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"PROMOTING CREATIVITY, EXCELLENCE & GROWTH THROUGH EDUCATION & COOPERATIVE SPIRIT"



# OPA NEWSLETTER

Oregon Potters Association • 4614 SE Salmon Street • Portland, OR 97215

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October-November 2011

[www.oregonpotters.org](http://www.oregonpotters.org), [www.ceramicshowcase.com](http://www.ceramicshowcase.com), 503-222-0533

**NEXT OPA GENERAL MEETING: Friday, November 4** at the Multnomah Art Center, 7688 SW Capitol Hwy in Portland. We rent the meeting space from 6-9:30pm.

**6:30pm: General Meeting:** If you have items for the agenda, contact OPA President Anne Stecker in advance, [AnneStecker@comcast.net](mailto:AnneStecker@comcast.net), 503-399-0590. Bring items for the swap table and snacks to share.

**7:30pm Program:** This month's program will have two components.

First, we will have Jessica Amos, a Master Tax Adviser for H&R Block will discuss Small Business-Sole Proprietor-Artist level tax filing. With 10 years experience in her field plus a spouse who is an artist, you will find this subject very dear to her. She will cover "Everything you ever wanted to know about Business taxes and what credits you can take" so everyone please bring all your questions for her. For best results, you may email your questions in advance to OPA Program Chair, Deb Moen at [dm4k2lilbby@netzero.com](mailto:dm4k2lilbby@netzero.com).

Second, we will have The Potter's Version of Speed Dating: Bring samples or photos of your work and prepare for a night of exchanging ideas. We will group, regroup, and regroup again for a series of discussions based on various topics such as types of firing, types of glazes, building methods, etc. This is a great opportunity to get to know other potters and benefit from their knowledge.

**OPA BOARD MEETING:** Dec 8 at Kris Paul's, 15868 SW Kimball St, Lake Oswego.

All meetings will follow this schedule: 6-7pm potluck dinner, committee meeting opportunities, work sessions. 7-8 pm business meeting, all board members will receive an agenda for this part of the meeting with detailed information from committees about items that need voting. 8-9pm tabled items that need discussion, new programs, projects, more committee meeting time if needed. All reports from members holding positions (treasurer, publicity, clay in ed, newsletter, showcase, empty bowls, Finance, hospitality, justice, manual, mentor, picnic, programs, video, videographer, voice mailbox, webmaster, workshops and members at large) should be submitted in writing to the secretary 2 weeks prior to the next board meeting. The Secretary will compile and send these reports out to the board for review.

## OPA BUSINESS

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT, ANNIE

**STECKER:** "The rain is here and with it fall weather is upon us. I hope your summer art festival sales were successful and that you are ready for the holiday season. We had a great time at Champoeg State Park for our annual OPA picnic. Thank you Stephanie Burton for putting together a wonderful afternoon. Along with delicious pot luck dishes we had a discussion on social networking. Since then a group of us met to discuss technology and social networking in more depth and we will be creating some workshops and opportunities for our members to be trained. If you have skills in these areas please contact me and perhaps you can be paid to teach a workshop. We also discussed and voted to increase our membership dues by \$5. Several new members and some long time members that belong to other arts organizations wanted to increase the dues by much more. Their rationale was that OPA provides more than the other arts organizations they belong to where annual dues are much higher. Please think about this and send me your thoughts."

"The board has been busy and many exciting events and projects are underway. Along with our talented member Ed Kornbrath, the board has worked hard to create a new brochure for OPA which is ready to go to print. We have a very energetic Ceramic Showcase steering committee and enthusiastic hard working chairs creating an exciting 30 year anniversary show. Look for technology and social networking workshops in the near future. We have show opportunities at Northbank and a Pop Up Store. Museum of Contemporary Craft will be displaying the OPA Showcase winners collection in the spring in conjunction with the Betty Feves exhibit.

"If you are interested in getting more involved in OPA, elections are in early January and the ballot will be created soon. Years ago I volunteered to be secretary of the steering committee to "get points" and over the years I've developed wonderful friendships which are far more valuable than my points."

*OPA Business continued on next page*

## OPA BUSINESS continued from previous page

**OPA 2012 BOARD ELECTIONS:** Sign up at the November meeting Friday November 4th to run in upcoming OPA Elections! We will be there to answer your questions and take your letter of intent. Election time is fast approaching and it is time to be thinking about making a commitment to help our great organization. We may forget sometimes how fortunate we are to be involved with OPA. Joining the OPA Board is a fantastic way to learn more about the OPA, network and earn points.

