



HANDI-NOTES

Winter 2011

Volume 2, Issue 1



A New Handicraft Club Cookbook is in the works!

Calling all Handicrafters!

Please send or bring in your favorite recipe for this book. You can drop your recipe at the Club in a box set up outside the kitchen. Or ...call **Sally Whiten** at 401-793-0708 or email her at pardeecott@aol.com.

More to follow – soon!

Notes from the President

Welcome back to the club and a new year. I hope each of you enjoyed the holidays and are ready for classes and workshops at the club. Despite some tricky weather, the club is up and running for the winter term.

Recently, we completed some drainage and gutter work at the club, which seems to have resolved the problem of water in the basement studio. With that resolved, we have patched the floor in that classroom and we will do some additional work over the summer months.

Work is being done on the class schedule for the spring term, if you have any ideas of classes or workshops that you would like to see offered, please contact **Bobbie Binder** (binder555@aol.com) with your ideas.

Enjoy your classes and workshops this winter and be sure to sign up for classes when the spring registration is mailed out. Classes are the life blood of our club and we want as many members as possible participating.

Trina Sherer
President

IN THIS ISSUE	
1	NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT
1	COOKBOOK IN THE WORKS
2	WINTER CLASS AVAILABILITY
2	WINTER WORKSHOPS
2/3	THE ENDOWMENT FUND
3	NEW MEMBERS
3	GIVING OPPORTUNITIES
4	GIVING SOCIETIES
4	LIBRARY DUPLICATES
5	HOLIDAY PARTY RECAP



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Winter Class Availability

The following winter classes still have openings, so you still have a chance to enroll! Please email **Pam Gardner** (pameladgardner@gmail.com) to sign up for the class you're interested in.

- **Acrylics** – 1 spot Wed PM
- **Traditional Baskets** w/ Donele - 2 spots available both Wed AM & PM
- **Drop-In Bridge** - space available
- **Drawing** w/ Kathy Weber - 4 spots available Thurs PM
- **Decorative Arts** w/ Peggy Rodgers - space available Mon AM & PM; limited space available Tues AM & PM
- **Decorative Painting** w/ Karen Graves - 1 spot available Thurs AM; 4 spots available Thurs PM
- **Decoupage** - space available Tues AM & PM
- **Knitting** - space available Wed PM & Thurs AM
- **Lampshades** - 5 spots available Wed PM
- **Nantucket Baskets** - 4 spots available Tues AM
- **Needlepoint** - 1 spot available Thurs PM
- **Oriental Rugs** - space available Wed AM
- **Painting and Drawing** - 3 spots available Tues AM
- **Quilting** - 3 spots available Fri
- **Rug Hooking** - space available Thurs AM
- **Watercolors** - space available Mon PM
- **Weaving** - 2 spots available Wed

The Handicraft Club Endowment Fund

Submitted by **Po Adams**

When, in 1925, The Handicraft Club was negotiating purchase of the 100-year-old Truman Beckwith House at 42 College Street (a property it had occupied as a rental from 1907 to 1919) one consideration was preservation of the historic building to save it from an uncertain future. This mission had been urged upon the Club by members of the larger Providence community and when funds were raised to meet the purchase price, about half came from non-members. Thus the Club assumed an obligation for preservation that came to equal its commitment to handicrafts.

The increased expenses of ownership were partially met by raising dues from \$5.00 to \$10.00 and introducing an initiation fee of \$5.00 in 1925; twenty years later they were \$12.00 and \$6.00 respectively and by 1987 had risen to \$75.00 each. In addition money was raised by holding special events such as card parties, exhibitions and sales of members' work, by rental of the building, or by setting aside money annually to accrue the necessary funds for special projects (It took 32 years to accumulate enough to restore the roof balustrades.) Members also gave generously; for sixty years the principal donor and fairy godmother was Mary H. Parsons, the Club's first and then honorary president until

Continues on page 3

These Winter Workshops also have space available

Primitive Bench Painting Workshop – February 11th, 18th, and 25th – spots available
Mixed Medium Collage Workshop – Thursday, March 3rd – 5 spots available
Fair Isles Knitting Workshop – January 24th – 2 spots available

Email Pam Gardner (pameladgardner@gmail.com) if you'd like to enroll.



HANDI-NOTES

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Continued from page 2

her death at the age of 103 in 1965. Miss Parson's extraordinary and often anonymous generosity bailed the Club out many times and her bequest of \$100,000 made it possible, in the late sixties, to add to the recently established Endowment Fund and to embark on a major restoration of the clubhouse.

In the early 1960s Margaret Taft Miner (Mrs. George L.), a member for over fifty years and former president, had presented a proposal for establishing an Endowment Fund, the income of which would be used "for maintenance and improvement of the Club's physical properties". Mrs. Miner recognized that a solid and permanent source of funds was needed to meet the rising costs of historic preservation. An amendment to the by-laws establishing the Endowment Fund was adopted on April 20th, 1963. Mrs. Miner's donation was the first to be recorded. Since then the Fund has grown through generous gifts and bequests.

Within the last ten years major repairs and renovation of the property have been possible using the Fund and additional generous support from the Champlin Foundations and individual Club members.

