

KILN' TIME



AUGUST 2026

THE OFFICIAL CLAY ARTS GUILD NEWSLETTER

Scott
Jennings
Friday, August 28
10 am ~ 3 pm

Join us for an exciting day of turning slabs into functional art. Scott Jennings will demonstrate the techniques that he uses to create hand built vessels from slabs of clay. He will show how to make patterns for each form, how to texture the clay, best practices for constructing with slabs, and how to create volume by stretching and contouring the vessels once constructed.



This is not a hands-on workshop. Light refreshments and snacks will be provided by CAG.

*Read more about Scott
Jennings on page 5*

Up and Coming

~ Chili Bowl Maker Days ~

We are gearing up for our fourth annual Chili Bowl Fundraiser and need your help making bowls. We will have three different days for making, including day and night times. Both hand builders and wheel throwers are welcome. **We are aiming for 200 bowls this year.**

When:

August 17th @ 8:30am-11:30am

August 18th and 20th @ 8:30am-11:30am & 6pm-9pm each day

Where: Ceramics Studio E

Who: Anyone who wants to make bowls

Sign up sheets are posted on the front door of the studio. Each day and time has a different sign up. Lite refreshments will be provided by CAG. Let Brandon know if you have any questions.

The Chili Bowl event will be held on November 14. Detailed information on the sale and volunteer opportunities will be forthcoming.

~ Handcrafted Holiday Sale ~ December 5 & 6, 2026

Artist Vendor Applications for this year's Handcrafted Holiday Sale opened on Saturday, August 1. Applications will be open through Monday, August 31. CAG receives 25% of all sales from CAG members who participate.



More information about the Artist Vendor application process can be found here: <https://www.communityarts.org/events-announcements/handcrafted-holiday-artist-vendors>

We hope you will consider applying to join us for another year of this holiday sale!

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Erika Goldstein**

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Web Master: Brad Krebs

**Meals On Wheels:
Barbara Moreland**

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

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

Visit our website:
www.wcclayartsguild.com
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in full color!**



Message from Our Prez ...

Welcome back to Fall session. Hope you enjoyed the break, it was busy in the studio with workshops offered, chili bowl making and the Visiting Artist on 8/28.

We have several events in the next few months. Our 4th Annual Chili Bowl event will be November 14th, mark it on your calendars. In addition to the chili bowl event some of our artists will have tables selling their creations. Thanks to all who have participated in making bowls for the event. There were multiple opportunities to join with others from the studio to make bowls. As you know, all net proceeds will go to scholarships for ceramic classes through our partnership with the Community Arts Foundation. We will also participate in Truck or Treat event on October 23rd. Look forward to receiving an email asking for volunteers. The Handcrafted Holiday sale will be December 5th and 6th at Shadelands. Vendor applications for the sale are now open. There will also be an area for kiddos to shop, donations of items for the kiddos area can be placed in the CAG area.

Thanks to Nicole Collins for her continuing efforts on our social media presence. I've really enjoyed the pictures of teacher demos [thanks to all who are taking these videos and sending to Nicole]. It's also great to see upcoming events posted. Thanks also to Stella Chua who put together the window display, it looks great. She will be renewing the display soon with some of the bowls made for the Chili Bowl event.

Clay Arts Guild is a volunteer organization. CAG members make it happen! I am grateful to all the folks who offer their time and effort in many ways to make events happen; and to all the board members who volunteer their time and expertise to the organization. I'm grateful as well to the Community Arts staff who perform so many functions that we don't even see - making sure registration goes smoothly and assisting with events.

Happy Fall!

Mona Moxley

Donations needed!!

CAG is collecting donations for the **Children's Shopping Room** during the Handcrafted Holiday Sale. We need:

- Small to medium quality pieces for children to purchase for those on their gift list
- Gift bags and tissue paper

Your contributions will help bring a smile to a lot of little ones' faces this December.

Meet your Monitor ~ Stella Chua Weekend Monitor, Animal Maker and All-Around Creative!

By Erika Goldstein



I had so much fun chatting with Stella Chua, one of our newest monitors, who you may recognize from our weekend shifts!

Stella's love affair with ceramics began when she was just 5 years old, when her mom signed her up for a parent/child clay class. The class had a fun tradition: the teacher would read a

book about an animal, and then everyone would create that animal out of clay. Stella still has some of those early creations at home, making this a pretty adorable beginning to her ceramic journey!

Her love of clay continued through high school and college and eventually brought her to our studio in 2023. And clearly, those early animal-making days stuck with her because she still loves making animals today!!! She makes both functional pieces, like her adorable piggy banks, as well as animals for display.

Lately, Stella has also been getting more interested in throwing bigger bowls. She enjoys both wheel throwing and hand building, and her animal-making process is a great combination of the two. She typically starts by throwing the form of the body on the wheel and then hand-builds all the fun details from there. She also loves to Raku and experimenting with different over and underglazes to get those extra-special effects.

Why Stella Loves the Studio

Stella says she loves how spacious and well run the studio is, but what she appreciates most is the community. She loves how friendly and

welcoming everyone is—and she enjoys being able to give back and help, which is one of the reasons she enjoys monitoring. Also, Stella graciously took over curating our outside window, so be sure to go take a peek at this quarter's display.

