



HANDI-NOTES



Summer 2014 Volume 5, Issue 4

(401)831-8339 www.handicraftclub.org

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PROVIDENCE JOURNAL FEATURES CLUB IN MAY ARTICLE

On May 19 readers of the Providence Journal found a lengthy article by Rita Watson about the Handicraft Club, complete with pictures. For those who missed it, find it online at:

<http://www.providencejournal.com/features/lifestyle/health-fitness/20140519-handicraft-club-on-college-bill-in-providence-is-a-sanctuary-for-creativity.ece>.

The Club is “keeping alive the handcrafting spirit of its founders,” wrote the author. Her impromptu interviews included one with Caryl Freedman who said, “When I enter the Handicraft Club there is an immediate feeling of calmness and serenity despite a palatable buzz of activity and camaraderie.”

Nancy Moger said, “What happens behind our walls is old world. And that is something I find to be very therapeutic.”

As a result of this Journal article, many more members of the public attended the spring exhibition, which was open to the public for two days after the opening night party.

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

What a wonderful year we have enjoyed as Handicraft Club members. Susan Tash has captured our pleasure and interest in arts and crafts and devotion to our club so very well in the articles that follow. The newsletter has become a wonderful tool to help us stay connected and learn more about classes we have not yet tried and teachers we have not yet met.

When I was a new member I knew very little about how the Club was running until I attended the annual meeting months later. I was pleased to understand that the board took its work very seriously and that decisions are made with great deliberation. If any of you are interested in attending a board meeting, please contact me or Alyssa, as you are most welcome.

A few of our members have asked to know more about our finances – how well our investments and other accounts are doing, why we need money for our endowment and what our expenses are. I agree that everyone should have access to information, and we will be using some space in future newsletters to help you see the big picture. To that end, the September newsletter will have an article about our investments. We expect to cover other financial areas in subsequent issues.

If there are other items you are interested in learning more about, please email our editor at susantash7@gmail.com or me at margedwards@verizon.net. We will be pleased to explore your suggestions.

Our next board meeting and retreat will take place on Monday, September 22, so please get your applications in for new members by September 8 so we can consider them at that meeting. We will be working on our strategic plan and also looking at our board structure in order to make the board more streamlined and effective. We welcome your ideas and hope you will stay in contact throughout the year.

Happy summer!

Margie Edwards
President

Editor, Susan Tash

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HANDICRAFT IN BLOOM ATTRACTS ARTISTS AND GARDENERS ALIKE

The Handicraft Club and Perennial Planters Garden Club arranged the exhibit Handicraft in Bloom in April. Sixty members came to see work by Izzy Goff, Alice Westervelt, Anne Considine, Joanne King and Janice Panoff, all of which were accompanied by floral arrangements that interpreted the work.

The show opened the evening of April 2 and was celebrated with a wine and cheese reception at the Club. It remained open for viewing through the next day. Organizers representing the Club were Fraser Gilbane and Janice Panoff, and representing Perennial Planters were Frances Trafton and Jane O'Farrell.



Janice Panoff, Kay Lisle, Sallie Barker



Margie Edwards and Ann Holmes DiLuglio pose next to a floral arrangement inspired by Izzy Goff's painting behind them.



Floral arrangement inspired by needlepoint by Alice Westervelt.



Floral arrangement inspired by painting by Anne Considine.



*On left, floral arrangements inspired by cut paper by Janice Panoff.
On right, floral arrangements inspired painting by Joanne King.*

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RICHARD HARRINGTON: ART AND TEACHING IN HIS DNA

Richard Harrington's classes in acrylic painting fill up fast. The word is out that he's a terrific teacher and a lot of fun.

It's no surprise. Richard was born to be in the arts and to be a teacher. A Providence native, Richard says art classes were his favorite in school from very early on. And art was around the family of seven children as they were growing up. His brother is a wood carver, and several of his siblings are also artistic.



Richard Harrington

Richard says that coming from a working class family his goal was to get a job and be independent. He didn't think teaching art would be secure. So he earned a bachelor's degree in Industrial Arts from RI College and a master's in special education at RIC where he was a graduate fellow. He started his career as a special education teacher in Providence and Johnston, and taught crafts, as well, at a Jewish community center in Providence. Soon he went into administration at the RI Department of Education as a consultant in special education. Art was on the back burner in his administration days.

But, as Richard approached his 50s he realized that if he wanted to do art – and he did – then he should do something about it. He enrolled in night classes at RISD, honed his craft, and began teaching painting at the Handicraft Club 16 years ago.

