



November 2019

"The Willamette Ceramics Guild promotes the ceramic arts by supporting and encouraging artistic expression and creativity at the individual and community levels."

Next General Meeting Nov 4
The Arts Center Corvallis,
OR 700 SW Madison,
Corvallis 6:30 pm
Laurie Childers presentation,
film and discussion

President

Gary House
garyhouseone@yahoo.com

Co President needed NOW!
Needed

Past President Support

Sheryl Van Fleet

Secretary

Carrie Gibbs

Treasurer

Marcella Henkels

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Keith Olsen

Facebook page manager

Ted Ernst

Membership

Betty McCoy

Newsletter Editor

Holly Dubrasich

hollyd@peak.org

TAC Exhibition Committee

Suzanne Getz

Empty Bowls

Dawn Jones

Spring Garden Festival 5/5/19

Gary House and Milt Roselinsky

DaVinci Days 7/20-21/19

Sandy Houtman

Fall Festival Booth Sept 28-29

Carrie Gibbs and Felicia Sweet

Holiday Market Booth Dec 6-7

Sandy Houtman and Ginny Gibson

willametteceramicsguild.org

Willamette Ceramics Guild meetings are the 2nd Monday of the month, September to June. Membership entitles you to participate in all Willamette Ceramics Guild sales and programs and to receive the 10 monthly newsletters. The membership year runs from January to January. Annual dues are \$25/individual; \$15/students; \$30/household.

To join: **payment made out to WCG** send to Betty McCoy 5020NW Crescent Valley Dr. Corvallis, OR 97330 *Please include you email address, phone # and home address with your check.*

WCG News

- For the Nov 4th WCG meeting, Laurie Childers will show a short film to prompt a discussion. Laurie and a Cuban professional art videographer friend made the film this past spring, at the Arte del Fuego ceramics event near Matanzas, Cuba. The 13- minute film features interviews with Cuban artists, inquiring about their motivations and experiences creating art, and their thoughts about the role of art in Cuban culture. Most of the meeting will feature YOU talking about your motivations and experiences creating art, and the role of art in our culture.
- Gary thoughts: Creative and artistic engagement calls us to take risks. What a challenge to sense that something is missing, that the story is not complete, that there is more to know and explore. In a sense it is the yearning of Home for ET that calls me to clay. Laurie Childers's documentary film which she will present at our November 4th meeting sets out the ground work for exploring that fulfilling desire to know and express our story. For me there is no such thing as just another pot or sculpture. Each one demands a new expression of some kind. Making consistent, original, highly functional, elegant, beautiful and expressive work is something I admire and would like to achieve. But, the path from here to there asks much much more releasing, forgiving, asking, striving, dancing, smiling...and such is the life in clay. Many thanks to teachers, artists and friends who have opened the doors of inspiration for our ongoing work.
- Christmas Holiday Marketplace show Dec 6-7 in OSU MU ballroom. Such a great show to see. WCG booth is quite large, lots of variety and space to appreciate the work as well as all the other sales booths full of lovely gifts. Stop by and say hi to the group.
- Empty Bowls Project Beautiful empty bowls made by Guild Members and volunteers plus soup donated by The Brass Monkey Pub equals a delicious meal and a \$15 contribution per bowl sold to Linn Benton Food Share. A big thank you goes to Dawn Jones who chairs this project, to Kirk who made the display shelving, to The Brass Monkey Pub for providing space and soup and to all the volunteers who made bowls. Dawn collected \$161 for bowl sales at the Benton Center Ceramic Clearance Sale this October and \$230 from bowl sales at the Pub. Feel free to contribute your glazed, less than 6 inches wide and 6 inches tall, empty bowls to this program which benefits Linn-Benton Food Share.
- New members: WELCOME new members Linda Yee, Orion Langdon and Teresa Duncan.



Ceramic artist and teacher, Laurie Childers will be presenting her short documentary film, Alelula Cuba (work, work, work) at the Willamette Ceramics Guild meeting: November 4, 6:30 PM at the Corvallis Art Center lower level. Following the film, Laurie will lead a conversation about the motivations and experiences creating art, and about the role of art in our culture.

