



# **Reading-Berks Guild of Craftsmen**

www.rbcrafts.org

## **Fourth Quarter 2015 Newsletter**

### **President's Message**

Autumn is in the air! Warm days and cool nights, apple cider and Friday night football games. This is a busy time for everyone one, but if you are a member of Reading-Berks Guild of Craftsmen it means one more thing. You are extra busy getting ready for the 66th Annual Holiday Fine Arts and Crafts Festival witch is happening on October 31 and November 1, 2015, at Kutztown University in the O'Pake Field House. YOU are what make this one of the premier arts and crafts shows in Pennsylvania and without YOU it will not be the same. We are always in need of volunteers to help make the show a success during these two days; so, when Carol or Cleon ask, please say "yes". The show committee is very appreciative of what our members do to help make the show a positive experience for all in attendance. The show committee has welcomed the return of another volunteer, Karen Myers. Karen is back doing our graphic artwork and well, we are just so pleased! Welcome back Karen!

So if you are one of those last minute, I forgot to send in my application to do our Holiday Show craftsmen, SEND IT Immediately!. At this time we have 100 artists and craftsmen participating in this year's show.

October is very busy for another reason. It is Octoberfest at BCTV the week of October 19 and on October 22, at 6:00 PM there will be crafts on the auction block. Reading-Berks Guild of Craftsmen and many craftsmen from the Kutztown Folk Festival have made donations to BCTV for their annual fundraiser and this will be the night to bid on your favorite item and help BCTV at the same time. So don't miss out on this event. Go to [www.BCTV.org](http://www.BCTV.org) and you can view the items on line. There will also be available on line bidding!. Please support BCTV! BCTV is a great friend to Reading-Berks Guild of Craftsmen. And speaking of BCTV, "Your Berks Craftsmen" appears once a month on the third Wednesday of each month. Kay is looking for stars for 2016 and she tells me that she will be forming her line up soon. Talk to her at the Holiday show if you are ready for your "Close Up"!

I can't finish this note without saying thanks to Bob and Nancy for a great program last month! It was interesting and it was fun. So let's all get back into our workshops and studios, put finishing touches on our pieces and get ready for a great show. After our show, we will get together for our Christmas party at the Yellow House Hotel for our December meeting and the only work we will be doing that night is strictly fun and relaxation! Remember: "To live a creative life, we must lose our fear of being wrong." Joseph Chilton Pearce

"If you carry your childhood with you, you never become older".

Abraham Sutz Kever.

**Your President, Barry L. Bennecoff**

## ***Festivals***

Please, to all that are doing the show, keep checking the website for additional information from the show committee.

Oct. 1st was the deadline so if you still want to be in the show it will cost you an extra \$10.00. Late fees are part of our policy, sorry but that's just the way it goes. Be aware that your category may be full.

You still have time to get an AD in for the guild's Weekender page in the READING EAGLE NEWSPAPER. You may email or call us 484-248-6275 for details or contact Carol Haile [inkpencjh@msn.com](mailto:inkpencjh@msn.com).

Reminder to all of our members: Even if you are not doing the show, PLEASE VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME at the FESTIVAL. Before or after your volunteer time, take a few minutes to visit with the other guild members. New to the guild, what a great chance to see the work of other craftsmen and maybe find a mentor.

See you at the festival.

Thanks for making this another banner year.

***Terry & Judy Boyer Show chairs of the Reading Berks Guild of Craftsman***

### ***Simple ways to help advertise our Shows:***

Our Holiday Festival is less than 1 month away! Please make sure that your friends and family know that our Show dates are Oct. 31 and Nov. 1 and that it will be held at the Kutztown University! Some people still think it is at our old location. You can make this simple by liking us on Facebook and sharing the posts for our show. If you are not on Facebook, you can suggest your friends go to our website [www.rbcrafts.org](http://www.rbcrafts.org) for more information including exhibitors at the show, demos taking place and directions. I plan to get an e-mail blast out the week before the show that you can forward to your friends by e-mail with the show details.

