



Ventura County Potters' Guild



July 2020 Newsletter

venturapottersguild.org

• For Your Calendar

July	Members Meeting on Zoom.....	Members Meeting; 7pm
August 9thBoard Meeting @2pm	
		You are welcome to Zoom w/us
Sep 13thBoard Meeting	
Sept 28*Members Meeting; 7pm (?)	
		Pre-Jury Workshop; 6:30pm (?)
Oct 4thBoard Meeting (?)	
Oct 26Members Meeting; 7pm (?)	
Nov 1stBoard 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,

Well, here we are, still in Covid-land, with the waves pounding the shoreline in the gathering storm...

We've gotten the gallery open 7 days a week with slightly limited hours. Sales have been about 70% of our last two years. Excellent, considering the small number of out-of-area tourists.

We're launching our experiment for Online Zoom member's meetings. More on that later in the newsletter.

We've been at work updating the Guild By-Laws and the Gallery Guidelines to be more accurate and reflective of our actual organization, processes, and procedures.

We think we're 4-6 weeks from the pilot of our Online Store. The pilot will be with Gallery members who wish to participate. After a 'proof of concept' period the Online Store will be opened to all juried members. We think we're 4-6 weeks away from migrating the current website to our new site.

We've changed the DBA name of the gallery from Ventura County Potters' Guild Gallery to Ventura Pottery Gallery. It's shorter, easier to say, and easier to remember. Most repeat customers to the gallery don't really know or understand that we're a Co-op of Guild potters. All they know is that it's a pottery Shop that they like.

For all the disruption of the Covid Pandemic, it's been a blessing in that it's given us the opportunity to reflect on how to use our existing strengths to pivot and create systems and structures that will serve us as we move from this restricted period into an expanded future for the Guild.

It's an honor to participate in this effort with the group of fabulously creative and committed people on the board and related committees. If you have comments, suggestions, or ideas for something new you'd like to discuss, please reach out and contact me. We are open for business!

Wyn Matthews

805.207.3122

me@wynmatthews.com

• **10th Anniversary of the VCPG Gallery**

On July 8, 2010, the VCPG Gallery in Ventura opened for what it thought was going to be two months of selling pottery during the height of the tourist season at Harbor Village.

It was initially open just four days a week and represented the talents of 15 members--**John Allen, Paul Billock, Sonya Burke, Larry Carnes,**

Kim Clarke, Wanda Ferrin, Richard and Yvette Franklin, Cecile Faulconer, Lauren Hanson, Ray Harris, Linda McCleod, Troy Schmidt, Dane Venaas, and Christine Watte--who leaped to the task of setting up a store with very little advance notice.

Ten years later the Gallery represents the work of 41 artists from the Guild in its modest sized space. Four days a week have become seven. We've added a telephone, internet connection, modern credit card payment options via fiber optics, shelving that replaced the tables and black cloths, a ceramic mosaic sign largely made by Kim Clarke that replaced the banner that hung for two years outside, remodeling that expanded the display area, a webstore in the making, a large marketing department, and numerous other outstanding volunteers.

While restrictions due to the coronavirus have presented new challenges this year, VCPG artists have risen to the task. Masks on, hand cleanser ready, social distancing in practice, the Gallery ceramists move confidently into the next decade.

Wanda Ferrin

• Pivot Team - Membership Contact

The Pivot team making telephone contact with each of our members has completed our calls and it was a very positive experience for our team and our members. That was the most consistent comment from our members - "Thank you for calling".

Of the 129 members we called 46 did not return the message we left but we made contact with 83 members. Of the 83 all were "good" to "OK" but several were stressed, worried, stir crazy, napping and several more productive than ever. 52 were working in the studio but many cannot because their schools were closed. The Board got lots of complements for the way we are "pivoting" - that was nice.

We noted many other things about our members and if you would like the full report that was submitted to the Board just let me know.

I want to thank my team for their efforts: Genie Thomsen, Drew Laurie, Wyn Mathews, Crystal Davis, Diane Hedding and Wanda Ferrin.

Brenda Burgess bburgessinventura@gmail.com

• July Member's Meeting on Zoom

We're doing a test of one of our ideas of how to do an online member's meeting. Here's the plan...

Wyn Matthews did a Studio Tour and Glazing Demo video. It's about 50 minutes long. The video is posted to the Guild's YouTube Video Channel. Your homework is to watch the video at your leisure between now and the Member's Zoom Meeting on July 27th at 7pm.

(There will be someone in the Zoom Conference Room early to assist if people have problems.)

In the Zoom Meeting we'll have a brief Business Meeting followed by a Question and Answer session on the Studio Tour, followed by a general "What I've been up to with Potting during a Pandemic" shares by anyone who wants to participate.

Send your questions ahead of time to: me@wynmatthews.com

There will also be a way to ask questions during the Zoom meeting.

