
Friends and Company

Rubber Stamping and More...

4540 California Avenue, S.W.

Seattle, WA 98116

(206) 932-3891 FAX (206) 932-3983

and

1175 NW Gilman Boulevard, Suite B-7

Issaquah, WA 98027

(425) 391-1500

email: topstamp@msn.com www.friends-n-company.com

M-F 10:00a.m.-6:00 p.m. Sat 10:00a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Sun 12:00 noon- 4:00 p.m.

www.friendsandcompanyblog.typepad.com

Volume 3 Issue 1

January/February 2010

What's New?

Happy New Year's Everyone! I can hardly believe that it is 2010 already. I'm still waiting for the dreaded "whatever" that was going to happen when we rolled into 2000. All of us here at the shop hope that your holidays were all that they could be but especially all that you wanted them to be.

We've been truly blessed here at the shop with not only a fabulous customer base but with many of you who have become friends of the family. We totally recognize everything that is done for us and find it is especially important to remember at this particular time of year and pass on the good will. With your help, we have been able to reach out into many communities to give back and extend a helping hand in one way or another. The Sweet Willey donations took us over the top with donations in excess of \$1,100. Way to go everyone.... and because of your generosity, many lives have been changed for the better. The Food Barrels for both the West Seattle and Issaquah food banks were not as full as in years past but continued to meet our expectations. Again, many lives were touched. We were also successful in reaching residents of the Hickman House, an underground refuge for battered women and children, who are being phased back into "life". So, between all of us, we have been busy. Many many thanks for all

that you have done and/or any contributions you may have made towards the many fund raising endeavors that we have embraced. It is really because of you that any of this is possible. Even when faced with our own hardships, the generosity excel. Thank you many times over for all that you do!

As many of you already know, 2009 proved to be a very challenging year for all of us not only financially but also in keeping normal and everyday operations going. We've seen many layoffs in our family of friends here at the shop and other hardships that people have had to rebound from. It's never fun to see anyone in these positions so we sincerely hope that 2010 will prove to be a year of robust energy and renewed goals that are achievable. Again, as many of you are well aware of, much of our classroom attendance has been less than desirable also because of economic times but we remain optimistic that 2010 will be a fabulous year for instructors who have hung on and for new instructors just being introduced to our classroom. The lineup is incredible so we really do hope that you will take a look and plan for a class or two each month. Our stimulus package continues to offer a \$20.00 voucher for every 12 classes taken in 2010. These classes are tracked by our passport program so get started early. We just know that the economy will

rebound for the better and life will be restored to what we've always known. We have embraced 2010 as a year of growth and greater abundance for all of us. Remember that growth may seem disguised in some cases, so, like us, please remain open to what the future might hold. Some changes might become necessary for simple survival but we'll cross that bridge when we come to it. For the time being, rest assured that all systems are a go and that we are doing everything we can to keep ourselves available to all of you. As with your own personal lives, everything is highly controlled by what the economy decides to do, or, put differently, not do, so, please come visit and come often. We love playing "catch up" with you and your families so that is just the icing on the cake.

A reminder that, although our West Seattle employee base was reduced in 2009, we are still here for you. Our modified hours are working well for us at the shop and hope that this is true for all of you as well. We are beginning to make plans for any events in 2010. Please let us know what you would like to see. We are contemplating a BBQ in January for Issaquah so let us know what you think about that!!

On a final note, we would like to thank all of you for your holiday wishes and also all the fabulous gifts, goodies and so much more

Friends and Company Rubber Stamping and More...

that you have extended to all of us at both locations. We appreciate you all very much and hope that we have what you will need to stay in touch and continue to be a part of our growing family of friends and associates. A very "Happy New Year" to each and every one of you. May 2010 be a year filled with lots of love, treats, and treasures!!

"New" Stuff. We have not been in the buying mode knowing that we needed to get through the holidays and that we would need to conduct some inventory prior to loading up the shelves once again. We have begun to place orders to restock much of the shelves. The CHA (Craft and Hobby Association) will take place at the end of January and this is the time when many retailers wait to see "what's new" for us to purchase for our stores. It's exciting and we can hardly wait to see what will be available so stay tuned!!