Life Outside the Studio

During the day, Stella works for Easter Seals, where she works with adults with special needs. She interacts with them in groups, helping teach social and life skills—and she especially enjoys simply spending time with them. She finds her time with them incredibly rewarding.

When she's not at the studio or at work, you might find Stella playing video games or creating digital art. Clearly, the creative energy doesn't stop when she leaves our studio!

Stella's "Pick One" Challenge

I asked Stella to choose between a few ceramic (and not-so-ceramic!) favorites. Her answers are underlined below:

- **Oxidation or Reduction:** This one was a close call, but she's a fan of celadon in reduction!
- **Morning or Night**
- **Stoneware or Porcelain**
- **Underglaze or Overglaze**
- **Fall or Summer**

Thank you, Stella, for all you do for our studio and for being such a wonderful part of our community! We're so happy to have you monitoring, creating, curating, and filling the studio with your animal magic. Here are some of her creations:



Corrigendum:

In reference to the article in the Spring Newsletter regarding the information on the test cylinder for Mayco and Studio glazes, the following clarifications are being provided.

Rebecca Verity was gifted the test cylinder from Sophie (last name is not known to us at this time), to be used as a test tile, since Sophie was not continuing with classes and it was the end of the quarter. In designing the glaze test cylinder, Rebecca invited several other students to contribute their various glaze combinations and participate in the process.

When Rebecca was unable to participate in the event, Mihran Touriguan, who was one of the main contributors to process and combinations used on the cylinder presented the finished test glaze cylinder to the group who were gathered.

The Clay Arts Guild

The purpose of the Clay Arts Guild is to assist and encourage ceramics students to develop and improve their skills and understanding of the media and to contribute actively toward improving the program of the Civic Arts Ceramic studio through appropriate financial and operation aid.

By-laws, October 25, 2005

1,000 Ways to Hold

By Lisa Jacobs

CAG member Kimberley Hornett and I visited the Anderson Collection and the Cantor Center for the Arts at Stanford University in Palo Alto recently. We wanted to have an “Art Day” and get inspired. And that we did! We were totally blown away with this amazing ceramic exhibit at the Anderson Collection.

The exhibit, entitled 1000 Ways to Hold, was a collection of 1,000 pinch pots made by students, faculty, alumni and members of the community. It's the culmination of a year-long participatory project by Stanford Arts in 2025-2026. Led by visiting Artist Erika Chong Shush, the project was rooted in conversation and clay. The artist had the participants create a pinch pot while they pondered the questions: What do you hold and what holds you? The tremendous variety of pinch pots were all salt fired so the exhibit has a beautiful natural organic look.



Each participant was recorded while they told their story of what informed their pot. These recordings were put on a digital chip which was attached to the bottom of each participant's pot. A visitor could pick up any of the 1,000 pinch pots, take it over to a Star Trek looking contraption, step up onto it and place the pot on a transformer-like pedestal. The pedestal lights up, starts revolving and some fun spacey music starts playing. Then, the pot begins to speak and tell the participant's story of being held or holding!

The incredible array of charming pinch pots was overwhelming. Plus, the interactive experience of getting to hear these poignant stories attached to the creative work sent this exhibit over the top. It was a special unique visual, tactile and auditory experience a person of any age can enjoy – especially anyone who knows the transformative power of working with clay.

Although this exhibit is no longer there (it closed on August 17th), visiting these two museums is highly recommended. Both art institutions are free to the public and there is garage pay parking close by. The Anderson Collection is open from Thursday through Monday 11:00 am-5:00 pm. I would suggest arriving around noon to 1:00pm, having lunch in the cafe or in the Rodin Sculpture Garden, visiting the museums, having dinner along University Ave and returning home after the commuter traffic dies down.

Scott Jennings

continued from front page

Scott Jennings is a Bay Area artist who has been working with clay for 30 years. He has 15+ years of teaching experience in various settings including community college, municipal arts programs, and community studios. Scott has worked as a college ceramic lab technician and production manager at Heath Ceramics. He graduated with a BFA in Ceramics from Cal State Fullerton in 1996. He maintains a workspace in San Francisco at 1890 Bryant Studios.

“My work as an artist is a natural extension of my lifelong interest in how things work. Sculpture and vessels provide problems that require investigation, trial, error, and intuition to complete. Exploring individual forms, inventing the process that needs to be used to achieve the concept, and developing visual language is a never-ending pursuit. Approaching clay with a cooperative attitude and the continuing dialog with the form is what motivates me to get in the studio each day to do the work.”



MEALS ON WHEELS

By Barbara Moreland

Once again CAG supports Meals on Wheels



On April 9th, more than 20 studio members came together to make over 150 small functional pieces for Meals on Wheels. Nicole Collins delivered a fantastic demo on hand-building techniques such as adding texture, using underglaze transfers, applying a foot and

many more tips and tricks for success.

Participants enjoyed delicious savory treats, courtesy of Micheal Kessler (Erika Goldstein's husband).