In his twenty-plus years of painting and print making Richard has accomplished a lot. He's a founding member of the Art League of Rhode Island, was a participating artist at the Spring Bull Cooperative Gallery, a juror for local and regional exhibitions and grant competitors, and a past board member of the RI Watercolor Society. He also exhibits at local and regional art venues. His juried art affiliations also include the Cape Cod Art Association, Providence Art Club, where he has a studio, the Wickford Art Association and the Monotype Guild of New England.

His work has been featured in more than a dozen publications, and his gallery affiliations include locations as varied as Cornwall UK, Ogunquit ME and Boston, as well as a number of RI galleries. Among the many significant collections that feature his work are the Providence Athenaeum, the Joseph Chazen Collection, New Britain Museum of Art and Hasbro Children's Hospital. His awards are too numerous to mention. His website – www.richardsharringtonart.com – features more information about Richard's work.

For all of Richard's professional accomplishments, the students recognize above all his fine teaching skills at the Club. Richard says, "It's been a pleasure these years working with the students at the Club, seeing some of them flourish when it comes to painting." He added, "Most are coming to painting later, but some are now exhibiting and have studios in their own homes. And I don't discount those who paint for recreation – they spend three hours a week doing something that they really like."

It appears Richard's later-in-life art career has disproved his early theory that art wouldn't bring him security. He's thriving on painting and teaching. He lives in Barrington with his partner of 43 years, who's retired and devoted to golf rather than art.

Richard notes in closing that he loved the May Preview Party at the Club. "It's just wonderful," he says, "to go and see the fine work they have done. It's astounding what the students can accomplish." For his many Handicraft Club admirers, they enjoy Richard's accomplishments, as well.

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PAT BILLINGS MERRILY ROLLS ALONG IN LIFE AND ON BICYCLES



Pat Billings

Pat Billings has been a Handicraft Club member for 22 years and is devoted to one class only – hooking. She didn't see herself as a crafts person at all, but friends who were members of the Club recommended it to her and she joined.

At the time, Pat was working part-time but, since she'd taken a hooking course in high school and liked it, she decided to fit in a rug hooking class at the Club. She's never taken any other class since then – she's hooked, so to speak.

Pat was born in New York City and lived there for a few years before moving with her family to New Jersey where she grew up. She was a drama major in college but was interested in special education. After she met and married her husband, they moved to Rhode Island as his roots were in New England. She worked in development at Meeting Street School and Bradley Hospital, where she got involved in speech and language. She later taught drama at RI School for the Deaf, which she liked the best.

She was always a bike rider. When she was young and gasoline was scarce, Pat says she'd bike everywhere. She lived about eight miles from the Jersey shore and she'd bike there and back all summer long. Later, as her children got involved in their own things, Pat took hiking trips with friends in Europe, and biking trips here in the U.S.

Always an active person, Pat says she and her husband and kids skied a lot. They had a place in NH where they skied every weekend as a family. When the kids grew up, she and her husband sold the home in NH and bought a place in Alta, Utah. When they both retired (she 18 years ago) they went to Alta every winter until two years ago.

Both of Pat's daughters are intrinsically better at crafts than she is, says Pat. "They have natural talent," she noted. "I do primitive hooking, where if I make a mistake it's easy to correct."

She says she enjoys the community of people in the class, the comity. "It's like old time quilting bees," she says. She adds, "When I started there were people who were my age, but now everybody's younger than I." That doesn't seem to stop Pat Billings, who is most genial and eager to embrace the world.

THREE NEW MEMBERS JOIN THE CLUB, ELEVEN APPLICANTS AWAIT APPROVAL

Three new members have joined the Club in the past few months. Kirby Goff was sponsored by Gale Goff, Alexis Soloff was sponsored by Drew Wightman and Jane Lorch was sponsored by Shirley Hardison. Anne Considine and Jozy Mainelli, membership co-chairs, note that there are eleven new applicants who were presented at the June meeting. The Board will vote on them later this month.

An open house for prospective new members on May 21 was well-attended, Anne and Jozy noted. Keep an eye out for the new members in the fall and give them a warm Handicraft Club welcome.

