
Friends and Company

Rubber Stamping and More..

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

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January/February 2007

What's New?

Greetings everyone and a very Happy New Year! We hope you have had fun during the holidays and are looking forward to bringing in the New Year. We are very excited about entering yet another year and are more focused than ever to meet our goals in 2007. Much of what we have been thinking about not only includes lots of creative journeys but also essentials such as organizing, planning, purging, and several other task oriented essentials. We are hoping to help set the pace where, together, we will create another successful year for all of us. It's a tall order but we are confident that it can be made to happen. Now that we can put the frenzy of the holidays behind us, we hope you will take a good look into 2007 and also set your goals and begin to make them happen as we enter yet another year.

We have already planned a wonderful lineup of classes which, as we go to press, are just around the corner so do check them out. Setting one of your goals to attending at least one class a month would allow your creative spirit to soar and also help you to generate camaraderie in a field where everyone's art is treasured. It is absolutely amazing what can happen when a dozen individuals all trade off their art to create collective masterpieces. If you have not registered for the "Fat Book" or attended an ATC trade, don't walk but run to get registered. There is so much more to offer in

this series of classes, that we expect there is something for everyone.

The Paper Connection has also become a priority for us in 2007. We currently have 70 members who are going strong and we hope that many more of you will come on board with us. It is truly a well balanced and wonderful gift you give to yourself each month. It includes many samples so some have referred to it as "A Class In A Box". Your participation and membership strengthen our ability to meet the daily challenges at the shop and are a major contributor to what we are able to accomplish each and every day. We look forward to seeing your name included in our lineup of members as 2007 unfolds for us all.

Our first special event for 2007 is reserved for the 13th, 14th, and 15th of January where you can visit the shop and, for FREE, xerox the contents of your wallet. Having this information available would be extremely valuable in the event that your wallet should decide to "take a walk". This was highlighted to us in late December when one of our employees lost her wallet to theft. Please mark it on your calendar and make a point of getting this "chore" done soon!

Have a wonderful start on the new year and be sure to let us know what you would like to have happen this year here at the shop. We love to hear from you and, if you have any suggestions for demos, classes, and any other "event," please get the word to us. We have scheduled a "Chocolate Mania Event" just in

time for, well, eating lots of chocolate, so please mark your calendar for 4 February 2007. We'll include some demos and other fun stuff. Happy New Year!!!

Chocolate Mania

Sun, 4 Feb 2007

Noon – 4:00

Chocolate, Chocolate,
and more Chocolate
along with Demos,
Demos, and more
Demos

"New" Stuff. Although we are trying to gear down for inventory, seems as though UPS and/or Fed Ex have made deliveries almost every day well before Christmas. Lots of new magazines are also available. Be sure to check out any magazine older than 6 months. They have been marked down by 40 percent off. What a deal if you are especially magazine deprived.

Our Valentine rubber stamps from various companies are beginning to arrive. It remains an extremely difficult chore to order Valentine stamps well before the holidays are even over. It definitely puts one into a different mind set. We are pleased, however, to include some of our all time favorites including a whole host from Inkadinkado just in time for Valentine's Day. Help us to reduce some of our inventory

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by stopping by early to pick up any of your Valentine wish list items.

A small order from Prickley Pear has arrived and includes several whimsical and just plain fun rubber stamps. Hampton Art Stamps are also sharing in the "Just In" section.

As always, we have something for everyone so stop in to check it out yourself.

O *Accessories and More.*

We continue to take pride in all of the accessories that we are able to carry. Our most popular holiday gift this year included the Scor-It. If you have a gift certificate burning a hole in your pocket, consider making the Scor-It a gift to yourself. We still have some left so call to reserve one today. Other "things" to consider include the following:

- We currently have every color of VersaCraft in stock. This product is excellent for fabric, paper, wood, and much more!
- The Stamp & Stick Gluepad kit includes the pad and a reinker and works well for adhering powders, glitters, chalks, and metallic pigments.
- A fun gizmo is the Antiquing Tool from Around the Block used for adding a distressed look to your projects. Works well on paper, metal, wood, plastic, fabric for starters!
- Karen Foster has introduced some fabulous charms in several themes great as embellishments on greeting card and/or on any scrapbook page. Also available are metal signs with different themes.
- Memories Mists in several different colors which can create an instant background or distressed look instantly.
- Memories Metallic Inkpads Sets which are acid free, fade resistant, and archival.

- Robin's Nest "Pebbles" in many different colors for use as accents or embellishments

There is lots more so stop in soon! If we don't have it and you want it, please do let us know.

