



Ventura County Potters' Guild



August 2020 Newsletter

venturapottersguild.org

• For Your Calendar

- August 24th.....Board Meeting; 7pm on Zoom
Introducing VCPG new website
- Sep 13th.....Board Meeting
You are welcome to Zoom w/us
- Sep 12th.....Exhibit 'Nature's Bounty'
at Beatrice Wood Center Online
- Sept 28*.....Members Meeting; 7pm ;
Learn to pack and send Ceramics
- Oct 4th.....Board Meeting
- Oct 10th.....The Beauty of underglazes;
Workshop with Julia Feld
- Oct 26.....Members Meeting; 7pm
- Nov 1st.....Board Meeting
- Nov 23*.....Members Meeting; 7pm
Jury Workshop; 6:30pm
- DecHoliday Party

Meeting Location: Ventura Adult Center; 550 North Ventura Avenue., Ventura, Ca 93001

• Presidents message

Dear fellow potters,

On the home front—

It's been quite a month for me. I had a gas explosion in my kiln. If it had been a brick kiln and not a fiber kiln in a metal skin, it would have

blown out the sides and the top would have fallen. As it was, the damage was pretty minor and it was a complete surprise that no pots in the kiln were damaged. There were pots for a show I'm in at VITA Art Center this month, so they were late.

It took two days to do the repairs. Then I fired again. This time the kiln got to 900F and there was no draft in the flue. I shut it down expecting that there was a blockage of some kind from the explosion. Nope. No blockage. I called Larry Carnes to talk about it. Neither of us could explain why a 900F kiln had air temp damper shelves and no draft in the flue. So, I fired again. This time it fired perfectly. What changed? Nothing... The unexplainable anomalies in the world of clay... I hadn't realized until I sat down to write this how shaken I've been by the explosion. It was my fault. I made a wrong decision and — BOOM! I or someone else could have gotten hurt. No one did. I've fired gas kilns from 20-130 cu. ft. For almost 50 years. I hope it's a once in a century occurrence...

On the VCPG front—

When the Covid shutdown happened and all of our traditional activities were cancelled we formed 4 Pivot Teams, Open the Gallery in compliance with State and County guidelines, Created sales outlets that are not dependent on brick and mortar locations, Designed and created educational opportunities that can be delivered remotely (Zoom, YouTube, etc.), Designed and implemented ways to stay connected with our membership.

After 3-4 months of work, I'm happy to share that all of these Pivot Projects are either done or nearing completion:

The Gallery is now open 7 days a week with a slightly reduced schedule and sales of 70-80% of pre- Covid sales.

The Guild Online store is nearing completion. The trial run will open to gallery artists next month. Following this live test, we'll be opening the store to all juried members. (In a related project, our new

website is ready to launch later this month. More on both of these further down in the newsletter.)

We tested a monthly Member's Meeting using a YouTube tour of ClayZen Studio and a scheduled Zoom meeting for Q&A on the tour, other Guild business, and ideas for other educational things we could do.

We finished calling our whole membership and are nearing the launch of a Guild Members-Only email, **VCPG Member Connect**, so we can discuss Guild-related and/or pottery-related items.

Those of us who have been involved in many of these projects are taking a bit of a deep breath and exhale as we approach the finish line. It's been a lot of fun, a lot of creative work collaborating with an amazing group of people. I'm honored and blessed to have been invited to participate in the changes and expansions of our collective ceramic enterprise.

Got a good idea? Or a complaint about something you wish we'd do something about?

Let me know. My "office door" is always open.

Wyn Matthews

805.207.3122

me@wynmatthews.com



Jackie Sanford • July 2020

With great sadness, we announce the loss of our Guild Member, Jackie, who joined the VCPG in the 1970's.

It all started when Jackie decided to work with clay to add pots to her macramé pot hangers.

She enjoyed it and began taking Art and Ceramics classes at Oxnard College and ended up taking all of the Pottery classes she could and eventually became a studio assistant.

In 1980's Jackie began selling her pottery at the VCPG Winter Sales and Summer Ojai Show & Sale as well as entering her work in various local exhibits and the Ventura County Fair.

Jackie was a VCPG Gallery Member from August 2010-June 2015 and was Featured Artist in the VCPG Gallery NL in 2013.

She was on the VCPG Board as Membership Chair in 1998-2002, in 2007 Jackie was awarded Lifetime Membership.



A Potters dream for sale:

Electric Kiln (set up in studio garage) Over 1000 dollars in accessories
Potters tools, glazes, slab roller, hand building accessories and many
books all to be sold extremely low price.

"I know my Mom would have liked it to go to someone who shared the
same passion". Please contact **Kim Smith 805-443-1037**

• Members Meeting on Zoom • August 24th Launch of the New VCPG Website

Presented by **Terry Wilson** who is retired from web development and
graphic design, having been involved with websites since the 90s, when
AOL was the most common way to gain access to the internet (using a
dialup modem).

Terry has been working on the Guild's new website since April, with help from **Wyn Matthews, Erika Posey** and **Brenda Burgess**. At the August Zoom meeting, she will give us a tour and show us some new features, including members' own portfolios and how to set yours up (it's easy!). We will also take a peek at the Guild's new online store, being setup by Stacy Rowe.

