
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 2007

What's New?

Greetings Everyone! Like most everyone, we remain optimistic that Spring will come. Even with the daffodils in bloom, the chill each morning continues to remind us that winter is not done with us yet. Let's all think Spring so that we can move on to other aspects of what we still refer to as the new year. We hope that 2007 has already been good to you and that the challenges of 2007 may be well received and, with reference to "art", indeed be challenging and fun. That's what it is all about.

Classes for 2007 are progressing well. Our already talented lineup of instructors is complimented by several new instructors that we are sure you will enjoy sharing time with. Please check out the class listing to see for yourselves and register early. We are sure that there is something for everyone!

The year has already proven to be a busy one for us here at the shop. If you have been in lately, you have had the opportunity of meeting some of our newest employees and team members. We are also very blessed not only for our wonderful team of instructors and employees but also because of you – our valued customers. We appreciate all that you do and all of your support. We could not do it alone!

We are continuing to plan our annual "Arts Triathlon" with what we hope to be a guest appearance by Claire Hampton, Hampton Arts Senior Educator. We should have more information soon and although a date has not been

announced we are hopeful for mid-July.

The Paper Connection now includes 70 members and is continuing to go strong. As you may already know, this is a members only club full of fabulous surprises and treats that your eyes will feast on all month long. Membership is growing and we would love to add you to the list so do let us know if you would like to become a member.

The 2007 "ENVY"lope contest with a \$100.00 first place prize is discussed later in this newsletter so check it out for more details. Start planning your creation now. It is loads of fun and generates a wealth of camaraderie as the entries are displayed in the shop. This is a wonderful way to share our creative spirit with the community of West Seattle as entries will be posted at Liberty Bell Printing just south of the shop along California Avenue. Read more about this great opportunity!

In the meantime, we hope that all of you are enjoying what you are doing and keeping rubber stamping in mind for most of your creative needs. Inventory is complete at the shop so you can expect to see more new and some old products start to fill the shelves. With CHA held in January, our manufacturers are anxious for you to see all the cool "stuff" which resulted from this HUGE trade show. For starters, have a great leap into Spring and begin to enjoy all its glory!

O "New" Stuff. As we have already mentioned, the annual trek to CHA took place in January. We have already met with most of our representatives who spent lots of time at the show and have placed several orders to bring in some of the new "stuff" and also include many of the old reliables. We are excited to share all this product with you and hope that you will enjoy seeing it as much as we did. Lots more to come...so... stay tuned!

We are happy to welcome more designs from the Lockhart Stamp Company. Karen Lockhart, Owner, has made a statement and continues to make a statement in this industry with her fabulous line of rubber stamp designs. Her newest ones are sophisticated, fun, and include even a little mischief! We've got them all so stop by for this must see collection! We are also pleased to mention that Karen will be a featured Demo Artist at our *15 April 07 Tax Relief Day*. She has some fun surprises up her sleeves so do *Save The Date!*

One of the companies we continue to support is Prickley Pear. Although not a large company, their designs are clean and easy to

Sun, 15 April 2007
"Tax Relief Day"

Lots of demos, tea, and fun!

The Boston tea party revisited – not really!

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use. We have a small sampling now and will increase this line.

Inkadinkado continues to be one of our favorite lines. We have just received many Spring and Easter rubber stamps from them and they are definitely proving to be popular so you can be sure to see more of this company make way to our shelves.

Many of our other favorites are expected soon. Let us know how we can help you. We are delighted to bring in new and interesting designs so do let us know.

O *Accessories and More.*

Accessories are fun to find and own and also to be able to explore their worth!! Some are terrific, some are wonderful, some great, some just OK, and some not OK. We really try hard here at the shop to carry only the top of the line products that this industry has to offer so we try to do our homework. Here are some of the things that came out of HIA or that have surfaced in the last few weeks. We do like what we see!!

Around the Block is known for its innovations and the Paper Tagger is no exception. This all new device comes in a starter kit for all to enjoy and is used to attach things to your projects. This device is similar to what you might find on new clothing which is immediately cut off once the clothing is purchased. It obviously adds a new element to your project and is just a fun "thing" to own.

