

# THE CRACKED POT

The Clay Connection Newsletter

Spring 2002



Jane Cullum demonstrates on the wheel at Empty Bowls soup supper while children get their faces painted by DotCom, the clown. Photo below by Linda Zackin. All other photos by Janelle Seiberlich.



Maureen Larrazabel and baby Cecilia enjoy the evening.



Scrapbook from Empty Bowls 2002

Guests pay for their handcrafted bowls.

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Good news! Most of our board members have agreed to stay on. That means: **Jennifer Dinkelmeyer** as President (yours truly), **Deb Swauger** as Treasurer, **Roberta Couver** as Secretary and **Marianne Cordyack** as Membership Chair. Also Board Members at large: **Mary Kay Crowley**, **Stephanie Firestone**, **Dana Mitchell** and **Claire Hasselbeck**. **Jere Ewing** and **Katy Chiles** will continue as the phone tree contacts and **Caroline Brinkman** will remain as Hospitality Chair.

We have an opening for a very important position—that of **Vice President**. One important aspect of this job is arranging the programs for our monthly Clay Connection Meetings. We still need a **Publicity Chair** and a **Cultural Alliance Liaison** and a **Chairman** for **Empty Bowls 2003**. The Nominating Committee will meet in April to select a slate for these positions.

We would like to welcome **Alison Malzahn** as our new web site and e-mail manager.

The Clay Connection has had a successful year—thanks to the great teamwork of this very talented and energetic team. Thank you for your generous gift of time, support and devotion.

—Jennifer Dinkelmeyer

## Member News

**Ramon Camarillo** has been in the spotlight lately! There is a wonderful article about Ramon and his Raku work in the April issue of *Ceramics Monthly*. He also had a brief, but shining moment on Good Morning America, April 4th, when they highlighted scenes from the Torpedo Factory on the show. There he was sitting at the wheel, throwing one of his impressive pots. Go Ramon!

For some entertaining stories, chat with Ramon Camarillo, Reg Brown and/or Peter Fitzgerald, recent attendees at **NCECA 2002**. Each gives a slightly different slant on the events in Kansas City.

**Deb Swauger** is opening a new studio and gallery in Front Royal, VA, in May 2002. It will be a working clay studio, also offering a variety of pottery created by Virginia's finest clay artists. **Debra Swauger Studio and Gallery**, 202 East Main Street, Front Royal, VA (540)636-6016.

## High School Spring Show

The Clay Connection is once again presenting an area High School competition and show this spring. It is open to students in Fairfax and Arlington Counties and Alexandria. It is intended to encourage participation in ceramics by area students and to show the best of student work in functional and non-functional wheel and hand built ceramics as well as sculptural and mixed media pieces. The show will be held May 12-19 at the Tyler Gallery at NOVA Community College, Alexandria Campus. A reception and awards ceremony will be held at the gallery, Saturday, May 18th at 7 p.m. All Clay Connection members are invited to attend this reception. It is exciting to see such a variety of original and innovative work from these young artists. **Al Hansen** is chairing this event. Please see "Volunteer Opportunities" on page 3 of this issue.

## Upcoming Clay Connection Programs and Meetings

*Programs associated with meetings are scheduled to last 1 to 1-1/2 hours.*

### April 28 (Sunday) – 1pm - 3:30pm

**Program: Stephanie Firestone—Hands-on Extruded Clay Figure Sculpture Workshop** – Manassas Clay, 9122 Center St., Manassas, VA. Limited participants. Call Stephanie to RSVP for hands-on at (703)354-0316. All are welcome to come and observe.

### May 12-19

**Spring High School Student Show** – Tyler Gallery, NOVA Community College, Alexandria Campus. Reception and Awards presentation May 18 (Saturday) at 7 pm.

### May 18 (Saturday) – 2 pm

**Meeting: Clay Connection Elections** – Hudson Street Pottery, 1116 N. Hudson St., Arlington, VA. Video and annual Scholarship Prizes—come and be one of the lucky winners of a money prize to help supplement a clay workshop of your choice!

### June 9 (Sunday) – 1 pm

**Meeting: Clay Connection Planning Meeting** – we need your ideas! Lunch provided. (location TBA)

**Clay Connection monthly meetings will resume in September.**

## Plan Now to Participate!

**T**he **Gathering of the Guilds** at Artisans United will take place on Saturday, June 8th this year. This is a fun event in which **Artisans United** invites all member guilds (including Clay Connection) to set up a booth or area to demonstrate and sell, in and around the Packard Center, 4022 Hummer Rd., Annandale, VA. This is an outreach event to bring the arts to the greater community.

