



# HANDI-NOTES

SPRING 2015 VOLUME 6, ISSUE 3  
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### SPRING OPEN HOUSE FOR POTENTIAL NEW MEMBERS

On Wednesday, May 20, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. the Club will host an open house for potential new members. This is an opportunity to meet current and prospective members, visit the studios and learn about the many classes and workshops offered at the Club. Those contemplating joining will be able to see the true works of art that are produced at the Club by members. You received an invitation in your e-mail. Be sure to pass it on to those you think might enjoy Club membership. Remember, as well, that volunteers are needed during this time to host the open house (see separate stories on pages 2 and 6). Please let Jackie know by May 13 whom you will be bringing to this May 20 event.

*Editor, Susan Tash*

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

This will be my final president's letter, as, after two years as president of the Club, I will be stepping down and making room for new people, new ideas. Nancy Moger is in line to be your next president. I know you will be happy with her wisdom and skill as she steps into the job.

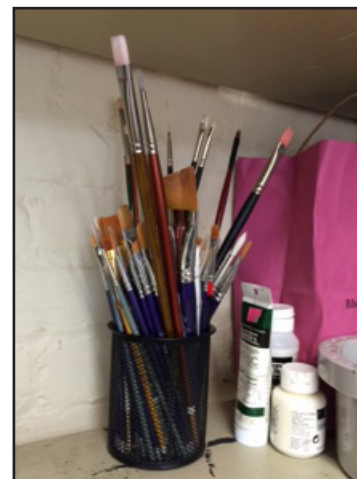
This has been a most happy two years for me. I've had the opportunity to work with some very dynamic women who have a shared vision for the Club. I like to think that I've made my own contributions to making the Club a lively environment for learning the arts and making friends. Also, I am mindful of the future of the Club and have strived to help establish programs that would guarantee a robust and growing Club in the 21st century. This Club is a gem, "a shining light on the hill," (to borrow a quote), and we owe it to ourselves and our daughters and women throughout the area to keep it vibrant.

While I am stepping down as president, I look forward to continuing to make contributions as ex-officio in the next two years. I hope that all of you will feel the same as I do: that we must all contribute our time, our energies, and our creative thinking toward keeping this Club the unique and lively place it has always been.

Please join me in sharing your ideas for our future.  
You are the Handicraft Club.

With deep appreciation for your support.

Margie Edwards





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## PREVIEW PARTY REQUIRES VOLUNTEERS TO MAKE IT SPECTACULAR AS ALWAYS

Annually the Preview Party is the Club's chance to demonstrate the beautiful and artfully completed craftsmanship members achieved throughout the year. To make the party the successful event it has traditionally been, volunteers are needed to pitch in and help.

Volunteers are needed to coordinate project delivery. Works to be included in the Preview Party display must be dropped off at the Club either Thursday, May 14, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. or Friday, May 15, 9-11:30 a.m. Volunteers are needed for pickup of these articles after the public viewing, as well as to hostess the public viewing itself.

New members are encouraged to prepare hors d'oeuvres for the party. Long-term members are asked to do the same. At least 30 volunteers are needed to contribute.

See the sign-up lists and details of time requirements on the Club bulletin board and be sure to volunteer. Your assistance is counted on annually to make this a great end-of-year event.



*Snow on the wrought iron furniture in the front courtyard. Intrepid members braved it all this past winter.*

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION PROCESS AND DUES AMENDED FOR 2015-2016

The membership application process and applicable dues have been amended for the 2015-16 Club year. New member applications will now be brought forward to the Board three times per Club year. The new schedule and applicable dues are in line with the Club's three class sessions.

- At the June Board meeting (completed application packages due to the membership chair by May 31). Members brought forward at the June meeting will be voted on electronically over the summer and, if accepted, would be eligible to take fall classes. Full Club dues (currently \$275) would apply, as well as the initiation fee of \$500.
- At the November Board meeting (completed application packages due to the membership chair by October 31). Members brought forward at the November meeting will be voted on the following month and, if accepted, would be eligible to take winter classes. Pro-rated Club dues (currently \$200) would apply, as well as the initiation fee of \$500.
- At the January Board meeting (completed application packages due to the membership chair by December 31). Members brought forward at the January meeting will be voted on the following month and, if accepted, would be eligible to take spring classes. Pro-rated Club dues (currently \$125) would apply, as well as the initiation fee of \$500.

- Students who keep their supplies and work on the
- second floor studio of the carriage house should
- take everything home with them for the summer.
- The studio will have some construction and recon-
- figuring done over the summer months to provide
- more storage space, and whatever is left there may
- be lost or tossed.



