

# London Potters Guild

## NEWSLETTER



The annual general meeting is Tuesday, January 12, 7:00 -9:30pm on the second floor of the LCAC.



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*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.*

## **Announcement of Annual General Meeting**

All LPG members are invited to join us at the annual general meeting Tuesday, January 12, 2016 from 7-9:30 on the second floor at London Clay Art Centre.

This is your opportunity to listen to the auditor's report and ask questions about the LPG's fiscal health. We will also reflect on the many successes of 2014-15 and elect or acclaim new members to the LPG board of directors. Your participation counts!

If you wish to stand for nomination to the board, please contact Evelina Silveira at [lcacvolunteercoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:lcacvolunteercoordinator@gmail.com). Nominations will also be taken from the floor the night of the meeting.

### **WHAT:**

Annual general meeting of The London Potters Guild

### **WHEN:**

Tuesday, January 12, 2016

7-9:30 p.m.

### **WHERE:**

2<sup>nd</sup> floor, London Clay Art Centre

## **Message from the Chair**

**DARLENE PRATT**

In 2016, the London Potters Guild will turn 35 years old! I am proud to say that I have been involved for 24 of those great years and have seen huge growth organizationally as well as artistically among our membership!

It never ceases to amaze me what has been achieved through the monumental efforts of many highly dedicated and skilled volunteers. The LPG is a better run organization than many companies run by paid staff. In its 35 year history, we have never had a deficit and have continually added value for our membership and the community. Congratulations!

As of the annual general meeting in January (see

the announcement above), Judy Sparkes will become the Chair of the LPG Board of Directors. Judy has made a tremendous commitment in taking on this position. For the past two years, she has shadowed me and gained a deep understanding of the complexities of running a 7,000 square foot facility with a membership of 160, hundreds of students and customers, etc. I am confident in Judy's ability to move the LPG and LCAC forward with the thoughtful input and guidance of a strong board team.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at the annual holiday dinner! Please join us from 6-9:30 on Tuesday, December 8 on the second floor at London Clay Art Centre. See you then to celebrate the holiday season, commune with our clay friends, and enjoy some fantastic home-prepared food!

Sincerely,

Darlene

# LPG History

Did you know that the LPG has been involved in the Empty Bowls fundraising initiative in London for over 20 years?

Empty Bowls is an international program that supports food-related charities around the world and has raised millions of dollars to aid in the fight against hunger. The event was founded by Lisa Blackburn and art teacher John Hartom in 1990-91 when they joined a drive to raise charitable funds in John's Michigan community. Hartom's idea was to organize a charitable event to give artists and art students a way to make a personal difference. Hartom's students made ceramic bowls in their high school art classes. The finished products were then used as individual serving pieces for a fund-raising meal of soup and bread. Contributing guests kept the empty bowl. During the next year, Hartom and other participants developed this concept into "Empty Bowls" (Wikipedia).

In the earlier years in London, the LPG supported the efforts of the main organizer, the Unitarian Fellowship. LPG members made bowls and donated them to the Fellowship while their congregants did the rest. 2006 may have been the last year the Fellowship ran Empty Bowls in London. The event disappeared only to be resurrected in 2013 by LPG member Judy Sparkes. Judy was unaware of the LPG's history with the event. It was only by virtue of her passion for food combined with her love of clay that the LPG became the de facto "host" organization. Strictly speaking Empty Bowls does not reflect the LPG's charitable purpose, but the synchronicity between the event and our medium is undeniable.

In 2013, Empty Bowls funds were donated to the Ark Aid Mission, one of our close neighbours in the Old East Village (OEV). In 2014, proceeds were donated to the Country Cupboard Food Bank at Regional HIV/AIDS Connection, and this year the funds were donated to the El Sistema music program run out of Aeolian Hall, another close neighbour and collaborator in the OEV.



*Above: Empty Bowl Making in September*

LPG members will be proud to know that through their efforts, the last three Empty Bowls have raised and donated \$26,000 to other local charities!

## **Frequently Asked Question**

**Q:** Do the hours I spend working on Empty Bowls count toward my requirement to fulfill two hours a month of work for the LPG?

**A:** This is a tough one to answer, but here it goes...

The LPG is a charity whose purpose is "the advancement of education". We fulfill our charitable purpose by offering access to classes, workshops, studio space,

instructional opportunities, etc. For 35 years, we have relied on our members to provide labour toward operating the organization and its facilities. We could not have achieved what we have without hundreds of thousands of hours committed to building the LPG's programming and infrastructure.

