
Friends and Company

Rubber Stamping and More...

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What's New?

Greetings Everyone! It sure has been a whirlwind since we sprung into 2009. In just the short month of January, we managed to turn our lives inside out with our huge announcement of a second store location in Issaquah, WA. A thrill, a rush, a ton of fun, and a host of many other emotions but your response has been our greatest reward. You are all such a major part of what is possible for us and we thank you so much for being such an active part of it all. We could never do this alone and are thrilled that you are all a part of it.

Plans for the second location in Issaquah are coming along nicely. The West Seattle shop is flooded with orders of one sort or another. Don't worry, however, because the West Seattle shop is getting its share of new "stuff" also. It's almost like Christmas all over again around here. Many things remain to be done including phones, faxes, utilities, and signs just to name a few so you can be sure that we remain busy.

Additionally, lots of changes are expected to take place during this transition time including who is employed where and when. We've only added to our already great lineup of employees and class instructors. You'll see that the class schedule is full full full of very energizing and fun classes that we are sure you will enjoy. Early registrations are encouraged at

either location to make sure you are reserved for the space or spaces you desire. Our class stimulus package seems to be working so if you are not familiar with it, read all about it later in this newsletter. It's a win win for everyone!!

Although the announcement for our second location came as a huge surprise to most, no one was left out of the loop intentionally but rather to make certain that this "event" would really take place unlike so many false starts that we have had before. Now we are asking that you please help us to spread the joy that so many of us are now experiencing. Your continued encouragement and support mean the world to us here at the shop so, once again, we want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Opportunities for 2009 continue to abound and include lots of great events that are in the planning stages. Our first Issaquah event is our "BOOK"tacular Event which will take place on Saturday, 25 April and on Sunday, 26 April 2009. It'll be two days jammed packed with many opportunities for making books along with lots of camaraderie and fun. Details are not all available yet, but be sure to reserve these dates. Registration is already open as many of you have already expressed interest. We are sure you'll want to be a part of this adventure!

We believe, here at the shop, that, because the economy is often

uncertain, it is more important than ever to fill your creative spirit with art. Be sure to keep this in mind as you lay out your plans for what remains of 2009. We are already moving swiftly into the year so don't delay and begin to experience what your creative side has in store for you.

Times are turbulent for some as individuals are notified of layoffs and uncertainties that could become reality so if you just need to "hang out", feel free to stop by the shop and do just that! Bring a project and make some great use of the balcony. We might even join you!!

"New" Stuff. The inventory is complete and ordering is, as mentioned, becoming a frequent event at the shop. The following is just the tip of the iceberg. There is so much new "stuff" that it is impossible to list here. We will not even begin to mention what is new in Issaquah because all of it is new!! Hee!! Hee!! We can't wait for you to visit!!

Dave Brethauer, Memory Box, just keeps going and going just like that you know who bunny. Dave continues to offer a huge range of rubber stamps and his most recent family addition is just adorable. If you have not seen the Panda bears, well, you are simply missing out. They are adorable and we hope to see many more of them. We are already working on our second order to be sure that they remain in

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stock. Outrageous, cute and lots of fun!! Check it out.

Lockhart Rubber Stamps are one line of rubber stamps that we continually update! If Karen develops something new, we are right on top of it. We are pleased to let you know that our Issaquah location will carry the Lockhart line in its entirety. Karen has provided us with a sample of every stamp she carries in her catalog. There is lots to look at for inspiration so we know you will not be disappointed.

Inkadinkado never ceases to amaze us with their autoship program. We are never quite sure what this shipment will bring at each delivery but we always find ourselves elated with what they have sent and we hope you will be as well!

We are continuing to carry the Make An Impression (MAI) line since their retirement at the end of January. We've also included some of their Punch-Ins. Check out the class schedule for a class using the Punch-Ins. It may be just what you've been waiting for the get acquainted with these stamps! The opportunity to carry the MAI line continues to be a very exciting one for us. We hope that it will help to keep their spirit alive in all of us.

We've only touched the tip of the iceberg. We are making sure that our West Seattle shop keeps well stocked on not only these old time favorites, but also stock from some of the newer companies as well. We must admit, however, that the Issaquah location will unveil rubber stamp companies that are totally new to us so we are excited and we hope you will make a point of visiting us there also.

