

NEWS

IN CLAY



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

DARLENE PRATT

Happy New Year! I hope you had a restful and enjoyable holiday season and are ready for another year of creativity at London Clay Art Centre (LCAC).

To kick off 2015, at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, January 13 upstairs at London Clay Art Centre we will hold our annual general meeting from 7-9 p.m. As usual, the financials for the previous fiscal year will be presented by auditors from Davis-Martindale; we will either elect or acclaim new members to the London Potters Guild (LPG) board of directors; and address any new business arising.

The LPG is saying goodbye to six long-time members of the board who have made outstanding contributions to The London Potters Guild and London Clay Art Centre. Please join me in extending deepest gratitude to the following people whose wisdom and dedication on the board will be missed:

Teresa Ainsworth – Membership Coordinator, Past-president, Sale Committee, Empty Bowls Committee, Seize the Clay Committee, etc.

Marilyn Barbe – External Workshop Coordinator, Past-president, Seize the Clay Committee, etc.

Genet Hodder – Class Coordinator, Store Committee, Doors Open Coordinator, Seize the Clay Committee, Past-president, etc.

Nancy Marshall – Past-president, Sale Committee, Home County Folk Festival Committee, etc.

Jane Paterak – Exhibition Committee Chair, Past-president, Seize the Clay Committee, etc.

Sandra Paterson – Store Committee; Doors Open Coordinator; etc.

To date, we have received four nominations for election to the board, and nominations from the floor will be taken the night of the annual general meeting. Anyone who is a current member of the

LPG can be nominated or self-nominate for the board. Please contact Nancy Marshall for more information.

Looking ahead, the year will be filled with workshops, classes, festivals, sales, summer camps, and other outreach opportunities as we strengthen our program offerings and grow our presence in the community. Just a reminder that our member meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month from September to May starting at 7 p.m. at LCAC. These gatherings are a great opportunity to learn more about your fellow artists and upcoming events and programs at London Clay Art Centre.

Personally, I never cease to be amazed at the depth and breadth of annual achievements! We have a vibrant group of generous and creative people whose volunteer efforts make a huge contribution to the city's vitality and whose influence extends throughout Southwestern Ontario.

Thank you for your continuing support of the guild and of London Clay Art Centre. Get ready for another year of fun and fellowship!

Darlene

INTERNAL WORKSHOPS

PATTI WILK

Our first internal workshops for 2015 are already up for registration, and filling quickly!

We have a full calendar planned, starting off with monthly *Open Studio* workshops. These are a chance for participants to choose what area they wish to improve upon, and receive specific instruction to suit their own particular needs. We have a variety of potters teaching these sessions, with our first workshop led by David Moynihan on Jan 18, running from 1-5 pm. Anyone who took this workshop in 2014 knows how the many helpful hints and techniques offered can improve your skills!!

Due to the popularity of *Watercolours on Clay*, David Moynihan will be running a repeat workshop on Jan

25, from 10-5. There are still a couple of spots left for registration, so sign up quickly. Remember, if a session is full, please contact Cheryl Radford at [519-434-1664](tel:519-434-1664) to be put on the waiting list.

Here's a sneak peek at some 2015 workshops: **Platter Moldmaking** with Kaitlyn McGill on Feb 22, **Yunomi and Teabowls** with Jordan Scott on Mar 1, **Glazing** with Kim Davy (date to be confirmed), **Gold Lustre** with Kaitlyn McGill on May 31, **Raku** with Chris Snedden on July 26, **Teapots** with Sandy Harquail on Aug 2, **Tile Making** with Beth Turnbull-Morrish Sept 27, and **Dinnerware**, a five day workshop with David Moynihan running Aug 24-28. There will also be two other workshops that are presently being organized, for June and October — details of those workshops at a later date!

Internal workshops are very special because they celebrate the techniques and generosity of guild members, sharing their knowledge with other guild members. Talent, love of pottery, and teaching expertise are showcased in internal workshops, for which we must thank all our dedicated workshop leaders!

All internal workshop details will be sent out to the membership, and be available for registration, approximately one month prior to the workshop date. If preferred, once registration is open, registration is also available by calling Cheryl Radford at [519-434-1664](tel:519-434-1664).

Looking forward to joining you in a workshop in 2015!

