



# The Slip Trail

The Newsletter of New Mexico Potters & Clay Artists | www.nmpotters.org | P.O. Box 26811 Albuquerque, NM 87125

March 2009

## New Mexico Potters & Clay Artists

*"..to promote excellence and creativity in the clay arts, and to further their understanding and appreciation throughout New Mexico...."*

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### *from the editor.....*

*The response to our "going green" with The Slip Trail seems to have been very positive. Our members appreciate the quick delivery and the full-color presentation. We avoided consuming 1800 sheets of paper and ended up with a financial savings. I personally found it a little bit of a difficult change simply because I was in the habit of having a printed version to carry around and read in my spare time. And it was so neatly folded and stapled. So far, however, it seems that it was just a habit, one that emphasized my resistance to change. I can keep my printer filled with ink and print the parts that I want to take with me. Like the newspaper, there are parts of the publication that you read once and don't need to keep around versus those you want to keep with you for a while. I'll still be saving paper!*

**Phil Green**

## ***Fanning the Flame VIII: Fahrenheit 451***

*by Betsy Williams*

Read any good books lately? Chances are if you're reading books about craft, you'll come across two main categories: well-written books whose authors, at some point, express despair about the dearth of well-written books on craft, or poorly written books whose authors seem joyfully oblivious to the effect of their writing on us, their unfortunate readers.

But many artists, myself included, love books. A recent visit to Marfa, Texas, that oasis of minimalism right smack in the middle of small town America, drove this point home. A tour of Donald Judd's living compound in the heart of Marfa included entry into his library. A sacred seeming space, the library was arranged according to some bizarre system that the tour guide tried, with limited success, to explain to us. Looking through these rows and rows and rows of books I understood what a connection we artists can have with books. As Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "One must be an inventor to read well....There is then creative reading as well as creative writing."

In a footnote to his essay "Crafts is Art," John Perrault (see the book *Objects and Meaning*) writes "How does one go about learning how to write about craft? First, learn how to write. But if you are not passionate about craft, even that won't help." I think he's got something here. And I would go one step further: Read.

With this said, I'd like to ask each of you to send me a list of one or more books - about art and/or craft and/or pottery in particular - that you really like. If a particular magazine article or poem seems important to you, let me know about it too. I am interested in compiling a list for our membership, which will appear in the next *Fanning the Flame*. (These books and articles would be essays or narratives, rather than how-to's or photos.) Please e-mail your faves to me at [riftdgallery@yahoo.com](mailto:riftdgallery@yahoo.com). Some notes on why you include each title are encouraged.

Are you interested in joining an ART reading group? Please contact Carolyn Lobeck at (505) 689-2333 or [clobeck26@gmail.com](mailto:clobeck26@gmail.com).

And remember, no matter what happens with the economy, a library card is free.

## ***NMPCA Membership Coordinator Position??***

*from the editor*

Betsy Williams has been our Membership Coordinator for several years now and has done an excellent job. Of course, at the same time, she has been doing her pottery full-time and opening/running the Rift Gallery in Rinconada, near Dixon. She would love to have a volunteer take over Membership. The job requires one to keep up with the current membership, address changes, etc. and to submit information to the Slip Trail Editor for all new members. (see "Welcome New Members" in previous issues of the "Trail.") The only "crunch time" is at the turn of the year when membership renewals take place and the rolls have to be carefully updated. The rewarding part of the job is that you can be a member of the NMPCA board and you have the first-hand information on the new members joining our organization. I think you would find it inspiring to see the interest and growth of NMPCA!!

**Letter from NMPCA President,  
Richard Mausolf**

Wow, here it is the first of March already. By now I'm sure that most of you have noticed that NMPCA has under gone some changes. We hope that these changes are working for the best. The two biggest changes are the way we receive The Slip Trails and our distribution of e-mail's. The Slip Trail seems to have been a smooth transition. The e-news on the other hand has not gone as smoothly. We have a new e-news coordinator, and with this change came a whole new system and address. Please send your information to [enews@nmpotters.org](mailto:enews@nmpotters.org), or [sws@mountaincomm.us](mailto:sws@mountaincomm.us) The previous coordinator was running the program through her e-mail program which is no longer an option. This change has been frustrating for the new coordinator and some of our members. We know that some members are not getting the e-news due to system limitations. However we are not able to narrow down who is not receiving them. We are currently looking at other system options that may better fit our needs. Also please remember when sending things in for e-news to include all pertinent information, especially contact info, and what your area code is now that the state has more than one area code. This will help to ensure a timely distribution, and give fellow members as much information as possible in a reasonably sized e-mail.

