



HANDI-NOTES



October 2013 Volume 5, Issue 1

(401)831-5337 www.handicraftclub.org

IN THIS ISSUE

1	NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT
1	WINTER ROLLOVER REGISTRATION
1	NEW FALL CLASS: GLUTEN FREE
2	PAINTERS EXHIBIT
3	MEMBERS SHARE FOND MEMORIES
4	GREAT WOMEN OF NEWPORT LUNCHEON
4	MEMBERSHIP THRIVES
4	GIVING SOCIETIES HELP CLUB PROSPER
4	GUEST ROOMS AT HOPE CLUB
5	TEACHER SPOTLIGHT: PEGGY RODGERS
6	CLASSES REPORTS
6	HOLIDAY PARTY & AUCTION

WINTER ROLLOVER REGISTRATION IS OPEN THROUGH OCTOBER 18

Now through Oct. 18 members may ‘rollover’ or re-enroll in up to two classes they are currently taking. You must remain in the same sections (day and time). Simply complete the registration form, write one check payable to The Handicraft Club and leave all in Alyssa’s mailbox under the bulletin board outside of the kitchen. Consider your rollover registration complete unless you hear from the Club. Feel free to call or e-mail Alyssa with questions.

NEW FALL CLASS: GETTING STARTED WITH GLUTEN FREE

A last minute addition to fall cooking offerings: **Getting Started with Gluten-Free** is being offered at the Club by chef Mary Hughes on Friday, October 18, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Crusty bread, carrot cake with ginger cream cheese frosting, chocolate chip cookies and pizza with fresh mozzarella, olives, basil and Anaheim peppers are on the menu that day. Learn how to cook gluten free and enjoy the fruits of your labors at lunch.

Editor, Susan Tash

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

I’m delighted to welcome you to the fall term at the Handicraft Club as I begin my new term as president.

As you read this you can see that the year is starting out with a bang. There are so many interesting activities taking place – from the 80 of you who attended the opening of the Painters’ Exhibition last Friday to the upcoming Great Women of Newport event, the annual Holiday Party and silent auction, the many classes – new and long-standing. What an incredibly lively Club we are, and I’m so pleased to be a part of it.

Also this issue we’ve begun what we hope will be a new tradition of interviewing some of the long-term members of the Club. I think you’ll find their comments and recollections of interest. It reminds me of why we are such a special place. The members and the teachers whom we see at the Club daily are what make us so unique; you are the ones who distinguish us from other organizations.

Communication and involvement are key to the success of the Club. Former president Izzy Goff so ably assembled the Painters’ Exhibition. Second vice president Jennifer Auber is working hard on the Holiday Party, and Raya Goff long ago started on the party’s auction, an important Club fundraiser. Bobbie Binder and Izzy Goff have assembled a terrific group of classes and teachers, and your record enrollment is proof of the superb job they’re doing.

I encourage you all to get involved, help to make these many events on our Club calendar truly an ensemble experience. You’ll be glad you did. We are a most interesting group of women.

I welcome your ideas and comments and am very open to all suggestions. Please let me hear from you.

I end this with a riddle: can you guess which teacher once had lunch with Alec Baldwin? Read on for the answer. (I told you we are an interesting group.)

Margie Edwards

HANDI-NOTES

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PAINTERS' EXHIBIT AT CENTRAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH THROUGHOUT OCTOBER

The Handicraft Club has mounted its first outside exhibit at the Central Congregational Church. The exhibit runs throughout the month and ends Oct. 27. The Gallery is open 9-1 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. each day. Most paintings in the exhibition are for sale. Please stop by to take a look. You'll be very proud of our Handicraft Club painters.

A reception launching the exhibit was held Friday Oct. 4, with over 80 guests attending, according to Club president Margie Edwards, who served as bartender. Those members exhibiting are Bee Givan, Jeanne Raimondi, Pat D'Ambra, Sallie Barker, Virginia Mead, Barbara Rosenbaum, Robin Halpren-Ruder, Izzy Goff, Ann Considine, Trish Sylvester, Suzanne Reid, Suzanne Reeves, Marcia Hirsch, Marge DeAngelis, Linda Homonoff, Sandra McAndrew, Lois Lang and Carla Dowben.

Kathy Weber, Lisa Arnold and Richard Harrington, three of our teachers, also exhibited.

Of the 30 works on display one has already been sold. Sally Barker's painting *The Rooster* was purchased by Nancy Moger.

Central Congregational Church is located at 296 Angell St., Providence. Entrance to the Gallery is on Diman St. If you missed the opening reception, please stop by to see the exhibit, which shows a wide range of mediums, abilities and interests.



From Left: Lois Lang, Izzy Goff, Kathy Weber, Jeanne Raimondi, Sue Reid, and Trish Poirier



Sharleen Bowen and Nancy Moger with their husbands.



