

May 2011

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[www.londonpottersguild.org](http://www.londonpottersguild.org)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *Marilyn Barbe*

Our current year, 2011, marks the thirtieth anniversary for the London Potters Guild. Five years ago, when we celebrated our silver anniversary, the Seize the Clay campaign was still trying to raise the funds to buy a building, it was not until 2008 that we took the leap of faith to buy a building and hold a mortgage. In our thirtieth year our successes are many; we have a lot to celebrate.

Personally, I joined the Guild in 1983, when we were still meeting at Banting Secondary School. It has been a distinct pleasure to have watched the London Potters Guild achieve its many successes. I feel a great sense of pride every time I walk into 664 Dundas, the London Clay Art Centre, and I know that there are many who have passed before us who are celebrating as well. Thirty years is an entire generation, and there are those whose dedication to the guild was remarkable: Mary Haggis, Edith Pierce, Phyllis Leach, Marion Gilbert, Gord Gilbert, Sandi Wishart, and most recently Kris Milne.

In this, our diamond anniversary, the dedication to

the Guild and clay continues to grow by leaps and bounds. Look at all of those who spent thousands of hours gutting 664 Dundas to prepare it for the renovations. The fact that we bought our new home in March 2008 and were ready to move in and start classes in September 2009 is an astounding achievement. For those who are new to our great group, you may think that getting to the second floor or having more space for the members is a slow process. When you put it into the perspective of a span of thirty years, the process is not that slow at all. The pace is quite remarkable.

Getting to the second floor is getting closer and closer all the time. We now have the lift and beautiful new rear entry way. Pathways has done a remarkable job with the second level demolition. This makes me think that the generosity of the past continues into the present. Look at all who continue to give generously of their time. Just last Tuesday, Darlene, who has done so very much already, was painting the railings in the new addition, that is after painting the glaze kitchen not that long ago. Where would we be without Chris, Gene, Teresa,

Sandy, Nancy Marshall, Beth, Penni and Genet, and all those who have made the store such a success? I am told there are those who work behind the scenes taking on studio chores in a competent manner: many thanks to you.

It takes a strong executive to foster the essential continuity which keeps us strong and vibrant – that we have. I keep asking myself, once again, where would we be without Laila who keeps such a careful eye on our finances? Our executive is the best bar none; I am proud to be a part of this creative, hard working group.

Thirty years is a long time, and I hope we can find some time in our busy year to celebrate this achievement.

## SALE UPDATE *Teresa Ainsworth*

The 2011 Spring Sale looked fabulous with great displays of pots, and a layout that was really conducive to easy maneuvering between the aisles of tables.



The only thing missing was shoppers. Unfortunately, people stayed away in droves so sales were just over \$13,000, down from about \$21,000 in Spring 2010, and \$20,000 in Spring 2009.

This seemed to be a common complaint; wherever I went that weekend, the store clerks were standing around saying, “where is everybody?”



There was a beautiful display of clay works - pots as well as sculptures - in the window with customers lining up to pick their favourite and vote for the *People’s Choice Award*. Rene Wortel’s hand-built jug had the most votes and won a gift certificate from Tuckers. Second and third place winners received boxes of clay.

The Sales Committee has given all participants in the sale a questionnaire which asked

people to think about how to make the sale better, to attract more customers, and to get our advertising out to more people and be more effective. If you have any ideas, please send them to Beth Turnbull Morrish by email, [turningbullpottery@hotmail.com](mailto:turningbullpottery@hotmail.com) or leave a note in the Guild to be given to Beth or any member of the sales committee - Anne Pedersen, Gene Timpany, Nancy Friedrich, Teresa Ainsworth, Tracy Robinson, Rene Wortel, Judy Sparks, Ethel Mitrovic and Anne Dempsey.

## BUILDING PROGRESS *Darlene Pratt*

There is never a shortage of things happening at 664 Dundas Street!



The addition is complete and by the time this newsletter gets to you the lift will have been inspected and given the green light to be used - another monumental accomplishment for The-Little-Guild-That-Could!



Now, our members, students and patrons who have trouble with knees, ankles, etc. or who use wheelchairs will be able to easily access either floor using the lift.

Although the second floor is not operational at this time, there are several members who have yet to see the space up there. We look forward to providing inaugural lift rides with the people in question so they can see the vast beauty of the space that inspired us to move forward with the purchase of the building.

When they finally see it for the first time, the difference will be that the second floor has now been stripped of all the old and badly damaged ceiling tiles, cracked and peeling plaster from walls as well as large areas of badly worn or damaged hardwood flooring.

