

Guild at a Glance

South Vancouver Island Potters' Guild meets the 2nd Monday of the month at 4733 West Saanich Road, Victoria

December 1, 2010

www.victoriapotters.ca

Volume 12, Issue 4

GETTING TO KNOW US...

"Getting to know us.." Louise Parsons introduced the first group of members to share their clay journey, Rosemary Neering, Louise Parsons and Joan Kagan. 'Speed dating' may be a better title as each presenter diligently kept to the ten minute rule. Or maybe 'show and tell' as each personal story was told and at times enhanced with pots.



Rosemary Neering

Rosemary Neering identifies herself as a 'hobby potter' who is having fun. She has been a freelance writer of non-fiction for 30 years and was looking for a hobby involving more hands on. At first she tried carpentry but power tools scared her and the instructor's two missing fingers were distracting. When Rosemary first touched clay, she was converted. She loves the serendipity of the process, having a sister who has led the way into pottery and is a mentor and this focus of interest when she travels. Rosemary prefers



Don't Forget The Raffle!

Next Guild Meeting is
Monday, January 10, 2011
7:30 p.m. at St. Michaels Hall



handbuilding. Her goals are to play with shape and instill a sense of whimsy into her pieces. She uses an array of tools and especially loves to create patterns.

Louise Parsons

Louise Parsons has been a studio potter since the 1960s. She initially trained at the Banff School of Fine Arts, where she specialized in making miniatures. She started a studio in New Westminster, which is still operating. As a full time potter Louise taught classes, ran a studio and sold her work throughout BC. In the 1990s, she moved to Calgary to do graduate work and, on the side, joined a cooperative pottery. Throughout her time in Calgary her work had a healthy market. Louise has continued to challenge herself throughout her career. She has experimented with shape and size, with glazes and firing (her early work was fired to cone 8 oxidation, later she fired at cone 10 reduction) and how she works (as part of a collective and working on her own). Louise is “only happy when she has dirty hands”.



Joan Kagan

Joan Kagan calls herself a functional potter. Her interest was ignited early, when as a small girl, she observed a potter working on the wheel at the Exhibition in Toronto. Joan has had a career as a high school teacher and counsellor. Her passion for clay and skills were developed when time permitted. Joan took her first classes in pottery in 1970s at George Brown College. She claims it took 6 months to make her first piece - a very tiny mug, which she still has to show her students! Early on she joined a cooperative which for many reasons didn't work out well. Since arriving in Victoria, a year and a half ago, she has worked hard to develop her profile as a potter; she has set up a studio and website, participated in many sales, shows work in local galleries and works with adult students. Joan identifies two challenges. She has always struggled with math and finds glaze formulas overwhelming. Despite this, she has a pallet of glazes. Her second big challenge is a challenge most of the audience acknowledged as theirs, the challenge of pricing your work. Joan is also a choral singer.



It was so delightful to hear these potters, each with their unique personal story. Each story had these commonalities:

1. These three potters expressed their instant connection with clay.
2. They acknowledge the importance of collaboration.
3. They shared a willingness to experiment and try something new.
4. They recognize personal challenges.
5. Each showed a sense of humour.

Thank you!

Nancy Alexander



Elaine White

You are invited to my next pottery show at the Community Arts Council, located downtown in the courtyard of the Sussex Building at 1001 Douglas Street. The opening reception is on the evening of Thursday, December 9 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. and the show will run until December 15. The gallery is open weekdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Saturday and Sunday from noon until 4 p.m.

I will be there for the opening and also on the Sunday.

I hope you can make it!
Elaine White

Used Kiln Elements Wanted

Anyone have some used elements from a kiln rewiring? Mine got thrown out in an over-zealous basement cleanup, and I need some of the curled wire for some pieces I am making. Thanks in advance.

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YOUR 2010-2011 EXECUTIVE

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Treasurer	Linda V	250-479-5966
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Membership Betty B. 250-382-0974

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Helen P. 250-383-5808
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Tobias T. 250-383-3893
Coffee Kris J. 250-384-5344
Maria G

Directors: Meira Mathison, Betty Burroughs,
Betty Fulton, Nancy Wall

Hello,

I bought some small pottery vases this past Saturday at an estate sale and now I would like to try and identify who made them. Is there a website that shows the different potter marks on the base of these and who they belong to? All I can find is this site: <http://www.canadianpotteryidentifier.com/>

Here is a photo of the items that I bought....I know that the one vase is maybe Chinese...so isn't local. But I suspect that most of the others might be local.

