



Ventura County Potters' Guild



October 2020 Newsletter

venturapottersguild.org

• For Your Calendar

- Oct 26.....Members Meeting; 7pm
Eclectic list of topics.
Zoom Link included below
- Nov 5th.....Board Meeting 3pm
Members are welcome to Zoom w/us
- Nov 23.....Members Meeting; 7pm
- DecGift Pottery Exchange

• Presidents message

Dear fellow potters,

September was quite a month for me. My partner, Peggy, and I drove to Virginia in 3 days to buy a little bit bigger, a little newer, a much more livable RV. It's like a Tiny House on wheels, instead of a Camper on wheels.

Why Virginia...? We'd been looking for a Safari Trek 2430. There were only about 2000 made. So... they're not easy to find and tend to sell quickly. As a side benefit, the trip also allowed us to visit my dad and sister in Michigan and Peggy's family in Chicago on the way back—something we'd been trying to figure out how to manage with the waves of Covid splashing across the country.

We drove 5000 miles in 3 weeks. Got very acquainted with our new Trek. And, caught Covid somewhere between Oklahoma and The Grand Canyon on our way home. No idea how or where. We followed all the recommended guidelines... Our symptoms began as we got home to Ojai. I had a mild case. Peggy a bit more severe. Neither of us required hospitalization or have had any other serious side effects. We were lucky, have good genes, had a light viral load, or...? We're grateful to be back at work with clay and back in the world with customary precautions.

As part of your Guild's continuing Pivot to a greater online presence, we've created an Online Store, redesigned and greatly expanded our website, moved our Member Meetings online and are now in the early stage of implementing a process for creating videos of us — Guild members — sharing processes, tips and tricks, etc. with the community. Our initial forays into this realm will be appearing in the Member's Meeting in October. We hope this expands into a vibrant Reference Library available through our YouTube Channel.

Happy Potting.

Wyn Matthews, VCPG President

805.207.3122

me@wynmatthews.com

• **Members Meeting online, Monday, October 26th @7pm**

Join us on Monday, October 26th for our monthly Members' Meeting via Zoom. This month we will cover an eclectic list of topics.

We'll have members on hand to answer questions about the new VCPG Member Connect and the new Online Store; and, we'll show a couple of short videos about packing and shipping your work. But the "featured attraction" will be **Genie Thomsen** doing a carving demonstration for us. If you've seen her recent work, you know we're in for a great presentation.

Social time starts at 6:30pm and the meeting starts at 7:00pm sharp.

Here is the link to the meeting:

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85893824287?
pwd=WEc1K1owR05KR3RQYk5NOFMySXZiZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85893824287?pwd=WEc1K1owR05KR3RQYk5NOFMySXZiZz09)

Meeting ID: 858 9382 4287

Passcode: 451064

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,85893824287#,,,,,0#,,451064# US (San Jose)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

• **Congratulations to Our Winners**

VCPG show "Nature's Bounty" at the Beatrice Wood Center.



1st place -
Genie Thomsen
for "Migration"



2nd place -
Lynn Redmond
for "Antelope Myth"



3rd place -
Gloria Sills
for "Boundless Flight"

Be sure to check out the show. It's all online:

https://www.beatricewood.com/ventura_county_potters_guild_2020.html

• **VCPG Jury Members Program during Covid-19;**

Pre-jury starts on October 3rd and Final Jury November 7th.

The process will happen at ClayZen Studios in Miners' Oaks at 135 S. Encinal Ave, Ojai, 93023. Always contact **Wyn Matthews** at 805.207.3122 (call or text) to make an appointment to drop off or retrieve your work.

Pre-Jury: happened October 3rd.

Please pick up your pots on Sunday, October 11th - Tuesday, October 13th.

Final Jury: Bring your pots to ClayZen during the week prior to Saturday, November 7th. Please wear gloves or sanitize your hands before packing your pots at home and when unloading them at ClayZen.

Jurors will come individually when they can between November 8-14.

You'll receive the results of the final jurying in the mail within 2 weeks of the jurying.

• **Volunteers!!**

Did you see the title of this article and say "pass". Come on, read my article.

First, I want to thank all of our volunteers we have had so far this year - I keep track of this stuff and so far this year we have had:

- 16 members attended the 2020 & Beyond Workshop in January and then 18 members continued on to help us meet the four goals identified in the workshop.

- Then when the pandemic hit, 3 of us attended Cal Lutheran's Center for Nonprofit workshop on how a nonprofit could pivot during the

pandemic and make their organization "sing even better than before". And we did. As a result of the work of 30___ members that joined four different pivot teams we got the gallery open in a safe way and now our sales are above pre-pandemic levels; Stacy Rowe lead a team that created the online sales pilot that you saw in our last members' meeting; I lead a team that called each of you to see how you were doing; Wyn lead a team that put our Zoom members' meetings together and we had meetings all summer when we usually don't even have meetings. And you know what - we had fun doing it.

- Then, there are the 23 members that volunteer to be a voting Board member or support those members as part of a team.

So, why do these members to it?

My personal answer is that I get to use the skills that I honed as a teacher and archivist in a new and fun way. I love to write, organize ideas, keep track of things and now I get to do it with good, smart, wonderful people working toward goals we set for ourselves. If you were able to attend the September members' meeting you saw two other members, Stacy and Terry Wilson display their experience and expertise in setting up our Online Sales program. They put a team together, figured out what needed to be done and how to do it, organized it, wrote the documents and then provided training in our meeting. Yes, it took some effort, but they were using their skills, experience, training and intelligence to reach a goal. They feel good about what they did, laughed and more important were challenged intellectually. That is why we do it. And there is a place "in the sandbox" for everyone at every level.

