



Reading-Berks Guild of Craftsmen

www.rbcrafts.org

Second Quarter 2015 Newsletter

President's Message

When February 2 came around and the Groundhog saw his shadow, I figured we would have the six more weeks of winter----well, at this point I am just hoping that Spring arrives before the Fourth of July!

I along with our show committee and our board apologize for having to cancel our Spring Festival. We are truly sorry for any inconvenience this has caused you. The show committee is continuing to work hard on our Holiday Festival which will be on October 31 and November 1, 2015. These dates are set in stone. Rack cards are available for our Holiday Show and I will have them at our next general meeting.

The BCIU Art Show held at the GoggleWorks was an extraordinary event and I thank Carol Haile, Louise Mehaffey and Matt Vardjan who were the judges and had the tough job of choosing the winners of our awards among the many entries. Berks County has an abundance of talent and a big thank you is due to the art teachers at our schools and again to the GoggleWorks for producing such a great event. The awards ceremony this year was top notch.

Matt Vardjan, our program chairperson, has some great programs lined up for the next several months. We hope to see our members at these meetings, especially now that the weather (hopefully) is cooperating. June is our annual picnic at Gring's Mill and I am just visualizing the picnic tables laden with all the great food made by our guild members. DELICIOUS!

Another great event coming up at the end of summer will be an auction of the 150 pieces of W. Eugene Burkhart's work. This will be held on September 12, 2015, at Renninger's Market in Kutztown. Please watch your e-mail for more information on this great event.

The website committee is very close to unveiling the Reading-Berks Guild of Craftsmen new website. I am sure you will be pleased with the updating of your new website.

Hope to see my fellow craftsmen at our meeting in April. That night will be a big night for 4 lucky craftsmen. We will be awarding 4 Mini-grant winners that night.

So until then, I leave you with this--"It is easy to take liberty for granted when you have never had it taken from you." Dick Cheney.

Your President, Barry L. Bennecoff

Program

Our programs for the next few months will be fun.

The April 7th program will be Dave Glasser and Chris Frey the GlassWerks Stained Glass Studio. These two gave a great talk at their newly juried presentation.



The May 5th program will be a field trip to Taylor Backes Glass Studio at 150 South Washington St, Boyertown, PA 19512 (corner of 2nd and Washington Streets). Visit their website to get a preview of what we will see: www.taylorbackes.com



June 2nd is our annual picnic starting at **6 PM** Rain or Shine at Gring's Mill, 2083 Tulpehocken Rd, Reading, PA 19610. Bring your favorite picnic covered dish or desert. Main course, paper product and drinks are provided. The picnic area is in the top part of the building next to the river. The parking area is at the entrance but you can drive down to the picnic area if you have something heavy to drop off or if you are handicapped.

Hope to see you at all of these events! **Matt Vardjan, Program Chair**

PA German Cultural Heritage Center (PGCHC)

Easter on the Farm was held on Saturday, March 28, 2015, a very cold and windy day. Attendance was better than last year, with lots of children attending the two scheduled egg hunts.

The next events at PGCHC will be Heemet Fescht on Saturday, September 26, 2015 from 9 AM to 4 PM; and Christmas on the Farm Saturday, December 5, 2015 from 9 AM to 4 PM. Kids Camp is scheduled for the week of July 27 through 31, 2015 for ages 6 to 14; if you would like to teach a craft, please contact Amanda Richardson for more information at 610-683-1589 or email at arichard@kutztown.edu.

Currently the log cabin is still under reconstruction. The logs have been replaced, but the chinking is not yet completed and the end windows need to be installed.

Pat Oxenford, Kutztown Rep.

Festivals

We would like to bring you up to date with our show news.

We want to apologize to all for the cancellation of the Spring Show. We tried to have the show on another weekend at KU; and that was impossible, everything else was booked. We thought about another location but that would have been too far away and more costly. The only thing we could do was to cancel the show.

