

POTTERS NEWS



January 2007

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *Jane Paterak*

Happy New Year! I hope you had some time to relax from the busy month leading up to the holidays. I was fortunate enough to have the week of Christmas off. It was a chance to get my studio cleaned up and back in order. The shelves were wiped down, seconds were packed away for the spring seconds sale and buckets of clay trimmings were turned into reclaim. The studio is fresh and ready to go!

The Christmas sale this past November was a huge success. Beth's new room layout ensured there was enough table space for all the new participants and our sales were better than ever.

The Christmas potluck was enjoyed by all. The food was delicious and represented many corners of the world. We had a generous gift from Dundee Pottery that was raffled off with the proceeds going to Seize the Clay.

In this issue you will read about the new line-up of workshops and classes, as well a reminder of the upcoming exhibition 'Powerplay' at the Thames art gallery in Chatham. It is an opportunity to showcase your recent work. If you don't have that special piece created yet, you still have some time.

For me, it is an opportunity to

experiment with new ideas and challenge myself. I recently took on a project to make something for a friend. It was different from anything that I would normally make. She wanted something with daisies on it for a friend who is crazy about daisies. Ughh! I had put off her requests several times hoping that she would forget about it, because as you know, it can take a lot of thought, time and experimenting to work through something new. It is not easy to come up with a new form with a glaze you may or may not have and have it turn out as it was envisioned by the person making the request.

When I was asked for the third time, the request was narrowed down to a mug with daisies on it. I decided to give it a shot. The fact that she wanted a mug was simple enough and with daisies helped to set some boundaries that I could create and play within. I came up with a pair of carved mugs that looked more like tulips than daisies, a pair of mugs with carved yellow daisies covering the outside surface and two cappuccino mugs with carved saucers in the shape of daisies. I don't think that I will ever make anything exactly like them again, but the experience gave me some ideas that I could incorporate in future work. As it turned out, she loved the mugs and kept two pairs.

I look forward to seeing everyone back in the New Year.

SEIZE THE CLAY *Marilyn Barbe* *Campaign Chair*

The future of pottery in London - think about it. On whose hands does it rest, the government, the education system? Not at the moment. If we want to promote and nurture working with clay it is up to the London Potters Guild. Are we working in a vacuum, are we alone in our pursuit? No. Look at all of the members who go to Fusion, NCECA, Haliburton School of Fine Arts, and St. Lawrence College. We are continually reaching out to the greater clay community and enriching the guild as a result.

The London Potters Guild is a community onto itself, which is one thing for sure. I cannot think of a better group to belong to and to be proud of. As one of the "old timers", let me tell you where I am coming from. We met at Banting, needed to grow and moved to our current studio. We are here now, need to grow and are in the midst of the Seize the Clay Campaign to reach this worthy goal. Many of us have traveled to other guilds and studios to study the possibilities a larger facility would offer. If you think what we have now is sufficient, you will be amazed at what more we can do provided the space. Not sure? Travel to East Lansing, Ann Arbor, or other guilds with their own buildings. Take a cyber tour of clay art studios, for example go

to:
http://www.clayways.com/r_resources.html. Yes, I have my own studio, I teach my own classes. But I would not be in this situation if it were not for the Guild and its support.

What a lucky guild we are! We have two professional potters on hand who are so generous with their knowledge: Chris and Beth. What a lucky guild we are that we have such talented members. When we met at Banting we brought in guest speakers for our monthly meetings: sculptors, a chiropractor, and potters outside of the guild. The programs were fun learning experiences. At present, we are able to tap into our own talent, this is exciting. Last Tuesday's presentation by David Kalinovich was impressive indeed. His boxes are fine works of art.

My hope is that you can spread the excitement about our campaign. We have a lot to be proud of; we have a lot to look forward to.

