

# Guild at a Glance

December 2018

[www.victoriapotters.ca](http://www.victoriapotters.ca)

Volume 20 Issue 4

## December Meeting

Monday 7:30 PM December 10, 2018

**CHRISTMAS POT LUCK  
&  
GIFT EXCHANGE AND SHOW AND TELL**

*Submissions for Calendar and January Newsletter to [helen.pedneault@shaw.ca](mailto:helen.pedneault@shaw.ca) by December 30, 2018*

---

### **Pam Bradley – New Program Coordinator**

Happy to tell you that Pam Bradley has taken on the task of coordinating programs with the able assistance of Lesley McCallum. There is plenty of room for more helpers though, so please give Pam a shout if you can help.

You will have seen Pam's first email distributed by Roger on November 15<sup>th</sup> telling us of the plans for our December meeting. Here is a repeat of the note as a reminder:

*On December 10th we will be having our Christmas potluck, along with all the fantastic sweet and savory goodies it would be great if we could also bring something for "Show and Tell". Preferably a piece from the past year that you are especially happy with - perhaps a piece from MISSA if you happened to attend this past summer.*

### ***As well we would like to have a gift exchange this year - potter style.....***

*Everyone who wishes to participate should bring a gift wrapped piece of pottery to exchange. Small items only, maybe a small dipping bowl or a tumbler, mug or even an ornament (something you have made that you are willing to part with).*

*Please include your name inside the wrapping so that only the receiver knows who made the pot. Then as participants leave for the night they will receive one of the wrapped gifts to take home. It is a great opportunity to enjoy and appreciate your fellow potters work.*

*If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact Pam - [pamdbradley@gmail.com](mailto:pamdbradley@gmail.com)*

---

## Meet Judith Hale

The moral of this interview is once a West Coast girl always a West Coast woman. Let me introduce you to Judith Hale who has been with the Guild several years now. Judith's life journey started on Vancouver Island, progressed to Vancouver for the growing up years, which were bisected with magical summer interludes in Cowichan Bay, followed with a career and family in Winnipeg before returning to the coast five years ago.



And 'West Coast in her bones' is evident in Judith's pieces, whether they are her Tozen wood fired collective piece "Flotsam" (shown above), selected for the Sooke Fine Arts show in 2017, or the cone 6 oxidation pieces example to the right) that remind one of the mysteries of a tidal pool.



Judith and her architect husband are now well settled in their West Coast home in Sooke, on acreage looking out to the Salish Sea and the Olympic Mountains. Judith calls their home by local well known builder Paul Clarkston a serendipitous and lucky find. This special place plus the many kilometres spent hiking the area gives Judith the inspiration she needs to create her art.

In reflecting on her work's evolution, Judith noted that her more recent work is very different from her earlier refined porcelain pieces. When the pieces were recently displayed together, she was asked if the work was done by two different potters. Her current work does include mugs and other functional work but her artistic pieces emphasize strong carved lines with wide rims of raw clay contrasted with pools of deeply coloured glaze. As she notes in her Artist Statement "In my early years as a ceramic artist I worked mostly with porcelain, struggling to make everything perfect. As I continue on my human journey, I have embraced the spirituality of imperfection and the laws of chance; appreciating the flaws and imperfections as the places "where the light comes in" and all pieces as test tiles.

Art started as Judith's creative outlet in contrast with a busy professional and family life. As she explains in her Artist's Statement "As an adult, living in Winnipeg, I began making my own art initially as a way to create balance, in an otherwise hectic family life and intense career as a counsellor. I enrolled in drawing classes, then incorporated watercolour painting and printmaking into my repertoire, but knew I had found my medium when I started to work with clay. There was something miraculous about the transformational process of taking a lump of earth through a series of known stages (employing whatever skills and knowledge I possessed at the time), enduring chance, happenstance and mishap, through two or more intense firings, to be revealed as something transformed. The journey of clay to a work of art is much like the human journey; it is a deceptively simple process that takes a lifetime to master, 'best understood backwards, but must be lived forwards'."

Her well-honed skills with clay have been developed through years of practice and many courses. The first course was with the Winnipeg Art Gallery, but Judith found the three hour weekly classes too limiting. She moved on to the Stoneware Studio Gallery in Winnipeg learning from Katherine Koop as well as many others from this talented cooperative of fifteen potters. She has also taken numerous other clay courses including some at MISSA as well as the Mesa Art Centre in Arizona. Her firing experience includes her membership with the Nanaimo Tozen group as well as wood and gas firing in Winnipeg. Her relocation to Sooke meant learning electric firing in oxidation. Her glaze expertise is also from a mix of experience and classes with John Britt and Sue MacLeod. Since moving to Sooke, Judith attended the Vancouver Island School of Art for two years and worked at the Cedar Hill



Potters' Studio, but found the commute too long and now works both in her own fully equipped studio at her home in Sooke as well as at the Juan de Fuca pottery studio. She enjoys working in a

social setting, having developed much of her skill at the Stoneware Studio.



