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Craft Connections

November – December Newsletter 2010

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2010 Annual Ornament by Peggy Roth



President's Message

Beverly R. Wolf, President, Board of Trustees

I made these comments at the November 12th Get Your Craft On: The Auction for the League of NH Craftsmen, which I would like to share with all of you here.

The League of NH Craftsmen has a long and resourceful history, and our past endeavors and passion for excellence have propelled us to this day. After 64 years in our present location, the League has finally found a new home! It will be the new venue for our reenergized Education Program, which your presence here tonight will help to support. So many groups and individuals share our enthusiasm for progressing into the future: **Steve Duprey**, our fearless leader; the Concord Chamber of Commerce; the Concord Creative Economy; the Community Development Finance Authority; our juried and supporting members; the League staff; our Board of Trustees; and others.



(L to R) Adele Sanborn, Leigh Keno, Bev Wolf, and Susie Lowe-Stockwell



Auctioneer Leigh Keno at Get Your Craft On

I cannot resist this one little plug: through the CDFa program, businesses have a golden opportunity to support our platinum organization which, you might not realize, also provides help to many low and middle income individuals in our state. At a cost of about 17 cents on the dollar, this is the most remarkable chance to leverage a business donation in the US. The League needs your help to reach our goal by December 31—time is short, don't miss out!

President John F. Kennedy said: "Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or the present are certain to miss the future." The League is not going to miss the future. In these days of disappearing arts support in our schools and communities, it is more important than ever for non-profits like us to take a risk, step up, and

fill the gaps. Imagine your life, home, or community without beautiful and useful handmade articles, music, paintings, dance or drama. It would be a bleak world. It is up to the League and others to carry the torch of keeping the arts strong to improve our quality of life. It is up to you, individuals and businesses, to help support these efforts to ensure that we at the League are able to fulfill our mission: *to encourage, nurture and promote the creation, use and preservation of fine contemporary and traditional craft through the inspiration and education of artists and the broader community.* We embrace this assignment with passion and dedication.

Thank you, you believers and creative dreamers. With your enthusiasm and support, the League will continue to weave a rich tapestry of life in New Hampshire for many years to come.

Photos by John Hession

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Executive Director's Message

Susie Lowe-Stockwell, Executive Director

The enthusiasm for our new facility and proposed education programs is truly amazing. We are just beginning to understand how much of a positive impact these projects will have on the League. Our first annual auction, *Get Your Craft On*, was a clear indication of this energy and support. The event helped us raise \$35,000 for education programs in our new facility. There were 209 people in attendance and 124 items were auctioned, 88 of which came from craftspeople or from the managers of the League's Center Sandwich, Concord, Hanover, and Nashua retail galleries. My gratitude to the members of the Auction committee: **Adele Sanborn, Chair; Edith Grodin**, honorary chair; **Alice LaPorte-Fuller; Trish Anderson Soule; Pam Sullivan;** and **Terri Wiltse**. Special thanks to **Loring Stevens** for her professional guidance and support. This committee is already planning the 2011 Auction, so we will keep you posted about the date and details on how you can participate.



Our other major fall event – NH Open Doors on November 6 & 7 – was also a success with 189 participants through the state (which included many League members). 78% of the 100 participants that completed the post-event survey said they would participate again. According to the survey 21% reported higher than expected sales, while 38% reported lower than expected sales, which they attributed to the economy. The average number of visitors per location on Saturday was 33 with reported numbers ranging from four to as many as 225. The number of visits on Sunday was lower, which is consistent with past NH Open Doors events. This year, we saw a significant increase in the number of visitors from Massachusetts, New York, Maine, and Vermont. This is likely the result of the out-of-state marketing JPP Grant (Joint Promotional Program) that the League and NH Made received for this program. *Thank you New Hampshire Department of Travel and Tourism!* Thank you to **Terri Wiltse**, League operations manager, and the NH Open Door committee for countless hours and fine management of this event!

NH Open Doors
Participant
Nina Herlihy

If you are in Concord, visit the construction site of our new facility to see the progress. You can also go online and see a **webcam feed**, which has been set up by Concord Hospital – the tenant of the upper floors of the

new building. The webcam was placed at the Capitol Center for the Arts, which is across the street. Our facility is on the right side of street level floor of the building. To the right of the main entrance, there is a large glass egress door and four large windows that will house our reception area and the exhibition gallery. Displays of craft will be prominently featured with lighting that will entice visitors to enter and enjoy the magnificent work. The reception area will create a "living with craft" environment with functional furniture and decorative reception area that will present an impressive entre to any visitor. We are so fortunate to have the expertise and enthusiasm of the following people on our building committee: Chair, **Eric Palson**, architect with SMP; **Mark White**, juried member and professional space planner with SPACE; **Adele Sanborn** (juried member); **Pam Tarbell; Peter Bloch; Catherine Green; Dan Wolf; Beverly Wolf;** and me. We have discussed everything from traffic flow, lighting, floor coverings, security, dimensions, as well as proposals for furniture for the public area, etc. It is very exciting!



