
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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November/December 2006

What's New?

Greetings Everyone! Whether we like it or not, the holidays are officially upon us. There is lots of time for planning if you want to have a hassle and stress free holiday so our best advice would be to get going! Getting all your handmade projects and holiday greeting cards done early will ensure that you have plenty of time for entertaining and frolicking with family and friends. We have a terrific lineup of holidays classes that just might suit your mood for gift giving so do check them out.

We remain extremely busy here at the shop especially now that the holidays are nearly in full swing. We have made some minor changes in our appearance at the shop and hope it will make your shopping experience more fun and invigorating. We like the look but any feedback is always welcomed.

Now that our 9-year anniversary has come and gone, we look forward to what the next year might bring. Many thanks to all of you who took time to participate in our celebration. It was definitely great fun and we were very happy to see so many of you here.

We would also like to take a minute to thank those of you who so warmly welcomed Cheryl Darrow, owner of Ten Seconds Studio, back to Seattle in October. Cheryl had another great visit to Seattle and we loved sharing our booth with her at the Auntie Amy Convention in Tacoma. The whole convention experience for us was incredible and we so enjoyed seeing so many

of you visit our booth. We would also like to officially thank Karen Lockhart from the Lockhart Stamp Company for spending the day with us as well. Karen's terrific line of rubber stamps speaks for itself so check it out as "gotta have" for any rubber stamp collection.

A very special thanks to all of our staff and friends for all their help before, during, and after the convention. We can never do it alone so BIG hugs to Sandy, Alice, Monya, Linda, Postal Di, M&M Di, Camille, and Nancy for all their hard work. We hope that their diligence and enthusiasm through their demos and/or assistance made your convention experience one of the best.

With the year 2006 drawing quickly to a close, we would like to say "Happy Holidays" to each and every one of you. Our wish for you is to have a very safe and fun filled holiday. Be sure to make all the sparkle and magic of the season come to life. It's a great time of year so enjoy all it has to offer along with your family and friends.

Used But Not Abused Rubber Stamp Sale

Thursday, 9 Nov 2006
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

"New" Stuff. The last month has been explosive with deliveries

of one sort or another almost every day. We are excited to see so much "new stuff" coming in and having the shelves so well stocked just in time for the holidays.

We are really pleased to introduce you to B-line Designs. This line of rubber stamps was first introduced by Friends and Company at the recent Tacoma convention and they are now gracing our shelves with their beauty, eclectiveness, and just plain fun. We hope you will enjoy them as much as we do. There are lots of them so there should be something for everyone!

A new order from Magenta has been received and includes some of the old time background favorites along with some fun new "stuff". Magenta has always been a mainstay in this industry and is always looking to introduce us to new things. We love them!

We currently have all of the old and new Artlenz rubber stamps for those of you who are fans of E-innovations, the founder of Artlenz. This is a great technique and really makes a card or project move when using both the Artlenz rubber stamps and a piece of the Artlenz sheet. So very cool!

The holiday shelves are looking pretty full with recent deliveries from Memory Box, Penny Black, Stampendous, Lockhart Stamp Company, and many more. We have also included a modest amount of unmounted rubber stamps from Darcie and Memory Box to compliment the unmounted rubber stamps from A Stamp In The Hand. The response has been

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very good so far so it is possible that we will bring in more unmounted rubber. Conventions are the best place thus far to find unmounteds but one never knows if they will continue to migrate to the shop. We suspect that time will tell. Let us know what you think!

Come visit soon. We need help in finding homes for all these great rubber stamps. See you soon!

O *Accessories and More.*

Since Memory Trends in early October, so many accessories have been introduced into this market. It can be difficult to keep up with at times so we do appreciate your input on some of these new products.

- If space saving is of interest to you, unmounted rubber stamps may be the direction you have headed into. For some of us, using unmounted alphabets is a real cost savings and rather easy to use with a new product made by Tsukineko called "Tack 'N Peel" which is used along with an acrylic block and an unmounted rubber stamp. It is easy to use and can be washed and used over and over again. Check it out!!
- We currently have most of the tools and molds in stock from Ten Seconds Studio. These accessories continue to be popular as more and more folks become acquainted with metal. Loads of fun products!
- For the Trading Card Artist (ATC), we finally have, in packs of 100, 2-1/2" x 3-1/2" blank pre-cut ATC cards. No more cutting!
- Our wishes have been answered as Die Cuts With A View (DCWV) introduces a whole line of adhesive backed ribbons. Included are five designs in 3-foot lengths in

each package. They are just yummy!!