The board is also looking for new members. This is an opportunity to help shape and lead the organization into the future. One special need that we currently have is for a treasurer. If you feel you have something that you can offer the organization please contact me, or any other board member.

**Richard**

***Welcome New Members***  
***MEMBERSHIP UPDATE as of February 11, 2009***

*A sincere thank you to all of you who have renewed your membership. And thanks to all the Board members who pitched in and made a few phone calls to members after the renewal deadline. We're happy y'all decided to continue your membership. In this new year, we also welcome a strong showing of new members:*

*Welcome to **Patricia Cohen, Johanna & Will DeMay, and Lenny Krosinsky** of Albuquerque, **Nancy Diehl** of Peralta, **Barry Slavin** of Santa Fe, and **Alfred Winter** of Las Vegas. We're also proud to have **Liz Hunt**, who teaches at the Community College in Santa Fe, among us. **Jim Romberg** ([www.jimromberg.com](http://www.jimromberg.com)) of Abiquiu also joins our group.*

*In the next issue, as soon as I can round up the last few members' renewal dues, I'll be submitting the complete membership list for newsletter publication. You'll be able to look up your colleagues in this directory.*

*Membership in NMPCA is \$25. Judy Nelson-Moore is generously continuing to offer you the option of a Virtual Studio Tour page for an additional \$15 per year. If you have any questions, contact me or one of the board members (shown in the newsletter). Please send your payment to me at PO Box 518, Dixon, NM 87527.*

***Betsy Williams***

**The Slip Trail**

**The newsletter of the New Mexico  
Potters & Clay Artists**

Published bi-monthly; submission deadline:  
**first day of prior month**

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# call for entries

## celebration of

# clay

2009



sponsored by the **NEW MEXICO POTTERS & CLAY ARTISTS**

As a member of the New Mexico Potters & Clay Artists, you are invited to participate in an all member, non-juried exhibit! This will be an opportunity for us to feature the breadth and depth of artwork created by our members.

**Deadline for Entry Forms - May 4, 2009**

**Opening Reception June 5, 2009**

**Exhibit dates: June 5 - June 27, 2009**

The exhibit will be held at:

**ARTS ALLIANCE GALLERY**

Courtyard Shopping Center, Suite 10  
1100 San Mateo, Albuquerque, NM 87110

**AWARDS:**

**Best of Show: \$150 • Three Honorable Mentions: \$50 each**

**Arita Porcelain Association Award for Beauty, Quality & Functionality Award: \$100**

**Harnack/Lancaster Award for Excellence and Innovation in the Ceramic Arts: \$200**

**ELIGIBILITY**

All members of New Mexico Potters & Clay Artists are eligible. If you are not a member of NMPCA and would like to participate, **please include a \$10 check for mid-year membership\*** dues in addition to Entry Fee. **Student mid-year membership is \$5.** *Each member will be permitted to enter up to two pieces.* There are no restrictions imposed on submissions. You are encouraged to enter your best work!

**ENTRY FEE:**

**One submission is \$20; Two are \$30.** Fees will be used toward expenses for gallery rental, publicity, opening reception and awards. Entry Fee must accompany entry form.

**SALES**

We prefer submissions be for sale. If you do not wish to sell your pieces, be sure to indicate NFS on the entry form. PLEASE NOTE: If your piece is not for sale, indicate the value of your work. Sale checks will be made payable directly to the artist. *There will be a 15% sales commission.*

**AWARDS**

Three \$50 Honorable Mentions, \$100 UNM Arita Assn. Award for Beauty, Quality & Functionality, \$150 Best of Show, \$200 Harnack/Lancaster Award for Excellence & Innovation in Ceramic Art. A jury will select the award-winning pieces and the winners will be announced at the opening reception.

