

Theft of Craft Ideas

The following information was submitted by **Don Hendershott** outrigger@comcast.net after a discussion he had with me at the February meeting. It is worth a few minutes of your time to read Don's thoughts and comments. It also gives our show committees thoughts to ponder to post at our shows. Pat O.

The March issue of **Crafts Report** has an article on the theft of craft ideas and is authored by a reformed craft idea thief. The article has useful information if you are concerned about someone stealing your ideas for their own benefit or to be copied overseas and sold dirt cheap back here in the States.

Of particular interest is the technique of using a camera phone to take pictures of our creations. The thief can accomplish this quickly and largely unnoticed by the crafter. As you said, you have experience with people standing in front of your booth and sketching your crafts. Several years ago, we had the same experience. However, last year, we stopped a man from using a camera phone to take pictures of our Santa's. When confronted, he said he was "just taking pictures for the internet." We don't know if he was successful in capturing any of our designs.

The show was not a Guild show so there were no signs forbidding pictures at the entrance. Unfortunately, neither our Holiday or Spring shows restrict pictures so a thief can take as many pictures as the artist will allow.

At any rate, for those members who are concerned about the theft of their designs, they should be reminded that the popular camera phone is a threat and this **Crafts Report** article may be of interest.

Kutztown Cultural Heritage Center

We are in need of instructors for Children's Camp at Kutztown Heritage Center to be held July 24 - 27, 2006. Please teach a craft or help with any project of your choosing for 1 hour, 1 day during that time frame. You can work with children ages 6 to 8 or 8 to 11 years old. Please call me as soon as possible. *Elaine Vorkjan, Kutztown Rep*

Happy Valentines Day

Thank You

I would like to thank all the members who sent me cards, notes and gifts after receiving the **Pagoda Award for Lifetime Achievement in Arts**. A special thank you to Annie Harlin and all the people who helped her with the nomination and the members who attended the Pagoda Awards given by The Berks Arts Council.

It was a most memorable evening for me and that the Reading-Berks Guild also received recognition for its projects and activities in Berks County and throughout the state of Pennsylvania. I hope that I will be able to participate in the arts community for many years to come.

W. Eugene Burkhardt, Jr.

Newsletter

Newsletter deadline is the 10th of the month. I try to have the info to the printer by the 13th and pick up by the 15th of the month so it is to the post office by the 17th of the month. Unfortunately those members and recipients of our newsletter living outside Berks County (195 - 196 zipcodes), apparently are not receiving their mail until 2 or more weeks later. If you are not receiving your newsletter in a timely manner, please let us know. Thank you. *Pat Oxenford, Newsletter Editor*

2nd Annual American Cancer Society's Relay for Life

You can make a difference in someone's life! Once again the team, **Matz family and friends** will be taking part at the Reading area Relay for Life to be held at FirstEnergy Stadium on April 21-22, 2006.

This year, cancer will strike more than 1.3 million Americans and take more than half a million lives. Unfortunately many of our members have family or friends who have been touched by cancer and **we are grateful that they are survivors**. This overnight relay event unites our community in a common effort to support the American Cancer Society in its lifesaving mission. Won't you please help by joining our team and/or making a contribution.

Contact **Kristin Matz Gawlik**, 420 Fairmont Drive, Chester Springs, PA 19425. Phone 610-458-8208 or tygawlik@comcast.net if you have questions, to make a donation, or would like to join their team.