

POTTERS NEWS



September 2006

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www.londonpottersguild.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *Teresa Ainsworth*

This is my last newsletter message as President of the London Potters Guild. Don't start celebrating yet - you're not getting rid of me that easily! I will still be around and will sit on the executive as Past-President.

I am pleased to announce that Jane Paterak will be our new President. I know, and I am sure you will agree, Jane will do a superb job as president. She has consistently shown a deep commitment to the Guild and will lead us to bigger things, including our new space.

Although I have enjoyed the excitement of helping to plan for our own Clay Art Centre, and of getting the Trillium grant to hire our fundraiser Lisa Plancke, after three years as President it is time to turn over the presidency to someone with different skills and new energy who can carry the work forward.

Over the past few years, the executive has done a great job propelling us to the stage we are at now. I would like to thank each and every one of them - Ron and Pat Ball, Lowell Barron, Laila Costello, Maria Drangova, Sandy Greason, Eva Koh, Marry Lukeman, Ethel Mitrovic, Beth Turnbull Morrish, Alice Nagus, Darlene Pratt, Chris Snedden, Penni Stoddart and Gene Timpany. I would also like to thank the rest

of the Guild members for their support and encouragement over the years.

Two of our executive members are moving out of town and I would especially like to thank them for their hard work and extraordinary contributions to the Guild: Marry Lukeman and Ethel Mitrovic. *Thank you. You will be missed!*

NEW PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *Jane Paterak*

Welcome back!

Summer is coming to a close, the leaves are beginning to turn colour and it's the beginning of a new year for the guild. We have lots in store for everyone and plans are well underway for the upcoming months so read on.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank Teresa for her dedication and leadership as President for the past three years. Teresa will be a hard act to follow! She often went beyond her duty as president, filling in whenever and where ever needed, participating in a number of committees (Artisan's London, Sales committee and Seize the Clay), extending her years of service as president and most importantly, being there for all events & workshops with her enthusiasm and support. Thank you Teresa. I hope that you will have some time to pause and pursue your own interests.

The year will be an exciting one for the guild and I look forward to being your President. This year the London Potters Guild is celebrating its 25th anniversary. Since its inception the guild has accomplished much to be proud of:

- Membership has grown to 100 + members.
- Classes are running almost every day of the week for all skill levels and age groups. The Artisan's Centre is constantly abuzz with active artists!
- Weekend workshops have provided members a wide variety of options to learn and develop their skills.
- Our spring sale was the most successful ever!
- We are well on our way with the *Seize the Clay Campaign* and the very successful Ultimate Blue Plate Dinner 3 is planned for October 13th.
- The largest L.P.G. contingent to ever attend a Fusion conference traveled to North Bay this past spring. And, one of our own, Chris Snedden presented a workshop during the conference.

Once again, we are planning an exhibition at the Woodstock Art Gallery in the spring of 2007, so

start thinking about what you would like to submit.

The guild is about *you*, the members and volunteers. If you have some great ideas for the guild (i.e. for programs, workshops, studio, etc.) or suggestions of how we can serve you better, send me a note or talk to any one of the executive at meetings and we'll do our best to implement your suggestions. I look forward to seeing you in September.

SEIZE THE CLAY UPDATE *Marilyn Barbe*

The London Potters Guild is entering its fourth year of the *Seize the Clay Campaign*, a campaign for our own Clay Art Centre. This is a critical year for us because Lisa Plancke, our fundraiser, is just about ready to seek the major funding we need to succeed. She has spent the past many months preparing the necessary materials and is now going to launch into the next pivotal phase of the campaign.

Lisa has done an amazing amount of research into the reasons why our quest is valid. You will get a chance to review the literature in September. It will impress you. It will make you proud to be a member of the London Potters Guild and it will bolster your faith in the continuance of the campaign; Be prepared to be blown away!

Urban centres are coming to the realization they need to be "Creative Cities". In this regard, the L.P.G. is leading the way in London!

