

Craft Connections

December 2011 Newsletter



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Message from the President

What a crazy, busy and WONDERFUL time the League has had since the Fair ended! You might think we all go home and put our feet up—NO WAY!! On August 22, we moved in to our new Craft Center on 49 South Main Street. This beautiful space in the SMILE! building houses our Education Center, Gallery, Permanent Collection Museum, and Headquarters. The move went smoothly considering that we had to organize and pack 65 years' worth of furniture, files, and craft. The best part of our new space is that we are now holding classes and demonstrations. For the first time in many years, we have comfortable space for committee, Board of Trustee, and staff meetings.



Beverly Wolf speaking at the Auction

Soon after the move, on October 27, we had our official Grand Opening celebration. It was very well attended – what a party! The NH Open Doors event was the following weekend, and many of our juried members opened their studios to the public that weekend. Next on the calendar was our annual auction, *GET YOUR CRAFT ON!* It was another successful event. What a whirlwind of activity over a short period of time!

The League is alive and well and moving forward and growing. As I said in my remarks on October 27, "We have relocated, re-energized, reloaded and rebooted and we are ready to roll!" Now is such an exciting time to be a part of the League - as a craftsman, member, volunteer or other supporter. Come soon to visit and see for yourself!

-Beverly R. Wolf, President of the Board of Trustees

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From the Executive Director

I knew things would be different when we moved into the new League headquarters, but I honestly didn't know it would be this wonderful. I see visitors and members enter the new facility and place their hands on their heart and say "Wow!" If you haven't seen it yet, please come and I'll give you a personal tour



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It's "business as usual" now that we're mostly unpacked and the fall events are over. The League staff is now able to take some well-deserved vacation time. "Business as usual" has now taken on a new level of respect, admiration, and professionalism, placing the League and its juried craftspeople in a new playing field. The League is extremely fortunate, as a nonprofit arts organization, to be moving forward at a time when many organizations are closing their doors. As of December 7, our capital campaign has raised \$2,226,625 toward the \$2,850,000 goal. We are getting there, but there's still much to be done. Over 150 juried members have contributed \$173,633 in pledged cash or donations (to the Annual Auction or to fit up the new headquarters). In addition, three anonymous donors are matching all donations made by juried craftspeople (up to \$225,000). With only less than \$45,000 left to be pledged (over five years) by December 31, I hope that juried members will do what they can to participate in this great opportunity for their organization. In this time of giving thanks and exchanging gifts, I am deeply grateful for the wonderful work of our board of trustees, our many volunteers, the juried members, and our staff. All of these gifts are enabling the League to give back the gift of education, which will help us continue the fine craft tradition.

-Susie Lowe-Stockwell, Executive Director



Grand Opening!



(LtoR) Beverly Wolf, Edith Grodin, and Susie Lowe-Stockwell celebrate the Grand Opening of the Craft Center and headquarters.



Students enjoy Micheline's Art of the Gourd class.



John Whiteside shares his technique for making an acoustic guitar.

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Member News

Peter Bloch was featured on public television stations across the country on the November 12 *Rough Cut Woodworking* show. The show featured a tour of Peter's shop and showed him making a huge lampshade for a floor lamp base that he made. A six-man crew spent the whole day shooting hours of footage, which was boiled down to about 6-8 minutes of the 30 minute show.

Karin L Bolton is having a photography show at The Wine Studio on 53 Hooksett Road in Manchester, NH (located across from Dunkin Donuts on Daniel Webster Highway). The open house for her show is December 8 and her work will be on display for the month of December.



Peter Bloch

In September 2011, **Marcie Rae** was elected to a second term as Vice President of the Board of Directors of The Enamelist Society. With over 600 domestic and international members, The Enamelist Society recently held its 13th Biennial Conference at the Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts in Tennessee. The conference provided attendees with information about the trends and techniques in vitreous (glass) enamel, and featured a live auction, art market, and marketplace auction of items from leading international enamelists that raised money for the Society. An exhibition at the conference, called *Alchemy: Transformation in Contemporary Enamels*, featuring over 115 enamelists and 140 works. will travel to the Knoxville Museum of Art and then to the National Ornamental Metal Museum in Memphis. In addition, The Enamelist Society has given over \$40,000 in grants for enameling programs, including two grants to start and nurture an enameling program at the League's Littleton Studio School. Please feel free to contact

Marcie if you'd like further information about glass enamel, the Exhibition, or The Enamelist Society at MarcieMul@comcast.net.

David Orser's clay sculptures were featured in a recent exhibition of sculpture and paintings at The George Marshall Store Gallery in York, ME.

