

NEWS

IN CLAY



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

DARLENE PRATT

LCAC GRAND OPENING



Please mark your calendar for the Grand Opening of London Clay Art Centre, Saturday, June 21, at LCAC of course!

Details have yet to be established, but the date is set. So far, we have a committee of four – Genet Hodder, Judy Sparkes, Maggie Hesketh and myself, Darlene Pratt. We are looking for a couple more interested organizers to help us conceptualize and actualize the day. Please contact me at prattdarlene4@gmail.com or by calling my cell at 226-678-3874.

I understand you may feel we've had several openings over the years. We were deliberate in our efforts to announce the start of each new phase of development, usually concurrent with new funding commitments. And, last May we had a party to celebrate the second floor restoration, but none has served as the Grand Opening for a broader public audience. This event will combine several opportunities and serve to formally acknowledge the significant financial and other contributions, without which London Clay Art Centre (LCAC) would not exist.

To acknowledge heritage designation from the city for the façade restoration, a plaque will be mounted on the front of the building. "Unveiling"

the plaque and acknowledging the contributors will be part of the evening's program. In addition, the exhibition committee has been putting together a show that will be displayed in conjunction with the Grand Opening – a great opportunity for us to highlight the many talented artists associated with LCAC.

Aside from news of the Grand Opening, operations proceed at a breakneck pace! Don't forget to sign up for the Antoinette Badenhorst workshop, May 3&4 at LCAC. The spring sale is quickly approaching, classes are full, March Break camps ran to great success, drop-in days continue to attract many interested individuals, Empty Bowls raised \$9000 for Regional HIV/AIDS Connection, internal workshops are being well-attended and members are making good use of the first floor, among other things! Behind the scenes representatives of the board are working to formalize human resource policies and procedures, as well as updating our bylaws to more accurately reflect the current operational reality of The London Potters Guild as owners and stewards of LCAC.

Tuesday, May 13 will be the last general meeting before the summer hiatus. We will start meeting again on Tuesday, September 9. You should receive another LPG Newsletter before the September meeting. In fact, we have now established a publication schedule. For your convenience, here are the dates for the five annual editions. Many thanks to Brendan Wilson for expertly coordinating, designing and publishing the newsletter for the past few years:

February 1

April 1

June 1

September 1

November 1

As always, I invite you to contact me with your questions, comments, and concerns. Alternately, drop your ideas into the suggestion box at LCAC. It is located on the first floor in the hall that leads to the basement stairs. We are interested in continuous improvement and rely on the constructive feedback of our many members.

Happy spring!

EMPTY BOWLS

TERESA AINSWORTH

Empty Bowls 2014 was a great success, even better than our first event in 2013. Over three meals on March 7th at the Goodwill Centre we raised about \$9000, which will be donated to the Regional HIV/AIDS Connection for their Country Cupboard (a specialized food bank which supplies high protein and nutritional items) and their other food-related programming.

We sold 324 tickets (60 more than last year) and raised \$1660 with the silent auction. Thanks to all the donors – Kelly Greene and Ethel Mitrovic for the paintings, Jenn Jack, Christine Tischler and Fran Whitney for the jewelry, David Moynihan for his giant bowl, as well as local businesses who donated items. Thanks as well to Tuckers' and Pottery Supply House for their donation of clay (6 boxes each).

We owe a great big thanks to Jenn Jack who coordinated the soup heating and kitchen, and the restaurants who donated soup, the bakeries who donated bread and buns, and especially the volunteers who set out bowls, served soup and bread, packed up boxes and brought them to the Goodwill Centre, and helped take back all the items. Many thanks as well to the band who kept everyone happy with their music. We owe Michael Leavens, who designed the poster and tickets, a round of applause for his great poster.

thanks each and every one of you.

The London Potters Guild rocks!!!



SPRING SALE

TERESA AINSWORTH

A reminder that if you want to participate in the spring sale (May 10th and 11th) you must have your application in by the end of March. We will be contacting you soon after that to organize shifts and other details. You can sign up with PayPal (on line) or at the Guild during store hours.