SEIZE DIRECTOR'S REPORT *Lisa Plancke*

The "Seize" committee has been busy this summer, preparing written materials to support your campaign for a Clay Art Centre. We look forward to sharing the 25th Anniversary booklet with you at September's general meeting. This booklet was designed to celebrate the Guild's substantial history and show potential donors the pride you take in your organization. We have also prepared a longer, rather formal document called the *Case for Support* that describes the campaign in detail. Materials from the *Case for Support* have also been prepared in shorter information packages that we'll be presenting to donors during one-on-one meetings.

With these materials in hand, we will be entering a new project phase, often referred to as a *quiet* phase. During this time, we hope to secure several leadership gifts (substantial amounts from influential donors) that will inspire others to support the campaign as we begin to reach out to the public.

Plans are also under way to put our best foot forward as we reach out to the Haggis family. If *you* have personal recollections of Mary, her family members or her often stated conviction that the guild needs to have its own "true home," please let me know so I can include you in this process.

Address: Lisa Plancke
Campaign Director,
Seize the Clay
419 Victoria Street
Strathroy, Ontario
N7G 3B6

Phone: (519) 245-6208

Email: lplancke@rogers.com

THE ULTIMATE BLUE PLATE DINNER III

We are getting closer to the big day! The *Seize the Clay Campaign* committee is preparing for the third annual *Ultimate Blue Plate Dinner*, on Friday, October 13th at Saffron's. We need your help! See what we have been raving about and become a part of the *Seize the Clay Campaign* for our own Clay Art Centre.

There are many ways you can get involved. The following is a list of volunteers needed to help run Blue Plate III:

1) Volunteer to make plates.
We still need 130 plates to reach our goal of 200 plates by October 11th. Each plate you donate by September 12, 2006 enters you in a draw to win 2 tickets to The Ultimate Blue Plate Dinner III. The tickets, a \$100 dollar value, include a gourmet meal, the chance to bid on items at the clay art auction, draws and a handcrafted plate for each of you and your guest to take home. Bring your creations to the first general meeting and win the opportunity to attend one of the best nights of the year!

2) We need a truck!
Oct. 13 from 12:00-2:00 p.m., pick up and deliver grid wall from Lovers on Commissioner's Rd. South to Saffron's at Fanshawe. Also to pick up the grid wall after Blue Plate and deliver it back to Lover's Oct. 14.

3) Oct. 13 from 2:00-5:00 p.m.
Six volunteers set up the grid wall and hang the plates.

4) Oct. 13 from 2:00-5:00 p.m.
Two volunteers to set up Auction/Display tables

5) Oct. 13 from 6:00-7:15 p.m.
One Greeter to provide directions for parking

- 6) Oct. 13 6:00-7:15 p.m.
Two volunteers as greeters to welcome patrons.
- 7) Oct. 13 6:00-7:15 p.m.
Four volunteers for registration tables: A-M payment outstanding, N-Z payment outstanding, A-M prepaid, N-Z prepaid.
- 8) Oct. 13 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Four volunteers as plate selection helpers.
- 9) Oct. 13 8:00-9:30 p.m.
Two volunteers to remove plates from grid wall.
- 10) Oct. 13 8:00-9:30 p.m.
Three volunteers to pack plates.
- 11) Oct. 13 9:30-10:30 p.m.
Two volunteers for payment of auction items.
- 12) Oct. 13 9:30-10:30 p.m.
Three volunteers to give plates as patrons leave.
- 13) Oct. 13 10:30-11:00 p.m.
Four volunteers to take down grid wall and load truck.

SALE REPORT *Pat and Ron Ball*

We would like to welcome everyone to join our Christmas Show and Sale. The organization of the show is a huge commitment and so we implemented a few changes during our Spring Sale. We now have a team of potters heading up various parts of the show. Each potter participating in the sale must sign up to assist with one job in order for the show to run well. We need help in many different areas: management of the music, setting up tables, cleaning up at the end of the show, putting up signs, etc. Each potter *must* sign up for two shifts on consecutive days, i.e. one shift on each of Friday and Saturday or one on Saturday and Sunday. Please be aware of your shift

times. If you need to replenish your table beforehand, please arrive early and complete the task. If you are unable to do so, please find a potter to assist with your shift.