Nominations for positions will be accepted until December 1.

A list of all of the OPA elected positions will be emailed to you soon. Please take a moment to look at it and let us know if one of the positions interests you. The election will be held from the time of December's newsletter (mail-in ballot to be included), and up to the January 2011 General Meeting where you can vote in person.

Want more information? You should receive an email with election information by mid November. For more information, contact Dan Noble, OPA election coordinator. [Dnoble@gorge.net](mailto:Dnoble@gorge.net).

**OPA BOOTH AT NCECA:** OPA will have a booth in the vendors' area at the NCECA in Seattle. Four OPA members are being selected to staff the booth. The Board is deciding what the focus of the booth will be, and more info will be in future Newsletters.

**OPA STUDIO SALE GUIDE:** If you are participating in the Studio Sale Guide, they will be available mid-November. You will be notified when to pick them up. If you would like a copy, they will be available on the OPA website in late November. Questions about the Guide? Contact Jenny Lakeman, [JennyLake-man@gmail.com](mailto:JennyLake-man@gmail.com).

**EMPTY BOWLS** in Portland: OPA raised \$20,760 for the Oregon Food Bank which is a *new all time record*. This comes at the same time that the Oregon Food Bank has reached an all time high in the distribution of Emergency Food boxes. We are now one step closer to our goal of raising \$250,000 in net donations for the Oregon Food Bank by the end of 2012. There are so many OPA members and friends to thank including the 40+ shift volunteers, the numerous potters who donated work to be sold as well as the many local schools who made pots for the Empty Bowls project. Special thanks goes to St. Helens High School, Oregon Episcopal School, Parkrose High School, Portland Community College SE Center, as well as many others who have always done similar things to help us accumulate the pottery and raise money for the hungry in our community. We also need to recognize the businesses who accepted and stored donations for Empty Bowls throughout the year including Multnomah Art Center, Stark Street Studios, Oregon College of Art and Craft and especially Georgies Ceramic and Clay Co. We can't tell the OPA community enough how grateful we are to everyone who has created, donated, and collected pottery for the Empty Bowls Event. It is a real inspiration to observe how potters in our community have come together over so many years to help put the OPA Empty Bowls Program together.

The theme for 2012: Empty Bowls Math:  $15+20+25+30= \$250,000$ . These numbers relate to special anniversaries coming up in 2012 and our cumulative goal. The 15 and 20 represent 15 years involvement by Oregon Glass Guild and Oregon Potters Association, respectively. The 25 represents the 25th anniversary for the Blues Fest and the 30 represents the 30th anniversary of Showcase.

**Collaboration Project:** Due to the tremendous success of the project last year, Renee (with the gracious help of Michael Metz) has agreed to once again to organize a Collaboration Project to be produce pots for the Empty Bowls 2012 event. This project will be held during the last two weeks of the year at Georgies Ceramic & Clay Co.

**Empty Bowls Permanent Display:** Georgies has also agreed to help promote the event year round by creating a permanent display of 'Empty Bowls for sale' year 'round in both of their Portland and Eugene stores. The objective of this display is to promote the mission of Empty Bowls, generate dollars monthly for the Food Bank, and to prominently feature the donating artists for their generosity. The display will hold approximately ten medium sized pieces at all times.

**We need one more Co-Chair:** We are in need of one additional co-chair for the 2012 year. If you need more information about the position please contact Bill Sanchez or Renee Shearer.

As always, we are happy to accept Empty Bowls donations of all types of pottery and glass at all board and general OPA meetings. Respectfully submitted, Bill and Sandy Sanchez and Renee Shearer, Co-Chairs of OPA Empty Bowls Project

## OBITUARY

**SPENCER PENTELE:** OPA member Spencer Pentela passed away in Seattle on August 26 at the age of 56. After spending a couple of years with a clean bill of health, his cancer returned this year. He and Rosa Nogues were the popular "PolyPots" team. He threw pots, she decorated and glazed. Please send cards and notes to Rosa at PO Box 436, Bandon 97411.

