



January 2008

Hands In Clay

Ottawa Guild of Potters

Celebrating 30 years!

**Upcoming Meeting
Tuesday, February 5th**



*Meetings are held at The Nepean Visual Arts Center also known as The Nepean Sportsplex
@ 1701 Woodroffe Avenue, just South of Hunt Club Road from 7:30 to 9:30pm
The library will be open between 6:30 and 7:30 pm.*

**Executive Meetings are open to the public, & start at 6:00 pm.*

Debbie Gilmer has invited members of an Ikebana club to talk about flower arrangements, ceramic vessels & what they have in mind for our spring show!



OGP Website www.ottawaguildofpotters.ca

To view Newsletter online: www.ottawaguildofpotters.ca/newsletter

Bruce Jones Web Master

Newsletter ***Please send Newsletter comments & contributions to:*
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Membership News ***Please notify Judy of any changes to your e-mail or postal address via* Email: funkypoterie@tlb.sympatico.ca or, Tel: 819-463-3716

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Message from the President

At our meeting on January 8th we had the pleasure of seeing photos and videos of potters at work in Korea thanks to a presentation by Monica Rosenthal. Monica is a member of our Guild who visited Korea last year on a tour publicized through the email members list. If you did not get a chance to come to the meeting on the 8th, contact Monica if you would like to find out more about her trip. She clearly enjoyed her time in Korea and learned a lot about its culture and traditions.

What became clear in her talk was the fact that functional pottery was such a valued part of everyday life for Koreans. From quickly made 'wonky' tea bowls to enormous food storage jars, hand made pottery (not store bought mass produced "pottery") is the norm. It is shared with children and cultivated at every age level. Sounds ideal, doesn't it?

Many of us, if not most of us, started out as functional potters. From the humble beginnings of a simply made bowl have come fantastical creatures, elaborate wall pieces and beautifully crafted dinner sets, among other things. Look at your own work and see where you once began. What it took to make that first bowl is still there in the technical and creative skills your hands and imaginations now possess. We are often made to feel that the value of our work is in the eye of the beholder and thus in the amount someone is willing to pay for it. Perhaps we should take a page from the example set by the people of Korea; to use and share what we do as potters is where our true sense of value should lie. ~ *Kirstin*

Great Bowls of Fire needs your help...today!

As all of you know, we are hosting our third Great Bowls of Fire event on February 9th, an event that shows this Guild at its finest. It is a month away and yet the message we received last night at the Guild monthly meeting was that we don't have enough bowls for the event! How can this be? Our two intrepid organizers, Sarah and Colette, are hanging on to the hope that bowls will come in so let's make that a reality! If you have a bowl or bowls in your studio that you can donate, please bring them to Sarah's store (Capital Pottery Supplies, 877 Boyd Avenue) as soon as possible. Our faithful customers are looking to add to their collections so let's not disappoint them! If you are interested in receiving a tax receipt for your donation, please speak with anyone on the Executive and they will tell you how to go about receiving one.



We have a wonderfully talented group of potters in our Guild so I am asking all of you to put your best bowls forward in support of the Ottawa Food Bank. In so doing you also honour the work Sarah and Colette are doing on your behalf. My thanks in advance for your contribution! ~*Kirstin Davidson*

GREAT BOWLS OF FIRE

POTTERS DONATING BOWLS + RESTAURANTS DONATING SOUP = \$ FOR THE FOOD BANK

Hi everyone! Happy 2008 to all and all the best to you and your families in the coming year!



Well Great Bowls of Fire is fast approaching. Set for the evening of Saturday, February 9th, 2008. Sarah and I can't believe how quickly it has come up. She and I started our meetings with regard to Great Bowls in June this past year. Time certainly flies by.

I firstly would like to acknowledge all of Carol Badenoch's tremendous work in lining up the restaurants for us. I saw today in the Citizen that eight of our participating restaurants are featured in an article of the best 128 restaurants in Ottawa. Sadly for our team, Carol won't be able to join us at Great Bowls this year as she will be away on a cruise. All together now, Awwwww. But we will certainly miss her. Of course, all of our wonderful team leaders are working diligently behind the scenes. Thanks to each and every one of them. As this is the January newsletter, this will be the last opportunity we have before the event that we can appeal to you for your donations of bowls. We seem to be caught short of bowls this year, as Kirstin pointed out in her email to all of you last week. We really want to make this a success and we are confident, of course, that it will be, but the soup bowls are what make this whole event possible as they

are our starting point. So again if you have any bowls that you were planning to pledge to us, please honour your commitment and take them down to Capital Pottery Supplies. If you are volunteering at the event, you can simply bring them with you on that day, but a phone call of confirmation to Sarah at (613) 728-0697 would put her mind at rest. If you weren't planning on donating, Please consider it. February is a low month for donations at The Ottawa Food Bank. Please also keep in mind they help 130 affiliate agencies around the Ottawa region as well.

I would love it if you would provide us with business cards for your work and we will do our utmost best to have them attached to the bottom of your bowls. You never know who will want to get in touch with you!

I also want to mention that Sarah and I will be holding a meeting for Great Bowls of Fire Volunteers at the Nepean Sportsplex to take place at 6:30 p.m. before our February 5th OGP meeting. If you have any questions about the role you are taking on in volunteering, or if you just want a refresher from last year, please plan on attending.

Stay well all and remember May and trees full of leaves is only 3 months away!!!!!!

