



Merry Christmas December 2005

# HANDS IN CLAY

Newsletter of the Ottawa Guild of Potters

## Guild Meeting Program

Monday Oct. 3 Years First Guild Meeting.  
Tuesday Nov. 1  
Thursday Dec. 1  
Friday Jan. 6  
Monday Feb. 6  
Monday Mar. 6  
Thursday April 6  
Friday May 5 Annual General Meeting.

Meetings are from 7:30 to 9:30 pm at the Nepean Visual Arts Center. (NVAC) On Woodroffe Avenue, south of Hunt Club road.

**Guild Executive Meetings.** Start at 6:30pm, and are open to the public.

## Library

Before each monthly meeting, the Library is open from 6:30 until 7:30.

If there is a book or video that are you are looking for, let us know. It will be considered when we purchase new material. If an item is out on loan, we can reserve it for you. Your input is appreciated.

**Linda Taylor**  
Librarian

## Membership News

Membership renewals are due before the end of May, to maintain your membership and to ensure participation in the Guild sales etc. Renewal forms are sent out in April. Please notify Penny of any changes to your e-mail or postal address.

**Penny Donaldson**  
Membership Secretary

## OGP Help Line

**Chandler Swain**  
[kidswain@sympatico.ca](mailto:kidswain@sympatico.ca)  
(613) 256-6522

**Victoria Jenkins**  
[avjenkins@sympatico.ca](mailto:avjenkins@sympatico.ca)  
257-2588

**Hanne Lawrence**  
[brucehanne@rogers.com](mailto:brucehanne@rogers.com)  
825-1736

**John Kobzey**  
829-2466

## OGP Website

The Website address is:

[www.ottawaguildofpotters.ca](http://www.ottawaguildofpotters.ca)

A moderator for the websites interactive features is needed. Contact Bruce Jones at:

[bruce.earle-jones@sympatico.ca](mailto:bruce.earle-jones@sympatico.ca)

**Bruce Jones**  
Web Master

## Newsletter

The Newsletter is on line at:

<http://ottawaguildofpotters.ca/newsletter/>

Please send Newsletter comments and contributions to:

[newsletter@ottawaguildofpotters.ca](mailto:newsletter@ottawaguildofpotters.ca)

**David Wardell**  
Newsletter Editor

# Message From the President

Julien Couture

Dear members,

By the time you read this message, it will be 2006! I want to wish all of our members good health, great pots, etc. for the New Year. There are also so many people to thank. Our VP, Kirstin Davidson: you do so much and so well. Our Sales Committee, for putting together another great sale in November. Liz Allison, chair of this committee: your innovations regarding the organization of the sales, your continuous questioning and reflexions are all so important to the vitality of the Guild. Chandler Swain: you organized a very interesting and spectacular show at the Glebe. Perhaps we can help, participate and be more involved for your next show.

Thanks also to all those members who help by serving on the Executive, those who plan workshops, the team working on our library, the Website which Bruce Jones and his son have improved even more this year, the Standards and Education Committee and the work you are doing to educate our members. All of you make the Guild a growing organization. Thank you for all your volunteered time and energy.

So, what might you all expect for the coming year? A social committee, more services, more speakers and more discussions, workshops, more structure to make the Guild a more effective tool for all of us as potters, and more fun I hope!

Julien Couture

President

## Who's Who

In the Ottawa Guild of Potters

President	Julien Couture	Refreshment Convener	Helen Stone
Vice President	Kirstin Davidson		
Past President	Chandler Swain	Website Manager	Bruce Jones
Treasurer	Sarah Hand	Moderator	Vacant
Newsletter Editor	David Wardell	Standards and Education	Carolynne Pynn-Trudeau
Distribution	Marie Paquette		Vickie Salinas
Librarian	Linda Taylor		Anne Chambers
Secretary	Doris McIlroy		Lynda Northey
Membership	Penny Donaldson		Glen Dunning
			Saskia Praamsma
Outside Workshops	Allison Usher		Rita Redner
Member Workshops	Carol Badenoch		
Exhibition Convener	Carolynne Pynn-Trudeau		
Members Album	Cathy Payne		
Sales Committee	Lis Allison		
	Lynda Soper		
	Heidi Garaets		
	Pat Jessop		
	Louise Simonson		



"It is a sweet thing, friendship, a dear balm,  
A happy and auspicious bird of calm..."  
- Shelly

## Presentation by Leta Cormier at the January 6<sup>th</sup> Guild Meeting

### Form and Function – One Journey



At the January 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, Leta Cormier will speak to the Guild about her work, sharing her experience of the challenges and pleasures within the *lexicon* of function. The talk will include slides and examples of pots in taking a practical look at the issues of manifesting inspiration, developing an objective perspective of one's own work and continuing the journey - supporting self development.