In the meantime, we are expecting the long awaited Magenta order to arrive. It will include all the past rubber stamps that have been part of the "Cat Program" offered by Magenta. We recently learned just how deprived we've been without them. They are very cool and we have joined the ranks of membership so that we do not miss any of what becomes available. These cat stamps are available for only a year from the time they are first manufactured. The first issue was March 2009 so if you have any inclination for owning them, please let us know and we'll put you on the list. They are very fun!!

We are also anticipating an order from Memory Box. We've had a sneak peek and they are fabulous. Many are well suited to Valentine so we are very excited to have these available.

We are anticipating orders from another half dozen manufacturers

so we will keep you posted on who, what, and were by simply filling the shelves so do check in!!

Rubbermoon should arrive in late January. Gretchen is on the class schedule again after a rather long absence so check out her class which is made up of her own designs. Her class will be fun.

Our friends at CarvedStamps, Elaine and Clive Woodhouse, just introduced several teabag folding designs that are terrific. They have already been introduced into the classroom and the response was GREAT. We have a small sampling on hand right now but an order has been placed for more.

Another exciting avenue we've trotted down is the sale of used but not abused rubber stamps. These come and go quickly and both locations have several to choose from so make a point of looking them over. They are proving to do well.

There will be more but we'll just have to wait and see what the CHA has to offer. Be sure to bring your passport with you if planning to make any purchases. As a passport member, several "things" are possible including a 10% discount on your entire purchase of regularly priced merchandise so by bringing your passport with you, it insures that you will be able to enjoy this great discount. 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. They are also offering a cup of soup each month so, coupled with a cupcake, it makes for a great deal!! Even though we've just passed the holidays, why not begin your yearly gift giving by stopping by Terjung's Studio of Gifts where you'll find a host of great kitchen items. Liberty Bell continues to have a lot to offer including color

copies and a host of Bergsma products. Our newest West Seattle business, Capers, is now part of our Passport Program and offers a great deal with only a \$5.00 purchase. We'd also like to welcome Cartridge World, Aslans Thrift Store, and Double Take Vintage, all businesses in the Issaquah area. Check out the passport for specific details on any of these businesses. This program is definitely a win win for everyone!!

As many of you already know, the Paper Connection is a major priority for us here at the shop. It comes to you from the West Seattle location and is now more than 5 years old. It remains a fabulous journey and we are very happy that some of you have traveled with us. We are optimistic that more of our friends in the Issaquah area will want to become members as soon as they are able. 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 read all about it later in this newsletter. Our paper shelves at both locations are well stocked. At last count, we had over 1,200 paper slots in West Seattle and are already exceeding 500 in Issaquah. Now that is a lot of paper!!

O *Accessories and More.*

Along the same lines as our rubber stamps and future buying goes, accessories are in the same boat. It's out intention to fill some of the holes and beef up on what may come from CHA. Time will tell on that one. Thanks you for your patience while we work on stocking accessories. Here are a few samplings of what we currently have in stock.

- Our friends at Tsukineko have been extremely supportive in making sure that their product line is located at both of our

Friends and Company Rubber Stamping and More...

shops. It moves quickly but we are receiving frequent orders to keep the coffers filled. Let us know if a special order is what you might be looking for. We can hardly wait to see what's ahead for us from these folks. CHA will tell all!!

- We nearly got wiped out when it came to any bling since the holidays. We'll be stocking up with lots of new colors and sizes so we are excited to see these rolling in.
- We continue to boast about what we offer along the lines of paper. Both locations have lots of fabulous 12" x 12" papers in lots of decorative designs and different textures to choose from.
- The Issaquah location boosts the entire line of 8-1/2" x 11" Prism Paper in 48 great color choices. We are waiting to deplete more of our WorldWin line of 8-1/2" x 11" before stocking these in West Seattle. Likely to happen in early 2010.
- We received all of the Graphic45 designs in early December. Still lots to choose from so come take a peek!!
- We are low on adhesives but promise to beef up early in 2010. We expect to have a good selection to choose from.

There is always more and our shelves are full. Please keep us posted on any new "stuff" you might see. Also, please let us know if there is something that you just "gotta have". Now take some time just for you and stop by. You'll be very glad that you did!!

