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[www.WendyArts.com](http://www.WendyArts.com)

This is the second issue of:

**The Shared Easel**,  
a quarterly newsletter.

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## *The Greeting Card Time of Year*

This is the time of year when cards are sent to friends, family, coworkers, and people we hold in our hearts and minds. Whether we talk to them every day or have little contact with them throughout the year, it is during the holidays that we reach out to touch those we have known.

It is the time of year when the kid in us enjoys the daily ritual of retrieving the mail. We can realistically hope and expect to find something other than bills and junk mail. What colorful treats await us? What friends have thought of us this year?

Those red, white and green envelopes, and the messages inside, help color our day with friendship, love and greetings.

Some of us make lists of cards to send, others send few to none. Some cards are purchased while others are homemade. Whether you choose to put your cards on display, save them or discard them; most of us enjoy receiving these little packages that let us know someone is thinking of us.

That is why this issue is devoted to our connections with one another through greeting cards.



*"Peace on Earth"*  
*Cards*  
*(blank inside)*

**E-Cards Now Available— Find out more on page 3**

## *Staying Connected*

Cards are simple ways of touching someone's life. They provide a quick and easy method of letting a loved one know that they are appreciated. Cards can act as a reminder of the connections we share. And it is our connections to one another that adds value and richness to our lives.

I have a friend who lives on the east coast. We rarely speak to one another yet those annual cards sent at holiday times and birthdays mean so much. They are our way of connecting, of providing continuity to our friendship. I love the little zing I get when I see the familiar handwriting. It is a gift even before I open the envelope.

*(continued on next page)*

*"What are cards but a means of connecting with one another, of sharing a moment, of letting someone know that you care."*

## *Staying Connected continued...*

So while you are running around trying to find the “right gift”, rushing to get everything done “in time”, take time to breath and find a moment to connect with those who have found a special place in your heart.

Send some cards, call a friend, take a coffee break with someone who makes you smile, [de-stress](#) with a shared walk and talk. Stay connected.

## *A Story:*

### *Mayonnaise Jar and Two Cups of Coffee*

Recently, a sweet e-mail buddy of mine sent me the story of [The Mayonnaise Jar and the Two Cups of Coffee](#). This story seems very appropriate to include here.

It is too long to reprint the entire story in this newsletter but this is how it starts...

“A professor stood before his philosophy class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, he picked up a large and empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls. He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was.”

[Click here](#) to read the rest of the story.

*Alternatives... Holiday time can be stressful. Many people feel overwhelmed by the hectic holiday schedule and high expectations of what they would like to accomplish. Consider sending cards out in January, or at a different time of year that works with your schedule. Send [e-cards](#) instead or just skip sending cards at all this year.*

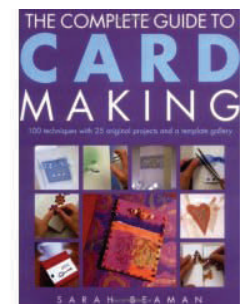
## *Books...on Card Making*

I have looked at a number of card making books and here are my two favorites.

[Watercolor for the Fun of It: Painting Greeting Cards](#) offers easy to follow instructions, lots of ideas for painting your own greeting card and loads of techniques. This book is not only of benefit for painting cards but great for anyone who would like to try new painting techniques. Check it out.

[The Complete Guide to Card Making](#) has many, many ideas. In fact the subtitle of the book is 100 Techniques with 25 Original Projects and 100 Motifs. Although I have not counted the numbers, the book lives up to it's words. Each project has a great sidebar that provides creative ideas to enhance the project. I found this book in the local library.

**“It is our heart connections that feed our soul.”**



## **New** Free Online E-Cards

E-cards are a free and easy way to send greetings for any occasion. You can write the message of your choice and send the same e-card to one or more individuals. You get to preview the card before it is sent.

Check out the new e-cards at [www.WendyArts.com](http://www.WendyArts.com). You can choose from 12 images at this time. More choices will be added in the future.

### *One Homemade Card Idea*

A couple of years ago, I received a beautifully painted birthday greeting that really stands out in my mind. It had a simple background of colors painted onto an 8 ½ x 11 inch piece of watercolor paper (watercolor paints were used).

A large heart, painted in a color that stood out from the background, showed off the poem that was printed on it with marker. The heart was outlined with a metallic gold pen. One side of the outline was somewhat wiggly which made it look more unique and interesting. Accents of spirals, dots and hearts were added with that same pen.

I loved the very small translucent envelope attached to the background. It seemed like it held a secret message inside. The elegant heart stickers, decorating the tiny envelope, completed the great overall effect.



*"Mission Vision" Cards*  
*(blank inside)*



*"I am the Lotus"*  
*Cards*  
*(blank inside)*

### *What's New at the Online Gift Shops*

Now, you can find out about any current "specials" when you go to the [online stores](#). Just scroll down to learn about current promotions. There are several specials that have been listed for November and December.

**Returns are Easy!**  
**100% Money Back Guarantee On All Products**

If you are not satisfied with a product for any reason, contact [Cafepress](#) about a full refund return, (Returns must be within 30 days of shipment)

### *Framing Tips*

Framing images of art/photography note cards is a great way to hang beautiful art at a low cost. If it's a standard size card it is easy to find a pre-made frame at a local store.

Purchase cards with images you love, either from card stores or directly from the artists at their open studios. You can also look for favorite images on your travels and vacations.

You can frame it as is or buy a matt to expand the size. The matt will give it a more finished look.

Cards are available at the [online stores](#).

Each package includes 6 cards. There is one card design at each of the three stores.

All cards are blank inside, allowing you to write the message of your choice.

There are postcards too, in packages of 8.

## *Kid Stuff— card making ideas*

There are so many things that kids can do to make homemade cards.

They will probably have lots of their own ideas but here is a list of materials that you can provide to help stimulate their creative flow.

A variety of papers, glue, paints, markers, colored pencils, stickers, gift wrap remnants, magazines, pictures from catalogs, ribbons, buttons, sequins, fabric scraps, colored tissue paper, last years holiday cards, and old calendars.

I love the [Sierra Club Engagement Calendars](#) or similar type of calendar. They provide 52 beautiful pictures that can be used after the year is up.

For lots of holiday card ideas, check out [FamilyFun.com](#).



[The Window Series](#) along with a few other pieces, is now showing at [The Spa at Pajaro Dunes](#).

The Silhouessence Series will be hanging at the [Pajaro Dunes Fitness Center](#) by mid December.



[One of the New E-Cards](#)

**Happy Holidays!**

Wishing you and your family a Memorable and Joyous Holiday Season and Very Happy New Year!

*Look for this in the next issue of  
The Shared Easel  
March 2007*

### **Creative Retreat**

- ◆ Creating Space for Creativity
- ◆ Taking a Mini Retreat
- ◆ An Art Activity for Kids
- ◆ Website Update—New & Expanded Galleries
- ◆ Books, Framing and more...

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**Note:** [www.wendyarts.com](http://www.wendyarts.com) and [www.wendymeqsiegel.com](http://www.wendymeqsiegel.com) direct you to the same site.

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CHECK OUT THE GALLERIES, STORES  
AND E-CARDS AT [WWW.WENDYARTS.COM](http://WWW.WENDYARTS.COM)

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