
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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March/April 2006

What's New?

Greetings Everyone! Here we are once again leaping ahead in full anticipation of spring. It's a wonderful life we live when, despite some of the cold nights of February, our daffodils have all popped out of the ground in our window box! Imagine the delight they bring!

Because our focus has had to shift for the time being on what we would consider some very life changing events, there really is not much to report on for the time being. Many of you are already aware that our beloved Mother, grandmother, and friend passed away in late January. It has definitely caused us to shift priorities so please be patient as we continue to realign the priorities at the shop.

Alice, Leo, Kayla, and I would like to take just a moment to say "Thank You" for all the letters and cards of condolences along with so many personal well wishes and kind words that have been extended to us. Mom so loved rubber stamping and she so loved life. Although a very trying time for us, we are encouraged by her strength and know that the future will always include her in whatever endeavors we pursue.

An extra special "Thank You" goes to our wonderful staff of folks who stepped forward to make our travels east that much easier. We are extremely blessed for such a wonderful team!!

As the year 2006 continues to unfold, we can all expect some

changes here at the shop. We have recently made the decision to remain at our present location through July 2006. We are feverishly looking for another suitable location but nothing has come up so far. We will post to e-mail any updates and/or changes.

We continue to wish you well in 2006 and hope that your creative spirits are soaring high. Just remember to keep it fun and to include many friends and family in all the fun and frolic.

"New" Stuff. We have just completed the inventory and the Craft and Hobby Association (CHA) convention has also come to a close but our new stuff is lagging behind a bit. We are hoping to "catch up" very soon and fill the shelves with new rubber stamps you have never seen before and also some great new finds from CHA. It continues to be an exciting time in the industry and rest assured that we want to be a part of it all. This reduced reporting will allow us to reduce the size of this newsletter but we'll be back in full force the next time so please hang tough with us.

O *Accessories and More.*

Accessories currently fall into the same category as rubber stamps for the time being. We do, however, continue to carry lots of great stuff that is suitable for both the rubber stamper and the scrapbooker. Here are just a few of what we are talking about:

- Lots of glitter in an assortment of colors. Great for that small special embellishment.
- Lots of stickers including the line from Jolee's Boutique. These work beautifully for creating that very special one-of-a kind card or to highlight on a 12 x 12 layout.
- New from King Jim is an assortment of portfolios and/or containers in varying sizes to include a great business card holder. Excellent for carrying diagrams, large printouts, etc. as well.
- Prismacolor colored pencils for every level of artist.
- Often forgotten water-based Marvy Metallics which are a pigmented ink that does not fade and is waterproof. Great for creating backgrounds also.
- Work Surface from Adhesive Technologies. Can be used with all glues to make cleanup easy and simple.
- An assortment of box making kits including the curvulator.
- Assortment of 36-gauge metal from Carved Stamps including gold, copper and brass.
- Tons of paper in 8-1/2" x 11" and also in 12" x 12". The paper selection we now have in stock has begun to pour out of the Paper Emporium.
- Lots of brads as big as 1-inch!!

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

Important Dates

1 Mar-Paper Connection
Pick Up Date

14 Mar-ATC Club Mtg

17 Mar-Happy St. Patrick's

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Day Anything Green
at the shop-20% Off

1 Apr-Paper Connection
Pick Up Date
11 Apr-ATC Club Mtg
16 Apr-Closed
Happy Easter

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.

We are now including several color copy samples using the current theme to help get your creative spirits flowing. One might refer to it as "A Class In A Box". These are easily replicated samples. It's really a Win/Win so check it out!

