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# Friends and Company

## Rubber Stamping and More...

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### *What's New?*

Greetings Everyone! As the 1<sup>st</sup> of November approaches, it simply amazes me that the year is nearly gone. Just where has all the time gone? The year 2009 has proven to be a year of major challenges, many of which continue to loom overhead. We remain optimistic, however, that the economy will rebound for the better and life will be restored to what we've always known. We are going to embrace 2010 as a year of reflection and evaluation to determine the best course of action for our future. We do expect that some change will become necessary during this time and will be highly controlled by what the economy decides to do, or, put differently, not do. Please come visit and come often. We love playing "catch up" with you and your families. Hopefully we'll see you over the holidays.

A reminder that, although our West Seattle employee base has been reduced, we are still here for you. We are modifying our hours to accommodate not only the reduction in staff but also because of the need to commute after hours into Issaquah several times a week. We've been monitoring the last hour of the day and it seems that the impact to most of you will be very minimal. Our new weekday hours will be 10:00 am thru 6:00 pm. On class nights, we will remain open so check the schedule and call the shop to make sure the

class is a go. These new hours are being extended into Issaquah as well and are effective at both locations with this newsletter.

There are tons planned for what remains of 2009. We hope that you will take time to participate in our *13<sup>th</sup> Annual Craft Show in West Seattle* and our *1<sup>st</sup> Annual Craft Show in Issaquah*. We've got many of our sought after vendors returning and a host of new folks. Our *Used Rubber Stamp Sale* is being held in West Seattle at 8:00 am so that parking will be readily available. There will be thousands of rubber stamps to choose from but do come early to get the best selection. We are planning a *Holiday Open House* for each of our locations which will include light munchies and several demos from some of our very creative demo artists. More details will follow via email so stay tuned!

With the holiday season now upon us, please be sure to keep your creative spirit alive during these hectic and turbulent times. Reflect on what is really important and minimize the anxiety of making sure that every single gift is perfect by redirecting your energies to family and friends and the get togethers that will make great memories. Make it a year to remember!!

We have a terrific class line up so take time just for you and register

today for one of our energizing and exciting classes. We've got the cream of the crop when it comes to instructors.

Finally, our wish for you and your families is a very joyous and happy holiday season. If you need a break, just stop by for a quick hello and a cup of hot cocoa or tea. We'll be here for you!!

### **Used But Not Abused Rubber Stamp Sale**

**8:00 am – 10:00 am  
Sat, 7 Nov 2009!!**

Thousands of used  
rubber stamps to  
choose from!  
Come early

*"New" Stuff.* Lots of new "stuff" is arriving each week. Our shelves are already well stocked but we just can't help getting even more. The only thing that stops us is, of course, the budget but we keep trying. The catalog of the month, hosted by the Issaquah store, has been working very well. Our catalog of the month is, of

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course, Magenta, given that we are expecting Helene Metivier. Owner, in mid-November for two fabulous classes. Check out the newsletter. In the meantime, however, we have some awesome goods. Here are some of the highlights.

B-Line Rubber Stamp Company has extended us some very nice terms and has provided a boatload of their wonderful line. It's actually a trunk show with tons to choose from. We've showcased some of these on the blog so when on the internet, take a look. If you are looking for something different, i.e., collage for example, these may be just what you need.

Stamper's Anonymous has arrived with quite the range to choose from. These were special ordered from our catalog sales back in August and include a very interesting selection. They currently reside at the Issaquah location but if any remain, they will be showcased in West Seattle sometime soon.

Our series of scenic classes have been very successful and the owner of Stampscapes, Kevin Nakagawa, has kept us well supplied with his great line of stamps. They are simply fabulous stamps to use. Both locations boast a huge supply.

Our friends at Peddler's Pack have done it again and provided us with nearly all of their great and high demand backgrounds. We've always kept these rubber stamps to some degree but we recently went for the gusto and ordered all of them. They work very well with the bleaching technique and, from one of our recent demos, it is obvious that they are in demand. Check them out at either location while we have them all in stock.

We also just recently received a special Rubbermoon order. We are working on another one soon so if

you have something you would like, please just let us know.

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. 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 of 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!!

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 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 very well stocked. At last count, we had over 1200 paper slots in West Seattle and are already exceeding 500 in Issaquah. Now that is a lot of paper!!

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

We just love our accessories

and are sure that you do as well. Lots of projects need some sort of embellishment to give them that final polished look. We stock lots of accessories and embellishments at both locations and they continue to grow. Here are just a few samplings.