Other charities in the city were established with "the relief of poverty" as their charitable purpose or driving force. Similarly, these organizations could not continue to exist without significant volunteer commitment. Imagine if all or many of the volunteers for charity A suddenly decided to put their efforts toward charity B; charity A would soon be facing a crisis and find itself unable to fulfill its purpose.

Empty Bowls is a brilliant initiative for an exceedingly worthy cause. Its formula melds naturally with our talents as clay artists and its mandate is easy to support because it addresses the essential needs of people in our community. Empty Bowls has provided exposure for the LPG, which in all likelihood has brought customers to our store and students to our classes. From that standpoint, the involvement of LPG members in organizing Empty Bowls is bringing benefit to the LPG/LCAC. But, it must be acknowledged that Empty Bowls also requires significant time, energy, and resources that are not directly benefitting the everyday operations of LCAC.

The tough part is that over the years, we have erroneously referred to the members' commitment of two hours a month toward the LPG/LCAC as volunteer time when, in fact, two hours a month is a mandatory requirement of studio membership. Running the organization as a collective or cooperative has allowed us to continue to offer very affordable memberships - \$20 a month! We need each member's effort to help us run the Centre and the LPG because we are not in a position to hire full-time staff to cover all the myriad needs of the facility and its members.

In addition, we have a responsibility to our fun-

ders to make efforts to raise money that directly funds LPG/LCAC's operations. Funders are asking, "If you can mount the effort to raise money for other charities outside of your charitable purpose, why can't you raise money for yourselves?" This is a very valid question and one we need to address by striking a fundraising committee for the LPG/LCAC.

With all that said, we respectfully ask that you fulfill your requirement of 2 hours a month toward the LPG and LCAC operations and consider all the additional time you spend in supporting the LPG/LCAC and Empty Bowls as your volunteer contribution.

Please enter your monthly hours contribution in the log book and make a specific "Empty Bowls" notation for hours spent supporting the event. That way, we can track the time commitment being made by LPG members toward Empty Bowls as well as the required hours and additional volunteer time.

## Membership

### **Become a Gold Member!**

Two years ago we implemented an additional membership tier called the Gold Membership. The intention is to recuperate money in place of the required time commitment of 2 hours per month. The additional funds can then be put toward additional hours for paid staff.

For those of you who want to continue using the fabulous facilities at London Clay Art Centre, but find it very difficult to fulfill the time requirement, a Gold Membership will remove the obligation of time toward extra cleaning, loading kilns, mixing glazes, etc.

### **This is the cost structure for purchasing a Gold Membership for an individual:**

\$80 + HST for a regular guild membership, plus  
\$600 + HST for a studio membership at the Gold level

### **TOTAL: \$680 +HST**

You must also purchase shelf space at a cost of \$30 + HST per unit annually as well as your own clay at:

\$27 for sleeve of mid-smooth stone studio clay  
\$54 for a box of mid-smooth stone studio clay  
\$29 for sleeve of specialty clay  
\$58 for box of specialty clay

**It's not too late to become a Gold Member! Please contact the LPG Membership Coordinator, Laila Brandt, at [lailart@live.ca](mailto:lailart@live.ca) to purchase a Gold Membership.**

## Volunteer Update

EVELINA SILVEIRA

### **Volunteer Hours Tracking**

Thank you to all of the members who are regularly tracking their hours in the volunteer book in the store. The information collected will be inputted into the data base each month. Having a record of your hours is helpful in many ways which goes beyond tracking for funding purposes. We get a better picture of: who is engaged in what activities; where the gaps may be; and the level to which members are involved in operations. All of this assists with planning future and current staffing levels to cover any gaps in operations. With the help of webmaster **Jonathan Dueck** and artist-in-residence, **Nicole Waddick**, we are working toward a way to make this process accessible online. Stay tuned for more information.

### **Volunteer Recognition**

Each month, all members who have entered their volunteer hours will have their names placed into a draw for two pugs of free reclaim clay. **Cathy Regan** and **Edward Yamamoto** were the winners for October. Cathy and Edward help out in a variety of tasks including: pugging clay; cleaning, and assisting with classes and drop-ins.

### **Orientation Session for New Members**

A streamlined 1.5 hour orientation session has 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 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, Volunteer

and Health and Safety Coordinators. If you would like to attend the next session, please contact Laila Brandt, Membership [Coordinator](#) .