There is always more so you will just have to stop by. We've been working on Saint Patrick's, Easter, and even those special Mother and Father's Day holidays. Our current Friday (all day) "Holiday Club"

where members can work on their holiday projects all year long currently has a waiting list. If you would like to host your own club, let us know how we can help.

Please be sure to bring along your passport when 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. Don't forget that fabulous cup of soup from West 5 and why not begin your yearly gift giving by stopping by Terjung's Studio of Gifts where you'll find a host a great kitchen items. Liberty Bell has been a huge supporter of our passport program and continues to offer copy services as well as the great line of Bergsma products. It's a win for everyone!! Come see!!

O *Accessories and More.*

The winter Craft and Hobby Association (CHA) Convention was held in January and, from there, lots of new accessories have been introduced and/or enhanced to showcase more of what they offer.

Tons of new papers have been introduced into the market and you can be sure that we've been right on top of it. You can expect to see some full lines that are just fantastic. One example would be the Graphic 45 line which we are sure you will want to own. It's beautiful, versatile, and a "gotta have" for the paper stash. Our "BOOK"tacular Event scheduled for late April will showcase some of these great papers so be sure to register early. Yummers!!!!

As many of you already know, and as new members come on board who will soon find out, the Paper Connection is a major priority here at Friends and Company. Once we

get underway, this will be true of our Issaquah location as well. We are optimistic that 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. Because paper is one of our passions, our paper shelves are very well stocked. At last count, we had over 1200 paper slots in West Seattle and are already exceeding 500 in Issaquah. We know, it's hard to believe.

More fun things include:

- We currently have every color and size container available from The Robin's Nest of their dew drops in all of their delicious colors.
- A new order from Spellbinders was recently received including some new shapes. If you own a Cuttlebug, you already know just how wonderful these work with it. A "gotta have"!!
- Our new line of embossing powders from the Embossing Powder Candy Store have been well received. In lieu of bagging our own powders, we will continue to offer this line and work on expanding the colors that are currently offered. Many thanks to all of you who provided us feedback. It helped tremendously in making this decision.
- Bling, bling, bling!! We've got lots of it and at every price level. When used on projects, it really makes just about anything pop but be careful when mailing and use padded envelopes if necessary so that what you are trying to mail is not rejected at the Post Office!
- Chipboard and/or chipboard stickers continue to be popular.

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We have lots to choose from for both the rubber stamper and the scrapbooker. Some of these products are already “decorated” and some you can decorate yourself so there is something for everybody!

- If you love Tim Holtz, be sure to look at his blog. Go to www.timholtz.com. Select his blog where you'll see some of what Tim provides as a great service with his videos and simply with his charm! Let Tim know via his comments that you would love to see him in Seattle. Maybe it will help in getting Tim here. Wouldn't that be the cat's meow??
- Lots of the pre-cut Quiccutz diecuts are available and if the colors are not what you are looking for, simply let us know and we'll do our best to get you what you need. These are total fun in a project.
- We still have lots of Cricut cartridges to choose from and once they are gone then they are gone!! Get them soon!!

There is always more and our shelves are full. Please let us know if there is something that you just “gotta have”. One recent find by one of you is Maya Road which you will be seeing soon. A great find with great stuff so we are excited. 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. It is our plan to also introduce it to our Issaquah friends but with limited of “local finds” like what is available in West Seattle (see below). We'll need to settle in and see just what is possible and that will take some

time but with just the 10% discount that Friends and Company is able to extend, we think it's something everyone will want to be a part of. The passport will continue to be offered all year long at both locations at a cost of \$15.00. 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 Products one time each month.

- 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.

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 market. The club consists of membership with monthly dues of

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\$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 March and April 2009 is loaded with lots of classes including a "BOOK"tacular Event scheduled in late April with details to follow. 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 own economic 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 a \$10.00 credit towards your own class!! Yippiee!! Wait, bring along two friends who have never attended a class at Friends before and receive \$20.00 applicable to your own class!! This is a great opportunity for introducing friends to this great environment while getting your own great deal!

