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Will Spring be here soon?

OK. So Winter finally caught up with us and, boy oh boy, is it letting itself be known! I hope you all weathered the frigid temperatures well. I KNOW Spring will be here soon but I really hope Phil (Punxsutawney that is) was right and it will be early this year!

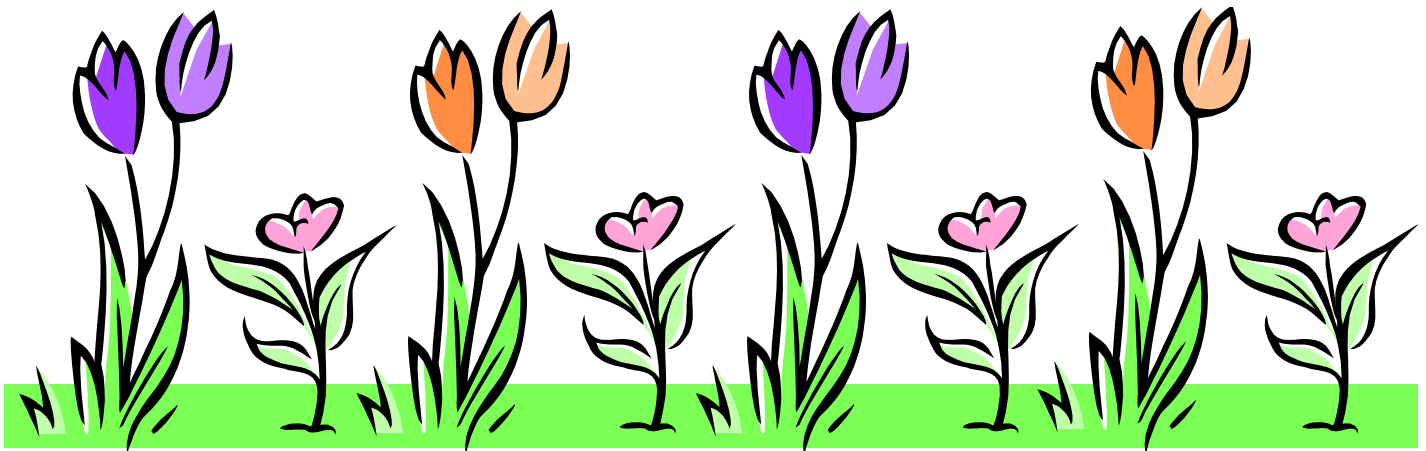
Since the last newsletter, things have changed a bit.

So, what's new? Well, the format of classes has changed. Instead of being project oriented, it's all about YOU! We're continuing to offer our acrylic classes that are always popular. If you've always wanted to try your hand at watercolors, beginner lessons are available too! Oh, and brand new, JEWELRY class instruction.

As you can see, there is plenty to choose from! So, get a cup of coffee, tea or cocoa and take a look. I'm sure there will be something to strike your fancy!

Looking forward to seeing you all as we thaw our way into the warmer months! Wishing you a Happy Easter and Passover!

Lena Pfeffer, OSCI
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Studio Time

Each Monday evening, Wednesday morning and Friday evening, come on in for Studio Time at Decorative Wonders. These classes are perfect for all levels of painters and beaders – **beginners to advanced!** We'll chose a project or you can just paint or bead what you want!!! And, best of all, take as much time as you need. Need help? No problem. Even non-painters and those new to beading can come and join us for their beginner project. YOU decide what YOU want to learn or what project to do. Perfect time to do something for yourself! Even if you've never painted or beaded before, come and learn and start a beginner project.

- o YOU decide if you want to practice on paper or on a surface.
- o You will develop your skills in a relaxed and artistic atmosphere.
- o YOU will receive individual instruction and guidance.
- o Paint, brushes, basins, paper, etc. are all included (specific surfaces or beads are extra)!

Classes are \$10/hour. Choose from:
Monday 6:30pm-8:30pm
Wednesday 9am-1pm
Friday 6:30pm-8:30pm

Please call in advance if you are interested in attending a class to be sure there is available room!

Classes at Other Locations

Classes are now being offered at many new locations for your convenience! Please check the schedule to find one that suits your schedule!

**AC Moore
Route 35 South
Shrewsbury | NJ | 07702 | 732.389.2940
Thursday 6:30pm-8:30pm (One Stroke classes)
Tuesday 6:30-8pm (beading)**

**AC Moore
Route 9 South
Manalapan | NJ | 07726 | 732.462.8655
Saturday 10am-noon (One Stroke classes)**

**Monmouth County Park System
805 Newman Springs Road
Lincroft | New Jersey | 07738 | 732.842.4000, ext. 1
Monday 10am-noon (One Stroke classes)**

Putting on the Bling!

Beading is the latest rage! Get in-style with the **NEW** Fashion Forecast. Why follow the trends when you can be part of creating them?

Chose any Studio Class Time and learn to bead. Everything from beading 101 to more complicated weaving, crocheting and knitting with beads!!!

Its lots of fun and so very relaxing! I've never met a bead I didn't like!!

For Kids ONLY!!

Back by popular demand!!!! A class for KIDS ONLY!!! We're going to celebrate Spring early with a large paper mache egg that we'll paint and decorate. Then, we'll fill it with candy YUM!!!! Space is limited so register early to reserve your spot!!!!

For kids 7 years and older or under 7 years with a parent.

**March 31, 3pm-5pm
\$25/child (includes all supplies)**

Tips and Techniques!

Are You Holding Your Brush Correctly?

Usually, when you first pick up your paint brush, your first instinct is to hold it like a pencil or pen. While this might work well when you're writing, it doesn't always serve you best when you're painting.

Holding the brush near the ferrule gives you great control for very fine, precise strokes. But, to get more lose brush strokes and a better range of motion, try moving your hand down the handle. Your hand is now freer to move. Use your whole arm rather than your wrist. You'll find even the dreaded curlicue comes out great!



Recipe

Incredible Carrot Cake

- 2-1/4 cups all purpose flour
- 2 teaspoon baking soda
- 2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice or allspice
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 3/4 cup light brown cane
- 3/4 cup cane
- 3 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 2 cups finely grated carrots
- 1 can (about 14 oz) crushed pineapple, drained
- 1 cup shredded coconut
- nuts and raisins optional

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350°. In a medium bowl, mix flour, baking soda, cinnamon, spice, baking powder, and salt. In a large bowl, mix sugar and "eggs" until creamy (works best with an electric mixer) - add vanilla, then add vegetable oil. Mix wet and dry ingredients together and add carrots, pineapple, and coconut.

I prefer a thicker cake, so I used a 9x9 glass pan. But if you prefer thinner cake with more servings, use a 13x9. Grease pan. Smooth batter into pan. Bake for 40 - 45 minutes or until toothpick comes out clean. Be sure to let the cake adequately cool before frosting.

Cream Cheese Frosting

1 package cream cheese 1/3 cup
Margarine, softened
1 tsp. vanilla

2 cups confectioners' sugar

With an electric mixer, beat cream cheese and margarine. Add vanilla then add sugar.