



Ventura County Potters' Guild



venturapottersguild.org

Members' Meeting: February 24th, 2020

6:30pm.....Pre-Jury Workshop (Please arrive at 6:15)
7:00pm.....Meeting room opens for Social Time
7:15pm.....President's Report
7:30pmProgram: **Photographing Your Pottery**

For Your Calendar:

Feb 1st.....Board Meeting
Feb 24*Members Meeting; 7pm
 Pre-Jury Workshop; 6:30pm
March 1st.....Board Meeting
March 23.....Members Meeting; 7pm
April 5th.....Board Meeting
April 27*Members Meeting; 7pm
 Jury Workshop; 6:30pm
May 3rd.....Board Meeting
May 18 (3rd Mon.)...Members Meeting; 7pm
June 13, 1463rd Annual Ceramics Sale in Libbey Park, Ojai
Sep 13th.....Board Meeting
Sept 28*Members Meeting; 7pm
 Pre-Jury Workshop; 6:30pm
Oct 4th.....Board Meeting
Oct 26.....Members Meeting; 7pm
Nov 1st.....Board 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,

Your Board of Directors are looking for volunteers to come create with us as we work on our 4 Project Priorities. This has had me reflect on my being a Guild volunteer and the benefits of being involved in the direction of an organization I value.

In the 70's I was a member of the New Hampshire Potters' Guild and loved the community and its range of potting experience. Relative beginners like me, older masters like Gerry Williams, probably my primary mentor and founder of Studio Potter magazine, and Otto and Vivika Heino. The NH Potters' Guild had monthly meetings in members studios. I loved this format of meeting in working studios but didn't do much volunteering.

In the 90's I lived and potted in Bluffton, SC. I got involved with the South Carolina Crafts Guild and after wondering how it was organized and made decisions, volunteered to be on its' Board of Directors. I was the on the SCCG Jurying Committee and its representative on the SC Art Commission. It was here that I learned that inside every complaint was a solution. And that the right to express that complaint was earned by being involved in creating solutions.

I joined the VCPG in 2014. After participating for awhile I had ideas... I got curious about how the organization was managed. I started to go to board meetings. I wasn't a board member, so I couldn't vote, but by attending the meetings I was invited to express my opinions. Our monthly board meetings are open to members. If you're curious... come join us.

When the Board was reorganized in 2016, I wanted to have a voice in how the 'new' guild was organized and functioned. I volunteered to be the Treasurer. 2 years ago I became vice-president. I've loved being a part of the team that keeps the lights on.

During the holidays my older son, Eben, recommended a branding/marketing podcast to me. I asked him to bottom-line the context of the conversations. He said the context is, "People like us do things like this." I invite you to come play with us and "Do things like This!"

Wyn Matthews

- **Program**

Photographing Your Pottery

It's important to have good photos of your work for social media and marketing. VCPG member and Getty/iStock photographer **Terry Wilson** will show us how to take better photos of our pottery, how to stage, and tips for using cell phone cameras. The Guild is purchasing a photo light booth, which will be set up for demonstration and live shooting. Bring 2 or 3 of your pieces to the meeting; **Katja Gabriel** will help members shoot their work with their own cell phones.

we will have tables to display members work on for a show and tell

Cecile Faulconer

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- **Some Information about "Us"**

Here are some of the 'facts we collect':

How many members last year? 159

107 Single, 33 (16) Couples, 3 Students, 9 Scholarship, 7 Lifetime

Of the 159 members, 30 were new members in 2019

Where do we live?

Ventura Area: Ventura 38, Oxnard 5, Port Hueneme 1, Santa Paula 1,

Simi Area: Simi Valley 14, Moorpark 3

Ojai Valley: Oak View 2, Ojai 19

Valencia Area: Valencia 1, Saugus 1

The Valley: Burbank 1, Glendale 2, Reseda 1, Tujunga 1

Up North: Carpinteria 2, Goleta 5, Summerland 1, Santa Barbara 20, Orcutt 1

Down South: Santa Ana 1, Temecula 1

101 Strip: Camarillo 6, Newbury Park 3, Thousand Oaks 4, Westlake Village 1, Agoura Hill 1, Oak Park 1

So Far Away: Houston 1, Lynchburg 1

What about the jury?

In 2019, 9 members were juried into the Guild.

Of the 159 2019 members, 102 have been juried

Over the years has juried 234 members. Of those members, 132 allowed their memberships to lapse and they lost their jury status or they pass away; a few of those members that lapsed renewed their membership and re-juried.

John William Allen

May 12, 1927 - August 19, 2019

John Allen's sculptures and ceramic masks are gracing hundreds of homes in the Santa Barbara area and beyond. In a tribute to him, his stepson of almost 60 years wrote, "John laughed at more, and more often, than any person I ever knew." He will be sorely missed by many loving friends.

John passed away peacefully from congestive heart failure on August 19, 2019, in Santa Barbara, his home for 50 years. He was born in Buffalo, New York, on May 12, 1927, to an English father, Albert Allen, and his Swedish wife, Dorothea Zakrison. After graduating from high school in Williamsville, N.Y., John volunteered for the Army Air Force. He served July 1945 through December 1946, spending time on the island of Guam. When his parents moved to Washington, D.C., he went to work for the National Capital Parks. He took advantage of the G.I. Bill to attend Cornell University.

John persuaded his parents to move to California, where he worked briefly at the Huntington Gardens (his father was an excellent gardener), then also in the logging industry.

