



Cape Cod Potters, Inc.

# Cape Cod Clay Voice



## Special points of interest:

- We need your soup bowls
- Donate those seconds
- Financial Help
- Classes list
- Information for thought

## Soup Bowls For Hunger

DO NOT close your studio for the winter until you have made your bowls for Soup Bowls for Hunger. This will be our 15th year for this fundraiser, and there is even more reason to help out the Family Pantry in these times. So, please set aside some bowls, or make a whole new group. Use this as a chance to try some new glaze techniques, or to throw or hand-build some new forms. The date for Soup Bowls for Hunger is Wednesday, April 11th, at the Cape Cod Technical Regional High School.

## Pottery Supplies Order

Steven Kemp will need your orders by October 23rd if you choose to order clay or materials from Sheffield Pottery. You may also call Sheffield yourself and give them the order, just make sure to say that it is to be part of the bulk order for the Cape Cod Potters.

## Executive Meeting

The next meeting will be Monday, November 27th at 6:30pm. The location will be the home of Gail Turner, 320 Run Hill Road, Brewster. All are welcome to attend. We will have soup, bread, and a salad before our meeting, so please let us know if you are coming so we are sure to have enough to

## Our Annual Seconds Sale

Yup, that's right, the Pottery Seconds Yard Sale is real soon. Sunday the 15th of October to be exact, and we do need your seconds. So please bring them to Eden Gallery at #2 Dr. Lord's Road, Route 6A Dennis (it's right across from Scargo Lake). Just put your pots in the basement of the house (the bulkhead door is opposite the shop). Great if you can price your pots, if not, we will do it for you.

The sale runs from 10am to 12 noon, and we need help in the form of able bodies, to assist Diane Heart, Mary Richmond, and Snookie Souliotis, who will be setting up from 8:15am to 10 that morning. Please call Diane Heart at 508-896-6189, and volunteer to help.

This is our major fundraiser for all of the diverse programs that we contribute money to support.

## Pottery Classes Listing

### Turo Center for the Arts at Castle Hill Fall Clay classes

**Jim Lawton** is teaching a weekend workshop on September 23 & 24. "Pouring Vessels - New Approaches", which will explore pots that pour and the magical world of fluid dynamics, re-defining your thinking on pitchers, creamers, watering cans and teapots, from Kool-Aid to Wedgewood and back.

**Nat Doane** is teaching a class called "Salt & Surface", which will explore various techniques of constructing forms and the range of surfaces that can be achieved in salt firings. Nat's class will meet for four sessions on Thursdays from 3 - 6 pm beginning October 19th.

*(Our new Salt and Soda Kiln has had great results this summer.)*

**Anne Goldberg** is teaching throwing - Beginning/Intermediate. Throwing for Adults on Thursdays from 3 - 6 Starting September 21, and a throwing class for KIDS (ages 8 and up) on Fridays, September 22, 29 and October 6 from 3:15 - 5pm.

Check out our website - [www.castlehill.org](http://www.castlehill.org) for more details on all of our Fall course offerings, or give us a call at 508-349-7511 if you have any questions. As you know, the Cape Cod Potters get a 10% discount on all ceramics classes at Castle Hill.

### The Creative Arts Center 154 Crowell Road, Chatham MA.

Classes run all year in 8 - 10 week sessions. The studio has available 7 electric wheels, 4 kick wheels, 2 electric kilns, extruder and a slab roller. All tools, clay, materials, slips and glazes are included in the \$35 material fee. Firing is \$1 a pound. Outside class studio time is free.

The pottery classes are comprised of beginning and advanced students. Class size is limited to the number of wheels available. Both throwing and hand building techniques are taught by working potters with professional experience. There is also a Raku & Smoked Pots class for intermediate and advanced students. The center contains a library of art books and video tapes.

For more information please call 508-945-3583  
Our website: [www.creativeartscenter.org](http://www.creativeartscenter.org)



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## Photos & Photoshop Workshop

This workshop will take place at the Cape Cod Community Collage on Sunday, January 21st, from 10am-2pm. Hollis Engley will be demonstrating his skills in taking truly gorgeous photos of pots. Peter Spier will demonstrate what can be done to manipulate photos with the use of Photoshop. Complete details and registration will appear in our next newsletter.

