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# Craft Connections

October-November Newsletter 2011

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Teapot by Karen Orsillo

*League of N.H. Craftsmen*   
signature of excellence

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## Message from the President

Greetings from our wonderful new headquarters in the SMILE! Building at 49 South Main Street in Concord! We call this new space THE CRAFT CENTER for many reasons. First, it features a fine craft exhibition each quarter. Right now, you will find a beautiful gallery filled with the fine work of our jurors until December. Second, our Permanent Collection Museum will open soon and our fantastic historical collection will now be on display instead of locked away. Third, classrooms are buzzing with courses taught by our juried craftsmen and demonstrations, lectures, and presentations are attracting old friends and new. It's all happening at THE CRAFT CENTER - the League's educational dream come true. Please plan to come by and visit. Pick up a schedule of events and learn first-hand why the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen sets the standards in the world of fine craft.

The League is also engaged in a Capital Campaign, our first ever. Our goal is to raise enough money to ensure that these exciting educational activities will continue to enhance our lives well into the future. Please consider supporting our efforts by making a donation. Information is available at THE CRAFT CENTER, and I will be happy to answer any questions.

**This is truly the beginning of the League's future. The excitement is catching; come by and experience it for yourself!**

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

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The League sign is removed from the old headquarters



Members of the Gallery Committee personally move the Permanent Collection. (LtoR) Nancy Jo Shabot, Linda Oldham, Catherine Green and Inge Eddy

## From the Executive Director

So much has happened in the past couple of months that the 78th Annual Craftsman's Fair now seems like a distant memory. The Fair was as beautiful as ever, offering visitors a glimpse of the talent, skill, and high quality that is the trademark of the League. It certainly was an unusual nine days with ever-changing weather, news of gloom from the media, and the highest gas prices in over a year. Though attendance was down compared to last year's exceptional gate, 95% of booth holders reported terrific sales. Juried members can see the full Fair Wrap-Up Report from the Juried Member's page of our website. If you would like a hard copy, please contact Christie Heilmann at [cheilmann@nhcrafts.org](mailto:cheilmann@nhcrafts.org).

On August 22, after wrapping up the Fair, League staff began the move into the SMILE! building on 49 S Main Street.

It took 11 men with two huge moving vans eight hours to complete the job. League staff along with board members **Bev Wolf**, **Adele Sanborn**, and **Cindy Suekawa**, began the setting up offices and unpacking boxes at the new facility. For the next two weeks, the staff and volunteer **Gay Zimmerman** (assisted by other volunteers) continued to arrange the new facility while keeping business running as smoothly as possible.

After two years and four months, all the planning has become a reality! But, the fundraising hasn't stopped! We still have to raise over \$700,000 to reach our minimum campaign goal of \$2,850,000. We'd really like to raise more so that we can purchase an additional 1,000 square feet for more classroom space. Be sure to put Thursday, October 27 in your calendar for our Grand Opening event. Please plan to join the celebration - and see our beautiful Gallery and "Hands at Work" reception area!!!!

The Fall is very busy with the **NH Open Doors weekend scheduled for November 5 - 6** and includes participation from several new New Hampshire organizations and businesses along with members of NH Made and the League of NH Craftsmen.

**-Susie Lowe-Stockwell**, Executive Director



Gay Zimmerman, volunteer at LNHC headquarters was very excited to unpack books and place them in the beautiful new library



Four of the five creators of the "Hands at Work" reception desk collaborative begin to put it all together- (LtoR) Steve Hayden, Dave Little, Peter Bloch, Seth Kiedaisch and Jeff Cooper is missing from photo

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## Craft Center & Headquarters Grand Opening event!



League of N.H. Craftsmen   
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**Grand Opening Celebration**  
of our new headquarters and education facility

 **THE  
CRAFT  
CENTER**

Thursday, October 27, 3:00 – 8:00 pm

49 South Main Street,  
Suite 100, Concord NH

**Come join the celebration!**

There will be Try-it craft demonstrations in our new classrooms, refreshments, and light appetizers. You will also have an opportunity to see Setting the Standard - an exhibition of the work of our jurors. **Remarks will begin at 6:15.**

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*Save the Date for Get Your Craft On*

Mark Friday, November 11 on your calendar for our second annual auction, Get Your Craft On! The Auction for the League of NH Craftsmen. It will be held at the Grappone Conference Center in Concord, and will feature a silent and live auction including work of our juried members (including Karen Orsillo's teapot shown above) and other dining, entertainment, and lodging items. To purchase tickets and for more information, [click here](#).

If you're interested in being a table host, contact Terri Wiltse at [twiltse@nhcrafts.org](mailto:twiltse@nhcrafts.org).



A week's stay in this home in County Kerry, Ireland is one of the auction items

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*Booth Placement at the Fair*

Throughout the League's history, there have been a variety of methods used to assign booth placement. For some time, jury scores, which provide an impartial and fair placement, have served this purpose. Individual accommodations that are requested on the fair application are also met within this framework.