Right now the Guild needs:

- At least two "nit-picky" members that like to read something and see if it is correct. I am putting together a team to QC the webpage and you will be trained and need to set aside about an hour a month.
- One member that likes to follow-up on things and talk to people (e.g., How you doing? Did you get it done?). That is the job of the Vice-

President - to support and help the President do his job. Some people think that it means in 4 years you have to be President, but you really don't - the good thing about being a volunteer is you don't have to do anything you don't want to.

- Any member that has 1-2 hours a month, a skill and would like to use it: spreadsheets, databases, sales, marketing ... the list is endless.

Call me. Come play with us, laugh with us, accomplish something good for yourself and the Guild - feel that joy of working together with good people. You could even take on one of my projects or create one of your own! Call me.

Brenda Burgess, bburgessinventura@gmail.com

Tis the Season for Giving

FREE GIFT with \$25 purchase at The Ventura Pottery Gallery

The Ventura Pottery Gallery is planning a promotion for the week of Thanksgiving. Gallery members are donating ceramic pieces for this campaign. While supplies last, gallery customers will receive a FREE piece of pottery when they make a \$25.00 purchase.

We hope to drive holiday business to the gallery and to say 'Thank You' to our current and new customers. We will create postcards, flyers and posters to promote this event and publicize on social media.

• Ventura Pottery Online

The Guild's Online Store is up and running! We've recently begun posting work from juried members that are NOT in the Gallery at the Harbor. If you're interested in posting your work, please submit your form and photos to Stacy Rowe at venturapotteryonline@gmail.com. You can also reach out to Stacy if you have any questions about the Online Store.

Resources, guidelines and forms for the Online Store

are available on the VCPG website at: <http://venturapottersguild.org/vcpgarchives/>. You will need to sign-in with your username and password to access the documents.

• **We're Zooming for the Holidays**

Stay tuned for more information about a special Zoom Event we have planned for our members in December! You didn't think we'd let the holidays go by without having some kind of fun, did you?

• **New Title for the Scholarship Program - Outreach**

I have been working on the scholarship program for several years and I just continued to expand on what the Guild had been doing for years:

- Sponsor clay classes in an elementary school
- Identify successful ceramics students in two high schools, three community colleges and at CSUCI and give them a monetary award and VCPG membership at their student art show.

It seemed like enough until the pandemic and Barbara Fosbrink came along. Barbara came up with the idea of using some of the 2020 Scholarship Program's budget to set up a pilot residency program that was described in the September newsletter. She opened my eyes to the possibilities and I hope we can expand this program to Santa Barbara and Moorpark Community Colleges in 2021.

Then, I realized that this was not a "scholarship" program anymore but VCPG reaching out to develop and implement projects that would stimulate public interest in ceramic arts by providing networking, education and sales opportunities in an inclusive environment for all levels and interests. If you are interested in supporting this initiative, have some ideas of your own or just want to help Outreach make it happen - you know what I am going to say - contact me.

Brenda Burgess

bburgessinventua@gmail.com

- **VCPG Website is Launched;**

<http://venturapottersguild.org>

- **Welcome New Members**

Veronica Medina

- **2021 VCPG Membership Will expire on 12/31/20**

Enclosed you find 2021 Membership form.

Help an artist-in-need; If you are able to help an artist, someone you know or an unknown, please do. Also, If you know of an artist that needs help this year, let Brenda know and he/she will be put on our list. It is all anonymous.

Brenda Burgess

bburgessinventura@gmail.com

- **Neshkinukat "We are all Related"**

At Greenly Art Space, 2698 Junipero Ave, #113, Signal Hill, CA 90755.

Open by appointment: 562-533-4020

On-line www.GreenlyArtSpace.org

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- **Free • Canopy and Books**

Canopy: 10' x10' with 4 sides. Good condition.

Books: Online Merchant Internet 101, Selling art on eBay, and
Art Marketing 101, Handbook for the Fine Artist

Contact Marilee Stockman at 949 689 8982

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- **Do you know of a kiln repair man?**

Please contact **Sonja Gary** at sonjakgary@yahoo.com

- **Start up Studio is looking to buy;**

Opening a community based studio and in search for —wheels, slab roller, extruder, etc.

Contact **Veronica Medina** at **646.709.7861** or veronicamedinaclayworks.com

- **A bluebird clay mixer/recycle for sale**

Can mix up to 150 lbs. in 6 minutes. bucket will roll downward and dump clay. \$2000.

Please contact **Victor Mccaslin** (805) 402-8560

Fillmore

X

- **Geil style kiln. \$200 obo**

4 burners. Maybe can be fired to Cone 10.

Has not been used, but covered and protected.

The door is a lift on/off, could be welded.

Can be fired as an updraft or downdraft.

Located in Oxnard. Needs a new home.

Cecile at gipsylily@gmail.com or 805.754.6380

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- **Bartlett Pyrometer**

Used for measuring temperature in kilns. \$40.00

Contact 818.613.7256

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• **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** 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?**

Our Mission Statement:

The Ventura County Potters' Guild is a nonprofit organization committed to stimulating public interest in ceramic arts by providing networking, education and sales opportunities in an inclusive environment for all levels and interests.