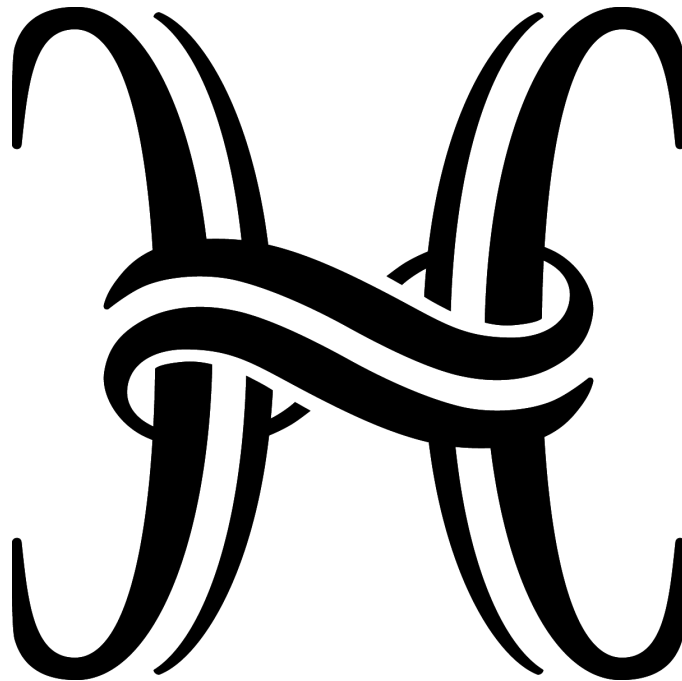


Handicraft Club Membership 2021-2022 Annual Report



**June 15, 2022
Annual Meeting
Squantum Association
Riverside, RI**

Handicraft Club 2021-2022 Annual Report

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"The biggest adventure you can take is to live the life of your dreams" – Oprah Winfrey

Handicraft Club Annual Meeting
“Celebrating Membership”
June 15, 2022
Agenda

Call to Order

Margaret Lederer, President
Determination of Quorum in Memorandum

Minutes of the 2020-2021 Annual Meeting

Stacy Emanuel Recording Secretary
Motion to Approve the Minutes

Financial Report

Amabel Allen, Treasurer
2021 - 2022 Financial Report Highlights
2022 - 2023 Budget Highlights

General Manager Report

Helen Bingham, General Manager

Education Manager Report

Rebecca Siemering, Education Manager

President Report

Margaret Lederer, President

Nominating Committee Report

Heather Roberts, Nominating Committee Chair
Motion to Approve the 2022 - 2023 Club Year Slate

Closing Remarks and Adjournment

Margaret Lederer, President

“Craft means years of trial and error. It means processes that could be as old as time itself. Its work that the designer has put a little piece of their heart and soul into” –Sarah Dukes

**The Handicraft Club Annual Meeting
The Squantum Club
June 10, 2021**

Board Members Present: Amabel Allen, Sara Carcieri, Betsy Champlain, Lisa Churchville, Fran Gammell-Roach, Margaret Lederer, Liza McCahan, Trish Poirrier, Mary Reineman, Heather Roberts, Anne Snyder, Susanne Toothaker

Board Members Absent: Kit Barnum, Kate Farrington, Helene Shapiro, Marilyn Shealey, Kim Worrell

New Incoming Board Members Present: Sharleen Bowen, Susan Pakula, Stacy Emanuel,

Staff Present: Helen Bingham, Rebecca Siemering

Club Members Present: Sylvian Sapir, Linda Rockwell, Sarah Strauss, Christina Cocroft, Angela Bay, Jackie Hicks, Kay Lisle, Vivian Jones, Andrea Hunt, Anne O'Neill, Barbara Colt, Carol Cicma, Izzy Goff, Jane Taylor, Elizabeth Bullock, Caryl Freedman, Loretta Thorpe, Alexandra Earle, Alice Beckwith, Barbara Crouchley, Anne Bright, Margie Edwards, Sharleen Bowen, Mitzi Berkelhammer, Tamara Bolotow, Ruth Fain, Leslie Gardner, Virginia Mead, Carla Queen-Cook, Ginny Walsh, Amy Goldstein, Barbara Rosenbaum, Colette Amendolara, Cara Powers, Marianne Migliori, Heather Campbell, Jenny Prull, Mary Chase

President Margaret Lederer called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Presentation of New Logo: Margaret introduced Liza McCahan and Amabel Allen who as Communications Committee Co-Chairs coordinated the effort to create and identity image for the Club which recently received voted approval from the board. Liza McCahan began by explaining the rationale for creating this new logo and how it was based on member input gathered through previously held discussions and the recent survey. Liza then introduced member Marianne Migliori, a Club member and graphic designer. Marianne was instrumental in the development of a new logo. She further explained the reasons behind the design and the varied ways it might be used in club communications. The design was enthusiastically received. Margaret offered her thanks to Marianne, Liza and Amabel who had worked on this effort.

Secretary's Report: A motion to approve the minutes of the Annual Meeting of June 19,2020, was made by Ruth Fain, with a second offered by Heather Roberts. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Lisa Churchville reported that the club is in sound financial shape and has weathered the effects of Covid-19 in a positive way. Membership totals are down, with 317 members as compared to 368 a year ago. This means that dues income is down. The closure of the club to in-person classes has meant a drop in class fees, with a corresponding drop in class expenses. With the help of the PPP loans offered and then forgiven by the government and the reduced expenses, she anticipates an end-of-year net income of over \$60,000. The club's investment accounts are also strong, with a total balance of over \$8,000,000. She commented

on the assumptions used in preparing the budget for the coming year (such as holding in-person classes and events at the club and funding Truman's Trolley at last year's levels). Lisa thanked the Finance and Investment committees for their hard work throughout the year.

President's Report: Margaret began by noting that as is true of so many years, this past one was "eventful" in that the changes necessitated by the Covid-19 virus presented many challenges, for which the club was able to navigate in a positive way. She thanked the Reopening Task Force for their work throughout the year, making suggestions to keep us safe but connected. Margaret also recognized Helen Bingham, the General Manager who came on board last November, and acknowledged her professionalism and spirit. She also thanked Rebecca Siemering who moved to the position of Education Manager, working with the class chairs to offer many interesting Zoom classes. She acknowledged the hard and productive work of all the Committee chairs, especially noting that of Kit Barnum and Trish Poirrier, both of whom are leaving their position after filling them successfully for many years. Margaret ended by thanking the members of the Executive Committee for their sound and supportive service.

Nominating Committee: On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Heather Roberts presented the slate of officers for the coming 2021-2022 year. They are:

President	Margaret Lederer
Vice-President	Sara Carcieri
Vice President	Liza McCahan
Treasurer	Amabel Allen
Assistant Treasurer	Marilyn Shealey
Recording Secretary	Stacy Emanuel
Finance Committee Appointment	Margie Edwards
Investment Committee Appointment	Mary Reineman

A motion to approve the above slate was passed unanimously.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 11:28 a.m. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Shealey, Recording Secretary

President's Annual Report

Margaret Lederer

Club Year 2021 - 2022

This past year there has been a sense of welcome, joy and discovery as we entered the clubhouse to be greeted with a vase of fresh flowers, candy and an inspiring message about friendship with others as well as friendship with oneself. For creating that ambiance of welcome and warmth and so much more, I want to thank Helen Bingham our General Manager. I want to thank Rebecca Siemering, our Education Manager, for a broad assortment of classes with each term's class catalogue reading like a menu where there are so many items to tempt tasting. And, I want to thank Kate Gallagher, our newest staff member, for delving into solving problems, pursuing answers and organizing the details of many projects which came together to enrich and facilitate our Club experience. I also want to thank the committee chairs who have served on the Board this past year and thank them for the time and attention they have given to enrich all that the Club has had to offer.

This has been a fantastic year. I know that some of you might find that statement strange given that you have memories of the clubhouse's broken boiler and radiators. But those were only "bumps in the road". It was not the clubhouse that made the year fantastic, it was the opportunities that we had to gather together after 1 1/2 years of only seeing each other as small squares on computer screens. The energy, excitement and warmth of friendship that were present at last year's Annual Meeting and Luncheon, at the Club's first interactive open house last October, at our Preview Party on May 16th and in our classes and programs were all amazing. Over the past year our presence in social media grew and we continued to offer a mix of online and in-person classes so that members wintering in far away places could still join other members and share the joy of handcrafting together.