**DEADLINE FOR ENTRY**

**Entry forms and fees must be post-marked no later than Thursday, May 4.** Be sure to complete both copies of the entry information for each piece. **Keep one copy to attach to your artwork!**

**DELIVERY OF WORK**

**Work must be delivered—not shipped—to the Arts Alliance Gallery, Tuesday, June 2, and Wednesday, June 3, from 2 to 4pm.** At the exhibit end, please **pick up your work on Saturday, June 27th, or Sunday, June 28th, from 10am to 1pm.** *If entry has multiple pieces, please include a photo or diagram to explain set-up.*

**BIO INFORMATION**

Please include a one-page bio/artist statement when you deliver your pieces. This will be placed in a display notebook so be sure to include contact information (phone, email and web site). Or email your bio/artist statement to: goldensage@comcast.net

**OPENING RECEPTION**

The opening reception will be **Friday, June 5 from 5 to 8 pm.**

**WHAT'S NEW THIS YEAR**

This year we are asking for volunteers to work a Saturday shift. Saturday hours will be from 10am until 4pm. Shifts will be for 3 hours. We will have two people there at all times. Please indicate on the entry form which volunteer duty you are interested in helping us staff!

**Questions?**

Please contact either: Elizabeth Donsbach edonsbach@gmail.com - 505-345-1423 or Melanie Wegner - goldensage@comcast.net 505-343-9546

Please return below form to: **NMPCA • PO BOX 26811 • Albuquerque, NM 87125**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone - Day: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Evening: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email/web address: \_\_\_\_\_

ENCLOSED: Entry Fee \$ _____	Membership* \$ _____
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

Please fill out and return the below entry form with your fee. Attach the second set to your artwork!

**ENTRY #1**

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Artist Name \_\_\_\_\_

Clay, Firing technique, cone, etc \_\_\_\_\_

Price or NFS/value \_\_\_\_\_

**ENTRY #2**

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Artist Name \_\_\_\_\_

Clay, Firing technique, cone, etc \_\_\_\_\_

Price or NFS/value \_\_\_\_\_

**ENTRY #1**

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Artist Name \_\_\_\_\_

Clay, Firing technique, cone, etc \_\_\_\_\_

Price or NFS/value \_\_\_\_\_

**ENTRY #2**

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Artist Name \_\_\_\_\_

Clay, Firing technique, cone, etc \_\_\_\_\_

Price or NFS/value \_\_\_\_\_

**VOLUNTEER** In order to make this exhibit a success we need a few minutes of your time. Please volunteer for one of the following:

- Assist with check-in, of artwork at the Arts Alliance Gallery, 6/2/09 or 6/3/09 2pm - 4pm
- Pedestal painting 6/2/09 2pm - 4pm
- Reception set-up 6/5/08 4pm - 6pm
- Clean-up after reception 6/5/08 7pm - 9pm
- Assist with pick-up of artwork on \_\_\_6/27/09 or \_\_\_6/28/09, 10am - 1pm

**SATURDAY SHIFT:**

- 10am - 1pm Date: \_\_\_\_\_
- 1pm - 4pm Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Dates needed: Sat. June 6, June 13, June 20**

**D'Alessandro Sculpture at Matrix Fine Art**

Member Sara Lee D'Alessandro will be showing new sculpture at Matrix Fine Art. "Paintings by Frank McCulloch and Terra Cotta by Sara Lee D'Alessandro." Opening is First Friday Arts Crawl, March 6 from 5-8pm. There will be a talk given by the sculptor Saturday, March 21 at 1 pm "The Quiddity of Clay and the Transitional Image". Hope to see members there.

**Sang Roberson's art at Ocean Center, Florida**

Sang Roberson, Taos, has had three of her terra cotta pieces selected by the Florida Art in Public Places program for the Ocean Center, Daytona Beach, Florida, a multi-use center comprised of 200,000 square feet of interior meeting space. Works selected include two box forms and one open basket form, all burnished w/terra sigillata, pit-fired, and leafed with silver and palladium leaf.

**News from NMPCA member Heidi Loewen**

Heidi Loewen completed a full day filming for Korean Airlines where she taught a darling famous Korean actor to throw porcelain on the wheel. Luckily, it was taught mostly in English with lots of hand motions. A most lovely crew of 26 from Korea!

Poqueen Rivera, age 16, is taking private classes from Heidi Loewen Porcelain. Miss Rivera received a \$2,000 art scholarship for her excellence in wheel work and continued art exploration, (from publisher, Gary Liggan of the new Northern New Mexico Art Catalogue.)



Heidi Loewen continues to teach privately to people from all over the world in her new gallery on Johnson, down the road from the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum. She just completed a show in January in Paris, France called "Maison des Objets."

