
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.

NEW

www.friendsandcompanyblog.typepad.com

NEW

Volume 1 Issue 1

January/February 2008

What's New?

Greetings Everyone! All of us here at the shop would like to wish each and every one of you a very "Happy New Year". It is always so grand to start a new year all fresh and full of possibilities. This past year was quite explosive for us here at the shop and we would love to see the trend continue into 2008. One way of accomplishing this is to keep this industry fun, manageable, and full of love and laughter. There is just so much that can be done that setting goals and maybe even resolutions would be for the good of all of us. We have some goals and resolutions identified here at the shop and we hope that you will be able to identify some for yourselves. Stretching our capabilities might be a challenge but it is always a good challenge. Take a step forward and see where new goals and resolutions might take each of you. We'd love to hear about your "travels".

Details on our 2008 Passport Program are nearly complete. Our goal with this program is to keep the fun and excitement going all year long as we explore lots of fun and frivolity. Details of this program are dispersed throughout this newsletter so please read it in its entirety to catch all the "details". As you explore this newsletter, we are confident that you will want to be part of the 2008 Passport Program. We are very excited and hope that you all will be as well. Give us a call to let us know that you want to come on board.

Please visit our "blog" frequently. We expect to continue to use the blog as our means for staying in touch with all of you without swamping you with our e-mails. We hope it works for you as we introduce new "stuff" all year long!

We have a great lineup of new classes with lots to choose from including at least one new instructor so do take a look. With the passport program, anyone taking 12 or more classes will receive a voucher worth \$20.00 for a future class. Each passport will be eligible to receive one of these vouchers. It's a screaming deal compliments of our instructors!

The past year has been a great year for us here at the shop. We would like once again to thank all of you for your love, support, and friendships that keep us going all year long. Lots is planned for 2008 so hang on for the ride! We think it will not only be fun but exciting and energizing as well!

We hope your holidays were fun and all that you dreamed they would be. Thank you all so very much for the numerous goodies that were delivered to our door. We are truly blessed. Stop in anytime in the next couple of weeks to say hello and so that we can personally say "Happy New Year". We look forward to seeing you soon!

New" Stuff. We have been holding off on buying too much new stuff so that we could get the inventory done with as less product as possible without compromising

our goal of keeping the shop fully stocked to meet your needs. Despite, however, our attempt at holding off, we have managed to bring in a "few" things.

Elaine and Clive Woodhouse have done it again with some really new and cool designs that include a Mahjong Theme Set or sold as individual pieces if you prefer. These tiles are fabulous for using on ATCs as well as collage and lots of other art.

We received a Hero Arts order which included, of all things, the Haiku Bunny. This rubber stamp was discontinued several years ago and, for its popularity, has been sited on e-bay for as much as \$99.00. We are very pleased to have it on hand but don't waste any time in getting here. They are not likely to last very long.

Because we are on an auto-ship program with Inkadinkado, we just received a ton of rubber stamps just in time for Valentine's Day. They have created lots of cool stamps with easy to use designs. We think you will enjoy what you see. They are a great company to work with.

We have also received several new designs from the Lockhart Stamp Company. We will restock by mid-January as these are moving quickly. Some new and fun stamps are expected any day now from Memory Box. Dave and Monica continue to outdo themselves!

Check in for more. It'll be a great time to get your passport going and

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working for you. With a passport, two of the “things” that are possible are 1) a 10% discount on your entire purchase of regularly priced merchandise and 2) get your passport stamped for January’s travel escapade. We are traveling to France. With 12 stamped travel escapades (1 for each month), passport holders will be eligible to enter to win a Provo Craft Cricut Cutter valued at \$600.00. How much more exciting can that be!!?

O *Accessories and More.*

Just like with the rubber stamps, we have attempted to hold off orders until after our entire inventory is complete. There are however new things arriving all of the time.

A new shipment of the Cuttlebug from Provo Craft was received just before the holidays and we still have a couple left. The Cuttlebug has been a wonderful addition to anyone’s tool box. This hand powered machine will emboss an entire A-2 sized card in less than 15 seconds. It is way cool! Stop by the shop and we’ll show you just what we mean. Pricing on this machine compares well to some of our own competitors so you can easily walk away with one on your next visit. We also have lots of the dies available and continue to stock up on new ones as they are released. We hope Santa may have included one in your stocking. Been good?

We were fully stocked with the Tim Holtz Distress embossing powders and still have lots but the Tim Holtz Distress Crackle Paints are gone entirely. We will make a point of restocking very soon as these paints are very HOT!! If you did not catch the 12 Days of Christmas with Tim Holtz, there is still time. Go to the www.timholtz.com webpage and select his “blog”. This will take you to his blog and

simply backtrack to the 12 Days of Christmas. This was an outstanding display of talent shared with all of us so do not miss it if you can!