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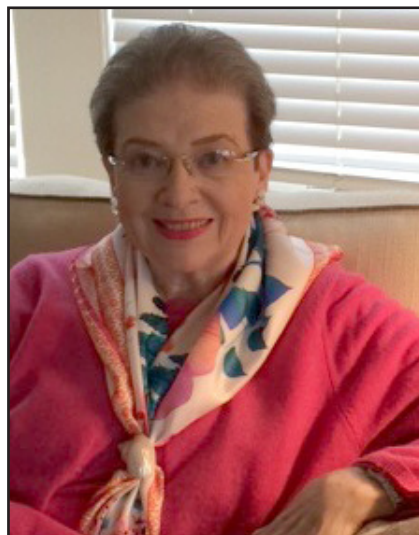


## PROFILE: OUTGOING PRESIDENT MARGIE EDWARDS

Outgoing Board president Margie Edwards hit the ground running when she joined the club in 2005. She became a Board member in 2007, first serving as recording secretary, then 2nd VP, then first VP and finally as president. Those who know Margie would not be surprised by her immediate involvement in the Club. Getting involved in a meaningful way is what she loves to do, and she does it energetically.

Margie grew up in Lancaster, PA, attending Lancaster Country Day School and then Wellesley College. She says she determined to go to Wellesley after a Wellesley grad spoke to her grade school class. "She was so perfect, so smart, I just knew I wanted to attend her school," says Margie.

It was at Wellesley that she started dating her husband of 46 years, Stu, now deceased. As is often the case with matters of the heart, they knew each other for a number of years as boyfriend and girlfriend of other friends. Their friendship flourished and, when Margie's friend was no longer Stu's girlfriend, so did their love.



*Margie Edwards  
served as Club president  
for two years.*

Margie and Stu moved to the Boston area, where he was in his father's business, engineering supplies and printing, then known as B.L. Makepeace. Stu bought Providence Blueprint Co. from Makepeace in 1967, and Stu and Margie moved to Providence.

Margie taught high school French for two years at Westwood High School when they lived in MA. In RI she was a substitute French and English teacher. She became involved in volunteer work. In the early 70's she joined the Junior League, and in true Margie fashion became president from 1974-76. She says she learned a tremendous amount there about strategic planning, life planning skills and volunteer development, "skills I've used throughout my volunteer and paid careers," she adds.

After the Junior League she began focusing on a paid career. At the Department of Education, which she joined after 1976, she did long range planning for education. During this time she also went back to school and got a master's degree in public administration. Then she went into teacher education and ran a resource center for the National Teachers Center Program, a national program out of Washington. She was in touch with commissioners of education for all 50 states, getting them more involved in teacher education. This program was federally funded, spearheaded by Senator Claiborne Pell.

Next stop was Bryant College (now Bryant University) where she was running the Providence office of the Small Business Development Center. Ironically, Izzy Goff was one of the consultants Margie used in marketing during those years (1980-90). Then Margie became assistant to the superintendent of Cranston schools in the area of community involvement. She left that for a job as executive director of Public Education Fund, a private non-profit focused on school reform, especially for students who didn't have a lot of support.

After a long career in education, serving in many administrative and developmental capacities, Margie retired in 2004 and a year later joined the Handicraft Club. She'd been encouraged to join in the 1970s, but was working full-time and didn't think she could spare the time to take classes. Once she joined she rolled up her sleeves and got to work, just as always.

At the Club she's taken classes in bridge and baskets, and now is enrolled all day in Peggy Rodgers' decorative painting class. Margie continues as a Junior League member, is

*(cont. on page 4)*



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*(OUTGOING PRESIDENT CONT. FROM PAGE 3)*

chair of major gifts for her Wellesley class, is a member of the South County Garden Club and coordinates with Ann Holmes DiLuglio the bridge program at the Dunes Club. While she has no children, she is an aunt to six nieces and nephews, she is godmother to four, hosts big family parties and works at keeping the cousins in touch with each other. She says the neat thing about being an aunt is that the nieces and nephews confide in her, telling her things they'd never tell their mothers.

Reflecting on her two years as president of the Club, she says she's been trying to get more people involved at the committee level. "Strategically, what we're looking to do is to make ourselves relevant in the next 100 years," she said. "How do we ensure that this club is viable for women of tomorrow?" She said the Board has been looking at ways to attract members and this will be an ongoing project.

She added, "as ex-officio president, I want to be involved in this strategic planning as well as investments."

