

FALL/WINTER 2006

## Jayne Shatz presents Large Scale Vessel Making

- The Traditional Japanese Fire Technique Using a Contemporary Blowtorch

The overflow crowd attending the June 4th workshop held at Creative Clay Studios was treated to Jayne's enthusiasm and can-do approach to this technique. I left feeling confident that I could use this technique to throw a vessel larger than I had been able to throw before!

Jayne recently moved to the Annapolis, Maryland area after a 30 year ceramic career in Albany, New York. She read about The Mid-Atlantic Clay Conference sponsored by The Clay Connection in the January-February '06 issue of Clay Times and called us to join our group! She is actually now on the committee to help plan the conference in '07! She also has a wealth of knowledge about ceramic history and technique that she will continue to share with us!

When I first met Jayne I noticed how beautifully manicured her hands were - very unpotter-like! I learned her secret at the workshop. She wears a pair of Rubbermaid gloves to throw!! I would not have thought that to be possible, but she demonstrated to us that it worked very well - and saved her hands!

The technique for throwing large vessels was fascinating. She started by centering, opening and throwing a 10 lb piece of clay to make a cylinder. At this point, she explained, the Japanese would light a small fire inside the cylinder to partially dry and stiffen the clay. To avoid the dangers of building a fire in your studio she introduced us to the use of a common blowtorch (can be purchased at any hardware store). She used this to heat the sides of the pot as the wheel spun slowly. When the clay was soft leatherhard - fairly stiff - she added several rows of fat coils to the rim and blended them down into the top of the pot and each other. Then she gently thinned those coils by throwing to raise the walls even higher. She continued this technique until the walls were as tall as she desired. She encouraged several attendees to work with her to do the additional throwing. We were all impressed - this was an easier technique than we had imagined!

The other interesting thing about this is that even though she stiffened the clay as she worked, she was still able to do some shaping of the piece from the inside as it got taller. This would be important if you wanted to make the pot more rounded.



*Jayne Shatz at the June 4th workshop,  
photo by Marianne Cordyack*

She also emphasized that you could begin with a smaller piece than she did. Just start the process with whatever size piece you can comfortably manage, then build from there, using the technique.

There were many excited comments at the end of the workshop. Thank-you, Jayne for sharing with us. We will see you again soon!

## From the President

Our membership year runs from 01 October to 30 September, and the 2006-2007 year is off to a good start.

On October 29th, we helped Manassas Clay celebrate its 10th anniversary and learn about Altered and Composite forms from co-owners Jane Cullum and Fran Newquist, both Lifetime Members of The Clay Connection. November focuses on Surface Decoration and features Sheila Ford and Annette Hansen, both Clay Connection Members. December's Holiday Potluck will feature local potter David Norton ([davidnortonpottery.com](http://davidnortonpottery.com)) at Dana Danz's (formerly Mitchel) newly renovated home. Look for your mailed invitation in November's mail.



*Stephanie Firestone at the Mid Atlantic Conference, photo by Rex Looney*

Planning for our next High School Show and the 7<sup>th</sup> Biennial Mid-Atlantic Clay Conference is underway, and we are still looking ways to simplify our very labor-intensive Empty Bowls event.

The Board has identified a number of goals for this membership year. We are identifying and pursuing many benefits that are available to not-for-profit organizations, such as reduced first-class postage charges, state tax exemptions, and advertising alternatives. We continue to develop a Procedures Manual to help guide our future event planners. And, we will continue to encourage member participation in all of our events by advance notification and continued announcements of volunteer opportunities.

**Join the Clay Connection!**

*Participate in our workshops/sales, Empty Bowls Charity benefit, clay conference, and other events. Meet other potters and receive our newsletter. All skill levels welcome. The membership year begins in October and the annual dues are \$35. Mail to Clay Connection c/o Julie Singer Sedell, Membership 5649 N. 19th Street Arlington, VA 22205 . Call Julie (703-241-1462) or email her at [julieisinger@mindspring.com](mailto:julieisinger@mindspring.com), if you would like more information.*

**November Meeting to Feature Sheila Ford and Annette Hansen**

The Clay Connection's November meeting will be a Surface Decoration Workshop held on Monday evening, November 13, from 7-9 PM at the Lee Arts Center in Arlington. Two demonstrations are on our schedule:

Sheila Ford will demonstrate for us various means to apply texture to surfaces, including stamping with various types of stamps; she will also show us how to make stamps. Annette Hansen will demonstrate the way that she uses oxides, both under glazes to color her beautiful leaf plates and with soda ash wash, which makes an unglazed finish that preserves the natural color of the clay. Sheila has been working with clay since 1995. She produces functional as well as raku and horse hair pottery in her home studio. In The Clay Connection, Sheila has been a Member at Large, Spring 2006 Sale Chairman, Past President, Empty Bowls volunteer and contributor. Annette has been working in clay since 1993, attending the Corcoran School of Art where she earned a Certificate in Ceramics and Sculpture. She was the first artist-in-residence at CreativeClay Studios with George Brown in 1997, and began teaching the next year for Creative Clay and for Fairfax County Adult Ed. She continues to teach beginning through advanced hand-building at Creative Clay Studios and has private sculpture Students at her home studio. Annette has exhibited and sold sculpture and ceramics throughout the D.C. area as well as in California, New York, and New Hampshire. She began her membership in The Clay Connection in 1997 and currently serves as co-chair for the 2006 Fall/Holiday Sale.

If you would like to have information about workshops or classes at your facility or an announcement of a show or opening in the next newsletter, please send the information to Russ Witt, email address: russell.witt2@verizon.net or [newsletter@theclayconnection.org](mailto:newsletter@theclayconnection.org) .

Thanks!

**LOCAL STUDIOS CLASSES & WORKSHOPS**

**Baltimore Clayworks**

5707 Smith Ave.  
Baltimore, Maryland 21209  
phone:410-578-1919

**CLASSES**

[www.baltimoreclayworks.org/education/classes.html](http://www.baltimoreclayworks.org/education/classes.html)

**WORKSHOPS**

Making Teapots with Julia Galloway

Friday, January 12, 7 – 10pm

Saturday and Sunday,

January 13 - 14, 10am – 4pm

Making Teapots What is the allure of teapots? How do we make teapots that are interesting and work well? Where do we find inspiration for making teapots? Teapots are the most generous of forms. They celebrate our daily rituals, contain nourishment and pour out refreshment. In this workshop Julia Galloway will discuss historical and contemporary teapots. The workshop will start with a Friday night lecture on teapots. Saturday, Julia will make several teapots and demonstrate different wheel throwing and hand building techniques. On Sunday Julia will demonstrate a variety of surface decoration techniques. In addition, we will visit the exhibition 100 Teapots III to discuss the works and their makers. \$160 for members. \$180 for non-members.



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## Creative Clay Studios

5704-E General Washington Drive  
Alexandria Va, 22312  
703-750-9480

[creativeclaypottery.com](http://creativeclaypottery.com)

NEXT CLASS SESSION BEGINS ON  
NOVEMBER 1

### WORKSHOPS 2006

#### Horsehair Technique

Sunday, November 19, 2006 9am - 4pm

This is an opportunity to learn the technique and take it home with you to reproduce on your own. Bring your bisque fired pots and learn how to produce distinct pottery with horsehair and iron fuming effects. Ideally, your leather hard pots should be sprayed or brushed with terra sigliata\* and burnished; then fired to cone 08. This will give your pot the ultimate finish!

Cost of workshop will include the firing of two pieces of bisque fired pottery, no larger than 8" tall by 5" wide. Additional pieces **of that size** will be fired for an additional \$10 charge. Fee: \$75

#### Miniatures Off the Hump

Sunday, November 19, 2006

11am -3pm

Gail has been throwing mini-bottles and experimenting with various forms, often borrowing from larger shapes that she has done before. She has also tried a variety of surface treatments such as sgraffito carved through oxides. Firing methods have also been explored, and she has examples of wood, salt/soda, raku, cone 10 reduction, cone 6 oxidation and pit fired miniatures. Gail will discuss any special challenges that alternative firing methods may present. The pot on the left is one of her "biggest" mini-bottles at just under 3 inches. It was raku fired using the naked slip method. Gail will offer a discussion of form, aesthetics and a demonstration of the techniques she has discovered to bring form to life in her mini-bottles.

Fee: \$35 Members, \$40 Non members

## HOOD COLLEGE

Hood College 401 Rosemont Ave.,  
Frederick, MD 21701 301-696-3456 fax  
301-696-3531, [www.hood.edu/academic/](http://www.hood.edu/academic/)  
art clicking on the Ceramics Program.  
Workshops

### ARTS 599Q Composite Throwing

Tony Clennell

November 3-5, 2006 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

This workshop will include techniques to create large jugs, casseroles, vases, teapots, cups, bowls and platters. Tony has developed a method of making pots in pieces that gives an articulated shape while making it easier to handle larger amounts of clay. Handles, lugs, altering, cutting and surface embellishment with slips will also be covered. During the hands on portion of the workshop, participants will learn how to make cane handles for their own pots.