## CERAMIC SHOWCASE

**MESSAGE FROM CERAMIC SHOWCASE CHAIRS**, Margaret Synan-Russell and Kris Paul: "The 30th Anniversary of OPA's Ceramic Showcase! Seven months from now the work of some 45 committee members, countless volunteers, and over 200 potters will transform an empty room into a tremendous exhibit of the boundless creative beauty known as OPA's 30th Ceramic Showcase.

It all starts with the application deadline of NOVEMBER 15th, 2011. Our show runs May 4.5.6, 2012. NOVEMBER 15th, NOVEMBER 15th, repeat after me NOVEMBER 15th is the Showcase application deadline. If you don't have the date in your head like your SSN then do what ever it takes to remind yourself. Put it on your iGoogle calendar, the kitchen and studio calendars, tweet it, text it, blog it, post it, email it and snail mail it. Even write it on the back of your hand or on your forehead. NOVEMBER 15th deadline.

In order to maintain the finances of the Show, budgeted to stay in the black, we have had to increase our booth fees. Details of those increases are in the Showcase Application packet.

This year we will celebrate the 30th Anniversary of Ceramic Showcase. The Showcase Committee has been planning a lot. Among a few highlights, there will be an exhibit that pays respect to our potters from the beginning that Jeanne Henry has volunteered to undertake. We will have some minor layout changes that are yet to be completed, as well as a mini stage for music. We encourage all of our OPA members to apply to Showcase, whether you have a zillion points or 1 point.

If you have any questions about Showcase and the packet we will be at the Nov 4th General Meeting early, at 6pm. Bring your packet and questions and we can help you. Come celebrate our 30th Anniversary of Ceramic Showcase. Remember NOVEMBER 15th deadline. Looking forward to a great show, with high sales!

**YOUR CERAMIC SHOWCASE APPLICATION PACKET** should be included with this Newsletter. If it is not, please email Janet Buskirk, Newsletter Editor, [JanetBuskirk@gmail.com](mailto:JanetBuskirk@gmail.com). The deadline for applying to Showcase 2012 is November 15, 2011.

**CERAMIC SHOWCASE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS:** Any OPA Member is welcome to attend these meetings. There is a potluck at 6pm and the meeting begins at 6:30pm. The next meeting is Tues, Nov 1 at Diantha Knott's, 2303 SW Borland Rd in West Linn. Other scheduled meetings are: Wed Dec 7; Tues Jan 3; Wed Feb 1; Tues March 6; Wed April 4; Thurs May 3. Locations TBA.

**RECEIVE YOUR SHOWCASE INFO-PACK VIA EMAIL:** This year, we will send all Ceramic Showcase Information Packets via email unless you tell us to mail yours. Each packet costs a couple of dollars to copy and send by mail. The savings add up, so thanks for receiving yours by email!

## MEMBER NEWS

**LESLIE GREEN** has had a ceramic sculpture "Pleistocene" juried into the 9<sup>th</sup> "Around Oregon Annual" exhibit, at The Arts Center in Corvallis, October 1-27.

**SAM HOFFMAN** in featured this month at AKAR gallery in Iowa City. "This exhibition is the culmination of a year of hard work and I am thrilled by the results. The AKAR website has an excellent on-line gallery which shows all of the pieces: <http://akardesign.com/>."

**FAYE NAKAMURA** has a show titled "The Color Pink" at Karin Clarke Gallery at the Art Annex, 749 Willamette St in Eugene. Tues-Sat. Noon-5:30pm, [www.karinclarkegallery.com](http://www.karinclarkegallery.com), [kclarkegallery@mindspring.com](mailto:kclarkegallery@mindspring.com). Sept 13-Oct 15.

**SARAH DAVIS & STEPHEN MICKEY** had work in "Strictly Functional," Sarah also had one of her pieces featured in the October issue of *Ceramics Monthly* magazine.

**SUE ORLASKE** is one of four artists in a show titled "Northwest Touchstones: Regional Culture and Landscapes" at Bush Barn Art Center's Camas Gallery. Through October 1.

**MICHELLE GALLAGHER** will be showing work in the Main Gallery of Guardino Gallery, 2939 NE Alberta Street, Portland, Oregon. Opening on last Thursday Oct 27, runs through Nov 28.

**DENNIS MEINERS and LESLIE LEE** were 2 of 11 southern Oregon artists who were selected to participate in this year's Shifting Patterns project, in response to climate change. Dennis created an enigmatic comment on a car door and Leslie painted an oil panting named Garden of Earthly Disasters.

