

# KILN' TIME



JANUARY 2025

THE OFFICIAL CLAY ARTS GUILD NEWSLETTER

## Important dates

January 5 - Start of the Winter session

January 20 - Studio closed/ no classes (holiday)

January 22- Spring classes go on view

February 1- Final day for Fall work pick up

February 8 - Ice rink disassembled and gone!

February 12 - Spring registration opens at noon

February 17 - Studio closed/ no classes (holiday)

Turn to last page for more information from Brandon.

## The Chili Bowl Event A Spicy Success!

by Donna Cowan

The Second Annual Chili Bowl Feed was a resounding success! What wasn't to love with over 350 individual hand-crafted bowls to choose from and a bowl of either meat or vegetarian chili with condiments? Each ticket entitled the patron to a ceramic bowl of their choice plus a separate to go bowl of chili and chips (no messing up that new bowl!).

The event was held in the Civic Park Assembly Hall, which was large enough for many seasonally decorated tables in the center of the hall, plus fifteen artists selling ceramics around the periphery. Some people chose to eat then shop, and others did their shopping before sitting down with their bowl of nice hot chili. Kudos to Maile and her trusty Community Arts crew who worked the kitchen angle. For some reason, this year, the health department decided to do an in-person inspection, and not surprisingly, the crew passed with flying colors – the inspector even stayed and bought a bowl of chili!



Many thanks to Brandon and those CAG members who volunteered to organize, make, trim, and glaze the bowls, set up, direct people, serve the chili, and support this fundraiser in other behind the scenes ways. **We made \$4,500 from this event!** There will be a third chili bowl event in 2025, and opportunities to make and/or glaze bowls for it. *Stay tuned.*

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*Nicole Collins was one of the CAG members selling work at this event.*

## MEMBERS of the BOARD

**President: Pat Alger**

**Vice President:  
Erika Goldstein**

**Financial Officer:  
Bill Schaaf**

**Secretary: Julie Dandliker**

**Sales Events: Pat Alger**

**Social Events: OPEN**

**Social Media:  
Facebook & Instagram:  
Nicole Collins**

**Hospitality: Bette Sindzinski**

**Monitors: Erika Goldstein**

**Newsletter Coordinator:  
Marina Xavier**

**Newsletter Editor:  
Mary Leigh Miller**

**Curator: Florence McAuley**

**Website & Data Base Manager:  
Kathy Nicholson**

**Web Master: Brad Krebs**

**Meals On Wheels:  
Barbara Moreland**

**Why have we removed  
committee members'  
emails?**

**Recently many CAG  
members received  
spam emails. We  
believe that they were  
possibly culled from  
this newsletter listing  
as well as articles that  
contained an email.**

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## Message from Our Prez ...



**Happy New Year!**

It sounds like an exciting year ahead for the Community Arts Guild (CAG) with several engaging events planned for 2025. Here are some highlights:

### **Upcoming Events:**

**Children's Drawings Project:** CAG will be transforming drawings from preschool children into 3-D clay versions, fostering creativity and community engagement. More information will follow.

**Annual Mother's Day Sale:** Scheduled for May 3-4, this event is a fantastic opportunity for artists to showcase and sell their work. If you haven't participated before, it's a great way to connect with the community and share your creations.

### **Leadership Transition:**

I will be stepping down in July 2025 due to term limits set by the bylaws, which restrict board members to four years of service. This transition opens the door for new leadership.

### **Call for New President:**

All members are encouraged to consider taking on the role of President for the upcoming fiscal year. The responsibilities include:

- Quarterly meetings with Community Arts
- Monthly CAG Board Meetings
- Sending out emails for events
- Assisting event leaders with volunteer coordination

Erika and I are available to meet with anyone interested in this position to discuss the role and its requirements.

**Continued Support:** I will continue managing sales, while Erika will assist with membership management, ensuring a smooth transition and ongoing support for CAG's activities.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in making CAG a thriving community hub!

*pat Alger*

**Looking for volunteers!**  
**Contact Pat Alger if you are interested**

- Teen Art Night Feb 21 6-8pm
- Arts after Dark Feb 26 6-8pm
- Family Art Day March 15 10am-1pm

# Holiday Handcrafted Sale

By Alice Lasky

# Teamwork is Dreamwork Welcome to Monstertopia!!!

by Erica Goldstein



On December 7th and 8th, I participated in the annual Holiday Handcrafted Sale at the Shadelands Art Center in Walnut Creek. This sale is sponsored by the city of Walnut Creek and the Community Center for the Arts. My fellow potters and I prepare for this sale for many months. Hours are spent planning and working at our beloved Clay Studio. We spend time making pots and experimenting with various glaze combinations that will show our ceramics in their best light. When it all works out, we have a beautiful ceramic piece to offer our discerning shoppers.



I was very pleased with the turnout this year at the sale. Around 1500 shoppers came looking for pieces that spoke to them on Saturday. It is a wonderful feeling of completeness when a shopper looks at my table and finds that special piece they have always wanted! A big Thank You! to Karen and Brandon for all the care they take running our Clay Studio and firing the kilns. And thank you to all the folks at the Center for Community Arts for the months of planning you put into having this successful sale event!

We are looking forward to returning to our clay studio, after time off to recharge our batteries, to start the creative process again.



Hello CAG MEMBERS!

One of the preschool classes through community arts would like to partner with us for a very fun creative venture. The four year old students have created monsters drawn or created with construction paper, and their fabulous teachers, Kristin Birdwell and Bobbie Ireland, would love for us to make a 3-D sculpture out of clay for each child's work.



Each ceramist will receive the art and the back story of one child's creation to help with your own interpretation of their monster. Kristin and Bobbie asked the kids questions about their monster to help fill in some gaps!

