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# 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! We hope that you all had a wonderful holiday full of fun, laughter, frolic and mischief. All of us here at the shop managed to include all of the above in our countdown to the new year. It was a fabulous holiday and definitely full of fantastic surprises. We certainly hope that it was all that you wanted it to be for yourselves and your families. We would like to take a minute to thank so many of you for all the holiday greetings along with the fabulous "eats" and, oh, so much more.

A very special heartfelt "Thank You" goes to all of you who so generously donated to the Sweet Willie Foundation. This fund raiser was a smashing success all because of your "over the top" donations. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for being there with us on this one. Only together could we make it happen – what a team!

As we progress into the year 2006, we can all expect some changes here at the shop. Although we are expecting to retain our current location for another year, one never really knows what the future might hold so stay tuned with both ears to the ground. We will post to e-mail any updates and/or changes so if we still do not have your e-mail, give us a call to get you on the list. E-mail is proving to be a vital and necessary part of our ongoing communications and, whether we like it or not, it is here to stay. Because e-mail can be extremely

useful in these communications, we do hope you enjoy hearing from us.

We wish you all the success possible for 2006 and hope that as the year unfolds, your creative spirit will radiate with some great "stuff". We look forward to seeing it all evolve and hope the rewards are great for all of us.

**"New" Stuff.** We know that the yearly inventory is just around the corner but we can't stop ourselves from ordering wonderful new product and some great rubber stamps from lines that had been sitting on the back burner.

We are so delighted to connect with the Outlines Rubber Stamp. Outlines has many new designs available since our last order and we think we just about brought every single one of them into the shop. The "just in" section is full to the brim. There is something for every occasion available and many of these great rubber stamps can be used for multiple purposes. A great line of rubber stamps to have in your stash!

Memory Trends in mid-October brought us a new line called Kodomo, Inc. This company has many Asian rubber stamps in their line along with some great florals, and, because the previous owner of PSX works for them, we were able to pick up on the PSX influence throughout their new line of rubber stamps as well. It was fun to connect with them and we hope to do more business with them as time moves along.

We recently received an order from Hampton Art Stamps which included some of their very popular designs and new ones as well. Inkadinkado is another stamp line whose designs we favor so the full brim in the "just in" section includes many from both of these companies as well.

The growing stamp line from the Karen Lockhart Stamp Company is fun and full of wonderful designs. The line has recently grown by several images all of which we have in stock to get you ready for some of the upcoming holidays. Do check them out!

Although we truly have slowed down for inventory, it's not for long so if there is a company you would like showcased, do please let us know. We love new stuff as much as you do and we want to keep our shelves stocked with what you love most!

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

When it comes to accessories, it just never ends. The more we get, the more we want but e-gads!... there is just not the space to accommodate all the great "stuff" available but we are definitely trying.

We are expecting in early January, a huge order direct from EK Success to include many of their ever popular embellishments. We can hardly wait for them to arrive.

For anyone who is challenged in the area of paper folding, we finally have a solution just for you called "Scor-It". This professional quality

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high end tool is fast and very accurate. It is fantastic for hand scoring all of your card projects, along with Scrapbooking and other paper crafting projects. We are finding this a "must have" and know that you will as well so come and test it out for yourselves. The Scor-It was very well received at our recent open house as well.

We have recently purchased 200 new 12" x 12" paper trays many of which are already set out on the floor full of wonderful new papers. This is an area that just keeps on going and going and never seems to have an end to it. Paper is constantly coming and going so be sure to check it out each time you visit the shop.

A recent order from K&Company disclosed not only great papers but also a host of crafting and paper art embellishments as well. We do love K&Company but there is a problem here – we simply do not have enough money to buy it all!! Let us know what you would like to see most.

Some other fun things include:

- Cardstock stickers that look like the real thing. They are great for adding "way cool" embellishments to a project.
- UnDu adhesive remover – an absolute must for any crafter, card maker, scrapbooker or anyone working with adhesives. In one word it's "incredible!"
- Empty fine spray mist bottles that are often hard to find.
- The perfect positioner – a must have for working with tiny beads and rhinestones.
- Button Shank Remover to remove shanks quickly and easily from button backs. Did you know that such a tool even existed?

