

KILN' TIME



MAY 2023

THE OFFICIAL CLAY ARTS GUILD NEWSLETTER

Important dates

Wednesday, May 24 at noon

Registration for summer quarter classes begins.

Wednesday, May 24th

Quarterly Community Arts meeting

Pat Alger, Brandon and Maile will discuss studio needs for the coming year plus scholarship budget contributions.

If there are any issues you would like us to discuss, please let Pat know.

Wednesday, June 7, 11 am

CAG Annual Board Meeting is open to all CAG members and will be held in the Studio.

- CAG will provide light refreshments
- Maile and Brandon will give updates
- Vote on Fiscal year budget
- Vote on CAG Officers

Saturday, June 10, 10 am

Studio Cleanup - *Let Pat know if you plan to attend.*

Check out the lineup for Summer Ceramics Classes!

The schedule is posted on page 6.

Gary Guglielmino

by Ann Henderson

The studio has lost a wonderful friend. If you knew Gary you were rewarded by having met an amazingly cheerful individual: everyone he met was his friend. Gary could find the positive aspects in any situation. Even faced with a terminal disease, his smile and spirit never waned, his laugh was contagious, and he always found the upbeat side of things. In spite of experiencing balance issues near his end, he talked his wonderful wife, Dawn, into bringing him to visit in the studio during one of our classes. He sat and watched a demo, talked and laughed with the students, and even mentioned coming back to finish glazing his pieces.



Gary was a medical doctor – an anesthesiologist, and I know people often asked him medical questions. He was always polite, responsive and never appeared annoyed with questions. When someone was worried about an upcoming surgery, he was always supportive. He finally retired less than a year ago and was planning on doing a lot of traveling – and potting too, of course.

It was 2006 when he joined the studio and fell in love with creating pottery. I remember seeing him over a long period of time working with about one pound of clay. I asked him why he never used more, and he explained that his teacher suggested mastering one pound first. Shortly after, I talked him through throwing a three-pound plate. It was exciting for me to see how pleased he was with the results. From that point on it was all sizes of bowls, cups, pitchers, more plates and even a couple of teapots!

Continued on page 2

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Message from Our Prez ...

It has been a busy couple of months at the studio. We were fortunate to have Diedem Mert as our visiting artist. She was so entertaining, and I learned many tricks for making new forms. If you have not had the opportunity to attend one of our visiting artist workshops, I highly recommend you do so.

Right after that we packed up for the California Conference for the Advancement of Ceramics (CCACA). It was my first time attending and I will definitely be back next year. So many beautiful pieces on display and it is really fun to see the creativity coming out of the schools and studios.

The next weekend was our CAG Spring Pottery Sale. The rain did not keep away our loyal customers and by Sunday the clouds had diminished. We had a very busy weekend with the kids' clay and card making tables, which were very popular. A special thanks goes out to Doug Tambling and his jazz band for providing wonderful live music on Saturday to brighten our spirits. Thank you to all the volunteers that made the day possible! We had a very successful sale, despite the weather not cooperating. Twenty three artists participated and we sold just over \$10,000 in two days, selling 435 items ranging from \$4 to \$75. We collected \$2,500 for CAG that will go toward scholarships, studio equipment and CAG events.



The schedule for summer session has just been posted on the website (refer to page 6) and class registration opens **May 24th at noon**. Classes are sure to fill up quickly!

Pat Alger

GARY, continued from front page

People in the studio frequently talk about places they have traveled, and often they were places Gary had been. I know he was in Italy, and that he and his wife had plans to go to Japan in May. Gary had two sons, the younger son has two boys, and I remember him anticipating a new grandchild awhile back. When the baby arrived, Gary and Dawn traveled to meet the newest member of the family, a son born to Gary's older son and his wife. The baby is now four months old.

His smile is gone, and we won't hear his laugh again, but Gary's spirit will always be with us in the studio.



Master Potter Workshop with Deidem Mert

by Donna Cowan



Deidem Mert – what a kick in the pants! Our most recent Master Potter was very entertaining as well as informational. She's like that little pop of color on your pot that draws your attention. Didem was accompanied by her recently adopted sidekick, Mama,

who supported Diedem by sleeping quietly in her carrier throughout the workshop!

Although Diedem's passion is decorating, she also shared tricks for hand building and throwing. Having taught many classes and workshops, her approach to building offered simplified techniques in a step-by-step approach. Her clay veneer technique, adapted from her woodworking father's veneer process, creates a unique decorating effect. It was fascinating to watch and learn how she did it.

it, belying that initial look. She kept us entertained with stories that may have seemed unrelated to clay (like early morning plumbing woes) but were a wonderful insight into the artist that she is. Her present decorating style relies heavily on stencils, so she spent a good bit of time talking about that process. And she has some definite opinions about certain traditional opinions/ways of being a potter held by some potters. I particularly enjoyed her approach to and opinions about making handles.

