

---

---

# 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](mailto:topstamp@msn.com) [www.friends-n-company.com](http://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](http://www.friendsandcompanyblog.typepad.com)

---

Volume 3 Issue 2

March/April 2010

---

### *What's New?*

Greetings Everyone!! I'm hoping that this newsletter finds you well and that the economy has not swallowed you up totally. The economy has definitely touched our lives here at the shop. We have great concerns about our future as a viable rubber stamp store in West Seattle but we are working it very hard and have our hands on different "things" to keep us financially stable. With our West Seattle lease up in May, well, we just have no idea what is going to happen. We will definitely keep you posted and hope that this economic downturn takes an upswing soon for all of us. I really don't mean to alarm anyone but I thought it was only fair for you to at least be aware of what is going on. Many of us love the West Seattle shop and letting it go would undoubtedly break many hearts, however, we need to do whatever is necessary despite the difficulties.

You are all a fabulous customer base and we know that you are all working as hard as possible to work through your own challenges but please keep us in mind when exploring purchasing opportunities. We appreciate you all very much and continue to value your friendships in all ways possible.

We remain optimistic that 2010 will be a year of renewed energy and goals that are achievable. We hope that many of you who have faced

layoffs and other challenges are able to move forward and also see that 2010 will have its rewards. Keep us posted on how you are doing. It is important to us that we keep pace with you and help in whatever ways are possible.

We would like to thank anyone who participated in our 2009 Passport Program and look forward to anyone participating in 2010. We think this program is a win win for everyone and love to see it grow with new opportunities as more of the communities in West Seattle and in Issaquah become a part of it.

A huge congratulations to Jennifer Auguston from Burien, WA, who was the 2009 Passport Program winner receiving a brand new 12" Electronic Cricut Machine (value \$600.00). What a win!! We hope you get many years of enjoyment, Jennifer, from your new "toy" Congrats!... and many thanks from all of us at Friends and Company!

.....

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Northwest Paper Chase Shop Hop

5 - 21 March 2010

Purchase your Shop Hop Passport and receive a 20% discount at all 28 participating Shop Hop Stores. Your passport for this event has all the information you need for fun and adventure all the while getting to



know your stores from Bellingham to Olympia with everyone in between. Loads of fun, prizes, and great discounts. Check into it today at [www.NorthwestPaperChase.com](http://www.NorthwestPaperChase.com).

**"New" Stuff.** We have been doing what we can to restock both of the shops. Each shop is unique in itself but there are many overlaps so if you don't see what you are looking for, please let us know and we'll be happy to call the other shop to see if they might have what you need.

For the most part, Magenta has come and gone and another order is in the works. The Cats (all 10 months of them-Mar 09 - Dec 09) have done extremely well and we are in the process of getting them all back in including the Jan/Feb 2010 designs. Keep in mind that there will be a limited distribution on the March 09 cat design as it is being retired and replaced with the Mar 2010 cat design. If you would like one reserved for you, please let us know. The cat collection is very cool and very fun!! Check out the class schedule for "Cat" classes.

We have received some new spring "stuff" from Memory Box. Dave continues to be a very valuable manufacturer for us and we just love all of his cute tricks. More is likely to come. Dave has provided us with great terms so... stay tuned.

We spoke to Karen Lockhart this week and Karen is about to release

## Friends and Company Rubber Stamping and More...

yet some new rubber stamp designs. We'll have all of them as soon as they are available. We are already working on that order and it should be available by the end of March!!

Our Rubbermoon order filled with fabulous designs from our very own Gretchen Ehram is in and adds such grace to our "Just In" section. We spared nothing when ordering from Rubbermoon. They have extended to us some great terms so we ordered all that we could from them. There are lots so do check them out!!

We expect to receive some great new teabag folding designs from our friends at CarvedStamps, Elaine and Clive Woodhouse. These newly introduced teabag folding designs are awesome and making quite the splash. We should have a new stock of them by the end of March also.

The sale of used rubber stamps is going well at both locations so it is our plan to continue for as long as rubber stamps are made available to us for this purpose. Should you have rubber stamps that you no longer need or wish to own, please let us know. We would be delighted to include them in our stash of used rubber stamps.

We also received an order from our friends at Make An Impression. We currently have local Seattle and Issaquah area postal stamps so if you have been waiting, now is the opportunity to pick some up. Give us a call and we'll put them on reserve for you.

### **O** *Accessories and More.*

We would once again like to thank you for your patience while we work on stocking accessories. We have been able to pick up a few "things" and are definitely working on more. Here are a few samplings of what we currently have in stock.

- Tsukineko is a never ending source for inkpads and other accessories. We have restocked all of the Memento inkpads and some of the re-inkers as well. The new metallic Stazon inkpads are not available until April but we are on the list to receive them as soon as they become available. We expect these to be "Hot". Restocks on much of the Tsukineko line are expected any day.
- Both locations have been restocked with Kaiser Craft Rhinestones and also their entire line of Pearls including the much requested black pearls. There is a lot in stock right now so make it a point to come and stock up your personal stash!
- We continually receive new papers and share them between both locations all of the time. We are also working on more specialty papers, such as Asian papers, so we'll let you know when that happens.
- Both locations now boost a good supply of the Quickie Glue Pens. These are terrific for small areas.
- Each location also now has a good supply of the Stardust Clear Gelly Roll pens. These are great for adding just a hint of glitter to any project. Gotta love that glitter!!
- Our beloved SureTac adhesive should arrive sometime in March. It's been ordered for a while and now we are in a wait mode. This adhesive has been much requested so we are glad to have it finally in stock.
- SureTac rolls should also be replenished in the next couple of weeks. We are stocking up so that we'll have plenty of the small widths. In the meantime, all of the PWA O'So Sticky tape widths are available thanks to our friends at PWA!

