

# Clay Chatter

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Clay Alliance

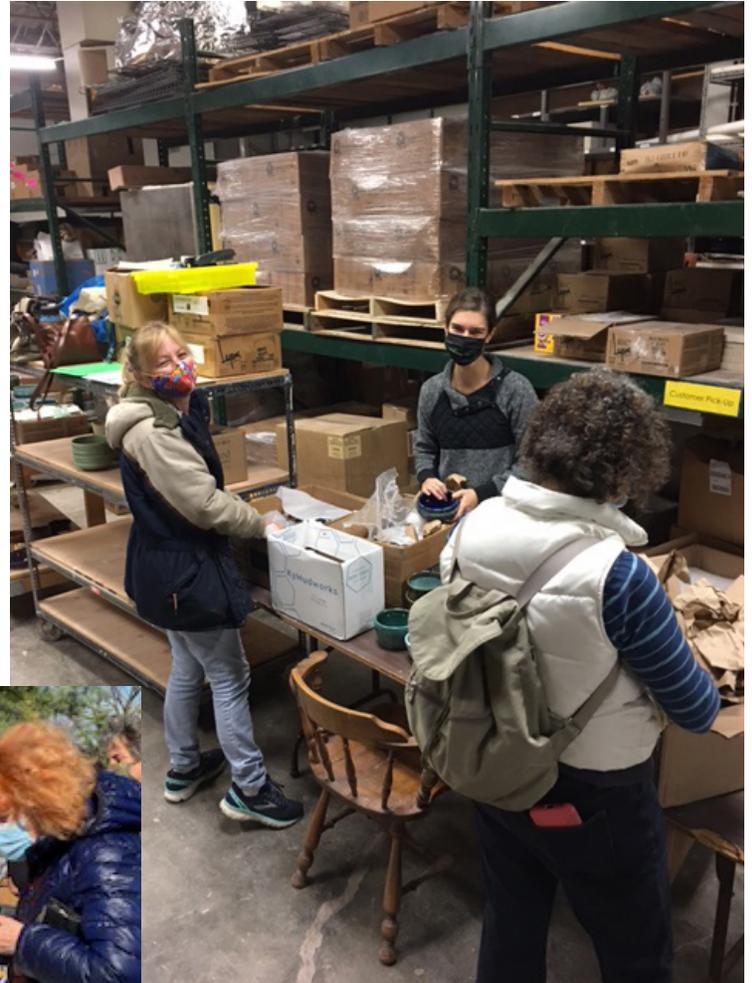
## Empty Bowls: Short on soup, not on love

BY LINDA LEGENDRE

Clay Alliance members were able to gather for a modified Empty Bowl event despite the pandemic. The Empty Bowls Committee is an awesome bunch that figured out inventive ways to make it happen. Knowing we could have a safely distanced throw-a-thon and glazing event started the process. Baker Hunt Art & Cultural Center was a champ for allowing us full access to reclaim clay, glaze and fire the bowls. Some beautiful bowls came out of those efforts. Of course, our members and folks over at Core Clay and Queen City Clay came through again as well.

We wanted to raise additional funds without having the Buy-it-Now table this year. It's just impossible to social distance when you see a great piece of pottery at a great price! So we ordered T-Shirts this year. Jeanette Blust managed this and made sure

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Provided photos

**Committee members prepped and sorted the bowls Oct. 31 for the event held the next day in the Richards Industries parking lot next to Queen City Clay.**

## Meet our new Clay Alliance board members

BY DRAKE ASH

The following people have stepped up to serve on the Clay Alliance board. Some are new and some are serving in different roles than they have in the past. Thanks to all those who give time and insight to Clay Alliance!

### **Vice President: John Mason**

John started in clay about 20 years ago with classes at Annie's Mud Pie Shop—now known as Queen City Clay. Soon after, he joined Clay Alliance. He has served in many positions in the group, includ-

ing two terms as president. "I have been privileged to enjoy the companionship of Clay Alliance's many members," John says. "I have been influenced by more experienced members and also by seeing the growth and hard work of the newcomers."

John says that his work

reflects the seemingly infinite lineage of the art and craft of ceramic forms from prehistoric to modern times, especially the gentle motion of Asian forms like tea bowls.