CHINESE CALLIGRAPHY SET RAFFLES

You can buy tickets for the calligraphy sets at our general meetings. The ticket price remains the same: 1 ticket for a loonie and 3 tickets for a toonie. There will be another item added to the set making each raffle bigger than the next. I did bring the set to the last meeting but the snow must have scared a lot of members away. We need a certain "critical mass" to make this endeavour beneficial to the guild.

SEIZE DIRECTOR'S
REPORT
Lisa Plancke

For those of you who missed the "Building the Dream" newsletter during our January 9th meeting, here are a few highlights for you:

- Seize the Clay recently received nearly \$13,000 in gifts. These included a monthly pledge, a quarterly pledge, several outright gifts and even a sizable gift of securities - all from fellow Guild members!
- We also received support from several community leaders (see samples below):

"The London Potters Guild provides a great service to Londoners having provided area residents with clay art workshops, classes, demonstrations and exhibitions for the past twenty-five years."

Brian Meehan
Executive Director
Museum London

"We applaud the London Potters Guild for its desire to have an appropriate learning environment in which young people can learn about and create pottery."

Tammy Adkin
Executive Director
London Children's Museum

- Member feedback has led us to investigate the possibility of an automatic withdrawal option for people who would prefer to donate a smaller amount on a regular basis. BMO is exploring this option with us. We'll keep you posted!
- "Seize" campaign letters have been sent to the relatives of LPG founding member, Mary Haggis. Cross your fingers and join us in thinking positively!

If any of you have high quality pictures of your pottery, let me

know. Member artwork has been showcased on a variety of documents, from our Case for Support to a series of Thank You notes for donor follow up. You can send your photos (including medium/technique/artist) to Lisa at: stc@londonpottersguild.org

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT *Wendy Lycett*

Sign up sheets will be posted in the Guild member's studio. All workshops cost \$30.00 per person plus material fees if applicable. Material fees are payable at the workshop.

PLEASE NOTE CAREFULLY:

1. You are not considered signed up unless you have paid via post dated cheque or cash.
2. Please sign up including your name and phone number CLEARLY PRINTED and indicate that you have paid. If you do not indicate payment your seat in the workshop is not confirmed.
3. Please deposit cheque or payment in Workshop mail box in the kiln room (above the grinder) and clearly indicate which workshop you are signing up for.
4. DO NOT PAY if your name is on a WAITING LIST. You will be notified if a space opens up and given the opportunity to pay.
5. You must notify the workshop coordinator (Wendy Lycett) no less than one week before the date of the workshop if you are withdrawing from the workshop. You are responsible for paying for your seat, or finding a replacement if you give less than one week notice.

In person sign up at the guild

recommended however you can call Wendy Lycett to register. Your payment must be received to confirm your seat. Due to limited space we request that you call in advance if you are not able to attend so that others may have access to your seat. Call Wendy Lycett (519-433-5001) for more information.

Space is limited: Sign up soon!

Additional Sunday Workshops for March, April and May 2007 to be announced later include: Mosaics with Beth Turnbull, Figure Sculpture with Riki from Elora, Coil Building with Leslie Donald, Goblet Making with Chris Snedden and more.

Thanks,
Wendy Lycett
519-432-3923
be_art1@yahoo.com

January - February 2007
All the workshops for LPG member only -- maximum 8 participants. Bring your lunch.

Pottery as a Three Dimensional Design II with Rene Wortel
All levels

Sunday, January 21, 2007 (Guild classroom)

10:00 am – 3:30 pm

An introduction to hand building, using common articles as forms that becomes integrated designs. We will be building a "Bottle Cap Top" Wine Pitcher.

- A study of basic graphic shapes and how they relate graphically.
- A presentation of Form and Function - with history as a basis for new designs.
- Pieces and Parts and how they go together -Hand building from the leftovers.
- Adding the Fire to the final design.