As I look back at the past 2 years during which I have been President I see that we as a membership have been creative, resilient, adaptive and courageous, trying things we have not done before. We celebrate all that with the theme of this year's Annual Meeting, "Celebrating Membership". Although we often refer to 42 College Street as "the Club" saying things like "I'm going to the Club", 42 College Street is not "The Club", it is our clubhouse; we, the members, are "the Club". As depicted in our identity image, it is camaraderie along with our love of handcrafting items that binds us together; and as the infinity sign joining the 2 c's symbolizes, we honor our past and we look to the future.

So, I am structuring this President's Annual Report with a look at the past, and how we are preparing for the future.

At a recent Board meeting we spoke of how times have changed since the time when members were expected to make hors d'oeuvres for the Preview Party. So much has changed since then in our society, in the Club and in our community. The role of women in the workplace and the tools we have for learning have opened opportunities that did not exist until a short while ago. Availability of those opportunities have now made the world and us different. Things are different for the Club due to those as well as other changes. Some of the changes these past few years have been: the City of Providence has eliminated much of the on-street parking spots we used to be able to use; many of our teachers have either moved away, retired or gone

elsewhere to teach; members still want to come and take classes, but are less eager to give time to serve on committees or participate in organizational tasks; we had a pandemic making us realize that 42 College Street is not only physically inaccessible for many, but also many of the rooms are hazardous when there is a highly transmissible air-borne virus in our midst; and finally I add the sad statistic that in the past 3 years approximately 120 members have resigned their membership resulting in there being fewer among us to share the joy of crafting and with whom we can make new friendships.

Also the resulting decline in membership dues revenue has had the impact of dramatically reducing the contribution of dues revenue for our operations. Know that while this situation is disconcerting, this is not disastrous for the Club's operation. Gratefully I can report that despite the downturn in membership these past 3 years, the Club remains on firm financial footing with our invested funds being competently professionally managed by F.L. Putnam. Although our operating revenue sourced from dues has diminished, we remain financially strong.

So, what does all this mean for us now? And what can we do to move forward? Key to moving forward is to address the issues of what motivates women like us to join and stay members, as well as address the issues of what motivated those who have left to have given up that to which they were once committed. It means that we need to build our membership; we need to ask friends, neighbors and family to join us sharing our Club experience. The Board urges all members to bring potential members to the clubhouse to see our classes, or to bring them as guests to an event or program. We need others to share in the feeling of belonging to this special place which we all share. And we need to keep the Club experience and the sense of belonging, warm, exciting, enriching and engaging. Membership is key because membership is the club.

Having looked at data gathered from current and past members the Executive Committee has taken another step toward the future: we have created a strategic plan to act as a roadmap for how the club moves forward in the next 3 years. It will act as a guide to strengthen our pride in belonging and in being a part of an organization in which we want to ask others to join.

In preparing the strategic plan we as members started by not only speaking with each other, we listened to teachers and other members. In the winter of 2021 there were on-line group discussion sessions with members and teachers to find out why they became members or Club teachers, what do they find important in remaining members or Handicraft Club teachers and what do they see as the negative aspects of being members or teachers. The information we gathered from these discussions with the information from the survey that was done in 2019 as well as the information we gathered from resigned members had one consistent underlying current...and that was the shortfalls of the Club being at 42 College Street. And, as we learned from past surveys, more than half of the membership is in favor of finding an alternative clubhouse that would offer those things that we all know so well the current clubhouse does not offer. Parking is the most blatant shortfall. Not having easily accessible parking means that members are hesitant to take classes and be part of our gathering together; potential members haven't been interested in joining because of the expense and inconvenience of distant parking and depending on a shuttle to reach the clubhouse.

The goals of the strategic plan are stabilizing and expanding our membership base as well as being prudent in managing the allocation of our annual draw from our invested funds. Taking actions to achieve these goals will make our club experience enriching and exciting as they build our core essence, camaraderie and craft classes.

An important part of the plan is to have a task force identify the requirements of what we will need in a clubhouse as we continue our forward movement in the 21st century.

Changing the clubhouse's location is what Handicraft Club members did in the early 20th century; there were several clubhouse locations prior to their settling-in at 42 College Street. During the 20th century the Club flourished at 42 College Street, and I personally believe that it will flourish in the 21st century, but no longer at 42 College Street. The women in 1925 who decided to take a big step to purchase 42 College Street to be their clubhouse were creative, resilient, adaptive and courageous, trying things they had not done before. Just like we, the members in the 21st century, are. So, let's celebrate Handicraft Club membership ! Let's celebrate the Handicraft Club !

Respectfully submitted by
Margaret N. Lederer, President

Note: Rather than going into detail about the strategic plan at the annual meeting, I encourage all of you to look in your annual report book for a detailed explanation of the plan, the resources it has drawn upon, its goals and prescribed actions.

"Nothing beats kindness," said the horse. *"It sits quietly beyond all things."*— The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse By Charlie Mackesy

Executive Board Annual Reports

Vice President Annual Report Sara Carcieri and Liza McCahan Club Year 2021-2022

The two Vice Presidents assist the Club's President throughout the year in addition to assisting the chairs of the standing committees, as needed. Due to the pandemic, most meetings were held via Zoom this year, although we are now meeting in person at the club. The following initiatives were undertaken:

1. Communication continues to be a vital part of informing our members of the coming and goings of the club. This year, as the Pandemic continues, we had members that were taking classes via zoom as well as back in the club, in person. No longer can we rely solely on postings in the club as the only way to communicate to members. Therefore, we have focused on the following ways of communication:
 - a. Newsletter –This is our primary form of communication. Not only does it keep the membership up to date on club news, but it also highlights upcoming classes and workshops, activities, and events. This year we have been able to include the club's new logo that was announced at last years' annual meeting.
 - b. Social Media - Expand our presence on social media, not only to highlight members' work but also to expand our reach beyond the club membership. In addition to the club's Instagram account (@handicraftclubri), we have expanded our postings to Facebook, listed as Handicraft Club RI.
 - c. Club Website – The clubs' website needs a facelift. We are in the beginnings of “freshening up” and will continue as we look towards a new software program for the club.
2. We have continued to discuss with the Executive Committee members, the protocol and policies for class offerings throughout 2021/22 as well as safe management of 42 College St. due to Covid 19.
3. Based on the recommendation of the Kitchen Task Force, a system for a catered lunch was established. This has been a work in progress as we explore different opportunities. After utilizing The Art Club for lunches for the first half of the year, we have Pranzi Catering company. This has allowed for more flexibility as members do not have to sign up for lunch in advance. The result has been an increase in members attending lunch. In addition, the Board has decided to offer the membership free beverages and snacks.

Respectfully submitted,
Sara Carcieri, Vice President
Liza McCahan, Vice President

Treasurer's Annual Report Amabel Allen Club Year 2021-2022

The Handicraft Club will be ending this fiscal year in a firm financial position. The annual dues, one of our major revenue sources, were budgeted at \$76K and YTD are \$75,950. Tuition was as projected, \$70K budgeted with \$70,250 collected.

As of April 30, 2022 the balance of our account:

Bank of America

Checking \$11,691.48

Savings - \$883.26

There were few unexpected expenditures this past year. A new boiler for the house was needed, as well as some pipe work in relation to the installation. There were house projects during the summer including work on the fence and windows. Please see the Building and Grounds report for details.

As an end of the year event, we had a very successful Preview Party and Exhibition. Many thanks to the members for participating in the raffle, the proceeds of \$2,800 are to be donated to GLOBAL GIVING to aide Ukraine.

Also, thanks to the members for their generous contributions to the holiday gratuities fund for our staff, they are greatly appreciated.

Thanks to the Finance Committee members including Margie Edwards, Margaret Lederer, Mary Reineman, and Marilyn Shealey with a special shout-out to Sara Carcieri who was an endless source of information and extraordinarily patient.

