

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.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

If any of you have visited my “office” at London Clay Art Centre (LCAC), you will have seen many boxes stacked on top of each other to the right of my desk. Those very same boxes lived the previous 14 years in a closet in my home. Marilyn Barbe, who housed them for many years before that, passed them on to me.

The reason those boxes are precious enough to be lovingly shuffled from home to home over several decades is because they contain historical relics of The London Potters Guild (LPG). To refresh your memory, the LPG is the charitable entity that owns and operates LCAC.

In those boxes are handwritten minutes from board meetings, old newsletters and exhibition catalogues, photos of original members at early LPG events, and other information that tells the story of the people who founded the LPG in 1981 and built it into a vibrant arts organization that has had a lasting affect on the community.

We just celebrated 10 years at London Clay Art Centre. In 2021, we will honour 40 years of what has affectionately become known as “the guild”.

Like a family that wants to understand and preserve its family tree, it is very important for organizations to document and preserve their histories. Understanding the “DNA” of an organization, its people, its activities, and the vision set in place by its founders, helps keep it strongly anchored as it moves into the future.

Leading up to the LPG’s 40th anniversary, we will strike a committee to oversee the development of a celebration.

I look forward to sharing the LPG’s history with you! In the meantime, feel free to stare at the boxes by my desk in anticipation of what they will become.

The effort will include accessing a skilled archivist who can sift through the many boxes by my desk, as well as any others that are hiding in the closets of other members, and put the information into a logical format. The resulting materials will be invaluable for the LPG’s successive leaders and members, as well as for the broader community.

As always, I am happy to meet in person to answer any questions you have and deepen your understanding.

Sincerely, Darlene Pratt

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EMPTY BOWLS –2020



Empty Bowls (March 6, 2020) –

We desperately need decorators and glazer to finish the many dozen of bisqued bowls made during our last Bowl-a-thon (see photos). Bowls are piling up and we need to free up the Empty Bowl storage space for the next Super Bowl-a-thon, probably in December. A total of up to 700 bowls need to be finished before March 6th, 2020. This initiative raises funds for organizations that provide food for hungry people in our community. LPG members make 700 bowls, local restaurants and bakeries donate soup, bread, coffee, and tea. Tickets sell for \$30 each and patrons enjoy a simple “poverty meal” and take home a bowl of their choice. For over two decades, the LPG has participated in the local Empty Bowls project. In the past several years, we have taken the lead role. Since that time, the Empty Bowls (EB) initiative has raised approximately \$60,000 for local organizations. The EB committee can always use extra hands to create and decorate bowls, organize logistics, and work during the event.

Saturday (November 2nd) a small group of Jenny Keller, Darlene Pratt, Alice Nagus and Teresa Ainsworth met to throw about 105 bowls. Many thanks to them and Gene Timpany for helping to trim some of the bowls on Monday and to Christine Stringler for her beautiful hand-built bowls. The recipient of the funds raised for the next Empty Bowls event will be the Ark Aid Mission—just a half block from our Guild.

Below are some photos of finished bowls ready for the next Empty Bowls event plus some of the lonely, sad and undecorated and unglazed bowls on the rack waiting for some love.



There are lots of bowls ready for decorating and glazing. Please take a little time when you are in and working on your own pieces to take one or two bowls and decorate/glaze them. “Many hands you know.....”

Photos by Teresa Ainsworth

10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION—OCTOBER 26, 2019

We had a great turnout for the party on Saturday, October 26 when we celebrated 10 years of operations at London Clay Art Centre, home of The London Potters Guild. All LPG members, LCAC's neighbours, and local dignitaries were invited to come and raise a glass of wine (or beer or water) to mark the occasion.

We also recognized the Ontario Trillium Foundation for the Grow Grant we received from 2017 to 2019. The funds have helped us deliver a project that builds on the success of LCAC's past programming. With a \$297,000 grant over 24 months, we are expanding activities that support arts-based participation – classes and workshops at LCAC. Over the 2 years of the grant, we will have increased program participants by at least 480 people in the community. OTF volunteer grant reviewer, Chris Harding, and MPP, Terence Kernaghan spoke about how we were chosen based on how well we described our past success and the need to do more in the community based on having amassed a lengthy waiting list for classes and workshops. The province knows how much value we bring to the community and continues to support our efforts in providing more.

Other speakers included Jen Pastorius, Manager of the Old East Village Business Improvement Area, and Jesse Helmer, Deputy Mayor of the City of London. They congratulated us on our monumental achievement and impact we've had on the revitalization of the Old East Village. You can see a letter of congratulations from Ed Holder, Mayor of London in the LCAC store.