## POTTERY NEWS

**AN INTERESTING WEBSITE** that OPA member Roxanne Hunnicut recommends: "The Self-Reliant Potter: Refractories and Kilns": <http://sleekfreak.ath.cx:81/3wdev/CD3WD/APPRTECH/G15SEE/INDEX.HTM>. This is an interesting and ambitious project for third world development help and education. The categories are numerous with some pottery related such as "Glazes for the Self-reliant Potter" by Henrik Norster, waste auto engine oil kilns, there are recipes for saggars, one can learn soap-making, solar cooking, how to build yourself an adobe house, or lots of other practical things.

**POTTERS COUNCIL:** Members of the Potters Council receive discounts on *Ceramics Monthly*, *Pottery Making Illustrated* and other publications of the American Ceramic Society. They also may submit work for an annual juried show held during NCECA, receive health insurance ([www.potterscouncilhealthplans.com](http://www.potterscouncilhealthplans.com)), and many other perks. [www.CeramicArtsDaily.org](http://www.CeramicArtsDaily.org).

**ORA: NORTHEAST JEWISH ARTISTS** is a show on Oct 30 at Mittleman Jewish Community Center in Portland. Info is available on Facebook, <http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=265115203520557>.

**LIVING CERAMIC TRADITIONS ON LINE RESOURCE:** The faculty at Aberystwyth University in Wales and at Florida Gulf Coast University are documenting global ceramic traditions that are fast disappearing. The project is called Bonfire Talk and hopes to have an online library for research in ceramic traditions, an image bank, technical information and networking about traditional ceramic technique. For info email [mov@aber.ac.uk](mailto:mov@aber.ac.uk).

**CERAMICS FILM FESTIVAL:** In June, a new International Ceramics Film Festival took place in Castellon, Spain. *Muestra Internacional De Cine Ceramico* featured 30 films which included a wide variety of subjects from a variety of countries. [Www.micice.es](http://www.micice.es).

**CONE SIX CELADON** is the subject of an article by John Britt in the Sept 2011 *Ceramics Monthly*. The article is about reduction firing at cone six and gives many tips on how to achieve good color as well as giving some formulas and suggestions for use of stains.

**GLAZE FORMULAS:** An interesting website that is collecting links to a variety of other sites that feature glaze formulas is [www.ClayStation.com](http://www.ClayStation.com), click on "Links."

**SPECIAL SECTION FOR DECEMBER:** The December Newsletter "Special Section" Theme will be "Using Social Networking to Market Your Work." We welcome all comments, instructions, insights, etc from all of you. Please help us make this a great section by contributing something about your experience with Social Networking. The deadline is Dec 10 (earlier is always appreciated!), send to Janet Buskirk, Newsletter Editor, [JanetBuskirk@gmail.com](mailto:JanetBuskirk@gmail.com).

**HIGH FIRE SPECIAL EFFECTS:** submitted by Careen Stoll: Reduction Cooling (sometimes know as downfiring) is one technique employed to create a specific palette of colors, particularly in bare clay. In a similar way as the potter carefully controls the amount of oxygen in the kiln as it is climbing in temperature, so the oxygen level can be controlled on the way down. The chemistry of this is straightforward: a reducing atmosphere reduces the red iron oxide (Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>) to black iron, (FeO), which is a different color. These molecules within the clay will remain "black" if the atmosphere is maintained. If the kiln is allowed to cool in oxidation, they change back to red, and with it the color of your clay. A strict and systematic clamping of a kiln after peak temperature is reached will produce a remarkably different palette. In practice, certain things must be in place for success: a kiln designed to be tight enough to seal off any little smidgeon of incoming oxygen, the ability to introduce a trickle of fuel to your kiln at high temperature, and receptive clay and glazes. To elaborate, many kilns are tightly constructed but may not have a way of, say, sealing off the burner port openings. To reduction cool, it is imperative that no oxygen enter the kiln as it is cooling. Tight doors and plugs, dampers that rest on small rails, walls that are seamlessly constructed all add up to a suitable kiln. The introduction of fuel is also specific- if you have a gas kiln, you may well have a safety mechanism that would shut off your gas in this situation. Can you run just a pilot-flame? Perhaps add small pieces of wood manually through a spy-hole? It is important to have the atmosphere press all the way downwards in the chamber- you should see the murkiness of flame that signals reduction all the way at your bottom spy. Or better yet, a tiny flame licking out of a low crack or a tiny space around the damper.

