

GLPG COMMITTEE REPORTS - FY 2022 - 2023

Sales Committee - Barb Hranilovich

In 2022 Guild Sales returned to All Saints Episcopal Church. For the Fall sale we purchased 6 new tables that will allow us to go without renting tables, a short-term expense with long-term benefits. Sales consistently average approximately 70% of total pots entered.

Our e-blast platform (Mail chimp) is no longer free, as we have exceeded the free number of newsletter recipients. \$26.50/month is the current cost. We have over 900 people on the mailing list. About 40% of our recipients open the e blasts (this is statistically a very good %).

We have tweaked the pots-per-day formula to try to find the fairest possible distribution for those with fewer and greater numbers of pots.

Handbook Committee - Barb Hranilovich

The information in the handbook has been updated as much possible, based on responses to request for updates from committee chairs and other responsible parties.

Paul Stokstad has standardized all formatting. He is printing the document for the hard-copy Red Notebook in the clean room, and preparing a file for posting on the Members page of the GLPG website. He has agreed to be the member of the Handbook committee (traditionally a one-person committee) for 2023/24.

Workshop Committee - Pamela Timmons

The Workshop Committee has re-awakened with two in-house workshops this past year. Each workshop featured demonstrations by two members, followed by lunch. Both were well received and the workshop committee is making plans for a fuller workshop program in the coming year.

Bisque Committee - Anne Szilagyi

The Catenary kiln was fired 3 times for bisque ware.
The Electric Kiln was fired 36 times for bisque ware.
The upper element in the electric kiln was replaced in November, 2022 as it had burned at the connection and failed.

A second electric kiln would be a good asset for the Guild as we are relying more and more on the one electric kiln we have. When it failed this past year, we had to shift to the catenary bisque which requires 3 times the ware, thus a longer wait time for bisque.

Finance Committee - Madhu Anderson

GLPG ended the year on sound financial footing, although we anticipate drawing down our capital savings significantly as the GLPG will build two new kilns during the next fiscal year. A review of the expenditures for FY 2022 was completed by the Finance Committee as required. Each month, the GLPG Board was provided a Treasurer's Report. Budgets for FY2024 and FY2025 were prepared and recommended to the GLPG Board. The Board approved the budget. (A copy of the FY2024 and FY2025 budget will be posted on the website)

The finance systems upgrade project has had made some progress, however, more work remains. The Treasurer will work with an outside accountant to complete the project this upcoming summer.

Notes for Guild Members:

Reminder - Process for Expense Reimbursements – Please take a photograph (jpeg) or make a pdf of your expense receipt and attach it to an email requesting reimbursement to glpgtreasurer@gmail.com. Do not leave any paper copies in the “black deposit box.” Thank you.

Reminder - Dues and Member Assessments – FY 2024 Dues and member assessments are now due. Please pay your dues using the Member Assessment worksheet) provided on the member section of the GLPG Website). Please get your completed Assessment Worksheet and your payment to the Treasurer by 15 May 2023.

Reminder - Clay Sales to Students – Class assistants should put cash/checks for clay purchases by students inside the envelope in the zip-lock bag located in the “black deposit box” on Madhu's shelf. There is a form for you to log the payment. Thank you. We may be upgrading to a non-cash/check system in the future.

Membership Committee - Liz Meyers and Margie Steinkamp

This past year, the committee helped usher through 4 new members; the last of our Covid era VPs, and 3 1st yr. VPs. Margie has been updating the committee forms and preparing them for posting on the GLPG website to make them easily accessible for future use.

We have sought to retain current members and to attract younger people, recognizing that they likely have jobs and families to attend to. Towards that goal, we have determined that being flexible is essential in engaging younger people in our VP program and to support them in working towards membership.

Should a liaison be unavailable for some period of time, we now insure that liaison support continues with an alternate potter serving in that role. As always, we encourage VPs to connect with the broader membership for education and support as well.

This has been successful overall, however, one of our VPs was not able to fit the Guild into his life at this time, despite attempts by this committee and several members to offer him flexible alternatives for participation. We are leaving the door open to him to try again when he thinks his life is more settled.

