



HANDI-NOTES



December 2012 Volume 4, Issue 2

(401)831-5337 www.handicraftclub.org

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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Dear Members and Friends,

Once again our Holiday Party was well attended; all who went had a great time. Nancy Moger and Raya Goff with their respective committees did a wonderful job. The decorated mirror, mimicking the party invitation designed by Alyssa, looked fabulous and was a great idea. Thank you, Nancy. The food from Tom's Market was delicious, as always, and Dennis, of course, knew everyone's favorite drink.

The auction was also lots of fun, adding much interest to the party. Everyone enjoyed looking at and buying the many handmade items. I think lots of family members will have new scarves, mittens and objects d'art this holiday season. Thank you, Raya.

In November Bobbie Binder, Ginny Walsh and I went to Laurelmead to discuss the idea of offering an art/handicraft class at Laurelmead. Many of our long-time members showed up to support us as well as interested residents. Meeting in the living room with tea and cookies, we showed a display of handicraft items and paintings which could be made, and explained the workings of the Club.

It has been decided that Kathy Weber, our painting teacher, will offer our very first Laurelmead painting class there this winter. The class will be two hours long, offered on Monday afternoons, 1-3 p.m., January 26-March 4. Handicraft Club members are encouraged to also take this class, and there is wonderful, easy parking. Please call Alyssa if you are interested.

As I look back on the year almost completed and forward to the year ahead I think of all the new classes being introduced, new members coming, aboard, the wonderful and easy website, continued easier registration procedures and a centralized office with an organized office manager, a wonderful exhibition in May and, most importantly, a truly committed membership and Board. Thank you for your continued interest and support of our Club.

Have a wonderful holiday, and I'll see you in the New Year.

Izzy Goff
President

HOLIDAY HOURS

The Club will be closed for the holidays starting Monday, December 24, and will reopen on Wednesday, January 2, 2013. **Classes start again January 7.**

SWAP BOX

The Club is trying a new idea. Do you have leftover wool from a sweater or needlepoint? Old canvases or trays you no longer need? Bring them to the Club, drop them in the Swap Box in the entry room of the Club. It might be just the thing another member wants or needs.

If you're looking for a certain color wool or a new project, check the Swap Box. It might be there, all free just waiting for your hands and imagination.

Leftovers in the Swap Box at the end of each semester will be donated to schools, Salvation Army, or another suitable charitable venue.

Editor, Susan Tash

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HOLIDAY PARTY BRINGS CHEER TO 42 COLLEGE STREET GANG AS THEY BID IN AUCTION



The silent auction included over 40 handcrafted items created and donated by members.

The annual Holiday Party on December 3 brought out 120 members in their holiday finery. The silent auction earned \$1860 for the Club.

Thanks go all around to the many who worked to make this yet another year of holiday joy in the Club's most beautiful setting. The auction committee, chaired by Raya Goff, included Sallie Barker, Izzy Goff, Ann Flather and Trish Sylvester.

Decorating committee members included Ria Nagtegaal, Jay Connelly, Kathy Cutler, Jean Cole, Pam Bishop, Izzy Goff, Sally Whitin and Nancy Moger.

Alyssa Holland Short designed a new holiday party invitation and the Burton Room mantle was decorated in a reflection of the design of the card.



Kit Barnum and Peggy Rodgers

Those who contributed handcrafted items for this include Ginny Mead, Jane Joukowsky, Maggie Chadwick, Kathy Cutler, Jean Cole, Kathy Shippee and Nancy Moger.

Thanks go, as well, to Henry Leite and Jackie Hicks, who make everything go smoothly.



Margie Edwards, Connie Parker, and Anne Tillinghast



Geri McCarthy and Raya Goff

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CREWEL AND RUG HOOKING: ALL IN THE SAYLES FAMILY



Chris Sayles teaches crewel to Student Linda Homonoff.