Didem was open to a wide range of questions, from those about technique to ones about marketing. She made it clear that she believes in being efficient with both time and materials. Her workshop was like that shot of adrenaline to kick-start a creative process. Didem is definitely a modern woman in her clay-play, professional style, and whose work also gives a hint at her Turkish heritage.

We are fortunate that Brandon's grad school connection with Didem and her living so close by in Sebastopol brought her to us. The work that she brought to sell was gorgeous, definitely gallery quality, and because she did not have to ship it, was slightly discounted in price. The Clay Arts Guild purchased one of her pieces (see photo below), which is on display in the studio. You can also get a feel for her work by visiting her website:

<https://www.didemmert.com>



The workshop flowed from hand building to throwing to decorating, back and forth, however the timing of the clay allowed. From a distance it may have looked like Didem was unorganized, but her presentation style had an efficient creative flow to



A Report from the California Conference for the Advancement of Ceramics ~ CCACA

I'm still on a "high" from attending the thirty-sixth annual CCACA in Davis.

For two days in April, this event brings together top ceramic artists from all over the country for special lectures and demonstrations. The town of Davis never looked better, and was buzzing with activity and lots of young people.



June with her Little Circus sculpture

Pop-up galleries and unused spaces around the town displayed eye popping ceramics from over 30 schools and organizations, including our studio! I loved the atmosphere surrounding this event. The weather was terrific and many of the sculptures seemed to foster interaction with others! Displaying the ceramics at small galleries made for a charming venue. I hope you will join me next year for a fun and stimulating experience!

June Bowen



Puddling Plates

by Bette Sindzinski

What are Butterfly Puddling Plates? Butterfly Puddling is when a butterfly visits and gathers nutrients from moist soil or a small puddle. A plate provides a place for them to do this.

They use their long tongues to deliver fluids and minerals into their mouths. Butterflies cannot land on water to drink.



1. Fill your puddling plate with equal mix of soil and sand. Add a few flat or rounded rocks in the sand/soil to provide perching spots.

2) Pour enough water into the container to moisten the soil and lightly sprinkle some sea salt or Epsom salt on the surface. Butterflies need salt in their diets.

3) In hot weather, moisten the soil manually, or place the puddling plate near a sprinkler or have a drip irrigation line run across it.

4) Great locations are near flowers that attract the butterflies.



Bette Sindzinski also attended CCACA. You can see her butterfly puddling plates in the photo at the left.



CAG SPRING SALE ~ May 6 and 7

I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who came out in the rain to support our CAG Pottery Sale! Even with the rain, we had a very successful sale and I was thrilled to see that everyone sold a few pieces. Turn to page 6 for a summary chart so you can see how this past year compared to previous years' sales.

Happy Potting!

Pat Alger



Here are some of the displays from 23 participants.

Report on Two Charities that Clay Arts Guild Supports

Donating ceramic pieces to non-profits in our community is one way we can share the joy of our artistic endeavors with seniors in our community.

Meals On Wheels and **Presidio Senior Apartments** are two of the non-profits that rely on our donations to engage their members in healthy exercise and socialization.

Thank you to all who have donated. Thus far in 2023, we have donated 76 ceramic pieces and 54 hand painted cards!

If you would like to support these worthy programs, please leave your small, useful pieces in the cabinet marked Meals on Wheels in the CAG Sales room.

Thank you!

Cheers, Barbara Moreland 🖐️

We are working hard on **Empty Bowls** for this year. Your help in either of two ways is greatly appreciated.

- We are short on the number of requested bowls for the Food Bank of Contra Costa County. I'm asking everyone to make and donate at least one bowl.
- If you want to dedicate an open studio session to making bowls, there is reclaim clay available.
- We have many bowls that have been donated in the bisque stage. They are on the top shelf of the area where we store "works in progress". Please grab a few and include them in your work when you are glazing. They can be used to try out various glazes that you are curious about. Please mark the bottom of the bowl with CAG to ensure we pick them up for Empty Bowls.

Last Fall, the Empty Bowls event for the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano County generated \$55,000. Our contribution is greatly appreciated!