Judith markets her work through several venues (“but not online, never online”), including as a guest artist with the Stinking Fish Studio Tour and the annual Guild sale as well as through two shops in Sooke, the Salish Sea in Bowser and The Mermaid’s Kiss in Victoria. Of course there is always the informal route many of us are familiar with - her now grown son (in Winnipeg) and daughter (London UK) have always been very supportive and proud of their Mum’s art and Judith often finds orders funneling through these avenues as well.

In closing our chat, as I often do, I asked Judith what she hoped for the Guild’s future. Judith was kind but frank – she wondered if the Guild needed to spend some time rethinking its purpose and its current meeting format. She suggested a mini strategic planning session might be helpful. She also noticed that some ice breaking session might facilitate newer and younger members engaging more with the longer term members. She thought the informal coffee breaks did not make it easy for new folks to feel included. In conclusion Judith wondered if the relocation of the Guild might open up the possibility of a renewed purpose and new way of doing business.

I thought Judith’s observations well worth exploring – we often lament the need for more ‘hands on deck’ for the various voluntary positions but I wonder if first we need to articulate more clearly what we are about, before folks will become interested in volunteering for the many tasks.

---

## ***The Mudslingers do it again!***

### ***Sally Manning***

An informal group of potters who call themselves the Mudslingers have done it again! But first, a little history on the group.

The Mudslingers are potters who live in the Sooke region. The group is comprised of experienced potters with 25 or more years of experience as well as novice and intermediate potters. They gather several times during the year. The get-togethers may be for a tour of potters’ studios either locally or up-Island, a demonstration workshop in an Island potter’s studio, a gallery or museum visit in Victoria, or a handbuilding session in one of

their own member's studio. What the group loves is playing in the mud, sharing ideas, and getting together with like-minded friends.

Now, here is the part about doing it again. For the past three years, the 'Slingers, as they are affectionately known, have gathered their wares together and set up shop at the All Sooke Arts & Crafts Christmas Craft Fair that is held every November at the Sooke Community Hall. The group also sells their work at the Sooke Philharmonic's Secret Garden Tour in June. And this year, they were commissioned by the Sooke Fine Arts Society to make mugs for the Sooke Fine Arts Show's Gallery Gift Shop.

The majority of the potters don't sell their work commercially - they just love playing with clay. The pieces sold are examples of the best of the best from the potters - no seconds here! But we all know that there are just so many handmade ceramics that you can give to friends and family, so to "offload" their work and make room in their various studios, they sell their wares at these events.

Now, here's the kicker: the proceeds from the sales at all these events are donated to local Sooke charities. The works, glazing, firing costs, and the potters' time are all included in the donation. The only costs that are deducted from sales proceeds are for table rentals and bank and credit card charges.

In 2016, the first year that the 'Slingers got together as a group, the potters made \$3,500 that went to purchase materials for a new infrastructure for the Youth Art Gallery at the Sooke Fine Arts Show, and another \$960 was donated to the Sooke Food Bank. In 2017 and 2018, respectively, \$1,941 and \$2,466 were again donated to Sooke's Food Bank. As you can see, in the three years that they have been doing this, their total donations amount to just over \$8,800 - not bad for a bunch of 'Slingers who just like playing in the mud!

None of the potters seek any glory in the donations they make to the Sooke charities, so their names will remain unpublished. What they do get from these donations is a warm, fuzzy feeling in their hearts knowing that they are helping the community.

---

## ***Member Pages on the Guild's Website***

In a recent conversation I learned that not everyone is aware of how to apply for a page on the website.

Nancy Fraser has been the Guild's web master for several years and has given the site a lovely fresh look – have a look if you haven't visited it for a while. Whether you market your work or not, the bigger the member presence on the website the better. Showing the diversity of work the guild members represent helps attract more ceramic artists to the group and for those of you who do market your work, it is another avenue to attract interest. At the moment, we have only twenty one member pages.

To help you get started, Nancy has provided a list of the typical information she likes to include on a member page. She notes not everything is obligatory, you may supply as much as you are comfortable with and if that doesn't include contact information such as an email or phone number that is fine. Of course not everyone is on social media such as Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn, so these are optional. If you are in doubt as to the size and format of pictures to submit, send Nancy an email and she'll let you know the range of options that work best.

