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Craft Connections

September – October Newsletter 2010

Hat by Carrie Cahill Mulligan



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President's Message - Beverly R. Wolf

It's REAL!! It's HAPPENING!! Construction of our new headquarters has officially begun, and a groundbreaking ceremony was held on the morning of August 6. The person with the biggest grin and holding the biggest shovel of dirt was our dear Edith Grodin. She has spent so much time pushing the League in a direction to find new space and we are all grateful for her persistence and support.

Our Building Committee has been working to make sure that every conceivable item is included in our floor plan. Within the Building Committee is the Handcrafting Our Headquarters sub-committee, which is working with craftsmen to give our new space a *League signature* – the artful placement of unique and beautiful handcrafted items. This will be an exciting headquarters that we will all be proud of. It will enable us to carry out our mission with new energy and purpose. Watch the progress on South Main Street and dream of the big move next summer! What a happy thought!



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Executive Director's Message - Susie Lowe-Stockwell



I am pleased to report that the 77th Annual Craftsmen's Fair was a tremendous success! The weather was great and people came and spent money. Attendance was up over 12% compared to 2009, and, as of September 15, reported sales from 91% of the booth holders totaled over \$1.9 million – which exceeds all prior years! Sullivan Creative, our marketing consultant, surveyed the crowds



and tracked internet activity before and during the Fair. They reported that visitors came from 69 countries, primarily the USA, followed by Canada then the United Kingdom. The only states not represented in online ticket sales are Nebraska and Hawaii.

Juried members can download the complete Fair Wrap-Up report from our website from the password-protected page of the website (if you don't have an account, contact Sharon Lindstrom at slindstrom@nhcrafts.org). If you would like a hard copy, please contact Joyce Andrews at nhleague@nhcrafts.org.

In preparation for our move into new headquarters, Catherine Green, standards and education manager, is organizing a new Curriculum Committee to design the education programs and budget for the new facility. They are looking into what other New Hampshire institutions are providing and considering the needs of our juried members and the general public.



We continue to sell CDFA (Community Development Finance Authority) Tax Credits to New Hampshire-based businesses and we're only \$325,000 short of the \$1,125,000 goal to be pledged by December 31, 2010. Juried members have come forward to commit hand crafted work of "furniture and fixtures" appropriate for the new facility. Watch for updates on how you can leave your mark on what will be the headquarters and education center for the League of NH Craftsmen. Concord Hospital, who will be one of the upper floor tenants in the new building has set up a webcam with 24/7 photos of the construction site, **so check it out!**

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NH Open Doors

NH Open Doors, a fall event that showcases the people, products, and places of New Hampshire, is happening on the weekend of November 6 and 7. The League is partnering with New Hampshire Made to organize this event. During this weekend, participants will "open their doors" to the public, offering special events (such as craft demonstrations, workshops, food sampling, special lodging packages) to attract visitors. So far, we have over 100 participants signed up from the League and other businesses and

organizations.

It's a great and relatively low-cost marketing opportunity for our juried members. And this year, the League and NH Made received a promotional grant from the New Hampshire Division of Travel and Tourism Development to help support our in- and out-of-state marketing campaign. To learn more and to sign up to participate, visit www.nhopendoors.com.



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Get Your Craft On!

We're very excited about our first annual auction, Get Your Craft On! The Auction for the League of NH Craftsmen, which is scheduled for Friday, November 12 at the Grappone Conference Center. The Auction will feature a silent and live auction including work of our juried members and other dining, entertainment, and lodging items. Celebrity auctioneer Leigh Keno will run our live auction and all attendees will enjoy a New Hampshire growers' dinner. To purchase tickets and for more information, [click here](#).

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Handcrafting Our Headquarters

Beyond being an education center for craft, our new League of NH Craftsmen headquarters building will also reflect

who we are, and what we do. We are planning to do this by permanently showcasing handcrafted objects from our juried membership in the design of the interior. The items will include but not be limited to the lobby and reception area furniture, accessories, and fixtures. Contact Catherine Green at cgreen@nhcrafts.org if you are interested in learning more.

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Member News

A vase by **Donald Briere** (which won the Living With Craft Best in Show at the 2009 Fair), was featured in the July/August issue of *New Hampshire Home* magazine. The Currier Museum of Art auctioned one of his vases during the Furniture Masters Annual Auction, and the proceeds were donated to the Furniture Masters. This was the second year that Don donated a piece of craft to the auction. He received a new lathe from the Furniture Masters as a result of their program and was very thankful for their support and for the League's support.