Respectfully submitted,

Amabel Allen
Treasurer

"When we give ourselves self-compassion, we are opening our hearts in a way that can transform our lives" — Kristin Neff

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Financial report for the fiscal year July 1, 2021 to April 30, 2022

CONFIDENTIAL					APPROVED
HANDICRAFT CLUB	Budget	2022-2023	as of 4/30/2022		
	2020-2021	Approved Budget	2021-2022	2022-2023	
	Actual	2021-2022	YTD as of 3/2022	Proposed Budget	
Revenues					
Dues	\$79,586.64	\$76,053.00	\$75,950.00	\$68,000.00	Projecting 30 resignation and 5 new members
Initiation Fees	\$500.00	\$3,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$3,500.00	Combination of full initiation fees and GPS fees
Class Tuition	\$67,088.66	\$70,000.00	\$68,166.21	\$70,000.00	Increase class participation with fewer members
Holiday/Preview Party/Events	\$0.00	\$8,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,750.00	Charge members \$40 per ticket for Preview Party, \$25 for Holiday party; teachers free
Kitchen	\$0.00		\$1,603.38	\$5,000.00	20 lunches @ \$10 for 25 weeks
TTrolley Income-Members	\$0.00	\$12,000.00	\$7,365.00	\$7,200.00	40 members at \$60 a semester
TTrolley Investment Fund	\$0.00	\$34,585.00	\$16,000.00	\$67,800.00	
Club Operations	\$25,600.00	\$500.00	\$2,250.00	\$750.00	(Donors)
Jessie Knight Fund	\$225.00	\$500.00	\$350.00	\$500.00	\$2000 currently in fund
Tynietoy	\$135.00	\$500.00	\$25.00	\$250.00	
PPP	\$12,185.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	PPP CARES Act. Loan forgiven
Other income	\$118.80		\$28,915.00	\$0.00	21/22 Actual includes boiler insurance refund
Investment Fund Draw	\$99,000.00	\$157,000.00	\$94,290.00	\$194,000.00	\$296K Permissible 22/23 draw, budgeting \$194,000 for operations and \$67,800 for TT for \$261,800 total
Net Income to Gen. Fund	-\$37,000.00				
Total Revenues	\$247,439.10	\$362,638.00	\$296,414.59	\$422,750.00	

Expenses					
Class Expense	\$602.28	\$2,000.00	\$530.90	\$1,500.00	
Garden Maintenance	\$5,491.42	\$5,000.00	\$4,070.00	\$5,500.00	In concurrence with current vendor
Giving Society	\$669.29	\$1,700.00	\$1,964.53	\$2,000.00	luncheon
Retirement	\$3,000.00	\$5,250.00	\$3,500.00	\$6,000.00	Helen and Rebecca
Holiday/Preview Party/Events	\$0.00	\$13,000.00	\$3,013.77	\$16,000.00	Target 1 event per month; holiday and preview parties
House Maintenance/Sec	\$3,354.59	\$5,000.00	\$2,751.50	\$4,500.00	
Insurance	\$11,675.13	\$15,415.00	\$11,038.10	\$15,500.00	no change from current
Kitchen- Catered	\$80.18	\$6,800.00	\$3,442.96	\$6,600.00	Utilize new provider, Pranzi/Nicole's Gourmet and free snacks, 20 lunches/week @\$10.00 each
House Supplies	\$1,007.25	\$1,000.00	\$738.50	\$1,000.00	Typical year with regular use of building
Legal/Accounting	\$4,725.00	\$5,100.00	\$5,575.00	\$6,100.00	10% increase
Office Expense	\$28,675.06	\$18,500.00	\$10,927.40	\$17,500.00	\$1,500 tech support/Rebecca
Communications/Outreach	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	Used to attract new members/advertise
Truman's Trolley	\$0.00	\$46,665.00	\$39,100.00	\$75,000.00	
Payroll Taxes/Handicraft	\$11,970.82	\$17,000.00	\$9,542.03	\$20,400.00	
Payroll Expense	\$2,835.18	\$2,200.00	\$1,696.21	\$2,400.00	roughly \$79.50 every other week
Board	\$3,979.44	\$16,000.00	\$4,722.47	\$7,750.00	5K for annual meeting, 1K for June board meeting, \$1K for board retreat,
Repairs	\$3,622.30	\$5,000.00	\$520.52	\$4,500.00	Typical year with regular use of building
Independent cont/custodian		\$10,500.00	\$8,990.36	\$11,500.00	
Salaries/Staff	\$89,869.62	\$96,500.00	\$70,461.95	\$123,750.00	Kate, Helen and Rebecca
Independent cont/Teachers	\$61,835.00	\$70,000.00	\$46,900.00	\$78,000.00	Includes \$5.00 increase per hour/\$45.00
Tynietoy		\$500.00	\$394.89	\$250.00	For Purchases
Utilities	\$13,127.04	\$16,000.00	\$11,116.13	\$15,000.00	
Total Expenses	\$246,519.60	\$361,130.00	\$256,128.19	\$421,750.00	
Net Income	\$919.50	\$1,508.00	\$40,286.40	\$1,000.00	

Board Annual Reports

Class Committee Annual Report

Susanne Toothaker

Club Year 2021-2022

This year was an extremely challenging year for the Handicraft Club, as we returned back to the building. However, we are ending this year on a positive note, as some members have returned from a 3+ year hiatus, to take multiple classes, enjoy lunch together and be with friends and meet new ones. Classes are organized on a cyclical basis and the process starts before the fiscal year begins. In July, we are already working on not only the Fall catalog but managing any summer classes that we have on-site or off.

The Education Manager and I have a comprehensive list that is gathered collaboratively from members' suggestions, trends in the craft community at large and exciting opportunities. Our larger purpose and function for the Club is to provide engagement, and opportunities for Members to grow in our choices or favorite medium, and hopefully, try something new. It is our goal to provide a variety of opportunities and experiences, on-site and off-site, which feed the creative spirit of our Club. One of the strengths Rebecca Siemering, our Education Manager has observed, over the seven years she has worked here, is how the learning of crafts and appreciation of the arts has brought together a wonderful community of learners. When we have guests, this is a strength that brings more into our circle of members.

By Fall, classes are in full swing, and this year we started off with something new, an opening event that featured Loren Spears, the Director of the Tomaquag Museum. She taught a class as well the next weekend at the Tomaquag Museum in a traditional basket style that many Tomaquag members make. We will continue this Fall with another special guest, Nathalie Miebach, an internationally known basketmaker who lives in Massachusetts and is inspired by the weather patterns of the seasons. She will lead a workshop where members make their own stories into a basket.

Halfway through fall, we are already working on the winter term, getting classes and workshops organized. This year, members favored returning to the classes they loved to be with friends. In October, we did something new and had an Open House with help from the Events Committee, where many teachers demonstrated their work. It was successful and brought new guests and members. The Winter catalog goes out near Thanksgiving. We had several educational events including a Japanese flower arranging demonstration and a wreath-making workshop at Osamequin Farm, which we will do again in the future. Classes began again in January(after a short hiatus due to the boiler breaking), and with the Trolley, it is easier for members to attend. The full-time 8-week classes had good attendance this year. The winter season also has smaller

classes(4 weeks), as many members go away. Class attendance is stronger in February. In February, we are already finishing the spring catalog offerings, and looking forward to the larger and varied classes we have put together that start at the end of March.

We wrap up the year by working with the Events committee to put on the Preview Party and Open House, gathering work from members and teachers. By this time, we are already planning for small summer opportunities, often not in the Club, as many Members go away and don't want to come into the hot city. New this year, with help from member Sally Whitin, we started a teacher appreciation week the first week of May. This aligns with the national teacher appreciation week in the country and was well-received. It made members think of things to do as an extra thank you. Teachers were treated to lunch, and members and staff brought in cookies or made cookies. Margaret Lederer baked some delicious shortbread. At the end of the week, we ordered pizza and salad, which members appreciated, too. All teachers got gift bags of candy, and in some classes, members brought gifts. We will do it again next year.

Last summer, Education Manager Rebecca Siemering negotiated a relationship with Blithewold Gardens and Arboretum for members to go there for free and paint and draw for several Plein air classes. From these classes, Blithewold agreed to have a show of the work this Spring during Daffodil days and have use of their Educational Classroom for two classes with Katherine Lovell. This combined class of our members and members of Blithewold has been a successful merger of like communities, which is bringing interest and attention to the Club for new members.

During this year, for each trimester, we have broken even with the sales of classes to pay our instructors. Spring had a lovely uptick in members coming back who had not been here in 3 years or more, to see friends and take classes again. We have ended the year on a positive note in sales, not only breaking even but at least by \$2,500. Another thing to note is that many members are taking multiple classes and workshops that are new to them.

NUMBERS

(According to data collected by Mindbody on July 1, 2020-May 15, 2021):

187 members and guests signed up for classes and free events this year.

By April 15, 636 bodies were in classes/workshops. \$68,620 in income (will grow by the end of the year with additional spring/summer workshops)

CONTINUING CORE CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Baskets

Coiled Baskets with Anne Huntington

Collection basket workshop with Loren Spears at the Tomaquag Museum

Painting

Plein Air Painting with Margaret Owen at Blithewold

Plein Air Painting and Drawing with Ida Schmulowitz at Blithewold

Still Life in Acrylics with Ida Schmulowitz
Portrait Painting with Kate Huntington
Beginning Watercolor, Intermediate Watercolor, and workshops with Anne Wert
Color Theory with Kathrine Lovell

Decorative Arts

Decorative Painting with Karen Graves
Decoupage with Virginia Mead

Drawing

Drawing with Ida Schmulowitz

Printmaking

Whiteline Block Printmaking with Kathrine Lovell

Needle Arts

Needlepoint with Caryl Freedman
Knitting with Kay Mehls
Needle Felted Animals with Cynthia Treen

Games

Beginner and Intermediate Bridge classes with Walter Morgan
Mah-jongg with Carol DesForges

Weaving

Beginning and Intermediate Weaving with Suzi Ballenger

WORKSHOPS

We continued to offer workshops to accommodate members who weren't able to commit to 8-week classes, and allowed members to explore some new crafts, at the Club and on Zoom. It also allowed us to explore and introduce new teachers to the Handicraft Club and encourage our wonderful instructors to explore different ideas they may have.