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 8, including yourself, this can 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 the year (Jan 09 through Dec 09) 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. We have several new instructors on the docket so do check out their samples. By 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 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. 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 have a pretty simple question but I've been wondering about this for quite some time now. There are two products on the market that I am aware of that appear to do similar things. One is Diamond Glaze and the other is Glossy Accents. How are these products different? Amanda

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Dear Amanda – Good question!! Although I am not a chemist (or in a similar trade), I have always suspected that both of these products contain very comparable properties. They both serve the same purpose and have very similar results. Beyond this, I have not been able to track down any other specifics so I'd suggest that cost be your guiding light when using these products. The cost do vary so be sure to check that out before you buy and remember never to shake the bottles which will cause big time bubbles to form on your projects and are very difficult to get out. Just remember to have fun!

Dear Carolyn – Can you please tell me what Artist Trading Cards and what they are for. I see lots of discussion about them and have always wondered what they are all about. I'm sure others, like me, are also curious. Thanks for your column. I always make a point of reading it and often find it helpful. Sharon

Dear Sharon – Artist Trading Cards, better known as ATCs, are miniature works of art that are 3-1/2- x 2-1/2-inch in size. These cards are intended for trading with other artists who also make ATCs. The biggest rule associated with ATCs is that they cannot be sold. These cards can only be traded and are often just collected in books or binders specific for them. Some people use their ATCs to incorporate them in their art or projects that may be working on. Everyone has different uses for ATCs and my favorite is simply collecting them. I just think it is so remarkable at what individuals can create on such a small palette. Many rubber stamp stores conduct trades where individuals gather just to trade. Check with your local store to see if they host a trade and, if not, keep looking because there are many. You might even consider putting a trade date

together yourself to see what happens. It's fun to see the excitement and energy that these groups create and from what I've seen and observed, no one is too young nor too old to participate. ATCs are way cool so get started making some today. I have even heard of coast to coast trades so just imagine the possibilities. Bottom line is to keep it fun!

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. Street parking on Sunday is unlimited but lots continue to be monitored. Issaquah offers a large parking area with lots of spaces so you'll currently never have the need to watch the clock there (Yeah!!).

Important Dates

1 Mar-Paper Connection Pickup
1 Mar-WS Altered Dex Club Mtg
12 Mar-WS Art Walk
14 Mar-WS ATC Club Mtg
17 Mar-St Patrick's Day
20 Mar-Opening Day In Issaquah
1 Apr-April Fools Day
 Be Careful!!
1 Apr-Paper Connection Pickup
5 Apr-Altered Dex Club Mtg
9 Apr-WS Art Walk
11 Apr-ATC Club Mtg
25 Apr-"BOOK"acular Event
26 Apr-"BOOK"acular Event

Rent A Rack

Another new feature for 2009 at our West Seattle location 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 artist for March and April is Rita Noble whom many of you already know through the great jewelry and polymer clay classes that Rita offers. Rita will showcase

jewelry and polymer clay items during these months so come and take a look!. We hope the "Rent A Rack" program will be fun and rewarding at the same time. Let us know which month you would like reserved and what you'll showcase.

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 Always looking for an embellishment but in too much of a hurry to get one done?? Spend a day simply making embellishments of all sorts so that they are ready when you need one and are in a hurry. Have a friend join you!

o If you are like many folks, having a "stash" of cards on hand is very desirable for whenever you need one. To avoid making too many birthday cards with birthday wishes stamped inside (or any other occasion card), leave the inside blank. When ready to use the card, select from the stack of pre-cut, pre-layered, and pre-stamped inserts that also have the double stick tape on the back (be sure to leave the backing on). You can have 100s on hand with various layers of color and what a way to use up all those scraps. Never be left without a saying again!! Spend a day making these with any of your groups and share the rubber stamp sayings. That will allow for lots of variety.

o Got the winter blues? Wishing camping season were already here? Crank up the heat gun and make s'mores!! It'll change those blues quickly into a chocolate gooey treat that's yummy!

o Always keep fine sandpaper in your toolbox so that it is handy to distress paper with or to clean up a bad paper cutter cut.

HAPPY STAMPING!!

Until the next time,
Take Care – Doris