




# 2023 CARD CLUB YEAR-END REPORT

Submitted by Dena Dardzinski and Pam Farris

2023 has come to a close and the VAC Card Club enjoyed another very successful year. It was a year marked with many accomplishments and much growth by our members – individually and collectively. In 2023, we had:

-  43 full Card Club memberships (\$25 each = \$1,075)
-  4 partial Card Club memberships (\$10 each = \$40)
-  3 guests (\$5 each = \$15)



This activity generated \$1,130 in revenue for us to invest in equipment and supplies. Based on the interest of the members, we planned class sessions to incorporate new techniques, old tried-and-true methods, seasonal themes and responsible card-making skills.

In December of each year, prior to the new membership year in January, we survey our members to gain insight into what worked; who is willing to teach a technique; what materials are needed; and how we should expand our offerings. This way, we are able to really tap into their interests, suggestions, concerns and talents. With this information, we plan our calendar for the next year and determine what new tools and supplies are needed to fulfill the expressed interest. The year 2024 calendar has been drafted and we are ready to expand our horizons.



Each year we have returning members, but also add new people to our group. Every attempt is made to ensure that all members know what is available and where all of our supplies are located. This year we held two different orientation sessions to acclimate new members (March 21 and one as a result of the Carnival of Clubs event held on September 19). As mentioned earlier, we have people joining at different times during the year, so we are constantly revisiting the orientation process and attempt to team new members up with a “veteran” member. In addition, we have created a helpful *Card Making Tips* booklet on the VAC website for members.

Due to the nature of Card Club, we are continually purchasing consumable items for each class. These items range from card stock, envelopes, glue runners, ink pads and distressed sprays, ribbons, etc. Fortunately, we also enjoy many tools that can be used again and again. Over the course of our existence, we have built up a nice collection of stamps, punches, scorers, cutters, and other equipment that is utilized in our instruction and production of unique cards. This year, we were very fortunate to have VAC purchase new stamp storage, cabinet and a work island from a member who was moving. These purchases have helped us to organize in a manner that helps members find whatever they need for their card creations. In addition, the Dataw Island Card Club has received many fortuitous gifts – stamps, supplies, books, tools, etc., from M.T. O’Brien, Donna Lesansky, and other anonymous donors. All of these have increased our opportunities and are greatly appreciated.

2023 saw Card Club help and donate to many different causes.





-  We created a beautiful basket to be raffled off at the Veteran’s Day festivities – many of our members donated hand-made cards, patriotic items, wine, etc., to make this an enticing contribution to this worthy event.
-  On August 10, many members assisted Donna Lesansky at her Gazebo “end of a hobby sale.” Over the years, Donna had acquired a huge collection of card-making tools,

equipment, supplies and other related materials. With her imminent move, she wanted to share her collection with like-minded individuals. We helped her coordinate, set up, and sell her inventory. At the end of the sale, there was still a lot of inventory left over. Donna then donated a huge amount to our Card Club and St. Francis Center. Ever since August, we have been taking advantage of her generosity and enjoying her wide variety of stamps, paper, magazines, etc.

-  In September, once again, Card Club participated in the Carnival of Clubs. We had a card making station set up so that guests could make their own card. As a result, we picked up a few more members.
-  In addition, members helped to make over 100 Christmas cards to be given to the residents of Helena Square in Port Royal, our Security Gate employees and our Community Center employees. Each card was signed by our members attending our annual Christmas Brunch on December 12<sup>th</sup> and then was delivered.

During the course of 2023, we had 21 instructional (second Tuesday and fourth Friday of each month) sessions, 24 Tuesday night Open Studio sessions, and two new member Orientations. A number of our members stepped up to provide instructional guidance on specific topics (Linda Robinson, Liza Boyajian, Ronnie Beidelman, Christine Curley, Emilie Mahoney, Dena Dardzinski, and Pam Farris). Topics ranged from That's What Friends Are For; Birthday Bash; Building Your Card Stash; How to Use Scraps to Make Cards; Christmas Cards; Halloween – Fall – Thanksgiving Cards; Flap Cards; Valentine's Cards; Using Distressed Inks and Sprays; Water Color Pencils; and the list goes on. Lots of cards were made and shared with others...some are just too hard to give away.

Card Club is very appreciative of the space we are able to use and how well all the other groups utilizing the Arts and Crafts Room are able to co-exist and cooperate. Specifically, the willingness of VAC and the Community Center to coordinate times for our classes has been so helpful. It is so nice to have the Community Center staff support with the set-up, clean up and timing. In particular, we would like to thank:

-  Mary Marshall – for her superb communication skills that helps us to announce our monthly activities and updating our *Card Making Tip* booklet;
-  Lisa Talley – for her expert skills that kept our financial resources coming and going;
-  Jennifer Ethier – for her adept leadership skills and support of our happy band of card makers;
-  The Community Center's Betty (whom we sorely miss due to her much-deserved retirement), Kevin, Tim and all – for making sure we had everything we needed to run our classes. They make us feel like we are the most important group.

Based on the sharing of ideas, the number of handmade cards that were created, and the camaraderie of the Card Club members, 2023 was a very successful year!