Weaving Adventures with Suzi Ballenger (at her studio)
Fused Glass Workshops Alice Benvie-Gebhart/Heritage Gifts
Calligraphy with Liz Roessler
Wreath Making at Osamequin Farm
Mosaic Mirror with Corinne McKeown
Paper Flowers with Alyn Carlson
Writing a Memoir with Tamara Bolotow
Rug hooking at off-site facilities

LOOKING AHEAD TO FALL

We are constantly searching for new and interesting teachers and ideas to enhance our very special Club! Please contact us with any ideas you have for instructors, classes or workshops.

Respectfully submitted,

Susanne Toothaker	Rebecca Siemering
Class Chair	Education Manager

"To teach is to touch a life forever" –Unknown

Communications Committee Annual Report

Kate Farrington and Kim Worrell

Club Year 2021-2022

The focus for the Communications committee this year has been to increase our presence on social media by expanding our postings on both Instagram and Facebook. During the early months of Covid when most classes were through Zoom, we asked members to send us photos of their projects when completed. When classes resumed in person this allowed us to post to social media photographs of the process of a handicraft as well as the finished work.

We are also increasing our outreach to the community through invitations to events as well as creating relationships with other organizations, both locally and far reaching. We encourage any members with suggestions of potential outreach arenas to reach out to us as we continue to build a strong community of Handicrafters.

Kate Farrington

Kim Worrell

"When the big things feel out of control...focus on what you love right under your nose" – The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse By Charlie Mackesy

Events Committee Annual Report Mary Chace and Tammy Bolotow Club Year 2021-2022

We're happy to report that many interesting events took place this year, and were well-attended despite some limitations due to Covid.

- o Welcome Back Member Party - Sept. 10, 2021 - Loren Spears, Executive Director of the Tomaquag Museum - with refreshments

- o Japanese Flower Arranging and Asian Box Lunch Nov. 12, 2021 – with EmikoKaplan
- Holiday Party - Dec. 8, 2021 - 11:00-2:00 p.m. “Antiques RoadShow” - with Bruneau auctioneers and Appraisers - with high tea
- Memoir Writing by HC member, Tamara (Tammy) Bolotow - with refreshments. Free
- Metropolitan Museum of Art’s virtual guided tour of its current exhibit “In America, a Lexicon of Fashion.” The HC sponsored the program free of charge to members who registered
- April 27 – Andrew Raftery, who did watercolor paintings of the east wall of our double parlor, gave a presentation on his artwork of historic wallpapers. Free
- May 2 – Photo Detective RoadShow. HC Member, Maureen Taylor, identified photos submitted by members for their historical placement. This was a virtual event for registered members.
- Preview Party - May 16, 6:00-8:00 p.m. - Members Artwork Exhibition - Cocktails and Appetizers
- May 17 - The Club sponsored eight tickets to the Beyond Van Gogh Exhibit at the Convention Center

Events Committee:

Tammy Bolotow
Judith Brott
Mary Chace

"What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us"—Emerson

Giving Societies Committee Annual Report

Anne Snyder and Sharleen Bowen

Club Year 2021-2022

With COVID under control, the Annual Luncheon was once again held at the Providence Art Club on October 15, 2021. Invitations were sent to members of the Julia Lippitt Mauran and Truman Beckwith Societies four weeks in advance. The green door stationery was used with a printed information insert. Postage for 52 invitations was \$30.16. Next year we would like to have an appropriate handicraft theme for the card invitation. The total of the luncheon for 18 guests, including wine bar, food, tax and house charge came to \$947.49. We are rethinking this process and possibly asking attendees to pay for their meal. The Providence Art Club did not charge for members who accepted the invitation but at the last minute were unable to come.

Flowers were on every table and Helen provided a useful pocketbook tape measure with the new logo for each guest. Short speeches were given by Anne Snyder, Chairman and Margaret Lederer, President.

In November a letter was sent to Handicraft Club members reminding them of the opportunities for giving. The letter highlighted many specific funds to direct money to as well as the two major giving groups. Melissa Powers joined the Truman Beckwith Circle. Dorothy McCulloch gave a generous gift and many others honored the club with gifts large and modest.

The total of all gifts was \$4625. Additional gifts to Tynietoy have been received in 2022. Anne and Sharleen sent personal letters of appreciation on the new stationery in December to those members who contributed to any of the funds. A formal 501c was sent for each donation in January. We had planned to review our giving administrative procedures for the Julia Lippitt Mauran Society which involves members honoring the club in their estate plans. Unfortunately we did not accomplish this task.

We would like especially to thank Helen Bingham, for receiving and recording checks, in the right categories, keeping track of the givers' names and where the money has been spent. Several new pieces were added to the Tynietoy collection.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharleen Bowen
Anne Snyder
co-chairs

LIST OF DONORS 2021-2022

We would like to thank the following members for their generosity over the last year,

To the Truman Beckwith Circle

Melissa Powers

To the Tynietoy Heritage Fund

Angela Bay
Joan Underwood

To the Jessie Knight Fund

Virginia Mead
Wendy Prull
Arlene Crewdson
Karen Pizzarello

To general club operations

Hope McCulloch
Robin Rains
Sharleen Bowen
Sandi Dimeo
Dorothy McCulloch

Grand Total = \$4700

“The greatest gift you can give someone is your time because when you give your time, you are giving a portion of your life that you will never get back” — unknown

Building and Grounds Annual Report

Sue Pakula

Club Year 2021-2022

In July 2021 I took over as the new chairman of the building and grounds committee. My predecessor, Kit Barnum, had organized work to be done by E F O'Donnell for the summer of 2021. This work consisted of cleaning and painting the tea room , repairing any windows that were broken and providing a new fence on the West side of the property.

My first duties were to oversee these projects with the help of Helen Bingham, the general manager of the house.

My next project was to attend to the gardens around the handicraft club. Julia Emlen contracted with a new landscaping company that provided clean up in the area and continued weekly to monthly service throughout the year. So far, we have been happy with the results and will continue to use this company. I am grateful to Julia for all she has done.

As you all know the building has had some significant problems this year. The most trying has been the lack of heat because the boiler broke. As a consequence of no heat we had some ruptured waterlines. With the help of our heating/ air conditioning contractor,Phalanx, plumbing and heating repairs were made and by mid January the house was returned to almost working order. Still to be replaced are two radiators, one that heats the south part of the parlor and another that heats the hall and dining area. These have been expensive repairs. Luckily thanks to Helen Bingham, our insurance company paid for much of this work. The entire staff should be congratulated for coming into work even with the lack of heat. The membership has been enormously resilient in switching to Zoom or working with space heaters, while the house was out of commission. Thank you all.

There are several projects that I would like to tackle this summer. The south Art Room and the old dining room need repainting. The chimney above that Art Room needs repair. If this work is okayed, it will start this summer and hopefully be completed by next September.

The Handicraft Club house is quite old and continues to disassemble on a regular basis. We will surely need more expensive repairs to keep the house in working order.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service this year. I look forward to continuing in this position for the next year.

Sincerely,
Sue Pakula

"We rise by lifting others" — Robert Ingersoll

Investment Committee Annual Report

Mary Reineman

Club Year 2021-2022

Investment Committee Report for the Annual Meeting of the Handicraft Club to be held on June 15, 2022

Submitted by Mary Reineman, Investment Committee Chair

The Investment Portfolio of the Handicraft Club is primarily invested with FL Putnam with a smaller portfolio invested at the RI Foundation.

FL Putnam

The Investment Committee met with Steven Violin of FL Putnam via Zoom on April 28th. We all feel that FL Putnam has continued to do a very good job managing our investments, despite the recent volatility. Steven explained that the recent volatility can be attributed to, in part, rising interest rates, the low return in the bond market, labor shortages which have put pressure on companies to increase wages, the supply chain shortage and the current inflationary environment our economy is in. The volatility will most likely continue and Steven assured us that he is paying close attention to our investments during this volatile period.