This presentation and meeting is open to ceramics students and those interested in Cuba, art, culture and ceramics.

Sp Adobe Spark



130 SW 1st Corvallis, OR

WCG News

Local Events:

- **Corvallis Arts Center** 700 SW Madison, Corvallis
www.theartscenter.net
- * **Main Gallery**– Nov 12 - Jan 4 About Light
An exhibit about the challenge of representing light in any art medium, literally or metaphorically.
- * **Corrine Woodman Gallery** Nov 12 –Dec 14
Woodblock -Two artists working with woodblock. Jessica Bailey to create woodblock prints, while Timothy Hartsock creates carvings as an end result.
Nov 7- Artist meetup 5:30-7pm
- * **Artist Accelerator Program** <https://theartscenter.net/artist-accelerator/> a series of workshops and lectures for artists.
- * **CAW** Nov 21 4pm-8pm

WCG Member News

- **Footwise Window Display** - Leslie Green, Gary House, Dianne Cassidy, Lida Schuster (and kids) - the Evergreen Artists Group - will display recent work in the Footwise window for the month of December.
- **Suzanne Getz**– New work in progress revealed!



WCG Member News

New member Orion Langdon sent in this description of his process. Thanks for sharing!

Thanks to everyone for the warm welcome to the Willamette Ceramics Guild. I just moved to Corvallis in August from northern New Mexico where I spent the last three years developing a deep relationship with the local micaceous clay. I learned to make durable, beautiful, flameproof cookware from hand-harvested clay under the guidance of master potter Felipe Ortega. His teacher, Jesusita Martinez, was the last woman in the area who knew how to make the old-time coil-built pottery of his Jicarilla Apache ancestors. His life's work of cooking in this clay, making micaceous pottery and teaching this art helped to revive the use of micaceous clay in northern new Mexico.

The pottery I make is one iteration of a centuries old tradition from this region. All of the clay I use is hand harvested with reverence and ceremony from her wild, mountain home. To the best of my geologic understanding, in that area there are several places where micaceous schist bedrock was brought to the surface of the earth during the formation of the Rocky Mountains. This micaceous clay is considered a self-tempered primary clay body that was formed in the place we do our harvesting, comprised mostly of granite, mica and feldspar with other trace minerals.

The process for building a pot begins first with making a flat tortilla of clay that must be large enough to extend out of the puki (a mold such as a plate, bowl, basket, broken pot or other item that can support the original building of the pot). The walls are composed of coils that are first adhered with one's fingers and then compressed and shaped using tools. I use plastic and metal ribs primarily, but have also used tools made from wood, gourds and shells. Once the pot has undergone an initial drying, the inside is made wet with water or slurry and scraped to remove high points and fill in divots. The pot is allowed to fully dry again and then the outside is wet and scraped. After the pot has dried once more it will be sanded with sandstone and then sand paper and will be polished with a micaceous slip. I do three to five layers depending on the piece. The second to last layer is burnished with an agate. This is a very low-fired earthenware that can be done in just a pit fire. However, I choose to fire my pots first in a kiln to reduce loss and always be confident that I have achieved a temperature of 1535F. I pit fire my pots with pine bark usually. Sometimes, I will do a reduction by smothering a hot pot in paper or wood shavings inside a metal trashcan. (Continued on page 3)



Thanks for sharing.

Make Your Own Nativity Scene

\$45, GARY HOUSE IS LEADING THIS ART OF THE NATIVITY CERAMICS WORKSHOP. ALL MATERIALS, FIRING AND ASSISTANCE INCLUDED.

December 6&13, two weeks
Fridays, 10:00 AM to Noon

Book Online at
calapooiaclay.com

Location: Calapooia Clay Studio
1533 SE 7th Ave (by Goodwill)
Albany, OR



- Gary is teaching a class at Calapooia Clay! Check it out.

