



## Ventura County Potters' Guild



### January 2021 Newsletter

[venturapottersguild.org](http://venturapottersguild.org)

#### • For Your Calendar

**Jan 25th.....Members Meeting; 7pm**

**Program includes:** Ojai Show discussion, Presentation by Terry Wilson; 'Templates'. More of the meeting info below.

**Feb 4th.....Board Meeting 3:30**

Members are welcome to join our Zoom meeting

**Feb 22nd.....Members Meeting; 7pm**

**March 4th.....Board Meeting**

**March 22nd.....Members Meeting; 7pm**

**Program: Clay Challenge - Show & Tell**

**April 1.....Board Meeting**

**April 26th.....Members Meeting; 7pm**

**May.....Board Meeting**

**May 24th (3rd Mon.)....Members Meeting; 7pm**

**June .....Ojai Ceramics Sale?**

**July.....Board Meeting**

**July.....Members Meeting; 7pm**

**August.....Board Meeting**

**August.....Members Meeting; 7pm**

**Sep.....Board Meeting**

**Sept.....Members Meeting; 7pm**

Pre-Jury Workshop application is due

**Oct.....Board Meeting**

**Oct.....Members Meeting; 7pm**

Nov.....**Members Meeting; 7pm**

Jury Workshop

Dec.....**Members Meeting/Holiday party; 7pm**

- **Presidents message**

**Dear fellow potters,**

I recently read a series of Korean historical novels. The middle one in the series, "The Dragon Queen", is about the last Korean Queen in 1866. At one point in the story there's an insurrection and she escapes to the countryside and hides out in a farmhouse. It turns out the father of the woman of the house is a famous, old, blind potter. He makes pots for the imperial household and others of the ruling class. The potter's daughter suggests the Queen spend some time talking with her father while he works.

The Queen has never seen anyone make pots before and is mesmerized as he throws a narrow necked bottle. She's never seen anything so beautiful. Then the potter runs his hands lightly over the pot. Takes them off, sits for a couple minutes and squashes the pot.

She's stunned. "Why did you destroy that beautiful pot?" He says, "I make many pots each day. Only 2-3 each day have the correct spirit. The clay in the others receive another opportunity when that clay is reused. It's important that only pots with a complete and healthy spirit survive."

That conversation really had an impact on me. Which pots that I make don't deserve to "live"? In one way it's a struggle between making only museum quality pots and making useful, functional pots. In another way it's knowing that I have excellent skills to salvage the pot from those accidents that happen during throwing. Fingers twitch and it's now off-

center. Loss of concentration and there's a thin spot. A bowl or vase is pushed out too far and the wobble begins. A finger cramp causes a divot in the side while pulling the wall up. Not that any of these occurrences mean the pot is no good. But, it allows me to keep pots that are just ok. Pots that I know are not up to my real standards. These are things that no customer will notice, and most potters won't notice. But I do and I frequently give them a pass.

This conversation with the blind potter made me reassess the upper and lower limits of what I accept. I realize I can't "cause" the upper limit to change. The best pots I can make evolve slowly on their own over time through repetition and continuous learning. I do have a say about the lower limit of what I accept. Having this inquiry had me raise my lower bar.

I offer this story as frame and encouragement to all of us to keep our critical eye and heart engaged with our own work. As our abilities improve, I suggest we live in this inquiry and distinguish our so-so work from our best, continuously letting go of our attachment to our acceptable lower limit, thus adding energy to those pots that reflect our best efforts.

The Serenity Prayer in action...

God, grant me the serenity  
to accept things I cannot change;  
the courage to change the things I can;  
and the wisdom to know the difference.

Wishing us all a healthy and creatively expanding 2021.

Wyn Matthews, VCPG President  
50+ year potter

Wyn Matthews, VCPG President  
50+ year potter  
[me@wynmatthews.com](mailto:me@wynmatthews.com) 805.207.3122

## • January 2021 VCPG Members' Meeting

The Members' Meeting for January will be **Monday, January 25<sup>th</sup>** via Zoom (link below). We'll start at 6:30pm with social time and begin our business meeting promptly at 7:00pm.

