

Craft Connections

May – June Newsletter 2009

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Necklace by Delirdre Donnelly

League of N.H. Craftsmen 
signature of excellence

From the Executive Director, Susie Lowe-Stockwell

From the high of the League's 75th anniversary celebration and other events leading up to last year's 75th Fair, we have hit a few "reality" bumps. Last summer's gas prices – the highest in decades – contributed to the lowest Fair attendance in years. The bright spot was that those who came to the Fair, supported most craftsmen very well. It is no surprise that the economic downturn has caused lower sales and revenue for the retail galleries and our juried members. To help address this situation, we have formed a committee to evaluate our current marketing programs. Headquarters has cut its budget nearly 10% and with a reduced staff, we are working as efficiently as possible so that our programs don't suffer.

We're doing more communication online, thus saving trees for woodworkers. Despite the economic doom and gloom, we have done a lot to feel good about, which is outlined in the League's Annual Report. One significant activity is the proposed new League headquarters ([see this article](#)). This move will give us more space to display our entire permanent collection, offer craft education classes and workshops to the public, and better showcase our juried members work through rotating exhibits. We are fortunate to have the support of several Concord business and political leaders. We will be soliciting your ideas for how to design and use this new space to expand our programs. This is our opportunity to make a significant impact on the world of fine craft, as it will enhance the League's educational mission and help generate greater public awareness.

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Ceramic Vase by Ken Pick

2009 Annual Meeting Highlights

Ron Tornow, Juried Member Forum (JMF) chair, moderated the meeting and



announced the results of the 2009 Ballot. Outgoing members **Cynthia Hunt** (who has served on the Board for 16 years), **Carol Shelton**, and **George Saridakis** were thanked for their service. Welcome to new Board member **Cindy Suekawa** and thank you to **Inge Eddy**, **Jeff Wheeler**, **Nancy Wyatt**, and **Bev Wolf** for additional terms. **Stephany Marchut Lavalle** will serve another two-year term on the JMF committee. Corrections to the Articles of Agreement were passed.



Board Treasurer **Nancy Wyatt** reported that the League started with a break-even budget for Fiscal Year 2009 and closed with an operating deficit of \$75,000. The main reasons were a \$40,000 shortfall in admissions revenue to the Fair, including the Birthday Bash, and a reduction of \$18,000 in anticipated interest income, which we earn on our CDs, operating account funds, and endowment portfolio. Smaller variances include sales of craft at the Fair, and our Annual Fund drive. On the expense side, we made an effort to reduce our deficit through staff cuts and elimination of raises, saving us \$27,000, although we did invest more than we had planned in development of our website and we incurred maintenance and repair costs of \$17,000 for headquarters.

We remain debt free, as we continue to have substantial cash balances to cover the deficit. At our fiscal year end, we had \$456,000 in cash, with \$346,000 of it in CDs. The money in the CDs represents the proceeds from the sale of the North Conway building two years ago, which we had set aside as a building fund. We did, however, withdraw \$35,000 from the CDs during the past year to provide a loan of \$20,000 for a studio school, and \$15,000 because of costs associated with a lightning strike at headquarters. And if we should need it, the fund remains available to meet expenses for this year's fair, but then we would expect to replenish it through sales and admission revenues, so let's hope for better weather and continued lower gas prices this year!

In addition to our cash, we have an endowment portfolio of \$266,000, the majority of which is restricted for various programs and awards. This portfolio is managed by Ed Mallon of Secure Planning, a professional investment adviser, with oversight of the finance committee. Ed has counseled us to invest very conservatively, and as a result, the value of our portfolio has only declined by 8.3% during the fiscal year. So although this has been a tough year for all of us, the League is in a good position to respond to both challenges and opportunities.

President **Beverly Wolf** and Executive Director **Susie Lowe-Stockwell** both spoke of the challenges we've faced over the year and of the exciting new proposed headquarters project. They urged everyone to get involved and work together to ensure a new direction that will have a positive outcome for the League and specifically the juried members. Pam Sullivan and Tim Tufts from Sullivan Creative presented an impressive new ad branding campaign for the League incorporating the slogan "Spirit of the Maker" and the League logo with the tag line "Signature of Excellence." Watch for these new ads in print, TV, Web and other media sources. Craftspeople are encouraged to have their work professionally photographed and put onto CDs to provide the League with images to use for these ads. Contact **Terri Wiltse** for more information at twiltse@nhcrafts.org or call 603-224-3375.

