

Guild at a Glance

• October 2016

www.victoriapotters.ca

Volume 18 Issue 2

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

**OCTOBER MEETING
THANKSGIVING MONDAY
7:30 PM OCTOBER 10, 2016**

**THE COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL OF GREATER VICTORIA
(CACGV) OFFICE RELOCATED TO 636 FORT STREET
SEPTEMBER 1ST, 2016**

Ben Lumley

Meet one of the newest members of the South Vancouver Island Potters' Guild – Ben Lumley. Ben came to the guild in hopes of making connections with other like-minded folk. He attended his first meeting of the Guild in September, sharing with us the story of the creation of the mug he produced in Sarah Pike's MISSA class the "Fab Slab".

Ben is fairly new to clay, but not to the creative process. He has always been an artist (as well as a carpenter), producing block prints and drawings, some of which he showed at Joyce Munson's Potters' Corner. Showing his work in a potters' studio led four years ago to a lump of clay being placed in his hands and his giving a go at hand building. Then three years ago, he moved to wheel throwing. Ben says wheel throwing became his main focus because of the limitless possibilities.

Ben has now two MISSA courses on his resume – the one this year with Sarah Pike and one in 2015 on salt firing with Cathi Jefferson. In addition, he has studied informally with a journeyman potter on a recent trip to Taiwan. This experience was made even more memorable by the random translation either by gestures or the odd dual language customer who happened to stop by the shop while the lessons were in progress. Ben is very drawn to the Asian shapes and forms and plans to explore Celadons as he expands his knowledge of the science of glazing.

Now that Joyce Munson has closed her home based Potters' Corner, Ben's foremost goal this year in his clay journey is finding a studio with space for him to continue his work. He hopes to find someone who is operating a space that has room to accommodate him and his wheel and is open to him having a student with him as he hopes to continue working with students. Ben has a wheel (and for that matter a working kiln too) but just nowhere to use them. If you have any leads, please let him know.



EDITOR'S BOX: So did no one find the error in last month's newsletter or were you just too polite to mention it? Of course our dearly loved MISSA workshops ran from July 2, 2016 to July 15, 2016, not the 8th, as reported in the newsletter.

Rachel Coward

Meet one of the founding members of our South Vancouver Island Potters' Guild – Rachel Coward.

Rachel isn't sure what drew her to become a potter. Following a 36 year career as a nurse (as well as wife and mom), she was flipping through a Saanich recreation program guide in the mid '90s and decided a pottery class was worth a try.

She'd tried painting before potting but it didn't call to her. Perhaps that's because her mother came from the area of England known as the Staffordshire potteries, now known as Stoke on Trent. Rachel has several pieces of her mother's pottery collection that inspire her to this day.

However the muse called, it was a class taught by Meira Mathison and attended by other like-minded folk (who are also long time guild members) that was enough to cement the 'love at first sight'. Rachel the nurse was now Rachel the potter.

By 1999, these same five or six folk were set for a meeting with Helen Hughes, long time Victoria Councillor, to discuss an idea for fundraising for the Youth Empowerment Society (YES).

From that meeting seventeen years ago, the Guild was created along with the Guild's and Rachel's long-time support of the annual Souper Bowls of Hope.

Since her early days of exploration at Cedar Hill Recreation Centre, Rachel has expanded to her own garden studio overlooking Haro Strait. Her focus is functional pieces using white clay, fired to 2165°F in her electric kiln. Rachel is known for both her carved leaf designs under a forest green glaze, and her burnished, slowly pit-fired vessels with carbonized fern fronds. The days of hosting 'pit firing parties' at her studio (which is in the heart of Saanich at the foot of Mount Douglas) are no more due to environmental issues with the billowing all night smoke. Nonetheless, they are very fondly remembered by the Garden City Potters.

Rachel's clay journey has included a variety of roles with the Guild including librarian, archivist and secretary. She is also a member of the Garden City Potters, has been an active participant in the bi-annual shows with Clay by Design Potters as well as numerous workshops with Darrel Hancock, Tom Coleman and Les Manning among others.

When asked what she hoped for the Guild's future, she reflected on some of the successes of the Guild noting the workshops open to the public, the extensive access to knowledge and experience of other potters as well as all the educational material available from the library. The one area she hopes can one day become a reality, despite the cost and complexity, is a shared workspace where potters without studios could work, classes could be offered and the public could purchase pottery.

