
Friends and Company Rubber Stamping and More...

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M-F 10:00a.m.-7:00 p.m. Sat 10:00a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Sun 12:00 noon- 4:00 p.m.

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What's New?

Greetings Everyone and a very Happy New Year as well! Hard to believe that 2005 is already upon us. As we look back into 2004, we are extremely grateful for all that it represents, including its sorrows, and much of what it has brought us, including all of you. Alice, Leo, Kayla, and I would like to take a moment to thank so many of you who extended your best wishes to us during one of our most trying times in 2004. With the recent loss of our beloved father, grandfather, friend, and mentor, it proved to be a very trying time. We have been encouraged, however, by the strength he instilled into us and know that the future will always include him by our sides. We especially want to thank those of you who sent cards, flowers, and masses to our mother whose strength we find encouraging as well. We would be remiss if we did not make mention of our wonderful staff here at Friends and Company. Without them, our travels east would not have been possible. The normal day to day events run so smoothly because of our wonderful staff. We are extremely blessed-what a team!!

We hope that Santa was good to all of you and knowing just how many gift certificates went out of here we are sure that the significant other is beginning to catch on and that you will be pleased with their choice of gift.

The last few months have been very busy with so many events that took place. We want to thank you for your participation in one and/or all

the events including our after Thanksgiving sale. It was a total hoot and we truly did not realize that hair rollers still existed!! For all of you who came in your PJs at 5:00 am, you should be rewarded for your fun and frolicky spirit. We definitely had fun here at the shop and from the feedback we have received, everyone participating did also.

As the year 2005 begins to unfold, we are just beginning to develop a plan for fun, frivolity, and what it will take to make those creative spirits soar! Some great classes are already planned and events are just beginning to fill the calendar. Our most significant is, without a doubt, The 2005 Arts Triathlon so check out our tentative date later in this newsletter. We are looking forward to yet another year and what possibilities it has. Stick around for the ride. It will undoubtedly be fun and full of mischief!!

“New” Stuff. Now that the holidays are behind us, we are taking inventory of what is left and what direction we need to proceed in to get the shelves full again. We are excited about some of the new designs that are being manufactured and hope to have them on the shelves very soon.

Some of our most recent orders included all occasion and all purpose rubber stamps from some of our favorite companies including Rubber Soul, Hero Arts, Paper Inspirations, and Judi-Kins to name just a few. We are expecting the Valentine art boards from AMuse Artstamps. This company has

proven to be very popular with its simplicity in design and elegance in the resulting greeting cards. They are definitely a must for the shop.

We have begun to put together an order for Hero Arts since they have already provided us with their 2005 catalog. If you would like to piggyback our order with one of your own, please let us know by the 10th of January when we expect to send our order off. They have some very cool designs for 2005. We think you will be pleased.

It is our goal for 2005 to connect with as many new rubber stamp companies as we possibly can. If you know of any or have a favorite that we are not already ordering from, do let us know. We love to make these new connections for the shop and for you as well.

O *Accessories and More.*

Accessories are a constant given and we expect the trend for new, improved, and greater accessories to continue well into 2005. Manufacturers are already gearing up for CHA in February where they take pride in introducing new and inventive accessories for both the rubber stamping and scrapbooking industries. We do love them of course but sometimes it would be nice to slow down a bit until we can get acquainted with what we already have. This would never stop us from purchasing new stuff of course but it's a nice thought.

The Friends and Company paper packs introduced in our last

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newsletter are being well received. To our amazement, many seasoned rubber stampers find them extremely useful in a pinch or if time is a factor. We expect to continue increasing this line so be on the lookout for new colors and if you would like to see something in particular, do let us know.

We are absolutely tickled at the response we have had with our recent acquisition of different fun and whimsical yarns. Yes, you read correctly – yarns!! We now have available the fabulous Fun Fur, Fancy Fur, Allure, and Cha Cha yarns for your knitting or embellishment pleasure. It was not our intent to initially carry these yarns but you asked for them, we listened, and now we have them. Every color available is currently in stock. As a point of information, the Fun Fur is what was used for the very popular FuFu's showcased at the December 2004 craft show.

We are also pleased to have connected with Penny Wise Arts who are the supplier for the micro beads that everyone loves so much. This local North Bend company richly enhances this environment and we are thrilled to see them doing so well. We have a huge host of colors available. Also, some of their cool classes are on the schedule so do check them out!

Some things that we should not forget about include:

- The QuicKutz personal die-cutting system great for rubber stampers and scrapbookers.
- Design Originals "Can Do Books" w/recent acquisitions in the Altered Art and Collage themes.
- Classic Glimmers Decorating Chalks for that pastel touch. We also have the two original sets on hand.
- Slide mailers and glass slides from Penny Wise Arts.

Amazing what can be done with them. Come and check out the samples!