We advertised in all of our publications that we were cancelling the show and invited customers to the Holiday Show. Luckily for us, the rack cards weren't mailed and most of the advertising was cancelled before it was printed.

For all that paid their booth fee for the Spring Show and applied it to the Holiday Show, thank you. Your booth cost was applied at the lower Spring show prices. If we missed you and or you want to make different arrangements, contact Carol Haile.

Now we are at an interesting situation, how can we make a better Holiday show this year? We are looking into a more friendly show for the whole family, with a hands on area, make and take, hunt the craft game, the list can go on and on. We will have scheduled demonstrations throughout the weekend; as well as, those who demonstrate all day. All demonstrations will be duly noted in the program. If you are interested drop us an email or call. For demo'ing you can request an extra 5' feet at no extra cost to you. You must be able to cover all three sides of your booth, including the extra area for demos.

Advertising will play an even larger roll for future shows including the Holiday Show. We need you to advertise the show through your free rack cards and to take advantage of placing ad's with us in the supplement papers for the tri county area. There will be more information on the website. We are also going to be more aggressive with other forms of social media.

Please promote our shows to other top-notch artisans and have them go on line for the application. To make the show successful, help us promote the show; and we'll help you by offering advertising opportunities.

Holiday Show will be Oct. 31st & Nov. 1st 2015.

Thanks, ***Terry & Judy Boyer, Show chairs***

phone: 484-248-6275, email: Tjboyer@1860woodco.com

Totes

Roomy black totes emblazoned with our Reading-Berks Guild of Craftsmen logo in white are still available. \$1 each. These totes work well for most customer purchases and carry just about anything comfortably. Totes will be available at the upcoming meeting or by arrangement with Carol Haile inkpencjh@msn.com

Standards

Three members passed jury on March 10th: Susan Birchall for Decorative Painting, Sally King Shanahan for Decorative Painting and Theorems, and Nancy Stauffer for Decorative Painting

The next jury session is scheduled for Tues, September 8 at the Goggleworks. Members who have belonged to our chapter for a minimum of 3 months are eligible to present their work for jurying. For more information or for an application, go to rbcrafts.org, contact Louise at eglassplace@gmail.com or 484-334-6301.

Louise Mehaffrey, Standards

Education

Mini-Grants: Winners will be drawn from the applicants at a drawing on April 7, 2015, General Meeting. Applicants must be present to win. Winners of the Mini-Grants must present a 15 minute presentation of how they used the Grant money in 2016.

BCIU Student Awards: As part of the Reading-Berks Guild of Craftsmen's Stanley G. Seltz Student Award Program, the following awards were presented at the 2015 Berks County Intermediate Unit's High School Art & Craft Exhibit ceremony which was held at the GoggleWorks on March 8.



THE BURKHART-GERHART FAMILY AWARD
Serenna Seidel, Oley Valley, Lion Mosaic \$100



THE HEDWIG MILLER FIBER ARTS AWARD
Sarah Norton, Schuylkill Valley, Quilt \$100



THE RUTHANNE HARTUNG
TWO-DIMENSIONAL AWARD
Vivian Azar, Oley Valley, Book Art, \$100



THE WIB LAUTER AWARD FOR BEST
TRADITIONAL WORK
Hannah Gehris, Oley Valley,
Body of work in Pottery, \$100



THE STANLEY G. SELTZ AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT
IN DESIGN AND CRAFTSMANSHIP
Daniela Garcia, Reading High, Body of work in both Fine Art and Craft, \$100



FINE ARTS, 1st Prize
Amber Shi, Berks Catholic, Portrait in Blue, \$100



FINE ARTS, 2nd Prize
Colin Geary, Twin Valley, Oil Painting of Dog, \$75



CRAFTS, 1st Prize
Alexis Albu, Oley Valley,
Star/Moon/Sun Mosaic \$100



CRAFTS, 2nd Prize
Alex Roush, Twin Valley, Batik \$75



CRAFTS, 3rd Prize Desirae VanBuskirk, Hamburg, Butterfly Mosaic \$50

AWARDS OF MERIT



Nikki Bona, Berks Career & Technical,
“Frosted Whiskers” photograph



Gabby Binando
Boyertown, Pottery (giraffe)