Carla Dowben with her painting.



The crowd admiring paintings in the church's gallery.

HANDI-NOTES

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LONG-TERM CLUB MEMBERS HAVE FOND MEMORIES OF TEACHERS, CLASSES AND FRIENDS

The Handicraft Club is full of tradition and history. Much of that can be attributed to the devotion of some of its members.

Adelaide Nicholson has been a member since 1962. Ann Brooke Mason joined in 1969. And Gretchen Viall became a member in 1957. Nancy Mattis became a Club member in 1947. And those are only a few of the long-term members.

Ann Brooke says she loves the Club. “When I joined,” she said, “it was quite different. But I loved it then and I love it now.”

In those days everybody sewed, says Ann Brooke. “We made coats of Ultrasuede, sewing was hot.” She added that when she ran an anniversary party of the Club, the members showed off the Ultrasuede suits and coats they’d made in Betsy Reed’s class, and she wishes people still used the sewing machines the Club owns.

Later the women turned to Italian lessons. It was very popular, Ann Brooke noted. Her group stayed together in Italian for several years, working hard on their homework. It was a dedicated group and they really learned to speak the language.

A transplant from Richmond, VA, Ann Brooke has not lost her southern accent. But she adores Providence, the Handicraft Club and the Art Club. She served on the Board here for many years in just about every capacity except President. She’s been a truly dedicated member.

Ann Brooke is very interested in the Julia Lippett Mauran Society and the Club’s endowment. “If this Club means anything to you, you want to see that it’s around for future generations of women,” she concluded.

Gretchen Viall (1957) joined the Club before she was married. Her mother had been a member, so Gretchen joined, too. At that time Mrs. Burbank, a RISD graduate and teacher, had the most beautiful designs for Decorative Painting, recalls Gretchen. “She was legendary,” says Gretchen, “and was as nice as she was capable.” Gretchen used to drive her to the club. In those days, says Gretchen, they had Tuesday afternoon teas with speakers, and Gretchen even chaired the teas for a while.

“In my day if you didn’t take a class you couldn’t be a member,” says Gretchen, “unlike today.” She added, “I don’t take classes anymore, but I still want to support the Club.”

Nancy Mattis (1947) says it’s pretty much the same club as it was 60 years ago except now the Club offers a greater variety of courses. “We were all very loyal to our teachers. Once you got a teacher you always stuck with her,” she said. Nancy says she always took from Bea Russo, a RISD graduate, who taught Decorative Painting for years. Some students got so good at it that they started teaching Decorative Painting, Nancy recalls.

Nancy says parking was a problem even then, which supports Nancy’s contention that the Club has changed very little over the years.

Members were very loyal, she said, and would come back year after year to classes. She said, “Arnie Porter’s wife claimed she was at the Club so many times each week that she was going to live and die at the Club.”

Her mother was a member and she encouraged Nancy to join as a newlywed. Nancy says she thinks it was because her mother just wanted a ride. She remembered that her mother did beautiful work. “In the summer we’d scour New England looking for things to paint. Now I have a house full of Hitchcock chairs and so many other beautiful things.”

Nancy reflects that not many women worked in those days and they had time to go to classes. Also, she noted, that people didn’t go away for the whole winter like many do now. So the Club was very important to her many friends. But, she adds, that the mission has always been the same. “The Club has the same warm feeling and the same mission, and that’s why people are so very interested,” she concluded.

Further testament to the Club’s draw is the number of women whose homes are quite distant but who still retain their memberships. Peruse the directory and see members who live in Muscatine, IA, Chicago, IL, Pensacola, FL, Ponte Vedre Beach and Boca Raton, FL, Annapolis, MD, and Christiansted, VI. Then there’s Martha Lord of Greenwich, CT, who took classes until last year by driving to Providence and staying with Kit Barnum for a couple of days a week. And Sylvia Thorp, a committed weaver from Rock Hill, SC, is staying at The Hope Club this fall just so she can attend classes at the Handicraft Club. Nothing stops our members from their craft.

HANDI-NOTES

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GREAT WOMEN OF NEWPORT LUNCHEON PRESENTED BY CLUB ON THURSDAY, OCT. 24

Trudy Cox, CEO and Executive Director of the Preservation Society of Newport County, will deliver a lecture to Club members on The Great Women of Newport on Thursday, October 24. The day begins at 10:45 a.m. at the Chinese Tea House, Marble House, 560 Bellevue Ave., Newport.

Dr. Laurie Ossman, Director of Museum Affairs for The Preservation Society of Newport County, will welcome Club members at 10:45 a.m., and at 11 a.m. will introduce Trudy Cox who will deliver a stimulating lecture on Newport's women of note. This will be followed by a box lunch at the Chinese Tea House at noon. A guided tour of The Breakers, Ochre Point Ave., in Newport, starts at 1:15. Expect this special presentation, lunch and tour to conclude about 2 p.m.

