

# Fired Up Studios™

## Member Newsletter

Winter 2009

### 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Preview Party

**Friday, December 4: 5 to 9 p.m.**

Have you signed up for this year's Holiday Sale? Sign-up ran through October 31, but if you haven't signed up and are interested in participating, talk to Beth or Patty and we will do our best to find you a display space.

For those who are participating please remember the following set-up details:

Your gallery spaces will be ready for you to fill with new work on Friday, October 30. We ask everyone participating to set-up their work in the gallery between **Friday, October 30 and Monday, November 2**. We will start giving away and filling any gallery spaces that remain empty after Monday, November 2. If you cannot set up your work that weekend, please call us and make other arrangements.

For artists that request additional space on the over-flow shelves in the main studio. You will need to bring your work in to set up on those shelves between **Friday, November 20 and Monday, November 23**. Again, we will start giving away and filling any shelves still open after Monday, November 23.

For those artists who decide to participate in our Silent Auction Fundraiser to benefit Central Asia Institute ([www.ikat.org](http://www.ikat.org)). Your donations should be delivered between **Friday, November 20 and Monday, November 23**. We will have a place for you to put your work and you will need to fill out a bid sheet when you drop it off. Remember you have a choice of donating 100% of the final bid amount, or take the normal gallery commission on the final bid (40% to CAI and 60% to you).

### Holiday Raffle

Raffle tickets are on sale NOW: \$1 each or 6 for \$5. The winner will be selected December 18 – just in time for Christmas.

Ernest Miller has generously donated one of his magnificent vases for our raffle, and funds raised from ticket sales will be split between the artist and Fired Up Studios.

### Holiday Sale Promotion

Our efforts to promote the Holiday Sale and Preview Party began in August. Here are a few of the things we are doing:

- We are working with a small PR firm to get listed in magazine and online calendars.
- We have made arrangements with Park Midway Bank to insert a flyer about the preview party in their November statements. This should go out to approximately 5,000 households and businesses

To truly make the Preview Party a success, we still need our membership to promote the event to your friends, family, and acquaintances. Even if you are not participating in the Holiday Sale, you can help your fellow members by distributing posters and postcards. Just drop by the office to pick some up.

### Holiday Kiln Schedule

With the Holidays just around the corner, our gas kiln can get very full, so don't wait until the last firing to get your work finished.

- The Last Firing before the Holiday Preview Party will be loaded on Mon, Nov 30
- The Last Firing before Christmas will be loaded on Mon, Dec 14.

We will add extra firings if they are needed to handle the volume, and we technically have a firing scheduled for Dec 22. However, we are closed Thursday, Dec 24 (Christmas Eve) so the office will not be open until after Christmas to pick up work if we fire on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Make sure you check our Twitter Feed (in the "Members Only" section of our website) for firing schedule changes. We will Tweet if we schedule extra firings, cancel a firing, and to let you know when the kiln is unloaded.

**Please note:** Staff illness, winter weather, and building maintenance can affect both our firing schedule and office hours. We do our best to keep this to a minimum, but please check the Twitter feed for last minute firing schedule changes.

## The Gallery Contest

**Don't forget about the Gallery Contest that we are running through the end of the year. You do not need to have work in the Gallery to participate in the contest.**

To help you get the word out about our gallery, we have created a coupon for \$5 off any gallery purchase that you can hand out to anyone you think might be interested. The coupons have a place for you to write your name, which helps customers remember who handed them the coupon so they can look for your work. We will keep each coupon returned and count them at the end of the year. There is no expiration date on the coupons; however, coupons redeemed after December 31, 2009 will not count toward the contest results.

The member who has the most coupons returned will receive a \$200 credit on their account. 2<sup>nd</sup> place will receive a \$100 credit, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place will receive a \$50 credit. To qualify for the 1<sup>st</sup> place credit, you must have at least 10 coupons used at Fired Up Studios between August 1 and December 31, 2009. To qualify for 2<sup>nd</sup> place, you must have at least 5 coupons used. If there is a tie, we will put the tied winners' coupons in a bowl and draw the winning name.

