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# Friends and Company

## Rubber Stamping and More...

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

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### *What's New?*

Greetings Everyone! With spring just around the corner, lots of plans are underway here at the shop. We are looking forward to continuous good weather in the hope that the gardens bloom of glorious colors and total abundance. We have already experienced here at the shop a part of what only spring usually brings. The planter box, located directly in front of the shop, has already sported fully bloomed miniature daffodils. We were blown away but delighted in such a gift so early in the year. Be sure to take some time and enjoy the developing days of spring. You won't be disappointed that you did.

We are very busy here at the shop but loving every minute of it. The annual Hobby Industry Association (HIA) convention, which was held in late January, is beginning to show the fruit of its labor from all of our reps that participated. They have brought us lots of new products and also lots of new techniques and ideas. It has been fun to receive these new orders and we are looking forward to sharing them with you.

The year 2003 continues to be challenging but also very exciting. We have added a couple of new store fixtures to support all the new products and are expecting to add even more as the year progresses. The day to day shop activity definitely keeps us busy and off the streets but we are thrilled that so many of you have already had time to enjoy some of these small changes. Scrapbookers look out –

we are listening and hoping to bring you some of your favorite products very soon so stay tuned!

Our class schedule for March and April is very full and offers many great and satisfying classes. We are sure you will be happy with what you see. Early registration is always encouraged so take some time to check the schedule out. Our instructors are simply some of the best and we are proud and honored to share them with you.

Enjoy the spring holidays with family and friends and get out there and get rubber stamping.

**O** *“New” Stuff.* The shelves are bursting with spring activity of one sort or another. With Saint Patrick's Day and Easter both just around the corner, take some time to check out the selections for both these holidays. We have lots to share with you.

We are very pleased to connect once again with All Night Media who carries the very popular line of Anna Griffin rubber stamps and accessories. These knock down gotta have stamps are gorgeous and are proving to be extremely useful for many projects and card making. If you have not yet seen this line, better hurry since they are going quickly. More are on order and will be here by late March.

Amuse Art Stamps have been very popular and at least two orders have been received since our last newsletter. They are a local company so deliveries are fast and

of course fun! Several new designs and lots of project ideas are included with each new order. Come and see for yourselves.

Penny Black has been an old friend and a new order with some new and some old designs is expected by mid March. It is definitely one of our old faithfuls with fabulous florals that can be used in so many different ways and with so many projects. There is, of course, lots of other stuff so check it out!

All the new designs from Hero Arts are expected to arrive any day now. Their new catalog has been very fun to peruse and offers many rubber stamps along with fabulous accessories to spark your creativity and get your energies flowing.

New arrivals include huge orders from Stampers Anonymous, PSX, Outline Rubber Stamps, Cottage Stamper, Rubber Stampede, and several more of our favorite standbys. There is, without a doubt, a lot to see.

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

We were correct when we told you that HIA would introduce lots of new accessories and very innovative products. We are just beginning to receive most of them and we are sure that you will enjoy them as much as we have. The excitement and energy continue to pour out of HIA so keep watching as the next couple of months continue to evolve.

By popular request, Petite Motifs is doing it again. This fabulous paper company, which has recently

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introduced six new gorgeous colors in their already great line of papers, has taken it a step further. As we compute, new A-2 sized envelopes are being printed for release by mid-March. The envelopes include all of the newly released pastel colors. The front of the envelope along with the flap will represent each color and the back of the envelope will remain white to correspond with the duplex pastel papers. Can't wait!!

We have received more of the mat sets from Simply Stamped Papers. These A-2 pre-cut and scored mat sets include 10 notecards, 10 mats, 10 envelopes, and 10 stamping mats. These sets are proving to be very popular especially for the individual in a hurry.

The extremely popular Colorbox fluid chalks are now available in Cat's Eye. To take it a step further, Clearsnap has introduced a Stylus System Component that fits into the back of any Cat's Eye inkpad. What a great approach to ease the work required for color blending and/or the direct to paper technique. Very clever indeed!

We now carry Pentel's Metallic Brush Markers in eight fabulous colors. These pens have several all purpose uses to add elegance to any project. Treat yourself to a great new product that you will love.

Pop Up Glue Dots that bond instantly are now available in four different styles. These super sticky multi-purpose dots are great for both the rubber stamper and scrapbooker for creating a 3-D look, are easy to use, child safe, and non-toxic as well.

We receive several requests per week for sealing wax, therefore, we have picked up the Fruend-Mayer & Co line of genuine sealing wax along with a modest selection of the metal seals. Great product for

adding a very special touch to an invitation or announcement. We also have a limited amount of their very classy nametags well suited for a rehearsal dinner or any special event.