Important Dates

- 1 Jan-Closed
Happy New Year!!
- 2 Jan-Paper Connection
Pick Up Date
- 8 Jan-Card Exchange
- 13 Jan-ATC Club Mtg
- 19 Jan-Metal Mania Mtg

- 1 Feb-Paper Connection
Pick Up Date
- 4 Feb-Chocolate Mania
Demo Day
- 10 Feb-ATC Club Mtg
- 14 Feb-Valentine's Day
- 12 Feb-Card Exchange

The Paper Connection

If you have ever wondered how best to support the store, joining "The Paper Connection" may be just the answer you are looking for. Being a member of the Paper Connection benefits both of us by providing you with a wonderful monthly themed pack of paper and collectibles and providing us with what we need to operate each month. Membership, coupled with the Friday Connection classes, has far exceeded our expectations and we are confident that as a member, you will enjoy its rewards.

Now is a great opportunity to sign up family and friends to receive this great package each month. Sometimes gift giving can be difficult any time of the year, therefore, this could be a perfect solution. Best of all, it does not have an electrical cord attached to it so anyone receiving it is sure to be pleased. This innovative, fun, and perhaps unique approach to owning paper is made up of club members who just love pampering themselves. The club consists of membership with monthly dues of \$19.95 (plus tax and shipping). Each month, members receive a

mystery package delivered directly to the address of their choice full of fun surprises which are all about paper. Members also receive a 10% discount at Friends and Company on all stocked paper products during the time of membership. Sound appealing? More details are available at the shop.

We are now including several color copy samples using the current theme to help get your creative spirits flowing. It is being referred to as "A Class In A Box" with easily replicated samples. It's a win/win so check it out!

SENIOR NEWS

Our senior classes continue to offer a variety of techniques and lots of fun and camaraderie. Classes begin at 10:00 a.m. with pre-registration required. The fee per class is \$12. All other class guidelines apply.

WEDNESDAY CLASSES

- 10 Jan-DCWV/Old World Paper
w/Diane Radischat
- 24 Jan-DCWV/Far East Paper
w/Diane Radischat

- 7 Feb-Penny Black XI
w/Diane Radischat
- 21 Feb-Spring Is Here
w/Diane Radischat

Carolyn's Corner

Dear Carolyn – I want to know everything there is to know about Suze Weinberg's "Hot Pot". I have been making embellishments using a mini crock pot and when a friend saw me using it, she insisted that I should check into this hot pot. So, what gives? Do I really need to own one? Susie

Dear Susie – Well, first off Susie, it is called a "Melting Pot" and is manufactured by Ranger. Most rubber stamp stores are likely to carry this product or certainly can special order one for you. As a "must have," that depends fully on

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what you have in mind for its use. Some of its features include optimum temperature control (unlike a crock pot), rapid and even melting of many craft mediums, it has large handles for easy lifting, is made with an elongated spout for accurate pouring (for molds as an example), and best of all it has a non-stick surface for easy cleaning. It contains interchangeable trays to move from one medium to the next if required. There is also a set of tools which can be purchased for use with the melting pot. If you often make and pour molds, this alone would qualify you as a candidate for this great product. Before making a purchase, you might want to see if you can borrow one and test it out for yourself. Beware, however, that you may never want to return it!!

Dear Carolyn – Whine, whine, whine. I really want to take classes but with three young children and a busy schedule it always seems impossible. I've been trying to teach myself different techniques but following directions from a magazine is often unsuccessful. I am truly a hands on person. Is there a solution for a busy mom like myself to make some progress using different cool tools for different techniques and other stuff in this industry? Martha

Dear Martha – Well, I certainly think you are entitled to at least one night out a week – maybe with just the girls. If help from the family is unavailable and your husband refuses to be alone with the kids, a solution, although expensive, would be to hire a babysitter. It would at least guarantee you some free time just for yourself. You could make this proposal beginning with just one day a month and working your way up to more days as you see the success of hiring a babysitter.

My first thought, however, is a bit on the crazy side but if your local

stamp store would agree, why not host a 4:00 am rubber stamping class. All that would be required on your part would be to gather your friends and show up at 4:00 am. I have exaggerated the time a bit but that's so you can see what I mean. Anything is possible so put your imagination to work and make something happen. The reverse is also possible whereas your rubber stamping party could start after all the kids are in bed making it so much easier for your husband to handle. Just a few ideas but remember that what is really important is to keep your creative spirit going no matter what you do.