Thanks! Mona Moxely 🖐️

Summary of CAG Sales

| Year | Date | # Potters | Days | Items | Total | Avg/Potter | Avg/Item | Avg/day | CAG Total |
|------|------------------|-----------|------|-------|----------|------------|----------|---------|-----------|
| 2017 | May 5-7 | 33 | 2.5 | 244 | \$5,695 | \$173 | \$23 | \$2,278 | \$1,424 |
| 2018 | May 4-6 | 32 | 2.5 | 547 | \$10,129 | \$317 | \$19 | \$4,052 | \$2,859 |
| 2019 | May 3-5 | 38 | 2.5 | 575 | \$9,330 | \$246 | \$16 | \$3,732 | \$3,231 |
| 2021 | May | 18 | 1 | 355 | \$7,140 | \$397 | \$20 | \$7,140 | \$2,000 |
| 2022 | May | 19 | 2 | 531 | \$12,025 | \$633 | \$23 | \$6,013 | \$3,360 |
| 2023 | May 6-7 | 23 | 2 | 435 | \$10,051 | \$437 | \$23 | \$5,026 | \$2,504 |
| 2016 | Labor Day | 30 | 2.5 | 218 | \$4,775 | \$159 | \$22 | \$1,910 | \$1,194 |
| 2017 | Aug 25-27 | 24 | 2.5 | 419 | \$6,393 | \$266 | \$15 | \$2,557 | \$1,816 |
| 2019 | Aug 17-18 | 16 | 2 | 249 | \$3,798 | \$237 | \$15 | \$1,899 | \$1,284 |
| 2021 | Aug 7-popup | 8 | 0.5 | 88 | \$1,935 | \$242 | \$22 | \$3,870 | \$607 |
| 2022 | Labor Day | 19 | 2 | 236 | \$5,164 | \$272 | \$22 | \$2,582 | \$1,539 |
| 2018 | Holiday-Shadelar | 21 | 2.5 | | \$14,104 | \$672 | | \$5,642 | \$3,526 |
| 2019 | Holiday-Shadelar | 17 | 2.5 | | \$8,756 | \$515 | | \$3,502 | \$2,189 |
| 2021 | Holiday-Shadelar | 17 | 2 | 507 | \$11,991 | \$705 | \$24 | \$5,996 | \$2,998 |
| 2022 | Holiday-Shadelar | 20 | 2 | 490 | \$15,512 | \$776 | \$32 | \$7,756 | \$3,878 |
| 2022 | Dec 11 Studio | 22 | 1 | 311 | \$5,012 | \$210 | \$18 | \$5,012 | \$1,419 |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|------|--------------|----|---|------|----------|-------|------|---------|----------|
| 2016 | Yearly Total | 30 | 3 | 218 | \$4,775 | \$159 | \$22 | \$1,910 | \$1,194 |
| 2017 | Yearly Total | 57 | 5 | 663 | \$12,088 | \$212 | \$18 | \$2,418 | \$3,240 |
| 2018 | Yearly Total | 53 | 5 | 547 | \$24,233 | \$457 | \$44 | \$4,847 | \$6,385 |
| 2019 | Yearly Total | 71 | 7 | 824 | \$21,884 | \$308 | \$27 | \$3,126 | \$6,704 |
| 2020 | Yearly Total | | | | | | | | |
| 2021 | Yearly Total | 43 | 4 | 950 | \$21,066 | \$490 | \$22 | \$6,019 | \$4,998 |
| 2022 | Yearly Total | 80 | 7 | 1568 | \$37,713 | \$471 | \$24 | \$5,388 | \$10,196 |
| 2023 | Yearly Total | 23 | 2 | 435 | \$10,051 | \$437 | \$23 | \$5,026 | \$2,504 |

Line up of Summer Classes June 11 ~ August 19, 2023

| Summer 23 | SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 8:30 AM | Open Studio 8:30-11:30 Bette Sindzinski | Wheel 2 8:30 - 11:30 K. Becker | HB 1 8:30-11:30 E. Sachtshale *No class 7/4 | Open Studio 8:30 - 11:30 Bridget Moar | Glaze Mixing 8:30-11:30 Brad / Karen | Open Studio 8:30 - 11:30 Marina Klotz | Wheel 1 8:30 - 11:30 K. Becker |
| 12:00 PM | HB 2 12:00 - 3:00 E. Blackburn | Open Studio 12:00 - 3:00 Betty Wang | Sculpture 1 12:00 - 3:00 C.Fortin *No class 7/4 | Wheel 1 12:00 - 3:00 C.Fortin *No class 7/5 | HB 2 12:00 - 3:00 E. Sachtshale | Summer Picnic 12:00-3:00 A. Henderson | Open Studio 12:00-3:00 Clare Macy |
| 3:30 PM | Open Studio 3:30-6:30 Mary Ellen | HB 1 3:30 - 6:30 E. Blackburn | Open Studio 3:30-6:30 Forest Lowe *No o.s 7/4 | Wheel 1 3:30 - 6:30 C.Fortin *No class 7/5 | HB 2 3:30 - 6:30 K.Jensen | Open Studio 3:30 - 6:30 Betty Medwedeff | Open Studio 3:30 - 6:30 Erica Goldstein |
| 7:00 PM | | Soda 7:00 - 10:00 D.Cockrell | Wheel 2 7:00 - 10:00 B. Kark *No class 7/4 | HB 1 7:00 - 10:00 E. Sachtshale | Open Studio 7:00-10:00 Ruth Mannion | | |