The link to the Studio Tour video:

<https://youtu.be/XIhxj-tTJZU>

The login info for Zoom:

Topic: VCPG Member's Meeting - July

Time: Jul 27, 2020 06:30 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87427150913?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87427150913?pwd=bGRpT3ZRQkZOS2VRMWVPRjdkZmtJdz09)

[pwd=bGRpT3ZRQkZOS2VRMWVPRjdkZmtJdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87427150913?pwd=bGRpT3ZRQkZOS2VRMWVPRjdkZmtJdz09)

Meeting ID: 874 2715 0913

Password: 881726

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 874 2715 0913

Password: 881726

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/keE6VI9N5H>

NOTE: If you've never used Zoom and want to attend the meeting see the attached document on how to use and participate in a Zoom meeting.

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

Opening Reception: Saturday, September 12, 2020 • 2 - 4 pm

Our show is fast approaching. It is open to all VCPGuild members. You do not have to be juried sellers to enter this show. Entries are being accepted now with a deadline of August 9th. You can enter one or two pieces for one fee of \$20.

Send your jpeg images to geniethomsen@att.net. Mail your application (included in the email) to Genie Thomsen. 2134 Elizabeth Dr. Ventura, CA 93003. Make your \$20 check out to VCPG.

After Kevin juries the entries you will be notified if your pieces are accepted. If so, deliver your work to the Beatrice Wood Center the weekend of September 4-6. Pick up dates after the show closes is the weekend of October 23-25.

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

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

A two day workshop with **Julia Feld**. October 10-11; 10am-4pm. This is a fabulous hands-on experience for all levels of potters. Whether you hand build or throw on the wheel, you will learn how to enchase your work with Amaco Velvet Underglazes to create a painterly image that mimics watercolor. After practicing on a green ware and bisque tile to

see how the underglazes respond to the raw and fired clay, you will then create a design on a bisque piece you bring. Don't miss out on this exciting workshop.

• **Service to Our Members**

Because most of us don't use a ton of clay on a yearly basis, the Guild wants to try out placing a combined order as a service to our members to take advantage of the quantity discounts. We are thinking of doing this four times a year.

Our first trial run will be in September. Right now we will offer this to juried members who are selling through the gallery or other venues where they collect and pay the sales tax on their pottery.

Orders need to be received by August 31st.

This first order will be with Laguna Clay Company:

- You will email or text Genie Thomsen 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, Genie will send you an email notice with the amount you owe.

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

geniethomsen@att.net. Cell #805-886-1957.

• **Clay Studio will be offering Clay at Home summer camp**

From June 29-July 31, 2020 for ages 8-12.

During week-long live virtual sessions, students will learn to make their own clay creations while incorporating elements of design and nature.

Learn more and sign up here: www.claystudiosb.org/clay-at-home

- **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/>

- **Gallery Customer Request**

Would you be interested in replicating a beloved mug that broke?

Contact Barbara at 661-287-3948

- **ClayZen Studios, Miners' Oaks, CA**

A community studio providing members access to workspace, firing and one-on-one coaching services.

Wyn Matthews

me@wynmatthews.com

805.207.3122

- **Teaching at Firestick**

Looking for one or two people able to teach wheel-throwing and/or who may want to work in the studio on Mondays and Fridays. Paid position.

- **Selling Ceramics Materials**

A wide variety of **glaze ingredients** purchased from Laguna in original bags with labels.

Cress Kiln model FTX 27P Serial 9107 that I am looking to sell.

Thousand Oaks

Email Address: eveoettinger@gmail.com

- **Looking for vertical press molds**

Diane Rosenthal ; 805 967 8040

- **Looking for a used potter's wheel**

Trudy: trudy_cruser@hotmail.com

- **Welcome New Members**

Diane Rosenthal and Lorn Cate

- **Sponsor/Gift a Member**

Do you know an artist that could benefit from VCPG's resources, camaraderie? Why not consider "sponsoring" them.

Make them happy and enrich our Guild.

Contact Brenda Burgess at 805.612.1607 or

bburgessinventura@gmail.com

- **2020 VCPG Membership**

A membership form is included in this newsletter.

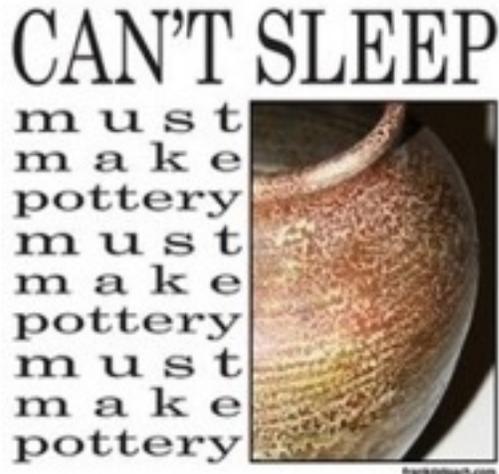
- **Your Guild needs help!**

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/UC2lzebZHcq-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** estep67@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?**