Clay Connection members have set up a wheel in years past, and had a lot of fun demonstrating. Anyone who demonstrates can also sell their pottery that day. There is no fee or commission collected. Temporary Sales Tax Collection forms will be available for anyone who would like to participate. We usually try to get several members to participate, and take turns demonstrating.

There is also an area set up for outreach—this is a hands-on area, mostly for kids. Anyone who would like to help kids get the feel of playing with our favorite medium (good old mud) should contact Jean Lee (301)322-4210 or [jean\\_lee\\_designs@yahoo.com](mailto:jean_lee_designs@yahoo.com). Lynn Street usually does this. I expect she would welcome company.

The hours of the event are 10 to 4, and the hours for demonstrations are 11 to 3. Anyone who would like to participate should call **Dana Mitchell** at (703)941-4887, or email: [danaclay@aaahawk.com](mailto:danaclay@aaahawk.com).

## BOWLS, BOWLS, BOWLS

**A**nother wonderful event! Clay Connections members and friends brought together a highly successful Empty Bowls evening on March 22nd for about

700 people who took home over 1,100 donated bowls. The colorful array of bowls, made by potters of all levels of experience, covered about twenty-five 6' tables in the cafeteria of Washington-Lee High School in Arlington. A display of unique pieces, donated for the silent auction, showed the fine artistic and professional expertise of some of our members.

Throughout the evening, children enjoyed watching balloons being twisted into animals and having their faces painted. Everyone was fascinated by demonstrations of a variety of throwing techniques on the electric wheel by Jane Cullum and Wayne Willson. The flute choir provided lovely “to dine by” music. People enjoyed visiting with each other as they consumed their meals of excellent soups, assorted breads and desserts.

A big thank you to the chairman, Stephanie Firestone and all the committee members for this well-organized and fun event.

—Jere Ewing

## Epilogue

**C**hairing Empty Bowls was a great experience for me. I always look forward to donating bowls, but this gave me the opportunity to meet with all of the wonderful people who give their time and talents in preparation for the evening. Everyone is eager to do his or her part and do it well. Being able to serve the charities in this way is a great feeling.

Clay Connection raised \$20,000 this year which brings the total for the last 4 years to over \$60,000 and we consider this remarkable. As this event grows in size, we would like to find a group or individual who would like to run this event. Clay Connection would concentrate on making and gathering more bowls. If anyone knows of a group or individual they think would be interested in running Empty Bowls, they can call anyone on the Board and we will pass on all of our information. Long-range planning is the key to continued success. Gary Cohen of Vie de France and Pine Ridge's Carlos Larrazabal got together after Empty Bowls 2001 to brainstorm the soup-serving and we all benefitted this year from their input.

Members will notice the evening's Program inserted in this newsletter as a further ‘thank you’ to everyone who contributed before and during the event. To reduce postage and give more money to the charities, individual thank you letters will not be mailed.

I would also like to say that I especially enjoyed working closely with Jennifer Dinkelmeyer for the past 4 months. She guided me through the process willingly and cheerfully. This was greatly appreciated.

—Stephanie Firestone



Guests select their bowls from a wide assortment.

## Announcements/Classifieds

• **Packard Center**, April 20 (rain date: April 28) 10am-2pm—**Studio/Garage Sale**—too late to reserve space (sorry), but you can still come to find a bargain in tools, supplies or artwork in the parking lots and on the grassy area at the Packard Center, 4022 Hummer Road, Annandale VA.

• As most of you know, **Creative Clay Studios** is for sale. George Brown has extended his Lease until March 2003. If you or anyone you know is interested in buying Creative Clay, call George (703)750-9480.

• The Clay Connection is sending a representative to the next meeting of the **Alexandria Art Consortium** to explore the possibility of our participation as a co-operative group within the proposed new **Delray Art Center**.

• The Clay Connection now has **31 videos** available to borrow. See Dana Mitchell at one of our meetings, or call her (703)941-4887 or e-mail: [danaclay@aaahawk.com](mailto:danaclay@aaahawk.com) for details.

Members: Let us know if you have news to announce! Classified ads are free to members of the Clay Connection. Contact Claire Hasselbeck at [clairemac@erols.com](mailto:clairemac@erols.com), or call her at (703)750-9227. We reserve the right to edit or reject ads due to space or other considerations.