When asked for some advice for new potters beginning their journey, Rachel counselled them to ignore all the failures; as it is the failures from which we learn and from which something of deep value will grow.



September Program:

The September program was a lively discussion of how some members spent their summer. A number of interesting examples of new directions tried and new pots created were shown. Here's an example of handbuilding Libby Wray (who generally works on the wheel) produced in a MISSA workshop.



MY FAVORITE TOOL – A “BAT WIRE-CUTTER”

Nancy Wall, Earthen Vessels Pottery - with thanks to Mike Baker for the photos

This tool was designed to evenly slice a clay piece off the bat. When making pots with a wide base on a potter's wheel, it is often a challenge to wire-off the foot without losing a lot of clay, due the wire arching up into the soft clay. This home-made device helps to solve that.



Mine is a 2001 model, designed and built by Mike, the husband of a friend - Irene Baker (*who renewed her SVIPG membership in 2015*). To make this tool, Mike uses:

- laminate countertop
- guitar wire & a turnbuckle (for tension)
- a metal rod & pivoting side handles
- wood for the base.

It can fit bats up to 16" wide and from 1/4" (0.6cm) to 1.5" (3.8cm) thick.

Method:

When you've

finished making a piece on the wheel - especially shallow, wide bowls or plates - remove the bat from the wheel and place it on the end of the 'cutter' board. Adjust the height of the wire to match the thickness of the bat, by twisting the handles away from you. Push the bat under the taut wire, holding the wire down against the bat with one finger as it slides through.

Leave the clay piece on the bat until it's ready to trim. The next day, or when the pot is soft leatherhard, run the bat under the wire a couple more times and it will smoothly release the clay. Place another bat on top of the clay piece and flip it over to remove the bottom bat (if needed, tug gently on one side to break the suction). Voila! - No warped base for trimming your foot. 😊



Disclaimer: If your studio has enough space to store many plaster bats, then this device may not be required.

What's Up with Programs?

Submitted by Rosemary Neering

Looks like a full slate of interesting programs for the Guild from now through spring. With the proviso that timing and topic can change as we get closer to the dates, here's what's ahead.

November: Brushing Up

Monika Burrell leads a hands-on evening workshop in making brushes. Glue, bamboo, string, paper and ink supplied. Bring anything you think might make a brush, from feathers to squirrel tails to hair from you or someone else, fur from an animal, porcupine quills.... Bring your own handmade brushes as well, to show others what is possible.

December: Gallery and Potluck

Our annual Christmas get-together: bring finger food, sweet or savory, to share. And bring along any ceramic creations you might like to talk about, as well as any marks you have made with last month's brushes.

January: On the Road Again

Ceramics travel guru Denys James talks about his travels, his travel offerings and his own ceramics.

February: Tips and Tools

Know something you wish you had learned earlier in your ceramics practice? Have a special tip that makes life easier for you? Have a favourite tool you use all the time or occasionally to improve your work? A sharing night.

March: Jane Murray Smith comes down from Coombs to talk about her pottery. Check out <http://www.dragonflypottery.ca/> to see her eclectic raku, horsehair & feather, saggar, and stoneware pottery, with a sample of her animal masks, large animal sculptures, animal ornaments, custom pet portraits, large wall pieces, tiles, lamps as well as assorted vases.

April: Marlene Bowman demonstrates her hand-building techniques. See <http://www.stinkingfishstudiour.com/Marlene-Bowman/> for some examples of her colourful and unusual creations.

May: tentative: Photographing your work and other presentation tips. **June:** spring get-together and gallery.

PACIFIC RIM POTTERS ANNUAL FALL SHOW & SALE

Saturday November 5, 10 am to 4 pm

Knox Presbyterian Church Hall, 2964 Richmond Rd, Victoria. Info: <http://tiny.cc/v8yh4x>

Pacific Rim Potters invite you to attend their exhibition of original ceramics, hand crafted by 10 professional South Vancouver Island Potters Guild members.

Welcome to Victoria's longest running pottery show and sale!

The Pacific Rim Potters was formed 30 years ago with an initial 'spring show and sale' designed to exhibit the work

of professional local artists; a fall show was added several years later. Linda Vigliotti, Meira Mathison, Ester Galac, Cindy Gibson, Darrel Hancock, Nora Lewin, and Peggy Elmes are the current active members. Their annual spring and fall exhibitions are consistently classy and eclectic, bringing together functional and sculptural pottery encompassing a wide range of styles.