In May 2004, The Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission awarded us the following certificate:

This eminent Providence institution, celebrating its centennial, long ago committed itself to the highest standard for planning, maintenance, and restoration at one of the city's best and most prominent Federal houses. In assuming responsibilities far beyond its organizational goals, the Handicraft Club exemplifies laudable preservation practice.

Handicraft Club members should all be proud of what we have accomplished in our 106 years of existence.

Po Adams

New Members

The Handicraft Club is always looking for creative, enthusiastic new members. So, if you have a friend, neighbor or relative that you think might be interested in the Club, please bring them by to see our wonderful building and show them around the many interesting classes we offer. It really is very easy to propose a new member; all you need to do is fill out the short application form in the back of your Handbook, write a supporting letter, and find two other members to write seconding letters. Then just mail everything to the Membership Chairs. For all the details, check pages 12 to 13 of the Handbook.

Trina Sherer

Giving Opportunities

1. Repair old sign, which hangs over the Yellow bench in keeping room
2. Two standing lamps for living room
3. Carpeting for stairs
4. Reupholstering of chairs in Burton room
5. Refinishing of yellow bench in keeping room
6. Weaving room needs:
 - Sand floors and enamel - \$ 720.00
 - Paint Walls, woodwork - \$2,250.00
 - Paint three windows - \$920.00
7. Southwest Studio needs:
 - Paint walls, woodwork - \$2,250.00
 - Paint four windows - \$1,025.00

Please consider giving to improve and preserve The Handicraft Club.

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Library Duplicates

Over the years, through the generous donation of members and former teachers, the Handicraft Club Library has accumulated multiple copies of some books - particularly in popular fields like needlepoint and needlework. These duplicate copies are taking up shelf space needed for new additions to the library collection. Therefore, we are making them available to any members who will take them away.

The duplicate copies are located on the bench in the room between the lunchroom and the library (on the way to the painting studio). Please help yourself.

Po Adams

JULIA LIPPITT MAURAN

June 25, 1860 – May 21, 1949

Gentlewoman, Farmer,
Horticulturist, Woodcarver,
Founder of Countless Societies,
Champion of Good and
Controversial Causes, Beloved by
Friend, Respected by Foe.

If the Handicraft Club Plays a Role in Your Life Today, Why Not Play a Role in its Life for Tomorrow

“Aren’t we lucky to have this unique and wonderful club? There is not another club like it anywhere”. These are the words of **Ann Brook Mason** and **Louie Mauran**, co-founders of the Julia Lippitt Mauran Society and the Truman Beckwith Circle.

The Julia Lippitt Mauran Society and the Truman Beckwith Circle are giving societies that were established to help guarantee that this unique and wonderful club will be here for future generations of women.

Thirty-two Handicraft members have joined the **Julia Lippitt Mauran Society**. These members have chosen to remember the Club in their estate plans.

Fourteen Handicraft members have joined the **Truman Beckwith Circle**; this society includes those members who are interested in making a contribution now.

We would like to invite you to consider joining one or both giving societies at the Handicraft Club. We all cherish our Handicraft experience and your gifts play a vital role in the Club’s future.

Each year the two Giving Societies meet in the spring for an annual luncheon.

We will be providing more information.

Sharleen Bowen & Mary Gilbane



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A Note About Our Successful Holiday Party & Auction

A wonderful evening was had by 118 Handicraft Club members, instructors, and guests at the Annual Holiday Party on December 6th. The House looked beautiful, thanks to the hard work of the decorating committee including **Nancy Moger, Meredith Swan, Kay Lisle, Bonny Young, Jozy Mainelli, Kit Barnum, Nancy Dunn, Ria Nagtegaal, Margie Edwards** (Chairman), and **Izzy Goff** (Auction Chairman).

Ria, who had worked her magic on the committee last year, found wonderful flickering lights that meet fire code for the mantles. Old and tired decor was retired by the committee and new things added. **Tom's Market** provided the catering and bartending by Dennis once again provided the bar. Everyone toasted the Club and sang the praises of the many artists whose works were available through a Silent Auction.

First, the Auction Committee, **Izzy Goff, Raya Goff, Annie Flather, Pat Ley, and Susan Nash**, would like to thank all those members who donated items, helped set up the show, and later bid and won the treasures. The 2010 Holiday Auction raised \$2300! The board has designated this money to be used to repair and refinish the floor in the decoupage room.

Second, the committee met recently to discuss ways to improve the auction process. We re-vamped the check out process and discussed ways to stimulate interest and add participation. Next year we would like to represent as many of the crafts taught at the Handicraft Club as possible. That means lamp shades to baskets to trays to "little pictures". Almost everyone has a crumb of wall space for a little picture!

Finally, we all know that the things we make take time. It's unreasonable to expect someone to whip off a donation in the eight weeks of the fall term. So... we hope you will keep your eyes open for possible donations tucked away in drawers and closets awaiting a permanent home. It would be wonderful if you could devote some time this summer to producing an auction item. We welcome all of your gifts.

Next year **Raya Goff** will chair the auction. This year's able committee has promised to help and we will add others. **Lee Angell, Anne Holmes, and Trish Sylvester** have asked to be on the committee and we hope you will join us too.

At the time of this writing, an overall Holiday Party profit of \$3,025.75 has been received. Thank you all for participating and supporting Club!

Izzy Goff