Eleven of **Rhonda Besaw's** Wabanaki style beaded purses are part of the "Twisted Path II" exhibit at the Abbe Museum in Bar Harbor, ME. The exhibit is on display until May 2012. Here is the link for more information: [Twisted Path II Artists](#)

On November 11, two new carpet collections based on original textiles created by juried member **Sara Goodman** and Mary Zicafoose, a tapestry weaver from Nebraska, were launched at an opening party by Inner Asia/Khawachen, in Hanover, NH. The carpets are manufactured in Nepal by Inner Asia/Khawachen and will remain on display. The carpets are Goodweave certified, which is the customer's best guarantee that the carpets were woven without exploitive child labor. These carpets are the culmination of a lifetime of work for Sara and Mary, who are proud to have their names next to the Goodweave label.



Rhonda Besaw

Judith Lombardi, Golden Acres Photography, is exhibiting her photos at the Quechee Inn at Marshland Farm, 1119 Quechee Main St. in Quechee, VT, from December 11, 2011 through January 12, 2012. The title of the show is *Moments in Time --Photographing the Wildlife and Scenic Places of the Connecticut River Valley*. An opening champagne reception at the Inn is scheduled for Sunday, December 11 from 3 pm to 5 pm.

Last January, while most New Englanders were digging out from a series of blizzards, a fortunate group of 15, artists, teachers and therapists, were spending a week on the tropical paradise island of St. John, in the U.S. Virgin Islands, "Making Art in Paradise." The week long workshop, guided by nature writer Fred Taylor and juried member and clay artist **Alan Steinberg**, offered a chance to relax and renew in a spectacular natural setting, while writing and sculpting with clay in response to their surroundings. This coming winter they are planning to return to the island for a second annual retreat from January 9-17, 2012. Set in the most remote corner of the National Park, this retreat offers an opportunity to do art work, in the presence of unsurpassed beauty, held in a supportive atmosphere that incorporates Steinberg's Psychosynthesis training, mindfulness activities designed to heighten awareness of both inner and outer landscapes, and Eco-psychology exercises from Joanna Macy's "Work that Reconnects" workshops. There are still a few spaces open. For more information and photos from last year's workshop, go to <http://brattleboroclayworks.com/maip>, or call **Alan Steinberg** at 802 387-4820 or Fred at 802 387-2681.

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Newly Juried Members, Fall 2011

Wood

David Maine, Deering, NH. David is juried in turned wood, creating bowls using highly figured woods.

Stephen Willette, Milford, NH. Steve is already juried in wood furniture and now is juried in turned work. His work includes knitting and crocheting needles, hooks and tools.

Paul Wilson, Windsor, NH. Formally a member of a partnership, Paul is now juried as an individual juried member, building traditional furniture and smaller items.

James McLaughlin, Warner, NH. James particularly enjoys carving work that is based on Irish themes or Celtic knot work decoration.

Matt Wolfe, Center Conway, NH. Matt builds furniture inspired by period furniture from many different styles including Queen Anne, Chippendale, Federal, Arts and Crafts, and Shaker.

Eric Johnson, Campton, NH. Eric builds 17th and 18th century-inspired furniture, using traditional joinery and techniques; as well as custom work.

William Laughlin, Nashua, NH. William's work is primarily custom furniture, built-in cabinetry as well as trivets, clocks, and small tools.

Stitchery/Surface Design



Claire Renaud, Derry, NH. Claire uses various materials and techniques including re-purposed sweaters, to create mittens, hats and cuffs.

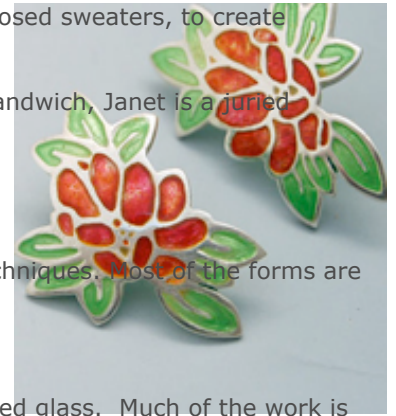
Janet Durkee-Prescott and Siiri Grubb, Center Conway, NH. Already locally juried in Sandwich, Janet is a juried partnership with Siiri Grubb. They create purses, totes and handbags with a unique balance of color, pattern and texture.

Clay

Larry Elardo, Groveland, MA. Larry's work is mostly hand built using slab construction techniques. Most of the forms are based on simple geometric forms. Other work has highly textured surfaces.

Metal

Michela Verani, Londonderry, NH. Michela's work is primarily art clay silver and some fused glass. Much of the work is complex, inspired by natural forms.



Michela Verani's Jewelry

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New Craft Books

Here are the latest additions to our **Kira Fournier Library Resource Center**:

Terra Nova: Polymer Art at the Crossroads, published by Racine Art Museum 2011. Donated by **Kathleen Dustin**, who is featured in the book.

The Profitable Artist, published by the New York Foundation for the Arts. Donated by **Susie Lowe-Stockwell**.

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Gallery Exhibitions at THE CRAFT CENTER

Music From Our Hands: January 13, 2012 to March 21, 2012. This is a multi-media exhibition, interpreting the theme of **Music From Our Hands**

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Flute by John Lunn

Contact/League Information

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CHARITABLE FOUNDATION**

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