Needlework of all kinds is in Chris Sayles's genes. If she hadn't become the master rug hooker she is, it would be a surprise. Grandmothers and great grandmothers on both parents' sides were accomplished at their crafts, and they got Chris started.

As a Handicraft Club teacher for the past 20 years, Chris has done it all. When Chris was eight years old she and her grandmother hooked a rug together. Her great grandmother was involved in textiles, and taught Chris to knit at the age of three. That great grandmother also braided rugs, which Chris still does. And she taught quilting to Chris while little Chris sat on her lap.

Chris's mother's grandmother did tatting, needlework and crocheting – all of which Chris learned by the time she was 10 years old.

Even Chris's mother was involved in the decorative arts. She taught decorative painting at her house, also oil on canvas and watercolors. Years later Chris taught her own mother to knit, and that led her mother to embroidery.

Clearly Chris was meant to be as accomplished as she is at needlework of all sorts. But it didn't become her career until later in life. First she was an accountant.

Still, rug hooking was what she loved. In her 20's Chris bought a pattern at Door Mills Store in New Hampshire,

where they taught her how to follow it. Shortly after that she picked up a newsletter from Sweetbriar Studio in Hope Valley. Run by Jan Dobson, Sweetbriar Studio gave classes in rug hooking. Chris enrolled and was "hooked." She took a two-year teachers workshop there and later began teaching. She also started working at Sweetbriar Studio and, when Dobson passed away, Chris bought the studio, which she still runs.

When Chris first started teaching in 1980, she taught quilting. It wasn't until later that she started teaching hooking, which she continues to teach at the Club along with crewel.

Projects Chris is working on now include a braided rug that Berta Atwater started. Chris will complete the job and will donate it to the Club. Also, if members are pleased to see the braided rug back in the first floor reception room, they have Chris to thank for it. She repaired it and it's better than new.

One of her students has a 40-year-old project. A room-size rug, it's fine-shaded so that several values of a color are worked into a flower to make it look realistic. It's almost like painting with wool, according to Chris. The owner of this rug started it several times but her husband's Navy career took them all over the world and she couldn't drag the rug with her. Now finally settled and a member of the Club, the rug can finally be finished—by both its owner and Chris

Nancy Moger is doing a fine-shaded mushroom rug of considerable size in the class, but Chris says smaller projects like mug rugs (coasters) and door stops are also done in her class.

Chris loves to read, and still works part time as an accountant for a Connecticut firm. She lives in Chepachet, where she was born and raised, with her husband and her mother, who still does embroidery.

THANK YOU

Special thanks to Chris Sayles for beautifully repairing the braided rug in our entry room. It's better than new and we know how hard Chris worked on it to make it that way. It's what greets us all as we enter the Club and we are grateful for Chris's fine work.

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REGISTRATION AVAILABLE FOR NEW CLASSES STARTING JAN. 7; SIGN UP NOW

Registration is still available in many of the Club's classes, according to class co-chairs Bobbie Binder and Margaret Lederer. Afternoon Decoupage or Painting, Lampshades, Decorative Art and Baskets classes all have room. Or try a cooking class with Chef Mary Hughes in her Oodles of Noodles or Comfort Foods classes. There are also some wonderful workshops (see photos below). Folk Art Birds, Primitive Scenes, Folk Art Papercuts, Origami, Family Tree Papercuts still have room for students.

Look over the Winter Class Listing and call Alyssa at 401.831.8339, or sign up online. Guests are welcome to join you in the winter term, as well. It's a wonderful way to spend time with a friend and introduce friends to the Club.



PAINTING AT LAURELMEAD

A new Handicraft Club class will be held in the Crafts Room at Laurelmead, on Blackstone Blvd. in Providence. Our own Kathy Weber will teach the painting class at Laurelmead. The class is open to Handicraft Club members and Laurelmead residents. Parking is easy and plentiful, there are no stairs, and there is a lovely, sun filled room available as a studio.