As the Club's chief cheerleader these past two years, Margie says she values the friends she's made. "A lot of members are old friends I've known since the 70's before I started my paid career," she said. "I've learned through my involvement here that no matter what age you are, you can make new friends, too. It's good to know I can have old friends and make new ones here at the Club."

*Editor's note: Thank you, Margie, from your many old and new friends for finding more parking availability at the Unitarian Church.*



*Above: Bracelets made in Lizzie Shriener's Knitted Wire Cuff class.*

## **ANNUAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON MAY 15 AT HOPE CLUB; RSVP'S NEEDED SOONEST**

The Handicraft Club will host its 111th annual meeting and luncheon on Friday, May 15, at the Hope Club, 6 Benevolent Street, Providence.

Lunch begins at noon, the annual meeting follows at 1 p.m. If members plan to attend the luncheon and meeting, they should call steward Jackie Hicks at 401.831.5337. If doing both, kindly mail a check for \$28 to cover the cost of lunch to Jackie Hicks, Handicraft Club, 42 College Street, Providence, RI 02906.

Earlier this month president Margie Edwards mailed to the over 400 members several documents pertinent to the meeting. Included were the budget and executive board for 2015-16, as well as minutes from the 2013-14 annual meeting. Members will need to vote their approval for the minutes and executive board.

According to Margie, the annual meeting is one of the times the full membership can gather to discuss ideas as a group. She plans to set aside time in the meeting to solicit members' ideas that will help the Board to form a strategic plan so the club may continue to remain viable.

"As a Board, we are constantly discussing how to attract new members of all ages whose busy lives involve family, career, volunteer work and other obligations," said Margie. She's looking for suggestions about ways to do this more effectively.

She added that the Board is focusing on the heart of the Club, its classes, and wants feedback on class offerings. Also, they are looking to involve more members on Board committees.

Margie said she hopes to have a full house at the annual meeting and, as well, that members will enjoy each others' company at the May 15 luncheon at the beautiful Hope Club. "I hope to see as many as possible to celebrate our past and to help us plan our future," she said.



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## *BENCH IN ENTRY RESTORED BY FINE ARTIST AND PEGGY RODGERS STUDENT LUKE RANDALL*

Luke Randall, fine artist and decorative painter, has spent his 26 year career perfecting his art while supplementing his work with assignments from interior designers to decorate many of the grand homes of Newport. So it was a surprise when Melissa Powers contacted him about restoring the bench in the Club's front hall.

Luke is never one to shy away from new artistic endeavors. Hobbies include tinsmithing, leatherworking, electronics and jewelry-making, so stenciling an antique bench was an exciting new challenge.

His mission was to restore the bench to its original color and design. E. F. O'Donnell & Co., which does much of the building restoration at the Club, stripped the bench and painted the background color after consulting with Luke. Luke matched the green base color to a color chip he found on the original bench. Looking through an Early American chair book, he found it was a Pennsylvania style bench and that Pennsylvania style often included a stencil on the front of the seat. Luke could find fragments of a design there, but not enough to copy. So he invented one himself. After crafting several possible designs he picked the one he liked.

The original stencil on the back of the bench was still very clear and could be copied. But the meticulous nature of stenciling called for a fine hand. Luke practiced the stencil in his home studio and in teacher Peggy Rodgers' home studio. He says "Peggy had a huge hand in guiding me on the stenciling."

Luke's no stranger to the Club and many of its members. Izzy Goff, his neighbor, introduced him to Peggy Rodgers when he was interested in the gold leaf on glass work her classes do. Very quickly he became enamored with the Country Painting style and he continues to expand his knowledge of decorative painting at Peggy's studio. "I really enjoy using the brush in a way that I'd never done before," he says. "There are so many nuances in Country Painting that have helped me to be a better fine arts painter."

*Top right: Luke Randall, fine artist and decorative painter, restored the bench in the Club's entry. The bench as it was restored (below).*

Luke Randall has a background in fine arts since 1989. He trained with noted painter Jim Smart, a Brit, and worked with him for a year when Smart came to Newport to work on a number of mansion commissions. Luke went back to England with him and apprenticed with Smart there.

As a painter of gold-leafed mansions, star-covered ceilings and faux bamboo walls, among other techniques, Luke takes commissions for fine arts, decorative work and restoration. He can be contacted through his firm, Pompei Paints, 401.295.8211 or pompeipaints@gmail.com.





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## ANNUAL PREVIEW PARTY ON MAY 18 TO SHOWCASE SAMPLES OF MEMBERS' WORK

The annual Preview Party will be held at the Club from 6 to 8 p.m. on Monday, May 18. This is an opportunity for members to demonstrate their artistic accomplishments. Members can view the wide array of artistic opportunities open to them, as well, in the fall session.