When it comes to accessories, there is always more so make it a point to stop in sometime this month and check them all out.

### **2010 Passport Program**

We were extremely pleased to see that the 2010 Passport Program experienced quite a beginning. Passport purchases will continue throughout the year so you can pick one up anytime. Either location has them for sale and they can be used at either of our locations. This also applies to class and/or store gift certificates as well. The cost for a Passport is \$12.00 and 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. Yummers!!

- 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

## Friends and Company Rubber Stamping and More...

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.

### 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 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

Dear Carolyn – Let me first start out by saying that I love your column. You always seem to have great ideas and are very willing to share your thoughts. Please keep up the good work. Now for the purpose of my letter today. I have limited funds and want to invest in inkpads but have no idea which inkpad to choose or which manufacturer has the best product. Could you please help me choose and unscramble this puzzle. I would appreciate any advice that you may have. Ruth

Dear Ruth – Thank you very much for the compliment. It is always nice to get any feedback on my column. You are definitely part of what makes the column so great so keep those letters coming! Now for your question. I would agree that looking at inkpads can be like

sorting out a puzzle. The key words that I get from your note are “limited funds”. With that in mind, I would direct you to StazOn inkpads from Tsukineko (the manufacturer). StazOns are all purpose inks but work nicely not just on paper but other surfaces as well. I’ve used them on wood, glass, glossy paper (including photos), and several other surfaces and get a great imprint each and every time. The fact that it works well with so many surfaces is a sure winner. Most other inkpads, although good in other ways, do not always react to these surfaces like StazOn does. Give them a try by purchasing just one color to see what I mean. I really think that you will enjoy their true versatility. They may be a little pricier than other inkpads but given their versatility, they are worth their price. I just recently heard also that StazOn is now coming out with a series of metallics which should be a real winner. I personally can hardly wait until these are available for purchase. Be on the lookout for them also.

Dear Carolyn – I have recently been laid off from my job and feeling like it has put me in the poor house. Rubber stamping and crafting, in general, are a true salvation for me during these difficult times. I am not able to spend so freely like in the past so I am looking for solutions that will still allow me to be part of this great industry and keep pace with all that continues to come on the market as new. I am just not in a position to make big purchases these days. Any suggestions for doing what I love to do and not having to spend tons of money to stay tuned in and keep my beloved oasis available to me. Molly

Dear Molly – I receive many letters that echo your concern so please do not feel alone. Economically the

## Friends and Company Rubber Stamping and More...

times are trying but I just know that the economy will improve and I have already seen evidence of that so please just hang in there. Whether you are in economic turmoil or not, there are many things that can be done to reduce costs and make things more affordable. A club, as an example, is an excellent environment for conducting your craft and being able to use some the clubs supplies such as fancy cutters and other tools that the club may have bought for its members' use. Check out clubs in your area by asking at your local craft stores if they know of clubs or even if some of the clubs meet in their establishments. Buying in a co-op sort of arrangement, you can save lots of money on items such as paper. It only takes two people to share a ream of paper and now you have two colors at your disposal. If four individuals share their paper reams, well, now you would have 4 colors at your disposal. Are you seeing what I mean here? One of my favorite "things" is to share magazines. How much better can it get than to be able to peruse brand new magazines but pay for maybe only one if enough folks are willing to share. This could extend well into other magazine that you might otherwise have a subscription to. Conduct a craft night at your house. Not only is this loads of fun but make it a potluck and have everyone bring their recipe which, by the end of the year, could make into a recipe book all the while sampling each of the goodies. Make the recipe book available (at a fee) to family and friends to offset the cost of supplies, etc. Truly Molly, the possibilities are endless. You just need to be creative and not be afraid to step out of the box which we sometimes get ourselves stuck in. Sharing inkpads, paints, tools, and so much more is a real way to go with it. Are you old

enough to remember the days when a whole block owned one lawn mover. Now that's savings!! Hope this help and, again, hang in there!

### Important Dates

1 Mar-Paper Connection Pickup  
7 Mar-Altered Dex Club Mtg  
13 Mar-WS ATC Club Mtg  
20 Mar-Soft Celebration for One Year (ISS Only)  
21 Mar-ISS ATC Club Mtg  
28 Mar-Altered Dex Club Mtg

1 Apr-Paper Connection Pickup  
4 Apr-Closed "Happy Easter"  
10 Apr-WS ATC Club Mtg  
18 Apr-ISS ATC Club Mtg

### Class Notes

You will see for yourselves that the March/April 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 in 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. 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.

- If you become ill or are unable to attend, 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.

HAPPY STAMPING!!

Until the next time,  
Take Care – Doris