



HANDI-NOTES



April 2012 Volume 3, Issue 3

(401)831-5337 www.handicraftclub.org

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CLUB WEBSITE OFFERS USEFUL INFORMATION

Club members are encouraged to visit the Club's website www.handicraftclub.org and explore our Members Only pages. The member password is college42. It's a useful tool featuring a calendar of events, information on classes, and the Club directory. Give it a look. You'll be happy to learn how helpful it is.

SPRING OFFICE HOURS

The Club's administrative office will be open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 8AM-1PM from now through the summer.

Editor, Susan Tash

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

This issue of the newsletter highlights our very first collaborative event. Together with the Perennial Planters, a Providence Garden Club, we hosted Handicraft in Bloom. The Garden Club members interpreted our handicrafts with flowers; the arrangements were interesting and beautiful! However, I think one of the most wonderful things was the lingering smell of fresh flowers in the house for the next few days. And... the time of the event 5-6:30- turned out to be easily managed in our schedules.

Thank you Perennial Planters and especially Marshall Lawson for this great idea! A huge thank you to our own Trina Sherer, as well, who organized the event on our end. It was very successful as you can see and lots of fun too! We hope to have more in the future.

The month of May is very busy with the Annual Meeting on the 15th at 1PM. Tom Gastel will be with us demonstrating how he created *The Sketchbook of Rhode Island*, the annual meeting and tea will follow right after. The Spring Preview Party and Exhibit is on Monday, the 21st from 6-8PM. The next day, May 22 will be a great time to bring any potential new members to view the exhibit and have lunch. Jackie is preparing a special lunch!

As the Club winds down and you have your last classes of the year, I know you will remember the friends, projects and good times you have had. And, think of all the new techniques you have learned! See you soon.

Izzy Goff
President

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CLUB RESTORATION CONTINUES; MANY IMPROVEMENTS ARE ON DRAWING BOARD

Our Handicraft Club continues to be a comfortable and beautiful haven for members, largely because of the continuing efforts of the Board and the House Committee.

A parking space using an existing curb cut on College Street at the building's southeast corner has been proposed. A request for a construction permit has been submitted to the Historical District Commission. If permits are granted and funding organized, the Club will excavate the area just west of the library/lunchroom, and build a parking space for one car. Originally, according to old plans, that space was sloped from the building towards the street, and it was at one time a courtyard for horse and carriage.

There have been discussions, as well, to do further planting and leveling of that area to provide for outdoor dining outside the lunchroom. These are in the discussion stage and are not firm plans yet.

This summer the Club will begin the final phases of the restoration of the clubhouse with work on the carriage house and connector link as well as restoration of the north elevation of the main house. All lead paint will be removed, and trim will be primed and finished with two coats of paint. Storm windows will be removed, sprayed to match trim color, cleaned and re-installed.

Further, according the House Committee, the brickwork will be pointed and cleaned, and rotted lattice work in the refuse area will be removed. The door to the anteroom to the lunchroom will also be restored.

The Club has applied for a grant to cover a majority of the cost of this work. After the work is concluded, a long-term maintenance plan will be developed for the Club.



Restoration continues at historic Handicraft Club.

NEW BUSINESS: JANES GOTCHA' COVERED



Club member Sharon Linder has launched a new business designing and manufacturing hospital "johnnys" especially for women, appropriately named "janes." Linder's "janes" offer comfort, warmth, total coverage and a pocket for woman patients to wear while still providing easy access to health care providers for physical examination and most medical procedures. All profits go to the Janes Foundation with funds to be donated to women who cannot afford mammograms.

Linder says she was looking for a design that would address concerns for comfort and modesty, while easing distress and feelings of vulnerability when women are patients in a hospital situation. No more flimsy ill-fitting gowns leaving patients chilled and clutching the garments closed.

For more information about Janes (*gotcha covered*), go to www.gotjanes.com. Check out the site for a view of these hospital gowns designed specifically for us.