Heidi Loewen Porcelain, 315 Johnson Street  
Santa Fe, NM 87501, Cell: 505-660-4585  
[www.HeidiLoewen.com](http://www.HeidiLoewen.com), [heidiloewen@yahoo.com](mailto:heidiloewen@yahoo.com)

**Taos Empty Bowls Fundraiser**

Donate a Bowl - and Mark your calendar! St. James Food Pantry is planning their 2nd annual fundraiser "Empty Bowls" to be held at St. James Parish Hall Saturday, April 18, from 12:00 noon - 2:00 p.m.

We are currently soliciting potters to donate bowls to this fun and productive event. 100% of the money raised will go to our Food Pantry. We had about 250 people attend last year, raised \$6,000 and hope to do even better this year.

Plan to join the fun event! Tickets for Empty Bowls will be \$20 and will again include: Soup, bread, hand-made bowl of the attendees' choice, drink & dessert - AND CONTACT INFORMATION ON THE DONATING POTTERS. This year our goal is to offer more than 300 bowls.

The event will include a Raffle of distinctive items - tickets @ \$1.00 each, or 6 for \$5.00, and a great Silent Auction with some impressive pottery, art, gift certificates and more. 100% of the money raised will go to our Food Pantry. Our Food Pantry is now giving groceries to about 350 people PER WEEK, so your help would be greatly appreciated.

Please let us know if you can help - bowls are due at St. James by April 10. You may contact any of the following to have your donation picked up, or drop them off at St. James Episcopal Church, corner of Gusdorf and Camino de Santiago in Taos (575-758-2790) Monday thru Thursday, 9am-4pm.

**Contact information:**

- Sylvia Dobbs - [planoslim@aol.com](mailto:planoslim@aol.com)
- Suzy Heald - [healdoftaos@msn.com](mailto:healdoftaos@msn.com)
- Janet Scott - [jmccott@aol.com](mailto:jmccott@aol.com),
- Ruth Hand - [ruthhand@gmail.com](mailto:ruthhand@gmail.com),
- Marilyn Farrow - [mbfarrow@qwest.net](mailto:mbfarrow@qwest.net),
- Julia Jiron - 758-3995;
- Judy Standridge - [judystandridge@gmail.com](mailto:judystandridge@gmail.com);
- Judy Butcher - [judybutcher@taosnet.com](mailto:judybutcher@taosnet.com).

Many thanks - Marilyn Farrow, 1015 Paseo Bufalo, Taos, NM 87571, 575-758-7276

**Editor's note:** I have requested bio information from NMPCA members frequently in the Slip Trail. Including two or three member introductions per issue allows us to slowly but surely become familiar with the membership across the state. The response has been very low so I have taken the liberty of using information gotten through other venues to provide some introductions to members. The next page provides information about member Abby Salisbury, gleaned from her newsletter. I hope you will be encouraged to send information about your ceramic activities and background along with a few pictures. We are inspired when we see what others in our organization are doing.

## Lia Rosen – Albuquerque Ceramic Artist

by Blake Driver – reprinted from IQ Magazine, April '08



Standing in front of an unassuming two-car garage in a quiet neighborhood in Trumbull Park, it's hard to imagine that behind one of the closed garage doors is the home studio of celebrated ceramicist Lia Rosen. As prayer flags flutter peacefully under the porch awning next to the garage, the petite Rosen, with her short, salt and

pepper coiffure, gets off her bike and opens one of the doors for me.

I do the limbo under the door as it only opens halfway and lean my bike against boxes of New Mexico clay stacked high along one of the walls. This half of the garage is, well, just a garage, but when she leads me through the plastic curtain covering the doorway between the two halves, I enter another dimension, and suddenly I feel like a giant; either because Rosen is a good foot shorter than me or I've just entered a tiny space where big things happen.

"Welcome to my studio," she says with a proud smile.



This is where Rosen, just this year, created four painted award plates that were commissioned by the Anti-Defamation League. One of the awards, the Distinguished Public Service Award, was presented to Mayor Martin Chavez. High up on one of the walls in her studio is an unframed, 8 by 10-inch color photograph of Rosen and a smiling Chavez holding the award. The photograph is almost lost in the sea of artwork that covers every square inch of already limited wall space, most of which was done by many children she has instructed in public schools around the state over the last few years.