I would like to thank Paul Hubert, executive director of Pathways Skills Development for

agreeing to partner with us for almost three weeks in February.



And thank you to Genet Hodder for strongly encouraging the relationship through her involvement with Pathways in conjunction with the Red Antiquities Building Project. This fortuitous arrangement gave us access to a semi-skilled crew of labourers who performed all the above-mentioned work, plus the installation of 700 square feet of new hardwood flooring where the damaged floor was removed, and the installation of two layers of Roxul insulation on the flat portion of the roof, **free of charge**, excluding the cost of materials.

This highly effective crew not only saved us thousands of dollars in potential labour fees, but hundreds of hours of volunteer labour over many long evenings and weekends. They accomplished in three weeks what would have taken us at least six months. Thank you Pathways!

The second floor is ready to be renovated once we have the funds in hand. A committee has been meeting to discuss in detail the future use of first and second floor spaces. This exercise has allowed us to hone the layout for the second floor, which will now fully inform the

engineering and architectural drawings that will eventually be submitted to the City of London for a building permit. Thanks as well to the members of the planning committee for helping us come up with viable solutions to challenges such as storage, sink placement, as well as placement of members', rental, teaching and special event space. The beauty of all the plans is that the space has deliberately been left open, without dividing walls, so that it is easily altered to accommodate changing needs.



We resubmitted an application for funding to the Community Capital Fund – a provincial initiative. The funds would allow us to restore the façade and renovate the second floor. We hope to hear the result of our application sometime in late fall or early summer. On top of that, we continue to apply to foundations and other granting bodies for capital funds. Rest assured it is just a matter of time before we fully build the dream!

Enjoy,  
Darlene

## CLASSES *Genet Hodder*

Summer classes for different levels and ages will run through May and June, starting Monday May 9. We offer beginner and intermediate level classes in General Pottery and Wheel Concentration. For the first time we have offered a short course called Pottery Sampler—just four weeks to give people a taste of the different methods of pottery making. Also scheduled is the popular Parent and Child class on Saturday afternoon, and a Kids in Clay class on Saturday morning.

Summer Camps are also on the schedule, as follows:

- In July, a 5 day Handbuilding camp for adults titled “Not so simple Vessels” with René Wortel. The class runs for four days the week of July 11<sup>th</sup>, plus a final day on July 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Half day kids’ camps run the week of July 25<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> - Mornings with Sandy Harquail, and afternoons with Penni Stoddart. For children ages 8 to 14.
- The Kids’ Clay and Art Day Camp with Beth Turnbull Morrish runs the week of August 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 4pm.

All classes and clay camps are posted on our website:  
[www.londonpottersguild.org](http://www.londonpottersguild.org)

Happy Summer, everyone! Could there be a better way to spend a day than putting your hands in clay? We say "NO"!

## RAKU WORKSHOPS

*Gene Timpany*



### 1. General Raku

Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 4pm. This workshop will cover the basics of firing, glazes and reduction. It will be a hands-on session in the morning and afternoon.

### 2. Naked Raku I

Saturday, July 9<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 4pm

### 3. Raku Saggar and Horsehair

Sunday, July 24<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 4pm. This workshop will cover decoration and firing techniques like foil, metal can, and horsehair.

### 4. General Raku

Sunday, August 28<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 4pm. A day to fire using previous

workshop experience, this workshop will cover general raku, as well as saggar and horsehair.

### 5. General Raku

Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 4 pm. A day to fire using previous workshop experience, this workshop will cover general raku, as well as saggar and horsehair.

### Workshop Details

The cost for LPG Members is \$30 + HST. A minimum of 6 people are needed to run each workshop. More details, and signup, available at the LCAC.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

*Nancy Marshall*

On Sunday July 17 there will be an internal workshop on Silkscreen Photolithography taught by Chris Snedden. The workshop is currently full, but interested people can put their names on a waiting list by emailing [nancy.marshall@yahoo.ca](mailto:nancy.marshall@yahoo.ca)



## STUDIO REPORT

*Chris Snedden*  
*Gene Timpany*

Hello Everyone,

My goodness the studio is neat and tidy after the sale! Thank you to all who helped out in tearing the place apart, cleaning, and putting it back together! You will notice a significant change to the glazing area. Parkwood Hospital and Veterans Arts has donated a great table for us to work on as well as an Amaco wheel for the classroom, so thank you to them! We'll see how it works, but I think this will be a lot better, and from all reports it is.