We are expecting to bring in much more of the paper line from Memory Box. Their coordinated papers and envelopes come in great colors and have been very handy for that individual with little time for coordinating colors!

We have increased our inventory of several hard to find items such as faux optical lens testers, tiny

playing cards, tiny dice, small corked bottles, miniature clothes pins, and more so come on in and check it out. We also have lots of brads on hand in many shapes and sizes that can make embellishing very easy and fun. See you soon!

Some things that we should not forget about and consider as part of our toolbox include:

- SureTac Craft Glue which is an all purpose water soluble clear drying glue. Works great on many projects.
- Lots of embellishments for both the rubber stamper and the scrapbooker which include lots of stickers, metal signs, beads, mini charms, and more.
- Punches of all shapes and sizes including a mini file folder punch, a tiny envelope punch, and lots of assorted tag punches. The card creator punches are very popular for cornering any size card or even 12" x 12" paper.
- Versafine archival instant drying pigment ink. The colors are bold and work exceptionally well with very fine and detailed rubber stamps.
- Holeless plastic beads from Robin's Nest used to embellish and create highlights on any project. Very fun!
- A must have for any toolbox is the "Perfect Positioner" for handling and placing very small beads, rhinestones and such. Try it once and you'll see why it's a "gotta have".
- Paper and lots more paper. A huge assortment of 12" x 12" well suited to both the rubber stamper and the scrapbooker. If what you want is paper, we've got it!
- StazOn Inkpads ideal for lots of surfaces in assorted colors.

There is lots and lots more so take some time just for you and stop by to see things first hand!

The Paper Connection

Looking for some fun? Looking for some surprises? Looking for something different? "The Paper Connection" may be exactly 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 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 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.

"ENVY" Lope **Contest**

Friends and Company, along with Liberty Bell Printing and owner, Michael Hoffman, is announcing its 2007 "Envy"lope contest. It is simple and it is easy. Let your decorated envelope be the "envy" of everyone else's in this fun and energizing contest. A guaranteed first place \$100 gift certificate will be awarded to the winner by popular vote at Liberty Bell Printing. Cost is \$5.00 per entry. A complimentary 50 pack of size 10 envelopes (retail value \$4.00) will be issued to the first 20 entries

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so hurry on in!! Envelopes will be due back in the shop by mid-May at which time they will be displayed for voting. The popular vote winner will be announced in the July/August newsletter.

Class Notes

Our class lineup for March and April is fantastic. It definitely presents many opportunities and challenges for all levels. We offer a wide range of techniques and class themes that we are sure you will enjoy. 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.

- 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.

- 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 the Balcony Bash 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.

- Class packets must be picked up for unattended classes within two weeks of the scheduled class. Unclaimed packets will be donated.

- 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.

- 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. If a class requires you to bring a supply list, please be sure to distinctively mark your items to make certain of ownership.

We appreciate your becoming fully aware of these class policies and know that you understand the need for them.

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 \$12.00. All other class guidelines apply.

PLEASE NOTE THAT SENIOR CLASSES HAVE BEEN MOVED TO MONDAYS.

We hope this move will accommodate many folks who have requested this change. Please let us know how we are doing!

MONDAY CLASSES

12 Mar-Hero Arts
w/Diane Radischat
19 Mar-All Occasion
w/Doris Goulet
26 Mar-Stickers
w/Diane Radischat

9 Apr-Flower Gardens
w/Diane Radischat
23 Apr-Penny Black XIII
w/Diane Radischat

THANK YOU EVERYONE!!

All of us here at Friends and Company would like to take a moment to thank all of you who so willingly and generously donated to our 2006 Sweet Willie Fund Raiser. With all of your support,

we were able to meet our goal of \$1,000.00 again this year. To those of you who matched our challenge, we deeply appreciate your generous contribution and your willingness to recognize many of the needs that we can only imagine. Thank you all many times over.

