



HANDI-NOTES



June 2012 Volume 3, Issue 4

(401)831-5337 www.handicraftclub.org

IN THIS ISSUE

1	NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT
1	HOUSEKEEPING NOTES
2	EXCITING NEW CLASSES
2	NEW TREE ON COLLEGE STREET
3	PREVIEW PARTY
4	TEACHER PROFILE: DONELE MONTE
4	TEACHERS AND MEMBERS ARE RESOURCES
5	THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!
5	CLUB WISH LIST

HOUSEKEEPING NOTES

Club Website Serves As Helpful Resource

Club members are encouraged to visit the Club's website www.handicraftclub.org (password 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.

Member Book to Include Email Addresses

By popular demand, next year's member book will include members' e-mail addresses. If your email address has changed over the past year, please send your new address to Alyssa at handicraft42@gmail.com to be sure she has it. If you would *not* like your e-mail address listed in the member book and haven't already opted out on your dues form, please also contact Alyssa.

Friendly Reminder

Club dues should be paid no later than July 1.

Editor, Susan Tash

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

Classes are finished; the classrooms now empty. Teachers and students have returned to their home studios. Programs -- Incredible Edibles, Handicraft in Bloom, Tom Gastel's Sketchbook of RI -- have been completed and well attended. The spring exhibit and party capped off the year -- it didn't rain and the display of the year's projects was outstanding. The Annual Meeting and Tea came and went. The kitchen is closed; Jackie is on summer break. Our financial year is over, as well, and the books closed. The 2011-2012 Handicraft Club year is now behind us.

We had more students than ever -- thirty new members this year. Many new classes -- "inchy" collage and jewelry making ring a bell. Four newsletters. A tree was planted on College Street. A new website: www.handicraftclub.org was born and evolved to include public and member pages. It has been a busy year, with many new programs and collaborative efforts, new foods, new classes, new students, new teachers and even a new administrative assistant. The Club continues as a busy and vibrant place.

This summer the carriage house is to be painted and restored this summer. It is the final leg of a long restoration project. The basket room will be painted as well. Alyssa will be in the club from Tuesday-Thursday 9-1. During Alyssa's hours the studios are open for those who want to use them and who can brave the heat. I know she would enjoy your company.

Have a happy, safe and fun summer. **Classes start again September 10.**

See you then!

Izzy Goff
President

HANDI-NOTES

June 2012 Volume 3, Issue 4

(401)831-5337 www.handicraftclub.org

CLASS CO-CHAIRS PROMISE EXCITING NEW CLASSES

Dear Members:

The Handicraft Club had a fantastic fall 2011-spring 2012 year with over 820 classes taken. New classes were tried this year – Papercutting, Jewelry Making, Bridge for Beginners, Crocheting and various workshops – all well received.

Next year we hope to offer all those classes plus plenty of new ones. Look for a course in creating a necklace using beading, metal work and knotting techniques. We hope to offer Bridge for Couples (men allowed). This will enable members to bring spouses or friends to create a twosome to learn bridge together. Also, we expect to offer Botanical Illustration, a writing/illustrating class, Bookmaking, Wearable Silk Flowers, and plenty of cooking classes.

When your fall 2012 class listing arrives in August, look it over carefully and sign up for an old favorite or consider trying something new. Classes start September 10th.

If you have suggestions for classes that you'd like to try, and any teachers to teach them, please let us know.

Have a good summer.