There are a number of raffle items at this party worthy of admiration. Raffle tickets are \$25 each or a book of three for \$50. The drawing will take place during the Preview Party. Raffle items include a weekend at The Ocean House, a week at Izzy Goff's house at Boca Grande, FL, a party for 20 catered by Morin's Catering, a table lamp from Hwang Bishop Designs, a \$50 gift certificate from Mary Hughes's Savory Fare (good towards a lovely catered meal by Mary) and five in-home yoga classes by Edit Mello of Freedom Yoga in Bristol.

According to Jen Auber, 2nd vice president and party-coordinator extraordinaire, there are sign-up sheets at the Club for anyone who can help by bringing hors d'oeuvres or setting up before the party.

The works featured at the party will be part of an exhibition open to the public May 19 (10 a.m.-7 p.m.) and May 20 (10 a.m.-3 p.m.). Encourage your friends and neighbors to stop by and view the many beautiful pieces on display. Members are needed to volunteer to serve as "docents" during these open exhibition days, too. Check your calendars and see if you can help, if only for a few hours. And let Jen Auber know or sign up on the bulletin board.

## CLUB SEEKS USED RADIATORS TO REPLACE OUTDATED ONES

Two outdated and over-sized radiators in the second floor studios of the carriage house need to be replaced. Members of the house committee ask if anyone can recommend a place that recycles radiators. Or, if any members are doing house renovations on their own homes, perhaps they have radiators they can contribute to the cause. Kit Barnum, committee chair, says they need an 8-ft. and a 4-ft. radiator for a two-pipe steam system. Contact Kit with suggestions for where to find just the thing.

Kit also asks that if teachers are in need of something for the classroom (not supplies) please e-mail her with your suggestions ([kitbarnum@hotmail.com](mailto:kitbarnum@hotmail.com)).

## IN MEMORIAM

Marion Faget Guerin, past Handicraft Club member, who resided at Two Regency Plaza in Providence, passed away at the age of 97 on Feb. 16. She died at Tockwotton on the Waterfront of complications following pneumonia.

On April 13 Adelaide Nicholson, wife of Paul Nicholson, died at the age of 92 at her home in Providence, just two days after the celebration of their 73rd wedding anniversary. She was active in many worthy causes, proficient at tennis and trout fishing and, as a Handicraft Club member, she had artistic skills, as well.

The Club and its members send condolences to the families of these fine women.



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## MONEY MATTERS

...an occasional column written by a former finance chairman in response to member questions.

*With the Annual Meeting scheduled for May 15, it seemed relevant to look at the budgeting process and the proposed budget. Your questions will be answered if you email them to the address at the end of the column.*

### **Who is responsible for developing the budget?**

According to the by-laws, one of the treasurer's responsibilities is "budgetary control." By-Laws also state "She shall be aided by the assistant treasurer...". The by-laws also state that "The finance committee shall prepare and submit to the Board for approval a budget..." This year, Trish Sylvester, treasurer, and the assistant treasurer, Shirley Hardison, developed a draft budget and presented it to the finance committee for additional input.

### **Are any other Board members consulted in the development of the budget?**

Trish contacted committee chairmen to solicit funding requests. These requests were incorporated into the draft budget or presented to the finance committee and were evaluated during the preparation of the budget for presentation to the Board.

### **After the budget is prepared, what is the approval process?**

After the finance committee completes the budget, it is presented at the March Board meeting. The budget is then voted on at the April Board meeting. (According to the By-Laws, the budget must be submitted to the Board no less than two months before the end of the fiscal year.) The budget is submitted to the membership at the annual meeting, but approval by the membership is not required.

### **What is a fiscal year?**

A fiscal year is a one-year business cycle. The ending date is chosen to correspond with the business activity cycle which is often different than the calendar year. Handicraft Club uses a July 1 to June 30 fiscal year. Interestingly, the by-laws also define the "Club Year" in Article III as the year following the annual meeting.

### **Where do the budget numbers come from?**

Step 1 is to look at actual figures for at least the current year and often one or two years past. When the budget is being prepared in March, there are still three months left in the fiscal year; however, most major outlays have occurred or can be easily estimated for the rest of the year. Step 2 is to solicit input from any chairman which may have budgetary requests or information pertinent to next year's revenue or expense.