The Covid years required innovations within our VP process. We will be asking for feedback from our new members regarding their experience. We will also assess the ad hoc changes that we made in response to Covid to determine if some would work for us in the future while maintaining the Guilds solid foundation.

Community Outreach Committee - Liz Meyers

This year, some agency fund raisers became active again and requests for the Guilds participation increased along with that. We provided about 300 bowls to the Food Bank. Empty Bowls changed back to an in person format with a new venue (on the corner of Mich. ave and Fairview. Still owned by Troppo's. The restaurant is well suited to this event and people enjoyed being able to participate directly. It happened that Judy Labovitz was present and I encouraged her to be interviewed by a local TV crew that was on site. She loved it and did a nice job of relating the history of the project in Lansing. The Food Bank is continuing to conduct an online Empty bowl auction that coincides with the in person event. This was an innovation that they tried during Covid and find that it can still raise a significant amount of money for them. So saying, Sunny and I sort bowls for them with an eye towards unique bowls or sets that would generate those additional funds.

Food Bank did not provide T shirts this past year, which I did not know was going to happen. The Clayworks potters apparently had word of it and they looked great with matching Clayworks aprons. Their sale flyers were half page, in color so overall, they made a better presentation than we did: something for us to consider moving into Fall. In addition, we provided multiple boxes of seconds to the Brighton Church, a boxed donation of assorted pottery to the Lansing Symphony, a box of assorted pottery to the Children's Trust Fund for auction. Each of these donations included written information from the Guild; either notice for the next upcoming sale or at least some Guild business cards.

We hosted a Bowlathon this spring to get us started on Empty Bowls for the the coming fall. We threw 100 bowls. It was lots of fun w/ brunch included. We intend to host another this summer. Charlie Seebeck again organized a demonstration of throwing skills at Fenner Arboretum for the Apple Festival, and a crew of potters to demonstrate last May at the EL Arts Festival. This tends to be a small committee that coordinates activities fulfilling our 501c3 status. If you have a good idea for such an activity, we would be delighted to work with you to bring it to fruition.

Education Committee - Barb Sears

- The registration procedure was changed so that payment is now made within a week of the student being accepted into a class, rather than requiring a check to be submitted with the application.

- Covid-inspired precautions have been adjusted as the pandemic has receded. Although proof of vaccination is still required, masks were made optional in Jan 2023. Starting in the summer of 2023, students are allowed full access to the clean room and refrigerator. We are keeping in place the policy of limiting student access to the studio to scheduled lab hours.

- Students have been very appreciative of the double labs on Saturdays and the additional labs scheduled for the Sunday before the final class.

- Cost of classes: GLPG class fees and accessibility to studio time were compared to other pottery classes in the area. The Guild allows the most access to students at the least cost of all other options. After reviewing this information, the proposal went to the Board that class tuition fees be raised from \$265 to \$275 per term for 2023. In 2024, the class fee will be raised to \$300.

- Instructor salaries were raised from \$1000 for 10 classes to \$1,100. If an instructor has to arrange for a substitute, the salary is allocated at \$110 for each 3-hr class. To facilitate class clean-up, rinse pans were set up on the yellow table near the large slop buckets.

Display Committee - Wenfen Pan

There were total of four displays :
Bisque ware display from Guild collection.
Work of Audrey Tien and Ted Smith.
Work of Keith Bassar and Jo Richardson
Pots made by past presenters at Guild workshops.

Soda Committee - Barb Hyman and Wenfen Pan

We had four firings in the Soda Kiln over the last year,
Three of these were Soda firings
One was a Shino firing

We plan to make pots to test our soon to be built new kiln

We plan to make pots for another Shino firing which could be held before Donovan rebuilds the kiln If we can make enough pots to do so...or later in the summer

Grounds Committee - Tim Candy

It was just routine maintenance on the grounds last year.

Raku Committee - Tim Candy

We replaced several broken bricks and added insulation to the Raku kiln.
There were only a couple Raku class firings last year with mixed results (due to a burner obstruction, since resolved) and no member only firings.

As far as I can tell it's just Tim Sime and I doing this work now. Another involved member or VP on each of these committees would be welcomed.

