



# HANDI-NOTES



March 2014 Volume 5, Issue 3

(401)831-8339 [www.handicraftclub.org](http://www.handicraftclub.org)

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## PREVIEW PARTY

The annual Preview Party is set for May 19, with the exhibition continuing through the 21<sup>st</sup>. Mark your calendars. More information will follow. Second Vice President Jen Auber is looking for a few extra-special items for the Preview Party raffle. Please contact Jen at [jenauber@me.com](mailto:jenauber@me.com) or (401) 245-8229 if you would like to donate.



## JACKIE HICKS IS BACK

Club Steward Jackie Hicks is back and lovers of homemade soups are rejoicing. A health setback following a new hip implant brought Jackie home for several weeks while hungry artists at the Club looked to the kindness of teachers, Club members and Board members to fill in. It took a village, but we weathered the storm, as did Jackie. Welcome back, Jackie. Club members wish you good health from now on.

## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

Happy 110th Birthday!

As we approach Spring, and begin our Spring Courses, I want to share my enthusiasm for all that is going on at our wonderful Club! As I write this greeting, there is still time to sign up for some of our classes which are not full. Please see page 4 for a listing. Bobbie Binder and Izzy Goff have outdone themselves.

In this 110th Year of the Handicraft Club, we are offering more classes than ever and presenting many opportunities for membership involvement. On Tuesday, May 13 we will hold our Annual Meeting at the Providence Art Club with luncheon and meeting in the Maxwell Mays Gallery. At this time we will be honoring teachers who have taught us for at least 15 years. A special invitation will be forthcoming, so please save the date and come to celebrate our fabulous teachers.

Our next major evening at the Club is Handicraft in Bloom on April 2. Fraser Gilbane has been working tirelessly to make this a very special event. Please read about this wonderful collaboration between the Handicraft Club and the Perennial Planters Garden Club on page 2. And, I hope to see many of you at the reception.

We anticipate a wonderful May Preview Party being planned by Jen Auber and she will be sharing more about this event in our next Newsletter.

The Tynietoy Committee has been moving forward as you will see in reading the two articles on page 6. Margaret Lederer and Marilyn Shealey are to be commended for all of the progress made this winter.

Read on and you will see how much is happening at 42 College Street. It is a very exciting place and we are so fortunate to be part of it. I welcome your suggestions and thoughts anytime.

**Margie Edwards**  
*President*

Editor, Susan Tash

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## HANDICRAFT IN BLOOM 2014

The opening reception for Handicraft in Bloom is set for Wednesday, April 2, 5:30-7 p.m. in the Club's double parlor. Light appetizers and cocktails will be available as members enjoy the art created by Club members along with floral interpretations of the art by members of the Perennial Planters Club.

Many members of the Handicraft Club are also members of the Perennial Planters Club and this special evening will showcase the interests of the two clubs for both club members and interested friends.

The show is modeled on Art in Bloom staged by the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston each spring. This year's show features works by members Alice Westervelt, Izzy Goff, Janice Panoff, Anne Considine and Joanne King.

For those who are unable to attend the reception, the exhibit will continue to remain available for viewing through 3 p.m. the next day, April 3.

Fraser Gilbane and Janice Panoff have spearheaded this event. They note that they will need volunteers to assist with set-up or hosting the April 2 event. Anyone interested in lending a hand should contact Fraser at [FBGilbane@GilbaneCo.com](mailto:FBGilbane@GilbaneCo.com) or 401.435.6767.

The Perennial Planters Club was established in 1950 and is part of the Garden Club of America and is committed to sharing interest and knowledge and horticulture conservation issues. With so many Handicraft Club members among its ranks, the Perennial Planters Club is a welcome partner in Handicraft in Bloom.



*Painting by Izzy Goff*



*Cut Paper by Janice Panoff*



*Detail of Painting by Anne Considine*



*Needlepoint  
by Alice  
Westervelt*



*Painting by Joanne King*

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## KAREN GRAVES



*Karen Graves*

One of the things we've learned reading profiles of the Club's teachers is that they come to their crafts in surprising ways. Karen Graves, teacher of American Decorative Painting, is no exception.

Having earned a BS degree in medical technology at Eastern Michigan University, she was a medical technologist for four years at the University of Michigan Hospital clinical biochemistry lab. But her first love was art and decoration. Even as a child she found herself decorating cigar boxes with wallpaper. She'd always wanted to be an art teacher but the advice of everyone around her was that wasn't a career. So she went into medicine. But all while she was a lab technician Karen took art classes whenever she could.

In fact, she connected with her husband Peter outside the Y in Ann Arbor, where she'd just taken an art class. One thing led to another, they married in 1972 and Peter was subsequently transferred by Bendix to Sturbridge, MA. They bought a little house on a small lake in Brookfield, just outside of Sturbridge, where they raised their three boys.