Please send me any news items you would like to include in our Quarterly Newsletters, website blog and/or E-mail blasts.

***Sandra Jones, Newsletter editor***

### ***EMV Chip Cards and what it means to Exhibitors***

As the US changes to EMV Chip Technology for Credit Cards, the liability for card fraud has shifted to whichever party is the least EMV-compliant in certain fraudulent transactions. What this means to our Exhibitors is that if you do not have a chip card reader and you process a fraudulent card, you will be the one who has to "eat" the charge. How do you avoid this? Make sure you get a chip card reader from your bank, Square or whoever you process your credit cards through. If you use Square and have pre-ordered a chip card reader, they will take the liability for you until your order is complete.

## **Programs**

For our October meeting, come see the newly juried members, Sue Shelly fiber-weaving and silk painting, Carol Delapp- stained glass, Lynn Taylor- pottery, Jeffrey Cronrath- wood turning, Susan Birchall Decorative Painting, Sally King Shanahan Decorative Painting and Theorems, Nancy Stauffer Decorative Painting.

November meeting's program will feature Barbara Goodling presenting: "If coins could talk".

To round out the year, December will be our Holiday social at Yellow House Hotel. The sign-up sheet will be at the next three meetings (Oct. 6, Nov. 1 (Sunday show meeting), & Nov.3). Please pay at the time of signup. Don't forget your food donation for the Berks County food bank.

### Details for the Holiday Social:

Where: Yellow House Hotel, 6743 Boyertown Pike, Douglassville, PA 19518

When: Dec. 1, 2015 Cash Bar open at 6 PM, Dinner served Promptly at 6:30 PM

Meal Includes: Choice of Main course

(Sirloin Steak \$25, Seafood Sizzler \$31, Chicken Picatta \$25, Vegetarian \$20)

Italian Wedding Soup

Tossed Salad

Stuffed Baked Potato

Vegetable du jour

Dessert -- apple pie with ice cream

Tax and Tip will be paid by Reading-Berks of Craftsmen

Holiday Social is open to all members and their guests. If you can not make any of the three meetings, please call Matt Vardjan to sign-up at 610-689-5324.

**Matt Vardjan, Program Chairman**

## **Palm Trees, Story Telling, and Cookies -- Oh my!**

If you missed September's meeting, you missed a good time. Bob Ballantyne took us on an amazing trip to Key West. Bob & Nancy even had palm trees and refreshments for us. Nancy has been kind enough to share her wonderful recipe with us.

### Key Lime Cookies

½ cup unsalted butter

1 t baking powder

1 cup white sugar

½ t salt

2 eggs

¼ cup Key Lime juice (Redner's sells "Nellie & Joe's Famous Key West Lime Juice" in a yellow 16 oz. bottle)

1 ¾ cup all purpose flour

zest of 1 lime

½ cup confectioners' sugar for dusting on baked cookies

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Cream butter, sugar and eggs until smooth. Add lime juice and zest.
3. Combine flour, baking powder and salt, blend into creamed mixture.
4. Line baking pans with parchment paper and drop batter by teaspoon – smaller is nicer. Batter will spread out as it bakes.
5. Bake 15 minutes – don't let cookies get too browned.
6. Sift confectioners' sugar onto warm cookies.
7. Make a cup of tea and enjoy!

## **Standards**

The Standards Committee met on September 8, 7:00 pm at the Goggleworks for a jury session. The following people successfully passed jury:

Sue Shelly, Quakertown, PA, for weaving and silk painting.

Carol Delapp, Wyomissing, PA, for stained glass.

Lynn Taylor, Middletown, PA, for pottery.

Jeffrey Cronrath, Fleetwood, PA, for woodturning.

The next jury session is March 8, 2016. Check the website or contact Louise Mehaffey, [eglassplace@gmail.com](mailto:eglassplace@gmail.com) for more information.