- We just received a huge order from Tsukineko filling all the gaps in our Momento Inks. These are hugely popular and whose colors are quite yummy. We've also filled in the gaps for all of the embossing products as well including the pad and ink pen. This is a great line of ink products and an extremely supportive company to this industry. Be sure to include them in your everyday inventory purchases.
- Issaquah has just been introduced to Quickutz. Many of our popular pre-cut diecuts are now available there as well as in West Seattle. Both locations have books to look at so you can see what we have to offer. Very fun "stuff".
- New Mark Richards bling along with an already great bling lineup from Kaiser Craft.
- Lots of fabulous 12" x 12" papers at both locations in lots of decorative designs and different textures to choose from.
- The entire line of 8-1/2" x 11" Prism Paper in 48 great color choices (Issaquah only).
- Lots of Graphic45 fill ins along with all three of their new collections (Issaquah only).
- A huge selection of Scor-Tape ranging in size from 1/4" all the way to 2-1/2". A great new product making a statement on the industry.
- The Friends and Company line of unmounted rubber stamps is on display and for purchase at the West Seattle shop. It's

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been a while since they have seen daylight so it was fun to play with them this last month or so.

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!!

### **2009 Passport Program**

We have run out of the physical passport for 2009. A new issue will be available on 1 January 2010. In the interim, a business card with passport "clearance" can be made for anyone wishing to have one for what remains of 2009. A reminder that passports are valid at either of our locations. This also applies to class and/or store gift certificates. We'll see you in 2010 on this program. If you would like to pre-buy, please let us know and we'll have them ready by the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2010.

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 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.

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!

West 5, also across the street, offers a FREE cup of soup with any purchase. Way to go West 5-one of our favorites!

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 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!!

### **SENIOR NEWS**

Our senior classes continue to be on sabbatical. If you and a minimum group of 3 friends would like a private class, please let us know. We would be very happy to accommodate your group with a mutually agreeable theme and time. Note that this applies to any class.

### **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 keep our forces in tact. 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 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 Notes**

You will see for yourselves that the November/December 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 2009 Passport members who complete 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

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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 during this final newsletter for 2009. 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.

### **Important Dates**

- 1 Nov-Paper Connection Pickup
- 1 Nov-Altered Dex Club Mtg
- 7 Nov-Used Rubber Stamp Sale
- 13 Nov-WS Annual Craft Sale
- 14 Nov-WS ATC Club Mtg
- 14 Nov-WS Annual Craft Sale
- 15 Nov-WS Annual Craft Sale
- 15 Nov-ISS ATC Club Mtg
- 20 Nov-ISS Annual Craft Sale
- 21 Nov-ISS Annual Craft Sale
- 22 Nov-ISS Annual Craft Sale
- 26 Nov-Closed  
Happy Thanksgiving
- 27 Nov-Black Friday Sale-stay tuned for details
  
- 1 Dec-Paper Connection Pickup
- 6 Dec-Altered Dex Club Mtg
- 12 Dec-WS ATC Club Mtg
- 13 Dec-ISS Holiday Open House
- 20 Dec-ISS ATC Club Mtg
- 20 Dec-WS Holiday Open House
- 25 Dec-Closed  
Happy Holidays
- 1 Jan-Two Hour Mad Dash  
-Details to follow

### **Carolyn's Corner**

Dear Carolyn – OK, what's the big deal with this new product called inchies. I understand that they are hot but I just don't get it. Am I missing something? Bethany

Dear Bethany – Well, I suppose anyone could say that you are missing something if you have not experienced any art with inchies but, that is, of course a matter of opinion. I personally love inchies and always looking for creative ways to use them. In essence, they are a 1" x 1" canvas for creating art hence, the name "inchie". That's really it in a nutshell. They can be addictive once you get started. There are a ton of ways that you can use this creative art form. Some folks create holiday inchies and change out their refrigerator art or office bulletin boards with what

they have created. It's very easy to create greeting cards also. Give them a try and I think you will be as hooked as I am. Keep it fun!!

