



SYRACUSE CERAMIC GUILD

November Newsletter 2011

Greetings from Sabrina,

I hope to be seeing all of you at the upcoming Holiday Dinner on December 9th.

The Programming Committee has been busy working on getting things in place for the upcoming year. We are very excited about the way things are shaping up!

The committee has been thinking outside of the box about spaces and getting the Guild more exposure, as well as our artists work out into the public eye. We are an amazingly talented group of people and the time has come to show it!

With that said, we have two shows that are definitely going to happen. The committee is just working out the dates and prospectus, and we will have that to you shortly. We also have several more in the works, I just wanted to give you enough time to start thinking about them since they are just around the corner!

- Juried in February for Eve Galleria- "Dish"
- Juried in March for the Roji Tea Lounge- "Art of Tea"

View (the arts center in Old Forge) has 2 juried shows all artists can participate in : Annual theme show (spring 2012) titled Rock, Paper, Scissors and the Annual Regional Exhibit (may-june 2012). Firm dates will follow. Also working on juried group exhibits in Syracuse and Old Forge.

Tentative Calendar of Events for 2012

January - Movie, critique of our work and potluck.

The Movie: Jeff Irwin

Jeff uses stiff slabs, coils, bisque clay press molds, newspaper armatures. He will also cover drawing with glaze, using a ruling pen, wax resist and sgraffito on bisque ware and pre-existing or recycled glazed ware.

February - Sarah and Jeremy Panzarella more info to follow (Horse Hair)

March - Our own Kelly Sullivan!

Kelly will walk us through her glazing technique using englobes, underglazes and other techniques. More information to follow

April - Possible Hands on Workshop with Hayne Bayless (if we can get him this year and I have enough interest in a paid workshop) OR have a members demo.

May - John Spiteri wheel throwers

June - Raku Picnic

July - Possible Raku/ horse hair firing if we have enough interest

August - Pottery Fair

September - Liz Zlot Summerfield



October - Wood Fire w/ Bill? OR a Movie, critique and potluck

November - TBA

December - Holiday Dinner

October Woodfiring

A woodfiring workshop was held on October 8 and 9 at Bill Perrine's Studio in Homer, NY. Saturday members glazed, waded and loaded the kiln with their bisque ware. On Sunday the kiln was lit and the firing began. The kiln was allowed to cool for a week and unloaded the following Saturday.



Mark your calendars

for our

Annual Holiday Party

Friday, December 9 at 6:00 pm

Bring a dish to pass and a beverage of choice.

This year we thought it might be fun to exchange handmade Christmas/Hanukkah ornaments. Please bring an ornament to exchange and remember it doesn't have to be made of clay. Be creative!

Party location:

102 Tudor Lane • Camillus, New York 13031

Directions:

- From the City take 690 west towards the fairgrounds/Baldwinsville.
 - Merge onto 695 S towards route 5/Auburn.
 - Merge on Rt-5 W toward Auburn
 - Take the Hinsdale Rd exit. and turn left onto Hinsdale Rd.
 - Turn left onto W Genesee St., take the 1st right onto Clark Ln.
 - Go to the end of Clark and turn right onto Crestwood Dr.
 - Take the 1st right onto Tudor Ln.
 - 102 Tudor Lane is the first house on the right.
- Just in case you get lost call 472-5236

Pottery Plus

Plans are coming together nicely for the 2011 version of Pottery Plus, November 19-20.

Located in the spacious ballroom of the Maplewood Inn on 7th North Street in Liverpool, this sale also includes non-Guild members to add extra variety for our patrons.

6600 postcards are mailed out to patrons; these people have shopped at Pottery Fair and look forward to our events. 2500 extra postcards are distributed by Guild members. Notifications are sent to free listings in newspapers, on tv, etc. Paid ads are placed in select newspapers.

Many volunteer hours by many people have been put into this event to make it successful. Your help is always appreciated. We especially need help for set up on Saturday 7 am - 10 am and teardown on Sunday 3 pm - 6 pm. There are also a few spaces available if you want to sell fine craft - not just pottery...

Nanette Bergevin, Pottery Plus Chairman
nbergevin@twcny.rr.com - 689-7314

Other Opportunities

The Genesee Pottery is looking for work for our annual WinterCraft sale in the Firehouse Gallery. The Opening night celebration is December 2 from 6:00-9:00. While the Gallery mainly showcases ceramic work, during this sale we accept photography, glass, painting, jewelry, and fiber arts.

To enter please send us images or descriptions of your work by November 18. The Pottery is a nonprofit community art center and we will take a 40% commission on work sold.

Kate Whorton Director, Genesee Pottery
713 Monroe Ave., Rochester, NY 14607
Kate Whorton <pottery@geneseearts.org>

Follow us on Facebook

When you get a chance take a look at our facebook page. You will find photos and information from previous events.

