



ROYCROFTERS-AT-LARGE ASSOCIATION
CHRONICLE

:: OUR MISSION ::

The Roycrofters-At-Large Association was formed over 30 years ago by a group of East Auroran's that included several descendants of the original Roycrofters, including Elbert Hubbard's granddaughter. The Roycrofters-At-Large Association, Inc. has been entrusted with educating, fostering and inspiring through the continual evolution of the Arts and Crafts Movement.

■ FALL 2018 ■

Brian Brace creates pieces not for the moment, but for generations

By Joe Kirchmyer

I've read, wrote, reviewed and critiqued countless websites in my day, but the opening statement on Roycroft Artisan Brian Brace's website really grabbed my attention.

"Fine furniture should be crafted to endure use over multiple lifetimes... to be passed on to future generations," the website states. "Acting on that belief, each piece Brian Brace makes goes through an extensive series of time-honored processes to achieve the highest quality standards. From thoughtfully selecting the finest lumber to applying hand-rubbed oil finishes, every step is carefully executed to ensure the finished piece is spectacular!"

Looking at the photos of Brian's work — and that photo of him literally standing behind his work — I have to say that I believe every word.

Q: It appears that you became serious about woodworking at an early age, while still in high school. What drew you to it?

A: I worked with my dad for years around the house starting at 10 years old. I signed up for carpentry/masonry class in high school, but right before I started I was able to meet William Laberge in my small town of Wells, Vermont, and he hired me in 1995. I was getting ready to start eleventh grade. With his help, we started an apprenticeship program and by the time I finished high school I had 2,400 hours of the 8,000 hours completed.

After my apprenticeship I went down to Naples, Florida, to meet back up with an older woodworking friend of mine and work for a few companies constructing wall units, kitchens, baths, cabinets and conference tables. I missed building fine furniture. Even though I was building amazing rooms, it just wasn't the same. So I started my business in a 10-foot by 10-foot room in the house I rented. I then had a son and wanted to get him out of Florida and into the mountains in a nice area around Asheville, North Carolina. I had no idea it would be so arts-related here and didn't even know that the Grove Park Inn was here, or the Arts and Crafts Conference!



Q: As a new Roycroft Artisan, how did it feel to put the Roycroft Renaissance logo on a piece for the very first time, and what was that piece?

A: Putting my first Roycroft brand on a piece was an amazing feeling. I have been a furniture maker for 23 years and grew up knowing about Roycroft

since I started my craft in Vermont in 1995. Roycroft means quality and dedication to your craft. When Mission Guild sponsored me I didn't even know you needed a sponsor to get into the Roycrofters-At-Large Association and figured I would apply because I felt I was ready. It was an amazing honor to have other Roycroft Artisans say I was ready and an amazing way to get in. I also feel that it is important to be involved.

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2017 - 2018 Goodie Box Winner!

Bridget Kolb from Mooresville, North Carolina was the lucky winner of this year's goodie raffle. Bridget bought her ticket at the Grove Park Conference this past February where RALA had a display and talked about the organization.

As you can see, she was thrilled to receive the box packed with all the Roycroft Artisan items!



2018 CALENDAR

**ROYCROFT
WINTER FESTIVAL**
December 1 & 2, 2018
10am to 5 pm both days
East Aurora Middle School
430 Main Street, East Aurora NY





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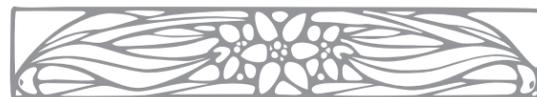
RALA Office

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Board Meetings

Board meetings are regularly scheduled for the second Tuesday of the month. The first 15 minutes of the meeting is reserved for member comments, after which the board will enter a closed session. Contact the RALA Coordinator for details.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings RALA Members,

Since we have just held our annual meeting, I'd like to take the opportunity of this note to you to recap some of RALA's highlights from the past 12 months. We held two successful shows, the winter show at the East Aurora Middle School in December, and the summer show which was held for the first time at the Healthy Zone Rink, and which yielded strong results for both our exhibitors and attendees. We look forward to returning to the rink for another successful summer show in 2019.