Our bead corner continues to grow and now includes small storage boxes with storage boxes contained in them. These are often referred to as the Tic-Tac collection and are extremely useful for beads, findings, eyelets, brads, charms, and whatever else you might think of. If you want to get organized, now just might be the time.

Lots of new product from Books by Hand to include several sets of boxes such as the clamshell and sectional as well as checkbook covers and a guest book. All the materials are provided in each kit. We have also received book cloth in several colors, screw posts, paper awls and binder's needles to get the book maker in you going.

Back in stock and/or some of the regular "stuff" that we can't forget about include:

- Shapecutter both in a set and as a single unit
- ShapeBoss for Dry Embossing
- Yasutoma Water Brush
- Golden Oak Paper Packs
- Yuzen Washi Paper
- Mini Envelope Template
- Lumiere Paints
- Pearl-Ex in large and small bottles
- Paper Clay
- Many more design eyelets for both the stamper and/or the scrapbooker. Can be used as great embellishments for any project or scrapbook page with a very large selection to choose from. We love them!!

Lots more new product is expected anytime so stop in to see it all in person. We love to see you smile!!

### EAST COAST MEETS WEST COAST

Sound intriguing? We thought so also. Friends and Company has, therefore, partnered up with Maine-ly Stamps from Kittery, Maine, (family connection) to present it's first ever coast to coast card swap. The swap is limited to 12 participants so call the shop early for final details. The swap is scheduled for 23 April at 6:00 with the owner of Maine-ly Stamps in attendance. Should include lots of fun so let us hear from you.

### INTERNET NEWS

We are very excited to launch our very first web page featuring the entire Friends and Company line of rubber stamps. Our rubber stamp line is currently available as unmounted only but will soon be available with mounted wood blocks as well. Check it out at "friends-n-company.com" (without the quotes). We think it is very cool and would love to hear from you. Please let us know what you think and would like to see in a web page or any other suggestions you might have. Our web page will continue to grow and will constantly change so be sure to check it often.

Another plug for Anita Wong and our greatest and most sincere thanks are extended to her. Anita is from WebSight Designs and is who created and designed our web page and continues to keep it as current as possible. If you need help with your web page and are looking for speed and efficiency, contact Anita. She can be reached at 425-985-5714. Anita is exactly who you are looking for for a job well done! Thanks Anita!

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## **CARD SWAP INFO**

The "No Theme" card swap is currently underway so stop in and take a look at these great cards. Consider joining this fun swap to help inspire and get your creative juices flowing. Space is limited so sign up early. Participants attending the night of the swap receive 15% off their entire purchase.

The next swap is Wed, 2 April 2003 and will begin at 6:00 p.m. The theme of this swap is "Spring/Easter". Each participant needs to make enough cards to equal the number of participants up to twelve. Using rubber stamps *carried* by Friends and Company as the baseline is encouraged. Cards will be swapped with participants and a remaining card will stay in the shop for posting.

## **SPECIAL EVENTS**

Looking for something different for you or your child's birthday? Need a place to meet with your monthly group? Want to get together with some of your friends but don't want to clean the house? The balcony might just be your answer for any rubber stamping or scrapbooking related activity. Call the shop today for details.

## **"ENVY"lope Contest**

Congratulations to our "Envy"lope contest winners as follows:

Sherry Wilson, 1<sup>st</sup> Place \$100  
Elaine Durham, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place \$ 15  
Alisa Vandenberg, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place \$ 10

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to all those who participated. We had a ton of fun with this contest and hope you all did as well. Hot Wire has already contacted us to see when

the next one will take place. Any takers???

A total of twenty-five individuals were registered to participate and 18 actual submissions were received. All of us here at the shop looked forward to every mail delivery looking for more entries. Our appreciation, and those of the winners, are also extended to those of you who took time to vote and maybe even enjoyed a cup of coffee or tea at the Hot Wire. Our thanks to the staff at Hot Wire and for their extremely generous coupon. We loved working with them and appreciate all their assistance and help in making this contest such a success. A very special thanks is also extended to Greg Byrd who spearheaded this endeavor more than he will let on.

Without a doubt the entire contest was a collective effort and we can't wait to do it again. The entries are now posted in the main training room along with much of Greg's magnificent work. Stop in to take a look yourself. We will keep them posted through April for your viewing pleasure.

## **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. Another safety idea prompted by a personal incident is to make it a practice in your birthday month to replace all the batteries in your fire detectors. It's an easy day to remember to do this and could save you or your families lives. We'll even give you a 9-volt battery to

start with when you come into the shop to pick out your rubber stamp. Don't wait! Do it now!