There are lots of postcards advertising the sale at the London Clay Art Centre, so make sure you always have some with you to distribute to everyone you meet.

Any questions – Nancy Friedrich at nfriedlich@hotmail.com or Teresa Ainsworth at tainsworth1@gmail.com or phone 519-432-7387.

LIBRARY

TERESA AINSWORTH

While I was at NCECA I bought 4 DVDs for the Guild, which will be in the Guild Library shortly. These are DVDs taken during the demonstration sessions at previous NCECA events and are great for picking up tips. Most of the DVDs start with a short 10 minutes or so interview with the demonstrator, who speaks about their training, their history and influ-



And last but not least, the team of Cheryl Radford and Kelly Greene who kept the Paypal system going and kept us on track with ticket sales. The Empty Bowls committee of Judy Sparkes, Danielle Moynihan, Eva Koh, Maggie Heskith, Alice Nagus, Christine Tischler, and Teresa Ainsworth

ences, and of course their work.

This is followed by a series of demonstrations of pots/sculptures typical of their body of work. The new DVDs are by Christa Assad (2012), Bede Clarke (2013), Sanam Emami (2007), and Deborah Schwartzkopf (2011). For those who came to the Fusion Conference in London, Deborah was one of the demonstrators. I also bought a couple of DVDs for myself – which can be borrowed if you are very nice to me – Matthew Metz (2010) and Val Cushing: A Life in Clay, which has a introduction to him and a demo of his casserole and roll top covered jars, and a portfolio of some of his pottery.

And here is my usual rant – please, please return your books and DVDs promptly. Others would like to borrow them. The library is looking rather depleted at the moment, since so many people have books out. Don't forget to sign out books and DVDs – this is the only way we have of tracking them. If you don't start returning books and DVDs, we will have to start locking up the library again – which would be a shame.

INTERNAL WORKSHOPS

PATTI WILK

We have had a full schedule of workshops! Kaitlyn McGill ran her first session of **Surface Designs**. We each made a plaster slab to keep and practice the variety of methods Kaitlyn demonstrated. She ran a workshop chock full of info, interesting methods, and practical tips. Her second running of this workshop will be on Apr. 27, and this workshop is already full. Please do have your name added to the waiting list - if there is sufficient demand, a third session is a possibility!

In March, David Moynihan ran the third part of his four part throwing series, **Plates and Platters**. As always in David's workshops, the participants benefitted from detailed demonstrations and helpful instruction. The fourth session in the series, **Teapots and Lidded Jars**, will be running May 24 & 25, and is already full.

Kaitlyn will be leading a half day workshop, **Photographing Your Work**, on Apr. 6. This has been designed as an aid to those potters who are interested in submitting work to the Exhibition, and will be free of charge, but you must be

a registered participant. At present, the workshop is full, but again, please add your name to the waiting list.

Upcoming workshops include **Harnessing Your Creativity and Developing Your Own Style**, with Beth Turnbull-Morrish on June 1, **Handbuilding** with Sandy Harquail on July 6, **Basic Raku** with Chris Snedden on Aug. 17, **Naked Raku** with Gene Timpany on Sept. 7, **Water Colours** with David Moynihan on Oct. 19 and **Slip Trailing** with Jenn Gerardi on Oct. 26. Registration for these workshops will be available online approximately one month prior to the date on which the workshop occurs. Details will then be available on the registration for workshops section of the guild website (www.londonpottersguild.org) or by contacting Cheryl Radford at [519-434-1664](tel:519-434-1664).

I cannot stress enough how important it is to register early for internal workshops! They fill up very quickly, so do put your name on a waiting list if that happens, by contacting Cheryl. A repeat session will be organized if possible and if there is demand.

NCECA

MARILYN BARBE

This year's National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA) was held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin from March 18 to 22. The convention was very well organized and a pleasure to attend.