L.P.G. Christmas Show and Sale 2006:

Friday, November 17 thru Sunday, November 19.

Times: Nov. 17 6PM-9PM

Nov. 18 10AM-5PM

Nov. 19 noon-4PM

Location: Carling Heights Community Centre

350 Elizabeth St.

Set up: Friday, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Anyone arriving after 4 p.m. will not be allowed to set up.

Tables: All tables are 6' in length. Tables should be professionally set up with tablecloths covering to the floor so pots can be discreetly stored underneath. Remember to show your pieces individually so they will stand out among the crowd. No seconds are allowed.

Bring plenty of pots! At our last Christmas Sale a number of tables looked a little bare into the second day of the show.

Quality control: We will be checking for the following:

- Smooth bottoms, no kiln wash left on, and no "S" cracks on the bottoms
- Handles must be smooth and free of jagged edges
- No crazing, crawling and pinholes
- All raku and pit fired pots should be identified as non-functional

If a piece does not meet the show standards, it will be put under the table with an explanatory note attached.

Jobs: The positions that need filling are: Cash, wrapping, floating, and admission. Please, remember someone who floats is there to assist clients with any needs, not to sell their own wares. Your other potter friends are busy doing cash and wrapping for you and your job is to help keep the tables arranged and stacked and to assist the customers in general.

Any new potters wishing to enter the show must bring a sampling of their work to be juried to one of the executive meetings between now and November. Failure to do so may result in you not being accepted into the show. Executive meetings are at the East Lion's Artisan's Centre, the first Tuesday of each month starting at 7:30 p.m. Please contact an executive member in advance by consulting the executive listing at the end of this newsletter.

Our show is a great opportunity for potters to spend time together, see each other's work and talk about life in general. We have developed many great friendships over the years, after spending many hours together. For new potters, if you do not wish to be in the show, please feel free to come and float and spend time getting to know everyone. See you at the next meeting!

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES *Chris Snedden*

It is difficult for me to ask you to volunteer. Typically, in a not-for-profit organization, a small percentage of members do a large majority of the work necessary to carry out its objectives. Happily, in our beloved guild there is a large

number of unsung heroes who step up to the plate and accomplish all the little tasks that keep things going but, we must have executive members to head up the various committees and coordinate all the activities and opportunities we enjoy.

So many of you do so much already. The list of names is long, so rather than mention each here I would simply like to extend a sincere thank you to all those who have served so well on sub committees and who have helped arranged events over the course of the past year.

A separate thank-you goes out to those members who have pledged to stay on in their roles on the executive and continue to support our creative endeavours and our mission.

Lastly, a big thank you goes out to the executive members who are stepping down. Alice Nagus and Marry Lukeman have both put together excellent programs and workshops over the last few years that I'm sure we have all found entertaining and informative. Gene Tympany; although a new member last year, stepped in as class coordinator when our dear Lowell Barron could not continue because of family concerns. Ethel Mitrovic, has served the L.P.G. as Studio Coordinator with exemplary energy! We will miss her! And then there's Teresa ... What can I say ... Teresa has lead us into a whole new phase of our being as a guild. We have become incorporated, the Seize campaign has gained momentum, our governance bylaws and policies are established, and the membership enjoys more opportunities than ever before. Teresa has been an excellent ambassador and our fearless leader for the last three years!

She is truly an amazing person and a darn fine potter to boot!

The big announcement is that Jane Paterak is taking over for Teresa as President of the London Potters Guild! This is wonderful news as Jane is familiar with not only the history of the guild, but also the intent of this worthwhile organization. She and her family have been extraordinarily supportive of the guild for years and, I'm sure I speak for all the guild members when, I extend to Jane all our support. We will all help in any way we can!

