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The San Diego North Park Craft Mafia's

# MONTHLY MESSAGGERO

Conveying the most important messages between the DIY, fashion and independent arts communities and yours

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 4



OCTOBER 2008

## A CHAT WITH MARK MONTANO, PART II

FROM BIG ASS CRAFTS TO TELEVISION AND FROM THE FASHION RUNWAY TO HOME

IMPROVEMENT— WE CHAT WITH MARK ABOUT THE STUFF YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW!

**CM: The Big -Ass Book of Crafts is fantastic! All that TV time, the books you have written, your clothing designs, the list goes on and on. We don't know how you do it all. What advice would you give someone who wanted to follow their dreams of crafting, fashioning, styling and creating as a business?**

First, thank you for the compliment, that is really sweet of you to say. I think people very often waste time doing things that don't have meaning, that sabotage our own success. I try my darndest not to do that. I've been guilty of it, but I really try not to. I take sketch pads to bed with me while I watch TV, I take photos of things that inspire me.....I walk through the world taking everything in until my brain feels like it might explode. I try so hard not to waste time doing things that get in my own way.

**CM: It is so great seeing you so frequently in print and on TV, but it begs at least one question. What do you watch and read to relax?**

I LOVE *Will and Grace*, I can watch the reruns every night! I enjoy reading historical fiction— anything to do with stories about great people in history. Mary Renault is one of my favorite authors. I also love the Weetzie Bat books!

**CM: With all the TV shows you have under your belt, do you have a single favorite episode or story?**

I did an episode of 10 Years Younger with a truck driver who was a single father, had no teeth and loved his son more than anything. He started to cry while I was interviewing him on camera and my heart melted. He wanted so desperately to change his life and make his son proud of him. He had sacrificed everything for his son, even his own dental work, all so his son could be in a good school. I have been totally inspired by him since that day. He was a superhero to me.

**CM: What is your favorite thing to make from your new book?**

The Punk Plates for sure!

**CM: What is your favorite craft tool?**

Elmer's Glue and E-6000

**Mark Montano** is an interior designer, artist, writer and TV personality. Born in La Junta, Colorado, Montano is known for three series on the Style Network and The Learning Channel's Ten Years Younger, which he hosted, *While You Were Out*, on which he frequently appears as a designer, and *My Celebrity Home* where he had been both host and designer. More information on Mark and his projects can be found by visiting:



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

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

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

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

**CM: What is your favorite word?**  
CRAFTASTIC

**CM: What piece of clothing can't you live without?**

My dark blue and white gingham shirt and my Jesus blazer.

**CM: What is the favorite piece of furniture you have in your home?**

They are all my babies and I love them all the same. But if I had to choose it would be the Camel Back Sofa that I designed myself.

**CM: Most recent book you read?**

*Soon I Will Be Invincible* by Austin

Grossman.....fabulous book!

**CM: What are you listening to lately? Any favorite tunes to create to?**

Lots of Carole King and James Taylor! And tunes to create to? I have to say I'm a huge Dixie Chicks fan.

**CM: We recognize that your time in the public eye probably makes you crave privacy but we're curious, is there something that you wish more people recognized about you? THAT I AM THINNER THAN I LOOK ON TV!!!!!!** Other than that, just that I'm friendly and approachable.

**CM: Your book has an amazing variety of projects, ranging from decorating subscription cards to making chandeliers to creating a paperweight that looks like a baby head. How on earth did you find time to learn so many techniques? Do you have to set aside time specifically to craft?**

I craft all day long. It's my job. Today I sewed a plant, tried 10 different stains, made some plaster of Paris faces to glue to a planter and started collecting images for a collage I'm working on. I've been collecting ideas from years on *While You Were Out*, too.

**CM: You have had so many jobs with your TV shows, books and magazine columns, and all of them relate to design and creating. Is there anything you haven't done yet that you've dreamt about?**

Ok, I'm going to tell you this, but keep it a secret. I've always wanted to play the piano and sing like Elton John! One problem, I'm tone deaf and I have no musical talent.

**CM: I read that your next book is going to be based on the theme of never throwing anything in the garbage- can you elaborate and tell us when we can expect to buy it?**

Mid 2009. It is called *Craftastic Home*. You can see a lot of my new projects and see how I'm having a blast this summer just experimenting with absolutely everything. It's been a blessed summer!

**Ciao Bellas!** Ma has decided to continue the theme of last month by, instead of answering one or two requests for counsel, she will address what she considers a resounding theme in the requests she has gotten over the tenure of her job as consigliere.