Booth placement involves fitting together an amazing number of puzzle pieces, with each craftsperson representing more than one single piece. Each craftsperson's requests, whether it be for a nine-day booth or a mini-booth; a corner interior or exterior booth; a spot in a big or small tent; a location near specific craftspeople or near a tent entrance, represent thousands of puzzle pieces to work with. Every request that can be met is readily honored, as long as it does not disadvantage any other booth holder, is possible to do, and can be done in descending order of jury score. However, the jury score should not be taken as an imperial judgment, but rather as a working tool. Any perception that it is some sort of class ranking is completely off the mark. It is simply a device that provides impartial placement.

One interesting point to be noted here is the evolution and growth in our organization as a whole, along with the quality of members' work. In the past, jury scores fell into more of a bell curve, where even a full digit might separate a number of booth holders - like Olympic swimmers, who years ago might win an event by a full second or two. Today, a hundredth of a second could separate the entire field. Everyone is successfully juried - a group of champions - so the booth presentations will be creative and professional and reflect our high standards; most at the highest level. This means the majority of booth holder scores are bunched together at the top. The difference in placement is a math-minutia, with barely a difference between several places. But still, no matter how small, there is a difference and it is used to provide impartial placement decisions.

The fairgrounds itself presents challenges and advantages. For a number of reasons, the space is basically maxed out and tent placement is fully utilized. Regardless, few, if any, members are excluded from participating. The advantage is that we are able to provide educational activities for the public (a vital part of the League's mission), while providing a valuable marketing opportunity for our members.

Each year, the Fair upholds the great tradition that so many have worked so hard to produce over the Craftsman's Fair history. Yet, each year, the Fair is deliciously unique. This was my 33rd fair at Mount Sunapee, and it is one of the few things that I can honestly say has consistently improved over the years.

**-Jack Dokus, Chair of Fair Committee**

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## Upcoming Juries

October 18, 2011, Wood turning  
October 25, 2011, Wood/furniture and carving  
October 27, 2011 Clay jury  
October 31, 2011 Metal jury

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## Gallery Exhibitions at THE CRAFT CENTER

**Setting the Standard:** Thirty nine League jurors are participating in the current inaugural exhibition, which runs through December 14, 2011. The reception will be held October 27, 2011 from 3:00 to 8:00 during the Grand Opening.

**Music From Our Hands:** The next exhibition will be held from January 13, 2012 to March 21, 2012. The Gallery invites all juried members to participate in this multi-media exhibition, interpreting the theme of Music From Our Hands.

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Basket by Maggie Tetreault

## Classes, Demonstrations and Lectures

Stop by **THE CRAFT CENTER** and League headquarters for a brochure featuring statewide education opportunities! Visit online at [nhcrafts.org](http://nhcrafts.org) and sign up! Contact Catherine Green at [cgreen@nhcrafts.org](mailto:cgreen@nhcrafts.org) to become part of a team of League instructors.

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## In Memoriam

**Mary Dunning**, age 93, passed away late July. Mary volunteered at the League for several years. The staff enjoyed her able assistance and her appreciation of creativity.

**Harland Savage, Sr.**, League juried member in wood, passed away July 13. Harley was skilled in mill-wrighting and managed the Frye's Measure Mill from 1961-1981. His son Harley and wife Pam have carried on the stewardship of the Mill.

**Jonathan Chorlian, Sr.**, age 80, passed away September 9. A juried member of the League in clay and metal jewelry, he also made violin bows.

**Flora K. Campbell**, age 93, passed away September 28. Flo was the wife of the late David Campbell, executive director of the League from 1938-1942 and 1945-1962.

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## Member News

Congratulations to **Sharon Dugan** for winning two prizes in the Swiatowy Festival Wikliny Plecionkarstwa, the third International Wickerwork Festival in Nowy Tomysl, Poland. The festival included four categories of competitions (baskets, furniture, fancy goods, and artistic form), juried exhibitions, an international parade and a variety of other events all centered around willow basketry. Sharon's black ash splint baskets won a first place prize in the basket category woven during two days there and a second place prize overall in the category of "sent in works." This competition brings basketmakers from around the world to exchange ideas, uphold the tradition of weaving and pattern design based on innovative plait and bold combinations of different materials.



Sharon Dugan represents the U.S.-wins two prizes in the international competition

**Karen Eitel's** photograph, entitled Mario's Porch, is being used in promotional materials for a major cancer care center in the North Country, which is sponsored by the Dartmouth-Hitchcock and Littleton Regional Hospital.

**David Orser** is one of many craftsmen that are exhibiting at the George Marshall Store Gallery in York, ME until November 13. Details at [www.georgemarshallstoregallery.com](http://www.georgemarshallstoregallery.com)

Watch for an interview with **William Woods**, who is featured in the November/December issue of Yankee Magazine.

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William Woods on a recent motorcycle trip to Cape Breton, Nova Scotia

## Contact/League Information

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

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