When Karen first toured Sturbridge Village, saw country tin and decorated trays, she said to herself, "I have to do that." She spent the next two years taking classes from Marian Varney, who was a member of the Historical Society of Early American Decoration (HSEAD). "Marian was a wonderful person and a really good teacher," says Karen. "I went to classes in

the third floor studio of her house, once a week, full days – no half days, and immersed myself in the craft."

Once Karen got into Decorative Painting, there was no turning back. Another woman painter whom Karen met had no children "and she treated me as if I were her daughter," says Karen. She added, "We used to go to Rindge, NH and fill a truck with paintable items, then go home and paint. We went to craft shows and bazaars together." Karen notes that once she was accepted into HSEAD, and her children were in school, she painted a lot. "Paint, paint, paint," she said, "until my husband said STOP painting for this house and just sell what you paint."

When they lived in Brookfield, Karen helped start the Brookfield Apple Country Fair and was active in that for 20 years. And she also sold her work to Sturbridge Village for craft shows and the American Folk Art Museum (reverse glass painting). One day in 1976 a friend asked her to teach her how to paint, and that's when Karen started teaching in her home.

You might wonder how a medical technician from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan got to Rhode Island. When her boys were young they had a small boat on their small lake, but Karen and husband decided they needed a larger boat. With the larger boat they'd explore bigger waters (like Narragansett Bay) and catch bigger fish. One day while out on the Bay they spotted a house for sale on Warwick Neck. The rest is history. Twenty years ago they moved to their wonderful house with spectacular views of the bay. At first Peter commuted between Brookfield and Warwick, but that didn't last long.

Karen feels lucky to have her three sons and their families living in New England not far from her. It makes it easy to see her five grandsons.

She's taught at the Club for 20 years and has had some wonderful students, she says. Sometimes she loses a student because of age-connected afflictions like bad eyesight or memory problems. But she always has new students to influence and she says it's really nice when she gets a student who's interested in the work and the history.

*Continued on next page.*

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She's a member of the Nashoba Valley Chapter of HSEAD\*, where she was accepted in 1974, and is a past president and trustee of that chapter, and now corresponding secretary of HSEAD. She's been a judge at the annual meetings of HSEAD and she has also earned many nice awards for stenciling on tin, country painting and theorem painting. She teaches workshops at Old Sturbridge Village, and in Rutland, VT at the annual fall meeting of HSEAD she will be teaching bridesbox designs. Karen no longer sells her work like she used to, but she does do commission work for people.

And, while Karen Graves is devoted to her painting, she says that in the summer all bets are off. Summers are for gardening.

\* *For an introduction to the Historical Society of Early American Decorators, the public is invited to the exhibition and art show at the HSEAD semi-annual meeting May 2-4 at the Sheraton Colonial Boston North, Wakefield, MA. There you can see some of the finest contemporary decorative painting. Admission is free.*

## NEW MEMBERS

Membership co-chairs Anne Considine and Jozy Mainelli report that Club membership is lively and growing, but with 419 of us there's room for more. Current members are encouraged to nominate new members to the Club. Proposed members names are brought forward to the Board as they are proposed, then posted on the bulletin board for the month until the next meeting. They should meet with two Board members, and are then voted on at the following Board meeting and invited to join.

Six new members have joined the Club so far in 2014: Nancy Eames (Little Compton), JoAnn Kaplan, Janice Libby, Julie Boch (all three from Providence) and, from Newport, Debbie Grant and Christine Landgraf. If you meet them we hope you'll welcome them warmly.

## SPRING CLASSES

*Art of Relaxation* with Alyssa Holland Short  
*Botanical Watercolor* with Lisa Arnold  
*Continuing Drawing* with Ida Schmulowitz  
*Decorative Arts* with Peg Rodgers  
*Decorative Painting* with Karen Graves  
*Decoupage (8 week & 4 week)* with Virginia Mead  
*Experimenting with Change* with Ida Schmulowitz  
*Fabric Remnant Shoulder Bag* with Chris Sayles  
*Felted Scarf and Felted Clutch* with Beth Bentley  
*Finishing Techniques* with Chris Pratt  
*Floral Arranging Workshops* Candace Morgenstern  
*Flower Artistry* with John Orton  
*Gardening Workshops* at The Farmer's Daughter  
*Intro to Your Sewing Machine* with Chris Pratt  
*Knitting Circle* with Anne Burnham  
*Needlepoint One-Day Workshops* with Caryl Freedman  
*Open Studio Painting* with Kathy Weber  
*Paint & Sip* with Lisa Arnold  
*Portrait Drawing Workshop* with Kathy Weber  
*Rug Hooking, Braiding, Crewel* with Chris Sayles  
*Seasonal Cooking Classes* with Mary Hughes  
*Sogetsu Ikebana* with Elaine DiChiara  
*Spring Cleaning: Journaling* with Raya Goff & Betsy Breed  
*Watercolor Open Studio Workshops* with Rich Marthers

And we are thrilled to announce TWO new daytime sections of *Nantucket Baskets* with Mary Catherine Weller on Mondays! Mary Catherine taught with us in the winter to rave reviews!