As you can pretty easily guess, Ma dedicated lots of time and energy to getting and addressing some of the most complicated craft needs of our time. What she has seen in this process is this— people need to relax! What better way to relax than by taking a long bath, slathering on some aroma therapy lotion or silky lip balm. Like all of you, Ma loves the worldwide web. She found this great site, [www.soapcrafters.com](http://www.soapcrafters.com), with excellent ideas! Here is a sampling.

#### Creamy Lip Balm

1-1/2 Tablespoons Beeswax  
3/4 Tablespoon Cocoa Butter  
1-1/2 Tablespoons Almond Oil or other nice liquid oil  
3 Tablespoons Shea Butter  
2-1/2 Tablespoons Mango Butter  
1/8 to 1/4 teaspoon Soap Crafters Flavor Oil  
Melt Bee's Wax, Shea Butter, Mango Butter and cocoa butter on the stove. Make sure the temperature gets over 180 F. Remove from heat, add Almond Oil and flavoring. Stir. Fill lip balm tubes or pots. Should fill about 13 lip balm tubes.

#### Glorious Lotion

8 Tablespoons Shea Butter  
3 Tablespoons Almond Oil  
4 Tablespoons Olive Oil

## ASK MA FIOSA

Mamma Fiosa, known more widely as Ma Fiosa, has served as consigliere to the North Park Craft Mafia in all our crafty needs. Lucky for you, now you don't have to be made to get counsel.

3 rounded Tablespoons Emulsifying Wax  
3 Tablespoons Liquid Glycerin  
3 cups (24 ounces) Aloe Vera  
1 teaspoonful of SoapCrafters Sweetgrass Fragrance  
3 drops of Emerald Green Liquid Colorant  
4 eight ounce clear bottles  
4 lotion pumps  
A Thermometer  
A Stick Blender

**This** is an awesome lotion that contain a high percentage of shea butter and a good amount of Aloe. It is light and your skin will drink it right up. It leaves your skin smooth and there is no waxy or oily feel to your body afterwards.

**Heat** Shea Butter to 200 degrees, then turn off the heat. Let it sit for 15 minutes. If it looks like it will drop below 180, then give it a shot of heat again. You want to be sure that it sustains the 180 degree temperature for those 15 minutes.

**Remove** from stove and add Emulsifying Wax. Stir until melted. Add the almond and olive oils to the mix.

**In** a separate pot, mix together the aloe vera and the glycerin. Stir until mixed. Heat to 120 degrees and remove from heat. Make sure oils mixture is 120 degrees, heat if necessary but don't get it too hot.

**Slowly** pour aloe mixture in to the oils mixture. Whip with a stick blender for about 1 minute. Allow to cool for about 30 minutes, but whip it again every 5-10 minutes.

**After** 30 minutes is up, add the fragrance and colorant. Stir in with a stick blender. Pour in to bottles. Be sure to leave room in the bottle for the lotion pump. They take up more room in the bottle than you think! You will probably have a couple ounces of lotion left over.

**No question is too stupid or too complicated— Ma loves giving crafty counsel. Write her today at [AskMa@sandiegonorthernparkcraftmafia.com](mailto:AskMa@sandiegonorthernparkcraftmafia.com) or see the back of this newsletter for further methods of contact.**

## MADAME CRAFTINA

## COLOR ME GOOD

If there is one thing that MC can say about the planets, it is this— their light can bring into focus all the colors the universe has to offer. She loves color and sees an important place for it in both your wardrobe and your creativity. That is why this month's horoscope highlights each sign, their ruling planet and their ruling colors. Please read, create and enjoy!

**Libra** (Sept 23-Oct 23) Ruled by Venus; some blue, purple, pink, light champagne or anything romantic. Maybe black lace. For you Libra, these colors represent pure love.  
**Scorpio** (Oct 24-Nov 21) Ruled by Pluto; rich dark reds like magenta and burgundy, with some blue, purple, or black are perfect colors for the Scorpio. Very rich colors will enhance your projects in a very sophisticated manner.

**Sagittarius** (Nov 22-Dec 21) Ruled by Jupiter; crimson, gold, white, clear blues and hunter greens work well for Sagittarians. Both they and their creations and tend to be

neither shy nor quiet.

**Capricorn** (Dec 22-Jan 19) Ruled by Saturn; dark browns, black and any earthy colors are right up the Capricorn's alley. Remember, though, Capricorns to not be afraid of splashes of color.

**Aquarius** (Jan 20-Feb 18) Ruled by Uranus; powerful blues, electric blues, aqua, silver and rich greens represent this water sign. Think of the ocean and you're in the perfect color realm.

**Pisces** (Feb 19-Mar 20) Ruled by Neptune; a touch of blue, violet, purple and any mystical color (i.e. glitter!) please the fish. A great color combination for Pisces is blue/green, so keep that in mind and get creative!