Paper has become a passion for us as well as many of you. We constantly stock new papers and as a member of the Paper Connection *and* the 2008 Passport Program, members receive 20% off on paper purchases all of the time. Another big plus for savings all year long!

Here are some things that you should consider as part of your toolbox or just for fun:

- Make ATC trading easy with the pre-cut 2.5” x 3.5” white trading cards from Hampton Arts. There are 100 to a pack ready for you to indulge your creative spirit!
- Ribbon continues to be popular as an easy embellishment for any project. We stock ribbon by the yard and also in packs with many as self-adhesive.
- The precious gem section is expanding to include what we call “pebbles” that are great as an embellishment for any project. We have also stocked many Swarovski crystals in numerous colors and sizes. There has been a huge demand for these crystals and we are pleased to have them back in.
- New add-ons recently are the Timeless Moments from “It Takes Two” which range in years from the early 1900s to the year 2006. What fun to find the year you were born and see all the details for that year. Even more fun to include these stickers in cards and on any scrapbooking page. We all love to see ourselves in lights and there is no better way than with these great stickers!
- Stickers are always popular for adding glittering accents and now we currently have all 25 yummy colors in stock!

- Join the Paper Connection today and help make a difference for the shop. The support that members have given to us continues to be OUTSTANDING!and now.....as a 2008 Passport member and member of the Paper Connection, receive 20% off on all your paper needs all of the time. This includes all of our 12” x 12” and 8-1/2” x 11” paper in stock.
- We have lots of glitter to choose from as well as lots of micro beads. These both work great with the super heavy duty sticker paper. We have this product in both rolls and also in sheets.
- We have been offering our Ten Second Studio products for huge discounts and now we have reached the ultimate in a 40% discount. We would like to liquidate what we have in stock so that we can re-stock with a new look. Help us out!
- We have increased our sticker selection along with our rub-on selection. Both of these products are in high demand so we expect to explode what we already have in 2008. Keep watch!
- Lots of brads and other embellishments. Check it out!

There is always more and our shelves are full. We’d like them to be “less full” for our pending inventory so take some time just for you and stop by!

2008 Passport Program

Friends and Company is very pleased to announce its 2008 Passport Program. It is our hope that this program will create excitement and energy within this already fabulous environment and will offer all of us the opportunity to stretch our creative spirit. As a passport member, here are some of the highlights....

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o Receive 10% off your entire purchase of regularly priced merchandise all of the time – yep, everyday, all day long. Receive 20% off on any themed product for the countries visited each month (see below). We'll do our best to have "specialty" product on hand for each country we visit.

o Attend 12 classes and receive a class voucher worth \$20.00 towards a future class (in 2008).

o Indulge in up to 6 mini cupcakes of your choice on six different visits to Coffee-To-A-Tea each month all year long!

o Liberty Bell Printing extends to us up to 100 color copies at only 39 cents each one at a time or all at one time! Paper is high quality 8-1/2" x 11" 25 pound text weight. What a steal!

o As a member of the Paper Connection and the Passport Program, receive 20% off on all 12" x 12" and 8-1/2" x 11" paper that is in stock all the time. We love our paper!

o Travel with Friends and Company to 12 different countries throughout the year (one each month) and get your passport stamped for the countries you visit. Validate all 12 countries with our special stamps and you will be entered to win our 2008 Passport giveaway of a brand new Cricut Expression (value \$600.00).

o Sound interesting? Register today. We are happy to e-mail you the registration form!

The Paper Connection

OK, stop the presses. We are looking for new members to this terrific club and you may be just the right candidate. Read on for more information. Please take time to join and register today. It's loads of fun and its value is great also!

Looking for some fun? Looking for some surprises? Looking for something different? "The Paper

Connection" may be exactly what you are looking for! So, exactly what is it all about? The Paper Connection is an innovative, fun, and perhaps unique approach to owning paper and is made up of club members who just love paper, love getting packages in the mail, or simply do not have access to some of the rich, vibrant, and high quality paper now available on the market. The club consists of membership with monthly dues of \$19.95. Each month, members receive a mystery package delivered directly to the address of their choice full of fun surprises and "stuff" which is all about paper. Membership also includes bonus items that will enhance your paper collection each month. With each six month membership, members receive a 10% discount at Friends and Company on all stocked 12" x 12" or 8-1/2" x 11" paper products during the time of membership. As an added bonus, members who are also 2008 Passport holders, receive a 20% discount. Sound appealing? We think so! More details are available at the shop, so do stop by or call to check it out.

SENIOR NEWS

Our senior classes continue to be lots of fun. Classes begin at 10:30 a.m. (note change) with pre-registration required. We hope that the change to Monday will accommodate everyone better. The fee per class is \$12.00. All other class guidelines apply.