"I've never been on the cutting-edge," Rosen states simply. "I'm always more interested in the work I do in the community than in having my own pieces reviewed. I want

to find that one child or person in the community who feels isolated by their creativity and put them in a group with other creators."

As a traditional folk-artist, connecting people and the past is at the heart of Rosen's work. Even her hand-shaped logo suggests the Jewish-Arabic hamsa that both cultures have shared for centuries. And another profound image on her studio walls is a black and white poster of famed master ceramicist Marguerite Wildenhain, operating the kick-wheel like a graceful ballerina. As a high school student in the Midwest, Rosen attended summer programs at Decorah, Iowa's South Bear School, with Dean Schwarz, one of Wildenhain's students, and thus became a part of a profound legacy of potters.



"Dean was all about passing down knowledge, and I think it's important to continue that (practice)," Rosen stated. "If you think in terms of mastery – which many artists don't anymore – an artist is first an apprentice, then a journeyman, and finally a master. But I think only when artists understand traditional methods and then use them to create something new, are they considered masters."

But Rosen is little concerned with mastery. Teaching others traditional pottery techniques such as clay digging, hand building, and outdoor firing is more about introducing them to what is right under their noses, especially given New Mexico's rich pottery tradition.

"In Minnesota, you don't trip over ancient pottery shards every day. In New Mexico, you do," she says with a mystic gleam in her eye.

After leaving the Midwest, she eventually came here to study traditional Native American methods in pottery design, focusing on the ancestral techniques of the Mimbres people, and studying under renowned art history pioneer J. J. Brody of the University of New Mexico.

"I get the sense that people in the Southwest sometimes feel overwhelmed with the (tourist) focus on Native American art," she says, "but the commitment and skill it takes to execute the traditional, fine-line black-on-white designs are still competitive with contemporary painting techniques. I look at a pottery shard from a thousand years ago and think, 'that is the math part of my brain.'"

## **Come on-Board!!**

The NMPCA Board, that is.....

The NMPCA board would love to have you come and participate. As a board member, you get to have some say in the activities, shows, workshops, and community projects our organization supports and sponsors. The board tries to have at least six meetings per year. With the high cost of travel now, we have more than half of our meetings by teleconference. Our informality coupled with focus makes the meetings very stimulating and enjoyable.

Our **SPECIAL NEED** right now is someone who likes to work with numbers as well as with clay. Our current treasurer, Barbara Seiler, has done a great job but is ready to pass the task along to someone new. If you might consider becoming treasurer, you are invited to contact Barbara for more details of the duties.

Barbara Seiler, [Pyxart9@aol.com](mailto:Pyxart9@aol.com), 505-466-4767

We hope you will consider serving on the board. Terms are for three years. You can get all of your questions answered by calling any of the current board members. Phone numbers and emails are on page 2.

### **New Mexico Potters & Clay Artists - Board Meeting Minutes**

February 3, 2009 - Teleconference

**Present:** Richard Mausolf, Linda Kastner, Tarry Pesola, Barbara Seiler, Phil Green, Judy Nelson-Moore, Teresa Tunick, Nikki Dennison, Cindy Lux, Kris Thacher, Michael Thornton

**Secretary's Report:** Meeting Minutes for December 7, 2008 were approved via email and are already in the Slip Trail.

**Treasurer's Report:** Approved

**Old Business:**

1. Bill Armstrong Grant: Daisy Kates has received four proposals. She and Penne Roberts will do site visits and then make recommendations to the Board, hopefully by the March board meeting.
2. Board is looking for up to three new Board members including a new Treasurer by the annual meeting in June. Phil will do an announcement for the next Slip Trail.
3. Outreach Committee: Will put out a call in Slip Trail for local groups to respond to our email address of their existence. Announcement will emphasize the perks of participation. Several ideas were brainstormed.
4. Slip Trail: There has been little feedback on going Green. There has been a financial savings.
5. A list of the Board member's terms was finally compiled.
6. Ghost Ranch: The August workshop will be with a potter from Mata Ortiz,
7. Mexico.

**Regions:** Santa Fe Contemporary Clay Fair applications have gone out for April.

**New Business:**

1. Email manager is now Lesley Mausolf. She is getting a new host to resolve problems.
2. Barbara Campbell reports that Ghost Ranch has subscribed to NCECA and will have a booth in Phoenix on April 8-11. The Ranch received a \$10,000 donation for Pot Hollow. Barbara has presented a priority list to the Director. NMPCA will have a handout at this booth.
3. The Annual Meeting will be Sunday, June 14, 2009, at noon, at Cindy Lux's in Galisteo.
4. The "renew membership" drawing was won by Kathy Cyman and Tony Bolten.