Agenda items for this month include: • updates from the President; • discussion about the feasibility of holding the Ojai Sale this June and brainstorming on how to "pivot" to make the show COVID-safe should we move forward. • Participants in the Guild-sponsored residency program for Ventura College will discuss their experiences. • And last but not least, **Terry Wilson** will demonstrate a free website with amazing applications for the pottery hand builder. It's a template website, geared toward templates for paper boxes, geometric shapes and envelopes. If you've ever struggled creating a tapered mug template to your preferred specifications, struggle no more! Plug in your numbers, and the website figures it all out for you. If you do any slab construction at all, you won't want to miss this.

Topic: VC Potters Guild Members' Meeting

Time: Jan 25, 2021 06:30 PM Pacific Time

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81472095407?pwd=azhubXZ3bXQ4UEwzdGxweVp6VWROQT09>

Meeting ID: 814 7209 5407, Passcode: 041982

One tap mobile: +16699006833,,81472095407#,,,,\*041982# US (San Jose)

Dial by your location: +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 814 7209 5407, Passcode: 041982

## • Love Heals

### Our Gallery's Valentine's Promotion

To many of the potters at the Ventura Pottery Gallery, creating in clay is a labor of love. Our hope is that our precious handcrafted creations will bring comfort to others during these crazy times.

While Valentine's Day honors those we love, here at the Ventura Potter's Galley we would like to thank our customers with **Love Heals**. Gallery members have made **heart-shaped Brown Sugar Savers**. They have a unique property that after they are soaked in water will keep brown sugar soft. It will also soften foods like marshmallows, breads, muffins, dried fruits, fresh herbs and spices. Alternatively, you can infuse it with scented oil to hang as an ornament. A small, but cherished, kitchen addition!

Throughout February purchases of \$25 or more will receive a FREE Sugar Saver.

Be sure to stop by the Ventura Potter's Gallery to view work from over 40 local artists and potters. The Gallery is located at [1567 Spinnaker Drive, Suite 105](#) in Ventura Harbor. The gallery is open seven days a week from 11-6. Can't make it into the gallery?

Please visit our newly-launched Online Store at <https://ventura-pottery-gallery.square.site>. More information can be found at <http://venturapottersguild.org>.

• **Beatrice Wood Show • 5/15 to 6/26, 2021**

Our annual show at the Beatrice Wood Center will be **May 15 to June 26** this year. We have the main gallery so there's room for a lot of pieces.

**Containers** is our focus with the title of the show "**Put A Lid On It**".

The application will be in February's newsletter.

The time line is: entries due by April 10th. Delivery of pieces May 7-9. More information next month.

### • **Ventura Pottery Online**

All juried members can post items for sale on the new Online Store: [venturapotteryonline.com](http://venturapotteryonline.com). There are now 17 artists with over 180 pieces and e-Gift Cards available for sale. We had a pretty good holiday season considering how new we are. Things have slowed a bit in January, but we're really working on boosting our online advertising. Please Like, Share and Comment on our posts in social media - this really helps boost our outreach.

We're planning on having our first Online Store Member Meeting in late January/early February. Why not submit your own work to 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. Submit your Item Submission form(s) and photos to Stacy Rowe at [ventura.potteryonline@gmail.com](mailto:ventura.potteryonline@gmail.com). You can also reach out to Stacy if you have any questions.

### • **Learning with Genie Thomsen via Zoom**

**Genie Thomsen** will be teaching three ceramic classes via zoom this coming January. Check them out and see if one or more interest you.

**Handbuilding** with the Ojai Pottery and Clay School. Starts Jan. 9th. Small intimate class. Registration open now. Go to [ojaipottery.com](http://ojaipottery.com).