- One great holiday gift idea is a completed "Tin Album" from DCWV. Four possibilities have been introduced which include round and square tins in white or black. It's easy to finish a series of these tins. They make a stunning gift!
- All of the Memory Box 6" x 6" paper packs, including several holiday themes, have arrived. As you already know, paper is a real passion. We recently bought the entire World Win line of 12" x 12" monochromatics. They are gorgeous! We definitely do not lack for colors!

There is lots more so stop in soon! If we don't have it and you want it, please do let us know.

Holiday Craft Sale

**Fri, 17 Nov, 10-7
Sat, 18 Nov, 10-5
Sun, 19 Nov, 10-5**

**Lots of great gift items to
choose from including
beads, jewelry, journals,
kitchenware, stained glass,
clothing, stocking stuffers,
wood products, knitted
items, soaps/lotions,
original paintings,
the forever famous
potholders
and so much much more!!**

Mark Your Calendar Today!

Important Dates

- 1 Nov-Paper Connection
Pick Up Date
- 5 Nov-Christmas Workshop

- 6 Nov-Christmas Workshop
- 9 Nov-Used Stamp Sale
- 14 Nov-ATC Club Mtg
- 17 Nov-Annual Craft Sale
- 18 Nov-Annual Craft Sale
- 19 Nov-Annual Craft Sale
- 23 Nov-Closed - Happy
Thanksgiving
- 1 Dec-Paper Connection
Pick Up Date
- 12 Dec-ATC Club Mtg
- 25 Dec-Closed - Happy
Holidays
- 1 Jan-Closed - Happy
New Year

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 themed 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.

Now is a great opportunity to sign up family and friends to receive this great package each month. Sometimes gift giving can be difficult this time of year and best of all, it does not have an electrical cord attached to it so anyone receiving it is sure to be pleased. 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.

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

"Envy"lope contest

Congratulations to Shelley Burnett who won the 2006 "Envy"lope contest. Shelley was awarded a \$100 gift certificate to the shop. We really appreciate all of you who took time to vote. The entries were fabulous and included a wide range of interests. They are currently posted for all to see so stop in soon. We especially appreciate those of you who took time to enter and share your talents with all of us.

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 \$12. All other class guidelines apply.

WEDNESDAY CLASSES

- 1 NOV-Penny Black XI (PB)
w/Diane Radischat
- 15 Nov-PB Holiday Stickers
w/Diane Radischat
- 29 Nov-Christmas Tags
w/Diane Radischat
- 6 Dec-Pearl-Ex
w/Diane Radischat
- 13 Dec-Iris Folding
w/Lindy Combs
- 27 Dec-Snowpeople Fun
w/Doris Goulet

Carolyn's Corner

Dear Carolyn –I have been rubber stamping for several years and I have recently discovered that lots of people would like to buy some of my work. I'm not sure exactly how to make this happen as I have been told that many companies will not allow me to use their artwork for resale. Do you have any advice for a "newbie" in this market? Amy

Dear Amy – It is true that some companies continue to have a non-angel policy as it is referred to in this industry. A company who has an open angel policy will generally allow you to do whatever you would like for resale provided that each item is hand stamped. In other words – no mechanical reproductions are allowed. I have made reference to this topic in this column before. It is an ongoing and often hotly debated topic. The site "littlebits.com/bbs/bbsrs.htm" lists many rubber stamping companies and what their policy is. This is a good starting point and, if you have any doubts, contact the company directly. Some will even issue you a stamp that can be used on your projects which reflects them as the maker of the stamp. It is initially tedious to do but in the long run will pay off if your sales go well. Lots of luck!