Asset Allocation

It is especially important that FL Putnam adheres to the asset allocation that we outlined in our Investment Policy Statement during these times of volatility.

As of 3/31/22, our Investment Account totaled \$8,191,059 of which \$649,720 remains in cash (8%), \$5,416,088 is invested in equities (66%), \$1,718,318 is invested in fixed income (21%) and \$406,933 is invested in alternative investments (5%). Our Investment Policy statement states that our asset allocation guidelines are 5% in cash, 65% in equities and 30% in fixed income.

As of 3/31/22, our General Fund totaled \$334,553 of which \$84,027 remains in cash (25%), \$81,210 is invested in equities (24%), \$161,397 is invested in fixed income (48%) and \$7,918 is invested in alternative investments (3%).

Investment Performance

Although the return of the holdings in our Investment Account have been -5.4% (net of fees) for the past three months, our Investment Account increased by 7.1% over the past year and 9.4% since the inception date of 3/31/18. The total investment gain since inception, net of fees, has been \$2,780,258 as of 3/31/22.

The General Fund's return for the past three months was -4.2%. The account increased by .9% over the past year and the overall return since inception has been 5.2%. It should be noted that we maintain a larger cash balance in this account due to anticipated needs for cash by the Club.

The total investment gain since inception, net of fees, for this account has been \$65,096 as of 3/31/22.

RI Foundation Flexible Fund

The balance of the account at the RI Foundation as of 3/31/22 was \$139,354 which compares favorably to the balance of the account a year ago (as of 3/31/21) which was \$122,324. Our initial investment was \$100,000 in July, 2018. The return over the past three months was -2.4%. The annualized return since this time last year was 10.8% with a total annualized return of 10.9 % since inception.

The RI Foundation enables us to provide another option for donors who may prefer to contribute to the Handicraft Club through the RI Foundation. Our investment is part of a \$982.9M pooled fund. Since the funds inception in 1994, the portfolio has generated stable, long term returns at an annualized rate of 8.5% and is well diversified. We are currently reinvesting all dividends.

“Far away there in the sunshine are my highest aspirations. I may not reach them, but I can look up and see their beauty, believe in them, and try to follow where they lead” — Louisa May Alcott

Membership Committee Annual Report

Sally Elliott

Club Year 2021-2022

The end of the 2021-2022 year has seen promising changes for the Club and its membership. We have seen the return of our members to classes in-house, and we have seen new members joining us. The beginning of this year saw the continuation of zoom classes for some and the return of in-person classes for others. Membership is still not as robust as we would like it to be, but there is definitely more activity in the club house, more class participation and even some groups chatting around the lunch table between classes.

In 2021, the Membership Committee organized the first new member Open House at the club. With the help of the Class Chair and the Events Chair, along with some dedicated teachers and volunteers, we set up demonstrations of some of our popular classes, gave tours of the clubhouse, and generally showed attendees what a really wonderful and unique place the Handicraft Club is. We asked our members to spread the word and bring a potential member with them to the Open House event. On a warm, sunny Saturday morning in October, we opened the doors to a good sized group of interested guests and a good number of our members. Not only did we welcome some curious crafters, we reminded our current members what interesting classes our teachers were offering that they had never tried. I'm happy to say the event was a total success and it was exciting to see so many people wandering through the clubhouse with such enthusiasm.

For the winter term, our General Manager had the creative idea of trying something new in February. One of her ideas was to sponsor Bring a Friend to Class week. It was a great idea and will be a very good addition to the winter schedule. Unbeknowst to Helen, her creative idea was going to be overshadowed by unexpected problems with the new boiler installation, which took all her time and attention. I predict Bring a Friend to Class week will be even more successful next year.

This year we also saw an increased interest in the new guest category, GPS (Guest with Provisional Status). We have also seen women take advantage of our Guest status, which allows them to take one class at a nominal fee plus class costs. Hopefully, these potential members will transition to active membership. In total, the club welcomed 20 new participants in all of these categories.

Although we still need to concentrate all our efforts on building our membership back after the impact of the pandemic, I think we are seeing the beginning of a revitalization at the club. I look forward to seeing the club continue to flourish in the coming year.

Submitted by,
Sally Elliott, Membership Committee Chair

"The best kind of friendships are fierce lady friendships. Where you aggressively believe in each other, defend each other, and think the other deserves the world" – unknown

Nominating Committee Annual Report
Heather Roberts
Club Year 2021-2022

The Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following slate
for the 2022 - 2023 year:

Co President: Stacy Emanuel
Co President: Liza McCahan
Vice President: Sara Carcieri
Vice President: Mary Reineman
Treasurer: Lisa Churchville
Assistant Treasurer: Kathy Bourque
Recording Secretary: Susanne Toothaker

Members elected to the Finance Committee and Investment Committee

Investment Committee: Fran Gammell-Roach
Finance Committee: Drew Moran

Respectfully submitted, Nominating Committee:
Heather Roberts, Chair
Mitzi Berkelhammer
Fran Gammell-Roach
Amy Goldstein
Holly Gray

Bios of Proposed Slate of Officers

2022-2023 Club Year Executive Committee Bios

Co President **Stacy Emanuel**

Stacy Emanuel has been a member of the Handicraft Club since 2016, previously serving on the Nominations Committee for 2 years, and has been the Recording Secretary for the past year. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania (B.A.) and Columbia University (M.A.), Stacy worked as a buyer for Bloomingdales and Lord & Taylor, and as a systems manager for Citizens Bank before leaving the workforce to raise her two amazing but decidedly uncrafty sons. Stacy has served on the boards and held leadership positions at the Wheeler School and the Jewish Alliance of RI among other organizations, and has recently joined the Butler Hospital Foundation board. She currently works part time in her family's commercial real estate businesses. Stacy has enjoyed basket weaving, watercolor, and needlepoint classes at the Handicraft Club, and has really loved the one-day weaving workshops.

Co President **Liza McCahan**

Liza McCahan joined the Handicraft Club in 1998. Most recently she served on the Board as 1st Vice President. Prior to this she served as co-chair of the Communications Committee. Over the years she has also served as chair of the Membership Committee and the Mailings Committee. Other past and present volunteer opportunities include: The Children's Museum, St Martin's Church, The Gordon School, The Moses Brown School, RI Responds, and Denison University. Liza began a marketing career at Ingalls, Quinn & Johnson, and Hill Holliday; both in Boston. After moving to Providence she continued on at Leonard Monahan and PGR Media. During her years at the Club, Liza has enjoyed taking classes in knitting, needlepoint, weaving, and Nantucket baskets as well as numerous workshops. Most recently she added water colors to her list of classes.

Vice President **Mary Reineman**

Mary Reineman has been a member of the Handicraft Club since 2014 and has served on the Board and the Executive Committee as the Assistant Treasurer and the Chair of the Investment Committee for the past four years. Mary spent her career in the Financial Services Industry after graduating from Colby College. She began her career at Fleet Bank in Providence and transitioned into a 15-year career at Merrill Lynch. Mary is on the Board of Directors of the RI Philharmonic and on the Board of Governors at Bradley Hospital. She has enjoyed volunteering at the Wolf School and at Bradley Hospital with her therapy dog, Beazie. Mary lives on the East Side of Providence with her husband, Paul Kappel. She has enjoyed taking needlepoint classes at the Handicraft Club for the past seven years.

Vice President **Sara Carcieri**

Sara Carcieri is completing her sixth year on the Board, serving as Vice President for a second year in 2021/22. She was previously on the Membership Committee and served as Treasurer for four years. She spent her career in the fine tableware and gift business after graduating from Purdue University. Her 35-year business career started at Marshall Field's in Chicago and a marketing job with Gorham Silver brought her to Rhode Island where she was Vice President of Product Development. After transitioning to Gorham through new ownership, she began an 18-year career at Reed and Barton. She retired as Vice President of Marketing where she managed the marketing, design, product development, and advertising departments for the company. A member of the Handicraft Club since 2013, she has enjoyed needlepoint, weaving, and oriental rug classes at the Club.

Treasurer **Lisa Churchville**

Lisa Churchville has experience on the board as Class Chair, Investment Chair and Treasurer. Lisa is a graduate of Barnard College and has her Master in Business Administration from Harvard Business School. She spent most of her career in broadcast television with NBC in NY, Chicago, Philadelphia, and Providence. After retiring from broadcasting, Lisa joined Treasurer Magaziner as the Director of College and Retirement Programs. She lives in Wakefield with her husband Skip Carlin, an interior designer. Lisa is an active member of the Handicraft Club and has enjoyed painting, portraits, needlepoint, bridge, and basket making classes.

