

London Potters Guild

NEWSLETTER



March 2016
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Above: Abigail Wilson helping to throw Empty Bowls. Practice, Practice, Practice!

The mission of The London Potters Guild is to be the leader in the education and promotion of the clay arts in Southwestern Ontario. We provide high-quality programming, nurture the development of professional clay artists, collaborate with other community organizations and encourage fellowship in an inclusive and accessible facility.

The London Clay Art Centre is connected! Find us on Facebook, on Instagram @londonclayartcentre and on Twitter @clayartcenter. Follow us for event and workshop information, interesting articles, community news, and images of the fantastic ceramic work created at LCAC

Message from the Chair

JUDY SPARKES

It seems appropriate that I'm writing my first chair's message as we spring forward into a new season. Spring is my favourite time of the year. I eagerly watch for new life to spring up from the earth. Like a fresh ball of clay on a wheel, the promise of new beginnings are all around us.

With so much happening around LCAC it's hard to know where to start. I'm honoured to be elected to lead you and this dynamic organization for the next two years, and I take this responsibility very seriously. I look forward to hearing all of your input during the upcoming strategic planning process regarding where we go next on our journey together. We have many challenges in front of us. I consider each challenge to be an opportunity to take our organization to the next level. I hope to see you all at our next general meeting Tuesday, April 12th to get engaged in setting our goals and finding our direction.

Our Artist-in-Residence (AIR) program has been up and running for a while now and continues to bring great new talent to our members. Not one, but two artists are currently in residence. Nicole Waddick has been an eager participant in guild activities and has done numerous presentations and workshops for our members. I'm looking forward to hearing about her NCECA experience at a meeting sometime soon.

Hannah Pruder, our newest AIR, did a very engaging presentation at our January meeting. She is quick to jump in wherever a hand is needed around the centre. I look forward to seeing her grow as an artist among us.

I look forward to expanding our Artist-in-Residence program to include an International Artist-in-Residence. Considerable resources are needed before we are ready to launch such a program, but the benefits it will bring to our members are significant.

We said "good luck" but not "goodbye" to an amazing friend and studio technician, Sandy Harquail, as she and Adam set off for their next adventure in Nanaimo, BC. Sandy's contributions to our organization helped us grow into the second floor. Her enthusiasm and talent will be missed around LCAC. We look forward to following Sandy in her new home as she turns her focus inward to her own work and growth.

A glance at the calendar shows "Mother's Day" is around the corner. This also means we are all gearing up for another fantastic spring sale. I'm sure you are all busy pushing your work to new levels. I know I'm not the only one who is always impressed by the level of professionalism we exhibit at our sales. Your Sale Committee has been very busy planning another fabulous event!

May will also be the last members' meeting of the 2015-16 season. We will break for the always busy summer season. Meetings will start up again the second Tuesday in September.

See you around the studio!

Volunteer Update

ROBIN CHAKO

We had to say goodbye to our Volunteer Coordinator, Evelina Silveira, on March 11th. We want to say a special thank you to Evelina for all the contributions she has made to LCAC over the last several months. She has created a solid foundation for us to continue on and to create the Volunteer Committee.

The Volunteer Committee is currently comprised of three members: Cathy Herbert, Carole Dutton, and myself, Robin Chacko. We're very excited to announce that we've changed the name of our committee to **Membership Engagement Committee Association**, or **MECA** for short. We feel this better reflects our commitment to engaging the members of LCAC in the studio.

You can now enter your contribution hours online through the LCAC website! Cheryl sent out an email with a link to the Member's Area. You will now have easy access to enter your contributions by simply entering your name, the month you contributed, the type of contribution you made (by simply using the drop down menu), and the amount of time you contributed. And you can use this form as many times as you like in a month. There's also a comment section on the bottom of the form as well – we would love to get your feedback!

For those of you who don't have computer/email access, we will still have the Contribution Log Book available in the studio. We want to make it as easy as possible for you to log your contribution hours!

We'll also be setting up a whiteboard on the 1st floor of the studio. This will allow Team Leaders to highlight tasks that need to be completed in the studio, and to help members looking to contribute know what tasks need to be done. This will help to maintain smooth operations in the studio environment.

The next orientation for new members is scheduled for **Sunday, April 3rd at 1pm**. A reminder that orientation sessions have been organized to

- provide a historical and technical tour of the building;
- inform members about their obligations regarding voluntary service;
- obtain health and safety information; and
- get members matched to a team.

Each new member has the opportunity to request a mentor by completing a mentee form. The orientation is a collaboration between the Membership and Health and Safety Coordinators, and MECA. If you would like to attend the next session, please contact Laila Brandt, Membership Coordinator, at lailart@live.ca

And, finally, a big Thank You goes out to all of you, the members. Without your contributions, the studio doesn't run efficiently and safely. We will be continuing to run the monthly draws for free clay, and the list will be updated in the next newsletter, so stay tuned!

If you have any questions or concerns, you can reach me at rlcpottery@gmail.com. See you around the studio!

Seconds Sale

MARILYN BARBE

WHEN: Saturday, June 11th, 2014, 6:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. (approx)

WHERE: 115 Ness Street North, (Ailsa Craig Village Pottery) in lovely Ailsa Craig. The town folk in Ailsa Craig have held a village wide yard sale for 19 years. One of the highlights is the seconds sale at the "pottery".

Potters are invited to donate their "seconds" to the sale. Please leave your donation at the Clay Art Centre in boxes clearly marked "Seconds Sale".

Volunteer jobs are

- deliver seconds to Ailsa Craig on the morning of

the sale;

- bring the swipe machine and petty cash;
- unpacking, packing;
- cash, wrap;
- stack, & clean-up.