You don't need a facebook page to view the site. However, to add comments or photos you will need to have your own page.

www.facebook.com/pages/Syracuse-Ceramic-Guild/234928453207437

Syracuse Ceramic Guild General Meeting Minutes

October 14, 2011

The October General Guild Meeting took place at Carol Stone's house. Thank you Carol for your hospitality! The meeting was lead by Sabrina Nedell, Guild VP and Program Chair. The 27 members who participated were as follows:

Carol Stone, Sabrina Nedell, Nanette Bergevin, Sheila Rook, Gary Quirk, Terri Johnson, John Samsel, Bill Perrine, Susan Borker, Ray Kowalski, Karen Nadolski, Yuming Tung, Maryanne White, Shawn Rommeveux, Denise Dowdall, Steve Waldron, Beth Geis-Waldron, Miyo Hirano, David Lisi, Jim Burke, Judy Lieblein, David Ciechanowski, Robin Winsor, Caroline LeBlanc, Cathy Goldstein, Chris Crysler, and Mike Greenfield.

Nancy Braches stepped down as President of the Guild at the last board meeting so Sabrina lead the last board meeting and this general meeting. First, she welcomed and introduced three new Guild members in attendance – Chris, Ray, and Robin.

Sabrina then made a call out for more participation of members in the Guild. If members don't start participating in the Guild, and in the decision making, then the Guild will either dissolve or decisions will be made by a few for all, and they may not be the decisions the Guild as a whole wants.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Sabrina passed out copies of a current Financial Report. She will also email it to the Guild's list serve.

Sabrina reports that we need to find a way to be sustainable in this bad economy. The Pottery Fair breaks even, and Pottery Plus may take a hit this year since it's the first year at a new location and we're just starting it up again. Programming is very expensive.

BY-LAWS

Sabrina had emailed the By-Laws of the Constitution of the Syracuse Ceramic Guild to the listserve. Sabrina emphasizes the Members section (which reads that the Guild "seeks membership applications from persons who express an interest in meeting regularly ...a commitment to supporting the activities, interests and programs of the SCG...). We need to have more active members in the Guild, and/or have our current members become more active.

Sabrina would also like to see the educational part of the Guild's mission improve.

POTTERY PLUS

Nanette B., Plus Chair, reports that we need more people to participate in the Pottery Plus Fair. She has 11 applications so far. It's too late to cancel since we booked the location and have already advertised. We can have non-Guild members participate also. She has postcards with her at meeting for us to distribute to advertise. Please let her know where you leave any postcards so we can keep track of where they go. Feel free to forward application to other artists you feel may want to participate.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership Chair Shawn R. proposed that we change the application process. We would have no jurying to become a member, but after the person is a member they still need to be juried to participate in any Fairs or Exhibits. The jury could be made up of members, or an outside person if necessary. Current members could be grand fathered in for Pottery Fair and Pottery Plus. This would make it easier to add members and help us promote ceramics as mentioned in the Guild's mission. Dave C. motioned, Bill P. seconded, as long as we jury for shows and exhibits. It may open an avenue for people to donate money to the Guild without becoming active members. We all voted yes.

Shawn also recommends that the applications and the checks from members go to the same person to help keep track of paid members.

POTTERY FAIR

Denise D., Pottery Fair Chair reports that this year was not the greatest year. We did try Groupon coupons and 30% of the coupon users were new to the fair. Some coupons were not used so we make money on those. She wouldn't recommend using Groupon next year, maybe every other year.

She wants to step down as Pottery Fair Chair.

Commissions:

Maryanne W. proposed we put a cap on the 15% commission we charge each potter. She claims she and one other potter both did not participate in Pottery Fair this year because when they sell alot of pottery, it costs them too much. One other potter claimed he has not done the fair in years for the same reason. Another idea would be to charge less percentage after a certain amount of sales have been met by that member.

Much discussion ensued, with both sides argued. Some examples are: It does cost alot and is a lot of work for members, but the money is going to the Guild for programming that is free to members; Everyone works hard there, using the Guilds resources and selling everyone's pots, but a potter could do another show on their own and possibly make more money without the work of tagging and participating in the Pottery Fair.

Many other arguments on both sides were presented.

Yuming proposed an idea to have each potter sell their own wares individually at Pottery Fair.

It was resolved to form a committee to look at this issue further. They will come up with a proposal after surveying members. The committee will consist of members from both sides of the issue - Terri Johnson, Bill Perrine, Shawn Rommeveux, Judy Lieblein, John Samsel, and anyone else who would like to join it.

Concerning costs, Bill P. proposed we try to trim more fat. One example was the traditional Chinese dinner that we have on Saturday and always have food left over. Steve W. pointed out that he orders according to the number of people who say they are coming, but they don't always show up. This makes it difficult to predict how much to order. He said he can just go by the number of people specified on the applications.

PROGRAMMING

Sabrina, VP and Programming Chair reports that we need a new place to hold programs. OCC wants a lot of money (not Andy, but the school), and SU comes with its own set of issues. Sabrina checked with Don at Clayscapes but he has classes on the weekends, plus they schedule two years out.

Charging a small fee for workshops, or charging non-members is not feasible at SU or OCC. If we had a place of our own to hold workshops we could charge a fee to non-members. (see discussion later in meeting).

We also need to improve/change our relationship with the Stone Quarry Hill Art Park (see discussion later in meeting).

