
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

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What's New?

Happy New Year Everyone! I was just thinking the other day about the turn over into 2000 when everyone was fretting over whether or not the transition would run smoothly and here we are already nine years later. It really is hard to believe. The year 2008 sure went quickly but it was a great year for all of us here at the shop. We can think back fondly on all the creative endeavors throughout the year including a host of fabulous events and completed projects that we can call our own. Way to go for anyone who participated in any of these events and we hope that you will continue to do so as 2009 evolves.

We also hope that your holidays were all that you wanted them to be. Unexpected weather changes created some havoc but how much more beautiful can the landscape get than when it is covered in snow. It's definitely part of the holidays and some memories were created that can be cherished for a long time to come.

We often make mention of just how blessed we are, not only because of the shop and what it represents for us all, but also how blessed we are in our own personal lives. With the holidays behind us and as we move into 2009, it'll be a good thing to remind ourselves of this. With an unknown economy and other "what ifs" that surround us, the ground can seem shaky but remaining strong and working together is what it will take to see us all through these tough times. Be sure to take

time to read a book, say hello to a neighbor, call a friend and simply keep a focus on life's simple pleasures. They are what add up to a whole lot.

Our schedule here at the shop is jam packed with lots of wonderful opportunities for 2009. We are making several changes in our classroom environment that we are very excited about and hope that you will be as well. Please take time to read about some of these changes throughout the newsletter.

Because of its success this past year, our Passport Program will continue through 2009. We are also making some changes that we anticipate will be of value to each passport member. Again, read more about some of these changes later in this newsletter.

Plans for 2009 are just beginning to unfold. We are all excited about what this New Year could present so stay tuned as we refine and introduce to you some of these exciting changes and opportunities.

With the economy fluctuating up and down, there is no telling where we'll end up but hopefully art will continue to remain a vital piece of your everyday maneuvers. Take some of those "never been used" items in your tool box and challenge yourself to create something totally out of your box. You would be surprised with what is possible. Making it a point to take a monthly class is also a great start at keeping your creative spirit alive. It also lets our instructors

know that they are valued and that you want them to prosper as well. Sometimes we all need a pat on the back, so make it happen for yourself and someone else as well. We know that you will reap many benefits from it.

Here is wishing each and every one of you the very best for the New Year. It is our hope that the challenges for 2009 that we all expect to face will be some that make us step out of our boxes and forge forward. Have a GREAT year!!

Dead of Winter BBQ

Sun, 25 Jan 2009

12:00 – 3:00

Demos, Door Prizes,
Discounts, Fun, Fun,
and More Fun.

Hot Dogs, Chips,
Macaroni Salad and
Beverages help to make
up this great BBQ!!

"New" Stuff. Although our inventory is just weeks away, we are still continuing to receive some great new rubber stamps both from some of our old time favorites and some new companies as well.

Dave Breathauer, Memory Box has outdone himself again this year.

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Memory Box continues to offer a huge range of rubber stamps and also some great papers. The most famous penguins in the world are from Dave's great selection. There is likely a penguin for everybody with an associated saying to round it all off. Check it out.

Lockhart Rubber Stamps continues to be very popular and also has their own section reserved for them at the shop. We carry all of Karen's rubber stamps including her just recently released new designs. Karen's pencil color technique is used on all of her samples which are simply terrific. Come and take a look at what Karen has been up to!

Some new rubber stamp designs were included with our recent auto ship from Inkadinkado. It's a great idea to line up your Valentine cards now so that the time does not catch up with you.

We are also very pleased to announce that, with the anticipated closure of Make An Impression at the end of January, our plan for 2009 is to carry a much larger selection of their fabulous line of rubber stamps including their Punch-Ins that they have become well known for. This is a very exciting opportunity for us and we hope that it will help to keep Make An Impression and their spirit alive in all of us. More details will follow as their rubber stamps become available to us.

The holiday display boards from Northwoods Rubber Stamps proved to be wonderful so we anticipate receiving some of their new boards for the upcoming holidays very soon. The orders have been placed so delivery will be most any time.