Bobbie Binder
Margaret Lederer
Class Co-Chairs

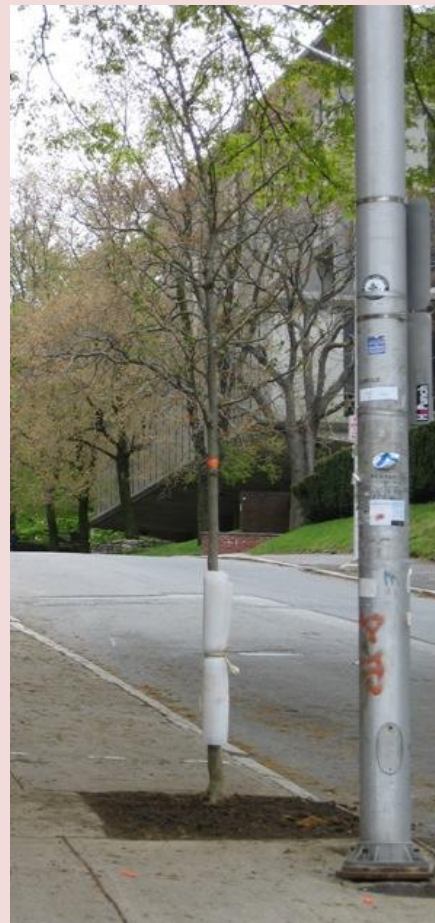


*Smudge McVickar (left) working in the decorative painting studio
and Mary Small (right) working in the weaving studio*

NEW TREE IN STREET SHOWS GREAT PROMISE FOR SHADE

On the street in front of the Handicraft Club a new London Plane tree has been planted, with great promise of beautiful shade in the distant future. This London Plane tree, or Patanus, or Sycamore, according to Sally Whiten, was planted as a result of Whiten's work with the Providence Neighborhood Planting Program in a partnership with the Mary Elizabeth Sharpe Street Tree Endowment, the City of Providence and residents of Providence. The Club paid for part of the expenses as well.

For about ten years the space was bereft of a tree, until Whiten took the task to hand and made sure the Club got its tree. Whiten serves as the Club's Garden Committee chair when she's not painting beautiful trays and boxes.



The London Plane tree freshly planted along College Street.

HANDI-NOTES

June 2012 Volume 3, Issue 4

(401)831-5337 www.handicraftclub.org

PREVIEW PARTY RAISES FUNDS TO SUPPORT CLUB ENDEAVORS

The annual Spring Preview Party held May 21st at the Club, the primary fundraiser of the year, generated \$10,825 from ticket and raffle sales and donations. After expenses, profits were \$7,775.

One hundred forty-seven members and guests enjoyed cocktails by Dennis Brown and hors d'oeuvres provided by 33 Club members, presented by Club Steward Jackie Hicks.

From knitting to basket weaving to oil painting and decorative painting, as well as all the other arts represented at the Club, the talent of our members was remarkable.

Raffle items included the donation of a one-week vacation stay at Izzy's home in Boca Grande, FL; a stunning blanket woven from wool from merino sheep raised by Jane Joukowsky on her Saunderstown River Farm; and Ginny Meade's and her class's donation of a one-of-a-kind floral-themed decoupage mirror. Smudge McVickar won the week in Florida, Sheila Hagen won the merino throw, and Richard Harrington won the decoupage mirror. The Club is grateful to all who participated in the raffle – teachers and Club members alike.

Much of the success of this fundraiser party is due to the hard work of the committee: Izzy Goff, Rhea Brooks, Trish Poirier, Laurie Galia, Sharleen Bowen, Sally Whitin, Ginny Walsh, Mary Small, Janice Connelly, Betsy Canning and Jen Auber. Thanks, too, to those who provided hors d'oeuvres for the festive evening.

Nancy Moger
2nd Vice President



Carol Lundin with a gold leaf tray.



Alice Westervelt and Kay Lisle



Izzy Goff and Betsy Ray



Peg Rodgers (right) and her guest



handicrafts by Club members



Nancy Moger and Trish Sylvester



Trish Poirier



Jean Cole



Shirley Hardison and her guest Suzanne Swanson

HANDI-NOTES

June 2012 Volume 3, Issue 4

(401)831-5337 www.handicraftclub.org

DONELE MONTE WEAVES HER WAY THROUGH AN INTERESTING CAREER



A career in accounting was once what Donele Monte thought was in her future. After all, that's what she studied in college. But when Monte's two sons were very young she took a basket making class and the rest is history.

She's been making baskets for 25 years and teaching basket making for 23 years – 13 of them at the Handicraft Club. Monte's refined her skills over the years, taking and teaching classes all over the eastern United States. A resident of her hometown, Somerset, MA, Monte taught early on in the adult enrichment classes at Somerset High School as well as at the Fall River Art Association.

Since then she's taught at the national convention of basket makers in North Carolina, which brings about 700 people to their meeting annually. When she's not teaching, she's taking classes. Monte likes to learn new techniques and explore materials that she's previously not used.