Car Kiln Committee - Bill Guerin

After nearly 26 years of service, and having been fired nearly 600 times, the car kiln was fired for the last time on April 30, 2023, Even as the pots from this last firing were being purchased during the Guild's spring sale, the car kiln was undergoing demolition in preparation for a rebuild by the original builder, Donovan Palmquist.

As the main workhorse of the Guild's pot production, the car kiln, which was built for \$17,500 in 1997, generated nearly \$3 million in pottery sales over its lifetime. Of this, nearly \$600,000 in gross revenue for the Guild covered all sales expenses and helped fund major expenditures for the Guild including a new roof for the studio and clean room; new sinks and counter tops for the glaze room; a new floor in the foyer and clean room; a new roof and doors for the kiln room; the installation of central air conditioning, a new high-efficiency furnace, and LED lighting throughout the studio; and the purchase of several new wheels and a new electric kiln. The kiln was also key in supporting the Guild's education program with nearly 1/4 of its firings dedicated to the production of student pots.

Following a drastic reduction in kiln activity during Covid, the car kiln was back to about the same level of use as before the pandemic with close to 20 firings in past fiscal year (estimate, due to discard of kiln calendar for 2022). As is past years, participation in kiln production jobs was widespread among members and VPs.

The car kiln is now in the process of being rebuilt with the same footprint, but some significant new features include more efficient insulating brick, a more efficient forced-air burner system, and a center-hinged, swinging door system for easier access to the car and a more durable seal to the kiln's face. This rebuild, and the rebuild of the soda kiln and re-plumbing of the catenary arch kiln have been made possible in part by matching grants obtained through the efforts of the Long-Term Planning Committee.

After taking over for Gert Sadoff 23 years ago, I will be stepping down as chair of the car-kiln committee with the beginning of the new fiscal year. I wish to thank all who have helped in the kiln's operation over that time, and especially those who have provided constant support including Wenfen, Charlie, Margie and Anne.

Long Term Planning Committee - Bill Guerin

The Long-Term Planning Committee achieved a major, long-standing goal in the past year – the start of the rebuilding of both the car kiln and the soda kiln. The committee initially had obtained approval from the Board to engage Master Kiln Builders to rebuild the car kiln when an opportunity to apply for a matching grant from the State of Michigan Arts and Culture Council became a possibility. If we could get a match of the money set aside for the car kiln rebuild, we would be able to afford to rebuild the soda kiln as well. Under the leadership of Barb Hranilovich, the committee (Bill Guerin, Barb Sears and Mike Hamm) wrote a strong proposal under a tight timeline and met the June 1 submission deadline. There were 128 applications for

Capital Improvement grants with a maximum funding level of 70%. We received a score of 89 on our application for an award level of 40% or \$13,144. A score of 90 would have resulted in a 60% award level but the reviewers frowned on the lack of itemization in our project budget and our inability to demonstrate a commitment to diversity at the board and membership levels. Still, we were happy to receive this funding as there were dozens of applicants that received no award whatsoever.

A major condition of the award is that it be completed by the end of September, 2023. After repeated false starts and delays, a firm commitment and signed contract from Donovan Palmquist was obtained in early January of this year. Although work was to have begun months ago, we are now well on our way to having a new car kiln.

Towards the end of 2022, an additional funding opportunity from the Capital Region Community Foundation became available and with a simple application put together by Barb and Bill, an award of \$7500 was obtained to help in the rebuild of the soda kiln. The project is to be completed before the end of the 2023 calendar year and Master Kiln Builders has committed to completing this project within the specified time frame.

Along with the two kiln rebuilds, we have also contracted Master Kiln Builders to upgrade and reconfigure the burner system on the catenary arch kiln. This will clear up enough space in the back of the kiln room to make room for a second electric kiln sometime in the future. All told, these projects will complete Phase 1 of the plan outlined in the "Greening of the Guild" document produced by the committee in 2021.

Glaze Committee - Debbie Cole

The Glaze Committee met this year for a discussion/work session. No changes were made to mixing assignments or batch glaze status other than that required by VP needs. We discussed the potential need to tweak some recipes, update the glaze-use tip file, after the kiln has been rebuilt. No changes were in order at this time due to the upcoming kiln rebuild project. We replaced batch glaze bucket labels and cleaned everything under our purview.