Leta Cormier has been making pottery, raku and reduction fired stoneware, in the Ottawa area since 1975. Her work is informed by an interest in the traditional pottery of Japan, Korea, China and the Cycladic culture.

She has pieces in many private and public collections including the Canada Council for the Arts Art Bank, City of Ottawa, Museum of Civilization, Claridge Collection, Burlington Cultural Center, Winnipeg Art Gallery, Ontario Crafts Council and Fusion: Ontario Clay and Glass Association.



Leta is also active in the arts community and has been a volunteer, teacher, consultant, curator and juror. She has presented workshops throughout Ontario since 1977 and taught at St. Lawrence College for twelve years. She has served as President of The Ontario Potters Association (Fusion) and the Ontario Crafts Council as well as on the Board of Directors of the Canadian Crafts Council, Council for the Arts Ottawa, and the founding program committees and Board of Directors of Arts Court and the Ottawa Art Gallery.

Leta shares a studio in North Gower with her husband Don where they make individual and collaborative functional based pieces.

## Capital Pottery Holiday Hours

Capital Pottery will be closed for the Holiday's starting Dec 23 we will re-open Jan. 3, although I will be closing at 12:30 that day . I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support and wish everyone the best of the Season.

Sarah Hand  
837-0297  
capitalpotterysupplies@on.aibn.com

## Standards and Education Committee

Please make note that the Education and Standards Committee will not be making monthly presentations. Instead, we will be collecting pottery 'nasties' from the membership, and making a permanent display with them. We hope to illustrate what is unacceptable in terms of surface flaws for functional ware. The Education Committee needs small pots and pieces of pots that have surface flaws. Please bring your 'nasty', and 'really nasty' examples to the Guild meetings, and we will gather them to make an educational collection.

Thanks,  
Carolynne Pynn-Trudeau.

## Pictures of the 2005 Christmas Sale Pottery Online



*“At the Christmas sale I was full of admiration of our display. I noticed the growth and development of our potters. The many good potters are better, and the beginners are producing work that show confidence and skill. Our show could easily rival the shows I have seen in Florida and elsewhere during my travels.” - John Kobzey*

Guild member **Rosario Umaña** has posted over a hundred pictures of pottery from the 2005 Christmas Sale. The pictures can be viewed online at:

<http://www.imagestation.com/album/pictures.html?id=2117268681&code=19598976&mode=invite&D&CMP=isc-email-AlbumInvite>

## **New High School Bursary Convenor found and the 260 Fingers show a success**

Two very positive things have happened in the pottery side of my life in recent weeks. Firstly it was wonderful that a brand new member of the Guild came forward at the November meeting in response to my plea that after over ten years on the job it was time for a new High School Bursary Convenor. Thankyou so much to Amy Arts for being so willing and enthusiastic about taking on this role.

Secondly, it was a great pleasure to go to the 260 Fingers show at the Glebe Community Centre. It was an absolutely splendid show and reflected very well on those involved and those who organized it. Congratulations to Chandler for spearheading this effort. It is a good thing for all of us potters that the larger community had a chance to see such excellent work, displayed so beautifully. It can only enhance our standing as potters, of whatever ability or vintage, in the minds of the general population. Work in clay is not something to be sniffed at and relegated to a lowly position in the world of art. My only problem was that I felt so homesick for the Glebe Community Centre where we used to hold the Guild sales and wished we could still fit in there. It is a beautiful renovation and the smells from the Pantry were as enticing as ever!

Well done and congratulations on your beautiful and amazing displays to all the participants. In the hope that this may become an annual event, I am already looking forward to seeing the next one!

Caroline Fitzpatrick

## **The 2005 Christmas Sale Report**

### **Opening balances:**

bank account:	\$ 7,251.11	
deposit on hall:	2,000.00	
	Total:	\$ 9,251.11

### **Income:**

Table fees:	\$ 10,634.00	
Pots sold:	142,088.00	
Cookbooks sold:	535.00	
PST Collected:	11,345.92	
Coins for CHAR:	130.92	
	Total:	\$ 164,733.84

### **Expenses:**

Cheques to potters	\$ 132,042.57
CHAR:	1,005.92
Hall rental:	4,624.00
Hall deposit used:	1,000.00
Cookbooks:	535.00
PST Paid:	10,778.63
Lighted Sign rental:	90.95
Truck rental:	230.00 *
Advertising:	5,683.54
Fliers:	132.28
Paper and bags:	599.05
Phone lines:	594.66
Bank fees:	80.00 *
POS machines rental:	90.00 *
VISA/MC % discounts:	2,000.00 *

Sales packages:	230.67	
Food:		289.18
Salesbooks etc.:	127.06	
Treasurer's expenses:		129.18
2% to Guild:		2,841.76
Cash shortfall:	355.64	
	Total:	\$ 164,460.09

**Closing Balances:**

Bank account:	\$ 6,977.36
Hall deposit:	1,000.00

- Notes:**
1. Items marked with a \* are best-guesses. I don't have all the bills or the bank statements yet.
  2. The Hellenic centre forgot to deduct our deposit from their bill in the Spring. We are using it now.