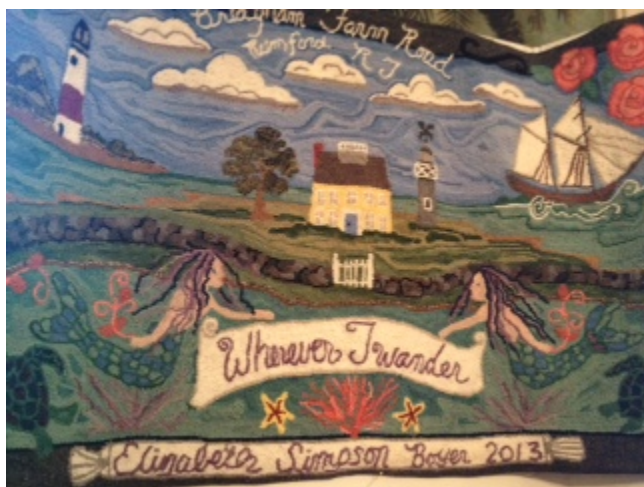
Current members are encouraged to nominate new members to the Club. Proposed member names are brought to the Board as they are proposed; their names are then posted on the bulletin board for a month. Prospective members should meet two Board members before the Board votes on them.

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ANNUAL PREVIEW PARTY DRAWS PLENTY OF MEMBERS TO TOAST THE YEAR'S OUTPUT



The annual May Preview Party showed off what members had accomplished over the past year. One hundred eighty items from 130 different members were displayed.

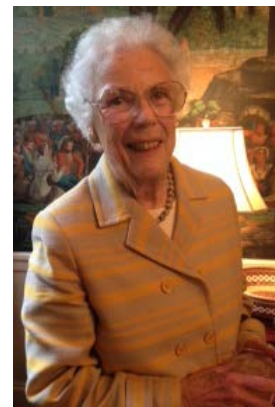
Preparations for the party were made by a hard-working group of volunteers as well as steward Jackie Hicks, who solicited members' artwork, coordinated the paperwork, handled RSVP's and raffle tickets, coordinated servers to work the party and made appetizers. According to Jen Auber, Second Vice President and major domo for the event, thanks to the volunteers, Jackie and office manager Alyssa Short, the work paid off with a very smooth operation.

Nearly 150 people enjoyed the plentiful appetizers and cocktails as they surveyed the work. The preview party generated a total of \$7850, after expenses, for the Club as a result of heavy ticket sales, donations and raffle book sales.

The raffle prizes were won as follows:

- Two nights at the Ocean House in Watch Hill in a two-bedroom suite donated by Donna Simmonds, winner was **Holly Schenck**.
- A 4x6 foot hooked kitchen style rug, donated by Bertha Atwater and finished by Chris Sayles, was won by **Jane Joukowsky**.

- A medium-sized needlepoint rug done by Izzy Goff, Sharleen Bowen, Tinka Dewey and Martha Lord, Kathy Cutler and Anne Tillinghast was won by **Linda McCarthy**.
- Two fabric remnant shoulder bags donated by Chris Sayles were won by **Barbara Haddad**.



One hundred thirty members submitted 180 beautifully crafted items for display at the annual Preview Party. Teachers, students and guests admired the exhibit and enjoyed the cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and good company of each other.

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TEACHERS HONORED FOR 15 YEARS AT CLUB

Instructors who have been teaching at the Handicraft Club for 15 or more years were honored in May at a luncheon at the Art Club.

Club members participated in the tributes to these eight teachers. Of **Linda Brown** (Nantucket Baskets) Carol Smith said that her students knew “how deep her knowledge of Nantucket baskets runs and how generous she was to share this knowledge and talent with us.” She added “Each time a mold was released and a basket emerged and after we engraved our names, we knew we were creating precious objects that would last for generations. We will always thank Linda Brown for this gift.”

Anne Burnham received (in absentia) a tribute from her Thursday Knitting Circle, Lea Angell, Sandy Earle, Raya Goff, Janice Libby and Liza McCahan. Noting how far Anne Burnham would go for her students, she asked, “How many teachers do you know who make house calls for a slipped stitch, organize the making of an afghan for a student’s ailing husband, darn damaged projects or take her class to Fishers Island.” That was Anne Burnham. They said “Anne has taken a group of strangers and made us friends,” and added that as a result of knowing Anne they are better knitters but, more importantly, better people. Anne Burnham passed away shortly after this tribute.

Nancy Moger said of **Karen Graves** (Decorative Painting) that she is “generous with her time and knowledge, patient (even with the creatively challenged), and a great multi-tasker.” She added, “Karen is a thoughtful, inspiring, and supportive instructor with each and every one of her students... The Handicraft Club is so fortunate to have teachers of Karen’s caliber, character, and longevity.”