## The Kiln Club and Ceramic Guild

**T**he Kiln Club and the Ceramic Guild are area networking groups for clay artisans. One of the benefits of joining these groups, is that members can exhibit their work in the Scope Gallery at the Torpedo Factory. For information about joining these groups, contact Lorraine Colson (703)960-0726 for the Kiln Club and Brenda Townsend (703)532-5448 for the Ceramic Guild.

Coming Exhibits at the Scope Gallery, Studio 19:  
Ceramic Guild: May 7-June 2 – functional pottery for dining and entertaining. July 2-August 1 – pottery for summer entertaining.

Kiln Club: June 4-June 30 – pottery for gift giving.  
For further information on these shows, contact Elisabeth Lescault (301)772-9340.

### 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. Yearly dues for membership is \$30. Mail to Clay Connection c/o Marianne Cordyack, 11423 Tanbark Dr., Reston, VA 20191. Call Marianne (703)860-1476 or [marianne@cordyack.com](mailto:marianne@cordyack.com) if you would like more info.


## Volunteer Opportunities

The Clay Connection is a volunteer organization. We have no paid positions, and rely on our members to make things work. Please consider offering your time to help make the Clay Connection fun and useful for all!

- Volunteers are needed for the **Spring High School Student Show**. Call **Al Hansen** at (703)538-5786 or e-mail [awkndrm@earthlink.net](mailto:awkndrm@earthlink.net).
- It's only been a few months since the Mid-Atlantic Clay conference, but **Mike Swauger** is already organizing for the **Clay Conference October 2-5, 2003**. Mike has **Julia Galloway** lined up as one of the presenters, but is looking for ideas for another presenter and for volunteers to help with the conference. Contact Mike: [swauger@rma.edu](mailto:swauger@rma.edu).
- **Empty Bowls** – chairperson and planning for 2003. This person can be outside of the Clay Connection membership. Call Stephanie Firestone (703)354-0316 for information.
- **Publicity Chairperson** – involves sending out announcement postcards for each of our events. Call Jennifer Dinkelmeyer (703)768-4872 for info.
- **Cultural Alliance Liaison**. Receive the CA monthly newsletter and convey news – such as marketing workshops and member benefits' info. – to the Clay Connection. Just bring the list of events to our Programs. Pam Eisenmann can answer questions about this position (703)644-6588.
- If you would like to gather **"Workshops and Exhibitions"** for the newsletter, e-mail Taube for more information; put 'newsletter' in the subject: [clayconnection@hotmail.com](mailto:clayconnection@hotmail.com).

### Newsletter Deadline for Submissions – June 15

The Fall 2002 issue of *The Cracked Pot* will be coming out in July. If you would like to submit an article or photo for consideration (or have an idea for an article) please call Claire Hasselbeck (703)750-9227 or e-mail her at [clairemac@erols.com](mailto:clairemac@erols.com). Please do not submit big image files via e-mail! Call or e-mail first; we will let you know what formats we can handle.



202 East Main Street  
Front Royal, VA 22630-6179  
**Mike Swauger**  
540-636-6016

### 1-877-KILNDOC (545-6362)

**Services include:** Consulting for purchases of new and used ceramic equipment, studio set-up, house-call service, repair and parts for all popular brands. Currently building a data base for second hand equipment, let Mike know if you have or need equipment.

## The Clay Connection

The Clay Connection is a nonprofit organization of potters mainly from the Washington DC metropolitan area. Members range from beginners 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.

### The Clay Connection

P.O. Box 3214  
Merrifield, VA 22116-3214  
<http://www.geocities.com/theclayconnection>

### Board Members

President  
Jennifer Dinkelmeyer  
(703)768-4872

Vice President  
Taube Wilson

Secretary  
Roberta Couver

Treasurer  
Debra Swauger

Membership  
Marianne Cordyack

Members at Large  
Mary Kay Crowley  
Stephanie Firestone  
Liz Francis  
Claire Hasselbeck  
Dana Mitchell

Newsletter  
Claire Hasselbeck, editor  
(703)750-9227  
[clairemac@erols.com](mailto:clairemac@erols.com)  
Stephanie Firestone, designer

### Committee Representatives

Artisans United  
Dana Mitchell

Cultural Alliance  
(vacant)

Hospitality  
Caroline Brinkman

Publicity/Postcard Announcements  
(vacant)

Spring High School Student Show  
Al Hansen  
(703)538-5786

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P.O. Box 3214 • Merrifield, VA 22116-3214

www.geocities.com/theclayconnection

### In and Around Washington: WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

Baltimore Clayworks  
5707 Smith Ave., Baltimore, MD (410)578-1919  
www.baltimoreclayworks.org

*Making Bonsai Containers* with Mike Hagedorn.  
May 4 and 5 (10am-4pm).