Bill Perrine's wood firing workshop and the Mayco glaze workshop were very successful. A great time was had by all. Bill pointed out, however, that only half the members that signed up to participate in the firing, showed up. If they had known ahead of time, the members that did participate could have brought more pots to put into the kiln. Also, more food is ordered than necessary so we overspend. Sabrina confirmed that that happens often at workshops and asked if people sign up to go to a workshop then cannot, to let someone know.

Sabrina reports that she is looking into having a Guild show that would travel to area galleries to make the Guild more visible. She has already talked to the Old Forge Art Center. We would need members to join the Program Committee to help plan this. We could start at one gallery and see how it goes before we have it travel.

Volunteers to join the Program Committee are Robin W., Terri J., David L. is already the Hospitality person, and possibly Judy L..

STONE QUARRY HILL ART PARK

The Board has been talking about building a better relationship with the Art Park. Sabrina reports that our relationship could be better, plus they charge us alot for the Pottery Fair. Steve W. is on the board of the Art Park and is advocating for us.

Concerning the Pottery Fair fee, Steve explained that for years we split the admission fee with the park, which was close to \$4,000. A few years back the Art Park board asked for more. Since then we negotiated a \$5,000 flat fee, and we would keep all the admission and raffle proceeds. Beth G-W pointed out that the \$5,000 flat fee is not only for the weekend, but the week before when we set up and clean up, since they can't schedule anything else that week.

Steve also reports that the Art Park is making many changes and renovations. They have hired more staff and administrators and their programming is getting more exciting. They put heat in the art barn which could be a possible place for us to hold a workshop, and the presenter could possibly stay at the Park saving us more money. The park also wants to develop their children's program which could be an opportunity for us to be involved.

The Ceramic Guild board has started an issues list, and would like to set up a meeting with the Park board to negotiate. The Boards could then come up with a written contract.

SPACE OF OUR OWN

The board has been considering renting a space of our own to hold programs, meetings, possibly community programs, and/or eventually a kiln for Guild use. We could rent for a couple of years on a trial basis. It would have to be financially sustainable. We could have more frequent smaller programs inexpensively, in a centrally located place.

Shawn R. and Denise D. have been looking around at places to get an idea of prices and sizes. They report that not knowing our exact needs, they have gotten ranges. It also depends on what we are willing to do to the locations. The range of size is 1,000 to 3,000 square

feet. They have looked at about six spaces, mostly in the Near West Side of Syracuse where the city is trying to revitalize into an artist neighborhood, and where Clayscapes and other art studios and galleries are located. Some examples are Delavan, the Gear Factory, Rockwest Building, and the old Seven Rays building on Westcott Street. What Shawn liked best was Delavan, which is a 1,150 square feet place, first floor, with it's own entrance. It would cost \$875./mo, utilities included, though if we were to eventually get a kiln the utilities would cost more. The Gear Factory space would need some work from us, as would 831 Fayette St. which would cost less, but also need work.

Some ideas expressed to make the space financially sustainable would be to have children's programs, possibly with a grant, and we could charge non-members for participating in our workshops if we have our own space.

Terri J. brought up a fund raising idea of an auction like the one that Maryanne W. organizes in Binghamton for their museum/studio. Maryanne explained how they do it and how successful it is.

If anyone has fundraising ideas, please forward them to Shawn R..

Shawn emphasizes that he does not want to be the one to make the decisions. We have to decide if we even want to do this, though it could help support the Guild's educational and other missions.

It was brought up again that we could possibly negotiate to use the newly heated barn at the Stone Quarry Hill Art Park for workshops, with the presenting artist possibly staying at facilities there which would save us money.

It was resolved to put together a committee to look into this and come up with a business plan and proposal. Volunteers for that committee so far are Shawn R., Denise D., Gary Q., Karen N., Ray K., Bill P. and Judy L..

Sabrina will play devils advocate – we need to move forward because she's sick of reinventing the wheel.

Sheila R. pointed out that in the past the Guild had more people involved on committees to help, and lighten the work of the Chairs. Adding more committees and members to existing committees is a good first step.

OFFICERS NEEDED

Shawn R. and Denise D. will step into the Presidency for the interim.

We need members for a Nominating committee. The positions we need to fill are:

President(s)

Newsletter Chair

Members to join the Program and Membership Committees

Robin W. offered help with the newsletter if it only means receiving the information and posting it on the newsletter. Karen N. also volunteered to help with newsletter.

BY-LAWS REVISION

The officer Vice President of Finance needs to be added to the By-Laws to the Constitution of the Syracuse Ceramic Guild. Steve Waldron was named our VP of Finance to give him authority to complete and sign the Guild's taxes, which he prepares annually.

Shawn R. motioned, Beth G-W seconded, we all voted yes.

Sabrina would like us to consider separating the Vice President position from the Program Chair position. Nothing resolved on this however.

OTHER BUSINESS

Dave C. reports that the Northern New York Arts Council is looking for potters for their Art Show in November. The deadline is October 15th. You can apply at their website.

The Guild's Annual Holiday Potluck Party will be held Friday December 9th at 6:00PM, at Karen Nadolski's house. More info to follow.