Cheers everyone! ~ *Colette*

IKEBANA



We will be hosting the Ohara and Sogetsu Schools of Ikebana at our Spring Sale to demonstrate the art of Ikebana for our customers in a couple of 1.5 hr sessions over the weekend. Timing is yet to be confirmed. Are you interested in making dishes suitable for Ikebana for this Sale??

We have been invited by the OHARA School of Ikebana for a guided group tour of 40 Ikebana arrangements on display at the Museum of Nature January 30-February 3. They will explain the art and what they look for in an Ikebana container. If you plan to attend the tour that has been arranged for us at the at the Museum of Nature on Thursday Jan 31 at 6 p.m., please email me at gilmers@magma.ca or phone 613-989-5397.

We will be reporting on our tour at our February Meeting. *Thanks ~ Debbie Gilmers*

AN INVITATION

INSTALLATION PIECE BY CYNTHIA O'BRIEN

I would like to invite you to my newest exhibition *entitled* LOSS

**City Hall Art Gallery
Ottawa City Hall, 110 Laurier Avenue West**

Opening Reception: THURSDAY, JANUARY 31st FROM 5:30 TO 7:30 PM
~ Come right after work for a drink & a nibble!

Exhibition runs from February 1st to March 9th, 2008

For more info, visit my new website @

www.cynthiaobrien.ca

OGP Members Album

The Members' Album has been on display at the Guild Sales, and will be on display again at the Great Bowls of Fire event Feb 9th, 5:30 to 8:30 pm. If you would like to add your page to the album, please do so. You can use the *attached form* as a guideline, or not. If you can make your own copy, print it, and add it to one of the empty sleeves that are stored in the album. If you would like me to make your page, send me your info (fishart@sympatico.ca) & I will type it up, show it to you for your approval, print it in black & white, and leave space for your own color photos to be added later. Be sure to include the size of your photos, ie: vertical/rectangle, 2" X 3", and I will leave a space for them. If your page is already done, you may wish to update your photos. There is also a sleeve for business cards. Consider putting a handful in for people to take.

This is your album, it's been a pleasure to create, update, and hold it for you! *~Cathy Payne*

WORKSHOP

Member Workshop May 3

Tile Workshop with Hanne Lawrence

Discussion and demonstration of the steps involved in making and installing of your own handmade tiles. The several completed tile projects in Hanne's home will be examined. These include two bathrooms, kitchen surround and counter top, fire place surround, stair risers, etc. The steps and materials involved in the installations will be discussed, then we will go to the studio for a demonstration of how the tiles are produced.

You too can make your own tiles to give an area of your home a unique and artistic look.

When: Saturday, May 3 From 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Place: 42 Eisenhower Crescent, Nepean

Directions: south on Woodroffe almost to the end, turn right on Bren Maur Road, turn left on Eisenhower Cr.

To register for a member workshop:

Email carolbadenoch@sympatico.ca or phone her at 613-225-6641 to check availability

Then mail a cheque for \$10, made out to "Ottawa Guild of Potters" to:

Carol Badenoch 66 Nestow Drive, Ottawa, K2G 4L8

Beginners Glaze Workshop

Intro to Glazes

A Workshop Presented by Gladstone Clayworks

Host: Caroline Agnew along with Gladstone Clayworks, 949b Gladstone Avenue

Dates: Saturday February 16 & Saturday March 15 2008

Time: 1-4 pm

Cost: \$25 per person

Contact: Caroline Agnew, phone: 613-697-4028 email: wengac@hotmail.com

Description:

This workshop will be an introduction to glazes for people who have never prepared glazes on their own before. We will talk about the basics of glaze chemistry, preparing and testing glazes, using colors, common glaze faults and how to fix them, and things to think about when firing your own kiln. Make sure to bring pencils and paper, as this will mainly be a lecture-type demonstration. Gladstone Clayworks is happy to provide snacks during the workshop.

**Please note that the workshop is being held twice for people who cannot make one or the other.*

Reflections on Carol Ann Michaelson's Workshop

"Never miss an opportunity to learn" encouraged Carol Ann Michaelson at her workshop presented on Jan.12-13th. During these two days she demonstrated her unique approach towards creating and altering clay forms with specific emphasis on the coherence of all the parts to the whole. She enthusiastically took us through each step in throwing, altering and attaching all elements of the form reminding us to be open to every design option. She showed us how she finds textures and design concepts from her garden environment amongst the flowers, rocks, trees and animals that surround her.

Carol Ann worked meticulously refining these forms taking time to "see" their aesthetic quality. For her a series of similar but not identical forms gives her the opportunity to explore and experiment with all possibilities. At this time of her career of more than thirty years as a ceramic artist she has developed and perfected the use of ash glazes which she sprays on her pieces to achieve the desired effect. I found it especially inspiring to hear her describe the important stages of her artistic development with the gradual emergence of her own personal statement. These reflections on her creative process challenged us towards greater clarity and integrity in our own work I, along with 33 others, was delighted to be present for this excellent workshop!



~Rhona Bloomfield

PLEASE NOTE:

For the Who's Who list, please refer to the last page of the September newsletter. As stated, this will only be published once a year in the September issue.

Newsletter distribution: I am aiming to get this newsletter out to you sooner as opposed to later! I aim to have it posted online by the second Monday following each meeting, for those receiving hardcopies; you should receive it mid to late week of the same.



***** Please remember bring your cup with you to the meeting!***

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