Dear Carolyn – I have a few rubber stamps that are reasonably new but that do not stamp very well. It seems that I cannot get a very good impression at all. Any helpful tips would be appreciated. Heather

Dear Heather – There could be a multitude of reasons why your rubber stamps are not stamping well. The first to look at is a manufacturing defect, however, this is truly rare. Take a look at the rubber and see if you can spot any imperfections. The next step would be to ink up the stamp and place a cushion underneath the scrap paper you are stamping on. A cushion could be a stack of paper, a magazine, or anything that has some give to it. Most surfaces are uneven and a cushion gives you just enough float to get a very good impression. If that does not work, try sanding the rubber very lightly with 220 grit sand paper. Do several passes until you get the quality you are looking for. Make sure to sand lightly, try the stamp with ink, sand again, try the stamp again, etc. It's best to try light sandings in between each attempt at stamping. Any of these tips are useful and could easily solve your problem. If not, bring the stamp back to where you bought it and have them stamp it for you. If they see that it is a manufacturing defect, they will gladly replace the stamp for you. Hope this helps.

### **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

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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!!). 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 DRIVE**

Our food drives have always been a huge success and we would like to make this year no exception. At this point in time, they are, however, way down so we'd like for you to step up to the plate and make our food drives the success they have always been. We definitely feel the pinch just like everyone but we also know that we are still much better off than some others so..... make it a commitment to drop off at either of our locations a sack full of non-perishables as soon as you can. These donations will benefit the community they are intended for. You already know that we appreciate all that you do.

#### **SWEET WILLEY ROUNDUP**

As most of you already know, we have been hosting the Sweet Willey "roundup" (dropping change into the jar) for all of 2009 at the West Seattle location. We are also accepting tax deductible donations at either location especially for those of you looking for a 2009 tax deduction. Our 2009 goal is \$1000.00 and currently, donations have exceeded \$500.00. Last year, we collectively donated over \$1300.00 to Sweet Willey so here is the continued challenge. Help the thermometer reach the top. Each \$10.00 donation pops the mark up one notch. We'll have thermometers at each location so that you can follow along with progress in meeting our goal. But wait – there

is more. Anyone donating a tax deductible donation of \$100.00 or more will receive a one-time 25% off their entire shopping spree at Friends and Company. All donations of any size are tax deductible. We'd like to hear from you before 31 December 2009 to make your donation count!

#### **SWEET WILLEY'S CAKES FOR A CAUSE**

Sally Carson, who manages Sweet Willey along with her husband, Willey, have given us yet another challenge for 2009. This is totally fun, really easy, and something that anyone can do. Unless things like this are donated, the food baskets that they prepare for their families over the holidays do not contain treats or goodies. They generally tend to be filled with real food but, if donations of this sort are made, then they can easily be added. Everyone deserves cake and that is the donation that Sally is asking for. Brand name cake mixes with matching frosting such as Pillsbury or Duncan Hines for up to 200 families. Can we do this? You bet we can!! We've already started collecting and expect the donations to far exceed our 200 goal so maybe families could get two and save one for a special occasion over the year. Let's do this and exceed that goal all for families who have far less than most. You'll be glad you did working towards what we consider a totally worthy cause! Donations can be dropped off at either of our locations. You already know that we totally appreciate all that you do!!

#### **"STUFF"**

o Looking for something different for a birthday party but don't want to clean the house? Need a place to meet monthly? Want to get together with some of your friends? Call the shop for details on using

our training rooms for any of these events. Can you imagine the fun?

o Interested in forming a rubber stamping club? Why wait any longer – call the shop and we'll help you with acquiring members. Meet monthly, collect dues, and make club purchases whose goods are available only to club members.

### **Rent A Rack**

We are beginning to phase out the rent-a-rack program at the West Seattle location. Our plan is to continue its use through 2009 and revisit what might be possible for 2010. Call us with any suggestions.

We would like to extend a very special thanks to all the artists who participated and hope that any exposure to their art might be in their favor. If you need to contact any of the artists, give us a call and we'll get you connected.

The display rack will be at the shop until the end of the year with a surprise guest each month so stop in and help support our local artists.

While we are on the subject of "crafts", look at the important date column for the Annual Craft Shows. This is our 12<sup>th</sup> one in West Seattle. Sign up today to become a vendor.

### **Tips and Things**

o If swimming is supposed to be such good exercise, could someone explain to me the whale? Do art instead. The rewards are better!

o Many thanks to Shelley for her great tip on how she dispenses her glitter. Glitter can be messy but minimize the mess by pouring it out from a salt or, better yet, a pepper shaker. Great tip Shelley!!

o Do the kids have lots of energy and no where to go with it? Set up an art corner allowing them to make name tags for your Thanksgiving table or for their own holiday gift giving. Have them make their own tags for gifts given

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to them. Don't worry about the mess. It's supposed to be fun so make it fun!!

**HAPPY STAMPING!!**

Until the next time,

Take Care – Doris