
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?

Greetings Everyone! What better way to start a newsletter than to be able to say that we are having a ton of fun down here at the shop. Our 2008 Passport Program has taken off running and it's even hard for us to keep up with. Nearly eight dozen passports have been issued already. It's been extremely rewarding to see everyone having so much fun all the while saving money. We just love what so many of you have done with your passports. The charms, fibers, photos, and many embellishments are an absolute hoot and we really hope to see more of them. They are described by us here at the shop as "fabulous, wonderful, and full of fun and frolic". Every time one comes to the desk, it puts a smile on our faces so keep up the terrific work. We love it all!!

The year is already well underway and it's beginning to fill with all sorts of events, classes, and much more. We hope you will keep posted by whatever means of communication works best for you. Visit our "blog" frequently as it presents many opportunities for staying in touch. Our website, blog, and physical address are posted at the top of each newsletter. We would love for our database to increase in 2008. The best way is to ask each of you to pass along our information to your friends and family (near and far). Once they contact us, we can then post them to our database. We hope these forms of communication work for

you as we keep introducing new "stuff" all year long!

March 8th represents our "Spring Break" fest which is loaded with fun projects and much more. There are still a few remaining spaces so register while you are thinking about it. We are working diligently on the Triathlon date and could have that information soon. We've scheduled the Oktoberfest for 25 October so be sure to save that date also. We are also introducing a new class concept sometime in August called "Tag Teaching". Be on the lookout for details on this one in the near future. As you can see, we are attempting to include lots of fun and new "stuff" to keep it exciting and invigorating for all of us. Our regular class lineups are exemplary so don't forget about those either. Make a plan to register for at least one class a month to keep your creative energies tuned up! Partner up with a friend and you'll have twice as much fun. You will love seeing what our instructors are up to!!

We are beginning to see what Spring has in store for us. Two of our mini tulips have popped out of the ground and are in full bloom in our flower box. Hard to believe after that cold weather spell but they seem determined. We can hardly wait for the day that a light jacket will suffice for being outside. We are very much looking forward, and hope you are as well, to the glorious colors and scents of Spring. Keep those fingers crossed so that it happens sooner than later.

Our thanks to all of you from all of us here at the shop for your tremendous good will and support as 2008 continues to evolve. Keep us posted on how we are doing and let us know what you would like for us to do for you. We are always open to new suggestions and ideas.

"New" Stuff. New goods are beginning to arrive. The Craft and Hobby Association (CHA) has wrapped up its winter convention and we are beginning to see the fruits of their labor. Lots of stuff is expected in soon and, although presented at CHA, some is expected to be shipped at later dates. All in all, we are fortunate to have manufacturers who are always so willing to be front runners in this industry and give us the very best of what is available. Here is some of what's new.

We are so thrilled to be able to purchase rubber stamps from Embossing Arts again. This company disappeared years ago but has been purchased by Auntie Amy and many of the original rubber stamps are now available for purchase. We did our part and they now sit proudly on our shelves. Please do check them out.

A recent order from JudiKins included not only some great rubber stamps but also some Egyptian Gold and Aegean Silver embossing powders that can be hard to find. Lots of individuals are always looking for these two particular powders so put them on your list for your next visit.

Friends and Company Rubber Stamping and More...

We have some new rubber stamps just in from Inkadinkado. We love their auto-ship program and are always surprised each time a shipment arrives. Another order is expected soon which will include many of the swirls that are so popular this year. Check 'em out!

Seems as though the folks at the Lockhart Rubber Stamp Company never sleep. Karen has introduced yet another batch of new rubber stamps just in time for spring. These great stamps include many which are well suited to the new world of "Inchies". Check out the class schedule to see what these "Inchies" are all about. Along with a host of "bugs", Karen has a new rabbit just in time for Easter along with a bunch of carrots which are likely to make anyone smile!