Member News Cont'

Humans have been cooking in clay for most of our history and with good reason. One of my goals as a potter is to reintroduce the magic of cooking in clay to people who have forgotten. Micaceous clay cooking pots are durable, lightweight and excellent for both cooking and serving. The unique properties of mica offer excellent heat retention and allow these pots to withstand the thermal shock of direct heat. Micaceous cookware is safe for use in ovens, on gas or electric range tops and over open flames. Each micaceous vessel is a unique handmade piece that will only improve with time if you treat them well. This clay is slightly porous and has memory for what it has held. Over time it will develop a beautiful patina and seasoning that adds depth to food and drink.

Please reach out if you have questions about the work I'm doing. I'd like to connect with other potters who are interested in the intersections between food, culture and ceramics. You can check out my website www.handtomountain.com for more information and pictures. I'd like to start teaching workshops or classes in this area and welcome ideas about where to start. Also, consider reading Duane Anderson's book All That Glitters, which profiles several micaceous potters in the early 1990s and talks about the history of this art.



WCG Board Meeting Minutes: October 22, 2019

***Attendance:** Gary House, Dawn Jones, Ginny Gibson, Linda Yee, Sheryl Van Fleet

***We still need a Co-President!**

***Membership:** We continue to add new members: In October Orion Langdon joined and in September Linda Yee joined. It was great to see Linda at the recent Board Meeting! We hope to get more info out about WCG. Maybe try to get volunteers to share membership info at our public activities. Maybe some card stock handouts could be made to display and distribute?

***Newsletter:** Please send info and photos to Holly!

***Re The Arts Center:** Encourage all Members to go to the Arts Center Website and find out about all the great opportunities for artists!

WCG Web Site: The Website is a great resource to learn about other members and their work. We encourage all members to make a page for yourself. It's FREE! Put up a photo of you and your work! Keith, our Web Master, can help with this! The web site has lots more on it, too! So go browse around.

Continued WCG Board Meeting Minutes: 10/22/19

Outside Speaker Program: Please contact Gary if you have ideas.

Empty Bowls: Dawn Jones said the recent pottery sale at Benton Center raised \$161.00 for Empty Bowls! Way to go Dawn. (It also raised a bunch of money for the BC Pottery Studio!) Also Kirk built a cabinet for Empty Bowls at the Brass Monkey, - go check it out - and thank you to Kirk! A thank you card has been sent to Brass Monkey. The maximum size for bowls is 6"X6" so keep that in mind when throwing bowls to contribute to this great cause. There is a throwing event Nov 4 at CV **Laurie Childer's** presentation and talk is for Nov. 4th at the Arts Center. Everyone is encouraged to attend! Discussed getting info about this talk out to more people and places.

Holiday Marketplace Show: Ginny discussed the shelf boards that were broken and Gary said they had been fixed. But no one knew for sure who fixed them? So thank you and let Ginny and/or Gary know - we would like to thank you! The Holliday Show committee is buying some wood to build a light bar for WCG shows. Thanks Ginny and Sandy!

More Member News

Members at the Philomath Open Studios event



Painting by Jeff Gunn





Philomath open studios featured many members and other local artists. Nice work friends.

Dale Donovan in his studio during POST visit with Gary. Below is part of his bio for those that don't know his work.



"The clay I preferred to work with is porcelain. I appreciate it for transparency. The clear white color of the fireplace is like a white canvas, it reflects the colors of my glaze is clearly and beautifully. Though I enjoy working with many types of colors and glazes, crystalline glaze remains my favorite. Zinc forms the crystals. The glaze itself is clear and takes up whatever color route one decides to use. Like snowflakes, the Crystal formation of every piece is unique.

49 years have passed into this day I still love to throw clay;



I find it a meditative experience. At times I reflect on the name was Green, Roman or Ottoman Potter Seuss who is shards of work I held as a young man I reflect also on my professors who cared about art, culture, symbolic meaning and history. They provide a context for me to understand how my work is part of a long continuum of human creativity. I am grateful every day for the inspiration, support and mentorship I received from them. I have tried to follow their examples as teachers who invested themselves in students and maintained their concerns in local and global communities. They believed and I believe art or craft well executed crosses boundaries of time and culture and is important to the story of who we are and how we are all related."