## Arts Foundation of Cape Cod

At the last Executive meeting the board voted to join the Arts Foundation of Cape Cod.

The Arts Foundation of Cape Cod can now count the Cape Cod Potters as a member organization. In the future our workshops, fundraisers, and seminars will be on their calendar website as well as listed in Cape Cod Life Magazine.

## Grants and Donations

The Executive board voted to give a \$300 donation to a local potter to help them through a rough spot. The board also voted to give \$1200 to the School to Careers partnership program, which will underwrite the expenses for 6 potters who will serve as mentors to 6 high school students.

## Financial Help, Workshops and Fees

The Cape Cod Potters, Inc. Executive Board wants all our members to know that financial help is available for our workshops and other fees\*. If you need help please contact Lois Hirshberg at 508-428-3402. Financial help is available and reviewed on a case by case basis.

*\*Restrictions may apply.*



## Information for Thought...

Our President, Gail Turner, thought our members might like to read this article.

The Cape Cod Voice graciously gave us permission to reprint this article and was most helpful in providing it to us via electronic mail.

One touchy topic: How auctions meant to help nonprofits wind up hurting artists

Time has come to talk about a sticky, uncomfortable subject: How much and how often local non-profits ask artists to donate work, to be auctioned off for the righteous good cause.

It happens every summer, multiple times. Every local artist who has built up any kind of reputation or following is approached by an arts organization, a social service agency, a kids support group, a radio station - all of the above, and then some. Each organization has been brainstorming about how to keep ends meeting. The various boards of directors have all come up with the same great idea:

Let's have an auction!

## Information for Thought... *Continued*

We have all these great artists around us, they're always working, so let's just get a piece from each one of them - only one piece, no big deal - and sell it to the highest bidder. All we have to do is pay for an auctioneer (maybe get that talent volunteered too), then get some wine and cheese on the table to help ease the bidding upward, and presto! Another year's budget covered.

It's a tried and true method, but some serious consciousness-raising needs to take place among all the well-intentioned people who practice this tactic.

For starters, understand that by and large, artists do not have much in the way of resources, cushion, and money. The romantic notion of the rich artist, the dilettante who can drop a painting here and there, is absurd. These are people often on the edge, often the most financially insecure of us all. Yet they are the ones who are asked, over and over, to make donations. And they are the ones who do - partly because they want to, partly because they feel obliged or even guilt-tripped into doing it.

Second, consider what this auction emphasis does to the most crucial business relationship any artist has -- with the gallery.

Auctions undercut galleries. They suggest that a buyer can get work of the artist cheaper - and that the buyer can feel just fine about doing that because the money is going to a nonprofit.

Every successful gallery relies on what, in the end, is a small group of collectors and buyers. Turns out that small group is very likely to overlap with the people who support nonprofits. But the nonprofits don't invest long term in the career of the artists. They don't promote a painter, advertise a show, develop a clientele. Their priorities are altogether different.

And so, without doubt, auctions weaken the arts economy, and in the long run both the galleries and the artists themselves.

But auctions just as surely buttress the nonprofit economy, crucial in its own right. If artists stopped giving work, in the name of self protection, it would be a sad, hard thing, counter to the vital spirit of the community.

Our suggestions, which by the way some nonprofits have already adopted in part or whole, include the following:

Artists should be reimbursed by every nonprofit for the work they offer at auction. That payment should be much like the payment a gallery would offer, say 50 percent of the sold price. And there should be no hints, or subtle guilt trips, that the artist should donate that back to the nonprofit.

Every nonprofit should have a minimum bid on every piece sold. That amount should approximate what the artist's work would sell for in a gallery. If that minimum bid isn't reached, the piece shouldn't sell and should go back to the artist.

Every auction catalogue should clearly identify what gallery represents each artist, and encourage people to visit and support both artist and gallery.

With these checks and balances in place, nonprofits can feel like their crucial auctions don't have bad, unintended side effects. But the real solution to the underlying problem, as usual, is outside the small box of this relationship:

If nonprofits received from the broad community, business and personal, anything close to the generous tithe of support offered by artists year in and year out, they'd be in just fine shape, thanks. Then this problem, tough as it is to raise, wouldn't exist.

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