
Friends and Company

Rubber Stamping and More...

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What's New?

Greetings Everyone! It's amazing how summer was totally consuming and now it is nearly over and will soon become another piece of our history. I hope you all have had time to capture some of this history making your creative journey that much more special. We've managed to work through several projects, entertain out of town guests, stay afloat given the hard economic times, and also got through the exhausting heat wave that we experienced this year. We'll never complain, however, because we still love doing what we do and for as long as we are able, we will continue. Hope your artful selves are doing well also!!

When visiting the West Seattle location, you will likely note that, because of economic times, our West Seattle employee base has been reduced. You will continue, however, to receive all the support that you have become accustomed to so stop in anytime. We are here to help you with ideas or whatever you might be looking for. If it's not in stock, we'll do our best to look into stocking it. Just let us know. We love introducing new product into the store – especially when you tell us about it.

We are expecting the fall to be quite busy with lots of events, including our 12-year anniversary in West Seattle (can you believe it?), loads of classes that will

stretch your creative spirit all the while having fun and, by attending, contributing to the camaraderie that is generally formed. We have a West Seattle used rubber stamp sale in early November so be sure to save the date. Check out the time – 8:00 am – yep, 8:00 am. Parking will be plentiful at that hour making your shopping experience that much better. Mark your calendars!

If you have had to put off “me time” for other summer activities with friends and family, i.e., vacations, staycations, etc., fall will be the time to renew your artful spirit so be sure to include a class or two each month to keep it alive. Although we intend to keep the current format, we are introducing a new format which we hope you will learn to love and enjoy. It includes a calendar with all the classes noted on the day of class making a printout an excellent piece of refrigerator art that you can peruse frequently allowing you to check in on classes regularly. Coupled with as many photo samples as were received from instructors, this new format could change the way we all approach classes. Comments?.

Times continue to be rough and tumble for many so we hope that everyone involved is able to work through it and keep things afloat. We expect to see some light at the end of the tunnel and hope you all do as well. Continuing to do “art” is a great reprieve from some of

what is going on so check out training room availability at either location and get some projects started and/or completed. Keeping your artful spirit alive is one way to navigate through tough times.

12-Year Anniversary

Sat, 12 Sep 2009
10:00 – 4:00

Demos, Door Prizes,
Discounts, Fun, Fun,
and More Fun.

Come and spin the
WOWZA wheel for up
to 25% off your entire
purchase!!

“New” Stuff. We are doing our best to keep shelves stocked and to bring in some of the new and exciting rubber stamp designs and accessories that resulted from the Crafts and Hobby Association conference in August. The shelves are already well stocked but, as we are able, will continue to deliver some of the newer products. Here are some of the highlights.

Prior to the Lockhart Rubber Stamp Company relocating to CA, we acquired the 9 new summer releases

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that were offered. Karen and her family have already settled in and the company is operating at full level so you can be sure that we will continue to carry this outstanding line of rubber stamps.

Putting on the Ritz is our latest delivery and the newest of any rubber stamp lines we carry. The Putting on the Ritz catalog was our featured catalog for July so our first order was based on customer demand. Featuring a different catalog each month also helps us to determine what folks are looking for. It remains fun and interesting.

At press time, we'd placed a rather large Stamper's Anonymous order so we're hoping for delivery at any time. As our catalog of the month for August, it generated lots of interest which has resulted in lots of new designs which will adorn the shelves as soon as they arrive. Can't wait!!

Some other rubber stamp company orders in the queue include Coronado Island, Hero Arts, Make An Impression, Stampscapes, and Inkadinkado, to name only a few. We are working on others as well so let us know if there is something that you would like to see.

There is lots more so stop in just to say hello or to take a look around. Hope to see you soon.

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. Any project can go over the top with just the add-on of a little bling as an example. Much of our own toolbox is made up of accessories so we love keeping new and fresh ones on hand making life that much easier when we need something. We stock lots of accessories at both locations and they continue to grow as more items are introduced into the marketplace. Here are just a few samplings.

- Stickers remain a huge part of our accessory lineup. We've got all types and themes and the list just keeps growing.
- We now have a modest display of Star Wars paper and

chipboard. Kids love it but so do adults. Just fun stuff!!

- Acrylic tic-tac boxes to hold charms, eyelets, brads, and a host of other small items.
- Lots of inchie squares in both black and white and at each location.
- Tons of brads which add a wonderful embellishment to any card or project.
- Lots of Cricut cartridges at very affordable prices.
- Bling, bling, and more bling. Bling it on – we just love it!!
- For a limited time only, the Friends and Company line of unmounted rubber stamps are on display and for purchase at the West Seattle shop. They may travel east at some point so, if you are interested, let us know and we'll call you when they arrive. It's been a while since they have seen daylight so it was fun to play with them this week.

There is always more and our shelves are full. 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!!

**Used but Not Abused
Rubber Stamp Sale
In West Seattle
Sat, 7 Nov 2009
8:00 am – 10:00 am**

Lots of gently used rubbers stamps so come early for the best selection.

2009 Passport Program

The Passport Program continues to surpass our expectations. We will continue to make it available at both locations with limited "local finds" for Issaquah like what is available in West Seattle. We'll need to settle in and see just what is

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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 \$12.00. 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 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!!