**Aries** (Mar 21-Apr 19) Ruled by Mars; red, red, red, orange, gold and brown are in Aries' perfect crafts. I did say red right? Pure and vibrant are the Aries creations!

**Taurus** (Apr 20-May 20) Ruled by Venus; pink, mauve, lavender and pastel anything! Like the Libra, the Taurus' vibe is one of

pure love. Let this love reflect in your designs!

**Gemini** (May 21-June 21) Ruled by Mercury; Gemini souls rock the red, yellow and green while also utilizing bold color combinations to achieve life in their creations. You and your crafts have a way of communicating emotion and enlivening the senses with as little as a glance.

**Cancer** (June 22-July 22) Ruled by the moon; blue, white, silver and any and all metallic tones are in the Cancer's focus! This kind of palette is great for enhancing a main feature like a bold necklace on an outfit or a focal image against this neutral background.

**Leo** (July 23-Aug 22) Ruled by the Sun; vibrant oranges, gold, yellow, tan, red, and the deepest tones of various hues come through in the works of a Leo. Think bold and invigorating!

**Virgo** (Aug 23-Sep 22) Ruled by Mercury; pale yellow, blue, green and lavender repre-

**CRAFTY BLACK BOOK:**

**SOUTH PARK WALKABOUT AND CRAFTABOUT**

The South Park Walkabout provides an opportunity to explore the great shops, enjoy live entertainment and special treats from South Park, one of San Diego's oldest & coolest neighborhoods. Great food, art, music, unique gifts and interesting services provide a flavor to the neighborhood that is unlike any other. South Park is located just east of Balboa Park and is known for its beautifully restored craftsman homes. Join members of the Mafia on **October 4th** from **4-9 PM** at and around the **Whistle Stop Bar** at 2236 Fern Street.

**MUSEUM SCHOOL FUNDRAISER AT PIXIE SALON**

On **October 19th** South Park's **Pixie Salon** ([www.pixiesalonsandiego.com](http://www.pixiesalonsandiego.com)) will host a fundraiser to raise money for **The Museum School** ([museumschool.sandi.net](http://museumschool.sandi.net)). DIY vendors will be on hand with their wares with a portion of the profits for the day going to support programs, activities and other educational facets for the students of the Banker's Hill charter school.

**CRAFTY CONSPIRACY**

Consider yourself crafty or want to learn to be? Join the NPCM at **Filter Coffee House** on **Tuesday, October 28 from 7 to 9 PM** for an interactive, **how-to craft night**. Bring your own project to work on, or join in on the group project for the evening. Come and meet other crafty people and show off your craft skilz! Check our website for a supplies list and more information on this exciting interactive event. Our last two have been great and everyone's left with a new self-made accessory!

**HOLIDAY HIT LIST**

Santa and other thoughtful and creative gift givers will LOVE this opportunity. This year's **San Diego North Park Craft Mafia's Holiday Hit List** will take place on **December 7** and feature close to 65 vendors, music, crafty demos, raffle items and much more. The success of the Mafia's Spring Line-Up prompted the need for a larger venue. We heard your pleas, so the HHL will take place at the **NTC Promenade's Corky McMillin Event Center** located at **2875 Dewey Rd.** in Point Loma. Want a booth? Vendor apps. are posted on our website.



**SUNDAY, CRAFTY SUNDAY**

Join the San Diego North Park Craft Mafia from noon to 5PM on the first Sunday of each month. SCS events feature both Mafia members and other local artists and designers offering their DIY wares for sale. Upcoming SCS events will take

place at **Filter Coffee House** on **October 5**, and **November 2**. The November event will have a Day of the Dead theme, so calaveras and marigolds are encouraged.

**MORE SUPER SUNDAYS**

On the second Sunday of the coming month, **October 12**, local artists, including many members of your very own NPCM, will come together from **2 PM to 8 PM** to offer the public an opportunity to stroll, shop, eat and enjoy much of what University Avenue has to offer. This is the last of these events for this season - so don't miss out! **Look for our booth on University and Richmond in Hillcrest- next to the Alibi.**

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY !**

To us, that is. Come out and join the San Diego North Park Craft Mafia between **7-9 PM** on **October 10** at **U-31 Lounge & Bar** at 3112 University Ave. in North Park. We plan to celebrate our paper anniversary in style with great music, cake and some great door and raffle prizes. The NPCM began in September of 2007 and has been dedicated to fashioning, styling, crafting and creating for their community ever since. This party is a great opportunity to celebrate those ideals!