We're all set for the next session of classes and fabulous work from our studio members! Please let's keep the place clean and remember that the maintenance of the studio and the flow of work is everyone's responsibility. Double check before you leave that your workspace is thoroughly cleaned and everything is put away. That includes batts, boards, unfinished work, tools, slips and glazes, and so on. Please, **please**, get rid of any crumbs or trimmings from the floor and makes sure the counters and tables are wiped down. Clay dust is dangerous, and the stuff just tracks and settles everywhere.

You'll notice too that the glaze cross blending chart has been updated and expanded to include the newest glazes. Thank you to those who have

developed some exciting new surfaces for us to work with! We are also getting a new cubby system going, which should allow everyone an expanded space to store their materials and tools, so look forward to that.

Cheers all, and keep up the good work.

Chris Snedden  
Gene Timpany

## M EMBERSHIP *Teresa Ainsworth*

As usual, at the end of a session of classes we have requests from students who have caught the clay bug to join the Guild. This means that there may be some people you don't recognize in the studio, so – please introduce yourself, say hi and answer questions as to where is.... how do I .....and so on. Our new members are Linda and Julie Pharand, Rachelle Wocks, Tania Mulligan, Kristy Janzen, Kelly Klinkhamer and from Israel, a sculptor, Shacher Weis. Welcome to the Guild all of you, and have fun in the mud.

## L IBRARY NEWS *Teresa Ainsworth*

No new additions to the library – we are waiting for grants to arrive before we go on another spending spree. We also

have to find another cupboard for the library – one whose doors don't fall off when you open them. However, we will still take suggestions on future additions to the library, as well as donations.

One book I would like to bring to your attention is on garden pots and sculptural pieces for the garden. It looks like spring may have actually arrived, so you may be thinking of making some wonderful items to showcase your garden. This book is really inspirational and really got me thinking of making some big pots for my own garden. Don't worry Chris, I can't throw 100 pound pots so you won't have worry too much about trying to load them in the kiln. Not yet at least: maybe after a couple more classes from Brian on throwing big.

A DVD that we purchased fairly recently showcases Kristin Keefer's work. It is called Surface Decoration – Suede to Leatherhard. If you have ever sat in front of a row of freshly thrown and trimmed pots, saying to yourself – now what do I do with them? – then this DVD is for you. Kristen will give you lots of inspiration for decoration on your pots – she demonstrates alterations, slip trailing, slip sponging and paper resists, stamping, and various subtractive techniques. Check it out.

## S TUDIO POTTER PROGRAM *Ann Pederson*

Watch for a survey coming soon to your inbox!



## V OLUNTEER *Penni Stoddart*

The good news first..... having created a spread sheet recording ALL the volunteer hours within the London Potters Guild, I have found that we are putting in approximately **300 hours per month** to keep the LCAC running smoothly. This does not include the board members and the hours they all put in (but it will!)

Unfortunately, some jobs are not being recorded on our studio work board so I don't have hours to count for those. PLEASE record EVERYTHING you do in the studio – *no matter how small*. This information is crucial for writing grants and reports. If it is a job not listed, then please write it in the bottom right corner of the job board.

Our **volunteer for the month of April** is Cathy Molitor.

Cathy will receive half a box of clay for her efforts in helping the guild to run smoothly: a huge thank you to her.



**We have two areas where volunteers are desperately needed.**

The first is **the store** – I have drawn up a schedule for the next few months which will get us through the summer; however, several people are doing over and above what they need to. If we can find other members willing to work in the store and help out, that would be great. We are open every day now from 11 to 3, and weekdays are especially hard to fill with volunteers. **YOU DO NOT HAVE TO HAVE POTS IN THE STORE TO WORK!** Conversely, you do not have to work in the store to have pots in to sell. You are welcome to help out in other ways to fill those volunteer hours. However, you **ARE** expected to do at least 4 hours monthly to keep your pottery in the store for sale.

The second need is the monthly **drop in day**. This occurs every **SECOND SUNDAY** of the month. I am committed to being there every month (although

throughout the summer there is at least one month when I will not be available). You do not need to be an expert on the wheel – in fact you don't need to know how to throw at all. What is really needed is help in cleaning up all 10 wheels. The drop in day runs from 2 to 4pm. I am there to set up at 1:30 and stay until everything is clean. If you can offer to be there about 3:45 and stay to clean up, that would be GREAT! PLEASE put this day on your calendar for the next few months and make a commitment to help out.