Although we have not received them yet, we are sure that some new stamps from Rubbermoon, and designed by Gretchen Ehrsam, will arrive soon. We are so very excited to see what's been up Gretchen's sleeve. Gretchen is so excited that she has planned an entirely new class using her designs. Can't wait!

Some other old faithfuls that are expected any time include B-Line, Hero Arts, Memory Box, and My Sentiments Exactly to name just a few. Please let us know if you find a new company. We'd love to bring lots of them on board!

Check in for more and don't forget to bring in your passport if you have one. With a passport, three of the "things" that are possible are 1) a 10% discount on your entire purchase of regularly priced merchandise, 2) get your passport stamped for March's travel escapade, and 3) pick up one of your monthly mini cupcakes from Coffee To A Tea. It's a win win all the way around. We are traveling to Ireland in March. Remember that with 12 stamped travel

escapades (one 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.*

New accessories are arriving frequently as a result of CHA. There are lots to see but here are some of the highlights.

Cuttlebugs are proving to be very popular. We've stocked up on more of them and have included lots of new envelopes for the dry embossing which emboss very deeply so the image is very crisp and sharp. The combination dies that cut the design and also emboss the design are getting more popular every day. Cuttlebug has a corner dedicated to just it so you have to know that we are serious about this fabulous machine.

All of the Tim Holtz Distress Crackle Paints have been restocked and the rack is totally full so that you have a great selection of colors to choose from. These paints are very HOT!! Because Tim Holtz shares many of his techniques on line, we encourage you to visit his website frequently. Go to the www.timholtz.com for the webpage and from there select his "blog". Tim's blog is an outstanding display of talent that he is willing to share with all of us so do not miss it if you can! We are hoping to have Tim as a guest instructor sometime in 2008 so stay tuned! Hot!! Hot!!

Paper continues to be a passion for us as well as many of you so we like to keep our Paper Emporium well stocked. New papers are arriving constantly so be sure to stock up on what you need on your next visit. Joining the Paper Connection is also an excellent way for keeping your stash well stocked with paper. 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:

- Holeless beads in numerous colors from "The Robin's Nest". We currently have them all and are well stocked.
- Lots of selection from Tim Holtz's "idea-ology" line of Grungeboard. Fun stuff to sand, paint, die-cut and whatever else you can think of.
- Mini Scor-its just the perfect size to take on the road. These also make a great gift and are easy on the budget.
- Some great Vintage Gift Tags that can easily be converted into greeting cards from Melissa Frances.
- The "Quickie Glue" pen that should be in anyone's tool box for those very small areas that need just a touch of glue.
- The "Glaze" pen that, when dry, feels like it was embossed. Great for highlighting small areas such as eye glasses, jars, balloons, or whatever you would like.
- Micro beads from Pennywise Arts. Lots of colors to choose from. Loads of fun also.
- Bazzill Wings which are bitty blossoms (100/1.5-inch per jar) perfect for all your floral needs.
- Deja Views sticker tablets with various themes just right for any scrapbooking project.
- Lots of product from Zutter including the Bind-it-All tool and all the sizes needed in the wire used for the actual binding. Check it out!

There is always more and our shelves are full. Take some time just for you and stop by!

Friends and Company Rubber Stamping and More...

2008 Passport Program

We were very pleased to announce our 2008 Passport Program in January. To date, this program has surpassed our expectations and we definitely know that it is creating excitement and energy within this already fabulous environment. Passports will be offered all year long so do let us know if you would like one. As a passport member, here are some of the highlights....

- 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!

SENIOR NEWS

Our senior classes continue to be lots of fun. Classes begin at 10:30 a.m. 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

- 10 Mar-Flower Gardens
w/Diane Radischat
- 24 Mar-Cards 4 Kids
w/Diane Radischat
- 31 Mar-All Occasion
w/Doris Goulet
- 7 Apr-Mothers Day Cards
w/Diane Radischat
- 21 Apr-Notes for You...
w/Diane Radischat
- 28 Apr-Fun Cards
w/Doris Goulet

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.