Sound interesting? Register today. We are happy to e-mail you the registration form!

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

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 \$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 September/October fall 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 would like to thank the many of you who took advantage of the stimulus package that we offered earlier in the year. After eight months, we felt that it was time for more change so that is exactly what we are working on. We'll keep reporting in on the program but, in the meantime, we will continue to offer the \$20.00 class coupon for any 2009 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

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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 remain 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 one that I have wanted to ask for some time now. What is the best way of applying glitter? I love working with glitter and what it results in but would like some options. Shelly

Dear Shelly – Simple questions do not always have simple answers but I'll give it a shot. Glitter is indeed fun to work with and can be messy but the rewards are great. What most beginners start with is the basic ultrafine glitter along with dries clear liquid glue. Apply the glue and then the glitter and voila. Instantly done. You can use heavy tape such as the red liner or scorpap tape to place strips down on paper to create a border for example. Pour glitter over strip and, again, voila. Instantly done. I have been known to use a product with the glitter and glue already mixed such as Stickers. Simply stamp your image and use this pre-mixed glue to fill in the areas you want glitter on. This technique is especially lovely when used on the back of acetate. It's actually stunning. These ideas should get you started. From there, I'm confident that you will come up with some of your own.

Dear Carolyn – I have been searching all over town for envelope templates and cannot find

anything out there. What's up with that do you think? I would very much like to make my own envelopes. Any suggestions? Aaron

Dear Aaron – Well, I'm not exactly sure why the envelope templates are not readily available. I have heard from some store owners that, because of the downturn on the economy, their focus is more on products that move quickly so that their rents can get paid. Envelope templates are nice but they certainly are not a necessity. Here is my suggestion and one that I use myself. I have several envelope templates that I have made myself. I often cannot find the exact envelope that I need so I do tend to make many of my own. I've taken favorite envelope sizes apart and have had them laminated at my local printing shop. By laminating them, they will last a lifetime and hold up well to constant use. You can use this technique for all of your envelope needs and it is possible that the costs, depending on what your printer charges, are much less than if you bought each one. If you are not happy with making your own, conduct a Google search on the internet. I'm certain something will come up. Best of luck!!

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 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

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you can park or not park while visiting West Seattle.

Important Dates

- 1 Sep-Paper Connection Pickup
- 6 Sep-Altered Dex Club Mtg
- 12 Sep-WS ATC Club Mtg
- 12 Sep-12-Year Anniversary
- 13 Sep-12-Year Anniversary
- 20 Sep-ISS ATC Club Mtg

- 1 Oct-Paper Connection Pickup
- 4 Oct-Altered Dex Club Mtg
- 10 Oct-WS ATC Club Mtg
- 18 Oct-ISS ATC Club Mtg
- 31 Oct-Happy Halloween!
- 7 Nov-WS Used Rubber Sale
- 13 Nov-WS Annual Craft Sale
- 14 Nov-WS Annual Craft Sale
- 15 Nov-WS Annual Craft Sale
- 20 Nov-ISS Annual Craft Sale
- 21 Nov-ISS Annual Craft Sale
- 22 Nov-ISS Annual Craft Sale

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. We would also like to extend our food drive activities to our friends in the Issaquah community. Each food drive will benefit that specific community, i.e., West Seattle and Issaquah. We are planning our annual food drive from September 1st and ending December 30th. Feel free to bring in non-perishable food donations any time during this period. Our annual goal is better than 300 pounds at each location and we would like to fill the Food Bank again this year! You have been extremely generous at our West Seattle location in years past and we hope to see many of you again this year at both locations.

SWEET WILLEY ROUNDUP

As most of you already know, we have been hosting the Sweet Willey "roundup" for all of 2009 at the West Seattle location. We are about to expand our roundup (dropping change into the jar) to mimic our fund raising effort for Sweet Willey similar to that of year's past. Here is the challenge. Help the thermometer reach the top. Last year's donation topped

\$1,300.00 and we'd like to do it again. 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!

"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 12th one in West Seattle. Sign up today to become a vendor.

Tips and Things

o Can't afford a Cuttlebug? The folders are relatively inexpensive so use a rolling pin instead (forget pie making) to do your embossing using only the folders. It's a real workout but maybe you are trying to lose weight at the same time. It's a double run!!

o If you are unable to find the exact saying, have it custom made if you plan on using it a lot. Custom rubber stamps are affordable so look into it.

o Still not satisfied with a custom made rubber stamp to satisfy some of your needs, put your computer to use or better yet, have someone who knows the computer well do it for you. The possibilities are endless including color choices.

o Want to save some money on the cost of rubber stamps? Attend a used rubber stamp sale or trade with friends. This allows you lots of opportunities for obtaining new "stuff" at a reasonable rate.

o Magazines are a continuing source of inspiration for many. Host a magazine trade group once a month where members trade magazines back and forth. This also helps to keep the costs down.

o Need an inexpensive alternative to expensive waxes for any wax resist technique? Wax Crayons may be your answer. I prefer the name brand "Crayola".

o Blogging can be time consuming so if you discover a blog that has great ideas, not only share it, but bookmark it so you can get back to it easily. Don't know what "bookmark" means? Ask any 12-year old. It's highly likely that they will know. Hee hee

HAPPY STAMPING!!

Until the next time,
Take Care – Doris