Nathan Webb was accepted into both of the upcoming editions of Lark Books' *500 Vases*, due out this fall, and *500 Raku*, due out in the spring of 2011!

"Beyond Contents", an exhibition of paper, thread and objects found in nature by Jane E. Simpson will be on display at the Lamont Gallery, Phillips Exeter Academy until October 30, 2010. [Click here for information.](#)

Wen Redmond's studio is featured in Fall 2010 issue of *Cloth Paper Scissors Studio Magazine*. She is doing inkjet and fabric printing workshops ([see offerings here](#)) at her Rollinsford (NH) studio in October. *Quilting Arts Magazine* is re-running one of **Wen's articles**. Her work has been accepted at Quilts=Art=Quilts Schwenfurth Memorial Art Center, Auburn, NY; Art Quilts XV Needleplay at Vision Gallery, AZ ; and Lines into Shapes at Art Center of Estes Park, Colorado.

Tom McGurrin received an Honorable Mention at the Lakefront Arts Festival held at the Milwaukee Fine Art Museum in June, and, Second Place at the St Louis Art Festival in September for his *Palm with Pearl Pin*.

During the summer, **Betty MacDonald's** work received an Honorable Mention from the Art League, and the Equal Merit Award by the Loroton Arts Foundation, both in Virginia.

Congratulations to the New Hampshire Art Association on their 70th Anniversary! The League co-sponsored with the State Planning Board the initial stages of the founding the NH Art Association in 1940!



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New acquisitions in the Betty Steele Craft Library

The following books were generously donated by **Nora and Norman Stevens**:

A Gathering of Spoons; Selections from the collection of Norman D. Stevens; published by the American Association of Woodturners, 2010

Dan Dustin – *Hand Spoonmaker*, photography copyright 2008 by Clive Russ

Bouquets From Beads; Virginia Osterland. 1971 Published by Charles Scribner's Sons

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Curriculum Committee

A very exciting aspect of our move to South Main Street is that it's all about education. There will be classes, seminars and demonstrations in the new headquarters. This new committee has been formed to develop a comprehensive curriculum specifically for this new location. Members of the committee include **Polly Allen, Deb Fairchild, Suzanne Jones,**



Michael Kraatz, Betty Lathrop, Karen Orsillo, Meredith Smith, Maggie Tetreault and Catherine Green. Ideas are welcomed. Contact **Catherine Green** at cgreen@nhcrafts.org.

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Permanent Collection Acquisitions

The League is fortunate to have acquired the following donations to the Permanent Collection:

"Celebrate 75 Years" Fiber Wall Hanging by Jane Balshaw

Hand painted, hand dyed, and digitally printed cotton. Machine pieced and machine stitched. Framed using acid-free treated wood and acid-free papers. This work was donated by Natalie Wolf and has been assigned #294.

"Shall We Dance" by Joy Raskin

This pair of metal shoes was exhibited in *CraftWear* at the 77th Annual Craftsmen's Fair. This work was donated by Nora and Norman Stevens and has been assigned #298.

These among other generous donations will be prominently displayed in the inaugural exhibition of the Permanent Collection in the new headquarters. Currently there are 298 lots in the Permanent Collection which includes work from the 1930's to the present. For more information contact **Catherine Green** at cgreen@nhcrafts.org.

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Fall 2010 Jury Schedule

October 18: Fiber/stitchery jury, Fiber critique

November 9: Non-Metal Jewelry jury

Upcoming juries to be scheduled include: Clay, Glass, Fiber/felting, Fiber/rug hooking, Fiber/rug braiding, Fiber/rug braiding critique, Mixed Media/Tatting

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New Sculpture Garden in Hanover to display works of CraftStudies Students

The Hanover League of NH Craftsmen's education department — *CraftStudies* — is excited to announce the opening of a sculpture garden at 13 Lebanon Street, Hanover. The garden will show rotating exhibits of work made by students in the metals, mixed media, and pottery studios. There will be an opening reception on October 8 2010, from 4:00-7:00pm. In addition, the studios will be open for the public to see the facilities and there will be an artist demonstration by **Barbara McAlister** (wood carver) in the gallery.

The opening exhibit features the metal work of Grey Mills, Nick Colaiacomo, and Alyssa Kittredge (all 15 years old); a mixed media group collaboration and an abandon pots sculpture by associates from the clay studio. The metal sculptures were made in a summer camp held here at the League. For more information and a list of CraftStudies classes, visit www.craftstudies.org.

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**NEW HAMPSHIRE
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION**

Funding for the League of NH Craftsmen was provided in part by the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation



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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
**American Recovery
and Reinvestment Act**



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