The Roycroft Chamber Music Festival held its 25th season of performances and educational events during this past June. Ticket sales reached record levels, and the festival even had 2 sellouts among its four concerts. We also initiated a joint event with the Friends of Knox Farm which was held in May. The event was designed as both a fundraiser and "friend-raiser" for both organizations. We will host a similar event in 2019.

As we have done in previous years, the Roycrofters-At-Large Association, Inc. has defended and maintained our brand with careful monitoring of our trademark. Through our rigorous jury process, we have welcomed new Artisan members and bid farewell to others. We continue to make efforts to bring the membership together, at our 3 festivals (summer and winter shows, and Roycroft Chamber Music Festival. We have additional bricks to the Appian Way as well as the sealing—and resealing—existing bricks. With the assistance of a generous grant from the Margaret L. Wendt Foundation, we were able to send 3 RALA Master Artisan representatives to the annual Arts & Crafts Conference at the Grove Park Inn in North Carolina.

At our annual meeting, three board members were re-elected to new 3 year terms. Al Sleeper, Thomas Pafk and I will all continue to serve the organization. Regrettably, we also say goodbye to Diane Lehman whose efforts on RALA's behalf have been very helpful to your organization. I know the board joins me in thanking her for her service.

As always, if you have questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me at martha@marthabuyer.com. And most importantly, please join us for this year's winter show, to be held on December 1 and 2 at the East Aurora Middle School!

Martha Buyer
RALA President

Brian Brace creates pieces not for the moment, but for generations... continued

My first piece with the brand was my Greene and Greene-inspired hall table made of sapele and ebony inlay. It went to a couple here in North Carolina and they were blown away, and I got to explain to them the Roycroft history. It was a beyond amazing experience and now I have people coming into my shop and they are asking if I signed and branded their piece before they even see it!

Q: What's the most challenging project you've ever taken on?

A: I have two that carry a huge importance to me.

I was commissioned in 2012 to build the display case that holds the witch's hat from The Wizard of Oz! It was the original hat used in the movie and I even got to hold it. It was a crazy stressful job with museum glass and was built out of solid cherry with a dye stain and hand-rubbed oil finish.

I also built six dining room chairs, designed by me in the Greene and Greene style that was featured in Arts and Crafts Homes magazine, for the last Henry Greene home built in California. The best thing about it was that they were to be placed around an original Henry Greene-designed table in the home! In October of 2017 the owners invited me out to the home and I was able to spend the day there and eat lunch with them at the table sitting in my chairs. I then traveled with them to Pasadena and toured the Gamble House and Blacker House.

Q: How do you continue to challenge yourself as an artist?

A: Funny thing is years ago when I started my business I had all of these goals set that I wanted to reach. I feel I have in the last two years surpassed them and that is where the challenge is now. I am now pushing myself to get more designs built that are in my head and showing others where my talent level is or is going. My goals now are to set up at shows and be that booth that stands out, making sure each piece is of the highest level and that each and every one of my customers gets even more than they were expecting.



I also try to make sure to give back to the craft by teaching my apprentice and others, as I find that is very important to the craft.

Q: I can't imagine you can ever walk into a local furniture store and just buy end tables or something like that. Is your home filled with your furniture?

A: Only very successful artists have many of their pieces. I wish I had more and there are many pieces that I sell to customers and wish I could keep for myself because I just don't want to let them go. Right now I have a few of my originals including one of my first signature Arbor Morris chairs and a Greene and Greene nightstand for my son which is awesome!

My goal this coming year is to build at least one piece for my home.

Q: If you could take on one project — and time and money were no object — what would it be?

A: I kind of want to build a piece for an important building. Something on display maybe on the Roycroft Campus or at Grove Park Inn. Something of my design or a re-creation of an old original piece. Something that can really show off my talent. Also, something that people will be able to enjoy for generations down the road.

Joe Kirchmyer is president of Kirchmyer Media LLC, a communications company based in West Seneca, N.Y., and co-owner of the popular website BuffaloScoop.com. You can contact him at jkirchmyer@verizon.net.