**Handbuilding** (starts Jan. 14, CRN 66961) and **Decorative Techniques** (starts Jan. 13, CRN 66917) with the Extended Learning Program Santa Barbara City College. Registration starts Dec. 8th. Go to [sbcc.edu](http://sbcc.edu). School of Extended Learning . Older Adults tuition free.

- **Question:**

Do you enjoy balancing your checkbook?

We are looking for a volunteer to help our Treasurer balance our Bank of America account once a month. Could you see yourself do that for the Guild?

If yes, or have more questions, please Contact **Brenda Burgess**

[bburgessinventura@gmail.com](mailto:bburgessinventura@gmail.com) **805.290.4741**

- **New Members to our Guild • Welcome!**

**Bonnie Quan**

**Irene Stephens**

**Terry Piper**

**Joan Mannos**

- **Please renew your VCPG Membership**

Please use 2021 membership form included

- **Volunteers**

Are always needed and welcome!

**Brenda Burgess**

**805-290-4741**

• **Spray Booth for Sale**

Rolling base square wrought iron 3 x 3

4ft high 3ft wide 3ft deep

This is a commercial spray booth

Has electric vent that fits on top

Contact Roe at 805.320.3524

X

• **Skutt 1227 kiln km for sale**

Everything electrical in it is new.

Interior brick is used but in good shape.

28"x28"x27" • cone 8 • \$2250.

58 amps, 240 volt. single phase

**805.402.8560**

x

• **3 SKUTT PK1231 ELECTRIC KILNS 4 SALE**

CONE 10 (2350°F)

80 AMPS, 240 VOLTS, SINGLE PHASE

PUNCH PAD CONTROL BOX

6 PROGRAM CAPACITY

NO. 3 HARDWIRE

28in.X28in.X31in. DEEP

11.6 CUBIC FEET

450 LBS.

BIG PRODUCTION KILNS IN GOOD SHAPE

\$1500. EACH

VICTOR, FILLMORE

TEXT OR CALL 805 402-8560

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- **VCPG Website;**

<http://venturapottersguild.org>

- **Check our YouTube Channel**

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

- **VCPG Board of Directors:**

President: **Wyn Matthews** [wyn@wynmatthew.com](mailto:wyn@wynmatthew.com) 805.207.3122

Vice President: **Bill Evans** [bill133@cox.net](mailto:bill133@cox.net) 805-450-5863

Secretary: **Stacy Rowe** [stacer2000@gmail.com](mailto:stacer2000@gmail.com) 310.429.2822

Treasurer: **Roe Estep** [estep67@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:geniethomsen@att.net) 805.886.1957

Communications: **Ruty Levy** [levyruty4@gmail.com](mailto:levyruty4@gmail.com) 818.613.7256

Instagram/Pinterest: **Troy Schmidt** [RedDragonPottery@gmail.com](mailto:RedDragonPottery@gmail.com) 805.252.0923

Membership: **Brenda Burgess** [burgessinventura@gmail.com](mailto:burgessinventura@gmail.com) 805.290.4741

Publicity: **Rebecca Catterall** [rebeccacatter@yahoo.com](mailto:rebeccacatter@yahoo.com) 310.384.1840

Jury Chair: **Crystal Davis** [cedavis1617@gmail.com](mailto:cedavis1617@gmail.com) 805.216.5289

Marketing: **Ellen Wohlstadter** [ellenwohlstadter@gmail.com](mailto:ellenwohlstadter@gmail.com) 818.321.8706

Hospitality: **Victoria Mullins** [vlmceramic@gmail.com](mailto:vlmceramic@gmail.com) 805.320.3524

Gallery Chair: **Drew Lurie** [drewlurie@gmail.com](mailto:drewlurie@gmail.com) 805.798.2240

Finance Chair: **Wanda Ferrin** [ferrinpottery@earthlink.net](mailto:ferrinpottery@earthlink.net) 805.462.7309

Librarian: **Amanda Mason** [Amanda.rose.mason@gmail.com](mailto:Amanda.rose.mason@gmail.com) 704-533-2574

## **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.**