Many thanks to the 10th anniversary committee of Genet Hodder, Marilyn Barbe, Robin Chacko, Cheryl Radford, and Darlene Pratt for organizing the night. Special thanks to Margaret Nickle for organizing the food including an amazing cake with a copy of Cheryl's artwork (water colour composition with a potter at a wheel and the front of LCAC). Much appreciation to Maria Drangova and David Holdsworth for setting up the PA system, and to the many volunteers who helped set up before and clean up after the event. Lastly, thanks to the artists who submitted auction items to launch the Clay 4 Kids Programs Fund.



Additionally, we launched the **Clay 4 Kids Program Fund** so we can share the joy of clay with as many kids as possible! Through the fund, we will provide bursaries that will help us give important educational opportunities in clay to more kids, more often!

Visit <https://www.londonclayartcentre.org/clay-4-kids-fund.html> to read more and gain a better understanding of what we want to do with the funds.

You can also make a donation online

<https://www.londonclayartcentre.org/donate-now.html>

Thank you to all the artists who made unique pieces for the silent auction. Through the 50/50 draw, individual donations, and auction items, we raised \$2,543 (and counting) for the **Clay 4 Kids** fund. That's a great start to a new initiative!

Check out the new Clay 4 Kids Pages on the LCAC Website!

Some photos of the 10th Anniversary Party generously supplied by Lynn Heintz



Welcome Jenny Keller



Meet LCAC's new Studio Coordinator & Technician

You may have noticed that Jenny's job title is slightly different than was George's when he was hired in October 2018. To effectively engage studio-users in running LCAC's busy operations, the position requires a lot of interactions and an ability to delegate myriad tasks. Of course, it also requires knowledge of ceramics and ceramic processes and a willingness and ability to provide physical labour toward keeping everything running smoothly.

Therefore, the hiring committee of Shelley Boa, Amy Klinkhamer, Jenn Jack, Dauma Stirbyte, Carol Anne Van Boxtel, and Darlene Pratt decided the new title more accurately reflects the daily duties and expectations of the role.

Jenny Keller

Jenny grew up on a small family dairy farm outside London. After high school, she attended H.B. Beal Secondary School for its visual arts program where she fell in love with ceramics and received the LPG's Edith Pierce Memorial Award in 2015. In 2019, she graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Art degree from Alberta University of the Arts, with a major in ceramics. Jenny was LCAC's Summer Studio Technician Assistant in the summers of 2017 and 2019.

Her ceramic work is mostly functional tableware. She makes pottery with the intention of the pieces being used to help create and grow community. Her inspiration for surface design usually comes from nature and patterns in everyday objects. Jenny loves working with her hands, teaching, and learning from others.

Main responsibilities at LCAC:

- Liaise/facilitate/manage all studio-related volunteer committee leaders and members, including: kiln loading, glaze making, sorting, pugging, and cleaning
- Maintain and facilitate smooth operation of studio related tasks, spaces, and equipment
- Maintain and control inventory of materials and tools
- Provide training for studio-related tasks when needed and also provide training in conjunction with the Studio Potter Program (SPP)
- Ensure health and safety standards are practiced at London Clay Art Centre
- Ensure adherence of all members to the LPG/LCAC Global Code of Conduct and the use of proper studio etiquette related to hygiene, etc.

LPG/LCAC Global Code of Conduct and Operational Policies and Procedures

You may have noticed a brand new Code of Conduct poster in the LCAC studios. Over the past year, we spent time honing over 220 pages of operational policies and procedures, two of which are the new Global Code of Conduct and the procedural document that outlines what to do in cases of breach of the code.

Please take a moment to review the code on the southwest wall of the first floor washrooms. Additionally, you can peruse the Operational Policies and Procedures Manual that is sitting in the folder holder that is mounted to the right of the large bulletin board.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

Bep Schippers

Program Coordinator
London Clay Art Centre

If you have any suggestions for other workshops please contact Bep either in person or by email programming@londonclayartcentre.org

DECEMBER HOLIDAY PARTY

LPG Holiday Party, Tuesday, December 10, second floor at London Clay Art Centre 6:15pm—9:00pm

All LPG members and their chosen people are welcome to join us on the second floor at LCAC for a rousing potluck holiday dinner. This is a pure potluck. Bring whatever you'd like to provide. We do not specify what you should bring. If we end up with 1200 chocolate chip cookies, we eat chocolate chip cookies all night!

Arrive starting at 6:15 pm with a dish of food in hand. We plan to start eating at 6:45 pm and festivities will extend until 9 pm.

Participate in the mug exchange (see below).