We just recently received an order from Magenta. Seems they have taken a back seat to other rubber stamp companies these days but we are attempting to have them make a

comeback. They are as fabulous as ever so we hope you will just love the selections we've made so far. For the entire month, we will host an open catalog sale for Magenta Rubber Stamps. With your passport, you'll receive 10% off for just placing an order so come visit and see what we are talking about!!

We just received a ton of Rubbermoon Rubber Stamps which included many of Gretchen's designs. They just keep coming and coming. We love them all!!

A Hero Arts order was also just recently delivered. It included some fun "teacher's" stamps and also all of their Ink 'n' Stamp sets that the kids just love!! We always order several new letter sets to keep the shelves well stocked so if you are in need of letter sets, we've got plenty. Remember the Haiku Bunny from Hero? Well, now it is called the "Mountain Hare". Same design, different name and we have it as well so come and get it!!

There is always more so you will just have to stop in to see for yourself. We've been working on Valentine's, Saint Patrick's, and even those special Mother and Father's Day holidays. We are hoping to start a "Holiday Club" where members can work on their holiday projects all year long and for every holiday we can think of. Check out the Club section in the class schedule.

For passport holders, please do not forget to bring your passport while making purchases. With a passport, several "things" are possible including a 10% discount on your entire purchase of regularly priced merchandise. You can also get your passport stamped for each month's travel escapade and pick up one of your monthly mini cupcakes from Coffee To A Tea. It's a win win all the way around.

O *Accessories and More.*

Don't we just love our accessories? Seems as though there are more and more that come into the market and we just gotta have as much as we can get so we hope our terrific manufacturers never stop. Here are some highlights:

A new order from the very popular line of Sticker King has just arrived and there is lots including holiday design to help get those scrapbooks completed. There is something for everyone in this great lineup of very affordable stickers.

The Paper Connection is a major priority here at Friends and Company. We take pride in our monthly themes and are extremely pleased with the response that the Connection has received. We keep looking for new members so if you are wondering what it is all about, read all about it later in this newsletter. Because paper is one of our passions, our paper shelves are very well stocked. At last count, we have over 1200 paper slots all filled with great themes.

Here are more fun things for your toolbox or just for fun:

- All the Distress Crackle Paint colors that are available have arrived. Great medium for all sorts of art projects.
- We currently have all the Stickers on hand including the new Distress Stickers.
- We just received a large order of embossing powders from the Embossing Powder Candy Store. Embossing powder will now come in a 1 oz jar.
- We are fully stocked with all the Rhinestones and Pearls from Kaiser Craft. These sticky backed gems are a great embellishment on any project!
- We carry a good assortment of the Fibers from BasicGrey. These fibers are very rich in

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color and come in 3-foot lengths.

- We carry a very good selection of Tim Holtz's "idea-ology" line of products which include his texture hammer, ruler, keys, swivel clasps, keyholes, long fasteners, and much more!
- Lots of Cuttlebug folders to choose from. We keep trying to stay on top of these but new ones keep surfacing!
- Great assortment of Cricut cartridges to choose from. Get them while they last.

There is always more and our shelves are full. Please let us know if there is something that you just "gotta have". We'll be happy to look into it. Now take some time just for you and stop by. You'll be very glad that you did!!

2009 Passport Program

The Passport Program that we introduced in January 2008 has surpassed our expectations and we definitely know that it is creating excitement and energy within this already fabulous environment. We are, therefore, offering the Passport Program again in 2009. It will continue to be offered all year long so do let us know if you would like one. Passports purchased in January 2009 are \$12.00 each and \$15.00 each for the balance of the year. Please note that owning a passport is now the only means for receiving a discount following a class. This is a major change in our classroom policies but we are sure you will understand the need for this change. Other opportunities are available for class attendance so do read all about them in our class discussion later in this newsletter. As a passport member, here are some of the other highlights...

o Receive 10% off your entire purchase of regularly priced merchandise all of the time – yep, every day, all day long.

o Attend 12 classes and receive a class voucher worth \$20.00 towards a future class (in 2009). A new change in 2009 is that the \$20.00 voucher is good for EVERY 12 classes. Vouchers, however, cannot be combined.