Please help us out — we would love to see some new faces this year. Teresa has been the person who arranged storing the seconds, bringing the swipe machine, etc. I need someone to do those tasks.

There are at least 25 other yard sales to go to, plus bake sales and barbeques.

Volunteer for a few hours then roam the village to hunt out some great bargains. We appreciate those who come and help pack up at the end! It is a tiring and yet very rewarding event.

To volunteer, or to find out more information, please contact Marilyn Barbe at [519-293-3339](tel:519-293-3339) or mbarbe@execulink.com

All funds raised go to the purchase of our gas kiln. Last year we raised over \$1000.00 in four short hours.



Above: Landscape plate by Don Dubois

Right: Vase by Don Dubois

Don Dubois Workshop

MARILYN BARBE

September 24, 25, 2016, at the London Clay Art Centre, 664 Dundas St. London.

Don Dubois is a Warton potter with a wealth of experience. To quote him: "I turned 60 and nobody is more surprised than me. I made my first pot at the Ontario College of Art back in 1967. I didn't go there with the idea of becoming a potter but that is what I became. After 40 years I've gotten pretty good at what I do and I feel my best pots are yet to come.

Time flies when you're having fun." Don's workshop will include teapots, goblets, and much more. He has a lifetime worth of knowledge to share with us. He promises that this will be an extra special workshop.

Fee: early bird \$80.00 until September 1, 2016. \$95.00 after September 1, 2016



Secretary

Want to know how a great organization like the LCAC works? Want to be part of a dynamic team? Want to be in the know? Then, why not be the Board Secretary! In this role you will

- attend monthly board and member's meetings
- take minutes during monthly board and member's meetings, and
- provide copies of the previous month's meetings for the board and members.

Having your own laptop would be an asset, but it is not required.

And don't forget, these duties would count toward your monthly contribution to the Guild!

If you're interested, please contact Judy Sparkes

Spring Sale

NANCY FRIEDRICH

The spring sale is being held on Saturday May 7 and Sunday May 8 at the Thames Valley School Board Education Centre (1250 Dundas St.), which is the same location as last year. Applications for the sale have been sent out via e-mail, so if you wish to participate please make sure that you apply by Monday April 4th. Applications and payments can be submitted in person at the LCAC or by snail mail (see the contract for the address). Shift sign-up will open on Sunday April 10 for out-of-towners and Tuesday April 12 for those within London.

Postcards are now available for distribution, as well as a limited number of posters. If you are a participant, you are responsible for taking 2 bundles (25 postcards each) to locations in London and/or the surrounding area - they should be delivered no later than April 16. Good locations are where there will be lots of traffic, such as libraries, tourist centres, coffee shops/restaurants, art galleries, gift shops, dentist/doctor offices, arenas and community centres. A digital version of the postcard will be sent out via e-mail, as well as posted on the LCAC/LPG facebook and webpages. Sharing of both the print and digital postcards is welcomed even if you are not participating in the sale - the more people that know about the sale, the better!

This year we will be changing up our advertising a little the week before the sale by being a sponsor of the weather report on the London-based radio station Classic Rock Free 98.1 FM. We will still have the big road signs at strategic locations, as well as the small roadside signs during the sale directing people to the sale location.

Job Creation Program

JUDY SPARKES

Every year we apply to take advantage of the "Job Creation Program," a government program which allows us to employ up to 3 people for 40 weeks while they receive unemployment benefits. This provides us with "free" labour and helps us to further develop our programs at LCAC. We've had some amazing people come through our doors as part of this program, and this year was no exception. Evelina Silveira, Garry Worrall and Jonathan Dueck were with us for 40 weeks of the year and each contributed greatly to our growth as an organ-



Above: A goodbye luncheon at True Taco for the London Clay Art Centre's JCP's

ization. Evelina worked diligently to further expand and develop our membership coordination program. Jonathan rebuilt our website to better reflect our organization today. Garry developed a comprehensive health and safety program. Garry has joined our Board of Directors and is staying on as a consultant in the Health and Safety capacity. A

group of us gathered for lunch at True Taco to wish them all the best in their futures. We hope they enjoyed their time with us as much as we did with them!

Internal Workshops

JUDY RISELING

We had two excellent workshops in March. The first one, with Leslie Donald, was a repeat performance of his Coil Pot Workshop and was highly rated by all participants. The information and demonstration that we received was amazing.

The second, with Beth Turnbull Morrish, was a terrific workshop on Slip Decorating and Lettering. Again the participants couldn't say enough about the quality and quantity of information we received. We are so lucky to have such a large number of teachers to call on for our workshops.

There are no internal workshops scheduled for April but we have two coming up in May. On May 15 Nancy Marshall will be showing us how to Make Some Cool Tools for pottery. I'm not sure what she has in mind but I'm sure it will be fun.

Then on May 29, Nicole Waddick will give us some of her Tricks and Techniques on Glazing. That is something a lot of us put off because we can't seem to 'get it right' so maybe Nicole can enlighten us!

Empty Bowls

Empty Bowls took place on Friday March 4th and was the most successful yet! Together we raised over \$15,000 for My Sister's Place. More information

about the event can be found [here](#). The photos below are taken by Lynn Heinitz.



Above: Pauline helping Mayor Matt Brown and his wife Andrea make Empty Bowls. **Below:** Michael Barr, the guild's youngest member, throwing bowl for the Empty Bowls event







KEY CONTACTS

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Yes! I want to support the London Potters Guild "Seize the Clay Campaign"

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