

Guild *at a* Glance

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

November 11, 2013

www.victoriapotters.ca

Volume 15 Issue 3

A 'Souper' October Meeting – Bowls of Hope

At our October meeting, Helen Hughes spoke about Souper Bowls of Hope, provided information about the upcoming event and praised the role the Guild has played in making this a successful fund raiser for at risk youth. The profits from this event help fund programs (through the Youth Empowerment Society) for youth at risk in the downtown core.

Pat Griffin, Executive Director of YES (Youth Empowerment Society) provided details of what services and supports are currently available to at risk youth. YES has a staff of 65 which provides support for 13-19 year old at risk youth. Among the services is an emergency youth shelter, a detox facility for youth, a safe drop-in center where youth are fed, provided with clothing, can do laundry, and have access to computers and an opportunity to improve life and employment skills. YES staff utilizes resources within the community as well as works with parents to improve the lives of these at risk youths. For more information check out <http://www.vyes.ca/getinvolved/>.



The next Guild Meeting
will be
PARTY TIME!
December 9, 2013

We meet at:
7:30 at St. Michael's
Anglican Church
4733 West Saanich Road

**Don't forget the
Raffle !**

Continued on page 2

All the work of Helen and Guild members either making the bowls or helping run the event make a difference for at risk youth.

With the focus of this meeting being on Souper Bowls, many members brought samples of bowls they had made. A variety of bowls were displayed, all beautiful and unique. And as is usual for a group of potters, a discussion of techniques and problems encountered with helpful suggestions from the audience concluded the meeting.


December at the Guild – It's Party Time!

Our December meeting (December 9th) is a time of celebration and sharing – so do come.

The celebration will be expressed by the goodies we bring – finger food that is savory or sweet (and we can cook almost as well as we can make pots – so skip supper that night).

The sharing will be in two parts – what we own from our studios that we no longer need – bring whatever pottery equipment or material you'd like to sell. The second way we share is to tell each other what we're up to – with examples please.

It will be a fun night!



Ever Wonder why Coin Banks are Shaped Like Pigs???

The pig's role as a child's first savings account is a visual pun, even though the animal is known more for being muddy than thrifty.

A dense orange clay called 'pygg' was once used extensively in Europe for pottery. The clay was cheap, abundant, and useful for household goods such as dishes and jars. The earthenware made from this clay also came to be known as pygg ware.

Before the days of banking for common folk, spare cash was hidden in pygg jars. By the 18th century, the jars in which money was stored were made of a number of substances but the jars continued to be called pygg jars, often spelled p-i-g.

Potters with an eye for a pun made pygg jars by casting them in the form of pigs.

submitted by Joy – source unknown

Toni Clennel's Letter: *Tony vs Cassius Clay*

Here is what I learned after 35 years of firing my wood kilns always named after the greatest heavyweight boxing champion of the world, Mohamed Ali, aka Cassius Clay. Clay was said to float like a butterfly and sting like a bee. As a young potter I was bitten hard, often and left for dead, bruised and defeated.

Here is how I prepare to meet my worthy opponent, Cassius Clay:

1. I never ever glaze, load and fire on the same day.
2. I always have a lovely supper with a glass of wine. I have a good night's sleep! Morning will have me make a cup of coffee and a fried egg sandwich that I take out to share with Cassius Clay. We will have a talk about our mutual respect for one another. The dance begins with a small fire.
3. Start the firing in the morning. Putting in one night is hard but putting in two is a recipe for a full blown knockout.
4. Always have your wood cut, split and stacked weeks before the firing. This was a daily ritual for me at the end of a throwing day. Cut, split and stack for an hour each day.
5. Always prepare more wood than you know the kiln requires. I have fired through unexpected rain, hail and snow storms. Once at -47 wind chill and blowing snow. Low pressure can stall you for hours.
6. I fire in silence. That means me and the kiln. It is not a social and I don't listen to music. I listen to the kiln. We heard Scarlett "Roar" last night. Cassius Clay gives off a puffing sound which is his breathing. If I can hear his breathing I know I have him working and on the ropes.
7. Rope a dope. Don't get cocky and think you have your opponent beaten. Rope a dope was Cassius Clay's method of tiring out a boxing opponent by pretending to be trapped on the ropes while the opponent expends energy on punches that are blocked. Boom, boom, boom and a left hook has you flat on your back, winded and defeated.
8. Study your woods. I can't recommend Jack Troy's book on Wood Firing enough. The chart at the back explains wood properties. Any firing problems I have had can be traced back to the wood and lack of preparation.
9. Remember - If it were easy everyone would be doing it!
10. Bon feu!

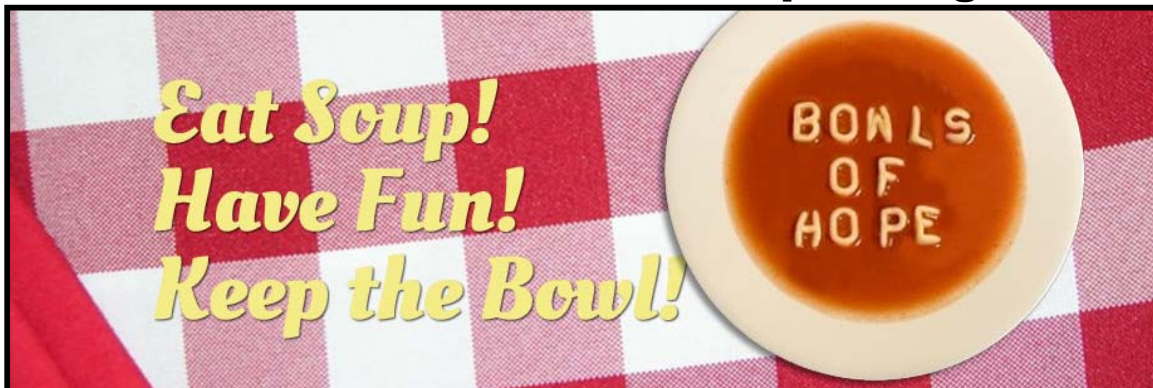
submitted by Betty

Your 2013-2014 Executive

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Errors? Omissions? Questions? contact the editor at eartharts@shaw.ca