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

8 Mar-Celtic Cards
w/Diane
Radischat
15 Mar-This and That
w/Doris Goulet
22 Mar-All Occasion
w/Diane
Radischat
29 Mar-Asian Designs
w/Lindy Combs

5 Apr-Penny Black
w/Diane
Radischat
12 Apr-Artist Trading
Cards (ATCs)
w/Elaine Woodhouse
19 Apr-Spring Fun
w/Lindy Combs
26 Apr-Happy Birthday
w/Diane
Radischat

Carolyn's Corner

Dear Carolyn – I keep hearing about a "Direct to Paper" technique but have never seen it or been able to find someone who knows anything about it. Is this a well hidden secret or is it as cool as what I am able to find and read about in magazines?
Melinda

Dear Melinda – Direct to Paper is a very easy concept and, yes, it is very cool as well. It simply involves using your inkpad and applying ink from the inkpad directly to your paper. You can simply add highlights to the edges of your paper or create shapes and backgrounds by using different sizes of inkpads. These are only two samples of what is possible. Be sure to make certain that the inkpads you use work with the type of paper you are using. For example, you would not mix a pigment inkpad with glossy paper as the pigment ink would never dry on the glossy paper unless it was embossed. Hope this is what you were looking for.

Dear Carolyn – I hear that Stazon Ink is all the rage these days. I have invested in so many other inkpads that I am reluctant to purchase yet another line of inkpads. Do I give up on what I have and move on or is it OK if I don't make another investment in ink? I do like following the trends but it is getting difficult with new stuff coming out so often. Please share your thoughts! Sherry

Dear Sherry – Well, first off, yes, it is certainly OK if you decide to lie low for a while and not make any more purchases. I would never give up on what I already have especially if it is working well for me. Manufacturers are constantly trying to improve and/or be a front runner in this industry. That really is their job and most of the time we do appreciate what they have to launch but sometimes it gets overwhelming for me as well.

Stazon is a wonderful ink that has its own staying power. It is an acid-free and archival ink that dries quickly and can be used on surfaces such as plastic, metal, glass, ceramic, coated papers, and leather. It is not recommended, however, for fabric. It is also available in several colors so owning just one may not be enough. Just go slow and take it easy until you decide for yourself that this is a "gotta have" inkpad for your toolbox.

Class Notes

Our class lineup for March and April 2006 presents many great opportunities. The lineup is full of terrific ideas and presents many opportunities for fun and getting 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.
- Many classes now required that students bring a "Basic Class Kit"

Friends and Company Rubber Stamping and More...

with them to class. Please see the list of class descriptions for more information and what the kit needs to contain. Instructors are genuinely interested in keeping costs down so are hopeful that this new requirement will help them do just that.

- Pre-payment required on ALL class registrations. No exceptions. Students who have not pre-paid may forfeit their space in class so please – do pre-pay.

- 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.

- If you have an OTT light and want to use it in class, please bring it along. Bringing other items to class unless specified, i.e., basic class kit, could result in the loss of your own tools so please refrain if possible. Please make certain that all items in your basic class kit are clearly marked with your own personal identifier.

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

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 in

2004 and now we are drawing strength from it once again with the recent loss of our beloved mother. Many of you have indicated to us your own draw of strength from this poem and so we encourage you to share it with others as needed. As 2006 continues to unfold, all of us here at the shop continue to wish you love, wellness, and peace.

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

- o Looking for a really "unique" greeting card for a special friend on April 1st (April Fool's Day)? Carol, a fellow friend and stamper came up with a brilliant idea to package up all the components for an April's Fool's Day card and send the card unassembled. What a

hoot? We thought it was hilarious and just had to share it with all of you.

- o Don't be afraid to mix and match all your leftover alphabet stickers along with alphabet rubber stamps. They look terrific and as you may have noticed in many of the magazines currently on the market the look is really in.

- o Having a hard time keeping that New Year's resolution we suggested in our last newsletter? Register today, right now, for one of our great classes and don't forget to include a friend. Make it a point to call as soon as you receive our great newsletter.

- o Invest in a box of Gunk & Goo Remover Towelettes from the makers of UnDu for cleaning up residue on scissors, knives, and other cutting implements. Not only works great but it's fast and is perfect for any sticky situation!

- o Consider computer generated text when you cannot find exactly what you want said in a greeting card or... better yet, if you expect to use this unique verse often, consider having it made as a custom stamp.

- o Step out of your box and mix and match paper like there would be no tomorrow. It's amazing what works and works well.

- o Pass on our website to anyone. It's www.friends-n-company.com.

HAPPY STAMPING!!

Until the next time,

Take Care – Doris