Step 3 is to estimate next year's numbers based upon last year's actual and any new information. Without definite information, some categories, such as insurance and utilities, are simply assumed to increase an inflationary amount. Other categories, such as garden maintenance and repairs, are calculated based on known issues to be addressed plus an amount for contingencies, or sometimes just an average of past years. Some items may be affected by Board decisions during the year. For example, the Board voted to increase the handyman/janitor's hours and duties during the coming year which translated to a 31 percent increase from last year's budget.

### **What are the major budget categories?**

Dues income is the Club's main revenue source. It can be easily estimated based upon the number of current members, the anticipated number of new members, and the anticipated number of resignations based upon past experience. Dues income for fiscal 2015 was estimated at \$107,000 versus an actual \$105,022. Dues income was projected again at \$107,000 for the next fiscal year.

Class tuition is the second major income source, and teacher salaries are the largest expense category. Both of these categories are difficult to project-- class income because of the ebb and flow of member proclivities and even weather. Salaries are somewhat easier, but salaries are not paid for classes that don't "go". For the year ending June 30, 2015, tuition was projected at \$100,000 and teacher salaries were projected at the same amount. This also reflected a 10 percent increase in teacher salaries which was approved by the Board during the past year to begin July 1, 2014.



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*MONEY MATTERS CONT. FROM PAGE 7*

## **Why does the budget show class tuition and teachers' salaries as equal amounts?**

By projecting income and expense of classes in equal amounts, the Board is signaling that they are not depending upon classes to generate a profit, but that they should generate enough income to cover teacher salaries. Three other categories are projected with income equaling expense: kitchen, Tynietoy and parking.

## **What other categories should be of interest to members?**

The largest expense items, which must be covered by dues, initiation fees and parties, are salaries. The Club now has three employees, all of whom work on an hourly basis. Other costs related to employees are: health insurance for the steward, payroll taxes and expense of the payroll service.

## **Why are repairs budgeted at just \$7,000?**

This looks insufficient given the amount of maintenance required on the house. The amount budgeted for repairs in the operating budget is expected to only cover minor unexpected repairs such as toilets backing up or a broken window. All planned maintenance projects are approved separately. The house committee submits maintenance/renovation requests to the finance committee, which must find a source of funding. The requests with suggested funding sources are then submitted to the Board for approval. There is no specific time frame for submission of capital requests, but they are normally submitted and approved so that the work can be completed while the Club is closed during the holidays or summer. In recent years, many capital expenses have been funded from excess funds in savings or from the General Fund. In the past, projects have been funded by withdrawals from the Endowment Fund and also from grants.

## **What are special projects?**

The Club still has a large inventory of Handicraft aprons and tote bags....buy some and get this off the budget!

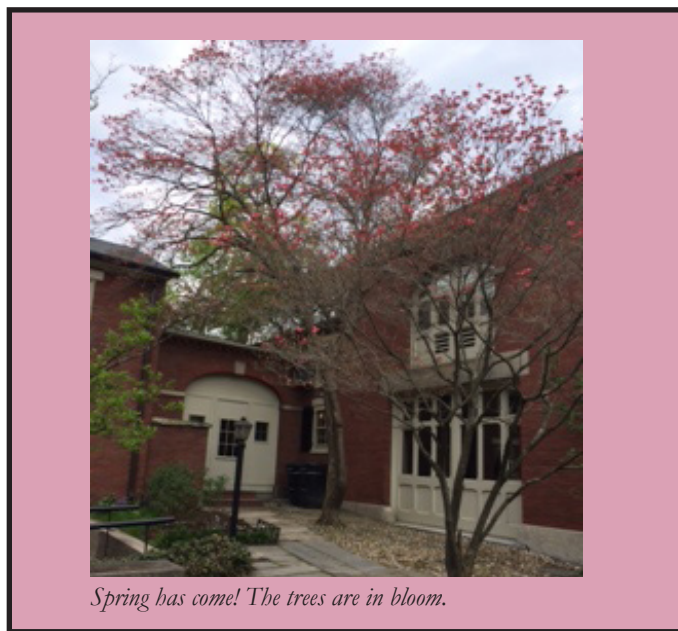
## **How accurate has the budget process been?**

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2014, the income projection was accurate to within 2 percent. Expenses were 8 percent less than projected resulting in a net income of \$25,522 versus the projected income of \$2,010.

*Check future newsletters for further details on the financial management of the Club. Any specific questions can be emailed to [patricialey@msn.com](mailto:patricialey@msn.com).*



*A number of workshops throughout the year allow members to take classes with a shorter term. Above is a portrait workshop conducted by teacher Kathy Weber.*



*Spring has come! The trees are in bloom.*