**Sale Treasurer's Comments**

First of all, I would like to say the Committee once again did a terrific job. And it was a bit of a challenge this time as a surprising number of potters withdrew from the sale at the last moment! Maybe the hot summer we had kept you all out of your studios....

There were, unfortunately, some glitches. A few people did not know that their applications had been accepted, and found they couldn't do the sale on short notice. To them we offer a sincere apology. Because of this, we have now decided to have a Sale Committee Chair, with the responsibility of seeing that all the i's are dotted, t's crossed, and so on so that something like that doesn't happen again. So perhaps from something bad, something good will come. I am acting as the Chair for now.

Another problem is that we are surprisingly short in the money taken in. I have found one source of error – in at least two cases, the amounts entered for VISA transactions was wrong. In one case, \$93.96 was entered as \$ .36, and in the other, \$ 54.00 was entered as \$ .54. The first one came to my attention when the customer called me! She gets bonus points for honesty! But it is impossible to do anything about the other one, and if there are others with digits missing, there is no way I can tell, or do anything about it if I could. This is a perennial problem, and the only solution is vigilance. The person on the VISA job has to read what he/she has keyed in. By and large, the customer won't!

One thing that bothered me at the Spring Sale may have happened again as well. In the Spring I happened to be near one of the cashes, and noticed, not once but twice, a customer who was all set to walk out without paying. They were holding their bills and their credit cards, but because of the conversations and so on, nearly walked off without paying. I am sure it was completely inadvertent, but I wonder how often it happens.

These are some of the things the Sale Committee will be reviewing when we meet in January. Maybe we can come up with some solutions.

But the biggest and most serious problem which came up this time is much worse. I am very sorry to say that we almost certainly suffered a theft. I have had reports from a number of potters that they are missing pots. One loss was reported to me very early on, in fact, Thursday evening. In hindsight, I should have immediately announced that there would be a search under all tables after the Sale closed that night, but at the time I assumed the tag was missing and would likely show up once we got caught up in the back room. Needless to say, it didn't.

The missing pots are all what I would call high-end pieces, expensive, and by very good potters. Almost 20 pots are involved, so they could not have left under someone's coat. They are almost all over \$50 so

I can't believe they are just tags missed at the cash. This has to have been a targeted and deliberate theft. Naturally, we will be locking some barn doors. In future, the back doors will be closed and alarmed. I know it gets hot in the hall, but if we have to open the doors, we will have to station watchers at them. The door to the music room will be kept locked. We will consider hiring a security guard overnight. That would be cheaper than the pots that were lost. And I ask each of you, next time, if you are missing a pot during the sale, please let Linda Taylor or myself know and we will do an immediate search in the backroom, and if we do not find that the pot has been sold, there will have to be a complete room search once the sale closes for the night.

I know it seems a miserable thing to have to check under tables, but remember that if we do not find the missing pieces, it will prove everyone's innocence!

If anyone has any ideas about this, please get in touch! Meanwhile, I wish everyone a safe and Merry Christmas, and all the Best for the New Year.

Lis Allison

## **Update on the Beautiful Women Project**

Dear friends and supporters of the Beautiful Women Project,

It was a busy summer for the BWP, particularly the month of August. We were represented at the Women's Art Festival in Kingston, at the Carp Farmer's Market, and at the 3 Yellow Tulips Art Shop in Pakenham, Ontario. We've also been seen in many other venues that volunteers have taken us to on their own initiative – thanks!

Even better, the artwork is coming along nicely. All of the clay sculptures have been done, and I am now finishing the artwork to adorn the last third of them.

We're now in the home stretch to make the first exhibition in the Studio Gallery at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario in January 2006. Details for the opening, as well as the gallery hours, are just being ironed out, so stay tuned for further details. Your ideas and suggestions have brought the project to where it is now. Thank you for your continuing support and encouragement!

And now back to the clay...

Cheers, Cheryl-Ann

Bwp mailing list  
Bwp@lists.websterwood.com  
<http://www.websterwood.com/mailman/listinfo/bwp>  
BWP Web site: <http://www.websterwood.com/bwp/>

## **Classified Ads**

7 cu ft Paragon top-loading kiln for sale (takes 21" shelf). Reduced to \$500. An older kiln but has totally new elements and 1 switch has been replaced. Kiln sitter needs new claw. Fires to cone 6 easily. Analog Pyrometer included but no kiln furniture.

Call Debbie 613-989-5397  
gilmers@magma.ca