



NEWS RELEASE

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**League of NH Craftsmen and Master Craftsperson Otto Heino
Establish a New Craft Education Scholarship**

CONCORD, NH – The League of NH Craftsmen is pleased to announce that Otto Heino, a world-renowned ceramic arts master and long-time member of the League of NH Craftsmen, has provided funding for a new craft education scholarship. The Vivika and Otto Heino Craft Education Scholarship was established to support emerging, as well as established craftsmen who wish to pursue coursework to develop and expand their craft skills.

The scholarship is available to residents of the state of New Hampshire, including League of NH Craftsmen members, who plan to pursue studies in a craft related program. Applications forms are available on the League's website, www.nhcrafts.org. According to League of NH Craftsmen Executive Director Susie Lowe-Stockwell, the League's Scholarship Committee will review applications monthly and scholarships will be awarded on a case-by-case basis. The number of scholarships awarded each year will be determined by available funding.

"We are very grateful to Otto for setting up this fund as it will enable more individuals to participate in craft education," said Lowe-Stockwell.

Otto Heino began his pottery career in New Hampshire in 1948. During that summer, he met Vivika Timeriasieff, one of the League's pottery instructors, and enrolled in one of her classes. He not only found his passion working with clay, but fell in love with and married Vivika. The Heinos became well known for their classic ceramic techniques and use of glazes. They moved to the West Coast to teach at the University of Southern California, the Chouinard Art Institute, and established a home and studio in Ojai (CA). They had a creative partnership, making pottery together and signing their pots "Vivika+Otto," regardless of who actually made them. "We were well balanced, even with our style of pottery. Her pottery is delicate, while mine is more rugged," said Otto. They worked side-by-side from 1950 until Vivika's death in 1995. Today, Otto continues to make pottery in their Ojai studio.

(more)

“Vivika was passionate about fine craft, whether it was making pottery or teaching others how to do it,” said Otto. “She enjoyed working with League members to help them achieve and maintain a standard of skill that would be marketable. She also contributed to the growth of the League by helping David Campbell, then executive director of the League, in recruiting master craftspeople to come to New Hampshire and be part of the League.”

“I wanted to give back to an organization that gave so much to me and Vivika, and to associate Vivika forever with craft education,” said Otto. At 93 (he will be 94 in April), Otto still experiments with his craft. “I hope that this scholarship will help craftspeople take their interest and skills to another level,” he said.

The League of NH Craftsmen is a non-profit, craft education organization. Its mission is 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.



The League is supported in part by a grant from the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

For more information, call 603-224-3375, email nhleague@nhcrafts.org, or visit the League’s website at www.nhcrafts.org.

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