Materials:

- 2 slabs of dried clay (not to the point of leather hard, but still ply-able and doesn't crack or split to much when bent -- no more than 1/4 inch thick, less would be better. I use the PSH 526 the former studio clay.
- Pin tool compass (just modify an old pencil compass)
- steel rule
- Exacto knife
- Cereal box cardboard.
- A sheet of picture glass with the edges taped. (Approx 10 x 14 in.)
- Small jar of pure white vinegar and application paint brush
- Some 12 in Saran Wrap. (2-3 feet.)
- Serrated scoring tool.

If you have questions about the materials please call René Wortel at 519 421 2280.

Back by Popular demand:

"Easy, No Fail" Thrown Plates with Sam Cuttell

Sunday January 28, 2007 (Guild Classroom)

10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

If you can center the clay then Sam can teach you these easy no fail method for making great plates.

Materials:

- Please bring tools, towel, and bats. if you have them and rubber kidney (important!)
- You must use LPG studio clay, available for purchase at the studio (\$12.00 per half box)

Practical Mould making – with Chris Snedden

All levels

Sunday Feb. 4th, 2007(Guild classroom)

10:00 AM – 3:30 PM

Learn how to work with Plaster to make press moulds, slump moulds, and sprigs for use in your own pottery. Discussion will centre on practical applications of moulds to enhance form and decoration in your work as well

as creating repeat images.

Participants need to bring:

- A small piece to make into a sprig mould made of leather hard clay. Note: the piece should have no undercuts that will prevent the piece from releasing from the mould it should be no more than 1.5 inches wide and 1/4 inches deep.
- Also bring: something to cast into to create a slump mould like an odd shaped bowl. Try to find something not round and please not too big - we need enough plaster for everyone. Dollar store is a good place to check.

ARE WE CENTERED YET? - with Marilyn Barbe

Sunday February 11, 2007

(Guild Classroom)

10:00 AM – 3:30 PM

Throw faster and better by learning a series of throwing exercises to get you there. These exercises are designed to take the mystery out of the wheel and to put the emphasis on form and function instead.

Material list:

- LPG studio clay (available for purchase at the studio -12.00 per half box.
- Throwing tools: example: pin tool, 2 sponges (one for Throwing one for clean up), rubber rib, cutting wire.
- A small ware board (piece of plywood 18 inches long by 12 inches or bigger).
- Old towel.

Paper Clay – with Shirley Clifford

Basic Throwing skills required

Sunday February 18th, 2007

(Guild Classroom)

10:00 AM to 4:00 PM with 1/2

hour lunch.

Workshop on throwing with paper clay. "Participants will learn the advantages of working with paper clay. Throwing bigger and taller is one advantage which

I like. I will demonstrate how to throw one full bag of clay". – Shirley Clifford (for more information on Shirley's work visit

<http://www.clayandglass.on.ca/members/sclifford.htm>)

Material list:

- For the hands-on workshop, participants should bring their own throwing tools and their own bats if they want to take their work home to trim and bisque etc. or if you leave the work to be finished in the LPG studio, then use LPG bats
- Paper clay available for purchase at the studio. Approximate costs, 15.00 per half box

WORKSHOPS *Chris Snedden*

Demonstration Workshop with Michael Collins

February 16th - 18th 2007
Hutton House Ceramics Studio,
654 Wonderland Rd. N. London
London Ontario
Friday, Feb.16 - Free Public
Slide Presentation 7pm. RSVP
Bevan Ling 519-432-7257
Saturday Feb.17 - 9 am to 5 pm
Sunday Feb.18 - 9 am to 5 pm



Functional Wheel Thrown Pottery
Michael will start with a slide introduction to his work and its evolution over the past thirty years. He will demonstrate and discuss many of the techniques in the slides, throwing numerous functional forms, jugs, bowls, plates, teapots and components for altered and assembled slab / thrown pots. Sunday, Michael will assemble and finish the pots

from Saturday, demonstrating trimming, handles, and wet slip decorating. This workshop is for all levels of experience.