Class Notes

Our class lineup for January and February 2007 presents many great opportunities. It is full of terrific ideas and many opportunities for fun and getting projects started or completed for gift giving all year long. We are pleased to include a beginners scrapbooking class so do check it out. All levels of rubber stamping are available. Please do note these guidelines:

- Receive a class discount of 10% off your purchase the day of class. Excludes discounted or sale items, magazines, and holds.
- Some classes now require students to bring a "Basic Class Kit" with them to class. Please see the list of class descriptions for more information and what the kit needs to contain.
- Pre-payment required on ALL class registrations. No exceptions. Students who have not pre-paid may forfeit their space in class so please – do pre-pay.
- Acceptable payments are cash or checks which need to be made out directly to the instructor.
- Class cancellations require a 3-day notice for a full refund. Classes exceeding 3 hours in length require a 5-day notice. Classes

involving guest instructors require a full 30 day cancellation. Other cancellation policies are noted in the class description.

- 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.
 - If you have an OTT light and want to use it in class, please bring it along. Bringing other items to class unless specified, i.e., basic class kit, could result in the loss of your own tools so please refrain if possible. Please make certain that all items in your basic class kit are clearly marked with your own personal identifier.

We appreciate your becoming fully aware of these class policies and your understanding of their need.

Annual Fund Raisers

HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

EXTENDED UNTIL 6 JAN 2007.

PLEASE COME IN SOON!

Our annual food drive began on September 1st and will now end on January 6th. Feel free to bring in non-perishable food donations any time during this period. Anyone bringing in five non-perishable food items at one time will receive a 15% off coupon good for their entire purchase of regularly priced merchandise good any time during the food drive.

SWEET WILLEY ROUNDUP

At press time, we were \$200.00 short of our annual goal of \$1000.00. Times have been difficult and we can all attest to what life is like without power. Just imagine how it might be for someone living on the street with little possibility of keeping warm.

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Please dig deep. Every last penny can make a difference. Anyone donating a tax deductible donation of \$100.00 or more will receive a one-time 25% off their entire shopping spree at Friends and Company. All donations of any size are tax deductible. We'd like to hear from you before 31 December 2007 to make your donation count!

Newsletter Renewal

As usual, our first order of priority for the new year is to update our mailing list. We love to introduce new folks to rubber stamping, however, the database is rather large so updating helps us to minimize associated costs. This also includes e-mail as we are required to "lump" e-mails which in turn takes some time before completing the list. In any case, each January we ask you to verify your address and/or e-mail, so that the database can be updated. As an incentive, we offer 40% off any rubber stamp that we have in the shop (excludes holds) valid for the entire month of January. If we do not hear from you, you will be archived on the physical mailing list but not on the e-mail list unless you tell us otherwise, 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. We thank you in advance for helping us streamline our database.

"STUFF"

o Looking for something different for a birthday party but don't want to clean the house? Need a place to meet monthly? Want to get together with some of your friends? Call the shop for details on using the balcony for any of these events.

o Interested in forming a stamping club? Call the shop and we'll help you with acquiring members.

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 is also true on Sundays for the parking lots. Street parking on Sunday is unlimited but lots are monitored.

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's 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. This proved to be a blessing during the road construction in late 2006.

Tips and Things

o When using any leafing pen to edge cards, be sure to allow sufficient time for the leafing to dry. Applying light heat also speeds up the drying process.

o When sharpening your colored pencils, be sure to sharpen the opposite end of where the name and number are on the pencil. Once the pencil becomes small, you will have the name and number easily available for a replacement pencil.

o Spend a whole day playing and experimenting with how to create backgrounds. Shoebox them until you need a cool background for a special project. It's a great head start for any project.

o Did you know that there are replacement tips for Krylon Pens?

o Did you know that there are daubers that can be interchanged with the spray tip on the walnut ink spray bottles from Tsukineko?

o Have a hard-to-buy-for person on your gift giving list this year? Subscribe them to a 6-month membership to "The Paper

Connection". Takes care of your mother-in-law, sister, aunt, cousin, etc. What better gift to give. Don't forget to put yourself on that list!

o Join the Paper Connection for a fun surprise especially for you each month. We'll even mail it if you are from out of town.

o If you happen to slip using your Krylon Pen and the slip leaves an undesirable mark, let it dry completely and then, using a Staedtler Mars Plastic eraser, gently rub the Krylon mark off. Thanks Diane R. for that great tip!

o Pass our website on to anyone. It's www.friends-n-company.com

Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas Rubber Stamp Sale

All 40% Off

Christmas Papers

All 25% Off

(Through January
2007)

HAPPY STAMPING!!

Until the next time,
Take Care – Doris