Class Notes

The lineup for March and April 2008 is loaded with lots of classes. A \$20.00 class coupon will be awarded (compliments of your instructors) to any 2008 Passport Member who take 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.
- Payment options are cash or checks made out to the instructor.
- A 3-day grace period 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, "Fests" or Scrapbooking Crops require a 2-week cancellation.

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- 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 know that you understand the need for them.

Carolyn's Corner

Dear Carolyn –I have been looking for a specific product and thought maybe that you could help me. I hope you have heard of Tim Holtz, an industry hotshot who works for Ranger. I believe that Tim has come out with a line called "Grungeboard" but I'm not sure if it is affiliated with Ranger. I've been having a difficult time tracking down this particular product. Any ideas where we consumers could find this product? Susie

Dear Susie-I've been doing some research and here is what I've been able to find out. Grungeboard is part of a line called "Idea-ology" that is a trademark of a company by the name of "Advantus Corp" which Tim has an affiliation with. Not certain of all the ins and outs on this one but I'll keep looking. In the meantime, I was able to easily find my grungeboard at my local rubber stamp store. It is a very cool product which, by definition, is "a compressed, flexible sheet of dingy material with a debossed texture that can be painted, inked, sanded, hammered, die-cut or grunged". It definitely has lots of possibilities. If your local rubber stamp store does not currently carry this product, encourage them to do so.

Lots of designs and textures are available. As I understand it, Tim has a video on his blog showing how this product can be used. If you have not seen it, let your local rubber stamp store know that this resource is available to them. Tim's blog can be reached via his website at www.timholtz.com. Select "blog" and from there be sure to mark it as a favorite making it easier to get there in the future. Hope this helps!

Dear Carolyn – I'm curious how others handle the tremendous amount of rubber stamping information that the internet has to offer. I cannot spend hours with three small children although, while they are napping, I do enjoy being able to "surf" without anything in mind. I do, however, need to focus. Any suggestions would help. Amanda

Dear Amanda – Some people do spend hours and hours on the internet but this seems to be their passion and pastime. You are correct in that there is lots of information available and one way to "shrink" down or handle what you access is to add to your favorites any sites that really do interest you. By adding these to your favorites, it's less likely that you will surf because you already have some favorites selected. As you gain more speed in viewing what is on the internet, you can then add to your favorites. Be sure to select sites that you really like and some that offer tips, techniques, and other great things. The internet can be loads of fun but it must be used with discretion of sorts!

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 Mar-Paper Connection Pickup Date
- 2 Mar-Altered Dex Club Meeting
- 8 Mar-"Spring Break" Fest
- 8 Mar-ATC Club Meeting
- 17 Mar-Happy St Patrick's Day-all GREEN paper is 20% off
- 23 Mar-Hoppy Easter-Closed
- 28 Mar-Crop 'Til You Drop
- 1 Apr-Paper Connection Pickup Date
- 6 Apr-Altered Dex Club Meeting
- 12 Apr-ATC Club Meeting
- 13 Apr-Tax Day Demos where we pay the tax!
- 25 Apr-Crop 'Til You Drop
- 10 May-"Inchie"lada Party Save The Date

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 to get connected.

A NOTE FROM OUR FRIENDS AT LIBERTY BELL PRINTING

Internationally know artist Jody Bergsma will be appearing at Liberty Bell Printing located at 4736 California Ave SW on Saturday, April 26, 2008 from 1:00 pm until 4:00 pm in the afternoon.

Jody's "Natural Elements" prints are inspired by childhood trips to the San Juan Islands with her father and her love of nature. Jody also shows a gift for interpreting fantasy creatures - dragons, fairies, and other mythical beasts. Jody lives and maintains a gallery in Bellingham, WA.

Please stop by and meet the artist and enjoy complimentary refreshments. Jody will be available to personally sign any item you purchase.

HAPPY STAMPING!!

Until the next time,
Take Care – Doris