*Beginner Bonsai: A workshop* with Arschel Morell.  
May 18 and 19 (10am-3pm).

Creative Clay Studios/Pine Ridge Pottery  
5704-D General Washington Dr., Alexandria, VA  
(703)750-9480

*Fine Business of Craft* with Judith Shapiro and  
Moulton Avery. April 21 (12-6pm). Fee: \$90.

*Kiln Formed Glass* with Judith Shapiro. April 27  
(1-4pm) and April 28 (12-5pm). Fee: \$225.

*Tile Decoration* with Alfredo. May 18 (9am-4pm).  
Fee: \$60.

*Raku Workshop* with Ramon. Session I—April 27;  
Session II—June 15. (11am-4pm). Fee: \$90.

*Advance Open Studio* with Jennifer Dinkelmeyer—  
Independent Study for Advanced Students.  
April 15-June 28 (11am-3pm). Sign up for 1, 2 or 3 days  
a week. Fee: \$225-300.

Torpedo Factory—Art League School  
305 Madison St., Alexandria, VA (703)683-2323

*Altering wheel-thrown porcelain* with Debra Swauger.  
June 15, 2002, 10am-4pm. Fee: \$65.

Longwood College

Farmville, VA — *Conference: June 19-23*

**FUSION** – Arts Business Institute (ABI), American  
Crafts Council (ACC) and Association of Virginia Artisans  
(AVA) are joining together to present this conference:  
a fusion of craft artistry, skills, knowledge and  
opportunities. Total Conference fee: \$250 (partial fees  
available). Questions: e-mail stargazer.msb@juno.com  
or call (804) 794-7235.

### SHOWS & EXHIBITIONS

**Smithsonian Craft Show** April 25-28 at the National  
Building Museum, 401 F St., NW D.C. Admission \$12.

**Baltimore Clayworks – Bonsai Insites** May 4-25.  
Collaborations between tree and container. Sculptural  
Bonsai containers created by 16 respected ceramic  
artists plus examples of their current work.

**10th Annual Strictly Functional Pottery.** Juror Jack  
Troy. May 4-27 at Southern Market Ctr, Lancaster, PA  
(hrs: M-F 9am-5pm, Sat. 10am-4pm, Sun. 10am-5pm).  
Directions and further info: lehman73@earthlink.net

**Northern Virginia Handcrafter's Guild and  
Artisans United 2002 Spring Show** May 18-19 at  
NOVA Community College Annandale Campus.

**Hinckley Pottery** 1707 Kalorama Rd., NW, D.C.  
(202)745-7055. *Instructor's Show* April 21 (12-6pm).  
*Student Show* June 2 (12-6pm).

### Websites of Interest

**Potterbarter**—a very low volume list intended  
as a classified ads column for potters, looking to  
buy, sell, trade or give away stuff. There are over

300 members. No chat, no competition with clayart.  
Transactions happen by private e-mail. It's a  
yahoo group, and free. Here's the link:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/potterbarter/>

To go directly to the Clayart archives, organized by  
categories: <http://www.potters.org/categories.htm>  
Easy and fun to search—no keywords or anything,  
even glazes by color. (courtesy of Kelly from Clayart)

### Call for Entries

A **juried craft market** will be featured as the  
**Ninth Annual Celtic Potomac Festival** on  
June 8-9, 2002 at Morven Park Equestrian Center, one  
mile north of Leesburg, on Route 15. For information,  
call Barbara Ryan of Barnaby Production, Inc. at  
(703)451-4492 or e-mail: prez@pobox.com. Festival  
website is [www.PotomacCelticFest.org/press.shtml](http://www.PotomacCelticFest.org/press.shtml).

### Every Bowls Pottery Project at Washington-Lee

Washington-Lee's pottery program is looking  
for **guest artists** to come and share their  
knowledge and expertise.

During the month of April, sessions will be on  
Friday afternoons from 3-5pm. If you are  
interested please contact: Joan Bickelhaupt, Art  
Department Chair, Washington-Lee High School,  
1300 N. Quincy Street, Arlington, VA 22201.  
Phone: (703)228-6200.