Recently retired, he lives in Oakley, where he enjoys playing musical instruments and

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# MEET THE MEMBERS

## David Mill

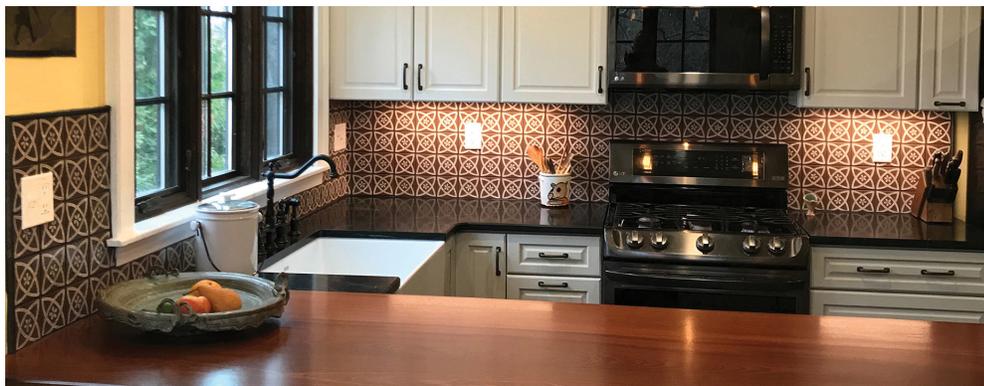
David lives in Cincinnati's Pleasant Ridge neighborhood with his wife, Kate, and their cat, John John. After spending his early childhood in Forest Park, Cincinnati and Lexington, he grew up mostly in Indianapolis. He considers himself a Cincinnati, having moved here in 1983 to attend the University of Cincinnati's College of Design, Art, Architecture and Planning for graphic design.



Terri Kern's work and her passion for ceramic arts inspired David to pursue clay classes in 1996. "She suggested I get in touch with her dear friend Joyce Clancy who also had a studio at the Pendleton Art Center," David says. "This feisty ceramic dynamo and I became fast friends and she taught me until her passing in 2009."

Along with fellow Clay Alliance members Sue Cline, Marcia Fanthorp and Glenda Suttman, David is part of the Joyce Clancy Legacy Studio where he throws, glazes and fires. He also makes a mess throughout his house in the crazy times leading up to Clay Alliance pottery fairs. "Kate just averts her eyes and holds her tongue knowing it's for a short time and it brings me so much joy," David says. "She makes me leave the room when she prices my work, knowing I'd underprice it or give it away—a true student of Joyce Clancy."

David has a small Skutt kiln in his basement that he inherited from his grandmother. She made traditional molded Christmas trees and manger scenes. "When I was young, 'ceramics' was something in the corner of her basement with plaster blocks (molds) scattered about and dried-up jars of underglaze collecting dust," David says. "Unfortunately, I didn't get the pottery bug until after she passed.



**The mushrooms David makes for Spring Fair support making his other pieces. This year he created the tiles for his kitchen backsplash.**

It would have been fun taking her to pottery fairs, asking her about the pieces she made and how she got into ceramics. I feel personally connected to her kiln and thank her every time I fire."

Though David enjoys making the mushrooms he sells at Spring Fair, they are a means to support making the functional ware and pieces his family and friends are required to like as gifts the rest of the year.

David has been very active in Clay Alliance. He runs his own graphic design



Provided photos

business, Design Mill and in 2008 he designed the Clay Alliance logo. Since then he has designed most of the postcards, posters, flyers, billboards, show signage and social media images for Clay Alliance shows and events.

He has served on the board as member-at-large and then communications director for four years. He also co-chaired Spring Fair 2018 and 2019 with Ryan Durbin.

"This year I'm proud of the tiles I created for our new kitchen backsplash, getting pointers and advice from my studio mates and fellow CA members Sarah Horn, Mike O'Neal and Sam Hitchman," David says. "That's the thing about my experience with the CA community.

## MEET THE MEMBERS QUESTIONNAIRE

Want to be featured in "Meet the Members"? Just answer these questions in an email and send them to Jane Lester at [janelester@me.com](mailto:janelester@me.com).