### **Studio Team Assignment**

All studio members who have completed a survey have been assigned to a team with a leader. Some teams will have more members than others. Each member has been assigned to an activity for which they have indicated an interest or in which they have participated in the past. The purpose of these allocations is to ensure that all studio members have a specific role in LCAC's operations. You'll find the cleaning team is comprised of the most members. It is the best spot for those who cannot commit to a regular schedule at the LCAC, so having them on the "Clean Team" is a win-win for all. As we know, no matter what time you come in there is always cleaning to do! You may also notice some members names will show up in a few places because they tend to be associated with a number of tasks in the organization. **In any case if you see any errors or omissions, please let me know and I will correct them – nothing is set in stone.**

### **Job Descriptions and Training Videos**

As part of this project, a job description will be written for each volunteer position in the organization. To compliment the job descriptions, we will have training videos and how-to instructions for key positions. I am working with **Jonathan Dueck** to coordinate these training videos which will be uploaded onto the members' only section of the new website. The tools will be great refreshers for those who have completed the Studio Potters' Program and can serve to augment the training and mentoring the Team Leader will be providing. We will be beginning with Glaze Making with **Teresa Ainsworth**.

### **Thanks to our Cleaning Helpers**

As many of you are aware, we have been without a paid cleaner for over a month. It wasn't so easy to put out the call for volunteers to clean the bathrooms and kitchen –not the most glamorous of

jobs, but very important ones. But, there was a response! Thanks to **Pauline Durham, Chris Snedden, Nicole Waddick, Shari Arnold, Ray Campbell, Beverly McNaughton, Muna Hanesh** and **Cathy Roberts** who have taken on some extra cleaning duties during this time. I am sure there are others who go nameless and we thank them as well for keeping the place clean, safe and professional for all to enjoy!

### **Volunteer Committee – Members Needed**

As part of the sustainability plan of the project, a committee designated to member service obligations needs to be struck as the JCP staffing draws a close. The volunteer committee will

- ◆ collaborate with the Membership Coordinator to deliver orientation to new members;
- ◆ track volunteer hours;
- ◆ assign and monitor LCAC teams;
- ◆ create reward and recognition events;
- ◆ seek ways to actively engage members and improve their experiences; and
- ◆ recruit new members to upcoming committees and work groups related to outreach and fundraising.

Ideally, I would like to start this committee in January to give time to orient the members before I pass on all of the duties in March. If you are interested in learning more about this committee, please contact me at [lcacvolunteercoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:lcacvolunteercoordinator@gmail.com).



**Above:** Chris demonstrating surface decorating techniques at the November meeting

## Internal Workshops

JUDY RISELING

The Internal Workshops will start up again in the new year. We are planning some interesting, exciting programs including coil pots, glaze treatments, tile making, open studios, tool making and more. Keep your eyes peeled on your email for dates, times and workshop information. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

## Programming

ELLY PAKALNIS

We are beginning 2016 with engaging presentations by some of our very own members as well a guest presenters:

**January 12:** Jordan Scott will discuss his adventures and experiences at the St. Ives pottery.

**February 9:** Nicole Waddick, our Artist-in-Residence will speak on her sculptural ceramic practice.

**March 8:** The London Garden Club will give a presentation on selection of vases for flower arrangements. This is to let members begin thinking of ideas for the spring sale.

**April 12:** Unha Hill of the Hamilton Guild will discuss simple flower arranging techniques to enhance a ceramic vessel.

**May 10:** Guild of Indigenous Artists presenter will discuss traditional art making processes.

That is it! Have a great holiday with your bigger family. Elly

## Studio Potter Program

ELLY PAKALNIS

The London Potters' Guild offers to its membership a *free* series of 4 Studio Potter Program sessions educating our membership on the theoretical and practical aspects of studio practice. The following

is a brief description of the various sessions along with the dates and times that they are offered. Members can register for a session by either signing up on the sign-up sheet that is posted on the back bulletin board by the red doors or email [epakalnis3@execulink.com](mailto:epakalnis3@execulink.com). Please note that new studio members must take at least 1 session per year. Completion of the 4 sessions along with committing 4 volunteer hours to the tasks of a session, plus teaching another member how to do the tasks taught at one of the sessions, will result with the London Potters' Guild Studio Potter Program Certificate.

### **Studio and Equipment Maintenance for January 31st, 1-4 p.m. with Sandy Harquail**

Participants will learn the significance of keeping the studio clean to prevent silicosis, a hazardous lung condition. Since there is dust (silica) generated by working with clay, it is critical that the clay dust is removed as much as possible. As a hands on session, members will be responsible for cleaning various parts of the studio spaces with the following practice in mind "Spray, Mop, Rinse and Repeat" as well as learn how to take apart, repair and reassemble the wheelhead and pedal of the potter's wheel.

### **Kiln Loading and Unloading, February 28th , 1-4 p.m. with Chris Snedden**

Once our pieces are ready to be fired, our next step is to learn how to load and unload the kilns for maximum results. This session will teach participants the nuances of kiln loading and unloading as well as how to set the kiln controller for bisque and glaze firings. Kiln maintenance will incorporate shelf care and how to clean the kiln.