We would also consider our 2006 food drive a HUGE success given that several barrels spilling out with donated goods were picked up by the West Seattle Food Bank. Our hearts are always warmed by the contributions you make at all our requests. Thank you for taking the time to stop and donate from your own personal purchases. You are all TERRIFIC!!

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 as one part of your automatic celebration!

Carolyn's Corner

Dear Carolyn – Sometime back, I purchased a set of Walnut Inks made by a manufacturer called Tsukineko. I bought them from a local store when I saw them used in a demo but now I can't for the life of me remember what to do with them. Sherry

Dear Sherry – It sort of makes me laugh because lots of folks pick up cool items at demos and such but then get home and can't quite duplicate what they saw in the demo. My first suggestion would be to try and get a hands on approach at such an event. This helps channel the process a bit

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better in the brain. It may not always be possible but it's worth trying. My second suggestion is to eliminate "timid" from your vocabulary and just play, play, and play some more. You just discover something great with a look that you really love. The Walnut Inks manufactured by Tsukineko are really quite wonderful. Their easiest use is to simply spray some of the ink onto the surface you are working with. This will result in a one of a kind and can be done on various types of paper and also to stain wood. My favorite paper is actually "glossy" or coated paper. I just love the look it gives to paper. Spraying is easy but as an added bonus, Tsukineko also has individual daubers which can be placed on top of the bottle after the spray nozzle is removed. With a dauber, you can easily add dots of walnut ink color to your project. Using glossy paper, it's easy to create a very subtle background. Daub lots of different colors and rub off the excess with a dry cloth or paper towel. Rubber stamp over the background and voila – instant and likely beautiful art. Playing around with these inks is truly a good thing. Take some time to do just that and most of all have fun!

Dear Carolyn – I'm not sure that I want to limit myself to this but I'm mildly curious about what you would recommend. If I could only purchase one inkpad on the market today, which one would I want? There are many to choose from but I really just want one! Muriel

Dear Muriel – That really is an interesting question but in my mind it is a very easy question to answer. Although there are many inkpads as you mentioned and all of them serve their own purpose, my number one choice would be the Versafine inkpad manufactured by Tsukineko. I don't own stock in this company but the performance of this ink is like no other. It

translates the finest of detail in a rubber stamp to paper with clarity and perfection like no other inkpad can that I have ever been acquainted with. Working quickly it will also emboss but I prefer just to stamp with it. Although there are not a ton of colors to choose from, I do love what they have and will continue to purchase them until I have the entire collection. Give the Versafine a shot. I think you will also just end up loving it!

Important Dates

- 1 Mar-"Envy"lope Contest Begins for 2007
- 1 Mar-Paper Connection Pickup Date
- 10 Mar-ATC Club Meeting
- 12 Mar-Card Swap
- 17 Mar-St. Patrick's Day
- 17 Mar-Mixed Media Club Meeting
- 31 Mar-Spring Balcony Bash
- 1 Apr-Paper Connection Pickup Date
- 8 Apr-Happy Easter/Closed
- 9 Apr-Card Swap
- 14 Apr-ATC Club Meeting
- 15 Apr-Tax Relief Demo**
- 21 Apr-Mixed Media Club Meeting

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.

Tips and Things

o Lose your newsletter? Go on-line to www.friends-n-company.com.

o Glenn Huff and Phil Smith –both friends, both retired, both bored. Looking for small handyman jobs that no one else wants to do because they are too small. Call the shop today and we will get you connected.

o Did you know that we have an AccuCut die cutting machine? Not many dies yet but the ones we have are fun! Stop in for a demo.

o Need a lift? Sign up for a rubber stamp class today. It will not only lift your spirits by attending class, but you'll likely garner lots of camaraderie as well. It's just amazing how this industry can bring folks together. Also consider joining a swap. It not only makes you BE creative but lets you know that you ARE creative!

o Need a special birthday "treat" for your child? Consider a rubber stamping birthday party where your child will make some great art and have lots of fun doing it. Information is available at the shop and planning ahead is a good idea!

HAPPY STAMPING!!

Until the next time,
Take Care – Doris