

Clay Chatter

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Clay Alliance

From the vault: Clay Alliance 2006

BY JEFF WILLIAMS

It is hard to believe, but this is the 61st edition of Clay Chatter that I've edited and designed.

Cathy Gatch passed the reins to me with the March 2006 edition and now I'm entering my 16th year as editor.

Since I didn't have enough submissions to produce a full-length issue this quarter, I thought it would be fun to look back at what was happening with Clay Alliance back in 2006.

The cover models for the March 2006 edition were Jane Lester, Mike Baum ... and the Baums' gas kiln (right). The Baums hosted a workshop on firing in a gas kiln, which prompted Larry Watson to muse about glazing.

By July, President Terri Kern reported that seven Clay Alliance members participated in Summerfair at Coney Island, while eight exhibited at Krohn Conservatory during that year's Butterfly Show, "Butterflies Down Under." Elsewhere, Pam Korte led a lid workshop at Laura Davis' Amphora Studios, the predecessor of Core Clay.

September's edition featured a recap of an art exchange between artists in Cincinnati and one of its sister cities, Nancy, France. Several

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Mike and Karen Baum share the
**GLORIES of
GAS FIRING**
BY GWEN BRISCOE

Despite a winter storm advisory, more than 20 people trekked to Mike and Karen Baum's studio near Lebanon on Feb. 4 for a workshop on firing in a gas kiln. Participants were allowed to bring bisqued cone 10 pieces to glaze and then fire in the Baums' gas kiln. Mike began by describing how he built his 96-cubic-foot kiln, the predictable variations in temperature that occur in different parts of the kiln and his meticulous record-keeping system.

INSIDE
The Baums' workshop gets Larry Watson thinking about glazing.
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Like Olympians, we look to improve and excel
Hello Clay Alliance members. As I watched the Olympics, I marveled at how long and hard the athletes work. They sacrifice a lot to do what they love and strive to improve technique and develop their strengths. As potters we have a lot in common with them. Fall down during your ice-skating routine and you get back up and continue until the music ends. Knock your piece way off-center as you're just finishing it and you cut it off, throw another piece of clay on the wheel and start again. We are persistent in our desire to produce work and to raise the bar of what we can achieve. As we go to our studios and approach the wheel or the slab roller, we do so with a spirit of adventure, and the joy of using our

Jane Lester, Mike Baum and "Willie" pose by the half-loaded kiln.

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Clay Alliance members traveled to France in July, while several of the French artists visited Cincinnati in September for a show and reception at Krohn Conservatory.

The last issue of the year shared the success of Empty Bowls, with raised \$14,500 for Kids Cafe, an increase of \$4,000 from the previous year. In those days, the event

was an indoor-outdoor affair held at the Baker-Hunt Foundation in Covington.

Tucked away inside the December edition was news of the first Holiday Sale at the Carnegie. This precursor to Holiday Fair featured the work of 24 artists and a mug tree. It's strange to think that the "youngest" of our signature events is 16 years old!

Spring Fair returns May 1!

BY TRACY ILIFF

Spring Fair is coming up fast! Our signature event will return to 1523 Madison Road in East Walnut Hills on May 1 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Things are going to be a little different to keep everyone safe. Booths will be separated by 6 feet. We won't be having live music or food trucks to eliminate people gathering together.

Though this year's event will be scaled down, it still will be great. Seriously, how couldn't it be? We have such a great variety of talented clay artists! We currently have 33 artists but a few booths are still available. Visit <https://bit.ly/2PTdLnF> to apply. Fees are \$90 for a half standard booth, \$120 for a standard booth or \$190 for a corner booth.

Trish McLennan is our task coordinator. Anyone who would like to help out with Spring Fair can contact her at rtmclennan@fuse.net.

Please help get the word out and share the Facebook event with your friends and family: <https://www.facebook.com/events/187489209467858>.

We look forward to seeing you at Spring Fair on May 1!

MEET THE MEMBERS

LeAnn Price

LeAnn was born in Joplin, Missouri, and at the age of 6 moved to Indianapolis, where she grew up in the Broad Ripple area. Her daughter, son-in-law and their 3-year-old live with her at the moment, and she has another grandchild due in June.



Her mother is an artist who did a few art fairs when LeAnn was young.

“At one of those fairs when I was about 8 years old, a potter was demonstrating on a wheel all day,” LeAnn says. “I was mesmerized!”

“My parents were very involved in the Indianapolis Art League as it evolved over the years and I took some ceramics classes there as a child. Broad Ripple High School was a magnet school for the arts at that time, so I was fortunate to be able to take multiple art classes from excellent teachers. I was still focused on clay.”

When planning for college and her career, LeAnn really wanted to become a potter but her mother, being an artist, pushed her to find a related career that would still enable her to provide stability for herself. The University of Evansville was one of two colleges in Indiana that offered art thera-



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Provided

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.

- **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**

MEET THE MEMBERS

Continued

py. LeAnn also was interested in psychology so art therapy was a perfect blend. Her degree was through the art department, focused on ceramics, with a minor in psychology. She tells us that she had the great fortune to study under Les Miley.

In high school and college, LeAnn mostly did hand-building of sculptural work with stoneware. Since then, she has worked with porcelain and stoneware and for many years has focused on wheel-thrown functional work. She mixes all of her glazes and fires to cone 10 reduction in her propane gas kiln. Over the past year, she has been working on a totem project with a small group of adults in her community who are in recovery. The finished totem will be displayed publicly in their community.

“I am located in the northern part of Dearborn County, Indiana, on top of 13 acres of a wooded hill,” LeAnn says. “My studio is split between my basement and an outbuilding on my property. All of the raw clay work and bisque firing is done in the basement studio. In 2010, a friend and I built the outbuilding for a large gas kiln and glazing room so the bisque-ware goes out there for the final steps.”

LeAnn spends part of the summer in Leland, Michigan, and a few years ago she set up a small studio up north.

As with many artists, she cannot have idle hands! She loves to crochet and has been working some very beautiful, challenging patterns for a couple of years. “I tend to get interested in too many things and have big ideas that I can do it all, which results in many unfinished projects,” LeAnn says.

In 1978, her senior year of high school, she was awarded the Gold Key Scholastic Arts Award for a sculptural piece she did in art class.

She has always been a big fan of Indiana artist Dennis Kirchman. He was known for his large slab pieces and simple but beautiful designs, mostly inspired by nature. LeAnn encourages us to look him up.

Editor's note: LeAnn shared that her home with three or four bedrooms, 2½ baths and studio will likely be up for sale in three to four years for any local potters who might be interested.



Provided photos

ACCOLADES

Manifest Gallery in East Walnut Hills featured three pieces by **Jennifer Miller**. The "Artifact" exhibition of ceramic-based works of art ran from March 5 to April 2 in Manifest's North Gallery.



Provided photos

Our next general meeting will be online on Wednesday, April 7

Our next general meeting will be held online starting at 6:30 p.m. EDT Wednesday, April 7, on Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/91491779738?pwd=YnhOVm1yVFZtNnNhaWxoSG9PTDJLdzog>

Meeting ID: 914 9177 9738

Passcode: 107464

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Meeting ID: 914 9177 9738

Passcode: 107464

Find your local number:

<https://zoom.us/u/ab1u7PLDoo>

Next Clay Chatter deadline: Friday, June 4

E-mail submissions to jeffersonation@gmail.com