- **Name**
- **Residence**
- **Family**
- **Where you're from (Cincinnati or elsewhere)**
- **Where you work in clay**
- **How long you've been doing clay**
- **What kind of pieces you make**
- **Where you work (day job)**
- **Any other hobbies you enjoy**
- **Anything else of interest you wish to share**

# ACCOLADES

## Patrick Dougherty's

solo exhibition at In Tandem Gallery in Bakersville, North Carolina, opened Dec. 13. [www.intandemgallery.com](http://www.intandemgallery.com)



## Empty Bowls, continued

everyone got what they ordered. We ordered a few extra T-Shirts to sell at the event. Everything went off without a hitch. We were able to raise nearly \$400 and have a super souvenir of Empty Bowls 2020.

Ben Clark secured the Richards Industries parking lot next to Queen City Clay as the venue. Nancy Hopkins took the reins and made many improvements to the event. She even went to the Maker Space at the Downtown Library and made signs that will be useful for years to come.

New this year was the drive-through option for patrons. Yvonne Cooper gathered with other committee members on Oct. 31 and had a sorting and prepping party.

Your generous donations allowed us to share our bowl wealth with Oxford Empty Bowls. Nearly 70 bowls will benefit their local food pantries.

Sunday, Nov. 1, hummed along as a chilly, sunny, windy day with a few bumps (but no pottery breakage). Ben Clark imaginatively rigged up a wind proof sign. Ryan Durbin directed traffic and Terri Kern stepped in to help out with bowls. Bruce Canfield, Jeanette Blust, Judy Schneider, Amy Roberts, Rachel Durbin and Matthew Franck rounded out the rest of Nancy Hopkins's work force.

So here is the number you've been waiting for! A total of **\$7,500** was donated to Kids Cafe from Empty Bowls 2020. That includes:

**\$380** in T-shirt sales.

**\$885** in donations on Square.

**\$2,555(!)** in day-of-event extra bowl sales.

**\$3,680** in ticket sales.

Our running grand total for 21 years of donations is **\$355,600**.

## Board members, continued

tending to his orange fur ball friends, Punkin and Peanut. John is currently the director of the Clay Alliance Gallery at the Pendleton Art Center. He does his clay work at Core Clay, which recently moved to Norwood. John wants to thank the members and staff there for their help in his journey. He hopes he can return the same.

### Secretary: Jen Watson

Jen is a small-batch potter who makes speckled stoneware pottery in her Lower Price Hill studio. She grew up in South Carolina, went to the Kansas City Art Institute for her BFA and got her MFA at the University of Cincinnati's College of Design, Art, Architecture and Planning. In addition to making wares for her business Bud and Bowl, Jen teaches pottery at several community studios. She joined Clay Alliance in 2018.

### Education and Community

#### Outreach: Nick Bonner

Nick Bonner is beginning his 22nd year as foundations coordinator at Northern Kentucky University, with occasional ventures into teaching special courses in honors and ceramics. Before coming to NKU, he taught at several universities and colleges across the country. His work has been exhibited and received awards both nationally and internationally, and he has participated in residencies in Canada and Japan. Nick earned his MFA in ceramics from Ohio University and his BFA from Alfred University. He considers it his good fortune to have traveled, lived and worked among people of various

cultures. In the studio, Nick focuses on creating both functional and sculptural work. He looks to bring opposites together in his work, whether organic and geometric, rough and smooth, old and new or natural and manmade.

### Members at Large:

#### Cheryll Madden

Cheryl retired 10 years ago from her job as an environmental educator at the Jefferson County Conservation District in Louisville. She moved to Burlington, where she met her husband, Dave. Cheryll was looking for a hobby because there's not much gardening, canning and freezing to do in the winter. Two years ago her daughter gifted her with a hand-building class at Covington Clay and she has been hooked ever since. "Best Christmas present ever!" Cheryll says. "Now my time is taken up with making whimsical pottery about nature and Dave is the gardener."

#### Lisa Schutte Koester

Lisa is a Cincinnati native and self-taught potter who has been dabbling in clay off and on for around 35 years. She became more serious 10 years ago, and started Wild Acorns Pottery out of her home studio. She is in charge of pottery at Dunham Recreation Center and has been a member of Clay Alliance for eight years. Lisa lives in Cincinnati with her husband, Bob, their two sons and three dogs. "I'd have a house full of animals if my husband let me!" Lisa says. "I love to garden, so a lot of my pottery is centered around the garden and nature themed items."

## Our next general meeting will be online on Wednesday, Jan. 6

Look for an email soon with the link to Zoom.

## Next Clay Chatter deadline: Friday, March 5

E-mail submissions to [jeffersonation@gmail.com](mailto:jeffersonation@gmail.com)