The class will take place on Mondays, 1-3 p.m. for six weeks: Jan. 28 - Mar. 1, 2013. The tuition is \$72.00 for members and \$97.00 for nonmembers. Please mail your check to Alyssa Holland Short at the Handicraft Club, 42 College St, Providence, RI 02903.

This class will be an enjoyable, low-key class for beginner and more experienced painter alike. Any medium (oil, acrylic, watercolor, gouache, pastel, colored pencil) can be used. Students may work from photos or set up still lifes.

Painters should at least have these colors: cadmium red, cadmium yellow light, ultramarine blue, ivory black, and a large tube of white. In addition, you will need paintbrushes, paper towels or rags, a palette, and a container for your medium (water or mineral spirits). Everyone will need paper or canvas on which to paint/draw. It's also not a bad idea to have an apron to protect your clothes. Teacher Kathy Weber's work can be seen at: weberstudio.blogspot.com.

A REMINDER

Please think about bringing a guest with you during the winter term. The guest will pay the same class fee plus a small surcharge. This is a terrific way for a friend to see if she wants to become a member of the Club. No initiation fee or dues to try out a class.

WANTED

4 Harness 22" or 36" wide floor loom for the weaving class. A donation would be appreciated, but the Club would consider purchasing the loom. Please contact class co-chairs Margaret Lederer (351.1954) or Bobbie Binder (273.4728, binder555@aol.com) if you have one available or know of one.

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NEW MEMBERSHIP GROWS AS CLUB STRIVES FOR MORE

Ten new members have joined the Club since September. Two were proposed from Laurelmead, the remaining ones live all over the state – the East and West Bay and Wakefield. In 2012 a total of 30 new members joined the club, more than twice the number of the previous two years combined.

According to Jen Auber, membership chair, the number of members hovers around 400, though the Club is striving to eventually have 425 active members. There are a number of outreach efforts underway. Jozy Mainelli, also on the membership committee, has volunteered to help with attracting new members. By holding classes at Laurelmead and hosting a potential new member luncheon in May it is hoped that new people will be drawn to the Club. Also, the Club's website seems to draw interested parties, says membership chair Auber. And bringing guests to winter classes, when there are fewer regular members participating, seems to draw potential Club members, so members are encouraged to do so.

CLUB RECEIVES FINAL GRANT FROM THE CHAMPLIN FOUNDATIONS



We sincerely thank the Champlin Foundations for the recent grant we received for more than \$112,000! This grant paid for the final phase of restoration to our clubhouse, the Truman Beckwith House. The last and final stage of restoration - the carriage house ell - was completed this summer by E. F. O'Donnell & Sons.

Four years ago we started the restoration of our clubhouse. We hoped to bring this prominent Benefit Street property back to its original beauty. It would not have been possible without The Champlin Foundations generous and consistent financial support throughout this period. Fully restored now, the house looks wonderful.

New roofs, new monitors, bricks repointed, foundations and chimneys fixed, all windows and doors sanded down and repainted, granite stairs relaid. It has taken years, a huge commitment from both: the Champlin Foundations and The Handicraft Club under the guidance of Kit Barnum. However, the project has been worth our work and the Champlin Foundations' financial support. The Truman Beckwith House is back to its original state and will continue to be an historic Providence gem for many years.

The pictures show the completed work and the restored beauty of the house. It is a shining example of hard work by many: E F O'Donnell- the contractors, The Champlin Foundations- financial supporters, 1772 Foundation- also financial supporters, and our members: Kit for overseeing the contractors, Trina for grant writing and Sharleen for starting it all off years ago with a scathing architectural report of what needed to be done. Thank you all.

TASTE OF INDIA



Designer Dennis DeSignore gave a slide presentation this fall, demonstrating the exotic and spectacular artistry that went into designing a setting for an Indian wedding. Club members enjoyed a boxed lunch while their eyes feasted on the fabulous colors and floral compositions that went into this wedding extravaganza.