Carol Haile, Education Chair

Auction of W. Eugene Burkhart’s Artwork

An auction of Gene’s Burkhart’s artwork, awards, books, etc will be held on Saturday, September 12, 2015 at Renninger’s Market, Kutztown. Time TBA. Bill Howze, Auctioneer. Gonna be fun!

Media

Currently being televised on BCTV, "Your Berks Craftsmen" is the March show hosted by our Education Chairperson Carol Haile. Carol takes you on a whirlwind tour of the very popular BCIU Student Art Show at the GoggleWorks. This show also highlights the winners of our student awards. **DO NOT MISS THIS SHOW.**

Next month, get your cameras ready because Paul Grecian will be the guest artist on "Your Berks Craftsmen" Paul took us on a "shoot" this summer at the Kutztown Folk Festival and that will air on the live segment as well. I am hoping we will all get some great pointers from Paul; so again, this is another show you will not want to miss. "Your Berks Craftsmen" airs on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM or you can watch it after the live show on your computer at BCTV.org.

Every October, BCTV has an Octoberfest auction and the great craftsmen from our Guild have always been generous with their donations of a crafted item for this event. I am asking you now to continue this tradition but am asking if you can start bring in your donations earlier than the usual August or September. The reason is this: BCTV is putting the items up on a website for the viewing public to see before hand what will be at the auction. Great idea for you, the craftsmen, because this will give you some publicity and great for the public to see ahead of time what will be available to bid on that Thursday Night of Crafts. BCTV will be accepting crafts through September and as they are received the crafts will be put on the website. Bring your donation to the general meeting and I will see that it gets to the studio. Allow me to again thank you for your continued generosity to BCTV. BCTV is great for Reading-Berks Guild of Craftsmen and it is a great pleasure to work with them and their very professional and wonderful staff. We are lucky to have BCTV and be able to reach the public on this local TV station.

"Your Berks Craftsmen" Host-Kay Bennecoff

Members in the News:



Pat & Ray Oxenford The Reading Eagle's article called "Treasure Hunt, New art done the old way" by Mary Young on February 4, 2015 describes how she discovered the Oxenford's Folk Art. She talks about Pat's tole painting from her start to 1972 to her 1998 recognition in Early American Life magazine as one of the top 200 traditional craftsmen to her current work. Ray's woodworking, tinsmithing and restoration of old clocks are described. Their work together makes beautiful reproductions.

To read the entire article, search on your web browser for: Reading Eagle Oxenford

The Reading Eagle's Voices section featured an article called "High school artists honored" on Tuesday, March 17, 2015. This article included awards given on March 8, 2015 to BCIU students at the GoggleWorks Center for the Arts. Reading-Berks Guild of Craftsmen's awards were mentioned and several nice photos of the award winners are included. The winners were also mentioned in the Life section of the Reading Eagle on Sunday, March 22, 2015.

To read the entire article, search for: Reading Eagle High School Artists

Website

rbcrafts.org is getting a new look. We hope to have the new website up and running in the next few days. A new website means new features:

We now have a blog which will give you the latest news whether it is a meeting cancellation due to weather (we hope those are over for 2015!) to the latest news on our upcoming festival.

We have a new searchable membership directory. It contains the members, their craft, website and hometown. Need to contact a craftsman? Send a note to us using Contact Us. The Gallery is a collection of members work. Don't see you work, send your images to sandra@stonestrowpottery.com

We have more information about our Festivals. Visit the Festival pages, we have made it easier to see our Exhibitor's List, Demonstrations, Videos, to print coupons, get directions and so much more! We have made it easier for our exhibitors to get information they may need with our new Info for Exhibitors.