Workshop Fee \$84.80 includes GST

Information and registration contact:

Bevan Ling 519-432-7257

bevan_ling@rogers.com

Or Michael Collins 519-653-2806

mc@michaelcollins.ca

www.michaelcollins.ca

Michael Collins



A professional potter and teacher for 30 years, Michael Collins specializes in functional reduction fired stoneware, salt-glazed stoneware and raku. His award-winning pottery has been extensively shown internationally through one-man, juried and invitational exhibitions. In 1986 and 2002 his work received international recognition at Salzbrand Keramik, Germany's juried exhibition of salt-glazed pottery.

Michael is on the faculty of the Dundas Valley School of Art and the Cambridge Centre for the Arts. In addition, he shares his enthusiasm, knowledge and expertise by teaching workshops at potters' guilds and schools. He has documented, through photography, the lifestyle and techniques of traditional potters in Germany, Italy, Thailand, Portugal and South Korea. His slide presentations visually explore and contrast these ancient techniques.

Michael worked as Robin Hopper's studio assistant at Hillsdale Pottery while studying at Georgian College, from which he graduated in 1977. He later studied with Tom Turner and Byron Temple at the Penland School of Crafts in North Carolina.

Michael continues to pursue his love affair with clay and fire in his Kitchener studio and is well known for his pottery accessories supply business.

www.michaelcollins.ca

PROGRAM *Alice Nagus*

Christmas Bash:

Congratulations to Joey Ianni, Jane Evans, Sandy Greason, Brenda Duncan and other elves who managed to set up for our annual Christmas bash. They bravely tried out a new seating format - one large "U" shape. It worked beautifully. Everyone had easy access to the centre point of the evening - a table full of goodies that satisfied the even the most critical tastes.

Dundee Pottery was kind and generous by giving a \$50 gift certificate which was won by Eva Koh. Congratulations and well deserved.

After-Meeting Programs:

We've started the year of with a bang - David Kalinovich demonstrated how he makes those wonderful eight-sided boxes with the tight fitting lids. He also showed variations on the same theme. As Chris Snedden observed - the demonstration was inspiring - it was like it opened up a whole new avenue that one can pursue in the unending challenge of creating with clay.

Also, a BIG THANK YOU to David who donated his honorarium back to SEIZE THE CLAY campaign.

On January 18th at 7:00 pm we will be descending on the home of Gerald and Marlene Fagan to view their vast collection of pioneer Ontario pottery. It is always a pleasure to listen to Gerald as he is truly passionate about his interest in pottery. This year Gerald will be discussing Royal Ontario Museum's dig that he initiated. As well, he will be discussing a pioneer potter who dug his glaze materials from the clay in the river. There will be a \$2 charge that will be presented to the Fagan family as a donation to their favourite charity.

The Fagan house is located at 219 Base Line Road East - 8 houses west of Wortley, south side, opposite Elworthy Avenue.

For February, Bevin Ling, a well known London potter will be demonstrating thrown pieces that are completely closed and what you can do with such pieces, i.e. bird house, teapot, and whatever else your imagination can dream up. Come on along and get your creative juices flowing.

CLASSES *Cathy Molitor*

Winter Classes

We have scheduled an ambitious number of Classes due to start the week of January 15. There are 4 evening classes, Monday to Thursday, and 2 afternoon classes, Tuesday and Thursday. We tried separating children and teens into 2 Saturday classes but as of now it appears we will have to combine the classes due to low registration.

There is a lot of interest in Beginner classes and we have changed course content to address this. The Teachers continue to provide fantastic learning experiences and to successfully juggle different skill levels in each class.

If you have an idea for a class; either as teacher or student, please let me know.

Check out current class schedule on www.londonpottersguild.org under classes.

STUDIO TECHNICIAN'S REPORT *Beth Turnbull Morrish*

Things are going well at the studio. I recently changed the elements on the "new" kiln and it is firing well. The "old" kiln is still plugging along faithfully as a bisque kiln, and will need its elements changed soon too. If you would like to learn to do this, relatively simple task, let me know, and I will call you when I am about to do it.