In Sierra Madre (just east of Pasadena), John met new long-term friends "who were the bohemian cadre" there, including respected sculptor Howard Whalen. In 1953 John graduated from Occidental College. He was married to Janice Rose Carter from 1954 to 1961, and to Tulita Figueroa from 1961 to 1971. He worked for years for the U.S. Postal Service. He liked to travel, visiting Mexico, Canada, Japan, Costa Rica, and Panama.

John's true life's work was as an artist. He produced a great many sculptures and ceramic masks, which for decades he sold at the Santa Barbara Sunday beach shows, and in galleries. In fact, he worked well past retirement age, into his late eighties. John also created award-winning collages and, as an active member of the Santa Barbara poetry community, wrote a great many thoughtful poems and published them in several booklets.

John is survived by his former wife, Tulita Allen, and her son and his stepson, Greg Figueroa. He is also survived by many loving friends, including Wynn Kapit and Laurie Hanson, Sara Patchen, Wolf Hietzke, Michael Parker and Ellen Yeomans, Bernie Sayers, Stephanie Dragon, Lois Klein, Tom McBride, Craig Holland and Patsy Dorsey, Laurel Rose, and many others.

A Celebration of Life was held for John August 24 at his mobile home in the Flamingo Mobile Home Park on Cacique St. As he requested, family scattered his ashes at sea, off the coast of Santa Barbara. Contributions in John's memory may be made to the Santa Barbara City College Foundation, for Art students, at sbccfoundation.org.

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• **Pre-Jury Workshop**

Workshop is held in February and September before our Membership Meetings and begins at 6:30 pm. Bring 8 to 10 pieces representing the

work that you are interested in selling at Guild events.

Applications for the pre-jury workshop, on February 24 are close. If you have applied, please read the attached jurying guidelines and arrive for pre-jury about 15 minutes early so you have time to set up your work to be evaluated.

The Jury Registration Form must be completed and returned to the Jury Chair no later than 2 weeks prior to the Pre-Jury Workshop. Please see Pre-Jury Guide attached.

• Harbor Gallery Meeting

A Gallery Committee Meeting has been scheduled for **February 22nd**, to be followed by a A Gallery Members Meeting on **February 29th**, 2020. Both meetings will start at 9:30am.

Gallery Committee meets quarterly to discuss issues related to the gallery. These meetings are an opportunity to improve the overall function of our gallery.

Our gallery guide states under 'Gallery Artists Are Responsible For' number 7; "Actively participate in the gallery by attending quarterly meetings and participation in the election of the Gallery Committee."

Thank you!

Drew Lurie

• The Beauty of Underglazes Workshop • 4/25-26 •

Ventura

A two day workshop with **Julia Feld**. April 25-26. 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. Sign up soon. Application in the newsletter.

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Wanted. A host/hostess to house Julia Feld for 2-3 nights, April 24-26. The host/hostess will be given free admission to the workshop and a stipend to cover the cost of meals. (breakfast and possibly lunch.) contact Genie Thomsen if you are interested. 1-805-886-1957

• **The VCPG Annual Ceramic Sale in Ojai**

Our 63rd Annual Sale in Libbey Park and Fundraiser is currently open for registration. The dates are June 13th and 14th. You must be a current member of the Guild and have completed your 2020 membership renewal by February 28, 2020.

If you are a juried member and would like to be a part of the sale, please complete the attached form and send it to Diane Hedding at the address below along with a check for \$40.00 asap.

There are less than five months to prepare for this big event so lets get goin'

Diane Hedding

D_hedding@yahoo.com d_hedding@yahoo.com

• **Members Exhibit at Beatrice Wood Center**

"Nature's Bounty"

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

More info to follow.

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

• **2020 VCPG Membership**

Your VCPG membership lapsed on 12/31/19 and although many of you have already paid your dues for 2020, many have not. I have included a copy of the membership form in this newsletter and please forward your dues to me at the address included in the form. If I have not received your dues by 02/29/19 (ie., two month grace period)

you will not have any of the benefits of being a member and if you rejoin later you will need to re-jury to sell or show with the Guild. I look forward to hearing from you.

- **Visit Morocco with Patrick Crabb & Escapes Unlimited**

If you ever wished to visit North Africa (just below Spain), this tour may fill your "bucket list". I am (Patrick Crabb) hosting this year 2020 a tour. This trip is filled with an incredible and exotic adventure offer to include Moorish culture, archaeological sites, and experiential pottery visits.

Escapes Unlimited and I are offering a unique crafts tour which is filled with color, texture, history of Morocco. We will be departing this mid-September for some 12 incredible days. Please contact me for details/registration: pscrabb@cox.net

Visit my travel history : www.patrickshiacrabb.com click Tours.

Join us to celebrate life!

- **American Ceramics Society of Southern California
Newsletter**

[Link to NL](#)

- **Current show of Clay work at South Willard Gallery in LA**

Check out the gallery website photos!

<http://www.southwillard.com>

- **VCPG Board of Directors:**

President: Wyn Matthews wyn1@mac.com 805.207.3122

Vice President: Would you like to volunteer?

Secretary: Stacy Rowe stacer2000@gmail.com

Treasurer: Roe Estep gujen491@gmx.com 805.320.3524

Programs: Cecile Faulconer gipsylily@gmail.com 805.985.5038

Sales/ Shows: Diane Hedding d_hedding@yahoo.com

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 805.920.4741
Publicity: **Cecile Faulconer** gipsylily@gmail.com
Jury Chair: **Crystal Davis** cedavis1617@gmail.com 805.216.5289
Hospitality: **Roe Estep** gujen491@gmx.com 805.320.3524
Gallery Chair: **Drew Lurie** drewlurie@gmail.com 805.798.2240
Gallery Bookkeeper/ Space Allocation: **Wanda Ferrin** ferrinpottery@earthlink.net
805.462.7309