**Don't know who to give the coupons too?** Here are some ideas of where you can leave a stack of them to be picked up by anyone interested:

- Coffee Shops
- Hair Salons
- Grocery Stores
- Public Restrooms
- Your Office Break Room (or your significant other's office)

## Ceramic Grant Application Seminar

Thank you to everyone who attended our Ceramic Grant Application Seminar. We had a great turn-out, and we hope that everyone found it helpful. If you were unable to attend the seminar, but are interested in what was discussed, please email us. Patty would be happy to provide you with her notes from the seminar.

## Mark Your Calendars

We have scheduled Linda Christiansen to give a Guest Artist demonstration on Saturday, March 20, 2010 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. She will be giving throwing demonstrations and be available for questions. We will even have some of her work available for purchase in the Gallery. Space will be limited. Watch for more details on our website in January and in our Feb/March/April newsletter.

## Holiday Office Hours

Please take note of the following changes to our regular office hours for the holidays:

- Sat, Dec 5 – Wed, Dec 23: 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
7 days a week
- Thurs, Dec 24 – Sat, Dec 26: Closed
- Sun, Dec 27 – Tues, Dec 29: Noon – 3 p.m.
- Wed, Dec 30 – Fri, Jan 1: Closed
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Regular office hours (Noon – 5, 6 days a week, Closed Wed) resume on Sat, Jan 2.

If we have to close the office due to illness or winter weather, we will leave a message on the answering machine.

We know there is a planned building-wide power-outage in the near future, but we don't know when. We will post more information in the studio as soon as we have the details.

## Congratulations Peter!

Peter Jadoonath recently received the Red Wing Fellowship. This award, made possible by the Red Wing Collectors Society Foundation, is presented by Northern Clay Center to a deserving individual pursuing a career in pottery, or studying or researching the historical aspects of the pottery industry. Peter will have work on display at NCC in association with this award from Jan 15 – March 14, 2010.

## Clay Dates & Wheel Experience

Don't forget to tell your friends, family, & co-workers about our Clay Dates and Wheel Experience classes. These classes are a fun way for people who have never done pottery, to "give it a spin." These classes make great gifts.

## Friends at Fired Up

**Firing Friend Work:** We occasionally allow members to fire work that they have not created, but if you are interested in doing this, **you must ask management first.** We want to make sure that low fire clay does not get put in the gas kiln. We need to be confident that you are only bringing in cone 10 clay. We cannot fire someone's work if they do not know what cone their clay will fire to.

## Automatic Payment Options

Starting immediately, new members will no longer have the option of direct bank withdrawal for their automatic payments. We will be requiring either a credit card or debit card for automatic payments.

For those who have already signed up for automatic bank withdrawal, we will NOT require you to change your payment method at this time, but if you cancel your membership and later rejoin, you will not have the option of bank account withdrawals unless you use a debit card.

For our members who are not currently signed up for automatic payments, we are not requiring you to switch to automatic payments at this time, but we strongly encourage it. If you are interested in setting up automatic credit card or debit card payments, please stop in the office to get more details and sign up.

## Who should I ask?

Please keep in mind that our staff and monitors are also members at Fired Up Studios, and they value their studio time as much as you do and we ask you to respect that time. We have a sign in the office indicating who is on duty during our office hours. If you have a question or issue that needs attention, speak to the person on duty. If it is before or after our office hours, call and leave us a message or send us an email, and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

## Volunteer Opportunity

St. Joseph's Home for Children needs 1 or more people to coordinate their ceramic studios, mix slip and maintain molds, and fire the children's work in their kiln. You could choose your own hours, and decide whether or not you wanted to interact with the children, some of the staff members are knowledgeable about the process. St. Joseph's home would also be very open to any other artistic activities you might be able to offer these vulnerable and at-risk children. For more information, please call Mary Schultz at 612-827-9580.