Dear Carolyn – I am a fan of die cuts, but with so many different machines to choose from that create the die cuts, I am somewhat perplexed. Each has its own uniqueness which makes it that much more difficult. What would your recommendation be if you could choose only one? I would like to market some of the output so I would like a machine that is not tedious and produces an outstanding product. I am looking forward to your reply. Jennifer

Dear Jennifer – Right off the top of my head, I would recommend the Accu-Cut. This unit has been around for a very long time. Lots of schools own them which should tell both of us something. It is also possible to have your own unique die cuts made by the company which manufactures them. This is a real bonus when you want to market the output. You would need to inquire directly from other companies to find out if this is an option. If you are not in a position

to own one just yet, testing the market by using one that is available from a scrapbook store or rubber stamping store is a good option. It's possible that either would have many different machines on site so that you could try them all out for yourself. Bottom line is that these machines are great and have lots of possibilities. I personally would like to own all of them but that is not possible. Good luck with your search. I'm sure that once you get started, it will all fall into place.

Class Notes

Our class lineup for November and December presents many great opportunities. It is full of terrific ideas and many opportunities for fun and getting projects started or completed for gift giving all year long. We are pleased to include a beginners scrapbooking class so do check it out. 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.
- Some classes now require students to bring a "Basic Class Kit" with them to class. Please see the list of class descriptions for more information and what the kit needs to contain. Keeping costs down is essential, therefore, we hope that this new requirement will help 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

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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.

Annual Fund Raisers

HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

Our annual food drive began on September 1st and ends on December 30th. Feel free to bring in non-perishable food donations any time during this period. Anyone bringing in five non-perishable food items at one time will receive a 15% off coupon good for their entire purchase of regularly priced merchandise good any time during the food drive. Our annual goal is better than 300 pounds and we would like to fill the Food Bank again this year! Our barrel is nearly full for our first deposit so keep it coming! You have been extremely generous in years past and we hope to see many of you again this year.

SWEET WILLEY ROUNDUP

As most of you already know, we have been hosting the Sweet Willey "roundup" for all of 2006. We are about to expand our roundup (dropping change into the jar) to

mimic our fund raising effort for Sweet Willey similar to that of last year. Here is the challenge. Help the thermometer reach the top. Last year's donations topped \$1000.00 and we'd like to do it again. Each \$10.00 donation pops the mark up one notch. But wait – there is more. Anyone donating a tax deductible donation of \$100.00 or more will receive a one-time 25% off their entire shopping spree at Friends and Company. All donations of any size are tax deductible. We'd like to hear from you before 31 December 2006 to make your donation count!

"STUFF"

- o Looking for something different for a birthday party but don't want to clean the house? Need a place to meet monthly? Want to get together with some of your friends? Call the shop for details on using the balcony for any of these events.

- o Interested in forming a stamping club? Call the shop and we'll help you with acquiring members.

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 yous" for the bride to be, and you could even consider a stamping bridal shower or stamping baby shower, or whatever else fun you can think of!! We have the instructors, we have the space, and we have the cleanup!!

- o When using a bone folder on your cardstock, eliminate the sheen it leaves behind by placing a piece of scratch paper over the top of the cardstock and then applying the bone folder to it!!

- o Host a "Punch Your Art Out" day. Invite all of your friends to spend an afternoon together along with all of their punches. Bringing

at least one punch is their password to attending your event. All your guests can then punch their art out all afternoon from all of the punches so that everyone has a great stash for when the punched art is needed. Saves lots of money, unless, of course, you must have one of everything. Imagine that!!

- o Host a holiday event where your guests create some great greeting cards using your supplies and materials for their own personal take home "shoebox" stash". Make it your holiday gift to them saving you lots of holiday shopping hassles and money to boot!

- o Tired of fighting your tape roll looking for the start of it. Use a tab from your loaf of bread and attach it to the beginning of the roll each time you use it. No more frustration looking for the start. Thanks Diane for that great tip!

- o Have a hard to buy for person on your holiday gift list? Subscribe them to a 6-month membership to "The Paper Connection". Takes care of your mother-in-law, sister, aunt, cousin, etc. What better gift to give. Don't forget to put yourself on that list!

- o Start a magazine club where members share their magazines. Saves money and allows members a greater range of magazines.

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

HAPPY STAMPING!!

Until the next time,

Take Care – Doris