- Versafine Inkpads which are archival and dry quickly. These are great for stamping very fine detailed stamps
- More die cut designs from our very own "Creative Cutter". We continue to have fun with it so if you have a "special request," let us know.
- The "Clever Lever" Craft Punches from Marvy Uchida are finally in (after months and months of anticipation). They work very well but be sure to refer to the back for sizing as the packaging does not reflect what size the punch really is!

There is lots more so stop in soon! Accessories arrive frequently so if we are missing something that you need, again, let us know.

Important Dates

- 1 Jan-Closed
Happy New Year
- 2 Jan-Closed
Happy New Year
- 3 Jan-Paper Connection
Pick-Up Date

- 1 Feb-Paper Connection
Pick-Up Date
- 14 Feb-Valentine's Day

Newsletter Delivery

Just a reminder and for those of you new to the shop, we are no longer mailing the newsletter. The newsletter has proven to be a valuable resource so we want everyone to continue receiving it. Here's how:

- Pick up from the shop.
- Print from the internet i.e., www.friends-n-company.com.
- Provide us with 6 legal size #10 envelopes that are pre-addressed and pre-stamped and we will place your newsletter in the mail for you. Renewal of this method will be required each year.

- As a member of The Paper Connection, a copy will be automatically slipped into your "pizza" box.

The Paper Connection

"The Paper Connection" has already exceeded our expectations and we can hardly wait to see membership grow in 2005. If you are looking for some fun and some surprises or for just something different, "The Paper Connection" may be what you are looking for!

So, exactly what is it all about? The Paper Connection is an innovative, fun, and perhaps unique approach to owning paper and is made up of club members who just love paper, love getting packages in the mail, or simply do not have access to some of the rich, vibrant, and high quality papers now available on the market. The club consists of membership with monthly dues of \$19.95 (plus tax and shipping). 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. Minimum membership is six months. Members receive a membership card valid for a 10% discount at Friends and Company on all stocked paper products during the time of membership. 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 – I have purchased several of the new Mica Magic pigment inkpads by Color Box and I adore the colors but the pads leave something to be desired. I just can't seem to get as good an inking as I think it should be. I have heard rumblings that the company is addressing consumer concerns with

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these inkpads. Do you happen to know any of the details? Pauline

Dear Pauline – Yes, indeed I do, however, there is not enough space in this column to provide you with a full response directly from the Colorbox Crew. The bottom line is that the manufacturer of this product, Clearsnap, is addressing consumer concerns rather well and is fully committed to consumer satisfaction. The details are outlined in a full page letter from Clearsnap that should be available to you from your local rubber stamp store. Please check in with your local retailer. It should have this information available for you or should be able to obtain it easily.

Dear Carolyn – I am both a rubber stamper and a scrapbooker. I love all the goodies and embellishments that each of these crafts offers but I find that I am “stuck” with many unused alphabet stickers once all the vowels are gone or any of the letters for that matter. I am beginning to accumulate bins of these stickers and I am finding myself at the point of not wanting to buy any more because of all the leftovers. Have you any suggestions how I can accomplish my lettering in any of my projects without breaking the bank and having to purchase more and more of these stickers? I do like them and find them relatively easy to use but enough is enough. Any help? Sandra

Dear Sandra – Your letter definitely made me laugh. I think we all have been through exactly what you have described but please recognize that mixing and matching any of the letter combinations can be attractive and also very fun. Who is to say that all the letters have to match? It may take you a couple of passes before you become comfortable with mixing your stickers but rest assured it will begin to get easier the more you try it. We are so

accustomed to staying within the box (probably because of our youthful training) that it can be challenging to do otherwise but do give it a try.

As another alternative, you might consider owning several alphabet stamp sets. When purchased as unmounted, they can be very inexpensive. With your own alpha sets, you can explode with whatever colors you so choose. Mixing and matching these rubber stamps is an OK thing to do as well. Experiment and see what happens. There is no “right” or “wrong” these days in any of these art forms. Hope this helps and best of all keep it fun!

Holiday Fundraisers

ANNUAL HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

Our annual food drive netted several barrels of food for the West Seattle Food Bank. We would like to thank those of you who contributed to this very worthwhile cause. We are always pleased to offer our 15% coupon during this drive and hope that you will look for it again in 2005. We believe we met our goal of 300 pounds and very much appreciate your participation and support.

ROUND IT UP

The “Round Up”, which was our second fund raiser for 2004, was also considered very successful. A collection report will be available in our next newsletter. The collection jar remained busy and we were able to collect quite a bit of change from rounding up peoples purchases. The proceeds are for Network Services who provide help for the homeless in the local area. A huge need for mattresses was identified

so we are happy to make such a contribution in that direction. The need is great and the giving is painless so thank you from the bottom of our hearts to each of you for any part you may have had in making this collection of funds so successful. As always, we totally appreciate YOU!!

