

Clay Arts Guild Spring Ceramics Sale

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

Explore the diverse works of the talented and dedicated artists at the Clay Arts Guild (CAG) spring ceramics sale from Friday, May 4, through Sunday, May 6. At the opening party on Friday beginning at 5 p.m., enjoy light refreshments and your pick of over 1,200 pieces of wheel-thrown, hand-built sculpture and art pottery for sale. Created by over 30 instructors and student artists (many of whom are from Orinda), all pieces are individually crafted for the home, patio and garden.

Longtime CAG member and Orinda resident Clarice Judah says, "Having taken ce-

ramics in Walnut Creek since 1972, I have been playing in the mud for many years and still love it. When throwing a bowl, I am in another world, and the clay really takes me away." Judah says most of her work is thrown and doing so "beats going to a psychiatrist." She adds, "I do a mean [ceramic] chicken and will have some in the sale." Nicole Collins, also from Orinda, says, "I have been a CAG member now for only a year, but I feel I have found 'my tribe.' I am struck by how generous everyone is with their knowledge, experience and expertise and am inspired by their artistry and energy as well as their sense of humor."

Children are invited to look over the "Under \$10" shelves for Mother's Day bargains. Other shelves are loaded with plates and platters, planters with miniature succulent gardens, mugs and bowls of every size, vases, candle holders, birds and birdhouses, miniature houses and masks, casseroles and lidded pots, statues, tiles, sculptural pieces, lions and elephants, totems, pears and pumpkins, boxes and shrines – the list goes on and on.

The variety of ceramic-making techniques includes stoneware, meaning pottery or other ceramics fired at a high temperature (cone 10) which creates "stone-hard" durable wares. Salt glaze pottery is stoneware with a glaze of glossy, translucent and a slightly orange-peel-like texture formed by throwing common salt into the kiln during the high temperature

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Over 1,200 pieces of wheel-thrown, hand-built sculpture, tableware and art pottery will be on display at the Clay Art Guild's spring sale.



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Outdoor Sculpture, each with its own site and surrounding plants, fills Garden Number Two on the Lafayette Garden Club Tour.

Tour Five Artful Gardens in Lamorinda

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"Sweet April Showers/Do spring May Flowers," or so said Thomas Tusser in 1557 – and it's still true. If you accept the Lafayette Garden Club's (LGC) invitation to its "Artful Garden" tour, you will traverse five diverse gardens, including one in Orinda. It all begins, rain or shine, on May 12 at 10 a.m. and ends at 3 p.m.

Garden number one is a family garden for small children with a pool and outdoor shower, fire pit, huge outdoor chess game, and a trail leading to a fairy garden and house. You will see *Magnolia soulangeana* or Tulip Magnolia, lots of different *Hydrangea*, *Helleborus orientalis* or Lenten Rose and *Viburnum plicatum var. tomentosum* or Doublefile Viburnum.

A hillside garden with lots of stairs, wrought iron railings, interesting lighting fixtures, sculptures and beautiful stone awaits you in garden number two. There's a red garden room defined by red *Camellia japonica* in the winter, a yellow room filled with yellow Roses, a blue room that shows off *Clematis* and other striking blue and purple plants, and an orange room featuring roses, Dahlias, *Crocasmia*, *Zinnia*, Wallflowers and *Canna* Lilies. In the upper garden, look for the spectacular *Paeonia itoh* hybrid or Itoh Peonies with their pale pink blossom, deeper pink ring and fluffy boss of yellow stamens dead center and a *Cotinus obovatus* or American Smoke Tree with its effervescent foliage.

The urban farm at garden number three opens with *Quercus lobata* or Valley Oak trees under planted with *Asparagus aethiopicus* or Asparagus Fern, Asters, *Callicarpa* or Beautyberry, *Ceanothus* or California Lilac, *Campanula* or Bell Flower, and *Clematis* to name but a few. Next, listen for the chickens, stroll by the stream and pond (a former swimming pool), an orchard, and a vegetable garden. Enjoy the beauty and fragrance of *Rosas* 'Guy de Maupassant,' 'Barbara Streisand,' 'Cecile

Brunner,' 'Eden,' 'Color Magic,' 'Diana Princess of Wales,' 'Duet,' and 'Iceberg.'

Garden number four is a showcase for family gatherings, receptions, weddings and charity fundraisers. Pink roses cover an arched white lattice gate. Backyard plantings of interest include *Acer rubrum* 'October Glory,' *Lagerstroemia* or Crepe Myrtle trees, *Cornus kousa* or Korean Dogwood trees, a Privet hedge for privacy, *Quercus rubra* or Red Oak trees, and *Prunus caroliniana* or Carolina Cherry. The Connecticut blue stone wall in the front garden shows off the *Alstroemerias*, Anemones, *Trachelospermum jasminoides* or Star Jasmine, white Lantana and pink and white annuals.

As you enter the driveway of garden number five, a series of arbors show off *Rosas* 'Polka Dot,' 'Sally Holmes' and many others. Complex fragrances from 150 roses are sure to please as you meander through a series of interconnected garden rooms. An enjoyable walk brings you to the Moroccan soaking pool, French water fountain, parterre garden and creek. Favorite plantings include *Magnolia grandiflora*; *Wisteria sinensis* or Chinese Wisteria; *Viburnum plicatum* or Japanese Snowball and *Miscanthus sinensis* 'Morning Light' or Chinese Silver Grass.

You can easily drive and park at three gardens on the self-directed tour while a shuttle service takes you to the other two. Four of the private gardens are in Lafayette and one is in Orinda. Knowledgeable docents are onsite to answer questions.

A plant sale is offered in combination with a pop-up market at garden number three. Proceeds from the tour benefit the Acalanes Unified High School District Horticultural Programs and other local organizations fostering horticulture. Event co-chairs are Laurie Callaway (a certified garden designer), Orinda residents Laurie Reich and Melinda Flanders, and Chris Voil Chernin. Nonrefundable tickets can be purchased online at www.lafayettegardclub.com.

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STUDENTS

Orinda Troop 303 Honors Three New Eagle Scouts



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(L-R) Liam Glynn, Walker Lambert and Evan Draeger, are Troop 303's latest Eagle Scouts.

Boy Scout Troop 303 in Orinda inducted three new Eagle Scouts – Liam Glynn, Walker Lambert and Evan Draeger. These three young men, all Miramonte High School seniors, joined the less than four percent of all scouts who achieve Eagle Rank.

Glynn's Eagle Scout project was refurbishing a stairway and railing at Orinda Oaks Park. The scope of work included: planning, materials sourcing, budgeting, city approvals, excavating 31 steps over a 70-linear foot area, prepping the area and reinstalling new steps/dirt, and sanding/painting related handrails.

Lambert designed and directed the installation of an automated irrigation system with a water efficient, solar-sync controller

for the garden beds at his former elementary school, Wagner Ranch, for his Eagle service project. This project will allow the garden beds, used for math and science lessons for grades K through 5, to grow and flourish year-round while greatly reducing teacher and parent volunteer time spent watering.

For his Eagle Scout project, Draeger built a 16' x 4' footbridge over Wagner Creek in the Wagner Ranch Nature Area. Work included bridge design, site preparation, staining, bridge assembly, and final installation of the bridge and railings. This ADA-compliant bridge provides year-round access to historically-important parts of the Nature Area.

To learn more about Troop 303, go to www.bsatroop303orinda.com.

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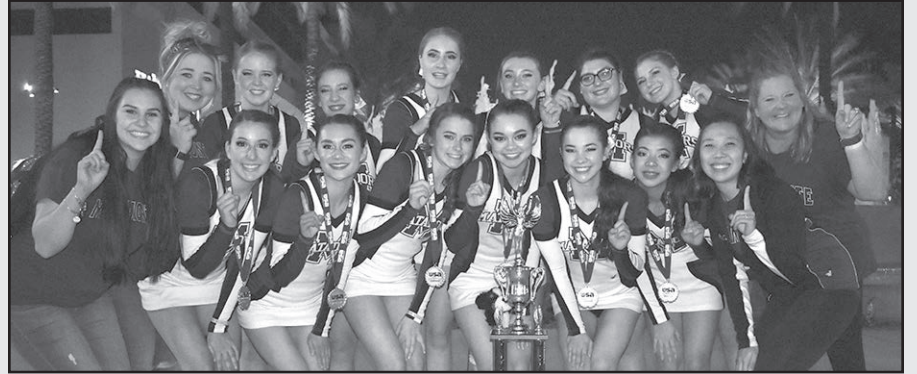
part of the firing process. Pit fired work is the original method for "baking" clay which dates back nearly 30,000 years where clay pots are baked in a hole in the ground or a pit on a beach. Western raku work, on the other hand, is a low-firing process inspired by traditional Japanese *raku* firing. It involves removing pottery from the kiln while at bright red heat and placing it into containers with combustible materials such as shredded paper or straw. When the materials ignite, the containers are closed which produces an intense reduction atmosphere. This atmosphere results in unusual colors and effects in glazes and clay bodies.

Did you know that CAG volunteers contribute to a variety of community outreach programs? They donate over 100 bowls annually to the Food Bank of Contra Costa County; offer ceramic workshops through the Walnut Creek After Dark program and other venues; and provide scholarship funds for anyone interested in adult clay classes.

The spring sale hours are Friday, May 4 from 5 to 9 p.m., Saturday, May 5 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday, May 6 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Civic Park Community Center, 1365 Civic Drive, Studio E, Walnut Creek. Plenty of parking is available around the studio and on the street.

Visit www.wcClayArtsGuild.com for more information.

Miramonte Varsity Cheer Three-peat at 2018 National Cheer Competition.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

For the third straight year, Miramonte High School's Cheer Team won first place at the USA Spirit Nationals in the Small Varsity Show Cheer Novice category. (L-R) Front row: Coach Victoria Carozza, Zoe Jeffrey, Maddie Robinson, Kyla Meyer, Jessie Robinson, Jacqui Yuke, Shelby Tse, Coach Meghan Hashimoto; Back row: Coach Danielle Herndon, Sydney Swinton, Julia Jungbluth, Charlotte Biancardi, Julia Lang, Mercedes Diaz, Stephanie Friese, Coach Carol Herndon.

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