Workshop Fee: \$185 1 credit Tuition:  
\$350

## the art league school

The Art League School

105 North Union Street Alexandria,  
Virginia 22314

Phone: 703-683-2323, Fax: 703-683-0167

[school@theartleague.org](mailto:school@theartleague.org)

### WORKSHOPS

#### Functional Formations

With Jeff Oestreich

12/02 & 03/2006 Saturday & Sunday

Being a functional potter allows the opportunity to examine form, glaze, pattern, surface design, and experience the challenge of designing a pot that feels comfortable to the hand. This workshop investigates these concerns and a variety of topics relating to a potter's life. Day one focuses on making shapes on the wheel that will later be altered. Day two focuses on assembling these forms, decoration, and discussing the surfaces achieved in a salt (soda) firing. The importance of paying attention to detail in one's work is stressed.

Fee: \$180.00

## The Clay Connection

P.O. Box 3214  
Merrifield, VA 22116-3214  
<http://www.theclayconnection.org>  
email: [pottery@theclayconnection.org](mailto:pottery@theclayconnection.org)

The Clay Connection is a nonprofit organization of potters mainly from the Washington D.C. metropolitan area. Members range from beginners to hobbyists to full time professionals who work in a broad range of styles. The organization offers programs designed to provide its members educational and networking opportunities.

### Board Members

#### President

Roberta Couver (703)731-9808

#### Vice President For Programs

Marianne Cordyack

#### Vice President For Membership

Julie Singer Sedell

#### Recording Secretary

Steve Gammicchia

#### Treasurer

Barbara Oksanen

#### Members at Large

Jessica Clay  
Reggie Pointer  
Dick White

#### Past President

Sheila Ford

#### Administrative

#### Hospitality

Debby Barger

#### Internet Resources

Roberta Couver (interim)

#### Lending Library

Gail Adkisson

#### Newsletter

[newsletter@theclayconnection.org](mailto:newsletter@theclayconnection.org)

#### Nominating Committee

Members at Large

#### Internal Publicity

Edie Adam

#### Volunteer Coordinator

Dick White

### Organizational Representatives

#### Artisans United

Lynn Street

#### Cultural Alliance of Greater Washington

vacant

#### Committee Chairs

#### Empty Bowls 2006

Vacant

#### Mid-Atlantic Clay Conference 2007

The Planning Team

#### High School Student Clay Competition & Exhibit

Steve Gammicchia

#### Holiday Show and Sale

Al and Annette Hanson

## **Consolidated Calendar**

-29 October 2006, composite and Altered Forms featuring Jane Cullum and Fran Newquist, 1-4 pm

—05 November 2006, deadline for submitting items for the November board meeting agenda (send email to [potters@theclayconnection.org](mailto:potters@theclayconnection.org)).

—12 November 2006, Board Meeting

—13 November 2006, Surface Treatments Program Featuring Sheila Ford and Annette Hansen; Lee Arts Center, 5722 Lee Highway, Arlington, 7 to 9 PM

—14 November 2006; Conference Planning Meeting

—09 December 2006, Holiday Pot Luck at Dana Mitchell's house, featuring David Norton, starts at 7

—01 December 2006, deadline for submitting inputs for the winter newsletter (send email to [newsletter@theclayconnection.org](mailto:newsletter@theclayconnection.org)).

—02 December 2006, Fall Show & Sale

—21 December 2006, target publication date for the winter issue of the Cracked Pot.

—January 2007, target publication date for new membership directory

—07 January 2007, deadline for submitting items for the January board meeting agenda (send email to [potters@theclayconnection.org](mailto:potters@theclayconnection.org)).

—14 January 2007, Board Meeting

—17 January 2007; Conference Planning Meeting

—04 February 2007, deadline for submitting items for the February board meeting agenda (send email to [potters@theclayconnection.org](mailto:potters@theclayconnection.org)).

—11 February 2007, Board Meeting

—01 March 2007, deadline for submitting inputs for the spring/summer newsletter

(send email to [newsletter@theclayconnection.org](mailto:newsletter@theclayconnection.org)).

—04 March 2007, deadline for submitting items for the March board meeting agenda (send email to [potters@theclayconnection.org](mailto:potters@theclayconnection.org)).

—11 March 2007, Board Meeting

—21 March 2007; Conference Planning Meeting

—21 March 2007, target publication date for the spring/summer issue of the Cracked Pot.

### **Volunteers Needed**

Hospitality (we need two or three people willing to help Deb Barger provide snacks at various events)

Newsletter (we need two or three people willing to help Russ Witt obtain input for the quarterly newsletter)