Thank you,

Debbie Peterson,
P.S. I haven't scanned a picture of the bottom of the vases yet but could send you a photo of that later if it would be helpful.



FOR SALE

Pottery Supply House Wheel \$400. It is a wonderful heavy kick wheel with a powerful motor attachment if you prefer to use a motor. It has a large splash pan for easy clean up. The seat is height adjustable. It is in excellent condition. I have loved it. The attached image shows one like mine only I don't have the wood surround that is in yellow. It is nice to put a board on top of the splash pan at the end to hold your water and tools.

If interested please contact me at 250-474-2676 or chosin@chosinpottery.ca

Thanks, Judi

**Art fair and what we go through**

A fellow potter sent this and I just had to share:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W8kaYg3XjVQ&feature=youtube_gdata_player

ARTISTS WANTED

Potters, sculptors, anybody working with clay to take part in the Saanich West Studio Tour May 7/8, 2011.

The tour is going to emphasize clay artists. Many of the original members happen to be potters. We also would like to invite artists working with a different medium and returning artists. You don't need to live in the Saanich West area to participate. We hope to have enough studio space to group artists together in "pods". With some restructuring, the tour will be revitalized with new ideas and new artists (potters!)

Questions? Ask Joy F. or Heidi, who are not the coordinators and don't have (all) the answers - yet!

Electric Kiln Wanted

I have joined the guild a couple of months ago and looking to start my own studio at home. My contact information is: Ronit Reis 250-590-1315

Thanks in advance. Ronit

Wheel Wanted

Does anyone have a wheel for sale or know of anyone who does? If so, please contact Chris MacMillen at: chris.mac@shaw.ca

Hi everyone, If you like to look at unusual ceramic teapots check out this website. You will be amazed!

www.merylruth.com

Kilns in Buildings Without Heat

If your kiln is outside you might want to keep this in mind when you want to do a firing. Arnold Howard of Paragon Industries says, "Moisture that the firebricks have absorbed from humidity will burn off harmlessly SO LONG AS THE KILN IS VENTED. Keep the lid in the vented position until steam no longer fogs a mirror."

"It is okay to store electric kilns in sub-zero weather. The control panel should be warmed to 32F with a small space heater before turning on the controller".

The Skutt booklet says not to run the electric computerized kiln if it is in a space where it is below freezing. So you can run a small electric space heater next to the controller box for an hour before beginning the firing. At that point you can turn off the heater.

BB

Louise adds:

Just so you know, I used to keep my electric kiln with a Dawson kiln sitter in our garage in Calgary - very dry and VERY cold (often below -20 in winter). There was no way to get the garage to 0, no insulation, but I always did vent it as I began to fire bisque and it worked fine - for years. I'm not certain how the increased damp here would affect the process, but I'm thinking its pretty easy to get the surroundings to 0 if its only -5 outside

SCHALLER GALLERY
www.schallergallery.com

Sam Chung, Solo Exhibition

December 10, 2010
through January 09, 2011

Sam Chung is coming to the June session of MISSA 2011, to teach his method of handbuilding.



Also, Cathi Jefferson is listed as one of the new artists under the "NEW WORK" section - Tobias

When you shop.....

**PLEASE MENTION
TO OUR ADVERTISERS
that you saw their ad
in the Guild newsletter.**

ADVERTISING RATES

Business card size (2" x 3 1/2"): \$10. per issue,
\$75. for 10 issues.

1/4 page ad: \$20. per issue, \$150. for 10 issues.

Sale announcements, events, classified ads: Free.

South Vancouver Island Potters Guild's newsletter

Guild at a Glance

is ONLINE!

go to

www.victoriapotters.ca

and : www.gobc.ca/SVIPG

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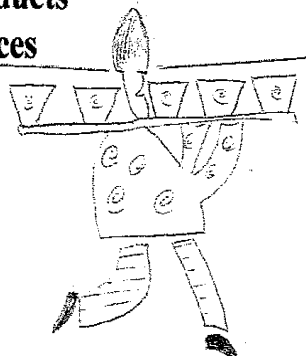
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**Victoria
Clay Art**

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Victoria BC V8Z 1M8
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As of June 1st, 2009

VICTORIA CLAY ART

Will be in its new location at:

654 Burnside Road West

Please visit our new store where we
Will continue to offer:

- A wide variety of Clay
- Glazes
- Pottery and sculpting tools
- Kiln and wheel sales/service
- Kiln firing
- Chemicals, and
- Other art supplies.