Susie Reeves said **Richard Harrington** (Acrylic Painting) has taught his students audacity. “By that I mean audacity not only to actually put paint on our canvas, but also to discover and paint in our own style – not his style – and according to our own temperament.” She said this kind, supportive, positive

and inspiring man is also “an absolute model of diplomacy and composure. This is in the face of dealing with a group of generally ‘mature,’ thoroughly independent minded women who at the same time often have very fragile artistic confidence and egos.”



Donele Monte is honored by Bobbie Binder

Bobbie Binder said **Donele Monte** (Basket Weaving) is “talented and kind, creative and practical, funny and thoughtful, and very, very patient.” She said, “In Donele’s classroom we talk about staves and our children. About weavers and our husbands. About basket design and our lives. We analyze the quality of the cane and the movies we’ve seen. We discuss the relative merits of walnut or maple bases, as well as the authors we’ve read. Donele is equal part teacher, friend, and confidante.”



Peggy Rodgers is honored by Kit Barnum

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Kit Barnum noted that **Peggy Rodgers** (Decorative Painting) is an amazing woman who can take a class of eight or more people working on everything from stenciling to gilding to country painting and teach eight different techniques in the same class period, and then in the afternoon teach eight more working on different projects!" Kit says that coming to Peggy's classes is "like therapy for the stresses in life; you just get totally absorbed in the work and everything else disappears."



Chris Sayles is honored by Janet Jagger on behalf of Jane Joukowsky

Chris Sayles (Rug Hooking) is a multi-talented crafter, said Jane Joukowsky, whose repertoire includes crewel, braided rugs, sewing, quilting, felting, penny rugs, knitting and crocheting. She added that she's a gifted teacher who instructs with kindness and care. And in closing Jane noted that in teaching the art of rug hooking "Chris has really taught most of us patience and perseverance –two wonderful life skills. She makes me proud to say I am a hooker."

Deanna Van Schagen (Lampshades and Oriental Rug Making) was toasted by Anne Snyder. "What a terrific teacher Deanna is. Lampshade making is a very exacting process, and Deanna carefully teaches us in an organized step-by-step approach. Like all good teachers, Deanna encourages us to do as much as we can on our pieces, but she is also a very caring soul." And while Oriental rugs take years to create, Anne noted that Deanna is "an inclusive and welcoming teacher, and she creates an environment in which everyone encourages and helps everyone else."

KNITTING TEACHER ANNE BURNHAM DIES AFTER DISTINGUISHED CAREER AS EDUCATOR

Anne Burnham, much loved knitting teacher and friend to many Handicraft Club students, passed away early last month. Her passing was followed within hours by that of her husband of 62 years, David Burnham.

Anne and David lived in Rehoboth, MA, and Fishers Island, NY. She was one of six children, and graduated from Oberlin College at the age of 20. She and Dave met when they were teachers at the affiliated schools of Northfield School for Girls and Mount Herman School.

Anne and Dave were teachers and school administrators their entire working careers. They taught and worked with institutions such as Loomis Chaffee School and The Lincoln School. Most recently Dave served as headmaster of Moses Brown School, and Anne taught.

When they retired, each led many local non-profit organizations. Anne was treasurer and occasionally church moderator at the Community Church of Providence. Dave was instrumental in forming the Paul Cuffee School, a maritime-themed charter school in Providence. Anne, like Dave, developed close relationships with the school students she taught, relationships that often lasted well into the students' adult lives. She had a passion for education, a caring smile and a love for her family and her many communities.

As her knitting circle wrote for the teachers' luncheon in May, "Anne purls her magic by truly caring about our lives in and out of class. She always makes any newcomer feel as though she had been a part of our knitting community for years."

Anne will be sorely missed by the Handicraft Club and the many students who cherished her friendship.

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ANNUAL GIVING SOCIETIES LUNCHEON DRAWS 25 DEVOTED CLUB MEMBERS

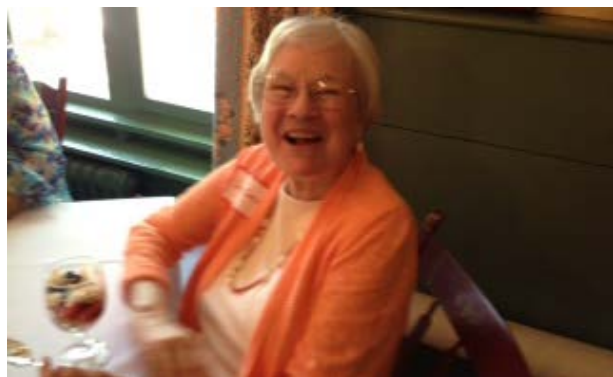


Julia Lippett Mauran Society member, Ann Brooke Mason on left with Truman Beckwith Circle member, Louise Mauran Nadler.