Nearly 50 members attended the meeting and enjoyed the great pot-luck dinner provided by the headquarters staff and board members. Many thanks to **Pam Tarbell** for hosting the Annual Meeting at the Mill Brook Sculpture Garden and Gallery; the League staff: **Joyce Andrews**, **Prudy Gagne**, **Catherine Green**, **Sharon Lindstrom**, **Bonnie Nieves**, **Terri Wiltse**, and marketing consultants **Pam Sullivan and Sullivan Creative**; our volunteers and Board members.

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A New Opportunity for the League

Throughout its long history, the living legacy of craftsmen has been recognized by those of us closely connected with the League. Now, recognition and support from a broad sector of the community is giving the League a chance to grow and expand its mission to support fine crafts. In April, the League was approached by the Concord Creative Economy Committee (CCEC) and the Concord Chamber of Commerce, who offered to help the League to find a new headquarters location in Concord. In fact, they see the League and its member craftsmen as such a valued part of the City that they have offered to take the lead in this effort. They understand our need for space to display our permanent collection and rotating exhibits, for classroom space that would allow headquarters to once again offer craft courses, for efficient distribution warehouse space for members' work, and for a more modern and functional administrative facility. They see all of this activity as a way to encourage a vibrant arts



community in downtown Concord.

The CCEC and the League's facilities committee reviewed a number of sites in Concord. They came to the decision that if the timing and financing worked out, the League would like to be a part of the Sanel block project on the south end of Concord opposite the Capitol Center for the Arts. The League would occupy and own the first floor of the proposed project. We are currently working towards that goal which is driven by a May 22 CDFA (Community Development Finance Authority) pre-application grant deadline.



Lamp by Peter Bloch

If successful, this would provide the League with space for all of the functions listed above and would provide tremendous visibility and room for growth. It would offer the League the chance to work in concert with other arts and cultural organizations in the city to further enhance Concord's position as the cultural center of NH. It would also be a lynchpin to allow the redevelopment of a key part of downtown. This site will enable headquarters to provide services and training for its juried members including studio space, computer resource room, teaching opportunities and state-of-the-art exhibition space which will bring heightened visibility for craftspeople.

This project is dependent on the CCEC/League securing financing that in part would include CDFA funds, and also on the developer, Steve Duprey, being able to move forward this fall. Currently the CCEC and the League are working together on applications with a number of funding sources. This is an incredible opportunity for the League. Along with the full support of the CCEC and the Concord Chamber, we have a team working on our behalf to make this happen. At the same time, the League has a team working to determine its risk and benefits of moving forward. You will be hearing more about this project from the League as well as from the press as this project develops. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact **Susie Lowe-Stockwell**, executive director at slowstoc@nhcrafts.org or 603-224-3375 or **Adele Sanborn**, juried member and VP of board of trustees at adele@paintboxnh.com or 603-746-2262.

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League Named Best of NH

The League of NH Craftsmen has been selected by the editors of New Hampshire Magazine as a "Best of NH 2009." The League will appear in the Best of 2009 listing in the July issue, so watch for it!

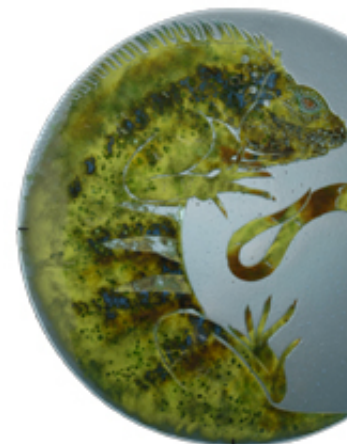


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Member News

Amy O'Shaughnessy's Piece Selected for Corning Museum of Glass Permanent Collection

A glass plate made by juried member Amy O'Shaughnessy is now in the Corning Museum of Glass permanent collection – the world's largest and most comprehensive collection of fine art glass. The piece, titled Iguana, was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan and Katie Oakleaf of Canton, CT to the museum. Amy has been a juried member since 2006. She holds a bachelor's degree in studio art and a masters degree in fine art from the Rochester Institute of Technology's School for American Crafts. She lives in Manchester, NH with her husband, two rescue dogs, and two cats; and she teaches art at the Middle School at Parkside in Manchester.