This is a special members-only event. Please RSVP by this week at 401.831.8339. Space is limited. Directions: www.newportmansions.org. Contacts are Trish Poirrier (741.1293) and Lois Lang (848.2237).



HOPE CLUB OFFERS GUEST ROOMS AS AVAILABLE FOR OCCASIONAL STAYS

Members of the Handicraft Club have been given special consideration by the Hope Club to rent occasional guest rooms as needed. When guest rooms are available, the Hope Club is happy to offer them for Handicraft Club members. If you need a room for a night – those snowy afternoons when travel home is treacherous come to mind – call the Hope Club's front desk attendant at 401.421.4960, identify yourself as a Handicraft Club member, and check on room availability. Rooms that have recently been refurbished run \$150-\$200 plus tax each night, dependent upon the size of the room. Rooms that have not been renovated recently are \$95 plus tax per night. This is a welcome opportunity for Club members who might need a Providence room for a night or two.

CLUB MEMBERSHIP CONTINUES TO THRIVE ACCORDING TO CO-CHAIRS

The Handicraft Club welcomed 18 new members since the prospective new member luncheon in May, according to Membership co-chairs Jozy Mainelli and Anne Considine.

If members would like to propose a new member they are encouraged to refer to the Club handbook/directory or the Club website for instructions and an application. Completed application packets should be given to Membership chairs at least one week prior to the next monthly Board meeting.

For a list of current members, be sure to pick up the new 2013-2014 handbook/membership directory available this week at the Club. Meanwhile, if you should get a chance, please welcome new members Beth Bullock, Sara Carcieri, Mary Chace, Elizabeth Chase, Mary Copp, Denise Dangremond, Kandee Sue Deck, Barbara Guglielmo, Barbara Haddad, Ginger Harkey, Colleen Mahoney, Lynn McCarthy, Kathy McKendall, Susan Pakula, Janice Place, Rebecca Rubin, Susan L'Archevesque and Kem Fickes.

GIVING SOCIETIES ENABLE CLUB TO MAINTAIN THE PROPERTY AND BUILDING TO HIGHEST STANDARDS

Trina Sherer and Kay Lisle, Giving Societies co-chairs, remind members that one of the ways in which members can assist the Club in maintaining its high standards for the building and its classes is by donating to one of the Giving Societies.

Those who chose to remember the Club in their estate plans become members of the Julia Lippitt Mauran Society. One need not disclose the amount of one's gift, only that the Club member intends to remember the Club in her estate plan.

The Truman Beckwith Circle is a society for members who make a contribution now, rather than remembering the Club in their estate plans. The minimum financial requirement for this tax deductible gift is \$1500. Bequests will be added to the endowment unless otherwise specifically directed.

Pat Billings' husband honored Pat this year by making a significant donation to the Club in her name. What a much-appreciated present for Pat and for the Club.

Contact either Trina Sherer or Kay Lisle for further details on how you can make this most valuable contribution.

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PEGGY RODGERS



Peggy Rodgers in the Club's Decorative Painting Studio

Decorative painting teacher Peggy Rodgers always intended to steer clear of anything to do with fine arts. Her mother had been an accomplished artist who tried her hand most successfully at almost every type of art form, had lectured extensively on artists, taught in her home studio and assembled an extensive collection by local (southern Massachusetts seacoast) artists. So daughter Peggy wanted to stay far away from any competition with such an able mother.

But life takes strange turns and teaching art unexpectedly became part of Peggy's schedule.

She'd raised two boys as she and husband Mike lived all over the world as a Navy family. Tours of duty, sometimes multiple times, were in San Diego, CA., Gaeta, Italy, Charleston, SC, Washington, D.C., Newport, Mayport, FL, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and Montgomery, AL. It was early on, in Montgomery, that Peggy started painting. The husbands spent time at seminars, their boys were in school and the Service wives were offered a variety of activities. So Peggy took up painting, though she admits that it was her strawberries-and-daisies-on-key-chains phase.

Later, in San Diego, she found a woman who taught decorative painting and was a member of the Historical Society of Early American Decorators (HSEAD). Peggy says that's where she took off. She perfected the craft and eventually taught in San Diego, Guantanamo and Mayport. It's no surprise she became a teacher as that's what she was trained for as a graduate of Wheelock College with a BS in elementary education.

She and Mike retired in 1991 back to where they were raised, the New Bedford area, specifically Padanaram, MA. They bought an 1833 house, and later Peggy converted a shed nearby to make it an attached painting studio. That's where she teaches every Thursday, a sunny studio magnificently equipped with all the supplies one could need to master the art of decorative painting.