What of the Clay? Reduction cooling seems to sit most comfortably under the broad umbrella of "atmospheric" firing. An important note is that there are few glazes that react well to this firing method, since the glazes are molten at peak temperature at which point you would suddenly be introducing a certain amount of soot. Hence, you must choose your clays carefully. I personally use a porcelain with about five percent Redart in it. (be warned, avoid scum by adding barium to the mixing water). Another favorite is any clay with Neumans red in it. But that's just my taste- any form of iron is going to be responsive. I would not add less than five percent, and take great care beyond fifteen for fear of dunting. Reduction cooling can be combined with wood, salt and soda, or executed in a kiln that burns a clean flame like natural gas (the color will be monochromatic but still within a different chroma). Another variation is to combine it with hydrogen reduction, or to crash-cool the kiln through the phase at which the glaze is molten and resume reduction after that point. Various members of our community are having fun with these experiments: feel free to contact me for further information. Another great information source is an interview with Simon Levin by Odin who runs the Anagama-West website. The podcast is available through I-tunes and is called The Firing Log. [careenstollceramics@gmail.com](mailto:careenstollceramics@gmail.com).

## OPPORTUNITIES

**CALL FOR ENTRIES:** "Feet of Clay," deadline Nov 15, show March 2012, juried and invitational show of shoes, accessories and fashion in the windows of Nordstrom's Flagship store in downtown Seattle during NCECA 2012. Application available by emailing Sandra Farmer or Liz Duarte at [nordstrominvitational@gmail.com](mailto:nordstrominvitational@gmail.com).

**K-12 CALL FOR ENTRIES:** NCECA will host The National K-12 Ceramics Exhibition at the Washington State Convention Center during the 2012 Conference in Seattle from March 28-30. Entries for this exhibition are scheduled to begin in early November 2011 and remain open until early January 2012 at <http://www.k12clay.org/>. Also the Bellevue Arts Museum has agreed to play host to a Seattle Regional K-12 Exhibition K-12 Ceramics Exhibition from February 17 and April 15, 2012. More details about eligibility and submission requirements will be forthcoming on the NCECA website, [www.nceca.net](http://www.nceca.net).

**CALL FOR ENTRIES:** "International Cup," deadline Nov 18, show Feb 2012, juried by Jayson Lawfer and Emily Schroeder, apply online at <http://theclaystudioofmissoula.submishmash.com/submit>. \$22 for 2 entries

**CALL FOR ENTRIES:** "19<sup>th</sup> Annual San Angelo Ceramic Competition," deadline Feb 1, 2012, show April-June, \$20 fee for 3 entries, jurors Garth Clark & Mark DelVecchio, San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts, [www.samfa.org](http://www.samfa.org).

**CALL FOR ENTRIES:** "5<sup>th</sup> International Teapot Tournament," deadline Dec 1, show Jan 2012, digital jury, \$45 fee, juror Cindi Strauss, contact Karen Cruce, 18 Hands Gallery & CAMEO, 249 W 19<sup>th</sup> St suite B, Houston TX 77008, [www.18handsgallery.com](http://www.18handsgallery.com).

**CALL FOR ENTRIES:** "8 Fluid Ounces," deadline Oct 28, show Jan-Feb, open to cups, digital jury, \$20 fee for 3 entries, juror Kristen Keiffer, contact Malia Krolak, Louisiana State University School of Art, 100 Lafayette St, Baton Rouge LA 70801, [www.glassellgallery.org](http://www.glassellgallery.org).

## WORKSHOPS LECTURES CONFERENCES

**WALLY SCHWAB:** Lecture and Workshop: at LBCC Benton Center in Corvallis. Wally is an iconic Oregon potter who has set the standard for wheel skills and brush work decoration. Since his MFA from Alfred University forty years ago, he has been the nucleus of many ceramics programs and offers an international apprenticeship through his studio. Fri Oct 21, Slide Lecture (free and open to the public), 788pm, BC204. Sat, Oct 22, ceramics demo \$35 lab fee, 10am-3:20pm, BC140. Contact the LBCC Benton Center at 541-757-8944 or register online at [www.linnbenton.edu](http://www.linnbenton.edu).