Starting with reed baskets at the Club, Monte has branched out to Nantucket baskets, which she learned by taking classes from many teachers. She says everyone does it differently, and it's good policy to learn the various techniques.

Reed baskets are made from the bamboo palm plant, using the inside of the stalk. These baskets are free form and molds are not used. When Nantucket baskets are woven over a form, the cane or the bark of the bamboo palm is

used. The plant grows in Asia, mostly in China, and flourishes, much like bittersweet does here, says Monte. It grows in long vines, very quickly, and has formidable thorns. Imagine how such a plant could end up as a beautiful basket in your own home.

Monte also does English willow baskets, a technique she learned from a teacher in New York. She does bead weaving, which she has taught at the Club. Jewelry making and knitting, too, are among her talents, but Donele says she loves basket making most. "Making something from plant material is very intriguing," says Monte. "To make a functional vessel with plant material and make a basket to fill any need is appealing," she adds.

Antler rib baskets, she says, are built like skeletons. She gathers bittersweet vine to make the frame, then uses caribou, moose or deer antlers for ribs. Once she's got this frame, she weaves whatever she wants into it. Hemp, jute, sea grass and copper wire are just some of the materials she and her students have used.

Monte is a busy woman. She teaches in her home studio at night. She taught nine classes, 55 students, a week this winter. And she says the enthusiasm of her students pleases her.

So, what began as a one-time evening class in basket making has become a lifetime career and love for Donele Monte. Those two little baby boys she left at home to take that first class -- they're 27 and 29 years old now, and just as fabulous as her baskets.



a selection of baskets by Donele Monte

HANDI-NOTES

June 2012 Volume 3, Issue 4

(401)831-5337 www.handicraftclub.org

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND GENEROSITY

Over the last few years the Club has received many gifts from members and even a “non-member”: gifts of time, of service, of money and of things needed. Though most is given anonymously, I hope this list of recent gifts might inspire you also to give.

First and foremost the Board gives the gift of their time, ideas and service to the Club. Every event, function, board meeting, report and committee meeting includes time and ideas generously given. I thank each and every one of you because the Club could not run without this valuable gift.

During the last couple of years money has been donated for the following projects: to paint the walls in the basket room, to paint the second floor palladium window and replace the sash-cords, to refurbish the iron arches in the front of the house and to redecorate the powder room and install new plumbing fixtures. Periodically, one of our members takes a luncheon chair to her fix-it man and brings it back repaired! What a nice gift. And even a non-member remade our wooden Handicraft Club sign and a painting teacher is repainting it this summer. Most of these gifts have been given anonymously and the Clubhouse is so much better because of them. A huge thank you to those of you who have given and cared.

Of course, with a Clubhouse this old, we have a running wish-list which includes: repairing of the bench and old sign in the keeping room, two standing lamps for the living room, carpeting for the stairway, and new upholstery, painting, and floor refinishing throughout the Clubhouse. If you have an interest in any of the above, please be in touch with me, Kit Barnum or our administrative assistant Alyssa Holland Short. And, even if there is something we have not listed, but you would like to see repaired or improved, let us know. Maybe you could help!

Izzy Goff
President

WISH LIST

The Handicraft Club is seeking a gifted photographer to volunteer on a per project basis to record the special events we have from time to time. If you know of someone or if you have the skill and the will, please contact Izzy Goff at igoff@aol.com or 401.294.6591.

TEACHERS AND STUDENTS SERVE AS HANDY RESOURCE

The Handicraft Club members and teachers are an outstanding resource for ideas and sources, tips and suggestions for creating better work. At a recent teachers' soiree at Class Chair Bobbie Binder's home, Ginny Mead (Decoupage) shared a paper website she discovered with Ingrid Lavoie (Papercutting). Check it out: papermojo.com. Even those of us who take Decorative Painting could use this – great paper with which to line painted boxes.

The newsletter would like to feature more such tips and hints from members and teachers. If you've got suggestions, whether it's a better way to load a brush, or a resource where one can buy yarns or fabrics, or even an upcoming exhibit of handicrafts elsewhere, please feel free to share them with the rest of the club.

Send suggestions to newsletter editor Susan Tash (susantash7@gmail.com) and we'll try to feature them in an upcoming newsletter.

IT'S RAINING MEN

At the Preview Party the masculine vibe was welcome in the usually female-dominated club.