MONDAY CLASSES

- 7 Jan-Chinese New Year
w/Diane Radischat
- 21 Jan-Valentines
w/Diane Radischat
- 28 Jan-Thank You Cards
w/Diane Radischat

- 4 Feb-Make A Wish
w/Diane Radischat
- 18 Feb-Bleaching
w/Diane Radischat

Class Notes

The lineup for January and February 2008 is as great as ever and includes lots of classes. A \$20.00 class coupon will be awarded (compliments of your instructors) to any 2008 Passport Member who take's 12 or more classes in the year 2008. Another incentive to be a part of the 2008 Passport Program. Class challenges are available for all levels including new classes for the children in your lives that just love art. A wide range of techniques and class themes are being offered by our outstanding instructors. We are sure you will enjoy many of these opportunities. Please make note of the following guidelines:

- Receive a class discount of 10% off your purchase the day of class. Excludes already discounted or sale items, magazines, and holds.
- 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.
- Class cancellations require a 3-day notice for a full refund. Classes exceeding 3 hours in length require a 5-day notice. Classes with guest instructors require a 3-week cancellation and events such as the Balcony Bash or Scrapbooking Crop require a 2-week cancellation.
- 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.

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- Please refrain from wearing perfumes and/or similar fragrances while attending classes. This will help to ensure that all students who are allergic can attend without cause to worry. We very much appreciate your cooperation for the enjoyment of all.

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

Carolyn's Corner

Dear Carolyn – Now that the holidays are over, I want to get an early start on the new year. I was a crazy lady this past holiday season and I really want to avoid anything coming close to that for 2008. Any suggestions on what I can do to simplify my life? Connie

Dear Connie-The solution seems pretty simple to me but we don't always see beyond our own boundaries so asking such a question is a good thing. I'm sure others would think of other solutions but mine is to make a commitment to get together with friends at least once a month forming a club of sorts. You could even go so far as to allow only holiday projects to be worked on. Before you know it, you will be well past what needs to be done for holiday gift giving in 2008. It's really that easy – just do it!!

Dear Carolyn – I am interested in carving out some of my own designs. I feel rather timid about it and can't seem to take a step forward without some level of fear. Any suggestions for getting me started. Gerri

Dear Gerri – First off, I love eraser carving and I'm sure you will also. It is so fun to see your very own design take shape but I do understand your fear factor. It's easy to toss a piece of paper away if you make a mistake but not so easy to toss away the eraser carving material as the expense is so much

greater. You must, however, get past all of this and the easiest way of doing this would be to participate in an eraser carving class. Fun, fun, fun is what it's all about. This would take you well beyond any fear of moving forward on your own. It would also provide you with the "how to's" for transferring your image to your block along with other tips and techniques. Check in with your local rubber stamp store and see what they have to offer. You'll be glad that you did.

Annual Fund Raisers

HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

Our annual food drive, which ended on 31 December, included 3 full barrels of food donated by all of you to the West Seattle Food Bank. With recent floods and so many other "situations", the need is great and we thank all of you who donated to this very worthy cause. So much is possible by just one person making a difference. THANK YOU!

SWEET WILLEY ROUNDUP

As many of you already know, we exceeded our goal of \$1000.00 for Sweet Willie. We all shouted for glee here at the shop when the thermometer hit the \$1,000.00 mark. Sally Carson, who manages Sweet Willie with her husband, were both blown away again this year. Their work is hard and tedious but pays off big time when more than 30 street kids are able to graduate from high school and stand proud to do so. By just dropping loose change into the Sweet Willie jar all year long helped to top off this years donations. We are extremely happy and **very grateful** to all of you who so generously donated. Several of you donated enough to receive a one-time "25%" off your entire purchase anytime in 2008 (valid on regularly priced merchandise).

You are simply the best! "Thank You" all for your generous spirit!

Other Stuff!

o **A Review on Parking.** Please remember that the parking lots are limited to three hours and street parking is limited to two. Street parking on Sunday is unlimited but lots continue to be monitored. The folks at Village Woodworks love to have you walk through which 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 are allowed. No returns of any sort are permitted on discounted items of 40% or more. We are sure that you understand the necessity for these policies and will support them.

Important Dates

- 1 Jan-Closed
Happy New Year
- 2 Jan-Paper Connection
Pickup Date
- 6 Jan-Altered Dex Club
Meeting
- 12 Jan-ATC Club Meeting
- 18 Jan-Crop 'Til You Drop
- 1 Feb-Paper Connection
Pickup Date
- 3 Feb-Altered Dex Club
Meeting
- 9 Feb-ATC Club Meeting
- 14 Feb-Happy Valentines!
- 29 Feb-Crop 'Til You Drop
- 8 Mar-"Spring Break" Fest

Tips and Things

o Glenn Huff and Phil Smith –both friends, both retired, both bored. Looking for small handyman jobs that no one else wants to do. Call the shop and we'll get you connected.

o Planning a birthday party for your youngster? Let the kids make their own party favors, goodie bags, and banner. They'll have lots of fun and it'll save you lots of time.

HAPPY STAMPING!!

Until the next time,
Take Care – Doris