On May 14th more than a dozen studio members showed up to glaze the pieces. Nicole Collins once again provided a great demo on using oxides to enhance textures. We were able to glaze more than 200 pieces that will be distributed to Meals on Wheels program recipients throughout the year.

In addition, we provided eight amazing large pieces to the Meals on Wheels Auction held on June 6th. A huge thank you to **Micheal Shin** for donating his amazing large vases. And **Julie Dandliker** for her beautifully crafted big bowls!

The small pieces above are an example of what we created in the **Maker Events** for MoW.

In the photos at right, the large pot is Mike Shin's donation and the bowl is Julie Dandliker's.

Many thanks to all who participated in these two events and to CAG for supplying the clay!



CERAMICS in SOUTHERN ITALY

By Bill Schaaf

I just spent time in Southern Italy, a few famous spots but mostly smaller cities, many thousands of years old. These are photos of various ceramics I observed.



SCILLA. Antonio's Ceramics. Terracotta sculptures and Tuna boat



TAORMINA
Rita in her shop

REGGIO Calabria
Archaeology Museum and street art
(2 photos below)



ALBEROBELLA.
Trulli homes, Red pots,
Maria shop owner



Continued on next page

Bill Schaaf's Trip to Italy, cont.



MATERA. Street art, Roosters
– a 6000 year old city



MINORI – Population 2,687 on
Amalfi Coast
Two Studio workshops



POMPEII. 2,000 year old fresco
“House of the Vetti”, was
under 21 feet of ash.



SORRENTO
Lots of ceramics

It was a fun trip with lots of learning and discovery! My favorite city was Minori, a small town on the Amalfi coast with a population of 2,500. I met two pottery shop owners both who taught classes.

HOT TIPS!

By Nicole Collins

Stone Bath Mat for Drying Your Clay

If you are a handbuilder and would like your clay slabs to dry flat, evenly and quickly, you might consider buying a natural **Diatomaceous earth bathmat**. It's a rectangular 23" x 15" x 0.35 inch slab of natural stone that typically absorbs moisture 60% faster than other materials.



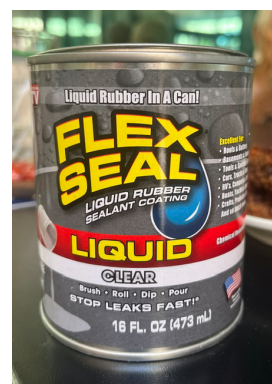
Be sure to buy one with a smooth texture to avoid transferring the pattern to your piece. Some manufacturers offer slabs in white, gray and black, so

pick the shade that best suits your clay body as the slab can discolor with time. Throwers will also find this mat very helpful for drying and reclaiming their wet clay.

The stone bath mat can be purchased through Amazon.

Another great tip comes from Karen Hildebrand (Hilde)

If you have ever had a crack at the bottom of a vase, or wanted to seal a Raku piece, you can use Flex Seal: a clear liquid rubber sealant coating. You can brush, roll, dip or pour it on. It leaves a thin coat of clear rubber that stops leaks. This product is *not food safe* and can be found at most hardware stores.



FALL 2026 CLASS SCHEDULE

Fall 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 *No Class 9/7	Open Studio 8:30-11:30	Open Studio 8:30 - 11:30 *No O.S 11/11	Glaze Mixing 8:30-11:30 Brad / Karen	Wheel 2 8:30 - 11:30 B.Lipe *No Class 9/25, 10/23	Raku 8:30 - 11:30 H.Tessler *No Class 9/26
12:00 PM	Handmade Tile 12:00 - 3:00 E. Blackburn	Alternative Firing 12:00 - 3:00 L.Jensen *No Class 9/7	Sculpture 1 12:00 - 3:00 C.Fortin	Wheel 1 12:00 - 3:00 C.Fortin *No Class 11/11	HB 2 12:00 - 3:00 E. Sachtshale *No Class 10/29	Wheel 2 12:00-3:00 B.Kark *No Class 9/25, 10/23	Open Studio 12:00-3:00 *No O.S 9/26
3:30 PM	Open Studio 3:30-6:30	HB 1 3:30 - 6:30 E. Blackburn *No Class 9/7	Open Studio 3:30-6:30	Wheel 1 3:30 - 6:30 C.Fortin *No Class 11/11	HB 2 3:30 - 6:30 E. Sachtshale *No Class 10/29	Open Studio 3:30 - 6:30 *No O.S 9/25, 10/23	Open Studio 3:30 - 6:30 *No O.S 9/26
7:00 PM	HB 1 7:00 - 10:00 E. Sachtshale *No Class 11/1	Wheel 1 7:00 - 10:00 V. DiTullio *No Class 9/7	Wheel 2 7:00 - 10:00 B. Kark	HB 1 7:00 - 10:00 E. Sachtshale *No Class 10/28, 11/11	Teen 7:00 - 9:00	Wheel 2 7-10pm N.Ring *No Class 9/25, 10/23	

*Labor Day 9/7

*October Fest: 9/25, 9/26

*Trunk or Treat: 10/23

*Veterans Day 11/11