Twenty-five members and two invited guests attended the annual Giving Societies luncheon at the Club in June to honor those who've become members of either the Julia Lippett Mauran Society or the Truman Beckwith Circle. Since the luncheon, one of the guests has become a member.

Members of the Julia Lippett 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. Giving Society co-chairs Kay Lisle and Trina Sherer can answer any questions Club members may have.

Food for the luncheon was provided by Mary Hughes, Club cooking teacher, and dessert was made by Club steward Jackie Hicks.



Julia Lippett Mauran Society member, Sandy Earle.

FALL CLASSES

Look for the list of classes for the fall session. It should be mailed/e-mailed the first week in August. Sign up promptly before your favorite class is filled.

GARDEN CLUB OF AMERICA TOURS CLUB



Fifty-five members of the Garden Club of America, Zone 11, enjoyed a visit to the Handicraft Club as part of a two-day tour of the area. A tour of Providence gardens ended at the Handicraft Club where members saw the Handicraft in Bloom exhibition as well as the Club's garden. This group comes to RI once every 10 years. According to Izzy Goff, "They loved the exhibit and all wished they had a club like this. We offered iced tea for the hot, tired gardeners."

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

September 29 - Box lunch and fascinating discussion of history of Tynietoy by noted expert Susan Grimshaw.

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2014-2015 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Aug. 1	Fall Registration Mailing
Sept. 8	Fall classes begin
Sept. 29	Tynietoy Lecture – Susan Grimshaw
Oct. 1	Membership directories available for pick-up
Oct. 31	Eight-week fall classes end
Nov. 3-7	Mailing of Holiday Party invitations
Nov. 3-7	Eight-week fall class make-up week
Nov. 10-14	Winter registration mailing
Nov. 14	Ten-week fall classes end
Nov. 17-21	Ten-week fall class make-up week
Nov. 24-28	NO CLASSES – Thanksgiving week
Dec. 8	Holiday Party and silent auction 6:00-8:00 pm
Dec. 1-19	Open Studios
Dec. 22-Jan.2	Club Closed
Jan. 5	Winter classes begin
Feb. 16-20	Mailing spring registration
Feb. 27	Winter classes end
March 2-6	Winter class make-up week
March 23	Spring classes begin
April 13-17	Mailing Dues Notice
April 20-24	Mailing Preview Party invitations
May 15	Spring classes end
May 14 & 15	Drop off days for items for Exhibition and Preview Party
May 18	Preview Party 6:00-8:00 pm
May 18-22	Spring class make-up week
May 19	Annual meeting and tea at 1:00 pm (location TBA)
May 19-20	Open Exhibition Days (house open to public)
May 20	Prospective member open house
May 21 & 22	Pick up items from exhibition
June 1	Societies luncheon 12:00 noon at Handicraft Club

TYNIETOY HERITAGE FUND HELPS TO FURNISH THE MANSION; SPECIALIST SUSAN GRIMSHAW TO SPEAK TO CLUB IN FALL



Tynietoy specialist Susan Grimshaw will be at the Club on September 29 to discuss the history of Tynietoy. A box lunch will be provided at no charge for members who attend. Further details will follow as the event gets closer.

Since the acquisition of the Tynietoy Mansion, the Tynietoy Heritage Fund has been established to help furnish it. Marilyn Shealey and Margaret Lederer are spearheading the project and should be contacted if you have Tynietoy furniture to donate. Also, for monetary contributions, there's a place online at the Club's website (handicraftclub.org) where one can make a contribution.

Generous gifts have enabled the Club to acquire two rare Tynietoy pieces, a harpsichord as well as a cast iron stove, in addition to furniture for the entire parlor. And the Club has an option to purchase the garden for the Tynietoy Mansion it owns.

The Tynietoy Furniture Company was started in 1920 by two Club members, Marion Perkins and Amey Vernon, and made miniature furniture for dollhouses. In the early years the furniture was made at the Club and hand-painted by RISD students. As the company expanded, they moved to larger quarters in downtown Providence. The dollhouses were made at the Club in the 1930s and are now highly sought after by miniaturists.