

Guild at a Glance

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

January 12, 2015

www.victoriapotters.ca

Volume 16 Issue 5

December's Meeting – Not JUST a Party!



This month's program followed what only be described as a groaning board of sumptuous delights. The evening high light was for folks to show case things they are doing which is new or new to the Guild.

Helen P. was first up with a bowl glazed using what she learned during her week at MISSA with Steven Hill. This is the first bowl Helen has done post course. The exterior of the bowl had three layers of glaze. The base glaze was a Strontium Crystal Magic – Cool Glaze. Then a second "warm" glaze was added called butterscotch and the rim was sprayed with Waterfall Brown (mastering cone 6 glazes). Thinking of food safety Helen did not do the same effect on the inside although she noted the inside of the bowl is what people see most.

Tobias T. added that the substitution of Barium for the Strontium gives similar effects in the glaze. He also found that adding rutile gave a bloom of colours.



Tobias displayed some of his many talents by showing his jewellery. The pieces are silver and dichroic glass. A necklace and bracelet were displayed and he intends on entering them into this year's Look show.



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Rosemary showed her grouping of pieces all playing off the idea of cats. The four pieces presented were Catalpa, Catsup, Caterwaul and Cataclysmic. The pieces are hand sculpted in clay and then have acrylic paints and other additions to complete them. To Catsup she has added a label from a Catsup bottle at the neck of the very Red Cat. People began making suggestions for other catastrophic ideas she could pursue. To date she has 12 different categories of sculpture.



text written by Daniel, photos by Rosemary



The Souper Bowls of Hope Organizing Committee is very grateful to the South Vancouver Island Potters' Guild for their support of the event. There is very good news that the total raised for youth programs is \$ 76,000!!

This sum exceeds last year's total and will give the Youth Empowerment Society the opportunity to carry on the fine work they do through various programs for the young people aged 12 – 18 years of age. These opportunities to assist families through skilled professional help, have a life skills program, a medical clinic, a mental health worker, get-to-build-trust activities and supper and offering 24 – 7 addiction and emergency shelter housing will be enhanced through the funds raised.

The Potters' Guild table alone raised \$ 2,100!

Of course the potters also contributed many larger items and signed "Celebrity Bowls" which were in addition to their own table of smaller items.

About 500 attended to enjoy the three gourmet soups donated by the Inn at Laurel Point, Cheryl's Gourmet Pantry and the Union Club of British Columbia . The Raffle raised \$ 1950.

Of course all of this would not be possible without the SVIPG members' talent and willingness to share them through their willingness and belief in the cause of helping teens through some difficult times in their life and onto a better future!

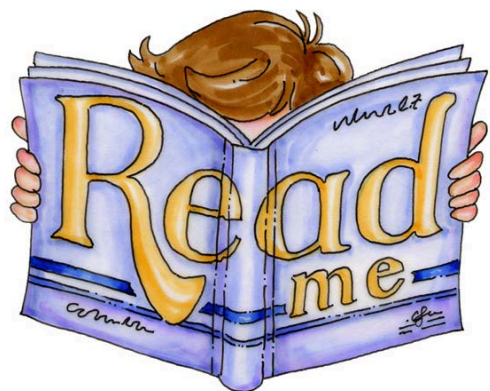
THANKS to all and a very hearty wish for success

- with new trials and no tribulations!

text written by Helen H., photos by Michelle F.

Coming in February – *Sculpture* !

A Victoria sculptor talks about how she works with clay for forms large and small.



'Book' (or DVD) Reports

Our Library is one of the BEST assets of SVIPG (next to us, of course) – we all know that!

At the December meeting it was suggested that one way we could celebrate our library and contribute to this newsletter was if we wrote just a sentence or two about the things we were taking out of the library – or about any other items about pottery that we read/saw. This is a good idea – so expect more in future – as reviews are received, they will be included

- Editor

I was lucky enough to get **In the Potter's Kitchen** by Sumi von Dassow for Christmas. I especially liked learning about flameware (though I'm not likely to make it) and seeing photos of ideas for oven cooking vessels – the recipes are pretty good too. The new-ish potter will also appreciate the sections of how-to photos. Though not yet in our library, I really hope it gets there soon.

Louise

My favourite DVD from the Guild library is **What If? Explorations with Texture and Soft Slabs**, with Sandy Pierantozzi. Lots of interesting techniques including a fine demonstration of darting, simple and more complex suggestions for slab building, and encouragement to experiment and create new forms. Going by the list of other Guild members who have borrowed this DVD set, it's a winner.

Rosemary

I recently took out the library's copy of **Lively Forms & Expressive Surfaces** with Mark Peters (for the second time – and found out I also own it – but that's a review of my brain, not the DVD). I particularly like his techniques on making not-round pots such as square casseroles and the way in which he forms lids on domes.

Louise

Last month's newsletter included an article about what goes in to making a mug. Continuing with the theme of 'Mugs' here is an excerpt by Robin Hopper from his book **Functional Pottery**. Robin is many (good) things. In addition to being an author, he is a lifetime member of our guild, the holder of the Order of Canada and a thoughtful potter of great experience and expertise. I've made functional pottery for decades, and keep this bit in my studio – Editor.

10 Questions to Ask When Designing Functional Pottery

1. Are the top rims and the edges of the handles sharp to the touch for either lips or fingers? Any parts of the pot that come into contact with parts of the body should be smooth.
2. Is the curvature at the top of a drinking vessel suitable for drinking from? Does it curve in or out or is it straight up? For optimum function, there should be a slight curve outward so that liquid flows easily from the vessel into the mouth and does not dribble.
3. Is the shape of the object suitable to be held or drunk from?
4. Does the handle have sufficient room for the fingers? Hands should have room for average-sized fingers (granted hands come in all shapes and sizes, but the thickness of the thickest part of the average fore finger is about 1 inch). If handles are too big, they will likely feel awkward and look awkward.
5. Does the handle fit the hand, or do the fingers have to conform to the handle?

6. Is the width of the mouth of a drinking vessel too large or too small? For comfortable drinking, the width of the mouth of a drinking vessel should be no more than the distance from the lips to the bridge of the nose.
7. Does the shape of the pot need handle(s) to fulfill its intended use?
8. Does the sound or texture of the surface aggravate the user?
9. Does the object as designed get too hot to hold? If your piece is designed for hot liquid, you might want to adjust the thickness of the walls, or attach a handle so that hands don't get burnt.
10. Could it work better and be more comfortable to use than it is?

**There could have been more
— but more wasn't sent so
couldn't be included!**

**Can we please do better
next month?**

Guild at a Glance

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

It is published monthly, September through June, and is available at meetings and 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, Louise, at eartharts@shaw.ca

SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS NOON THE FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH

The earlier submissions are received, the more likely there will be room to include them. Be kind to the editor, please send items for inclusion *before* the deadline.

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vcart@shaw.ca

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

All available at Victoria Clay Art

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Aardvark Cone 5 BEE-Mix
Mud Tool Clay Cutting Wire [green handle]
MKM Wood Stamps
Paper Clay cone 06, 6, or 10

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