We will be drawing winning names for the 10 prizes from Tucker's Pottery Supply and Pottery Supply House related to the 10 questions asked during our 10th anniversary celebration. We will also give away five boxes of mid-smooth stone clay to those who filled out the survey back in August.

And, we have a special gift for all LPG members but you have to be there to get it!

Mug Exchange

Instead of the Clay Olympics and a silent auction, this year we've decided to do a mug exchange. What's that you say?

Wrap up a mug you've made and place it into a gift bag so it cannot be seen. Bring it to the party and place it on the designated table. Later in the evening, if you brought a mug, you will have a chance to choose a mug to take home. This is a nice way to learn about other people's work and share a kind of special gift of art.

Help needed organizing, setting up and cleaning up after the party!

Putting on a party like this takes many hands. Over the past several years Elly Pakalnis and Margaret Nickle have taken the lead on organizing the holiday party. Elly has stepped down and we would like to say thank you for your efforts. You brought us many fantastic holiday evenings!

Can someone else please step forward to put the party together?

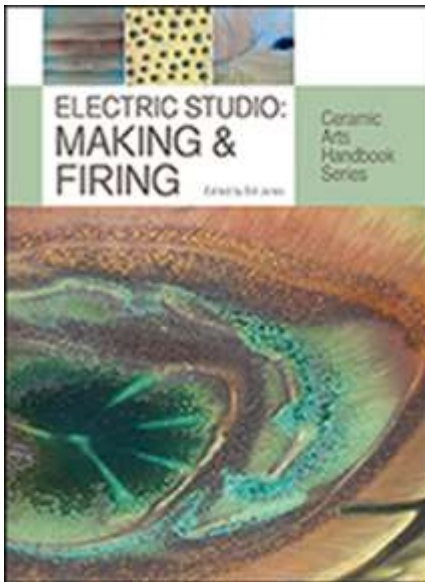
Contact Darlene at darlene@londonclayartcentre.org or by calling 519-434-1664 ext. 4

RESOURCES

One of the great aspects of clay work is that there is always something to learn and new ideas to explore. There is a plethora of information out there on the internet and in those old-fashioned items—books.

Below are two resources on two of the more complex issues that arise when making clay work.

1. FIRING: Firing your work is something that new potters (and some more experienced ones) have trouble with. It is easy to hand your treasured pieces to someone else to fire but not so easy to figure out what went right or wrong and why your pieces don't look like the ones in the book/magazine/website or even why it doesn't look like the test tile or even the piece you made last month. There are so many variables that it is hard to not just blame the kiln loaders and firers. Since some of you are thinking of buying/are buying/have bought a kiln you need to know a lot more than what shelf to put your pot on at the Guild. The book below is an invaluable resource for the new kiln owner.



GO WAY BEYOND THE OWNER'S MANUAL!

With a multitude of improvements over the years, electric kilns are now safer, more efficient, and easier to use than ever before. Chances are, you are using one for at least part of your process. But are you really getting the most out of your electric kiln?

The handbook, [*Electric Studio: Making & Firing*](#), will help you operate and maintain your kiln more effectively, explore clays and glazes that work well in electric firing, and reveal techniques to achieve special effects once considered unattainable with electric. With contributions from more than 20 experts on electric kilns, this book will help you get more out of your firings than you ever thought possible.

2. Glaze Chemistry

For all of you who need/want a basic understanding of glaze chemistry or need to review your high school chemistry this website puts the subject of glaze chemistry in very simple and easy to understand terms.

<https://youtu.be/BT1s48h8P2o>

This will help you to understand the Guild glazes and maybe get the courage to start testing your own glazes.

WOOD-FIRING AT PINECROFT

Each year, some members of the London Potters Guild, get together, rent the wood kiln at Pinecroft in Alymer and fire with the help of Tony Clennell, the wood-firing guru of SW Ontario. This fall, 7 members of the Guild, Chris Snedden, Carol Wong, Cathy Regan, Brendan Wilson, Christine Torres, Judy Sparkes, and Bev McNaughton spent a weekend throwing wood into the fire-box and then having to wait an interminable week to be able to unload the kiln and see the results of the firing. By all accounts, it was a very successful firing.



Photos taken by Carol Wong



STUDIO POTTER PROGRAM

From Elly Pakalnis

Studio Potter Program Sessions:

All LPG members are given the opportunity of participating in four Studio Potter Program Sessions throughout the year. New members take one SPP session per year. Of course, if any members want a refresher, they are welcome to retake sessions as well. The following is a listing of the upcoming sessions for this fall:

Sunday, December 1st, 1-4 p.m., Glaze Making with Teresa Ainsworth

This session will provide participants with information about of the various ingredients involved in making glazes including silica, fluxes, stabilizers and colorants. Simple methods to test the functionality of your glazes and safe working practices will be covered. Appointments to make glazes, (including making test samples) can be set up as it will be most effective to teach the practicality of glaze making one on one.

