn – Why does embossing seem so difficult? I'm always confused at the type of inks to use and the embossing powders seem like an endless choice. What can I do to help educate myself on all these choices? I love the look of embossing when I see it in the rubber stamp stores but it seems difficult to comprehend. Any suggestions? Adrian

Dear Adrian – Embossing is truly one of the easiest techniques to conquer. My very best advice to you would be to register for a beginner's embossing class. In such a class, you are likely to cover all the basics, including the best

inks to use and what embossing powders are all about. Most rubber stamp stores offer these classes on a regularly recurring basis so do yourself a huge favor and register as soon as possible. You will be glad you did and come to realize just how simple this technique really is.

Family Bundles

Wondering what all the hoopla is about? What are those “Family Bundles” signs you are seeing everywhere? How do you get one of these cash reward cards?

Well, look no further. Friends and Company is proud to be registered with Family Bundles, a very innovative approach to the “frequent buyer” card. It is valid at all participating merchants so your rebate grows and grows and not just here at the shop. Sign up on your next visit to the shop. We will have all the information you need to get started. The best part of all – it's FREE!

As this program grows, “DOUBLE POINTS” will also be offered in the year 2003. Only those registered will receive these notices so please don't delay. Sign up on your next visit to the shop!

Important Dates

1 Jan-Closed
Happy New Year

2 Feb-Valentine Workshop
5 Feb-No Theme Card Swap
14 Feb-Happy Valentine's
23 Feb-Somerset Workshop

Other Stuff!

o A Review on Parking. Please remember that the parking lots are limited to only three hours and street parking is limited to only two. This also includes Sundays. Street parking on Sunday is unlimited but

the lots are monitored and they do issue tickets so please park carefully.

Our very kind friends at Village Woodworks have given us the green light to use their great store as a walk-through from the old Penny parking lot. For those of you not familiar with this lot, it is directly behind the shop. This will save many steps and makes accessing our store easy from the back.

Exchange Policy. We will very gladly exchange unused items within 30 days of sale but a sales receipt must accompany your request. No returns or credits are allowed. We are sure that you understand the necessity for these policies and will support them.

Tips and Things

o Need a little something to spark a card? Try coloring some of the areas with glitter gel pens. This can sometimes add just that little something missing.

o Needing to get energized or reacquainted with your stamping area? Grab a pile of white envelopes and start creating. Very inexpensive and you can use the envelopes to mail bills or other things that will surely bring a smile to the post person. It will get you off and running in no time.

o Looking for just a little Valentine treat for an associate, friend, or neighbor? Buy a Hershey candy bar and remove the outer wrapper. Cut card stock the same size as the wrapper and rubber stamp for the occasion. Reseal the candy bar and voila - makes a great conversation piece and small gift.

o Lose your newsletter? Go on-line to friends-n-company.com

HAPPY STAMPING!!

Until the next time,

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Take Care - Doris