### **Glaze Making, March 20th, 1-4 p.m. TBA**

Participants will learn the essential ingredients to create glazes and the significance of silica, fluxes, stabilizers, and colorants. The hands on approach to this session will include making a glaze and being familiar with how to measure and calculate the amount required to make a glaze. Glaze maintenance will consist of checking where the glazes are located, ensuring

there is enough of an ingredient, ensuring the glazes are labeled and then cleaning the glaze surfaces.

### **Reclaim, April 24th, 1-4 p.m. with Pauline Durham**

Since the London Clay Arts Centre generates a lot of clay to be reclaimed, participants will learn how to recycle clay for reuse and how to use the pug-mill. Various phases of reclaim and the best methods of reclaiming clay will be discussed.

## **Health and Safety**

GARY WORRALL

### **Studio Safety**

We are currently seeking members to join the Joint Health and Safety Committee, whose goal is to ensure the ongoing health and safety of all who use LCAC. Through the help of our members, we feel that we can create an environment that feels as safe and comfortable as a second home!

Duties of the committee will include regular inspections of all equipment and work areas inside LCAC, including the first aid kits, CO detectors, and fire extinguishers. Other duties will include investigating onsite incidents, addressing health and safety concerns, providing updates to both the membership and the Board of Directors, and attending committee meetings. All these activities will count towards your volunteer hours.

If you're interested, please contact the Health and Safety co-ordinator at [lcachealthandsafety@gmail.com](mailto:lcachealthandsafety@gmail.com) or the volunteer co-ordinator at [lcacvolunteercoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:lcacvolunteercoordinator@gmail.com).

### **Upcoming CPR Classes**

The City of London is offering Community CPR Days early in 2016. The 2.5hr course covers CPR, choking procedures, and defibrillator use for adults. The courses start in February and are offered at various community centres in London. The \$5 program cost covers the CPR Level A certification card you receive at the end of the day. Everyone who attends and brings in a copy of their certificate will be entered into a draw for a FREE pug of reclaim clay. See the Health and Safety Board in January for a list of times and locations.



## Poem for Teresa

By Janice White

This night is bittersweet for those  
Who realize that soon the throes  
Of panic will be drawing nigh,  
And many days we'll hear the cry  
Of one more potter's shaky voice,  
When faced with a perplexing choice  
Or question of just who to ask,  
"What is the next step of this task?"  
Then someone else who's there that day  
Is bound to pipe up now and say,  
"Just ask Teresa", then it will dawn,  
OMG Teresa's gone!  
But persevere we shall, though rough,  
Because they make us potters tough,  
And who deserves the respite more?  
And travel holds such great allure...  
So when you're viewing ancient pots,  
Or taking your breathtaking shots;  
When you are chatting in a pub,  
Or dining on exotic grub;  
Wherever you are, in whichever parts,  
Teresa you'll be in our hearts.



# Donation Form

Attached to the end of the newsletter you will find a donation form. Please consider making a donation to The London Potters Guild to help us continue to operate London Clay Art Centre to the highest standard possible. You can also make a specific donation toward the gas kiln fund. Simply make a notation on the form and your contribution will be set aside for the gas kiln

## **KEY CONTACTS**

### **Chair**

Darlene Pratt  
prattdarlene4@gmail.com

### **Vice Chair**

Judy Sparkes  
jude@fullcirclepottery.com

### **Secretary**

Robin Chacko  
rlcpottery@gmail.com

### **Treasurer**

Carol Anne Van Boxtel  
cavanboxtel48@gmail.com

### **Classes**

Sandy Harquail  
sharquail@hotmail.com

### **Workshops**

Marilyn Barbe (external)  
mbarbe@execulink.com  
Judy Riseling (Internal)  
riseling@uwo.ca

### **Studio Tech**

Sandy Harquail  
Shawn Durant  
studiotech@londonpottersguild.org

### **Programs**

Elly Pakalnis  
epakalnis3@execulink.com

### **Administrator**

Cheryl Radford  
admin@londonpottersguild.org

### **Volunteering**

Evelina Silveira  
lcacvolunteercoordinator@gmail.com

### **Newsletter**

Brendan Wilson  
bwilso24@gmail.com





*London Potters Guild*  
*Seize the Clay Campaign*  
 72-900 Pondview Rd.  
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 519-680-3874

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

Enclosed please find my gift in the amount of: \$  (Canadian Dollars)

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**A charitable receipt will be issued for the full amount of your donation.**

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