- Artist Statement or bio
- Business name
- location (can be as little as municipality or as much as the actual address)
- email
- phone number
- website
- Facebook URL
- LinkedIn URL
- Twitter URL
- headshot
- images of work -( specify which image is to be featured)
- video sharecode





**November 14 - December 23, 2018**



[www.coastcollective.ca](http://www.coastcollective.ca)



DECEMBER 2018

	<b>Coast Collective Nov 14 – Dec 23</b>					1 <i>Muriel Sibley and Priska Stabel annual holiday sale 10-5</i>
2 <i>Muriel Sibley and Priska Stabel annual holiday sale 10-5</i>	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 <i>Guild Christmas Pot Luck 7:30</i>	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 30	24 31	25	26	27	28	29

JANUARY 2019

		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 <i>GUILD MEETING 7:30</i>	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

## ADVERTISING RATES

Business card size (2" x 3 1/2"):  
\$10 per issue  
or  
\$75 for 10 issues

Quarter page ad (3 1/2" x 4 3/4")  
\$20 per issue  
or  
\$150 for 10 issues

Sales announcements, events, classified ads:

**FREE**

Contact the *At a Glance* editor  
helen.pedneault@shaw.ca

## *Guild* at a *Glance*

... is the newsletter for the South Vancouver Island Potters Guild.

It is published monthly, September through June. It's distributed by email to all members and some copies are available at Guild meetings. The newsletter is also posted online at [www.victoriapotters.ca](http://www.victoriapotters.ca)

Articles and items of interest to members are welcome and will be included as space permits. Items for inclusion are best emailed to the editor  
helen.pedneault@shaw.ca

**SUBMISSIONS REQUESTED BEFORE  
THE FIRST OF THE MONTH**

### The Executive

President:	Daniel Casey	250 418 0814
Vice-Pres:	Pam Truscott-White	250.474.5434
Secretary:	Derek Kasper.	250.995.2905
Treasurer:	Linda Vigliotti.	250.479.5966
Archivist:	.	
Coffee:	Sharon Burley.	250818 7427

Library:		
	Nancy Wall	250.479.3524
	Kris Jeffrey	250.384.5344
	Marlene Bauer	

Membership:	Roger Champagne	250.388.9642
Newsletter	Helen Pedneault	250 383 5808

Program Coordinator:

Raffle:		
	Ester G.	250.658.4523
	Tobias T.	250.383.3893



**Victoria  
Clay Art**

654 Burnside Road W.  
Victoria BC V8Z 1M8

*Here is a list of my favorite pottery tools, glazes and things. Dan*

**All available at Victoria Clay Art**

Mud Tool Ribs  
Amaco PC-20 Blue Rutile [cone 6]  
Alphabet Stamp Set  
2" Goat Hair Fan Brush  
Magic Water  
Stroke & Coat SC-74 Hot Tomale [cone 08-10]  
MKM Finger Rollers  
Xiem Telescoping Sponge on a Stick  
Mud Tool Blue Sponge  
Amaco Velvet Underglaze V-361 Jet Black  
Aardvark Cone 5 BEE-Mix  
Mud Tool Clay Cutting Wire [green handle]  
MKM Wood Stamps  
Paper Clay cone 06, 6, or 10

**Come in and look around, we're open  
10:00am to 5:00pm Mon-Sat**

## Vancouver Island Pottery Supply

515 Stanford Avenue E.  
Parksville, BC  
V9T 6V6

Phone: 1-250-248-2314

E-Mail: [sales@vipottersupply.com](mailto:sales@vipottersupply.com)

Web: [www.vipottersupply.com](http://www.vipottersupply.com)

*... When you shop – please  
mention to our advertisers  
that you learned about them  
in the Guild Newsletter.*

## DISCOVERY ART TRAVEL



**Specialty Small Group Art Travel**  
[www.discoveryarttravel.com](http://www.discoveryarttravel.com)  
[denys@denysjames.com](mailto:denys@denysjames.com)  
1-250-537-4906

### **Sicily April 29 - May 17, 2019**

At the heart of the Mediterranean, off the toe of the Italian peninsula, the triangular island of Sicily has been dominated by many rulers throughout its 3,000 years history. Greeks and Romans, Byzantines and Arabs, the Normans and the Spanish left a stunning array of artistic masterpieces. Today's artists continue the Sicilian tradition of hand painted majolica ceramics on terracotta vessels and tiles.

### **Morocco October 7-28, 2019.**

Visit the Imperial Cities of Rabat, Fes and Meknes. Explore the ancient Roman ruins and mosaics at Volubilis. Wander the narrow lanes of Chefchaouen with its red tiled roofs and bright blue buildings. Work with the women potters in the hilltop village of D'Har.