...and many, MANY more classes and workshops for you to choose from. Browse through the class listing or sign up online:

[www.handicraftclub.com/class-listing](http://www.handicraftclub.com/class-listing)  
(password: college42)

Thank you,  
Bobbie Binder & Izzy Goff  
Classes Co-Chairs

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## GIVING SOCIETIES

The Giving Societies – Truman Beckwith Circle and Julia Lippitt Mauran Society-- continue to seek new members who wish to enhance the Club's viability with additional monetary donations.

Kay Lisle and Trina Sherer, co-chairs of the Giving Society Committee, note that there will be an event on June 2 for current members as well as for prospective members who want to learn how they can donate and strengthen the Club's position as a lively place for talent and joyful participation for those interested in arts and crafts. Details of the event will be released later.

One recent donor to the Truman Beckwith Circle enclosed the following note with her check. Trina and Kay say this is a close accounting of what many find so appealing about the Club and hope it inspires others to show their appreciation with a donation.

*As a new RI resident a little over four years ago I was delighted to find the Handicraft Club. I'd always wanted to learn American Decorative Painting (or tole painting as my grandmother called it).*

*I've loved the Club's classes, which I'm devoted to, and having Peggy Rodgers as a teacher has been a real bonus. But I had no idea that in addition to learning the craft at the Club I would also gain a most wonderful resource and plenty of great friends. The Handicraft Club is a treasure and my move to a new environment was made far easier because of my membership in the Club. Enclosed is my donation to the Truman Beckwith Circle, a small representation of the debt of gratitude I feel for all that the club offers.*

Members of the Julia Lippitt Mauran Society need only inform the Club that they have made a future provision for the Club in their wills. To be a member of the Truman Beckwith Circle, members make a minimum gift of \$1,500 now. These tax-deductible contributions will be added to the endowment, unless otherwise specified.

## ROSALIE FAIN RECALLS THIRTY-NINE HAPPY YEARS AS A CLUB MEMBER

When Rosalie Fain joined the Handicraft Club in 1975 she was immediately drawn to the weaving classes. As a long-time knitter, she said she liked the feel and texture of the fabrics when weaving.

She'd not taken art classes before because she was busy with her three children. But the appeal was doing something with her hands, and weaving really captured her.

Rosalie says that she recalls in the early years that there'd be coffee and tea offered in the classrooms. "A nice gentleman would come around with coffee or tea in the morning and the afternoon," she said. Also there would be Tuesday afternoon events with tea and cakes, she recalls.

Having served on the Board, Rosalie also remembers baking pastries and cakes for Club events.

Originally from New York, Rosalie married a Providence man and moved to Rhode Island. She heard about the Club from friends. "It was something I knew I wanted to do," she said. "As soon as I heard about it I knew this was for me."

She added that over her many years as a Club member she's met some very nice people. "I was very happy with that," she added. "I made friends there and they were good people."

"I don't take classes anymore," she says, as the stairs are difficult for her. But she has wonderful memories of the Club and says, "I loved every minute I was there."

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## **TYNIETOY COMES BACK TO WHERE IT BEGAN AT HANDICRAFT CLUB**

Club members learned in the December newsletter that the Club had purchased a Tynietoy dollhouse, which is on display in the room just before the kitchen. There's historical significance to this dollhouse as Tynietoy dollhouses had been made at the Club in the 1930s and are now highly sought after by miniaturists.

Because this dollhouse speaks to the Club's history, and in recognition of this heritage, the Club has established The Tynietoy Heritage Fund into which donations can be made for the purpose of furnishing and maintaining the Tynietoy house. Plans are afoot to offer workshops and speaker programs relating to the Tynietoy legacy, archiving the relevant documents that have come into the Club's possession as well as preserving the memory of women members who embraced the value of handcrafted items.

The dollhouse was purchased from Susan Grimshaw, a collector who still owns templates used in the making of Tynietoy furniture. As evidence of the value of Tynietoy, Smudge McVickers has found through research that even the Newport Historical Society holds Tynietoy furniture in its collection.

Separately, a smaller dollhouse, one without the legacy of Tynietoy, sits on display in the Decorative Painting classroom. Members are refurbishing that dollhouse which will be featured as a doorprize or auction item at the Holiday Party. Whatever proceeds are realized from this will go towards The Tynietoy Heritage Fund.

Gifts to The Tynietoy Heritage Fund may be monetary or if there is a Tynietoy item somewhere in your own collection, the Club would welcome it. All gifts are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Please note on your donation check that the gift is for The Tynietoy Heritage Fund and make it payable to the Handicraft Club. Mail to the Handicraft Club, 42 College Street, Providence, RI 02903.

