

Summer 2003

Message from the President

Many thanks to the outgoing Board of Directors of The Clay Connection for their hard work and dedication in keeping The Clay Connection moving forward.

It is a pleasure for me to be able to dedicate more time to the clay community. I want to express my appreciation to each of the members of the 2003 Board of Directors who agreed to work with me during this year. I am very excited about what we will bring to The Clay Connection.

1. In response to the desires expressed to keep programs going, we have two Vice Presidents (Trish Seddon and Laura Fall) who will work together to assure programs of interest to our members are scheduled.
2. The newsletter will continue with Russ Witt (russell.witt2@verizon.net) as designer. Please be sure to provide him newsworthy articles and be responsive when he contacts you for input.
3. Alison Malzahn (alisonmalzahn@yahoo.com) has agreed to chair the 2003 Holiday Show, November 22 at Vienna Community Center – Al Hansen and Ed Bull will be working with her. She will need more help – so please contact her directly if you are planning to participate and can play a role in putting the show together.
4. Paul Katsansis and Stephanie Firestone have agreed to co-chair a spring sale.

We still need a chairperson for our Holiday Party (December), and Empty Bowls 2004. Throughout the coming year, I will remind you that the success of The Clay Connection is directly related to your participation and contributions. I believe we have a dynamic, committed Board of Directors who will take an active role in activities, as their personal commitments will allow. Don't be surprised if I contact you to take a more active part.

Please feel free to contact me or any of the Board Members to volunteer to help make The Clay Connection enjoy a great year!!



Dana Mitchell, Caroline Brinkman, Jennifer Dinkelmeyer and Roberta Couver with empty bowls. Photo courtesy of Janelle Seiberlich

The Clay Connection's 10th Annual Empty Bowls Charity Soup Supper

Thank you to all who helped make this event the biggest success ever!

I was totally awestruck when I witnessed the flood of people standing poised at the plastic caution tape which surrounded the almost 1500 donated bowls. The bowls were placed on the tables and Rob VanReyns stood as a sentinel in the center. His imposing presence, with his focused glare, served as a warning for anyone contemplating taking a bowl before the caution tape was lowered.

When all was ready, the caution tape was ripped to the ground and I would never have believed it if I had not seen the mad dash that ensued. This year's Empty Bowls was the largest in The Clay Connection's history and its overwhelming success was due to the over 100 volunteers who faithfully and generously gave their time, energy, sweat, and tears.

We estimate that close to 1600 people attended this year's event. The estimate is based on the amount of soup consumed. Everyone had soup, bread, and dessert and no one went away hungry. We had 35 bowls left over at the end of the evening and little leftover food to donate. The sale of bowls and proceeds from the silent auction brought in over \$26,000 for the evening. We were able to donate \$7,821.00 to each of the charities: Food for Others, So Others Might Eat, and United Community Ministries.

(continued on page 2)

2003 HIGH SCHOOL CERAMIC COMPETITION AND EXHIBIT

Amazing student work – what a great showing and opportunity for the kids! “We hope to participate again next year.” “Thanks for organizing this event, and for making such a wonderful opportunity available to the young artists in this area.” All the teachers were enthusiastic about The Clay Connection’s 2003 High School Ceramics Competition and Exhibit held at NVCC-Alexandria and hosted and judged by our own Bill Schran. At least one teacher will become a new member of the Clay Connection and has promised to help next year!

We have three goals for this show:

- 1- To give recognition to students working in ceramics (in addition to the competitive awards, all those in the show received a certificate of recognition).
- 2- To give students the opportunity to see what students from other schools are doing. And
- 3- To encourage students, especially Seniors, to continue working in clay.

This year 75 pieces of student work were submitted, in spite of a busy spring schedule. The number of participating high schools increased since the last show from 5 to 9. Sponsors donated gifts totaling nearly \$650 that were awarded to prize-winning students; these included magazine subscriptions, retail and catalog gift certificates, tools, a class/workshop, and yes, even **clay**.

Those sponsors included Bailey’s; Ceramics Monthly; Clay Times; Axner Pottery; Creative Clay Pottery and Studios; Pine Ridge Pottery; eArtWorld.com, and of course NVCC-Alexandria with not only their facilities but also with student awards - and even the head of their arts department!

Bill Schran and I give the deepest thanks to several from the Clay Connection who enabled this show. Jennifer Dinkelmeyer, her daughter (thanks, Patty!), and Stephanie Firestone, who stayed until the very end putting the show up. Also invaluable were Denise Corcoran, Helen Hensgen, and George Brown. Then for our awards night, again Stephanie came

and did yeowoman work, along with Barbara Oksanen and Roberta Couver - in spite of Mothers Day schedules! Claire Hasselbeck and Ed Bull came to the college and sat the gallery so that visitors could come after school hours.

It was great to see the students and their parents, as well as teachers, buzzing at the Tyler Gallery, admiring and checking out the work in the exhibit to find possibilities they had never thought of. This event proved again to be of consequence in the community and to have what will likely be lasting results to a new generation of ceramicists. Students and teachers alike want it to be a yearly competition and exhibit. And, as always, it was great to work with the people who make up our organization – you did good, Clay Connection! Can’t thank you enough.-- Al Hansen



Round Vase.

Photo courtesy of Marianne Cordyack

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, 11432 Tanbark Dr., Reston, VA 20191. Call Marianne (703)860-1476 or email her at marianne@cordyack.com, if you would like more info.

Empty Bowls continued from page 1

The volunteers were unbelievable! The kitchen staff, under the expert direction of Gary Cohen and Ann Roberts, was able to perform nothing less than miracles. Running short on soup and seeing the mass of people they managed to get everyone fed while facing one obstacle after another: frozen soup, time running out, burners not working, pots leaking, soup getting low and tempers rising. The kitchen team managed to pull together and get the job done.

