

KILN' TIME



MARCH, 2013

THE OFFICIAL CLAY ARTS GUILD NEWSLETTER

Simon Leach Workshop By Tom Winn



On Saturday, April 20, the Clay Arts guild will host a workshop by

internationally renowned potter Simon Leach. Leach is a third generation potter from a family of famous British potters. He is the grandson of Bernard Leach (the father of British studio pottery), and he apprenticed with his father, well-known potter David Leach. He established a pottery studio in Spain during the 1990s and eventually settled in Williamsburg, Pennsylvania, which serves as his home base when he isn't traveling the world giving Workshops. Leach works with a variety of clays, glazes, and firing techniques to produce mostly functional pottery and has also produced a series of practical and easy-to-follow instructional videos that are available on YouTube. So take a quick trip onto the Internet to get a taste of what's in store during the workshop.



Continued on page 3

OUR STUDIO IS HAVING A WAREHOUSE SALE MARCH 23 and 24

TO ALL CAG MEMBERS: CAG decided to have a **WAREHOUSE SALE** this spring. *So ... just what is a WAREHOUSE SALE you ask?????*

1. All CAG members can sell their pottery at this sale. We are suggesting that you sell your wonderful, but less than FANTASTIC work, here. You will still get your 75% of the sale (with CAG getting the 25%).

- Write your name on the **Participants List** on the trifold board in the studio. List your contact info, number of pieces, and 3 letter code.

- Sign up for the appropriate number of shifts to work.

1-15 pieces = one shift,

16-30 pieces = two shifts.

30+ pieces = three shifts

- Submit your inventory (Detailed directions on page 3).

- Your labels will be printed and distributed the last week of class.

- You will check in your pieces on Friday March 22. We are not assigning display areas. There will be tables, carts, and shelves set out, and you can place your work wherever you want. There will be plenty of space, so people who need to come later to check in do not need to worry about space.

- **We are also asking for people to make pottery during the sale.** I am hoping for 1-3 people to be working on the wheel, or hand-building at any given time. That way, our STUDIO WAREHOUSE SALE presents itself as a WORKING STUDIO and people LOVE to watch.

2. **If you want to sell your fantastic pieces, then we suggest you rent a table at the Shadeland's sale.** Tables are \$30 for a 3x6 or \$15 for half a table. You still receive the 75% profit from your sales, with CAG getting the remaining 25%. **David Vander Jagt** sent out the application form via email to all CAG members.

3. All CAG members, WHETHER OR NOT THEY ARE IN THE SALE, are being asked to donate three (3) nice pieces, not seconds or poorly glazed, but nice pieces. THIS IS A MAJOR FUNDRAISER FOR THE STUDIO AND WE ARE ASKING FOR YOUR DONATIONS PLEASE. We will assign a designated area for you to put your donations. *If you are new to the studio, or have not joined a sale before, please think about signing up for this one!* It is a fun way to get to know other CAG members and have fun at the same time. *If you are not a CAG member, consider signing up and joining our sale.* It is so much fun to see people buy your work!

Sale coverage continues on page 3

MEMBERS of the BOARD

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Other non-board positions

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Scholarships: OPEN

New Member Liason: Bette Sindinski
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Kiln' Time Newsletter

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*Please submit all articles to Ann
at <annadele@comcast.net>*

Visit our website:

www.clayartsguild.com

See the latest *Kiln' Times* in full color!

CAG OPEN STUDIO HOURS

Mon.....4 - 7 pm

Tue4 - 7 pm

Wed.....12 - 4 pm

Thur.....No Workshop

Fri.....12 - 7 pm

Sat12 - 7 pm

Sun.....1 - 7 pm



Message from the Prez...

At our recent board meeting Adriane Lee Bird spoke about rules of courtesy in the studio. We all need to think of others and work cooperatively, whether it is making room at a table for others to hand build or not monopolize a wheel or spray booth. To make a studio run effectively we need to remember to all work together and be considerate of others. My granddaughter's Kindergarten class is working on this same thing. Her class also depends on volunteers, and she has been prodding me to volunteer in the science program for her class. I have been reluctant to do so, as I find myself very busy, but I know better. I do have time to give and skills to share. I intend to sign up to volunteer. You know, it takes a village to raise a child, and it is the same for a clay program. It takes a dedicated, committed city government to keep our program viable. It takes commitment from Pete and Rana to keep the studio running smoothly. It takes monitors to be there so we can have open studio. It takes all of us to do our part. We all get a lot from our studio. What do we give back?

Have you asked yourself lately, "What have I done for the studio or guild?" Have I donated 10% of my outside sales? Have I chaired a recent sale or committee? Have I donated some of my work to the guild so that the guild has work to sell this spring and funds to operate effectively? We're all busy, so *busy* is not an excuse. Some of the busiest people volunteer the most.

Currently there are applications for scholarships, but no scholarship chairperson to organize and process the applications. Could YOU do this job? It's very easy, but vital to our guild mission. We also will need to get a small group to coordinate small sales outside our studio on Saturdays and Sundays this spring and summer. Are you interested in selling your work? Would you be willing to organize these events? Do you have ideas for improving the guild? How about sharing them with the board and then taking on a leadership role to see your ideas realized.

Finally, a huge *THANK YOU* to all of the people who donate their time and services so that we have the quality studio we can all point to with pride. We really have a wonderful facility and program. I look forward to hearing from you.

David

**2013 Parking permits are available for FREE
at the Senior Center across the lawn from studio.**

**If you plan to be at the studio for more than three hours during
the weekday, this permit will prevent you from getting ticketed...**

LEACH, continued from front page

Simply Google “Simon Leach, potter” on the Internet for a long list of YouTube videos giving samples of his work, http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d-R_rFzPYjw. This particular site demonstrates his personality a bit more than some of the other videos. In it he is making a small mixing bowl for the kitchen, but it also shows a little about establishing his studio.

Because the Guild partners with the city of Walnut Creek and Trax Gallery to bring Master Potters to the studio, as a CAG member, you are privileged to receive a generous discount for the workshops. For this Simon Leach Workshop Guild members pay \$46; all others pay \$71. Please take advantage of this generous offer.



Seize the Clay

A new T-shirt order is going in next week. If you have a special color you would like, let Ann Henderson know or put a note in Locker #9 with name, size and desired color.

*Support the Guild.
Wear a CAG T-shirt.*



Sale Inventory Directions

By Ann Henderson

Type your inventory on Microsoft Word, Microsoft Word table, Excel database or Google spreadsheet. If you cannot access any of these, you can type it directly into an email, but please use one of the above if you can. It is a lot less work for me.

1. Type your **three-letter code**, then TAB. No spaces or punctuation, just a TAB, *The tab moves the cursor into the second field in our database.*
2. In the second field, type the **item number**, then TAB. No spaces or punctuation, just a TAB
3. In the third field, type your **item description**. *You can put spaces between the words of the description, but when done with the description, type TAB, no spaces or punctuation. That TAB moves you to the next field in our database. Don't worry if the columns look skewed. They will straighten out in the database.*
4. In the last field type the **price as a whole number**, no dollar signs, no decimal points and no cents.
5. Hit **return** and begin with your second item, following the same procedure from #1. .

Check to make sure your item numbers and prices correspond to the numbers on your price tags.

Email your completed inventory to CAGinventories@gmail.com

For questions about your inventory sheet:

Contact Ann at 925-828-3742
or email annadele@comcast.net.

For questions about signing up to participate and/or for work shifts:

Contact Bette Sindzinski at bettesindzinski@hotmail.com
or 925 349-8762.



10%, 10 percent, Ten Percent

... regardless of how you interpret it, if you sell ceramics you have made here, you should give back 10% to the guild. It used to be that you weren't supposed to sell any pots you had made in the studio outside of studio sales, but the powers-that-be realized that was unrealistic. Thus, you are asked to contribute 10% of your sale income back to the studio. We are in no way encouraging mass production, but we do understand that occasions arise when studio potters have an opportunity to sell directly to friends or family, or simply just interested parties. Please don't hesitate to do so, but also remember that we trust you to return 10% back to the guild.

Many of our potters do so. Use cash or make checks payable to the guild, put in an envelope, indicate it is for outside sales and give to the treasurer, Aletha Wiens. We thank you for remembering this.



All in the Family

By Ann Henderson

About two years ago, my son phoned me and reminisced a bit about his elementary school years when he and his younger brother both made clay missions for their fourth grade mission project. It was very unlike Brian to express sentimentality thus I suspected something had prompted that call. Sure enough, then came the question that prompted the phone call. Kristi, my fourth-grade granddaughter wanted to build a clay mission for her mission project; would I be interested? How could a grandmother turn down that kind of a request!

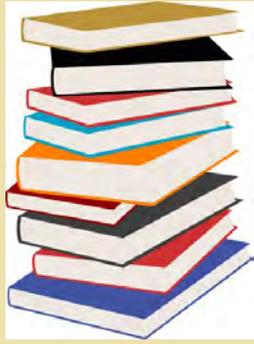
And the fun began... Kristi chose San Carlos Borromèo de Carmelo, better known as Carmel Mission. She drew a pattern and I helped her build the mission with sculpture mix. It had been awhile since I worked with fourth-graders, and I was amazed at how fast they learned slab techniques of: cutting, scoring, slipping. I didn't have to do much more than supervise after the initial lessons, and the final project included trees, fountains and, of course, the church bells.

I got another phone call a few weeks ago. Turns out that Kiana is in the fourth-grade this year and she chose Santa Cruz Mission. Kiana was way ahead of the process with actual photos she and her mom had taken when she visited the mission. She arrived with detailed plans, and again, I didn't have to do much more than teach slab techniques. We used XX clay for Kiana's mission, and painted the roof tiles with red iron engobe. Kiana's mission included a tile walkway under the roof overhang and sported a planter and bench as well.

I don't know what their grades were, but they would have been A+ in my book.

Oh my gosh! Kiana and Kristi have twin brothers in the second grade and seven younger cousins, all my grandchildren. Thank heaven there won't be more than three in the fourth grade at any one time!





Shush!

Notes from the Library

By Gary Guglielmino

Welcome from your friends in the Library. It's already nearing the end of February, and it still feels like things are just getting going! I think that's a good sign, personally.

The Library is alive and kicking, filled with great books, entertaining and inspirational videos, and a huge collection of ceramics magazines. Your CAG membership entitles you to check out whatever you like—so come in and browse the shelves, or ask one of the CAG Librarians, and you can browse the collection by computer as you sit right there in the Library. You will soon be able to also view any of our CAG ceramics DVDs while in the Library as well.

While the CAG Library budget has been trimmed for this year (what with expenses for new wheels and our contribution to the salt kiln), we will still be purchasing a number of new books and DVDs. We have had a number of donations of wonderful ceramics titles as well. I'll be mentioning some of those in the next *Kiln' Time*.

As I have said before, ideas for books or DVDs are welcome and appreciated! One of the items we're thinking about is a DVD, titled *Creating Curves with Clay* by Martha Grover; suggested by **Ellen Sachtschale**. If you have a minute, navigate to <http://ceramicartdaily.org/bookstore/creating-curves-with-clay/>, which will give you the chance to watch this artist make a beautiful curved, hand-built serving tray — it really is beautiful— and she did it in a five-minute video segment! Come on hand-builders, get with it! The full video runs three hours, so I guess she must demonstrate making a boatload of different pieces in the entire thing. Martha makes hand building look extremely fun and easy, so she's no doubt a world authority with years of experience!

For the New Year, it seems appropriate to re-introduce the CAG Librarians:

Erina Cherry
Betty Gadd
Gary Guglielmino
Chip Parham

Connie Parham
Sherri Rodgers
Martha Stvzich
Betty Wang

Susie Quan Wong, a longtime Librarian for CAG, recently relocated and is no longer part of CAG. She did a lot of things for CAG in addition to her library help, and she will be missed!

While I haven't checked their current preferred Open Studio times, there is usually a Librarian present during Open Studio — and that person would be happy to help you explore the library and even check out a book or two! It's very easy, FREE to you, and can be a source of inspiration, amazement, and enjoyment. You may keep books out for three weeks, but then please remember to return them. There is a drop box in the library if no librarian is there when you want to return your borrowed items.



The Next CAG Contest!

LIDS, LIDS, LIDS

The interpretation is up to you.

Don't forget — the highly anticipated CAG ceramics contest is coming. Because we have not yet had a commitment from the judge, we can't give you an exact date, but it will likely be a Saturday in April, and now is the time to finish working on your entry or entries. You can interpret the theme, LIDS, any way you see fit.

Artists are allowed two entries. All who have taken a clay arts' ceramic class in the past year are eligible. When the judge responds, the date can be set, and we will let everyone know.

There are lots of prizes, and beginners, don't hesitate to enter. Twice now, beginners have been winners. We will let the judge determine categories, but such things as: glazing, form, functionality, creativity are all possibilities. Let's see if we can get a record number of entries this year. The Guild pays the judge, and we want that person to earn the stipend with lots of entries to consider.



Bowls! Bowls! Bowls!



Members of the Clay Arts Guild have been busy lately making bowls for the **“Empty Bowls”** project to aid the Food Bank of Contra Costa County. **“Empty Bowls”** is an international grassroots effort to fight hunger; the basic premise being: potters, craftspeople and others in the community contribute handcrafted bowls. Guests are invited to a simple meal of soup and bread, and to meet local activists from their own community and hear how they are working to end hunger and food insecurity. In exchange for a cash donation, guests are asked to keep a bowl as a reminder of all the empty bowls in their community. The money raised goes directly to feed people in need.

Everyone can get involved in some way. Members of the CAG plan to donate 100 bowls to help the effort. Also consider joining the Concord Food Bank on Saturday, March 9, from 5 to 7 pm for Empty Bowls presented by Chevron and enjoy a simple meal served in a handcrafted bowl at their warehouse in Concord*. Learn about how the Food Bank and other agencies are working to end hunger in our community and how you can get involved.

The cost is \$10 per adult and \$5 for children under the age of nine. Empty Bowls will feature a variety of soups with bread, raffle and door prizes and speakers who are passionate about ending hunger in our community.

For reservations, raffle donations or if you would like to sell tickets on their behalf, please contact Renee at: rbaptiste@foodbankccs.org or (925) 771-1310.



*Concord Warehouse
4010 Nelson Avenue
Concord, CA 94520

HOT TIP!

How many times have you had a bag of clay dry out, because you lost the wire tie that was supposed to close the bag! Those pesky ties closing the bags of clay all seem to be either too wimpy to last until the clay is gone or too hard to close without a pair of pliers. And they tend to blend all too well with clay and clay bags. Those pesky things can simply disappear, only to surface again the next time you wedge your clay, or worse yet, they appear after you have the clay centered and are raising the walls.



Aletha Wiens has a great solution, “These old fashioned girls’ hair ties seem to work really well, instead.” The beads on the

ends prevent them from disappearing into the clay, they work perfectly to keep the clay bag closed, they are long enough to fit around the bundled plastic, and they are easy to use. Unfortunately, they are not available at CVS; Aletha bought hers in the girls’ section of the hair products department at the Walnut Creek Target.

And for submitting her great idea to *Kiln Time*, Aletha earned a bag of clay. You, too, can earn a bag of clay. When you think of or come upon a great idea, try it. If it works, write about it and put it in locker #9 or give it to Ann Henderson. It doesn’t matter where you got the idea, but if you read it somewhere or learned it from someone else, give credit where credit is due. A photo or two accompanying your suggestion is also helpful.

DATES TO REMEMBER



SAT- SUN. LAST CLASS MEETINGS
3/9 & 3/10 FOR SAT. & SUN. CLASSES

FRI. LAST CLASS OF WINTER SESSION
3/15

*All work must be removed from damproom, drying room , bisque shelves and lockers by 10 pm – Friday – 3/15

*Note: all work left in studio to be bisque fired or glaze fired will be saved for pick-up at beginning of spring session...

SAT. STUDIO CLEAN-UP PARTY
3/16 10 AM –NOON

SAT – FRI STUDIO CLOSED
3/16 – 3/22

SAT. – SUN. STUDIO SALE
3/23 – 3/24

MON – FRI STUDIO CLOSED
3/25 – 3/29

SAT FIRST CLASS OF SPRING SESSION
3/30

SUN STUDIO CLOSED
3/31 EASTER SUNDAY

SUN FIRST TILE CLASS MEETING
4/7

SAT. MASTER POTTER WORKSHOP
4/20 WITH SIMON LEACH

SAT- SUN STUDIO CLOSED
5/26 – 5/27 MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY



“Everyone wants to live on top of the mountain, but all the happiness and growth occurs while you’re climbing it.”

Andy Rooney

Apply that philosophy to ceramics, and you will understand why we keep coming back to the studio over and over again —

What's Happening in the Clay World

EXHIBITIONS

Trax Gallery, Berkeley: Crossing Two Cultures — Three Artists: Kiyotsugu Sawa, Katsunori Sawa and Tim Rowan. Hours: Wednesday to Sunday 12:00-5:30 PM until March 10, 2013.

Earth/Energy: NCECA 2013, 47th Annual Conference, March 20-23, 2013 Houston, TX

ACGA: Palo Alto Clay & Glass Festival, Saturday, July 13-14, 10AM to 5PM, Palo Alto Art Center, Palo Alto, CA

CALL for ENTRIES

Silver City, New Mexico Clay Festival: A Tile and A Vessel juried exhibit. Entries due no later than April 30, 2013. Go to <http://clayfestival.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/ClayProspectusEnglish2013-FINAL.pdf> for prospectus.

INTERESTING WEBSITES:

This website shows Simon Leach, the presenter at the Master Potter Workshop, April 20th, making a small kitchen mixing bowl, but it also shows a bit about his studio and his way of working. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d-R_rFzPYjw

This video shows a simple way to make a lid. You can use this to make a pot to enter into the CAG ceramics contest in April. The artist is making a round lid by dropping over a hump mold. <http://ceramicartsdaily.org/bookstore/lively-forms-and-expressive-surfaces-2/>

CLAYARTSGUILD

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111 N. Wiget Lane
Walnut Creek, CA 94598



To view the CAG Newsletter in full color, go to our website: www.clayartsguild.com