- Leafing pens in all five colors currently available.
- Tweezers to help working with details a breeze. By Making Memories, these tweezers have the reverse-action handles.
- Twinkling H2Os in a full range of colors. Try taking a class to see just how great this product really is.
- Walnut inks in all eight colors from Tsukineko.
- Bazzill really BIG letters for special projects, scrapbooking, or paper arts. They are white so you can turn them into any color desired.

There is lots more so stop in soon! Accessories arrive frequently.

### Sweetheart Sale

Good for any Rubber Stamp  
with a "Heart" in it

**Tuesday**

**14 February 2006**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Rubber Stamp–15% off
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Rubber Stamp–20% off
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Rubber Stamp–25% off
- 4<sup>th</sup> Rubber Stamp–30% off
- 5<sup>th</sup> Rubber Stamp–35% off
- 6<sup>th</sup> Rubber Stamp 40% off

Please note that each stamp  
**must** contain a heart in the  
design!

### READ ALL ABOUT IT!

A reminder that if you do not have internet access or are not able to pick up the newsletter for any reason, an easy solution is to provide us with six pre-addressed and pre-stamped envelopes. We will get your newsletter out pronto! Members of the Paper Connection automatically receive a copy in their

monthly boxes. Another great reason to become a member!

### Important Dates

- 1 Jan-Closed  
Happy New Year
- 2 Jan-Paper Connection  
Pick Up Date
- 10 Jan-ATC Club Mtg  
1 Feb-Paper Connection  
Pick Up Date
- 14 Feb-ATC Club Mtg
- 14 Feb-Sweetheart Sale

### The Paper Connection

If you have ever wondered how best to support the store, joining "The Paper Connection" may be just the answer you are looking for. Being a member of the Paper Connection benefits both of us by providing you with a wonderful monthly theme pack of paper and collectibles and providing us with what we need to operate each month. Membership, coupled with the Friday Connection classes, has far exceeded our expectations and we are confident that as a member, you will enjoy its rewards.

This innovative, fun, and perhaps unique approach to owning paper is made up of club members who just love pampering themselves. 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 which are all about paper. Members receive a 10% discount at Friends and Company on all stocked paper products during the time of membership. Sound appealing? More details are available at the shop.

### "STUFF"

O Looking for something different for a birthday party? Need a place to meet monthly? Want to get together with some of your friends

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but don't want to clean the house? Renting the balcony at the shop might just be the answer for any stamping or scrapbooking related activity. Call the shop for details.

O Interested in forming a rubber stamping club? Why wait any longer – call the shop and we'll help you with acquiring members.

### **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**

- 4 Jan-Winter Cards  
w/Doris Goulet
- 11 Jan-Val Iris Folding  
w/Lindy Combs
- 18 Jan-Penny Black Val  
w/Diane Radischat
- 25 Jan-Sticker Shock  
w/Diane Radischat
- 1 Feb-Photo Cards  
w/Doris Goulet
- 8 Feb-Val Chalking  
w/Lindy Combs
- 15 Feb-Penny Black VII  
w/Diane Radischat
- 22 Feb-All Occasion  
w/Doris Goulet

### **Carolyn's Corner**

Dear Carolyn – I am fairly new to rubber stamping and my first real experience with it proved to be a disaster. I was attempting to make baby shower invitations for a friend but the ink never dried on my paper. It was a huge mess and I nearly swore off stamping but a friend assured me that this is not necessarily how it is. Can you help me with this ink business so that I have a better understanding of what is “good” ink and what is “bad” ink so this does not happen to me again? Becky

Dear Becky – I was sorry to hear about your “huge mess” and your first experience. Unfortunately, many individuals make the same or similar mistake that you made when it comes to the inks used in a project.

Basically, there are only two types of ink on the market – a dye based ink and a pigment ink. These are the two types to remember. I suspect that you used a pigment ink which is best suited for embossing given that it will never dry on certain papers such as vellum, glossy, photo, and other coated papers. Manufacturers want you to be attracted to the different vibrant colors available and have manufactured most of these inks with clear see through lids. These are very easy to spot but should be avoided when using coated papers unless you emboss.

Dye based inks on the other hand are a fast drying no frills ink well suited to all types of paper including vellum and coated papers. You are not likely to see lots of sparkle with dye based inks but they do come in many different colors.

I would strongly urge you Becky to take a beginner's class and ask lots of questions. There is way more to this whole ink business than I can cover in this column. Another option would be to spend time cuddled with some rubber stamping magazines. These magazines often discuss inks, papers, and tons more that might be of great help to you. Please don't give up. It's a very fun and creative environment to be in and is likely one that you will come to enjoy immensely.