We are nearing the December 31 deadline for pledges on our CDFA (Community Development Finance Authority) Tax Credits available to businesses in New Hampshire with BET, BPT, or insurance premium tax liabilities. Our allocation of \$1,125million in tax credits is about 85% sold at the time I write this. Our successful sale of this allocation will net the League \$900,000 toward the purchase of our new facility. This is an incredible journey and we are really making progress. Watch for more updates on the plans and let me know if you'd like to get involved.

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New Education Programs in our New Headquarters



Necklace by
Joy Raskin

Our new headquarters facility will have two designated classrooms and a large multi-purpose room that will also serve as a classroom area. The initial class offerings in the new facility will include: Metalsmithing, including Jewelry; Precious Metal Clay; Lampworking; Dichroic/Fused/Slumped/Kiln Formed Glass; Surface Design/Dyeing; Felting; Paper Making; Printmaking; Baskets; Calligraphy; Drawing and Design/2D and 3D; Beading.

The members of the Curriculum Committee are: **Polly Allen, Deb Fairchild, Suzanne Jones, Michael Kraatz, Betty Lathrop, Karen Orsillo, Joy Raskin, Meredith Smith, and Maggie Tetreault.**

Contact **Catherine Green** at cgreen@nhcrafts.org for more information, to be an instructor, or to offer comments and suggestions.

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Craft Education Scholarship

MacKenzie Cates, a high school senior from Brookline, NH, received a craft education scholarship for an Intermediate Jewelry Course that will enable her to provide portfolio items to be used in college applications for art schools.

The League awards scholarships annually to high school graduates that have achieved merit in a craft field and are seeking higher education to pursue advance study in fine handcraft. In addition to the New Hampshire High School Senior Craft Scholarship, the League provides craft scholarships to anyone living in New Hampshire or within ten miles of its border. For information about a scholarship or to obtain an application, visit the **Education section of the League website** or contact the League Standards and Education Manager **Catherine Green** at cgreen@nhcrafts.org.

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Welcome to our newest juried members!

Metal

Julie Schmidt, Portsmouth NH

Julie's love of movement, nature, and primitive culture inspires her designs. Using various textures, patinas and forms, Julie creates each piece by fusing mixed metals with stitching or cold connection and heat. We welcome Julie back to the League as a juried member.

Rebecca Haas, Chester, VT

Rebecca strives for an aesthetic that is elegant, balanced, and wearable. She gravitates toward organic shapes, sometimes with repeating patterns and proportional variations. Rebecca uses multiple techniques to produce her work including forming around a mandrel, soldering, and hammering and burnishing.

Stephanie Robinson, Alton Bay, NH

Stephanie strives to evoke a sense of movement by combining inspiration from construction sites with organic forms

gathered from her natural surroundings. Her goal is to create linear forms with clean lines and a lightweight feeling.

Kathryn Shepard-Utzinger, Weare, NH

Kathryn's work is inspired by the ceaseless elegance of the natural world. Kathryn uses cold forge techniques to create jewelry in copper, silver and gold. She incorporates semi-precious stones, raw minerals, found stones, and pearls and beads via twisted wire and simple cold-formed settings.

John Lunn, Newport, NH

John is a flutemaker working in silver and gold, creating flutes that are completely handmade. He eliminates many of the flute's machined parts with hand wrought pieces that involve raising, chasing, and wrapping, soldering, shaping and fitting. We welcome John back to the League as a juried member.

Wood

Donna Zils Banfield, Derry, NH

Donna creates functional, utilitarian, and art objects out of wood, using a lathe and carving tools. Donna began turning full time beginning in 2004.

Bruce Haskell, New London, NH

Bruce uses both domestic and sustainable imported woods in his woodturning. His designs come from shapes and natural curves as seen in nature. Bruce enjoys working with distressed wood with figure, such as burls.

Art Anderson, Marlow, NH

Art creates hand carved or layered three-dimensional scroll saw folk art collectables, using a traditional style. His designs include a rocking cow, circus wagons, clowns and many circus figures.

Fiber/Knitting

Christine Alexander, Sunapee, NH

Christine creates unique hand knit pillows. She hand spins Alpaca and wool fleeces from local herds, and reclaims yarns from sweaters. By combining these exotic strands, she creates one-of-a-kind yarns of various colors and textures.

Fiber/Rug Braiding

Jennifer Kiarsis, Plaistow, NH

Jennifer has been braiding rugs since 2007, and creates a variety of sizes and shapes.

Non-Metal Jewelry

Amee McNamara, Nashua, NH

Amee creates wearable art-jewelry using different combinations of soutache-embroidery, bead embroidery, and more traditional bead-weaving techniques such as peyote-stitch.