If you want to know more about Reading-Berks Guild of Craftsmen visit the Our Guild pages, we have details on our community outreach, education programs and so much more!

We've created an area for member resources, these pages include our standards, newsletter archives, important links to areas of the website like the monthly meetings, even how to order a new badge.

There is a newsroom for press releases and items that have been in the press. We hope to continue to expand this area overtime.

New buttons: Join takes you to a page giving tell you how to join our guild. Search takes you to our searchable membership list. Email us takes you to our contact us page with a dropdown menu of topics so that your email gets to the correct person faster. Of course, we have a Facebook link and a signup for our festivals emails link.

Did we mention lots more photos? We are very excited about putting some faces to our guild website. Have fun exploring!

The Website Committee

In Our Prayers & Card Shower

It has been a difficult winter for some of our members and mishaps with the ice & snow. Nancy Anderson & Mike Brown are both dealing with a broken leg. We wish them a good recovery & a better year ahead.

Please keep Chris Murray, Anita Geiger, Eileen Flickinger, and Bernadette Wargo in your prayers:

Chris Murray 106 W. Ruth Ave. Phoenixville, PA 19460

Nancy Anderson: 1104 Chestnut Rd., Orwigsburg, PA 17961

Mike Brown: PO Box 816, Adamstown, PA 19501

Eileen Flickinger: 250 State St., Hamburg, PA 19526

Bernadette Wargo: 178 Hospital Rd., Wernersville, PA 19565

Anita Geiger: 433 S. Kinzer Ave. Springwood E112, New Holland, PA 17557 *note updated info

If you are aware of anyone who could use some "sunshine" through a greeting card, please contact Carolyn Handwerk 610-693-8187 or e-mail kchandtin@verizon.net

Those who received cards in the past, were appreciative and I'm Thanking You for remembering our guild members. ***Carolyn Handwerk, Sunshine Girl***

Important Dates to Remember

Chapter Meeting: Tuesday, April 7, 2015 - 7 PM

Field Trip to Taylor Backes: Tuesday, May 5, 2015 - 7 PM

Picnic at Gring's Mill: Tuesday, June 2, 2015 - 6 PM

No General meeting in July

Board Meetings: Wednesday, April 29, 2015 - 7 PM

Wednesday, May 27, 2015 - 7 PM

No Board meeting in June

***Auction of W. Eugene Burkhart's artwork Sat. Sept. 12, 2015
at Renninger's Market, Kutztown***

Holiday Show: Oct. 31 & Nov. 1, 2015

Deadline for application October 1, 2015

Board of Directors

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| President, Barry Bennecoff | 610-562-7226 |
| Vice President, Ken Moyer | 610-779-4126 |
| Secretary, Kay Bennecoff | 610-562-7226 |
| Treasurer, John Haile | 610-374-7048 |
| Membership, June Moyer | 610-779-4126 |
| Standards, Louise Mehaffey | 484-248-6301 |
| Newsletter, Sandra Jones | 610-779-5177 |

Committee Chairs

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Shows, Judy & Terry Boyer | 484-248-6275 |
| Media, Kay Bennecoff | 610-562-7226 |
| Education, Carol Haile | 610-374-7048 |
| Program, Matt Vardjan | 610-689-5324 |
| Kutztown Rep., Pat Oxenford | 610-385-3431 |
| Sunshine Girl, Carolyn Handwerk | 610-693-8187 |

Newsletter

Newsletters will be sent out Quarterly in January, April, July, and October. To be included in the Quarterly Newsletter, please send your article to me by the 25th of the month before month of issue. If needed e-mail blasts will be sent out monthly with updates and reminders. Any updates should be sent to me by the end of the month, allowing for updates to be sent out before the next general meeting.

Sandra Jones, sandra@stonestrowpottery.com, Newsletter Editor