Dear Carolyn – I have a slight problem with rubber stamping that I thought you might be able to help me out with. I tend to favor rubber stamps with considerable detail to them and, as a general rule, I have

difficulty when stamping such stamps. The image is simply not crisp or clear and I can forget embossing altogether since I end up with lots of blobs and it ends up looking pretty bad. Would you have any hints or tricks that could assist me in the stamping style that I like the best? Cathy

Dear Cathy – Well, for the most part, I believe my response is fairly easy. I have personally had great success in stamping detailed images with the Versafine inks from Tsukineko. Please don't confuse this ink with other inks that have similar names. The Versafine ink is an archival instant dry pigment ink that is well suited to fine detail and works best on matte cardstock. It comes in a host of colors but I believe it is a well kept secret for the most part. Although its existence is not from very long ago, most people are unaware that such an ink exist. Give this a try. I think it will work well for you and resolve the conflict you have with using your detailed stamps. You will now likely experience a whole new world of rubber stamping.

### **Round It Up Fundraiser**

Our collections for the “The Sweet Willie Foundation” have far surpassed any expectations we may have had. Along with nostalgic goodies located at the desk which bring in lots of change and dollar bills, we are proud to advise you that, at press time, \$850.00 had been collected for this extremely worthwhile cause. With only \$150.00 short of our goal, we remain confident that it will be met in a day or two of press time. THANK YOU all once again for your continued support and trust that this fund makes a huge difference in the lives of many people.

We plan to continue our round-it-up efforts all year long so do drop whatever loose change you may

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have into our giving jar. It is unbelievable just how quickly it adds up.

## ANNUAL HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

Although our annual food drive took somewhat of a dip from previous years, we recognize that many donations have been diverted to other causes and catastrophes that seemed to run rampant in 2005. We were still able to donate nearly three full barrels of food to the West Seattle Food Bank and we already know that every little bit helps. You have been extremely generous in years past and we know that you will continue to be so in years to come. Thank you all for taking the time to deliver your supplies and in helping to really make a difference.

## Class Notes

Although our class lineup for January and February 2006 does not include some of your favorite instructors, it continues to be exciting, full of great ideas, and presents many opportunities for fun and getting many projects started or completed for gift giving all year long. All levels of rubber stamping are available. Please do note these guidelines:

- Receive a class discount of 10% off your purchase the day of class. Excludes discounted or sale items, magazines, and holds.
- 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. Classes involving guest instructors require a full 30 day cancellation. 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 of 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.

- o Exchange Policy. We will gladly exchange unused items within 30 days of sale but a sales receipt must accompany your request. No exchanges can be made for paper products, magazines, sale items or specialty items such as beads.

## **Tips and Things**

- o Call today to reserve the balcony for your next special event. We custom tailor classes for birthdays (both children and adult), or spend a morning of stamping "thank you" for the bride to be, and you could even consider a stamping bridal or baby shower, or whatever else fun you can think of!! We have the instructors, we have the space, and we have the cleanup!! Lots of evenings and weekends are available for such events. Give us a call today!

- o Looking for unique options for posting photographs in cards and/or scrapbooks? Try using a sealed envelope by cutting all four corners the same size with decorative scissors. You can then simply slip your photograph easily into the clipped corner of the envelope. Attach the envelope corner with your favorite glue or double sided adhesive to complete your project.

- o Project looking a little flat? Sometimes we are our own worse critics but try adding a brad, or some ribbon, or maybe even eyelets as an embellishment. They will likely make a major difference. Did you know that brads come in sizes as large as 1-inch?

- o May appear obvious to some but did you know that most inkpads have a re-inker? You would be surprised how many folks come looking for a new inkpad because their current one is dried out.

- o Are you tired of writing your return address over and over again? Consider a custom, self-inking rubber stamp with your name, address, or whatever you would like, i.e., logo, on it. They are relatively inexpensive, last forever, and also make great gifts.

- o Have a design you would love to own as a rubber stamp? Consider having it made into a rubber stamp. These are also relatively inexpensive with no copyright issues attached so you can use them for business purposes as well.

- o Looking for a New Year's resolution that you can keep? Try registering for a class each month. Make it a point to call as soon as you receive our great newsletter.

HAPPY STAMPING!!

Until the next time,  
Take Care – Doris