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.

o Liberty Bell has also extended a 20% discount on any Bergsma Product one time each month. Purchase a Bergsma product every month and receive the limited edition 2009 Bergsma mug FREE at the end of the year.

o Terjung's Studio of Gifts (our fabulous neighbors across the street) is new to the Passport Program and extends to each member a 25% discount on any kitchen product that they carry once every month. They have lots of really GREAT "stuff" so make it a point to stop by and check it out. Stock up on your gift giving all year long!

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 2009 Passport giveaway of a brand new Cricut Expression (value \$600.00). We gave one of these away in 2008 and many more folks are still looking to own one so we'll do it again!!

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

SENIOR NEWS

Our senior classes are on sabbatical. If you and a group of 3 friends would like a private class, please let us know. We would be very happy to accommodate your group of 4 with a mutually agreeable theme and time for the class.

Clubs Now Forming

Interested in being part of a club? Here are a couple that might work.

- 1) Reader's Challenge – contact Sandy Huff at (206) 932-7745.
- 2) Knitting and Crocheting Club–contact Friends at (206) 932-3891.

Happy Birthday

Receive 25% off on any one rubber stamp or set as our special gift to you for your birthday any time during the entire month. We will continue to verify your special day with your driver's license or other appropriate ID. Don't forget to change the batteries in all your fire alarms as part of your celebration!

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! 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

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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 2009 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.

Class Stimulus Package

The lineup for January and February 2009 is loaded with lots of classes. Lots of changes are also taking place in the classroom that we think you will just love. We are referring to some of these changes as our Stimulus Package for the Classroom.

1) The first is that a \$20.00 class coupon will be awarded to any 2009 Passport member for EVERY 12 classes attended. This includes class packets as well. Yes, you've read it correctly - EVERY 12 classes. We'll depend upon you to make sure your passport is stamped at the time of class and that when you reach 12, you notify us of this major feat!! Are you excited yet? Well, there is more!

2) The names of anyone attending classes in each month will be entered into a drawing each month to receive a FREE class the following month AND a one-time shopping spree at Friends and Company of 25% off their entire purchase the following month. Whoever thought all this up is a genius... and wait, there's more!

3) Attend a class and bring along a friend who has never attended a

class at Friends before and receive your class for half price!! Yippiee!! Wait, bring along two friends who have never attended a class at Friends before and receive your class for FREE!! This is a great opportunity for introducing friends to this great environment!

4) Need some team building within your group, organization, office, etc.? We welcome team building sessions with your choice of instructors and a mutually agreeable time and theme for the class. With a group of 7 (8 including yourself), you attend for FREE. This could be an excellent opportunity for everyone including sports teams, 4-H, Girl/Boy Scouts, mother/daughter play days, birthday parties, etc. Why stop here – let's keep going!

5) Names from class attendance for two six-month periods (January-June and July-December) will be collected and a winner will be selected to receive a brand new Cuttlebug along with 6 folders of the winner's choice (total value exceeds \$100.00).

Whew – this is a lot to absorb but we are hopeful that this stimulus package will be well received and will help you in helping us to support our fantastic and very talented instructors. Please consider registering for at least one class a month. The payoff is great not only for your own personal growth and that of our instructors but also for the chance to be the recipient of some great giveaways!

Class challenges are available for all levels and age groups. We are sure you will enjoy many of the opportunities being offered during this newsletter period. Please make note of the following guidelines:

- As a Passport Member receive a class discount of 10% off your purchase the day of class. Excludes already discounted or sale items, magazines, and holds.

- Pre-payment on ALL class registrations is required. NO EXCEPTIONS PLEASE. Your registration must be accompanied by your payment or credit card hold. We've been pretty lax enforcing this policy, however, we have found the need to strictly adhere to this policy so please, when registering, make your payment as well. We really appreciate your understanding the need for pre-payment on classes.

- Payment options are cash or checks made out 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 with guest instructors require a 3-week cancellation and events such as "Fests" or Scrapbooking Crops 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.

- 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 recognizing the need for them.