Assistant Treasurer **Kathy Bourque**

Kathy Bourque joined the Handicraft Club in 2011. Over the past thirty years Kathy has held various volunteer positions that include Four Corners Nursery School, Gordon School, Pomfret School, Moses Brown School, Providence Country Day, Bates College and The Shelter Harbor Board. Kathy resides on the East Side of Providence and has enjoyed classes in needlepoint, knitting, weaving, as well as some day workshops.

Recording Secretary **Susanne Toothaker**

Susanne Toothaker was on the Finance Committee for several years at the Club and more recently has been the Class Chair for the past two years, working very closely with Rebecca Siemering, The Club's Education Manager. Both of these opportunities have helped her to have a deeper understanding of the workings of the Club and offered chances to meet many members. Susanne Toothaker has been a member of the Handicraft Club for about 7 years.

She became interested when retiring from teaching after 40 years, and felt there was a creative piece missing from her life. Susanne was lucky enough to be able to do some painting with Margaret Owen and learn the skill of Nantucket basket making with Donele Monti. More recently she has enjoyed learning about Whiteline Printing with Kitty Lovell, and delving into watercolors with Anne Wert. She has also dabbled in glass design at Heritage Gifts & Glass Studio, and a little weaving and paper making with Suzi Ballenger. "They are all such wonderful teachers!", Susanne says. Susanne looks forward to continuing on the Board and supporting the Club.

Personnel Committee Annual Report

Margaret Lederer

Club Year 2021-2022

This year Helen Bingham continued working as our full time General Manager and Rebecca Siemering continued working as our part-time Education Manager. An additional part-time staff member, Kate Gallagher, was hired to assist with administrative details.

The need for an additional part-time worker was caused by the club's increased need to create databases for those parking in the parking lot each term, for members' proofs of vaccination, and for the recording and billing of lunch purchases from the Providence Art Club. Kate executed these tasks competently as well as creating databases of donors, assisting with the weekly e-newsletter, mailings and providing as-needed assistance with preparing for programs/events as well as managing the lunch deliveries . Kate's assuming these tasks has allowed Helen and Rebecca to allocate their time to other tasks for which they hold responsibility. Helen is Kate's supervisor, coordinating the time Kate gives to tasks both she and Rebecca delegate. The three women work well together

Rebecca's responsibilities have been in the area of planning classes and programs/events. Rebecca has worked well with the committee chairs with whom she has interacted. Rebecca has been effective at offering a variety of classes and programs online and in-person that have been appealing to members.

Helen Bingham has been stellar in managing all aspects of the club. She has established good communication with service providers, managed to save the club money by finding alternative sources and spoke with our insurance agent to obtain insurance funds to pay for the broken boiler and circulator pump. She has brought warmth and grace to the clubhouse with her placement of fresh flowers, candy and an inspirational message in the coatroom as well as placing tablecloths and fresh flowers on the lunch tables. It is these self-initiated small gestures as well as the initiation and execution of larger responsibilities that can assure all of us that the club is being well managed.

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret N. Lederer, Personnel Committee Chair

"Be gentle with yourself, learn to love yourself, to forgive yourself, for only as we have the right attitude toward ourselves can we have the right attitude toward others" — Wilfred Peterson

General Manager Annual Report

Helen Bingham

Club Year 2021-2022

Dear Members, Guests with Provisional Status, Guests, Teachers and Staff,

This past Club year has been filled with so many amazing moments that have created lasting memories for each of us and perhaps for different yet positive reasons.

July and August:

Last summer, Sue Pakula was a tremendous help in getting the Building and Grounds ready for the Fall term. We had the tea room remodeled, the fence fixed, over 20 windows adjusted as well as cleaned inside and out along with numerous other tasks such as organizing and cleaning the rooms. Julia Emlen put us in touch with Welcoming Landscaping, which continues to take care of our Grounds and I am grateful for her assistance with this fantastic company. The summer also allowed me to work with Mary Reineman and Sara Carcieri to coordinate the catered lunch service provided by the Providence Art Club for our Fall trimester.

September and October:

On September 10th we had our Welcome Back Event which became a reality directly due to Rebecca Siermering, our amazing Education Manager. Loren Spears from the Tomaquag Museum gave an interesting presentation about Indigenous people and the museum. Our Membership Book was ready for everyone at the start of the fall term which kicked off September 20, 2021. Sally Elliott, our Membership Chair, had a brilliant idea to have an Open House to help showcase our Club to potential new members and guests. We had teachers in the Club demonstrating and explaining the skill that they taught here. Many members and teachers helped put this Saturday morning event in place on October 16th. It was wonderful to have people see what the Handicraft Club has to offer with the numerous inspiring classes and everyone felt it was a huge success.

During these months we offered three lunch options that varied week to week. Members were able to order the day before they were going to enjoy the catered lunch from the PAC. Susanne Toothaker, our Class Chair, was instrumental in assisting Rebecca create an amazing array of class offerings for the fall, winter and spring term. Our members give Rebecca ideas and suggestions throughout the year that Susanne and Rebecca followed up on.

November and December:

We had two major things happen in November. Kate Gallagher was hired as our administrative assistant and she has proven to be a godsend. Kate has the unusual ability to see what is needed and then does that task without being asked to do so. Kate handles our time consuming jobs which then allows Rebecca and I to focus on the day to day work that makes the Handicraft Club a special place to be. On November 29th our boiler died. Who knew that I

would then learn all about steam boilers, condensation, mineral deposits, insurance claims, etc. I also found out how long the lead time is to get a boiler delivered to the Club. With Sue Pakula and Margaret Lederer's much needed guidance, we hired Phalanx to remove the dead boiler and replace it with a shiny and new boiler. During these months we did not have heat in the building with the exception of my office and the painting rooms. We used space heaters and window units in the Double Parlor to help prevent pipes from breaking due to the cold. Kate and Rebecca were rock stars. They worked their shifts with fingerless gloves, hats and winter coats on. Even when given the option to work from home, they still persisted and came to the Club.

During this time, Sharleen Bowen and Anne Snyder created the solicitation letter to help raise funds for the Operating Club Fund, Jessie Knight Fund, Tynietoy Fund and the two Giving Societies. We had a generous response that allowed Kate to research and purchase new items for the Tynietoy Mansion. This allowed Rebecca to put together a committee to organize an educational workshop for our members using the Jessie Knight Funds which will be in the Fall of 2022.

January and February:

January 10th was our scheduled start to the Winter term. Due to a surge in Covid cases and due to the continued lack of heat, we moved the start for classes to January 24th. On Monday, January 17th, I entered the building to find that three pipes had burst and we had a flood in the basement. Luck persisted in that the pipes had burst within hours of my arrival and we had three technicians from Phalanx here to work on the boiler. The technicians spent the day getting rid of the water and fixing the pipes. Almost two months to the date on January 28th, our boiler was up and running. To walk into the building and feel heat was a treat. There were many hiccups over the next five weeks. The boiler would not stay up and running due to sediment that had settled and old metal pipes. Phalanx described our situation as this: "a new heart with clogged arteries". Every Monday for five weeks I made a call to Phalanx to let them know the Boiler had shut down again. The technicians came out the day I placed the call and did what was needed to help get everything up and running again. Usually they had to remove dirty water and start over with fresh clean water. During this time I filed two insurance claims with the expectation to not get reimbursed based on my cynical nature towards insurance companies. Due to the pandemic a virtual investigation had to be completed using my cell phone and numerous pictures of the broken boiler parts prior to them being removed from the premises. We also became aware of two broken radiators which will be replaced this summer. To my utter surprise and pleasure the insurance companies paid on BOTH claims minus the deductible.

March and April:

During this Club year I researched thirteen different software management companies in the hope of having a system that would coordinate our database with our classes, workshops and event calendar with our administrative tasks and have a website to showcase the vitality of the Club to the general public and our membership. We needed a user friendly interface with the ability for people to easily sign up for classes and pay for their annual membership. We also

needed to find a program that would allow us to generate accurate reports and send out email blasts to specific groups of people. Kate and Rebecca were very helpful in testing systems and being sounding boards to what would and would not work. I had the pleasure to talk with Marianne Migliori about a new software platform and she was able to help me organize my thoughts, plans and research. However, nothing was fitting all our needs for a reasonable cost. Then, I had that “ah ha” moment when I knew my focus needed to be on Membership not tech support. If we don’t have membership then we won’t need a robust website. Membership had to be the focus and the priority.

How to create value for membership? Awareness about membership? And growth with membership? In the spring I switched my focus to “Celebrating Membership”. I met with our Event Chairs, Mary Chace and Tammy Bolotow. With a coordinated effort we came up with numerous ideas for events in the near future. Rebecca oversees the administrative side of Events and has been working hard to have a robust schedule for things to come. We wanted to offer members the opportunity to meet in intimate groups to experience fun and educational things.