**MA MANGIA**

**GOT CHEESE? C'MON, YOU KNOW YOU LIKE IT!**

Fall may bring a slight chill in the air, but it is still the perfect time for a picnic. This recipe will produce an excellent base ingredient for a picnic. Just get bread, tomatoes and basil and you are in business! As always, when she seeks good food, Ma Mangia has gone straight to the Famiglia De Palo for the most delicious of authentic Italian recipes. Like all De Palo recipes, this one has been passed down from generation to generation of De Palos, making stops along the way on tables from southern Italy to Brooklyn to North Park. *Mangia!*

**You Will Need**

- 1 Gallon of Whole Milk
- 4 Rennet Tablets (available in vegetarian or traditional)

**What to Do**

Crush rennet tablets in a little bit of water. Heat milk to 110 degrees. Add crushed rennet tablets and mix well. Let rest for 15 minutes. Stir curd into small pieces. Let stand another 15 minutes. Strain in a colander lined with cheesecloth until cheese and whey are separated. This is called *Fresh Cheese*. It can be eaten this way.



When the cheese is allowed to ferment, it will become slightly sour to taste. It can be sliced and hot water added to soften curd, then stretched and shaped into mozzarella balls or logs. Fresh cheese can be salted, dried and aged for 6 months and it will become grating cheese. If mozzarella is salted, dried and aged it becomes another type of cheese, provolone. You may also choose to store the cheese in some of the salted water used to make the cheese.

**SERVING SUGGESTION:** Slice and serve with crusty bread, a basil leaf and tomato slice. Put those ingredients on a panini press or griddle for a new twist on the grilled cheese sandwich. Or slice, squeeze a little honey on it and sprinkle with almonds for a yummy dessert.

\*\*\*\*This and other delicious and authentic recipes can be found in *Ricetti de la Famiglia De Palo: Sharing An Italian Family's Traditions From the Kitchen.*



## WHO IS KEEPING SAN DIEGO CRAFTY?

**Teresa Salazar** of *Velvet Klaw*  
www.velvetklaw.com

**Svea Komori-Ang** of *Belle Pepper Couture*  
www.bellepeppercouture.com

**Penni Hawkins** of *p-starr products*  
www.p-starr.com

**Sarah Sweeney** of *PYP Arts and Designs*  
www.pypdesigns.com

**Amy Smock** of *Designs de Luna*  
www.designsdeluna.com

**Meagan Rae Longtin** of *Meagan Rae Designs*  
www.meaganraedesigns.com

**Karen Jorgenson** of *Altered Provisions*  
www.alteredprovisions.com

**Stefanie Histed** of *Made with Luv*  
www.madewithluv.com

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**THE SAN DIEGO NORTH PARK CRAFT MAFIA WAS FOUNDED IN SEPTEMBER 2007 AND IS DEDICATED TO CRAFTING, FASHIONING, STYLING AND CREATING THEIR SAN DIEGO.**

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## MAFIOSA OF THE MONTH

### KAREN JORGENSON of *Altered Provisions*

#### What would you like us to know about your business?

I make products that center on quotes from my family, who are a riot. They're made out of books because they are my passion.

#### Why DIY?

I come from an Indiana-based family...we do everything ourselves.

#### Ever had stitches?

Down my skull to my neck (broken neck), back of pelvis (bone harvested for my neck), left pinky finger (born with a 6<sup>th</sup> finger). Aren't you glad you asked?

**If you could have any superpower, what would it be?** To talk to dead people, especially my Mom

#### What was the most interesting trip you have ever taken? Why?

Studying in Italy for 3 weeks with 4 of the top Master painters in my field. I paint walls.

#### Who has made the biggest impact on your life so far, and why?

My mom. She is the strongest woman I have ever known. My daughter. She makes me face my weaknesses and find ways to overcome them.

#### What tradition from your childhood would you like to pass on to your child?

I was always mortified that my family would discuss all aspects of each other's sex lives whenever I brought home a new boyfriend. I plan on doing that with my daughter.

**Which is your favorite language other than your native language?** British. I'm kidding, but I do love their accent.

#### Do you speak to your pet? Do they speak English?

I do speak to my dog, but he only talks about food.

#### If someone wrote a biography about you, what do you think the title should be?

*Painting with Your Clothes On*

#### If you interviewed God, or your higher power, what questions would you ask?

When am I leaving here, because I'd like to plan out the rest of my days.

#### Why are manhole covers round?

My dad actually owned the company that made most of the manhole covers in every city you've been to and I never asked him why they're round. I can get back to you on that.

#### If you could be any character in fiction, who would you be?

Ginny Weasley ( she becomes Harry Potter's wife)

#### If you had a time machine, what time and place would you visit?

I'd like to visit Oxford when they're filming Harry Potter movies. Sensing a theme?