SENIOR NEWS

Our senior classes continue to offer a variety of techniques and lots of fun and camaraderie. Classes begin at 10:00 a.m. with pre-registration required. The fee per class is \$10.00. All other class guidelines apply.

WEDNESDAY CLASSES

- 19 Jan-Winter Watercolor
w/Lindy Combs
26 Jan-All Occasion
w/Doris Goulet
2 Feb-Thinking of You
w/Doris Goulet
9 Feb-Valentines
w/Lindy Combs
16 Feb-Just for Fun
w/Doris Goulet

FRIDAY CLASSES

- 7 Jan-Winter Fun
w/Doris Goulet
14 Jan-Thank You
w/Sandy Huff
11 Feb-Birthdays
w/Sandy Huff
25 Feb-Flowers
w/Sandy Huff

Class Notes

Our class lineup for January and February 2005 is very exciting and presents many opportunities for fun and getting a head start on the new year. All levels of rubber stamping are presented so there is something for everyone. Please make note of the following guidelines.

- Receive a class discount of 10% off your purchase the day of class. Excludes already discounted or sale items, magazines, and holds.

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- Pre-payment required on ALL class registrations. No exceptions.
- Acceptable payments are cash or checks which need to be made out directly 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. Other cancellation policies are noted in the class description.
- 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.
- Class packets must be picked up for unattended classes within two weeks of the scheduled class. Unclaimed packets will be donated.
- Most classes require cutting. If you have a favorite pair of scissors, please bring them. If you have an OTT light and want to use it in class, please bring it also. Bringing other items to class unless specified could result in the loss of your own tools so please refrain if possible.

We appreciate your becoming fully aware of these class policies and your understanding their need.

Other Stuff!

o **A Review on Parking.** Please remember that the parking lots are limited to only three hours and street parking is limited to only two. **This also includes Sundays.** Street parking on Sunday is unlimited but lots are monitored.

Our very kind friends at Village Woodworks have given us the green light to use their great store as a walk-through from the old Penny's lot. For those of you not familiar with this lot, it is directly behind the shop. This will save many steps and makes accessing our store easy from the back.

Exchange Policy. We will very gladly **exchange** unused items within 30 days of sale but a sales

receipt **must** accompany your request. No returns or credits are allowed. We are sure that you understand the necessity for these policies and will support them.

Happy Birthday

Receive 25% off on any one rubber stamp as our special gift to you for your birthday. This offer is good only for rubber stamps we have in stock and can be used any one time during the **entire month** of your birthday. We will continue to verify your special day with your driver's license or other appropriate ID. Don't forget to change the batteries in all your fire alarms.

Message From Heaven

By Pauline Holshouser

Alice, Kayla, Leo, and I wanted to share with you a poem written by our sister, Pauline Holshouser. It helped us all clarify some things with the loss of our beloved Dad and it can certainly be applied to anyone who has lost a loved one which is why we wanted to share this with you. Along with this, our wish for you in 2005 is love, wellness, and peace with family and friends. The very best for 2005!!

Yes I know you need to cry; it's hard not to wonder or ask why.

God says to lean on him until your heart feels joy again.

Yes God's love will cradle you.

For the angels know your sorrow
God And Heaven will take your sorrow,
And make it Heaven's sorrow too.

Now your tears they break my heart, yes I know you need to grieve.

But I'm in the most amazing place, this you can believe

And no matter where you go, no matter what you do

I will always be with you.

For as you live, I live too.
I will always live within you,
But now I live in Heaven too.

I've got a smile upon my face as I live eternally.

I am wrapped in God's embrace, it's the perfect place to be.

Know that as you heal, within your heart my heart you'll feel,
And God's peace will be with you.

God's love will bring you comfort
Yes God will give you comfort
As God gives me comfort too.

Please tell my friends and all the family
Not to worry I've been set free.

I soar above the sky
I have wings yes I can fly.
God's promise of eternal life is true.

I'm in Heaven,
Peaceful and perfect heaven
And now...I'm peaceful and perfect too.

Tips and Things

- Bottle caps are a fun and inexpensive embellishment for any project. Imagine all those root beer bottles when growing up whose caps we all threw away!!
- Did you know that the Krylon pens have two tips on them? Simply pull out the chisel tip and rotate it to the round tip for use with whatever project you are working on.
- Need a perforator for making faux postage? Check out the new addition to the shop. Rents for \$10.00 per hour with great results.
- Need inspiration? Take a class and bring a friend. Lots of fun by rubber stamping together!
- Need help with a finishing touch on a card? Don't forget about ribbon, raffia, charms, eyelets, brads, and fibers to name only a few. They can really polish up a project and make it "pop".
- Challenge yourself by taking any rubber stamp you own and creating three different greeting cards from it. It will provide you with a great perspective for future projects.
- Lose your newsletter or want to refer a friend. Our website is at www.friends-n-company.com.

HAPPY STAMPING!!

Until the next time,
Take Care – Doris