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HANDICRAFT IN BLOOM COMBINES ARTISTIC SENSIBILITIES, SKILLS

The Handicraft Club welcomed members of the Club as well as members of Perennial Planters to a melding of the minds and talent on Tuesday, April 10, with the first Handicraft in Bloom event. Marshall Lawson, program chair and past president for Perennial Planters, and Handicraft Club president Izzy Goff conceived of the program as a way to introduce members of both clubs to the skills and artistic sensibilities of all. Trina Sherer, a member and past president of both clubs, organized the event. It is loosely based on Art in Bloom, conducted by the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.

Perennial Planters is one of three Garden Club of America groups in RI. With about 40 members, it is based in the Providence area.

Members of the Handicraft Club donated their work for display and members of Perennial Planters formed beautiful flower arrangements to complement our fine craftsmanship. Wine and hors d'oeuvres accompanied the good cheer and bonhomie of the early evening affair.

Seventy-five people attended the event to see the works of Club members Virginia Mead, Nancy Moger, Janice Panoff, Ginny Walsh, Carla Dowber and Maggie Chadwick accompanied by the specially designed arrangements.



Robin Gross and Mary Jo Foley with the "RI Red" arrangement, which was inspired by a needlepoint pillow by Maggie Chadwick.



"Glorious Sky" arrangement by the Erica Lamb Team was inspired by a painting by Carla Bowden.



"Swimming with the Fish" arrangement by the Alice Tingley Team was inspired by a decoupage bowl by Virginia Mead.



Nancy Compton, Kay Sheldon, Jill Brody, and Frances Trafton pose with the "Woven Pastels" arrangement, inspired by a scarf by Ginny Walsh.

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MAY 21 SPRING PREVIEW PARTY TO SHOWCASE MEMBERS' FINEST WORK

The Club's Spring Preview Party is set for Monday, May 21, 6-8 p.m. The highlight of the evening will be the exhibit of impressive items crafted this year by Club members. The recipe for a perfect evening: these beautiful works, hors d'oeuvres made by members and an open bar tended by Dennis Brown and his servers.

Three spectacular items will be raffled this year. Izzy has again donated her home in Boca Grande, FL. The property has a pool, golf cart for in-town transportation, and beach access across the street. Jane Joukowsky has donated a stunning merino blanket woven from wool from merino sheep which she raises on her River Farm in Saunderstown. And, Virginia Mead and her decoupage class are creating a one-of-a-kind floral themed decoupage mirror for the raffle. These items, and photos of the Boca Grande home, will be on display at the Club within the next few weeks.

Following the Preview Party, the Club will be open to the public showcasing members' work on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 22-23, 10 a.m-3 p.m.

This party and raffle comprise our major fundraiser of the year. The ticket price for the party is \$40 and raffle tickets are \$25 or three for \$50. Your invitations and raffle tickets should arrive in late April. The Spring Preview Party has always received rave reviews and is a great opportunity to bring friends to introduce them to the Handicraft Club.

Some dates to be mindful of:

| | | |
|----------------|-------------------|----------|
| Drop-off | Thursday, May 18 | 9am-3 pm |
| | Friday, May 19 | 9am-12nn |
| Party | Monday, May 21 | 6-8 pm |
| Open to Public | Tuesday, May 22 | 10am-3pm |
| | Wednesday, May 23 | 10am-3pm |
| Pick-up | Thursday, May 24 | 9am-3pm |
| | Friday, May 25 | 9am-12nn |

Members are encouraged to volunteer and help make this year's event a great success. Please think about making a hot or cold hors d'oeuvre or volunteer to be a hostess for the exhibition or for item drop-off or pick-up. Look for sign-up sheets on the bulletin board this week.

Committee members include Jay Connelly, Rhea Brooks, Jen Auber, Betsy Canning, Ginny Walsh and Mary Small. Please contact Nancy Moger with questions (401.480.8120 or ngrmoger@aol.com).