## **HOLD IT!!**

Wish list items which have been received will be held for two weeks only. Held items with no pre-arranged holding plan will then be placed back on the shelves. Thank you in advance for understanding.

## **SENIOR NEWS**

Our senior classes continue to be lots of fun. Classes begin at 10:00 a.m. with pre-registration required. The fee per class is \$9.50. All other class guidelines apply.

### **WEDNESDAY CLASSES**

- 12 Mar-Happy Cards  
w/Sandy Huff
- 19 Mar-Cut Away Cards  
w/Sue Cramer
- 26 Mar-Birthdays  
w/Sandy Huff
- 2 Apr-Easter  
w/Sandy Huff
- 9 Apr-Fast/Fur. Easter  
w/Sue Cramer
- 16 Apr-Spring Thing  
w/Sandy Huff
- 30 Apr-Flowers, Flowers  
w/Sandy Huff

### **FRIDAY CLASSES**

- 7 Mar-Shades of Green  
w/Sue Cramer
- 21 Mar-Bleachy Clean  
w/Doris Goulet
- 4 Apr-All Occasion  
w/Doris Goulet
- 11 Apr-Stained Glass  
w/Doris Goulet
- 25 Apr-Create w/Notions  
w/Sue Cramer

## **Class Notes**

Our class lineup for March and April 2003 is full of new opportunities and is as terrific as always. It also offers a wide range of techniques and class themes and now includes reflexology sessions

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on a trial basis so check them out. Always sign up as early as possible and 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 and magazines.

- 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.

- A 3-day grace period for called in registrations is provided, however, the space must be held with a credit card until the payment is received.

- Cancellations require a 3day notice for a refund.

- Workshops and all-day classes require a 5-day notice for a refund.

- 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 bring it to class, please feel free to do so. 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. We know that you understand the need for them and appreciate your continued support.

### Carolyn's Corner

Dear Carolyn – I got caught up in a rubber stamping convention frenzy and bought tons of Pearl-Ex because of a demonstration that I saw. Now, several months later, I

am wondering what to do with it all. Besides giving it away or selling it on e-bay, any suggestions? Debbie

Dear Debbie – Please do not consider giving it away or selling it since it is an extremely versatile product with lots of different uses in a number of different ways. My best advice would be to check with your local stamp store and request a Pearl-Ex class if there is not one scheduled and get yourself signed up right away.

Pearl-Ex is a pigment that is made from powdered mica. It is not metal, therefore, it will not tarnish or rust. It can be applied to many surfaces such as walls, furniture, paper, canvas, glass, clay, jewelry, wax, and so much more. It can be applied with a finger or brush and sealed with any fixative. Pearl-Ex works particularly well over black or dark backgrounds and can also be mixed into acrylics, watercolors, oils, wax, clay, nail polish, varnish, several types of adhesives and, again, so much more. Now can you see the value of a class? Don't delay – do it today and you will undoubtedly love the results.

Dear Carolyn – I recently saw a technique called “Bleaching” and was simply awed by the results. Is one bleach better over another for this technique? Elaine

Dear Elaine – Not to my knowledge but my personal preference is the Clorox Advantage Bleach. It seems to have more grab to it since it is thicker than normal liquid bleach. In a simple test that I did in my home, I really could not find any major difference. We also think this technique is cool!

### Family Bundles

Wondering what all the hoopla is about? What are those “Family Bundles” signs you are seeing everywhere? How do you get one of these cash reward cards?

Well, look no further. Friends and Company is proud to be registered with Family Bundles, a very innovative approach to the “frequent buyer” card. It is valid at all participating merchants so your rebate grows and grows and not just here at the shop. Sign up on your next visit to the shop. We will have all the information you need to get started. The best part of all – it's FREE!

As this program grows, “DOUBLE POINTS” will also be offered in the year 2003. Only those registered will receive these notices so please don't delay. Sign up on your next visit to the shop!

### Important Dates

15 Mar-Spring Demo Day

17 Mar-Happy St. Patrick's

30 Mar-Spring/Easter WS

20 Apr-Closed-Happy Easter

26 Apr-Second Semi-Annual  
WS Art Walk

### 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 the lots are monitored and they do issue tickets so please park carefully.

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 parking 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

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allowed. We are sure that you understand the necessity for these policies and will support them.

### **Tips and Things**

o Lose your newsletter? Go on-line to [friends-n-company.com](http://friends-n-company.com).

HAPPY STAMPING!!

Until the next time,  
Take Care - Doris