Many hands make light work. In the case of the London Potters Guild and the London Clay Art Centre, we find that it is the same "many hands". If you are a new member – simply ask where you can help. What do you do in your "other job"? Can you help out on a committee by offering your other talents? Give it some thought and then just ask. We have many committees, studio jobs, workshops, programs and commitments that all require volunteer time. Let's make the "many hands" even manyer..... (yes that's a word! I just made it up, but it's a word!!!)

Thank you to everyone who does so much already.

Penni

[penelopepots@rogers.com](mailto:penelopepots@rogers.com)

## STORE *Genet Hodder*

The months ahead will be a make or break time for our little store, now beautifully stocked with work from assorted potters, and doing well as compared to our first year of operation. The challenge is to be open regularly, every day from 11am to 3pm, as we have advertised. We are slowly building a clientele who come specifically to our centre to look for a wedding gift; something for Moms, Dads, or Grads; or a gift for special events. We don't want to disappoint them ever by not being open and ready to go when we say we will be.

Why should people shop in the LPG Store? Because we are the city's largest purveyor of handcrafted pottery made in, or close to, London; because many pieces are made right inside the London Clay Art Centre; because all of our work is original and imbued with the personal touch and creativity of an individual potter.

When you give pottery, you are giving from one person's hand to another...the magic of handcrafted!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

### **London Potters Guild's Annual Seconds Sale**

**WHEN:** Saturday, June 11, 2011,  
7:00 a.m. to 11:00 am



## **EXECUTIVE LISTING**

### **President**

Marilyn Barbe  
mbarbe@execulink.com

### **Past President**

Jane Paterak  
jpaterak@sympatico.ca

### **Secretary**

Elly Pakalnis  
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### **Treasurer**

Laila Costello  
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### **Classes**

Genet Hodder  
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### **Membership**

Teresa Ainsworth  
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### **Visiting Artist & In-House Workshops**

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Nancy Marshall  
Nancy.marshall@yahoo.ca

### **Studio Technicians**

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Chris Snedden  
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### **Programs**

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Elly Pakalnis

### **Sales**

Beth Turnbull-Morrish  
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### **Volunteer**

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### **Seize the Clay**

Darlene Pratt  
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### **Publicity and Public Relations**

#### **Webmaster**

Julie Ryan  
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# May 2011

<b>1</b>  <b>LPG Sale</b> <b>10am-5pm</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>  7pm Executive Meeting	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>  4:30pm MerryMount	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>  1:30pm Parent & Child
<b>8</b>  2pm Drop In Day	<b>9</b>  1pm St Mary's WS 7pm Gen Pot I	<b>10</b>  7:30pm LPG Meeting  7pm Wheel Conc. II	<b>11</b>  4pm Teens 7pm Gen Pot II/I	<b>12</b>  7pm Gen Pot I	<b>13</b>  9am Sampler Class	<b>14</b>  1:30pm Parent & Child
<b>15</b>  Internal WS	<b>16</b>  7pm Gen Pot I	<b>17</b>  7pm Wheel Conc. II	<b>18</b>  4pm Teens 7pm Gen Pot II/I	<b>19</b>  9am St Mary's WS 4:30pm MerryMount 7pm Gen Pot I	<b>20</b>  9am Sampler Class	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  9am St Mary's WS 7pm Wheel Conc. II	<b>25</b>  4pm Teens 7pm Gen Pot II/I	<b>26</b>  7pm Gen Pot I	<b>27</b>  9am Sampler Class	<b>28</b>  10am kids in Clay ?? 1:30pm Parent & Child
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>  9am St Mary's WS 7pm Gen Pot I	<b>31</b>  7pm Wheel Conc. II				

# June 2011

			<b>1</b> 4pm Teens 7pm Gen Pot II/I	<b>2</b> 4:30pm MerryMount 7pm Gen Pot I	<b>3</b> 9am Sampler Class	<b>4</b> 10am kids in Clay ?? 1:30pm Parent & Child
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 7pm Gen Pot I	<b>7</b> 7pm Wheel Conc. II	<b>8</b> 4pm Teens 7pm Gen Pot II/I	<b>9</b> 7pm Gen Pot I	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 10am kids in Clay ?? 1:30pm Parent & Child
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<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 7pm Gen Pot I	<b>21</b> 7pm Wheel Conc. II	<b>22</b> 4pm Teens 7pm Gen Pot II/I	<b>23</b> 7pm Gen Pot I 7pm Gen Pot I	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 1:30pm Parent & Child
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 7pm Gen Pot I	<b>28</b> 7pm Wheel Conc. II	<b>29</b> 4pm Teens 7pm Gen Pot II/I	<b>30</b> 7pm Gen Pot I		