



# READING-BERKS CHAPTER

*Pennsylvania Guild of Craftsmen*

P.O. Box 85, Mohnton, PA 19540

*Reading-Berks Guild Website: [www.rbcrafts.org](http://www.rbcrafts.org)*

*Volume 64 Issue 1*

*January 2012*

## *President's Message*

Happy 2012! I hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and my wish for everyone is good health and blessings for a great 2012. Did you all remember to renew your memberships? If you allow your membership to lapse, your jury status runs out also.

When you read this message, the first meeting of the year will be over and the door prize slips from the Holiday Show will have been alphabetized and sent out to be placed on our mailing list. Our first show meeting exclusively for our Spring Show 2012 will also have taken place. We are in need of a volunteer for our show committee to help with our raffles. If you would like to be on the show committee in this capacity please get in touch with Terry Boyer, Carolyn Handwerk or myself. It has been proven that the more people we have helping with our festivals, the more successful they have become. Our Spring Festival will be here before you can blink your eye and the show committee has shifted into hyper drive. The Spring Festival should be a very busy weekend; all those people who couldn't get to our Holiday Festival because of the weather will be most anxious to see us in March--so let's all get busy and ready to sell!--Did you send in your application??

"What you think of yourself is much more important than what others think of you." Seneca  
*Your President, Barry L. Bennecoff*

## *Program*

The February 7, 2012 program will be presented by those members who applied for and were randomly selected as our 2011 Mini Grant Recipients. **Doug Moran, Louise Mehaffey, Donna Jones and Marilyn Pounder** will each present a short program on how they used their Mini Grant to enhance their craft. This is always an interesting program, so hope to see you at our February meeting. *Elaine Vardjan, Program Chairperson*

## *BCTV - "Your Berks Craftsmen"*

The January 18, 2012 program will be Gifts and Crafts for Your Family. Both **Judy Boyer** and **Gene Burkhart** will present the program showing how to make items the whole family can enjoy and make, including the instructions as they make the items during the program. This should be a fun program for the entire family.

**Louise Mehaffey** will discuss her new book (second book) on glass beads during the February 15, 2012 "Your Berks Craftsmen" program.

If you would like to present a program on BCTV, please contact Gene Burkhart. *W. Eugene Burkhart, Jr., "Your Berks Craftsmen" Host*

## *Annual Charity Donation for 2011*

Each year our chapter donates to a charity. Several years ago the Board of Directors decided that our charity would annually be **The GoggleWorks Children's Educational Fund** which provides after school and other art educational programs for children who may otherwise not have the funds to participate in such projects. We traditionally receive our members' donations at our annual Holiday Social, and the chapter matches the donated funds up to \$500. However, this past December our attendance was down at the Holiday Social, likewise a poor attendance at the January meeting, so ... it has been decided to extend the acceptance of donations to our February meeting. We encourage you to make a donation to this cause, if sending a check, please mark the memo line "chapter charity donation". Thank you.

## ***With Our Sincere Sympathy***

It is with sadness that we note the passing of long time chapter member, **Stanley Boyer**. Stanley attended and enjoyed our Holiday Social along with Nancy and Bob Ballantyne on December 6, 2011, and within the next day or so, he had a massive stroke. He was hospitalized a few days in the Pottstown Hospital where he passed away. He is survived by a daughter, son-in-law and grandson.

Stanley and his wife Ruth (who passed away several years ago) were world-wide travelers, and visited every state in the United States as well. Ruth was an avid knitter and Stanley still provided her hand-knit sweaters for BCTV's annual Octoberfest Auction. Stanley was known for his braided rugs, and very pleased with rug sales from his fall shows of 2011. If you ever visited their home, Stanley was very proud of the world map with all the push pins noting the places they visited, as well as showing the artifacts from their many foreign travels.

## ***Standards***

The next chapter jurying session will be held at GoggleWorks on Tuesday, March 13, 2012 beginning at 7:00 PM. Set up time is 6:30 PM. Contact Louise Mehaffey for more information and the application forms. *Louise Mehaffey, Standards*

*Chairperson*

## ***Newsletter***

The information for the February newsletter should be to me by Wednesday, February 8, 2012 for inclusion in that newsletter. Thanks, *Pat Oxenford,*

*Newsletter Editor*

## ***Thank you***

Many thanks to **Barry Bennecoff**, **Carolyn Handwerk** and **Cleon Garl** for assisting **Gene Burkhart** to decorate the Christmas tree at GoggleWorks with our chapter member's ornaments. Also their help was appreciated to assist with taking down the Christmas tree decorations as well.