Plate, By Ayumi Horie

Teresa Ainsworth, Alice Nagus, Jordan Scott and I were Guild members fortunate enough to attend this annual event even though we arrived by different means.



La Mesa, a 100ft table filled with dinnerware place settings

The annual conference is always held in a different city; next year it will be in Providence Rhode Island followed by Kansas City for the fiftieth anniversary – something not to be missed. It is similar to our provincial FUSION only with five thousand in attendance, including a contingent from China.

What could possibly bring such a large group of people together? Clay and the love of clay. There was something for everyone, from the youngest grade one potter to those over 70 years of age, and it all started on Wednesday with bus tours to the many exhibitions held throughout the city. Indeed, there were some 70 galleries with ceramic shows throughout Milwaukee and area, many holding openings at various days and times: too many for one person to attend. The official opening was at 7:00pm at the

Wisconsin Centre with Theaster Gates as keynote speaker. His focus was on making ceramics accessible to more of the public including visible minorities. This was my 6th NCECA and yet the first time I attended the Thursday Randall Session; it won't be my last because Leslie & The Ly's Live: Dance Blaster 1,000 was pure, sassy entertainment. Ok, I had never heard of Leslie Hall, but the younger set certainly knew who she was. Check her out.



Sculpture, by Kyle and Kelly Phelps

Thursday and Friday were jam packed with activities: Ayumi Horie, Michelle Erickson, Ching Yuan Chang, and Kelly & Kyle Phelps as demonstrating artists; students had a chance to have their work critiqued; lectures of many sorts, sessions on including clay in the curriculum and many areas of interest; La Mesa tableware show; K-12 youth show; the Clay Studio anni-

versary show; the cup show, and so much more. Everything going on at the same time, so much to see so little time!

And then let us not forget the Resource Centre with the Artstream Nomadic Gallery, various galleries and the largest selection of pottery equipment, tools and books in the world all in one spot. On the outer perimeter of the Resource Centre, tables were set up for university, college and art centre representatives, as well as non profits like Potters For Peace and Empty Bowls.

On Saturday morning, at the closing ceremony, NCECA introduced six emerging artists; they explained their influences, showed slides of their work, and gave thanks to their supporters. And last but not least, the final lecture was given by Cynthia Bringle. She makes pots, has always made pots, finds that paper work gets in the way of making pots, and is one of the most influential potters of our time.

Conferences like NCECA and FUSION are essential to keeping clay current. It was nice to be a part of the 5000 who attended the conference and to see so many young people interested in ceramics. There is a strong future in clay ahead of us.

STUDIO POTTER PROGRAM

ELLY PAKALNIS

Our last Kiln Loading and Firing session was fully attended on February 23rd. Chris Snedden provided much expertise and insight to kiln loading and unloading, kiln care, setting the kilns for bisque and glaze firing as well as how to ensure the kiln shelves are maintained. The session's intention is to make members familiar with the various aspects of getting pottery fired to assist with kiln loading, unloading, and firing, as well as have pottery move through smoothly at the LCAC.

In the Glaze Making session on March 30th, Teresa informed a full roster of participants on the glaze making process including the ingredients for making a glaze and the steps in creating a glaze. Participants were made familiar with the glaze kitchen where the various ingredients are stored, how to measure out the ingredients, as well as how to maintain a clean working environment. The session is an opportunity for members to learn how to make glazes at the LCAC as well as venture out and be able to create their own glazes.

Reclaim with Jordan Scott, Sunday, April 27th, 12 - 2 p.m.

This session will make participants familiar with how to recycle the clay from trimmings or throwings gone wrong.

Jordan will share his expertise of the reclaim process on a small scale as well as larger scale. Participants will be informed of the various stages of the reclaim, how to use the pug mill and, finally, how to ensure the reclaim area is kept clean.

Registration for the reclaim session can be made by either emailing Elly (ellyp2003@yahoo.com) or signing up on the registration sheet posted on the bulletin board by the kiln room.