However, we needed to implement things for the spring for our members as well as for the future trimesters. Margaret Lederer went to the Executive Committee to have Truman Trolley and the parking lot be complementary to our members and teachers. We also made our tea room complimentary so that members and teachers alike can enjoy coffee, tea, water and snacks for free. The spring term brought a new lunch service to our members in the form of Nicole’s Gourmet which is a product of Pranzi Catering. This is a tasty, affordable and convenient way for members to enjoy lunch together without having to plan to have lunch here at the Club. We also have umbrellas with our logo on it for members to use or to purchase. We have pencils and tape measures all with the new logo.

On April 27th we had Andrew Raftery give an enlightening presentation on his creative process with printmaking and watercolors. We saw first hand his take on our Tiger Print wallpaper. I will never forget this event and I look at our wallpaper with fresh eyes. We made VanGogh tickets available for our members to see the exhibit on May 17th at the convention center.

May and June:

It is interesting to write a report that covers time that has not occurred yet. Mary Chace, Tammy Bolotow and Sally Elliott helped to plan, organize and implement our Preview Party on May 16th at 6pm which was followed by the Open Houses on the 17th and 18th. The Preview Party was a huge success due to the planning and knowledge that Rebecca brought to the table. We had just over 50 members attend the event which had over 120 pieces of artwork. We raised close to \$3000 for the Ukraine Relief Fund via Global Giving.

We have introduced Whole Food pre-packaged lunch options for our members and teachers during the month of May. Two to three times a week I go to the store and see what I hope people will enjoy eating. I think this may be the best option for the Fall 2022 trimester.

What is to come is our Annual Meeting which is on Wednesday, June 15th at the Squantum Association. The theme is "Celebrating Membership". We have a knitting class in June scheduled. Our summer months will be busy for Rebecca, Kate and I. We have the fall to plan for, the Membership Book to print, the meetings to prepare for, and all our exciting events to have organized for all of you.

Monthly throughout the year:

For every class, workshop and event, Rebecca Siemering has played a vital part in making them each a reality. Her sense of calm is a thing I hope to emulate. Kate and Rebecca are two intelligent, kind people who are lovely to work with on day to day matters as well as planning things to come.

Amabel Allen, our Finance Chair, has been fantastic to work with this past year. She has created the monthly Treasurer report and the General and Investment Fund report. Each month I "balance our checkbook" and pay our bills. All the financial reports I create get summarized in the reports Amabel generates. Amabel wrote our Annual Dues letter which was mailed out for an April 1st delivery. We hope all our members renew their membership. Thank you to Fran Gammell-Roach and Sara Carieri for your help in assisting me with the future organization of Quickbooks.

I had the opportunity to learn about the five policies we have as our insurance coverage for the club this past year. Working with Ruth Leber at Starkweather and Shepley has been an education and has proven to be financially rewarding for the Club.

Each week brings something new and exciting: Teacher Appreciation Week, Bring a Friend to Class, ordering pizza for lunch for the members and teachers, sitting outside for meetings or lunch, meeting with board members, adjusting the Covid Policy, monitoring lunches, trolley use, dues, paying bills, negotiating contracts, making contacts, problem solving, listening and helping members.

Sally has done a tremendous job of helping get new members and guests with provisional status to join the Club. Throughout the year, Stacy Emanuel has been an accurate Recording Secretary. I had to fill in for her at one board meeting and found out how much time went into taking accurate notes. Liza McCahan, one of our Vice Presidents has been helpful in raising questions and helping with the logistics for many Club ideas. Our Assistant Treasurer, Marilyn Shealey assisted with having a new lunch program for the spring as well as so many other tasks. We now have an active Instagram account thanks to the implementations and maintenance by Kim Worrel and Kate Farrington, our Communication Chairs. Our Investment Chair, Mary Reinerman has kept our financial status of the Club intact. Our Board Members that are listed within my report and here at the end along with Rebecca and Kate are instrumental in the success of the Club. It takes a village and I am so fortunate to work with and for such a talented group of women.

Margaret Lederer is an amazing President. It is my sincere hope that she realizes how much she is appreciated and cared for by our members, teachers, staff and myself. I am in awe of how much time and energy she pours into this volunteer position (Margaret works as if it is a full time job). Primarily due to Margaret, we have a new identity. Thank you also to Marianne Migliori for making this design a reality. It is a pleasure to be able to call Margaret my friend as well as my boss. She has given me strength and inspiration throughout the year without even knowing it. Her level of constant support and positivity is something that I hope to achieve and adhere to.

It is a pleasure to work at the Handicraft Club. I am met with challenges weekly if not daily. I am grateful to have met so many lovely people this past year. To the members that touched my heart by giving me a smile when I needed it, handing me flowers when I least expected it, sharing with me a home baked item, giving me a suggestion that I had not even considered, sending me a kind email or simply sharing with me a story or detail about their lives..... I thank you for being you. You matter to me. This coming year will be a time that we "Celebrate Membership", where we celebrate you.

Helen Bingham
General Manager

"Friends are medicine for a wounded heart, and vitamins for a hopeful soul" - Steve Maraboli

Board of Directors and Staff Club Year 2021-2022

Executive Board

President, Margaret Lederer
1st Vice President, Sara Carcieri
2nd Vice President, Liza McCahan
Recording Secretary, Stacy Emanuel
Treasurer, Amabel Allen
Assistant Treasurer, Marilyn Shealey

Committee Chairs

Class, Susanne Toothaker, Chair
Communications, Kate Farrington and Kim Worrell, Co-Chairs
Events, Mary Chace and Tammy Bolotow, Co-Chairs
Finance, Amabel Allen, Chair
Giving Societies, Anne Snyder and Sharleen Bowen, Co-Chairs
Building & Grounds, Sue Pakula, Chair
Investments, Mary Reineman, Chair
Membership, Sally Elliott, Chair
Nominating, Heather Roberts, Chair
Personnel, Margaret Lederer

General Manager

Helen Bingham

Education Manager

Rebecca Siemering

Administrative Assistant

Kate Gallagher

Maintenance

Henrique Leite

HANDICRAFT CLUB STRATEGIC PLAN For Club Years 2022-23 Through 2024-25

This strategic plan seeks to address what the most immediate needs are for the Club to remain vital while staying consistent with the core of its identity: Craft Classes and Camaraderie.

As a strategic plan it differs from a long range plan or a tactical plan in that it deals with a 3 year timeframe, not the 5 -10 year timeframe of a long range plan nor does it deal with detailed implementation as a tactical plan would. Rather this strategic plan can be seen as a roadmap for the direction in which the Club should be steered in the next 3 years. Like a roadmap there can be adaptation with “detours” or alternative paths taken while the goals ahead remain the destination.

This plan is based on information that was gathered in member surveys that have been done in recent years as well as organized member and teacher discussion groups, the most recent of which was done in January/February 2021. Also references have been the long range plan and one-on-one information gathered from members and teachers who have resigned their membership or left to teach elsewhere.

From the gathered information organizational strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats were identified.

STRENGTHS

- Unique all women’s educational club focusing on programs and classes in handcrafting items
- Unlike retail or continuing education classes, membership offers opportunity for sense of belonging
- Opportunities to build friendships
- Quality of teaching
- Central geographic location
- Sense of pride, belonging to an organization founded in 1904
- Variety of classes and crafts
- Classes offered during daylight hours
- Capable administrative staff
- Membership is largely experienced using Zoom for classes, programs and meetings.
- Recently updated bylaws and policies
- Membership largely computer oriented for getting information from electronic communication and paying for classes, dues and classes electronically.
- Small class sizes which offer one-on-one hands-on instruction.
- Members can work on their unique projects of their own choosing.
- Actively engaged Board and Club leadership
- Large pool of professionally invested funds
- The Board exercises fiduciary responsibility