2010 Passport Program

A new issue of the 2010 Passport is now available and sales will begin on 1 January 2010 at either location. Remember that the passport is valid at either of our locations. This also applies to class

and/or store gift certificates. The passports are available in January for \$12.00 and will increase to \$15.00 thereafter. Passport benefits include the following:

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

- o Attend 12 classes and receive a class voucher worth \$20.00 towards a future class (in 2010). This \$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! Beginning with 2010, you can also enjoy a complimentary cup of soup once each month.

- 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. A purchase each month gets you a FREE Bergsma mug at year end.

- o Terjung's Studio of Gifts (our fabulous neighbors across the street in West Seattle) continues to offer 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 Capers is new to the program for 2010 and offers a FREE "scent of the month" (value \$2.95) with a \$5.00 purchase.

- o Three new businesses in Issaquah are now included as well. Double Take Vintage Consignment now offers a 10% discount off on your entire purchase of \$25.00 dollars or more. GREAT deal!!

- o Aslan's Thrift Store is offering a buy one regularly priced item and receive a second item of equal or lesser value at 50% off.

- o And if these were not enough, Cartridge World offers a whopping 15% off any cartridge each month.

- o As a member of the Paper Connection AND the Passport Program, receive 20% off on all paper products that are 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 2010 Passport giveaway to be announced soon. Our 2009 giveaway was a 12" Expression Cricut Machine. Winner will be selected and announced by mid January.

The Paper Connection

We would love to see all of you as members of the Paper Connection. Being a member of this great club helps us in more ways than one can imagine. You, as members, are what we need to help keep us afloat. We are always looking for new members so please give it some real consideration. We think that you will be happy you did. 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

Friends and Company Rubber Stamping and More...

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 2010 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.

Carolyn's Corner

Carolyn is on sabbatical for all of January and February. We'll see her back refreshed, renewed, and revitalized in the March and April newsletter. Her message to all:

"Have a Very Happy New Year and may 2010 be prosperous and fun and bring to each of you great "things" all year long."

Important Dates

- 1 Jan-Two Hour Mad Dash
- 1 Jan-Paper Connection Pickup
- 3 Jan-Altered Dex Club Mtg
- 9 Jan-WS ATC Club Mtg
- 17 Jan-ISS ATC Club Mtg

- 1 Feb-Paper Connection Pickup
- 7 Feb-Altered Dex Club Mtg
- 13 Feb-WS ATC Club Mtg
- 14 Feb-Sweetheart Sale-All Heart "Things"-20% off
- 21 Feb-ISS ATC Club Mtg

Class Notes

You will see for yourselves that the January/February 2010 schedule is chock full of fabulous, fun, and technique filled classes that could undoubtedly bring you to new levels when it comes to creating art. We continue to offer a \$20.00 class coupon for any 2010 Passport member who completes 12 classes. This includes class packets as well,

and, yes, this coupon is valid with every 12 classes attended. 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!! Keep in mind that if you 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 8, including yourself, this can be an excellent opportunity for everyone including sports teams, Scouts, mother/daughter play days, birthday parties, etc. Way fun!!

Class challenges are available for all levels and age groups. We are sure you will enjoy many of the opportunities being offered at the start of 2010. Please note these 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 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 similar events, including 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. Strong smelling glues and adhesives are also restricted whenever possible. 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.

Other Stuff!

- o A Review on Parking. Please remember that the parking lots in West Seattle are limited to three hours and street parking is limited to two. It appears that parking enforcement has been very active of late so please be careful when you park. Street parking on Sunday is unlimited but the lots continue to be monitored. Issaquah offers a large parking area with lots of spaces (Yeah!!). We do not want unhappy folks because they got a ticket so... make certain to pay attention to where you can park or not park while visiting West Seattle.

Annual Fund Raisers

HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVES

Our summary in five words:

"Thank You Very Very Much"

SWEET WILLEY ROUNDUP

Our summary in five words:

"Thank You Very Very Much"

SWEET WILLEY'S CAKES FOR A CAUSE

Our summary in five words:

"Thank You Very Very Much"

HAPPY STAMPING!!

Until the next time,
Take Care – Doris