Please Note: New studio members are required to take at least 1 Studio Potter Program session per year as part of their LPG membership.

CLASSES & STORE

GENET HODDER

Our beautifully-stocked pottery store is getting set for spring, with seasonal window and centre table displays prepared for April. The call went out in mid-March for members to bring in pottery and sculptural objects that would give a nod to the days of sunshine, warmer weather, and anticipated new life in our gardens, in yards and on balconies.

Pottery sales were good in March, a sizable uptick from slow sales in February when sluggish totals were a reflection of our tenacious winter weather. March sales totalled \$2619.00, a 100% increase over the same month last year. Thanks to manager Kelly Greene for streamlining the business of the store, organizing volunteers and for keeping us on track as we move forward.

Some reminders to store potters: Please check the drawer next to the jurying drawer to see (and remove) any of your work that is there. Sometimes the reason the piece is not accepted for the store can be changed by cleaning off small bits of kiln wash on the bottom, or by drilling down on stubborn bits of glaze. Remember too to periodically 'visit' your work in the store and replace any faded labels that may be difficult to read.

NOTE: If you want to become a store potter, you can be put on our waiting list by contacting Kelley

(store@londonpottersguild.org) or any of the store committee (Genet Hodder, Sandra Paterson, Cathy Roberts).

Class Report

The spring session of classes began the week of March 17 and will continue through to the last class on Sunday, May 4. We have a nearly full house in most of the classes scheduled, with only two cancelled for lack of registrants. The teen class called Teens in Clay on Friday after school was so popular that a second was scheduled for the same time! Thanks to Cheryl's quick action in setting up a second class, both studios are now busy with students aged 12 to 17 years on Fridays from 4:30 to 6:30 pm.

A Pottery Teaching Seminar for class instructors and prospective instructors was held on Saturday, March 8 with around 18 people attending. This was a timely gathering as we settle into the new studios on the second floor and accept the incumbent responsibilities of teaching in our own building.

Thanks to Karen Bailey for giving us an overview of different teaching and learning styles, to Marilyn Barbe for starting the discussion of what makes a good pottery teacher, to Gene Timpany for talking about structuring a class and organizing a course, and to David Moynihan for focusing on technical matters of safety, sanitation, legal issues, and the limits of a teacher's responsibility vis-à-vis the LCAC studio.

Everyone in attendance contributed to the success of the seminar, sharing their personal experiences with teaching in different situations and their views about best practices. We will hope to continue the discussion with another seminar in future.

STUDIO REPORT

DAVID MOYNIHAN

I'd like to take this chance to thank our executive for their years of endless volunteer hours. Without their direction and dedication we would not have the facility we have.

Classes, sales, shows, exhibition, workshops, empty bowls: LCAC is a very busy place which fosters and sometimes challenges the comradery, creativity and skill in all of us.

Let's remember to do our part in making it even better: cleaning after ourselves, keeping the dust down,

volunteering for teams, sending suggestions through proper channels. These are all simple ways to push the facility forward.

With everyone doing their part under the leadership of our executive, imagine what the LCAC will be in another 10 years!

See you in the studio.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

STORE MERCHANDISE NOT FOR PERSONAL USE:

London Clay Art Centre relies heavily on the honesty and good faith of London Potters Guild members to adhere to several implied rules of conduct. We work hard to maintain LCAC as an open facility accessible to all members 24-hours a day, seven days a week with very little restrictions on physical space.

The 45 artists who display and sell their work in the store demonstrate significant trust knowing their work can be handled by anyone at any time because the store is not locked in the off hours.

Please note: store items are not to be taken off the shelves, used while working in the studios and replaced afterward. This action represents a significant breach of trust and will not be tolerated. If such incidents continue to occur, we will have no choice but to rethink general access to the facility and facility hours.

Each of us can play a significant role in maintaining the rules (written and implied) of LCAC by speaking to fellow members who contravene the rules, or by reporting questionable conduct to a board member, David Moynihan, or Cheryl Radford.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Darlene

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