WEAKNESSES

- Lack of parking

- Lack of adequate ventilation for the entire building; some spaces not being able to be used during high risk of airborne disease.
- Lack of easy accessibility into the clubhouse and throughout the interior (7 different interior levels)
- Lack of storage for members and teachers. Members and teachers needing to carry their projects and materials to and from the clubhouse
- With the exception of the rooms with weaving looms, all rooms are shared by multiple crafts
- Lack of water accessibility for some crafts requiring water
- Building that requires approximately \$100,000/year to be serviceable and preserved., drawing on invested funds.
- The visual chaos with rooms being crowded with multiple things.
- Vulnerability to having teachers stop teaching at HC and teach elsewhere, taking a following of members with them.
- Declining number of members willing to serve on committees or on the Board.
- Lingering remembrance of the recent activity of a small group of members who instigated discord among the membership
- Aging membership
- Not offering class times that would appeal to working women or those with young children
- Website is not engaging
- To enroll in classes it is multi-stage. You need to sign-in to two websites.
- Unlikely that membership would be willing to drive to a location beyond Providence
- Administrative software is not an integrated system thus it leads to inefficient use of administrative time and increased opportunity for errors
- Reliance on satellite locations does not reinforce camaraderie and sense of belonging
- Small rooms limit class size; small number of rooms limit number of classes in building
- Clubhouse limits the types of classes that can be offered.
- Increased reliance on an annual draw from our invested funds for support of our annual operating budget.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Potentially could expand the class hours to evening and/or weekends
- Potentially could offer after-school and/or summer classes for children/grandchildren of members
- Potentially could work cooperatively with other organizations with related interests
- Could rent another clubhouse location better suited to clubhouse needs
- Could buy another clubhouse location better suited to clubhouse needs

THREATS

- Teachers leaving teaching at the HC and going to other locations taking members with them. Member loyalty to a teacher being greater than loyalty to Club membership.
- Teachers being unwilling to teach at the current clubhouse
- Inability to attract new members due to limited class days and hours, cost of parking, ease of access, the increasing availability of handicraft classes at other places with lower cost, better hours, easier access.
- Continued erosion of membership base as members age and have problems accessing classrooms
- Increasing expense going to pay for parking solution (trolley) rather than other benefits to be enjoyed by a broader group of members.

- Declining number of members and increase in age of members (moving into Senior and Emeritus Member categories) impacting decline in dues revenue which is the largest source of operating revenue for the Club
- Increased expense of necessary clubhouse repairs
- Increased expense of providing parking & shuttle service (since 2018-19 Club Year, the parking & shuttle service has increased 65%)
- Declining membership resulting in reduced revenue for operating budget
- Need to increase teacher hourly pay in order to stay competitive and retain teachers
- Increased personnel cost due to diminished member willingness to participate in administrative tasks and leadership roles.
- Overall economic inflation driving up the costs of utilities and supplies for the clubhouse.
- Due to the downturn in the economy the annual draw on our invested funds declines.

GOALS

The goals of this strategic plan are in two areas:

1. In the area of membership

a. Stabilize the number of members by deepening a sense of commitment to the club and thus reducing the number of members who resign (*over the past 3 years we have had approximately 120 members resign their membership*).

b. Grow our membership through attracting those who are not yet members.

2. In the area of financial oversight

Manage as well as monitor the financial burden placed on the Club by clubhouse repairs, off-site parking and shuttle services

There is a sense of urgency to reach these goals. The consequences of not focusing Club efforts on achieving them would result in a smaller membership base, reducing the contribution of dues revenue to the operating budget which in turn would cause the need for a greater portion of the annual draw from the invested funds to be used to maintain a desirable quantity and quality of classes and programs. In addition, the sense of belonging, camaraderie and friendship opportunities would be eroded.

The activities to achieve these goals also calls for addressing the burden that having 42 College Street as our clubhouse places on the wellbeing of our club. Over the past 12 years we have spent roughly an average of \$100,000 a year on keeping the building functional. Providing parking and trolley service to members in 2022-23 Club Year will cost the club approximately \$75,000. This is a 65% increase since the club began offering this service in the 2018-2019 Club Year. We have heard from members and potential members that without that parking and shuttle availability they would cease to be members, thus further reducing the size of the membership base as well as dues and class fee revenue. And, at the end of each year when we spend all that money, we still have a building with no close parking available, inadequate storage for members and teachers materials and difficult accessibility among the 7 different levels of relatively small rooms with poor ventilation. There are teachers teaching and our members going to classes in places that offer advantages we cannot at 42 College Street and it is impacting our number of members and our available funds for classes and programs.

We will also need to address that during the next three years there will be diminished annual draw from our investment funds. Our annual draw will diminish from that of recent years as calendar quarters that are averaged in the calculation of the draw experience market downturns.

The goals of this strategic plan, — stabilizing and growing the membership base as well as being mindful of the financial impact that remaining at 42 College Street has on our operating budget — are definitely reachable. Achieving them through taking actions such as those described below will enliven and enrich the sense of camaraderie as well as our opportunities to learn about and practice the art of handicrafts together.

THE ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE THESE GOALS:

Overall:

- * Address why members resign (parking too costly or too difficult, getting into and around the clubhouse too difficult, crafts taught by teachers being taught elsewhere because teachers have left).
- * Address why those who would be members choose not to do so (parking too difficult; hours and days of class offerings not convenient with their schedule;)
- * Address why teachers are inclined to no longer teach at the Club (no storage; can earn more money teaching elsewhere; clubhouse is visually chaotic; no easy access to water; no dedicated classroom; classroom too small & crowded) .

Crafts:

1. Have a broad range of class, workshop & programs to appeal to a wide group of individuals (members & non-members) thereby deepen a commitment to the Club;
2. Offer classes and opportunities that might attract younger working women as well as those who are no longer working.

Camaraderie:

Have frequent opportunities other than classes for members and non-members to deepen engagement with Club.

Financial Stability:

Reducing the continuing proportionally large expenditures being spent to remain in the present clubhouse so that the quality and quantity of member experiences are not compromised.

Actions by Committees

FINANCE COMMITTEE Seek to reduce the percent of annual draw used for capital expense and increase the percent of annual draw used to bolster the operating budget.

CLASSES Have a broad choice of classes and workshops. Increase incentives for teachers to continue teaching at the Club. Offer some off-site classes while still having a robust number of classes at the clubhouse. Offer workshops. Have back-up teachers for the teachers that might leave. Try having workshops that might have different hours and/or days to attract younger

working women. Have a mix of virtual classes in the winter term as well as in-person ones. Explore the possibility of doing joint classes/workshops with other organizations and or businesses (Fuller Museum, Providence Art Club, Perennial Planters, Mermaid's Purl, etc.). Explore 2-3 day member workshop(s) with nationally known teacher or crafts person.

COMMUNICATIONS

INTERNAL Expand the reach of the newsletter to be certain that it is reaching teachers and guests and past members of the Club. Highlight opportunities to gather at the Club, highlight teachers. Have a recipe or something of interest. Perhaps separate the class listing news into a separate bi-weekly newsletter alternating with the club news newsletter. Update website to be more engaging, contemporary and uplifting

EXTERNAL Investigate if other organizations such as garden clubs, or organizations with membership of women of retirement age might be potential sources for HC members. Send newsletters to them and contact them to see if they are interested in visiting.

EVENTS/PROGRAMS Offer 8 programs/events a year. Working with Classes and Giving Societies and Membership. These should be varied, can relate to workshops/classes.

GIVING SOCIETIES AND DONATIONS Acknowledge those who give gifts beyond annual dues. Offer them a way to be engaged in the Club if they are not actively engaged already taking classes.

BUILDING & GROUNDS Have the Burton Room and the lunchroom as a gathering place for members. Address only functional deficiencies at 42 College Street to keep the clubhouse in good working order.

MEMBERSHIP Explore ways to add value to membership. Investigate discount at different craft stores, trunk shows, discounts and/or discounted admission to area museums. Work with Events/Programs Chairs to plan engaging Open House(s). Be in contact with those who are guests in classes to welcome them, and if they do not become GPS or members, follow-up with why. Contact members who have taken a leave-of-absence and encourage them to renew as Active Members. Develop incentives for members to bring others into the membership. Simplify and reduce wait-time for entrance to membership.

NOMINATING Find out from new and/or recent members what their strengths and/or interests are and give that information to the Exec. Committee so that those new members can be invited to serve on committees. Strengthen the Committee structure with more people asked to be on committees so that they are more involved/engaged. Invite new members to serve on a committee and develop a group of potential new club leaders.

ADMINISTRATION Find and install administrative software that would integrate class registration, dues renewal, website functions, membership database, bookkeeping functions for greater ease of use and more accurate recording for members and administrators to use.

LUNCH/DINING TASK FORCE Ideas on how to encourage members to come and/or stay for lunch. Continue to monitor lunch sources and offerings.

CLUBHOUSE OPTIONS TASK FORCE: Define the parameters and criteria that an alternative clubhouse should have (geographic, type of site, size of site, likely cost, rent or purchase, etc.). Investigate alternative clubhouse options that would offer parking and easy access for our members for a possible alternative clubhouse. Weigh alternatives: rent or purchase. And to outline the steps that need be taken to implement a move to an alternative clubhouse should this be the desire of the membership.

“You can’t cross the sea merely by standing and staring at the water” - Tagore