

# *Fired Up Studios*<sup>TM</sup>

## Member Newsletter

Winter 2008

### Annual Holiday Preview Party Friday, December 5 from 5 – 9 p.m.

Mark your calendars! Our annual Holiday Store Preview Party is coming. If you are interested in participating and have not signed up yet, please do so as soon as possible. Space is limited but we will try to get everyone involved who wants to be.

Here are the important dates and things to remember:

- The gallery spaces will be set up on Thursday, October 30. We would like everyone participating to bring work in over the following weekend (Friday, October 31 – Sunday, November 2). You can change out the work you have on display at anytime, but we do not want the gallery looking empty while we wait for you to bring in your work. If you can't bring work that weekend, please talk to us so we can make other arrangements.
- Remember not to pack your display too tightly. It will display better and be easier for customers to buy if work is easy to pick up. We have additional display space in the Main Studio if you do not have room for your work in the gallery. If you did not ask for additional space when you signed up and think you will need it, please let us know. Also, you can bring in more work as it sells.
- If you are planning to participate in the Silent Auction, please bring your auction piece when you come to set up your work in the gallery. We would like to have these available to display before the Preview Party.
- If you requested additional display space in the Main Studio, those shelves will be set up on Thursday, November 20. Again, please bring in your additional work that weekend (Friday, November 21 – Sunday, November 23). We do not want empty shelves.
- The office & main studio will be closed Thursday, December 4 while we get the studio ready for the Holiday Preview Party on Friday. We will be around, but we will be working on the party.
- The Holiday Preview Party is Friday, December 5 from 5 – 9 p.m. We often have customers coming to shop before we officially open. Please have your space full and ready to go before Friday.
- **Please note that the main studio will not be open for use on Thursday and Friday, December 4 – 5** because of the Holiday Preview Party. The space will be back in usable order on Saturday, December 6. We apologize for any inconvenience.

### Your Chance to Win!

We are excited to announce that we will be having a raffle at this year's Holiday Preview Party for one of **Steve Hemingway's pieces** (valued at \$900). Tickets will be sold for \$10 each and will go on sale as soon as we have his piece available for display (around Thanksgiving). The winner will be drawn during the Holiday Preview Party.

### Help us Get the Word Out

We need your help spreading the word about our Holiday Sale. Because finances have been tight this year, we are not spending any money on advertising. We have sent out a press release and are hoping the event will be picked up on local event calendars, but there is no guarantee that will happen. So we are depending on our mailing list and our members to bring in customers.

Whether you are participating in the sale or not, you can help us by hanging posters at your office or any other place you frequent. We also have postcards that you can leave out or mail to your friends and family. If you have a website or blog, please consider posting about our sale and linking back to our website for more details. You might also want to send a press release to your local neighborhood paper. We appreciate any thing you can think of to help spread the word.

### Firing Schedule

As we get closer to the Holidays, traditionally the amount of work for each firing increases. If additional firings are needed, we are prepared to add them to the schedule but don't wait until the last firing to get your work ready.

The last firing before the Holiday Preview Party is Tuesday, December 2, but that work will not be unloaded until the **day before** the Holiday Party. We strongly recommend having your work for the Holiday Sale ready before the last firing.

The last firing before Christmas is Tuesday, December 16. We do not have a firing scheduled for Tuesday, December 23 as it would not get out of the kiln before Christmas. Also, we do not typically have enough work to fire the kiln the week between Christmas and New Year's, and we do not have a firing scheduled for that week either. Weekly firings will resume on January 6.

## Beyond Beginners Pottery Classes

We will be offering our new Beyond Beginners Pottery Class with Steve Hemingway again in January. We think that this is an exciting opportunity for potters with basic skills who are looking for advanced instruction. The first night of class will be used to determine what will be covered. Although Steve will have an outline for the class, what he plans to cover will be flexible to meet the needs of the participants and their interests. The range of things covered could include lids, handles, surface decoration, throwing sectional pottery, and critiques of your work. This is your opportunity to get instruction on the things you want to know.

The class will meet each week for eight weeks on Thursday evenings from 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. starting January 15, 2009. Don't forget the Fired Up members receive a discount when taking the class. Members pay only \$125 instead of the \$230 cost for non-members.

## Holiday Office Hours

With the Holiday season approaching we have a few changes to our office hours to keep in mind.

- Thursday & Friday, November 27 & 28: We will be closed for Thanksgiving
- Thursday, December 4: We will be closed to set up for the Holiday Preview Party
- Saturday, December 6 – Tuesday, December 23: Our hours will be 11 a.m. – 6 p.m., 7 days a week
- Wednesday, December 24 – Thursday, December 26: We will be closed for Christmas
- Saturday, December 27 – Tuesday, December 30: We will have short office hours: Noon – 3 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 31 & Thursday, January 1: We will be closed for New Year's
- We will resume regular office hours (including being closed on Wednesday) on Friday, January 2.

## Newsletter Changes

Starting with this issue of our newsletter, we will be changing to a quarterly release. We are confident that we will be able to keep you informed about what is happening at Fired Up with the reduced number of issues. The new schedule for newsletters will be:

- Winter: November – January
- Spring: February – April
- Summer: May – July
- Fall: August – October (with a concentration on the Holiday Sale)

## Gallery Themes

We plan to continue our monthly themed display in the gallery into the New Year. In addition to giving us something new to display in the gallery, we arrange these themes to give our members ideas about what to make. For our members who have a difficult time thinking of "what" to make, the upcoming gallery display is our way of giving you something to work on if you need an idea. It is also a good excuse to experiment and try something new.

The upcoming display themes are:

- January: Bowls – Set-up by 01/08/09
- February: Valentine's Day inspired (red & white work) – Set-up by 02/05/09
- March: Pitchers and Pouring Vessels – Set-up by 03/05/09
- April: Blue Glazes – Set-up by 04/02/09

## Everything Has Its Place

We have been working to find homes for everything at Fired Up so that our members know where to find things and where to return them when they are done. This just helps us keep Fired Up looking neat and tidy. Spray bottles, fans, and phone books can be found underneath the large work tables in the studio. Two banding wheels are available on the shelf between the spray booths, and the rest of the banding wheels can be found under the tables with the spray bottles. Please help us keep Fired Up neat by returning these tools when you are finished with them.

## Member News

Congratulations to **Meg Molenda**! She recently got married, and has changed her name to Meg Lunos. We wish her and her husband the best.

**Ralph Nuara** is selling his work through the Wedge Co-op.

Former member, **Michelle Lund** and her husband Andrew, welcomed their first child into the world on September 2. Silas Ryan Lund weighed in at 8 lbs. 15 oz. and was 21 inches long.

Calling all members! We like hearing about the exciting and fun things in your life, and we like sharing your good news with our members. Please let us know if you have won any awards, found a new place to market your work, or have any happy news like weddings or births to share.

## Sell Your Work Online

For our members who are looking for new places and ways of selling their work, we have found out about three different sites for selling work online. Several of our members currently sell their work online through [www.etsy.com](http://www.etsy.com). Two other resources that reach different audiences are [www.artfulhome.com](http://www.artfulhome.com) and [www.wholesalecraft.com](http://www.wholesalecraft.com).

## Green tips

**Trash-free lunch** – If you carry your lunch to work, there's no need to produce even an ounce of paper trash. Go for reusable bags or a lunch bag, pack the individual goodies in sealable containers, and take the whole works home with you at day's end.

We have even provided dish soap by the sinks so you can wash up your dishes when you are done. Please just don't leave them in the sink soaking for someone else to clean up.