Sunday, December 29th, 1-4 p.m., Reclaim with Pauline Durham

The reclaim session provides proven methods of recycling ones class after amassing clay from any throwing mishaps or much build up of trimmings.

Please note: All the SPP sessions are free to the membership.

Elly Pakalnis

Studio Potter Program Coordinator

epakalnis3@execulink.com

Upcoming workshops will include:

kiln loading and unloading—how to, what not to, cautions

Studio maintenance— cleaning, simple wheel and kiln repairs and maintenance

Any more suggestions Contact Elly at the email above

ELLY'S BIG ADVENTURE

Elly Pakalnis had the opportunity to travel to China in October with a group of potters led by Unha Hill. Below are just a few of the many photos she took during the 3 week trip.

Great Wall of China



Traditional architecture



Interior—temple of Heaven



Translucent pots



Delicately carved pot



Giant ceramic dragon



Massive vases



Amazing sculpture from Taiwan



Tea time with the group



Terracotta warriors in X'ian



POTTERS MARKET—FALL 2019

The Fall Potter's Market took place at the Board of Education building at 1250 Dundas Street on Saturday and Sunday, November 16 and 17th. A total of 48 potters participated including 5 new participants—Tim Wilkinson, Catherine Pittana, Anne Gammage, April Ossenkop, and Dora Foster. The show looked fabulous and although the final numbers aren't in yet, I estimate the total sales were approximately \$48,000. A table showcasing the Clay 4 Kids information and some of the pieces created for the 10th anniversary also garnered just under \$300 in donations and a lot of interest. Below are a few of the photos from the market. Unfortunately (or fortunately depending upon your viewpoint) I was too busy on cash to take a photo of the busiest time with dozens of customers shopping.



LPG Board of Directors

Judy Sparkes President	jude@fullcirclepottery.com
Lawrence Durham Treasurer	lawrenceadurham@gmail.com
Marilyn Barbe Secretary	mbarbe@execulink.com
Endri Poletti	endri@poletti-architect.com
Shelley Boa	sheboapottery@yahoo.com
Cathy Herbert	cathy_cares@live.ca
Karen Bailey	karenbailey@sympatico.ca
Dorothy Howell	howellmex@yahoo.com



LPG Board of Directors

Left to right:

Top Row: Judy Sparkes, Lawrence Durham

Middle Row: Cathy Herbert, Endri Poletti, Karen Bailey

Bottom Row: Shelley Boa, Marilyn Barbe, Dorothy Howell

LPG Staff Members

Darlene Pratt Executive Director	darlene @londonclayartcentre.org
Cheryl Radford Administrator	cheryl @londonclayartcentre.org
Carol Anne van Boxtel Finances/Accountant	carolanne@ londonclayartcentre.org
Jenny Keller Studio coordinator & technician	technician @londonclayartcentre.org
Bep Schippers Program Coordinator	programming @londonclayartcentre.org

Committee and Team Chairs

Bep Schippers exhibition/workshops/ classes	programming/ @londonclayartcentre.org
Jenny Keller Studio Maintenance	technician @londonclayartcentre.org
Nancy Friedrich Potters Markt/Sales	nfriedrich@hotmail.com
Robin Chacko Membership Engage- ment	rlcpottery@gmail.com
Judy Sparkes Empty Bowls	jude@fullcirclepottery.com
Cathy Regan LCAC Store	cregan@uwo.ca
Jenny Keller kiln loading/unloading	Technician @londonclayartcentre.org
Cheryl Radford new member intake	Cheryl@londonclayartcentre.org
Teresa Ainsworth Newsletter/glaze team/library	tainsworth1@gmail.com
Health and Safety	vacant



Give the Gift of Art to Kids

The funds support programs for kids aged 6-15 at LCAC.



"Seeing Simon so happy, cooperative, and so productive with clay was a truly priceless experience." Simon's mom.
Simon's story: www.londonclayartcentre.org/simon.html



Yes! I want to help kids access the arts!

I am interested in receiving information about LCAC and Clay 4 Kids.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov: _____ PC: _____

Email: _____ Tel: _____

How to give: online: www.londonclayartcentre.org, call LCAC 519-434-1664
visit LCAC, 664 Dundas Street (Visa, MC, Debit, Cash, Cheque)

Donation Amount:

- \$50 (send a child to a workshop) \$80 (send 2 children to a workshop)
 \$180 (send a child to a camp or class) \$500
 Other _____

On behalf of the kids, thank you for your support!