Peggy started teaching at the Handicraft Club in January 1995. Tuesday afternoon teas were on the Club schedule then, so she only taught Tuesday mornings. The teas are history, and Peggy has been a regular Monday and Tuesday all-day teacher at the Club for years.

Among her many awards and accreditations: she won a Horological Craft Contest and a Master Horologist Chapter Award from the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors; was honored with a Career Award from the Board of Directors of HSEAD; the Ester Stevens Brazier Guild award when accepted in HSEAD in 1976; has a HSEAD Teacher Accreditation in Clock Dials; and was accepted in 1991 as an HSEAD judge.

Her legions of devoted students eagerly look forward to Peggy's annual June luncheon at her summer home in Nonquit, MA, a house that's seen six generations of her family. In addition to decorative painting (clock dial painting is her specialty), Peggy loves classical music and theatre. She served as a docent for many years at the New Bedford Whaling Museum, and is now an honorary docent there. Her two boys, Mike and Mark, and four grandchildren give her great pleasure, as does her life as a teacher, where she likes pulling people into the craft, getting them interested in its history and preservation of old patterns and techniques.

Peggy's brush with fame came when husband Mike became best-selling author Tom Clancy's source and advisor. In "The Sum of All Fears," you'll see Clancy's dedication: "For Mike and Peggy Rodgers, a sailor and his lady – and all the men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces, because the noblest of ideas have always been protected by warriors." Peggy says it was through Clancy that she got to go on set when some of his movies were filmed, had lunch with Alec Baldwin and met Sean Connery, among other notables.

Clancy's handwritten note in the Rodgers' copy of one of his books reads, "This one's for you, guys." The same can be said of Peggy and the Club – this one's for you – and we're glad we've got her.

HANDI-NOTES

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SUCCESSFUL CLASS REGISTRATIONS ATTRIBUTED TO VARIETY OFFERED

This has been the most successful year for class registrations since records were kept, according to Class co-chairs Bobbie Binder and Izzy Goff.

If the Club looks busier than ever this year, the reason is that more members are taking more classes than ever before. Over half of Club membership or 214 of us are taking 367 classes at the Club this fall.

Izzy and Bobbie attribute this success to the variety of classes offered. They ask that if anyone has ideas for new classes, please let them know. They are always eager to pursue new classes to please the members.

FALL CLASSES UNDERWAY, SHORTER WORKSHOP SLOTS AVAILABLE TO JOIN



Fall classes are underway, but for those of you who still have time in your day to fill, please consider enrolling in one of the many workshops which don't run the full 8 or 10 weeks of the courses.

- **Finishing Techniques for Weaving & Sewing** on Tues 11/5 & 11/12
- **Getting Started with Gluten Free** on Fri 10/18
- **Old to New Jewelry** on Wed 10/16-11/13
- **Primitive Papercut** on Fri 11/1 & 11/15
- **Portrait Drawing** on Tues (starts 10/29)
- **Silk Flower Topiaries** on Friday 10/25
- **Miniature Fairy Roof Planting** at Farmers Daughter in South Kingstown on Fri 10/18
- **Miniature Terrariums** at Farmers Daughter in South Kingstown on Fri 11/8

Call Alyssa in the administrative office Tuesday or Thursday, 9 am to 3 pm, to sign up now, or go to the Club website for online registration: www.handicraftclub.org (password college42).

ANNUAL PARTY & SILENT AUCTION TO START THE CLUB'S HOLIDAY SEASON

The annual Holiday Party and Silent Auction is set for Monday, December 9, with proceeds to benefit a Club project to be selected by the Board.

Food and cocktails (count on bartender Dennis Brown to remember your favorite drink), good company, and the auction always make this a lively affair. Club members are encouraged to participate in several ways to assure success. Above all, your attendance is encouraged. Bring your significant other or a friend and show off the Club, members' work and the seasonal decorations.

The other way members can make this a successful event is by donating something they've created to the silent auction. Remember that tray you painted and later decided it wasn't for you? The scarf you knitted for Great Aunt Sally, who let it be known she didn't wear scarves? Perhaps you would like to create something special for the auction. The Club is looking for donations such as these and encourages you to start thinking now about what you can give. A few great donations have already been made and vigorous bidding is anticipated.

During the party guests will enter bids on the appropriate clipboards. Half an hour before the end of the party, bidding is closed and top bidders for each item are announced. Remember to bring your checkbook so that you may take home your newly-bought item that night.

Second vice president Jennifer Auber (jenauber@me.com) asks for volunteers the week before the party to help with decorating or to donate greens. She also notes that they'll be displaying holiday ornaments for sale and are looking for donations, preferably handmade ornaments or vintage treasures, ornaments that are special.

Auction chair Raya Goff encourages all to consider a donation of a beautifully crafted piece and to definitely attend the party to bid for that unexpected present for a friend or for one's self. Get involved and enjoy it even more.