Stephanie Firestone was the Co-Chair of this year’s event and without her direction and kind encouragement this event would not have run like a fine tuned orchestra. Next year I will be the one to help the new Chair person and pass the torch. My job was made easier because of all the well rehearsed volunteers from The Clay Connection’s members, and community volunteers. It has been such a wonderful and rewarding experience to have had the opportunity to work with and befriend such a group of people. Words can not express the gratitude I have for all the individuals who chose to volunteer their time. Thank you for helping to make this event the biggest success in the history of the The Clay Connection Empty Bowls. I look forward to helping the Chair person for next year. If you are hesitating to step forward to chair this incredible event rest assured that you will be working with some of the best people in the Washington Metro area. When things must get done NOW not later our Clay Connection Members are right there to help.

A big thank you to all the Empty Bowls volunteers- Marcia Finnerty

The Fall 2003 issue of the Cracked Pot will be coming out in October. If you would like to submit an article, a photo, or a workshop announcement, please call Russ Witt (703) 960-5474 or email him at vze42np4@verizon.net.

STARTING A BUSINESS???

On June 7 Eric Easter, Executive Director of Washington Area Lawyers for the Arts (WALA), presented some points to the members on starting a business.

WALA's Legal Services Program offers members direct access to free or inexpensive legal counsel and representation through its twice-monthly Legal Clinic and Pro-Bono Referral Program. More than 350 volunteer lawyers from Washington, Maryland, and Virginia provide counsel to artists, arts and cultural organizations, and entertainment-related businesses through the program.

Mr. Easter indicated that liability is a key consideration and the importance of liability insurance. The first step is to obtain a Tax ID number. You need to decide whether you want to be a Sole Proprietorship, Partnership, or Corporation. Eric suggests starting with a plan of where you want to be in ten years. He further stated that the choice that limits personal liability is corporation.

If you choose to become a corporation you will need "Articles of Incorporation." These will include who you are, what you do, and what you intend to do. Eric stressed the key consideration in the development of corporate "Articles" is to be vague enough to provide the flexibility to roll with future opportunities.

"Bylaws" are also required of a corporation. Eric indicated these can be as long or as short as you would like, and should contain the best case/worse case scenarios. As a for-profit business, Eric stated you can pretty much include whatever you would like. He stressed that the IRS will read these documents. Samples of both Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws can be found on the internet. Eric also emphasized that a business does not need a lawyer to incorporate.

Eric's presentation was very informative and appreciated by the members present – even some of the old-

timers picked up a few tips. Roberta Couver did a great job finding this resource! Eric Easter can be reached at WALA, 202 429-0960, extension 26. The WALA website is www.thewala.org. Visit the website for more information about the services WALA offers. They do provide free legal clinics to members.- Sheila Ford

A message from the Editor

When I answered Sheila's plea for a newsletter designer I assumed that things would be crazy at first and maybe I would have a one page flyer for the Summer issue. In short my expectations were pretty low. However as people came forward with articles, I found that we have a lot of activity in this group and that we can easily sustain a four page newsletter.

We need your help! If you have attended a workshop or exhibition that was particularly good, drop me a line. If you hear of future workshops you might be interested in, please share this with me. I also need pictures, pots are good especially when I can attribute them to their maker but mostly I am interested in photos of members! I would prefer jpegs but I can scan photos as well. Thanks to Janelle Seiberlich for this months photos of Empty Bowls.

I want to thank Stephanie Firestone, Jennifer Dinkelmeyer, Marcia Finnerty, Al Hansen, Roberta Couver, Janelle Seiberlich and again Sheila Ford for helping me out on this issue.
Russ Witt



Friends with a bowl by Matthew Freitas.
Photo courtesy of Janelle Seiberlich

The Clay Connection

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email: clayconnection@hotmail.com
Clay Conference Web site:
www.harmony.potters.com/cc.confhome.htm

The Clay Connection is a nonprofit organization of potters mainly from the Washington D.C. 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.

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Spring High School Student Show
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The Cracked Pot Newsletter c/o The Clay Connection

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

www.geocities.com/theclayconnection

Clay Conference is Around the Corner

The conference committee, headed by Mike Swauger, is winding up the planning for the 5th Mid-Atlantic Clay Conference to be held October 2 thru 5, 2003 in Front Royal, Virginia. The Clay Connection is sponsoring this wonderful long-weekend event featuring main presenters Judith Duff, Julia Galoway, and Mark Shapiro. We invite you to come and watch them as they work and discuss their work.

If you have not attended a Conference before, it is truly something to experience. On Friday there will be workshops and demonstrations from area potters. Friday night you may attend a Luau — music, dancing, and a catered dinner. Ceramic industry vendors will exhibit and sell their products all weekend. The whole conference allows networking and visiting of all attendees. And, there will be a

massage therapist for those who want to really relax! And MORE...If you would like more information, please e-mail Mike at swauger@shentel.net or call him at 540-636-6016. Website info: www.harmonypottery.com/cc/confhome.htm.

— Stephanie Firestone



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EXHIBITIONS&SHOWS

Sackler Gallery of Art

1050 Independence Avenue S.W. Washington D.C.
20560, sssasia.si.edu

Isamu Noguchi and Modern Japanese Ceramics

Through September 7, 2003

Baltimore Clay Works

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

“Prairie Fire: Hot Midwest Clay,”

An exhibition featuring the ceramic works of the Prairie Fire group, a consortium of eight noted artists from the Midwest who collectively exhibit in various venues once a year. The exhibition, which will be comprised of contemporary vessels and sculpture, runs from June 28 – August 9, 2003, with an opening reception on Saturday, June 28 from 6-8pm. Admission is free.



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