

## Cariboo Potters' Guild February 2014 Newsletter

### Empty Bowls

Such a busy time at the guild! The Empty Bowl event was a fabulous success! We made 275 bowls (give yourself a pat on the back) and there are only 10 left. The participating restaurants made huge pots of delicious soup! Our own Alison made 2 vats as well. Special thanks to Alison and Jude for coordinating the event and to all those who assisted in the multiple firings of the bowls. There were many generous donations to the Silent Auction, which also raised an additional sum for our Food Bank donation. It was nice to see the Captain of the Salvation Army enjoying a bowl of soup. Cary will provide us with a financial summary at the March meeting.



### 50 Shades Of Clay

All entries for the guild show should be taken to the Stationhouse on March 3rd or 4th. Jude is coordinating the show and Bev and Cary will be hanging (arranging) it. You have already received requests and reminders regarding labelling, biographies, etc. Please help Jude by getting the information to her as soon as possible.

### Gas kiln

We are getting to know the beast's disposition. There was a group firing on February 1st. Remember the weather that week? Yes, we loaded at -25c. Thanks for the rum, Buff! We got plenty of heat in the top (cone 10) and middle, but the bottom was cooler (cone 8). In spite of only limited body reduction, some nice pieces and interesting tests came out of the firing. There will be another firing this weekend. We will load and fire this Friday, Feb 21st. Be up at Lesley's with your pots at 9am. We have a shelf plan that should give us more even heat. If you don't have any high fire pots, but are interested in the process, join us.



### **A potters' parable** (Thanks Lesley):

The Cracked Pot A water bearer in India had two large pots, each hung on each end of a pole, which he carried across his neck. One of the pots had a crack in it, and while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water at the end of the long walk from the stream to the master's house, the cracked pot arrived only half full. For a full two years this went on daily, with the bearer delivering only one and a half pots full of water in his master's house. Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments, perfect to the end for which it was made. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it was able to accomplish only half of what it had been made to do.

After two years of what it perceived to be a bitter failure, it spoke to the water bearer one day by the stream. "I am ashamed of myself, and I want to apologize to you."

"Why?" asked the bearer.

"What are you ashamed of?"

"I have been able, for these past two years, to deliver only half my load because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your master's house. Because of my flaws, you have to do all of this work, and you don't get full value from your efforts," the pot said.

The water bearer felt sorry for the old cracked pot, and in his compassion he said, "As we return to the master's house, I want you to notice the beautiful flowers along the path." Indeed, as they went up the hill, the old cracked pot took notice of the sun warming the beautiful wild flowers on the side of the path, and this cheered it some. But at the end of the trail, it still felt bad because it had leaked out half its load, and so again it apologized to the bearer for its failure.

The bearer said to the pot, "Did you notice that there were flowers only on your side of your path, but not on the other pot's side? That's because I have always known about your flaw, and I took advantage of it. I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back from the stream, you've watered them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate my master's table. Without you being just the way you are, he would not have this beauty to grace his house."

Moral: Each of us has our own unique flaws. We're all cracked pots. But it's the cracks and flaws we each have that make our lives together so very interesting and rewarding. You've just got to take each person for what they are, and look for the good in them. There is a lot of good out there. There is a lot of good in you! Remember to appreciate all the different people in your life! Or as I like to think of it if it hadn't been for the crackpots in my life, it would have been pretty boring and life certainly would have been much less interesting...

### **Environmentally friendly studio practise**

Following Joan's glazing demo last month, a discussion arose regarding what we do with glaze residue, brush washing, etc. I hope we all wear masks when measuring and mixing chemicals, but disposing of or recycling glazes and tests is also important. If you make small batch glaze tests, amalgamate them and test the blend. It may produce a lovely glaze, albeit impossible to replicate. I have a large bucket labelled "scrap" and test it with other glazes from time to time. Jill sent me the following article from an old Pottery Making Illustrated which has some useful suggestions. (Scroll down)

### **Next Meeting**

At the Art Centre at 7pm, Monday March 3rd. Colleen Kielman will be bringing goodies. Oh-oh! I don't see any cleaners listed nor a program/demo name... Hope one of you will step forward or maybe it should be a DVD night.