There are still a few positions available on the executive that must be filled, otherwise we will have to rethink some of the services we offer. You'll notice a new position on the list for the executive, Promotions and Public Relations Coordinator. The essential responsibility of this position is to coordinate and manage the various mailing lists that the LPG maintains. Julie Ryan, who was a new member just last year and is familiar with this kind of work, has kindly offered to do this important job. Thank you Julie!

Below is a list of positions on the executive that need filling. Being an executive member, while it does have its responsibilities, is as large or as small as you want it to be. Rest assured there are always others around to help accomplish tasks if one is willing to ask. Also, I can tell you from personal experience that, you do learn a great deal serving on the exec.; not just about the soft skills, but about clay. I can honestly say that serving on the executive really is a "professional development opportunity". In my time as an LPG executive member I've watched a number of people grow and develop in their work and in their personal

lives. It's been very satisfying and has helped me grow as a potter and as a person. The LPG has become my community through the experience of serving, and I love this guild. I want to see it grow. I want to see it do for others what it has done for me. I belong here. It's is my home. I hope it will become yours too.

We all have complicated lives, but if you can offer the guild a few evenings a month to help fill these positions I'm sure it will be worth it.

Please contact me at:
(519) 476 – 9433
clayguy4u@chrissnedden.com .

Vice President – Pending
We need someone to co-chair with Jane and to take over as President when her term is up.

Class Coordinator - Pending
Gene Timpany and Lowell Barron are stepping down. Gene has kindly offered to set up the current session of classes.

Program Coordinator – Pending
Alice Nagus is stepping down. We need someone to set up the programs after the meetings.

Workshop coordinator – Pending
Marry Lukeman is moving to Winnipeg. We need someone to set up workshops for our edification!

PROGRAM *Alice Nagus*

As with every year, September is reserved for our annual Show and Tell program. Over the course of the summer, if you created something unique, purchased or photographed any artwork you'd like to share with the group, please bring it in.

Once again, I am trying to make arrangements to see the collection of Gerald and Marlene Fagan - yes, those people of Gerald Fagan Singers, Fanshawe Chorus London, and Concert Players Orchestra fame. In their London home they have a significant Ontario-pioneer pottery collection. Their generosity was quite overwhelming back in January and they are willing to host another, smaller, group of L.P.G. members sometime outside of guild meeting time. Details will follow.

I have asked David Kalinovich to demonstrate his box making technique soon. A firm date will be announced.

If you have any suggestions for future programs and if you are interested in becoming Programs Coordinator contact me at anagus@sympatico.ca.

CLASSES *Gene Timpany* **London Potters Guild Fall Class outline:**

Fall is here and school is starting. This has gotten a lot of people thinking about taking a course in clay. Here is the schedule for the fall. Classes will start the week of Oct. 2nd to 6th and run for 8 weeks.

Monday evenings 7–10 p.m. Instructor: Beth Turnbull- Morrish

Introduction to Clay – For beginners and those who need a refresher in the basics.

Students will learn the foundations of working in clay and pottery making. A variety of hand building techniques, introduction to throwing on the potter's wheel, glazing and firing will also be covered. Each student should expect to take home 6 – 10 finished pieces.

Tuesday afternoons 1–4 p.m. Instructor: Sam Cuttall

Beyond Beginner – This class is suitable for those who can centre and throw at least 2 lbs.

Students will be working on basic throwing skills, adding handles, tackling bowl forms and more.

Tuesday evenings 7–10 p.m. Instructor: Chris Snedden

Surface Decoration – An exploration of surface decoration.

This course will begin exploring surface decoration of various types including surface texture, glaze overlap techniques and combinations, slip decorating, over glaze brushwork, and luster ware. In addition to making pots with surfaces suitable for these different techniques we will discuss how to carry any given decorative technique throughout a line to produce a cohesive look.

Students may be asked to bring ready-to-decorate pieces to class.