The same goes for any equipment or skill that you would like to learn. A Studio Technician can be a very valuable resource, please use me to my full potential. If there's something I don't know we can figure it out together. There are many tasks around the studio that I can always use a hand with, you may learn something in the process, and you will be fulfilling your volunteer commitment to the Guild.

Some of the constant tasks are: reclaiming clay and using the pug mill, loading, unloading and firing kilns, scraping and grinding kiln shelves, making and sieving glazes, making test tiles, and CLEANING. By the very nature of clay it is dusty, and we know

that dust can cause silicosis so we must be ever vigilant in keeping the studio clean!

I shouldn't have to mention cleaning up after yourself, but even this is often overlooked. Please wipe down all the equipment you used and return it to its home: this includes putting the splash pan back on, and putting the stool up on the wheel head. Get out the mop and bucket, do at least around your wheel, if you're the last person to leave do the whole room, it only takes 10 minutes! Then please, dump out the mop bucket and put it back under the sink and put the mop away!

There are lots of small tasks that need constant attention: Please, next time you're in, take 15 minutes and take everything off a shelf, wipe it all down and replace it neatly. When you've got the glazes out grab the mop and do underneath the table! All these little things can become overwhelming, but when each person does their part it makes it easy: many hands make light work!

Non-studio members: do you know that you have access to the studio once a month? Let me know if you would like to take advantage of our valuable resources, I will give you a quick orientation and help you with anything you need.

My studio hours are posted on the door of the members' studio. They are: Mondays 4pm-6pm, Wednesdays 12pm-2pm, and Saturdays 11am-12pm (Saturdays may change depending on classes, but there will still be a weekend time available). You will often catch me at other times. If there is something specific you want to do, please let me know in advance, email is best, leave a note at the studio or even call me

at home. I am here to serve YOU!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Guild library:

Members please return our library materials: look around for books, videos and magazines that belong to the LPG. There will be no punishment for returning late items, we just want them back! We would like to revitalize our library, and the first step is finding our many missing valuable items.

Executive positions:

Sandy Greason is unable to continue in her role as membership coordinator due to health reasons. Our thoughts and prayers are with her for a full and fast recovery. We thank Sandy for her help in the busy time of our year with registrations and queries from the public. If you are interested in taking on Sandy's role looking after membership, please contact Teresa Ainsworth or Jane Paterak.

Calls for entry:

Calls for entry for an oxidation show in March- April 2007, put on by the Thames Art Gallery in Chatham, are available from the guild at the November meeting. The entry deadline is January 31 2007. Entry by slide or CD-ROM. There will be \$1600 available in prize money. The work will be juried by Angelo di Petta and Susan Card. A total of 20-25 pieces will be exhibited. I am excited about this rare opportunity to show pottery and I am sure we will see some interesting submissions. Andrea Vuletin
FrankVuletin@aol.com

For Sale:

Even heat kiln with kiln sitter. Top ring can be removed to make kiln smaller. Bricks and outer shell all in good shape. Comes with metal stand. Needs new elements and tube assembly for kiln sitter.

I bought this used and have removed the elements but never needed the kiln so did not replace them. It has been stored in my garage, clean and dry. Bought for \$300 – will sell for \$250 or best reasonable offer. To view or make an offer, Call 519-455-3319 or email penelopepots@sympatico.ca

DUNCAN CERAMIC KILN 24" HIGH, 21" SHELF DIAMETER

Older kiln good for bisque, newer elements, no shelves, \$300.00
Call Jacquie Glavin at 519-293-3698 please leaves message.

Pottery on Youtube.com

There are some very interesting pottery videos on Youtube. Just go to their search engine and type in pottery. Ok, some of the videos are of high school students being silly, but there are also some fantastic videos of people like Cardew and Hamada throwing and talking about clay. You do need a fairly up to date computer and connection.

To connect to Youtube go to:
<http://www.youtube.com/>

Hamada is found at:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CwFtg8mBW3s>

Cardew is found at:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kS7JEKMGZFQ>

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