Member's Upcoming Activities



**Eat Soup!
Have Fun!
Keep the Bowl!**

**Please Join Us In Supporting
Victoria Youth Empowerment Society
16th Annual Souper Bowls of Hope
NOVEMBER 13, 2013 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Inn at Laurel Point**

Tickets are now available to Souper Bowls 2013,
\$25 in advance, \$30 at the door!

CLAYWORKS

at Fairfield Community Centre, Garry Oak Room
1335 Thurlow Rd, next to the Moss St. Market grounds

New functional, decorative and sculptural work
by clay artists Sandra Dolph, Debbie Elkins,
Ester Galac, Meira Mathison, Beth McMillin, Tony Mochizuki,
Betty Burroughs and Jaime Willms



**Opening Reception Fri. Nov 29 5-8pm Everyone welcome!
Sat. Nov 30 & Sun. Dec 1 10am - 4pm**

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Do Your Hands Hurt?

Betty sent along a great web site that provides 10 exercises for hands and fingers, find it online at: http://www.webmd.com/osteoarthritis/oa-treatment-options-12/slideshow-hand-finger-exercises?ecd=wnl_art_101813&ctr=wnl-art-101813_Id-stry&mb=SnW9%403NpQFbuWUWwG%2fNlwOHnVev1imbC3HMN4wY6ivg%3d or contact the editor for a paper copy (I used it for my Elder College pottery class). Although these are for folks with arthritis, they work really well for anyone who uses their hands.

I went on line and just Googled 'hand and arm exercises' – and there are LOTS:

Quite professional exercises (I felt like I was at my physio) can be found at :
<http://www.dailymotion.com/user/gourylevgregory/2>

At <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3dr5Xq6E7Uk> you'll find a fun and quick workout (you can skip the ad at the beginning).

Interested in stretching? Go to <http://www.stretchnow.com.au/resources/exercises/hands-exercise> (but please do these gently!)

You'll find excercises specific for a number of diseases – to avoid or minimize their effect just type in or look for 'your' problem.

Finally its even possible to be gender specific ... there are sites for women's exercises:
<http://www.besthealthmag.ca/get-healthy/fitness/8-arm-exercises-for-women>

and rugged and manly exercises: <http://www.artofmanliness.com/2011/11/10/molding-a-mighty-grip-strength/> (Red Green would LOVE these).

None of these are meant to help you avoid medical advice or treatment – so if you have a serious or ongoing concern see you health professional.

In the meantime, what do YOU do when your hands hurt? ... or to keep them from hurting?

Send your ideas (about hands or anything else) to the newsletter (Louise) at eartharts@shaw.ca



Has anyone tried this? It looks like it might be useful for sore backs (strengthening one's core don't you know).
found on Ceramics Arts Daily

PUG MILL FOR SALE \$2500

Peter Pugger's Victoria Pug Mill Pug mixer VPM 20.
only seen a few



Contact Betty Burroughs at: 250-382-0974

KILN FOR SALE \$2500

Cone Art BX 4227D 16 1/2 cu. ft. cone 10 electric kiln for sale with Bartlett Computer Control 10 years old, in really good condition 220 - 75 amp breaker

Measurements: height 44 inches, length 54 inches, width 42 inches

Comes with kiln shelves, posts and electric cable

Contact Ernie at: 250-597-1032

submitted by cathi j.

ADVERTIZING RATES

Business card size (2" X 3 1/2") :
\$10 per issue
or
\$75 for 10 issues

Quarter page ad (3 1/2" x 4 3/4") :
\$20 per issue
or
\$150 for 10 issues

Sale announcements, events, classified ads:

FREE

contact editor at:
eartharts@me.com



Victoria Clay Art

654 Burnside Road W.
Victoria BC V8Z 1M8
250 384-3831
vcart@shaw.ca

We're now stocking heavy duty canvas from Pakistan. Great for making wareboards or wedging tables. \$8.95 per yard.

Custom wareboards are available as well, call for details.

Dirty Girl pottery tools available including foot fetish, wiggle wire and oak angle wood tools. These make great stocking stuffers.

We have tea pot handles from England, finest quality cane sized from 3" to 8". Great selection, priced from \$5.75 to \$12.95 each.

Great new items in stock for texture on clay such as: Amaco rollers, Mayco designer stamps, wooden rollers, star cutters, ribs, haxe tool, paddles, alphabet and number stamps, rasps, slip trailers, etc.

Guild at a Glance

... is the newsletter for the South Vancouver Island Potters Guild.

It is published monthly, September through June, and is available on line at: www.victoriapotters.ca

Articles and items of interest to members are welcome and will be included as space permits.

Items for inclusion are best emailed to the editor, Louise P, at: eartharts@shaw.ca

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

The earlier submissions are received, the more likely there will be room to include them. Our meetings are held the second Monday of each month. Be kind to the editor, please send items for inclusion *before* the

FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH

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