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Mountain Barn Wood Carving by Duane Martin

Member News

NH Chronicle interviewed **Duane Martin**, juried in wood, about his intarsias for a segment that will most likely air in January 2011. One is a picture of Tiffany Eddy, co-host of *NH Chronicle* and her cameraman husband, looking at his landscape carving out of basswood, and the corresponding intarsia using the same design, and the finished intarsia titled, "Mountain Barn." The "Mountain Barn" was used in the filming for *NH Chronicle*.

The West Virginia Art & Craft Guild opened their eighth biennial exhibition with a ceremony awarding cash prizes to thirteen artists including **Sharon Dugan** for her *Raven* basket. The exhibition is on display at the Parkersburg Art Center in Parkersburg, WV through December 29 and will be traveling throughout the state: on January 15, 2011, it will open at the Wheeling Artisan Center for a five-week run, and then be on display at the Beckley Art Center from March 12

to April 30, 2011.

Sue Pretty's tapestry, *Divided Landscape*, was accepted into the **American Tapestry Biennial 8**. She was also awarded first prize in the international exhibit. The exhibit will be on display at the **American Textile History Museum** in Lowell, MA from January 20, 2011 through May 1, 2011.

Matt Brown will be exhibiting three woodblock prints in the upcoming Boston Printmakers 2011 North American Print Biennial Show juried by Jim Dine. The exhibit will be on display from February 27 through May 1, 2011 at the Danforth Museum of Art in Framingham, MA. Matt is a featured artist in the December issue of *Northern Woodlands* magazine.

Patricia Palson received the Award of Excellence at the Smithsonian Craft to Wear Show held at the National Building Museum in Washington, DC in October 2010. The award was for her entire body of work.

Rick Elkin received the "Best in Jewelry" at the Ruidoso Fine Arts Show, Ruidoso NM, in August and "Top 10 Juror's Award" at Mt. Gretna Outdoor Arts Festival, Mt. Gretna, PA in August.

Pauline Warg announces the following classes at the WARG Enamel & Tool Center, 10 Oak Hill Plaza, Scarborough, Maine 04074 (p) 207-885-9382:

Beginning/Intermediate Jewelry Making and Metalsmithing with Rachel Alvarez Flaherty
Tuesdays, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm – Start date: January 18, 2010
There will be no class during the week of February school vacation.
Fee: \$395.00 (includes some materials, solders, fluxes, use of tools and bottled gas)

Intermediate/Advanced Jewelry Making and Metalsmithing with Pauline Warg
Wednesdays, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm – Start date: January 19, 2010
There will be no class the week of March 16, 2010.
Fee: \$395.00 (includes some materials, solders, fluxes, use of tools and bottled gases)
Some processes taught will be: Tube setting for square and round stones (5mm or smaller), localized compression forming, torch fired enamels.

Donald Briere spoke and auctioned off a vase at a September event at the Currier Museum and donated the proceeds to the Furniture Masters. He also participated in NH Open Doors and spoke at the Woodworkers guild forum in Canterbury, NH in November. Donald currently has three pieces displayed in Exeter Fine Crafts.



Donald Briere

Michael Kraatz, juried craftsman and drawing instructor at the Alliance for the Visual Arts in Lebanon, NH, is doing an informal research project into how, and to what extent, craftsmen use drawing in their everyday studio practices. If your creative process includes drawing, formal or not so formal, if you keep a sketch book, or are simply a back-of-the-envelope scribbler and are willing to share, Michael invites you to send your story to him. All responses will be confidential. Contact Michael at kraatzrussell@peoplepc.com or 407 Grist Mill Hill, Canaan, NH 03741.

After hearing that JS Ritter (Portland, ME) reduced their supply of silver materials and findings, **Dave Lincoln** visited 333 Washington Street in Boston and found several floors of merchants offering a wide variety of jewelry materials and finished product.



Randi Solin of Solinglass has work on display in six United States embassies (Paraguay, South America; Guatemala City, Guatemala; Algiers, Africa; Praia, Cape Verde-Africa; Conakry, Guinea-Africa; Nouakchott, Mauritania -Africa). Solinglass just completed a commission for the Beijing World Trade Center in China, which involved sending four pieces



Vase by Randi Solin

of massive proportions. (see images (IMG_6107.JPG)). We have shut down the furnace for repairs for a month.

Randi will be heading south to St. Petersburg FL for **The Art Festival Temple Beth-El**. January 29-31, 2011, the **American Craft Council Retail Show** in Baltimore MD, February 24-27, 2011, the **Architectural Digest Home and Design Show** March 17-20, 2011, and the **New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival**, May 6-8, 2011. Randi also won the Best in Glass award at the Bethesda Row Art Festival in October 2010.

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In Memoriam

Mary Osgood, juried in metal jewelry, died at the age of 95 at Hospice House in Concord, NH on Dec 12. She was a longtime member of the Standards Committee, and frequently served as a juror for shipment reviews. She was enthusiastic about creating her jewelry and was honored with the League's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2001.



Earrings by Mary Osgood

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
American Recovery
and Reinvestment Act



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