It will then be decided how the clay creations are presented to the class; we do not have that information just yet. It could be a gathering, small party or the like.

While we don't have the final number of kids who have created just yet, they are targeting the need to be about 12-15 volunteers to be matched with a preschooler's artwork. If you are interested, please contact me at [ebgoldstein@comcast.net](mailto:ebgoldstein@comcast.net). We will fill up the spots as people contact me; so grab your spot for this delightful idea!

Brandon will offer recycled clay for you to create with.

We will send out an email to remind people of this event and to let people know when to begin creating and when it needs to be completed! But feel free to contact me now if you are interested in joining this fun!



# SODA KILN Firing Opportunity!

As a thank you to CAG for helping fund this project, I am offering all current CAG members a chance to participate in the inaugural firings. I am planning on doing two or three firings this quarter in order to dial in the kiln. I cannot guarantee the results of these first couple firings, however. Students can bring four or five pieces, ranging in size and shape. Studio size guidelines still apply.



The first firing will happen Friday, January 17th. All work should be placed on the wooden soda rack (back by the soda kiln) by Thursday, January 16th at noon. Additional firings will be announced later. Please place work on the soda rack, so that I can judge when the next firing will be.

Soda firing is a unique process where a solution of water and soda ash is sprayed into the kiln at peak temperature. This results in the soda ash volatilizing on the surface of the work, creating an asymmetric change in your clay, slip or glaze.

When creating work for the soda kiln, here are a few ideas and requirements.

- All work must be bisque fired first
- All work must be wadded. Wadding is a clay like mixture that must be applied to the bottom of every piece that goes into the soda kiln. Glue 3-5 small balls of wadding to the bottom of your work. Wadding is located on the soda shelves in the glaze area.
- Any one of our clays can be used
- Work can be glazed, slipped or raw
- Soda slips are located on the shelf in the glaze area (There are not test tiles for all. This will happen in the first couple firings) Can be applied to bone dry greenware or bisque.
- Our regular glazes will work. There are no test tiles of this yet.
- Raw (no glaze). If it is a functional piece, I would still put a liner glaze but nothing needs to be done to the outside.

If you have any questions, please ask Brandon or Karen for assistance.

*Brandon Lipe*

## HOT TIP! from Pat Alger

### Burnishing tool

I found this burnishing stone on Amazon for under \$10 and it works so much better than a rock for smoothing groggy clay or burnishing pieces when leather hard. It is advertised as a tool for skin care. It has all the different contours I need to get into the small spots as well as nice larger curves for the body of the piece. It is very comfortable to hold and keeps my hand from cramping after extended times of burnishing.



Natural Green Jade Stone

## Thank You to the Clean Up Crew!

Following the quarterly studio clean-up on Saturday, January 4, students coming into classes for the winter quarter will find everything sparkling again!

Thanks to all who helped make it that way.



# More from Brandon



## ICE SKATING RINK:

The rink will be down and out by Saturday, February 8th. Until it's gone, please arrive early to class in order to find a parking spot.

## PARKING:

2024 parking passes are still valid. A follow up email will be sent out when I receive the new 2025 passes.

You are allowed to park for 3 hours in the Civic Park parking lot. If you are registered to an open studio before or after your class that you will be attending, you will need to get a parking sticker. Students who have two consecutive classes or one class after another at the Ceramic Studio can qualify. This does not include extra loading or unloading time.

If you have a parking pass, you can also park for free in the library lower parking garage from 10 am-4 pm (while Ice rink is in the studio parking lot).

## CLAY:

Students can purchase clay online, before or during class. Monitors are not allowed to issue clay. Please pick up clay from your instructor. Students are allowed two bags of clay per class. Four bags maximum. No outside clay is allowed in the studio.

## STUDIO:

All bisqueware and finished work from Fall 24 quarter will be outback by the raku kilns. Last day to pick up this work will be Saturday, February 1st

Please let me know if I can help in any way as we get this session started.

*Brandon Lipé*

# Line up of Winter Classes & Open Studio Times January 6 ~ March 22, 2025

WTR 25	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
8:30 AM	Open Studio 8:30-11:30	Wheel 1 8:30 - 11:30 L Jensen <small>*No Class 1/20,2/17</small>	Open Studio 8:30-11:30	Open Studio 8:30 - 11:30	Glaze Mixing 8:30-11:30 Brad / Karen	Wheel 2 8:30 - 11:30 J. Newton	Raku 8:30 - 11:30 J.Newton
12:00 PM	HB 2 12:00 - 3:00 E. Blackburn	Surface Decoration 12:00 - 3:00 L.Jensen <small>*No Class 1/20,2/17</small>	Sculpture 1 12:00 - 3:00 C.Fortin	Wheel 1 12:00 - 3:00 C.Fortin	HB 2 12:00 - 3:00 E. Sachtshale	Lids 12:00-3:00 A. Henderson	Open Studio 12:00-3:00
3:30 PM	Open Studio 3:30-6:30	HB 1 3:30 - 6:30 E. Blackburn <small>*No Class 1/20,2/17</small>	Open Studio 3:30-6:30	Wheel 1 3:30 - 6:30 C.Fortin	HB 2 3:30 - 6:30 E. Sachtshale	Open Studio 3:30 - 6:30	Open Studio 3:30 - 6:30
7:00 PM		Wheel 1 7:00 - 10:00 Vanessa DiTullio <small>*No Class 1/20,2/17</small>	Wheel 2 7:00 - 10:00 B. Kark	HB 1 7:00 - 10:00 pm E. Sachtshale	Teen	Open Studio 7-10pm	

\*No Class 1/20, 2/17