## ***Get Well Wishes***

We have many members added to our prayer list during this past holiday season and we wish them all good health and happiness in 2012!

Please add the following members: **Carolyn Handwerk**, **Don** and **Silvia Hendershott**, **Ray Oxenford**, and **Matt Vardjan** to your prayers. Continue to keep **Terry Boyer**, **Skip Hamaker**, **Wayne Schildt**, **Anita Geiger**, **Lucy Neilson**, **Walter** and **June Gottshall**, **Katie Bauer-Fooks**, and **Judy Snyder's mother** in your prayers.

## ***Members in the News***

Back on November 20, 2011, hopefully you saw the picture of **Skip and Jean Hamaker** on page C12 of the *Reading Eagle*. Jean surprised Skip with a party, inviting many of his friends who annually attended their holiday parties.

Wednesday, December 7, 2011, the *Reading Eagle* featured a picture of **Gene Burkhart with the Christmas Tree** decorated with our chapter's handmade ornaments (page A2). The GoggleWorks lobby was a beehive of activity during the holiday season of visitors admiring the beautiful ornaments.

## ***PA German Cultural Heritage Center***

Thanks to everyone who participated in Christmas-on-the-Farm, we hope you had a great day.

Our next event will be **Easter-on-the-Farm** on **Saturday, March 31, 2012** (the Saturday after our Spring Festival and the day before Palm Sunday). If you are interested in exhibiting and selling your work in our Log Cabin that day contact Pat Oxenford ASAP to reserve your space. Hours are 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM.

We are also thinking ahead to **Kids Camp for 2012**, to be held Monday through Friday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> to July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012. If you have a traditional craft or activity that you would like to share with those attending camp that week we are anxious to hear from you. The morning sessions are for the younger children while the afternoon sessions are for young teens, and you only need to attend one day, not all week; also contact Pat Oxenford for more info.

## **PICK UP YOUR ORNAMENTS**

Ornaments used to decorate the Christmas tree at GoggleWorks were those from 2009 and 2010 from the PA Governor's Mansion. **We would appreciate that you pick up your remaining ornaments no later than our February chapter meeting -- February 7, 2012.** Or, call Gene to make other arrangements for pick up. Any ornaments not picked up by our February chapter meeting will then become permanent positions of our Reading-Berks Chapter. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

## ***Spring Show News***

Hello to all, this has been an interesting last couple of months after our most unusual Holiday Show. Now the shows must go on, with our, Spring Fine Arts and Crafts Show of 2012 by the Reading Berks Guild of Craftsmen.

Last year our 2011 Spring Fine Art & Crafts Show was a very successful show. We had a 26% increase with attendance and it seemed like all of the people that attended shopped for the All-American Arts & Crafts from our Juried Artisans. That show gave us the confidence to move forward with many new ideas for our 2011 Holiday Festival. We expanded the advertising through the 3-state area and all of the surrounding counties of Berks. Entertainment was increased as well with the Martin Family doing a Mini concert with the Acoustic Roadshow.

For the Holiday Festival we moved and expanded the layout of the show by enclosing the show's outer edges with Pipe & Drape black curtains. It was a super success until our fall surprise ... **SNOW!** Well in the end we still had a great show with this extra surprise. So, with all of the changes and extra advertising we did OK.

The goal is the same and we are moving forward and creating a top-notch show ... American-Made and Crafted by the Artisan at each and every booth at the show, including the students from our surrounding colleges in the Student Gallery.

So, please come and give us all a second chance so we can allow our customers to take us to the next level of ***The Best Fine Arts and Crafts Show in the East Coast***. Note: Fine artists and other chapter members are totally welcome.

Our Show application is on our Website, [www.rbcrafts.org](http://www.rbcrafts.org).

To our Reading-Berks members, past and/or return artisans of our shows, if you see and just love the work of another great artist, have them call and/or email any one of us on the Committee and we will do the rest.

Thanks to All of our Fine Members of our Great Guild. *Chairpersons, Terry & Judy Boyer*

[Wc1860@verizon.net](mailto:Wc1860@verizon.net)

610-693-5467

\*\*\*\*\*

## ***Show Volunteers***

Many volunteers are needed before, during and after the show. If you can give of your time please contact **Carol Haile**, who is now taking over the position of Show Volunteer Coordinator.

\*\*\*\*\*

# Reading-Berks Chapter's Spring Fine Arts and Crafts Festival Kutztown University's Field House

Saturday, March 24, 2012 -- 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Sunday, March 25, 2012 -- 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM