

# KILN' TIME



NOVEMBER 2021

THE OFFICIAL CLAY ARTS GUILD NEWSLETTER

## WALNUT CREEK HOLIDAY MARKET

Clay Arts members have the opportunity to join the **Downtown Walnut Creek Holiday Market**. It will be held in the Water Light Public Plaza on Locust Street and should attract many holiday shoppers.

Community Arts has arranged space for us to have three ceramic artists selling their pottery as well as a table to sell CAG donations. We have two December dates available:

**December 9 (5:00 – 8:00 pm)**  
**December 16 (5:00 – 8:00 pm)**

To participate we will need at least two artists for each date. Please let **Pat Alger** know if you are interested in participating.



## IMPORTANT DATE REMINDERS

### • STUDIO CLEAN-UP DAY

**November 21 – 10 am to noon**

If you are interested in helping out, please confirm with **Pat Alger** due to limit of participants allowed in studio. Benefits: Tools unclaimed will be sold for \$1.00 and participants will get a free bag of clay as well as their first choice of a locker for the next quarter. *If you plan to come, please bring a bucket and sponge or cleaning rag.*



### • DATES TO PICK UP YOUR FINISHED WORK

**December 7, 8, and 9**

**10 am to noon and 2 pm to 4 pm**

If you are unable to come at those times, you can come any time in the winter quarter during an Open Studio block. Pieces not claimed will be donated to CAG, Meals on Wheels and Empty Bowls.

**If you are participating  
in the Shadelands Holiday Sale:**

**Tuesday, November 30 • 10 am to noon**

**Wednesday, December 1 • 10 am to noon**

### • SIGN-UP DATE FOR WINTER QUARTER CLASSES

**Beginning December 1 • 9 am**

Classes are currently listed on the Center for Community Arts website: <https://www.communityarts.org>.



**SATURDAY & SUNDAY  
DECEMBER 4-5**



Some of our clay arts students and instructors are participating in this sale. Plan to attend one or both of the days to check out (and purchase!) some of the wonderful items you will see on display.

## MEMBERS of the BOARD

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## Message from Our V.P ...

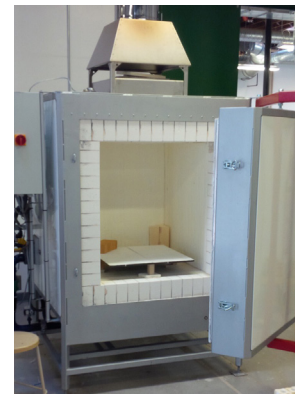


Hello All.

President Pat is currently out of town, so it's my turn to write this today. As many of you know Takemi Tsuruta, our studio manger, stepped down in Oct. He will be missed. A new studio manager will be hired within the next few months, possibly by spring quarter. However, things are moving smoothly in the interim thanks to Maile Osagawa, the program manager for Community Arts. She is in the studio often and is coordinating the running of our classes as well as the day-to-day business. We have a new studio assistant, Karen, who is working diligently to keep all of our wares moving through the kilns. Darren and Roger are helping with the firings as well.

As for next year, Open Studio will continue to be offered in "blocks" for at least the Winter quarter. You can sign up for more than one block to schedule your time in the studio. Also, your pieces can be quickly checked on during the week. Check in with the Safety Lead (monitor) at any OS to move your pieces.

The new Blaauw kiln is a success! It is very versatile and fires quickly. It has improved the through put noticeably. More good kiln news on the horizon: Walnut Creek will be purchasing another, larger Blaauw kiln in the next couple of years to replace two of our struggling kilns. CAG is donating \$21,000 toward that purchase. I am quite proud of our ability to help the studio improve with up to date equipment and supplies.



That being said, our membership is understandably down from pre-COVID levels. Let's try to spread the word about the guild within our own classes. Explain about the perks we receive with that membership as well as the good work we are doing in the community and the studio. See the articles on our contributions to the Food Bank and Meals on Wheels projects in this newsletter. Hopefully, sharing our experiences will boost our membership.

I hope everyone's holidays are filled with creativity and contentment.

Mary Ellen



# EMPTY BOWL PROJECT

by Mona Moxley

For many years, Community Arts and the Clay Arts Guild has participated in the annual **Empty Bowls** fundraising project with the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano County. This is an important fundraising event for the Food Bank.

At the studio, we started working on this project in late fall of 2019. We set aside two days after the studio was closed in November, and volunteers came in one day and threw or hand-built bowls, then several days later another group came in to trim the bowls. After bisque firing, **Ande Bennett** worked with eager glazers to glaze and finish the bowls. Many individuals also contributed bowls.



Due to Covid, there was no fundraising event in fall, 2020. In September of this year, however, we were able to complete the Empty Bowls project for 2021 and ended up donating 198 lovely bowls to the Food Bank. In past years, multiple organizations have contributed bowls, however, due to shut-downs, Community Arts/Clay Arts were the only contributors this year.

The format for the program was different this year. Rather than an in-person event, there was a drive through pick up of the bowls before a virtual event in October. Each ceramic bowl was packaged with a recipe card and Food Bank impact info card, together with a bottle of water and some discount coupons. (Photo at right.)

The Empty Bowls event raised approximately \$53,000 which is equivalent to 106,000 meals. There will be a video that will be uploaded to the Food Bank's YouTube channel as well.



We received the following note from the Food

Bank: *On behalf of the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano, we thank you and your fellow creative and thoughtful potters for partnering with us on such a worthy cause. We could not have done it without your help. Please let everyone at Walnut Creek Clay Arts Guild know we truly appreciate you all and we are very thankful for all the time and the thought that came with crafting those beautiful bowls.*

For 2021-2022, we are going to follow the successful format we used back in the fall of 2019, and set aside several afternoons when the studio is not open for throwing, hand building and trimming bowls for the project. Dates will be announced.



Thanks to all for your participation, contributions, support and willingness to partner with an important resource in our community.



# THE GREAT POTTERY THROWN DOWN

by Mary Leigh Miller

Am I the last person to learn about this entertaining British TV reality series? Based on the Great British Baking Show format, pottery contestants vie to be named best potter each week and one is always eliminated. The show is currently available on HBO Max and is now in its fourth season.



Besides watching potters struggle with a variety of hand-building and wheel-throwing assignments, a bit of history about pottery making in England starting back in the 1800's is thrown in as well. The show takes place at the Middleport Pottery, which, I believe, is still a functioning facility today.

For best viewing, I always select the close captioning option. Although we all speak the same language, I find it's often hard to understand "British speak."



Here are two cartoons from past issues of Kiln Times by Mimi Wild to enjoy.

# MEALS ON WHEELS

by Barbara Moreland

CAG members' generosity and support for seniors in our community continues to thrive! Thank you to all who recently donated beautiful pieces to be distributed to participants in Bingocize\* and food programs organized and run by **Meals on Wheels**. Our fall donations provided 15 small cups and mugs for Bingocize prizes and 60 small pieces for food program recipients. This brings our total donations in 2021 to 140 pieces.



A big thank you to **Karla Wong, Sue Bulloch** and **Yvonne Loey** for their help in packing all the ceramics for distribution.

Some comments from recipients:

*"I love this mug. It is the perfect size for my morning tea!"*

*"This pottery makes me smile!"*

*"I can't believe these artists donate such pretty pottery. Please tell them thank you."*

If you would like to donate small pieces (cups, mugs, bowls, vases, trinket bowls) please leave them by the **Meals on Wheels** sign in the library. Thank you for your continued support of this worthy program for homebound seniors.

\* Bingocize is a professionally taught program providing health education that incorporates exercise, nutrition, and fall prevention within the game of bingo.