**Next Meeting:** Sunday, March 29, 2009, at noon, at Nikki Dennison's in Albuquerque.

*Tarry Pesola*, Secretary

## Classifieds

### ***Studio Space for rent – East Mountains***

Studio Space Available to Rent, East Mountains east of Sandia Park about 6 miles near Mountain Valley Road and Frost Road, brand new Building, very light and clean, great views of the mountains, south facing windows for great light, nice quiet space. Not open to the public.. Have your own key and access to equipment. \$100 per month. Call Irene @ 286-1145

### ***Pottery Display Pedestals for sale in Santa Fe***

I work at Santa Fe Pottery on Tuesdays and Fridays. As you may know, it was purchased some years ago by the woman who owns Doubletake. Suzanne has now decided that she wants to sell the gallery pedestals that were in the Pottery. These are in good shape structurally, but definitely need a paint job. We have all sizes and would be good for anyone who has a gallery or just wants to have their work displayed on them. We are selling them very inexpensively - \$15 and up depending on size. People should call me on either Tues or

Fridays at 505-989-3363 if they have questions or want to arrange to see them. Thank you!

Sally Stark

### ***Lower prices on Clay at New Mexico Clay***

Due to falling freight rates and diesel prices we have been able to reduce the prices of our clay bodies. (Ours and Laguna's) see [www.nmclay.com/price.pdf](http://www.nmclay.com/price.pdf) for a new price list. See [www.nmclay.com/desc.pdf](http://www.nmclay.com/desc.pdf) for NMclay's clay descriptions.

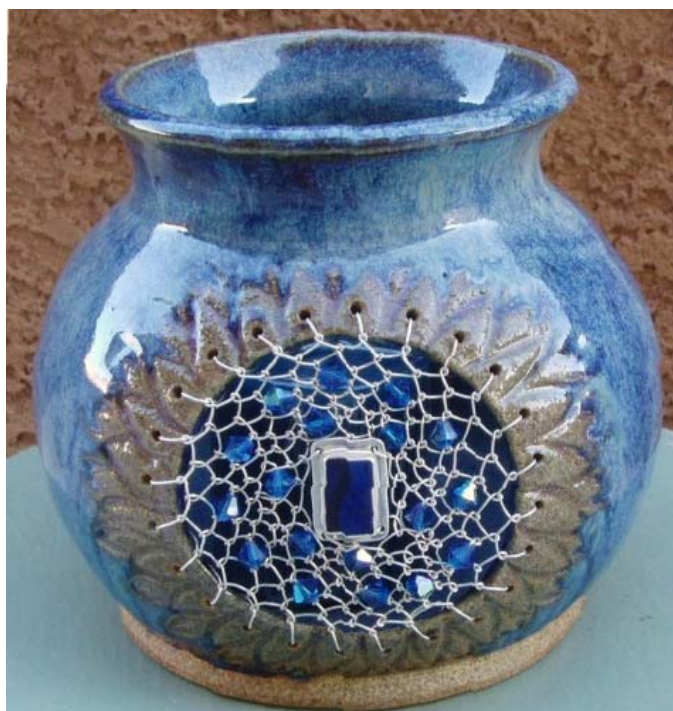
Brant Palley, New Mexico Clay

### ***Two Kilns For Sale....***

Roger & Sandra Harrington have two kilns for sale: 1) Skutt 1018 with kiln sitter. Cone 8. This is the easy loader, which is lower and wider than most Skutts. \$500  
2) Carole Suzanne Fiber Kiln, converted to gas. Cone 10. \$300. Both are in Taos. Sandra Harrington 505.515.8583 (mobile).

***New Mexico Potters and Clay Artists  
PO Box 26811 Albuquerque, NM  
87125***

Presorted STD  
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Albuquerque, NM  
Permit No. 1893



### **Dream Pot**

by NMPCA Member Michele Chisholm  
Her husband, Grey, is a jeweler and works with  
Michele to create the Dream weaving.

See Grey's work at  
<http://www.chisholmclan.com/fairwinds/index.html>