***Louise Mehaffrey, Standards Chair***

## **Pennsylvania German Cultural Heritage Center**

Christmas on the Farm is just around the corner, only 9 weeks away, Saturday, December 5, 2015. The location is the PA German Cultural Heritage Center, part of Kutztown University.

For those who are not familiar with the "Heritage Center", it is located at the end of Luckenbill Road, in Kutztown, where our Reading-Berks Chapter has a log cabin. Through our partnership with PGCHC, we are able to hold our Spring and Holiday Shows at the Kutztown University Field House. There are three annual events hosted by PGCHC, Easter on the Farm which is held the day before Palm Sunday, Heemet Fescht held the last Saturday of September, and Christmas on the Farm that is held the first Saturday of December. Each event is from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

No fee is charged for juried chapter members to set up a display in the log cabin, however, PCGHC requests a 15% commission on items sold. The log cabin can comfortably accommodate 4 artisans, plus there are other locations on the farmstead, including the farmhouse, that you could set up a display. We can count on Barry Bennecoff to display his furniture and accessories within the log cabin. Barry allows others to display their work on his furniture and accessories, plus there is plenty of space to hang things on the walls. Matt and Elaine Vardjan usually have their wares displayed in the alcove of the cabin. At least two more artisans could display their work. If you are interested, call Amanda Richardson at 610-683-1589 at PGCHC to reserve your space.

Ray and Pat Oxenford are usually in the other log cabin which is set up as a tinshop and also temporarily houses the hand tools used on the farm. Ray also brings along some of his own tools to use to demonstrate the art of tinsmithing at these events.

We look forward to the Belsnickel visiting us at Christmas on the Farm, hoping all girls and boys have been good this year. There will be Carolers strolling the farmstead, and the Plow Boys organization always has a delicious menu of PA Dutch foods for purchase ... soups, chili, chicken potpie, barbeque, hamburgers, hot dogs, great desserts and beverages. And, if there is a few snow flurries, it really gets you in the mood for Christmas.

Hope we can count on you to be part of this great partnership offered to our chapter members by Kutztown University's PA German Cultural Heritage Center. If you have questions about these events please do not hesitate to contact me (Pat Oxenford at 610-385-3431).

***Pat Oxenford, PGCHC Advisory Board Secretary (Kutztown Rep)***

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

Ross Dedekind, a long time member of Reading-Berks of Craftsmen and a decoy carver was highlighted in the Berks Country section of the Reading Eagle on August 5. To read the article see: <http://www.readingeagle.com/berks-country/article/west-lawn-wood-carver-makes-ducks-for-decoy-or-decor&template=mobileart>

Members who made the Top 100 Craftsmen in Early American Life magazine include:

Denise Wilz  
Wilz Pottery  
Pennsylvania redware

Janice E. Sonnen  
Hooked rugs & penny rugs

## ***Media***

In the next two months, “Your Berks Craftsmen” will feature Kim Ost-Stramara in November with a decorating show that will get you ready for the upcoming Holiday season. Kim is a jewelry designer and a master gardener and designer extraordinaire. In December we will watch Steve Hunter, a potter, in action at the Kutztown Folk Festival and then in our studio for a live interview.

Also in October, Carolyn Handwerk and myself will be hosting Craft Night on October 22, 2015, the week of Oktoberfest Auction for BCTV. That night's bidding will start at 6:00 PM. But please tune in all week and find something that you want to bid on. Treat yourself and help BCTV at the same time!!

***Your Host for BCTV, Kay Bennecoff***

## ***Important Dates to Remember***

***Chapter Meeting (1st Tuesday): October 6, 2015 7 PM***

***Additional meeting at Show: November 1, 2015 9 AM***

***November 3, 2015 - 7 PM***

***Holiday Social at Yellow House Hotel December 1, 2015 6 PM***

***Board Meeting: November 3, 2015 at 6 PM***

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

***Christmas on the Farm: December 5, 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, Carolyn Handwerk	610-693-8187
Website, Bill Jones	610-779-5177