Glass Plate by
Amy O'Shaughnessy

Newly Juried Members – April/May

Welcome and congratulations to these skilled craftsmen:

Wood

Donald Briere (N. Hampton),
segmented wood turned bowls
Robert Englund (Munsonville), turned lamps and bowls
John Williams (Westminster, MA),

Fiber

Kristina Burnett (Canaan), rug hooking
Elena Wikstrom (Strafford), surface design
Rhonda Besaw (Whitefield), Wabanaki beaded bags
Donna Marbet (Kittery, ME), puppets

mandolins and carved wildlife
Richard Robichaud (Gorham), guitars
Michael Whitman (Lyme), toy racers

Non-Metal Jewelry
Deb Fairchild (Hampstead), beadwork

In Memoriam

Donna Hiromura Saydek passed on May 24, quietly, peacefully, and perfectly at home with her family. She knows that everyone loves her and she loves everyone. A service and celebration of her spirit will take place June 14 at Okemo Sugar Home at 12:30 pm. Contributions can be made to the Caring Bridge and the American Cancer Society in lieu of flowers.

Nominations for the Blackstone Volunteer Recognition Award due July 1

Nomination forms are available to juried members from our web site at nhcrafts.org – click on Juried Members and log-in. Contact **Sharon Lindstrom**, database and computer manager at 603-224-3375 or slindstrom@nhcrafts.org to obtain your user name and password.

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Volunteers needed for the Annual Craftsmen's Fair

Interested in volunteering at the Fair? Contact **Bonnie Nieves** at League headquarters at 603-224-3375 or bnieves@nhcrafts.org. We need help as booth sitters, for the children's tent, to pass out surveys, etc. It is lots of fun and volunteers get free admission to the Fair.

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New Pieces for the Permanent Collection

Four important acquisitions were recently added to the Permanent Collection. They are:

- A punch bowl and seventeen cups by Otto Heino, which was donated by Dr. Robert Hamlin, Beate Hamlin, and family.
- A complete redware tea set including tea pot, sugar, creamer, six cups and saucers by Mary Scheier, which was donated by Betsy Strong Kent and Jonathan and Thomas Strong.
- A framed enamel, "Flight into Egypt" by Karl Drerup, which was donated by David Tardif
- A woven cradle by Newt Washburn, which was donated by Attorney, Kimon Zachos and wife, Anne Zachos.

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Gallery 205

Lifetime Achievement Awards Exhibition

During its 75th Anniversary Gala Celebration, the League of NH Craftsmen bestowed its Lifetime Achievement Award to **Vivika & Otto Heino** and **Mary & Edwin Scheier** – two creative partnerships that transformed the world of pottery beginning in the early 1900s. Gallery 205 is currently hosting a special exhibition of the Heinos and Scheiers pottery from through August 12, 2009. An opening reception was held on Friday, May 15, with a special guest appearance by **Otto Heino**. More than 135 people, including guests, lenders, donors, staff, and committee members greeted Otto,



who was joined by his niece Helen. Guests came from as far away as California for the occasion.

Upcoming exhibitions in Gallery 205

Celebrating the Loom, September 18 – December 11, 2009
A juried exhibition featuring the work of the NH Weavers Guild

The Things We Do for Love, January 29 – April 23, 2010
An exhibition open to all League juried craftspeople

Spirit of the Maker, May 21 – August 18, 2010
An exhibition featuring the work of new juried members from 2007–2010 and their League jurors

Forged Metals, September 24 – December 17, 2010
An invitational exhibition featuring the work of contemporary and traditional blacksmiths

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Ceramic Vessel by Mary
and Edwin Scheier

Contact/League Information

If you would like to contact the League, [click here](#)

To see who is on the League's Board of Trustees, [click here](#)

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