Two additional artists have been invited to participate as guests of the group for this exhibition. Muriel Sibley's functional stoneware is sculptural, often including story-telling or poetic elements. The ceramics of Barb Lovick leans toward the playful, with many pieces having a seasonal feel.

Betty Burroughs, a dynamic founding member who passed away earlier this year, will also have a display, as a mark of the group's respect for her, her dedication to her craft and her contribution to the Victoria ceramics community.

With everything from eggcups to garden sculpture the Pacific Rim Potters show is a great place to find that perfect gift, for yourself, your backyard birds or find inspiration for your next pottery class.

This is a FREE, wheelchair accessible event, with parking, complimentary refreshments and door prizes by raffle. Shoppers, browsers, old and new friends all welcome. MasterCard & Visa accepted.



Pacific Rim Potters

SATURDAY, Nov. 5, 2016
10 am - 4 pm

Annual Pottery Sale & Exhibition
Knox Presbyterian Church Hall
2964, Richmond St, Victoria, B.C.
Wheelchair Accessible * Refreshments
* Free Admission * All Welcome*

Peggy Elmes
Ester Galac
Cindy Gibson
Darrel Hancock
Nora Lewin
Barb Lovick
Meira Mathison
Muriel Sibley
Linda Vigliotti
including pottery
by the late Betty Burroughs

The poster features three images of pottery: a green rectangular piece, a blue and white vase, and a blue and white bowl. A small image of a turtle is also visible on the right side.

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

Sales announcements, events, classified ads:
FREE

contact the *At a Glance* editor
helen.pedneault@shaw.ca

Guild at a Glance

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

It is published monthly, September through June, and is distributed by email to all members, some copies are available at meetings and the newsletter is posted online 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 helen.pedneault@shaw.ca

**SUBMISSIONS REQUESTED BY
THE FIRST MONDAY
OF EACH MONTH**

Your Executive

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Victoria Clay Art

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

Here is a list of my favorite pottery tools, glazes and things. Dan

All available at Victoria Clay Art

Mud Tool Ribs
Amaco PC-20 Blue Rutile [cone 6]
Alphabet Stamp Set
2" Goat Hair Fan Brush
Magic Water
Stroke & Coat SC-74 Hot Tomale [cone 08-10]
MKM Finger Rollers
Xiem Telescoping Sponge on a Stick
Mud Tool Blue Sponge
Amaco Velvet Underglaze V-361 Jet Black
Aardvark Cone 5 BEE-Mix
Mud Tool Clay Cutting Wire [green handle]
MKM Wood Stamps
Paper Clay cone 06, 6, or 10

**Come in and look around, we're open
10:00am to 5:00pm Mon-Sat**

Vancouver Island Pottery Supply Has Moved

Hello to all our valued customers, This is notice that VIPS has moved.

Our new address is:

515 Stanford Avenue E.
Parksville, BC
V9T 6V6

We have the same phone number and website address. We have a new email address.

Cheers, Donna

Ph: 1-250-248-2314

E-Mail: sales@vipottersupply.com
(new email address!!)

Web: www.vipottersupply.com

REMEMBER – among others, 2 great benefits to being in the South Vancouver Island Potters Guild are:

- 1) the library
- 2) access to the BC Potter's Guild newsletter online. Roger C. sends us the username and password each month.

So ... check them out! They're worth using!

*... When you shop – please mention
to our advertisers that you learned
about them in the Guild Newsletter.*

DISCOVERY ART TRAVEL



OVERSEAS CERAMIC WORKSHOPS & TOURS WITH DISCOVERY ART TRAVEL DENYS JAMES

Morocco 2016: October 17 – November 7, 2016
(one space left as at printing!)

Sicily 2017: April 29 – May 18, 2017
(one space left as at printing!)

MOROCCO 2018, April 9 - 30. The Full Circle - Fez, Chefchaouen, Essaouira, Volubilis, Marrakech, Zagora, Meknes, Rabat, Casablanca. Studio visits, adobe architecture, tile art, Roman mosaics, traditional and contemporary ceramics, fabrics, a camel ride in the desert, and much more. www.discoveryarttravel.com

ANDALUCIA, SPAIN, 2018, November. Moorish influence on Ceramics and tile art, Art, Architecture. Seville, Cordoba, Granada, Ronda, Ubeda. Optional add on trips in Spain. www.discoveryarttravel.com

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