STUDIO TECH

SANDY HARQUAIL & KAITLYN MCGILL

It's a fresh new year and a great time for setting new goals and better habits around the studio as well. As we start this year with personal goals to get in shape and eat healthy, we are striving to create a healthier studio as well. You will notice

some new signs going up reminding you of the dangers of silica dust, and how important it is to always use a damp mop to clean the floor and to always strive to eliminate the accumulation of dust in the air by never dry sanding, or scraping clay covered surfaces. You will also see new labels in the glaze kitchen reminding you that a dust mask is **always** required when working with dry materials, and gloves and protective eye wear are recommended.

We ask each of you in the next few weeks to take the time to carefully sponge off your shelf space. This will help eliminate dust that has accumulated throughout the year. It's a great time to get organized and have a fresh start in the New Year.

We want to send a huge thank you out to all the members who helped load and unload all of the student work and the work for the Fall Sale. The extra helping hands and the new large kiln made a big difference this year. That being said, it is never too early to start building your inventory for the spring sale; beat the rush and get a head start now.

Happy potting.

SPRING SALE

TERESA AINSWORTH

I know you have just recovered from the Fall Sale in November, but it is time to think about the Spring Sale, which will take place the first weekend of May (set up Friday May 1, and sale Saturday and Sunday May 2nd and 3rd), at the usual times (set up at 7 pm and open Saturday 10-6 and Sunday 10-4).

I realize we had voted to have the sale the Mother's Day weekend, but the Board of Education office has an event for the week prior that overlaps the Mother's Day weekend so we have had to move it back. So get potting! We are aiming for another record sale for the Spring – we hope to break the \$29,000 Spring Sale record.

EMPTY BOWLS

TERESA AINSWORTH & JUDY SPARKES

A big thank you to all who came out December 7th for our first "Souperbowl Sunday!" We made 180 bowls and enjoyed the hospitality and talent of fellow potters' potluck contributions. Our next Bowl-a-thon will be Saturday, January 17 between 10am-4pm. We are aiming for another 250 bowls to be thrown on that day, so please come out and help us any way you can. Hand building is welcomed and encouraged, and there are bisqued bowls from the last throwing day to be decorated and glazed. Come enjoy some camaraderie and good eats for the cause!

Of course by now you all know that the Empty Bowls event will take place on Friday March 6th at the Goodwill Centre where we have had it in the past, and we are aiming to have 500 beautiful bowls for people to choose from.

Can't make it into the Bowl-a-thons? No problem: make some bowls on your own time. Clay donated from Tuckers and PSH is upstairs by the lift.

As an aside, I have now obtained an Empty Bowls stamp for the bottom of the bowls which will be available for you to use. See Teresa for the stamp.

CHARITABLE MUGS

TERESA AINSWORTH

We have been asked to make mugs for My Sister's Place – a drop in centre for homeless women on Dundas St. just west of Adelaide St.

Their plan is to have mugs from the LPG for sale, filled with tea from the Wisdom Tea Shop and chocolate from the Habitual Chocolate (Western Fair Market). The mugs – your style and size and colour— would have a stamp with an iris and the logo, Celebrating Sisterhood, on

them somewhere. I, Teresa, have the stamps – so see me. I have been playing around with the stamps and have done a few prototypes and found some issues and solutions, so ask me about them if you like.

The organization doesn't want us to be out money for clay so, they are willing to pay \$5/mug to cover the cost of clay. For more info on My Sister's Place look them up on the internet www.mysistersplace.ca

PROGRAMMING

ALICE NAGUS



Above: Teamwork from Bev and Darlene during the Clay Olympics

This year, our Christmas party committee did themselves proud. There were many helping hands who helped make this year's version the best party ever.

The tables were set with tablecloths and centre pieces, and there was the warm glow of the fireplace, complete with a sign to be careful not to get too close

to the fire.

The food, as always, was amazing in variety and ever so delicious. After dinner there was a raffle for the many gifts provided by our members and our beloved sponsors, Tucker's and Pottery Supply House.

The clay Olympics organized by Julie Ryan presented participants with unbelievable challenges. The competitions were fierce and at times the contestants were disputing the awarding of the medals. Thank goodness, no animals or people were hurt for the duration of the competition.

Thank you to those members who contributed to the success of the raffle and the party in general: Jennifer Jack, Sandra Paterson, Tomoko Hayatsu, Karen Bailey, Lynn Heinitz, Fran Whitney, Marilyn Barbe, Margaret Nickle, Cathy Herbert, Ana Mattos, Elly Pakalnis, Nancy Swinarton, Julie Ryan, Teresa Ainsworth, and Lynn Haslam.

(If your name is missing, please accept my apologies and it will be rectified in the next newsletter.)



Above: LCAC at Night

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