ANNUAL MEETING OPEN TO ALL CLUB MEMBERS, MAY 15 AT 1 P.M.

The annual meeting of the Handicraft Club is scheduled for Tuesday, May 15 at 1 p.m. and all members are invited to attend. Featured speaker Tom Gastel will lead off the meeting. He is a noted author and artist whose book "Sketchbook Rhode Island" is a charming, historical and informative view of many of the homes in the College Hill area.

Following Gastel's talk the Board of the Handicraft Club will review final business for the year before classes end for the summer. There will be a vote on new by-laws, a review of the last year, including classes, programs, the new website and the annual budget for 2012-2013. Tea will be served right after the conclusion of business.

The Board encourages all members to attend.

BRING A GUEST TO LUNCH TUESDAY, MAY 22 FROM 12:00-2:00PM

Grab a friend that may be a potential member and join us for a special luncheon at the Club. Jackie will be providing a beautiful luncheon and the items displayed at the Preview Party will be available for members to share with potential new members. There is no better way to get people excited about the Club than showing off our beautiful building and showcasing the talent of our members. This opportunity is sure to inspire others to become members.

Please contact Alyssa Holland-Short at (401) 831-8339 or handicraft42@gmail.com by Thursday, May 17 to reserve a spot. Space is limited so please inquire early.

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DEANNA VAN SCHAGEN: NOT AFRAID OF NEEDLES



Deanna Van Schagen leading her rug hooking class.

Twenty years ago Deanna Van Schagen began teaching Oriental rug making (the punch-needle method) at the Handicraft Club and she hasn't stopped teaching since then. That first year she taught three different Oriental rug making classes, but has since branched out to teaching other skills, all of them requiring a nimble hand with a needle.

This spring Van Schagen is teaching Oriental rug making on Wednesday mornings and Crochet class (Tuesday mornings). In the past she has taught cut and pierced paper shade making, though students also made wallpaper shades, and fabric ones to coordinate with fabric in their homes.

Oriental rug making is what has enthralled Van Schagen over her years at the Club. Some students have been with

her for most of those years. The largest rug made in her class was 6 x 9 ft. and the longest was a stair runner. She once taught a design class where students could design their own Oriental rug, and one student is only now finishing her masterpiece. Making an Oriental rug is a long-term project. Students can choose their own colors and add personal design, including date and initials, that truly make it an heirloom. The rugs, made with wool, and having approximately 600 strands per square inch, are a lifetime investment, says Van Schagen.

Van Schagen has taken courses on color and design from Pat Lambert of Parsons School of Design, and the skills learned there she brings to her classes at the Club.

Taking classes herself at the Club helps Van Schagen to become a better teacher, she says. She's taken Nantucket baskets and decoupage. She finds it helpful to see how others teach and how students react.

Of course, she's no newcomer to teaching. She used her leadership skills and love of teaching in 4-H as a teenager, and started teaching long before she went to college to become a first grade teacher. She's taught in Vermont, Connecticut and in Braintree, MA., where she and her husband David still live. She says she sees herself first as a teacher, then as an artisan.

Raised on a dairy farm in northern Vermont, Van Schagen started working with fiber at the age of eight when her great aunt was knitting sweaters for the Red Cross and soldiers following WWII. Though she didn't learn to knit, Van Schagen took whatever bits of yarn her great aunt would spare and made things of her own devising. At the age of 10 she joined a 4-H Club and learned to sew, which is her first love. She has always worked fiber, whether it be fabric for sewing and quilting, yarn for rugs, knitting, crocheting or needlepoint.

Recently, when moving, Van Schagen had the help of her two daughters as she sought to weed out things in preparation for simpler living. Up in the attic, going through things with the girls, tossing items as necessary, they found a hanging clothes closet filled with all the prom dresses she had made for her daughters over the years. The girls decided in a most sensible way that the prom dresses had to stay. They were not to be chucked with the other memorabilia. Clearly, Deanna Van Schagen has assembled the most perfect project yet in her family.