- **Members Exhibit at Beatrice Wood Center Online**
"Nature's Bounty" • 9/12 - 10/24/20

<https://www.beatricewood.com/exhibits.html>

- **The Beauty of Underglazes • October 10-11/20**

A two day workshop with **Julia Feld**.

- **Service to Our Members**

The Guild is offering to our juried members who are selling through the gallery to place a combined order from Laguna Clay and Aardvark Clay.

Orders from Laguna need to be receiving by August 31st.

Orders from Aardvark need to be receiving by September 13th.

- You will email or text Wyn Matthews the items you need which list the item number, name and quantity (i.e. WC 401 cone 6 B-mix, 100#. MSD 302 cone 6 Turquoise Glaze 10#.).

The order will be placed the first week in September with expected delivery to Genie Thomsen's residence by the second week in September.

- You will reimburse the VCPG for your portion of the order plus a share of the delivery cost.

Once the order arrives, Wyn/Genie will send you an email notice with the amount you owe.

• Then contact Genie to make an appointment to pick up your order.

Wyn Matthews, 805.207.3122, me@wynmatthews.com

• **VCPG Members Connect**



The VCPG Marketing Committee is excited to launch "VCPG MEMBERS CONNECT". It will be set up as an email communication for all VCPG members and will be very user friendly.

The purpose is to connect our members and share information in the pottery world. We plan to set up monthly email chats that members can use to gain new facts and tips. For example, one month might be entitled: "Favorite Glazes and Share Photos".

You can also use the VCPG MEMBERS CONNECT to ask members questions, advise, sell equipment or glazes.

Look for the first edition of VCPG MEMBERS CONNECT in your email.

• **VCPG Jury Members Program**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic we need to postponed our hurried members program.

• **Looking to hire potter/Kiln tech**

The job is 3 to 4 days a week and will pay \$2500 to \$4,000 a month, based on talent, enthusiasm and effort.

I need someone with these skills:

Ability to teach pottery classes (throwing)

Ability to load & fire both gas & electric kilns (we can train someone who has basic background)

Ability to talk to public & explain studio operations to potential students & members.

Ability to handle money and sell items in gallery

Position includes:

Full studio membership and use of our facilities. Clay at "cost."

Ability to sell own pottery, at low commission, in gallery.

Contact Robin at Firestick; Call 805 272 8760 or text 562 688 6600

• Ceramics Professional Critiques

<https://extension.otis.edu/search/publicCourseSearchDetails.do?method=load&courseId=1555680>

This class will meet four times between September 12 and December 12, 2020, with individual consultations occurring on ZOOM with each student. The fifth and final class will be a group presentation to showcase each student's progress and evolution resulting from the mentoring sessions. The aim is to bring each student to a higher level of professionalism through private and constructive critiques of ongoing work.

Jo Lauria, Curator/ Writer/ Educator

[Email: jolauria@gmail.com](mailto:jolauria@gmail.com)

• Orton Pyrometric for Sale

Orton Pyrometric - self supporting 25 per box

04, 05, 5, 6,

\$2 a box

Email: levyruty4@gmail.com or 818.613.7256



- **Venturi Burner for Sale**

Hardly used, \$10 each

Email: levyruty4@gmail.com or 818.613.7256



- **33rd Ceramics Conference**

For the Advancement of Ceramic Arts - College Edition 2.0

On Friday, **September 18th**, the **John Natsoulas Center for the Arts** will feature some of the best ceramic sculptors in the world in a side-

by-side fashion, where within one hour, two artists will engage with one another in a discussion as well as answer questions from the public. This conference is free to the public and will be available for live streaming on Zoom and Facebook.

Information and to register at <https://www.natsoulas.com/ccaca-2-0/>

- **2020 VCPG Membership**

A membership form is included in this newsletter.

- **Your Guild needs help!**

We will help you to help us;

Vice-President, Show & Sales Chairperson, Program Chairperson, Librarian Coordinator

- **Check our YouTube Channel**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2IzebZHcq-j01UucykUVpg>



- **VCPG Board of Directors:**

President: **Wyn Matthews** wyn@wynmatthew.com 805.207.3122

Vice President: **Would you like to volunteer?**

Secretary: **Stacy Rowe** stacer2000@gmail.com 310.429.2822

Treasurer: **Roe Estep** estepr67@aol.com 805.320.3524
Programs: **Would you like to volunteer?**
Sales/ Shows: **Would you like to volunteer?**
Workshops: **Genie Thomsen** geniethomsen@att.net 805.886.1957
Communications: **Ruty Levy** levyruty4@gmail.com 818.613.7256
Instagram/Pinterest: **Troy Schmidt** RedDragonPottery@gmail.com 805.252.0923
Membership: **Brenda Burgess** burgessinventura@gmail.com 805.290.4741
Publicity: **Rebecca Catterall** rebeccacatter@yahoo.com 310.384.1840
Jury Chair: **Crystal Davis** cedavis1617@gmail.com 805.216.5289
Marketing: **Ellen Wohlstadter** ellenwohlstadter@gmail.com 818.321.8706
Hospitality: **Victoria Mullins** vlmceramic@gmail.com 805.320.3524
Gallery Chair: **Drew Lurie** drewlurie@gmail.com 805.798.2240
Finance Chair: **Wanda Ferrin** ferrinpottery@earthlink.net 805.462.7309
Librarian: **Would you like to volunteer?**