Margaret Lederer and Marilyn Shealey are leading the committee formed to propel this project forward. Contact them with questions you may have.

## **WHAT IS TYNIETOY AND WHY DO WE CARE SO MUCH ABOUT THE BRAND**



### **What Is Tynietoy?**

The Tynietoy Furniture Company was started in 1920 by two Handicraft Club members, Marion Perkins and Amey Vernon, and made miniature furniture for dollhouses. In the early years they made the furniture at the Handicraft Club and RISD students painted it. Later, as the company expanded, they moved to larger quarters in downtown Providence.

### **How can we learn more about Tynietoy dollhouses and furniture?**

There's a reference to the company in the Club history. Also, you can see the Tynietoy Mansion the Club acquired recently as an important representation of our history. For those members who find the subject alluring, there'll be a lecture at the Club on Sept. 29 featuring Susan Grimshaw, the previous owner of our dollhouse and Tynietoy expert. She'll join us to share her considerable knowledge about the company, its furniture and dollhouses. Mark your calendars for Sept. 29.

### **Search for furniture**

A search for Tynietoy furniture is underway so that the Club can furnish the Mansion on display. If you know someone who loves miniatures and may own Tynietoy furniture, please put us in touch with that person. Only Tynietoy furniture will do. If you own some you would like to donate, please call Chris Pratt at (401) 294-0170 to let her know.

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## CLUB MEMBERS INCLUDED IN HAMILTON HOUSE EXHIBIT

Last month Handicraft Club members Lisa Churchville, Bee Givan, Izzy Goff, Marcia Hirsch, and Barbara Rosenbaum exhibited their paintings at Hamilton House, 276 Angell Street, Providence. A reception for the artists was held on Feb 27th from 5-7 p.m., and many Club members attended. Photo below is from the event.



*Barbara Rosenbaum, Ida Schmulowitz, and Barbara Crouchley*

## SPRING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 24	Spring classes begin
April 2	Handicraft in Bloom reception 5-7 p.m. Invitation to follow.
April 15-19	Mailing dues notice
May 13	Morning Board meeting. Luncheon and annual meeting with awards to teachers having served at least 15 years. Location: Providence Art Club. Invitation to follow.
May 16	Spring classes end
May 15-16	Drop-off days for items for Exhibition and Preview Party
May 19	Preview Party 6:00-8:00 p.m.
May 19-23	Spring class make-up week
May 20-21	Open Exhibition Days (house open to public)
May 21	Prospective member open house
May 22-23	Pick up items from exhibition
Late May/ June TBA	Giving Societies' activity in Club garden

## CLUB TEACHERS REACH OUT TO COMMUNITY WITH THEIR ART

While you may only know your teacher from your once a week class at the Club, you'll find that much of their work can be found on display in galleries or for sale in shops throughout New England, touching countless others.

**Virginia Mead** makes decoupaged wine coasters and small square glass dishes out of hers and Club member Sandra McAndrew's paintings. Sandra then sells them at shows and fund-raiser sales.

Virginia donates decoupaged glass lamps to silent auctions for charity. They have also sold at Inspiring Minds (formerly Volunteers in Providence Schools); St. Christopher's Church, Chatham; the Scandinavian Home; and the 1800 House on Nantucket.

**Ida Schmulowitz** will have six of her large watercolor/gouache paintings at the New Hope Gallery at the training school in Cranston from March 25 through July. The opening reception is March 25, 5-7:30 p.m. at New Hope Art Gallery, Thomas C. Slater Training School, 57 Power Rd., Cranston.

Also two of her large oils and three watercolor/gouaches will be in a show at the Greenspace Gallery at TF Green Airport from May through August.

Gallerie Ellipsis at 35 Franklin St. in Newport will be featuring a solo exhibit of teacher **Beth Bentley's** work Oct. 10-19. Mark your calendars.

**Kathy Weber** will be part of a two-person show at the Elizabeth Rowley Gallery in Orleans, MA. Opening is Saturday, July 12, 5-7 p.m.

**Mary Hughes**, who teaches us how to make summer hors d'oeuvres and summer soups, salads and banana splits, has her own catering business called Savory Fare. When you need help, she's the one to call.

**Alyssa Holland Short**, our office manager and Art of Relaxation teacher, has a line of cards and creates custom drawings as one-of-a-kind gifts. If you need an extra special wedding or baby gift, call Alyssa. She teaches illustration at RISD/CE and leads healing art workshops at several organizations including Sojourner House and Adoption RI, helping trauma survivors heal through creative expression. Her website is [www.alyssahollandshort.com](http://www.alyssahollandshort.com).

Your teachers would appreciate your support at these shows and shops.