**JEFF OESTREICH:** "Plates, Platters and Beyond," Dec 6-7 at Central Oregon Community College in Bend. Slides & potluck Dec 5, 6:30pm. Workshop will include making of plates, platters and pots for daily use, also teabowls, pitchers and bowls. A majority of these wheel thrown pieces will be altered employing various techniques such as faceting, cut and join, darting and ribbing. We will discuss surface treatment and soda firing methods, also issues related to being a self-sustaining potter in modern times. Sponsored by Clay Guild of the Cascades, \$125. Contact Janet Matson, 541 633-3403, [janet.art@gmail.com](mailto:janet.art@gmail.com).

**The following workshops are at Hipbone Studio, 1847 E Burnside #104, Portland OR 97214, 503-358-0898, [hipbonejeff@hotmail.com](mailto:hipbonejeff@hotmail.com), <http://www.hipbonestudio.com>:**

Model Marathon: 9 models in 9 hours, Nov 6, 10am-7pm, \$40

*The following sessions are 1:30-5pm. \$40 per session or \$215 for all six:*

October 22: The Portrait: Facial Expression

November 5: The Hands: Visual Structure

November 19: The Hands: Expression

December 3: The Feet: Visual Structure

*The following sessions are 1-5pm. \$45 per session or \$80 for two:*

November 13: The Arms: Visual Structure and Expression

December 3: The Legs: Visual Structure and Expression

**NCECA 2012** will be March 28-31 in Seattle. Check their website, [www.NCECA.net](http://www.NCECA.net) for information about the conference and accommodations. There will be a variety of pre- and post-conference events, including a woodfiring at Michael McCullough's, near Seattle March 25-26 & 31, [Michael@mcculloughceramics.com](mailto:Michael@mcculloughceramics.com), (206) 932 7153.

There also may be a pre- or post conference workshop at Mount Hood Community College. More info on that later.

**OREGON POTTERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER:** Established in 1980, this newsletter is sent to OPA members, educational institutions and ceramic related businesses. It is published in February, April, June, August, October and December. Submissions should be sent, in writing, to Janet Buskirk, OPA Newsletter Editor, 4614 SE Salmon St, Portland OR 97215 or [janetbuskirk@gmail.com](mailto:janetbuskirk@gmail.com). Both editorial and advertising submissions are free of charge and will be published at the discretion of the editor. Submissions are due on the 10th of the month during which the Newsletter will be published. Changes of address or email address should be sent to Kris Paul, Membership Chair, [Kris@KrisPaulCeramics.com](mailto:Kris@KrisPaulCeramics.com). 15868 SW Kimball Ave, Lake Oswego OR 97035. Membership in the OPA, a 501(c)(3) organization, is open to any serious studio potter, or two potters working as a 100% collaborative team, living in Oregon or southwest Washington. There is no jurying for membership, which costs \$45 per calendar year. Membership is not pro-rated, it is Jan- Dec, although you may join at any time. Membership includes 6 newsletters per year, 6 meetings per year, and the opportunity to apply for Ceramic Showcase. If you live over 100 miles from Portland and do not plan to use other membership benefits, you may subscribe to the newsletter only for \$12/ year. Please send a check, name, address, email and phone number(s) to OPA Treasurer, Julie Asbury, PO Box 351, Woodburn OR 97071.  
OPA President: Anne Stecker, 503-399-0590, [AnneStecker@comcast.net](mailto:AnneStecker@comcast.net)  
OPA President-Elect: Sarah Chenoweth, 503-558-8141, [checowa77@gmail.com](mailto:checowa77@gmail.com)  
OPA Secretary: Sarah Chenoweth, 503-558-8141, [checowa77@gmail.com](mailto:checowa77@gmail.com)  
Ceramic Showcase Chair: Margaret Synan-Russell, 503-775-1164, [MargSynan@gmail.com](mailto:MargSynan@gmail.com)  
Ceramic Showcase Co-Chair: Kris Paul, 503-344-6213, [Kris@KrisPaulCeramics.com](mailto:Kris@KrisPaulCeramics.com)  
Ceramic Showcase Secretary: Jamie Anderson, 503-747-6180, [jamie.anderson.ceramics@gmail.com](mailto:jamie.anderson.ceramics@gmail.com)  
OPA & Showcase Treasurer: Julie Asbury, 503-982-6946, [jasbury@ipns.com](mailto:jasbury@ipns.com)

Oregon Potters Association  
4614 SE Salmon St  
Portland OR 97215  
503-222-0533  
[www.oregonpotters.org](http://www.oregonpotters.org)  
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