Wednesday evenings 7–10 p.m. Instructor: Beth Turnbull- Morrish

Throwing 101– Beginners and Beyond.

Students will work solely on the potter's wheel, covering the basics of centering and throwing, while learning to make different pottery forms. The course will cover throwing, trimming, glazing and firing. Each student should expect to take home 6–10 finished pieces. Prior wheel experience would be an asset.

Thursday afternoons 1–4 p.m. Instructor: Sam Cuttall

Beginner and Beyond - For beginners and those who need a refresher in the basics.

This class is for the absolute beginner, and for those who have worked with clay in the past and are a bit rusty. This class will concentrate on centering and throwing a basic cylinder. Plates will also be addressed towards the end of the session.

Saturday afternoons 1–4 p.m. Instructor: Beth Turnbull- Morrish

Children and Youth Class Ages 8–16.

This class includes hand building techniques and an introduction to throwing.

CLASS FEES:

Non-Members: \$160 includes clay, glazes and firing.

Members: \$120 excluding clay and firing costs.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Studio: Please clean up after yourself and mop the floor around the wheels and the glaze buckets. It makes life much easier on your studio coordinator and the other guild members. After you use the glazes, please put the lids back on the glaze buckets. When the

lids are left off, the water in the glazes evaporates and the glazes become too thick. This is one reason why sometimes the glazes on your pots crawl and peel away in spots.

Ron and Pat Ball's Annual House Show and Sale:

When: Sunday, October 29, noon to 4pm.

Where: 125 Byron Street
Thamesford, ON.

Directions: Take Hwy #2 (Dundas St.) east to Thamesford. Turn left (north) at the flashing light or George St. to Byron St.. Turn right. Look for 125, about ½ block down on the right.

Take a drive and view our latest designs and colours!

A Pear of Potters
ron_ball@rogers.com

The LPG Website:

Statistics show the LPG website is visited (on average) more than 30 times a day!!! Some of the more popular searches for the site are tea-pots: potting in London, Ontario and pottery classes. The daily averages increase around class time when "wanna-be" potters start looking for pottery classes.

When people do get to the site the top 3 pages visited are:

1) Class information, 2) Gallery pages, 3) *Seize the Clay*.

Even though you may think no one is looking, someone may be.

These statistics, provided by our Webmaster, Bruce Cuttell, are a reminder of the importance of keeping current information on our website. In this day and age, people look more and more to the Internet as a primary

source of information. Thanks to Bruce for his continued effort on our behalf.

Wanted:

Someone to reconstruct 3 broken pieces of pottery. Does anyone know of someone who can repair a broken bowl, pitcher, or vase?

Please call Iris Gutmans @ 519-473-1429.

For Sale:

Small Duncan kiln \$100
Outside dimension 26X22
Large Firecraft kiln FREE
Outside dimension 38x22,
Square lid. Great for raku! Can be stored outside.

Contact: 519- 243-2576

MEMBERSHIP
Sandy Greason

Please remember to sign up for the your 2006/2007 membership at the September meeting. The rates for the upcoming year have been set at:

Basic: \$60/yr
Studio: \$90/yr

EXECUTIVE LISTING

President: Jane Paterak
Jpaterak@odyssey.on.ca

Past-President: Teresa Ainsworth
tainsworth@odyssey.on.ca

Secretary: Penni Stoddart
penelopepots@rogers.com

Treasurer: Laila Costello
lcostello@jhryder.com

Studio: Gene Timpany
gtemp@sympatico.ca

Newsletter: Darlene Pratt

prattdarlene@rogers.com

Workshops: Sandy Wishart and Wendy Lycett
sg.wishart@sympatico.ca

WLycett@fanshawec.ca

Artisan's London: Joey Ianni
terrapottery2001@yahoo.ca

Classes: Lowell Barron (temp.)
lowellbarron@rogers.com

Membership: Sandy Greason
sandygreason@hotmail.com

Program: Alice Nagus (temp.)
anagus@sympatico.ca

Exhibition: vacant