Carolyn's Corner

Dear Carolyn – I frequent several local craft stores and many seem to have a tool available called an Accu-Cut. Can you tell me what this machine is exactly for and how I can use one? Sherry

Dear Sherry – I'm sure the policies vary from store to store on using the Accu-Cut in each of the stores but basically you can rent time on the Accu-Cut and cut shapes that are available at each respective place. The Accu-Cut is a great

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cutting tool that allows users to cut a range of designs which can then be used for scrapbooking, iris folding, and a whole host of other "things". Some stores allow use of their machine for free provided you purchase the cutting material from them. Hundreds of designs are available making it impossible for any one place to carry all of them so you might take time to check out what is available at each location. While there, ask about an Accu-Cut club. I understand that some locations do have such a thing. It's a great tool so have fun with it.

Dear Carolyn – It is my understanding that embossing powder comes in different thicknesses. Can you please explain what the differences are and if they each have their own purpose? Thank You. Debbie

Dear Debbie – There are three intensities of embossing powders that I am aware of in the marketplace today. The ultra fine embossing powder is used primarily for very detailed work where you do not want to lose the design after embossing. The "raised effect" is not as prominent as with your regular grade of embossing powder but it certainly does the trick and looks great with detailed rubber stamps. The most common is generally referred to simply as embossing powder. This grade is used most often for embossing most other rubber stamps. One very cool thing about embossing is that, once an image is embossed, wells are formed which make coloring, bleaching and applying other techniques easier to that particular design. The last of the embossing powders is called ultra thick embossing enamel or UTEE. This grade of embossing powder is generally used for filling dimensional molds and is melted in a hot pot of one sort or another. Using Ranger's melting pot makes using UTEE rather easy. Several

coats can be applied to a design and then crackled as well. If you don't like the way it came out, simply reheat to get a different look. Practicing with UTEE is desirable to get the effect you want. Investing in an embossing class would pay for itself in no time so consider that as a possibility for learning all about embossing. Hope this helps.

Rent A Rack

Another new feature for 2009 is our "Rent A Rack" program. This program is the brain child of one of our valued employees and we think it is brilliant!! Each month a featured artist will be able to showcase and sell their work for the entire month in our baker's rack. A small percent will be returned to the shop making it a win win for everyone including you who will be able to take advantage of some really great "stuff". Our combined artists for January are Kelly Anable and Jessi Cornwell (remember Jessi?). Both will showcase jewelry but don't expect to see Jessi. She's in touch often but from as far away as Georgia. We would love for Jessi to visit and we've been working on her so you never know. We hope the "Rent A Rack" program will be fun and rewarding at the same time. Do check it out!! Let us know which month you would like reserved and what product you'll showcase.

"ENVY"Lope Contest

Congratulations were extended to Linda Riegelsberger who won our 2008 "Envy"lope contest. All the entries were fabulous and are still posted at the shop so do stop in to take a look. It really is worth the trip. Linda was awarded a \$100.00 gift certificate to the shop. Way to go Linda!!

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.

Important Dates

- 1 Jan-Open 12:00-2:00
Happy New Year
- 1 Jan-Paper Connection
Pickup Date
- 4 Jan-Altered Dex Club
Meeting
- 8 Jan-WS Art Walk
- 10 Jan-ATC Club Meeting
- 10 Jan-Napkin Exchange
- 23 Jan-Holiday Club
- 23 Jan-Scrapbooking Crop
- 25 Jan-Dead of Winter BBQ

- 1 Feb-Paper Connection
Pickup Date
- 1 Feb-Altered Dex Club
Meeting
- 12 Feb-WS Art Walk
- 14 Feb-ATC Club Meeting
- 14 Feb-Happy Valentine's
- 27 Feb-Holiday Club
- 27 Feb-Scrapbooking Crop

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. Give Glenn a call at (206) 932-7745.

o When sharpening your colored pencils, be sure to sharpen from the end that does not have the name and/or number on it. This way when the pencil gets short, you'll know exactly the color and number that you will need to replace it.

o The Xyron sticker maker also works with ribbon and not just paper. Give it a try and run several pieces of ribbon through at the same time saving on adhesive.

o Join a club. It generates great camaraderie. Don't want to join? No problem, start your own!

o Got a GREAT rubber stamping tip? Give us your best and drop your tip into the tip jar located at the front desk at the shop. If your tip is used, you'll receive a \$5.00 cash credit to the shop.

HAPPY STAMPING!!

Until the next time,
Take Care – Doris