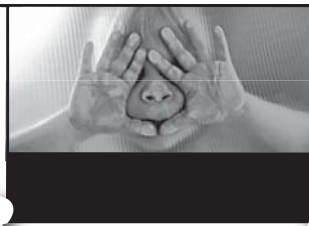


# STUDIO

# 1219



# windows

*If you are a star-gazer, a hope-raiser, an earth-shaker, a myth-maker, a wonder-seeker, a vision-speaker, a dreamer, a schemer... come in!*

**For Those  
Of You Who  
Play in Mud**



The Citizen's First Pottery Studio that is housed in Studio 1219 is a first-rate facility featuring two electric kilns, one gas kiln, and nine throwing wheels. There are a variety of classes being taught in the pottery studio throughout the year and these classes are listed on the Studio's web site: [www.studio1219.com](http://www.studio1219.com).

The teachers of these classes are all working artists with many years of experience.

Special groups are also welcome in the Pottery Studio, and classes can be tailored to meet the needs of the group. Pictured is potter, Celeste Skalnek, with Michele Kohler and her first grade class from St. Mary's School in Port Huron. Celeste is delivering the class's finished Christmas projects.

The group did hands-on work in the studio and each created a Christmas platter to give to his or her parents. Please contact Maureen Scallen for more details at 984-ARTS.

## Friends of 1219 Membership:

The Studio is now offering a "Friends" membership to those who are not a part of the artist's network, but would like to share our social events, our growing list of perks, and help promote local Arts and Culture. We find among our rank and file: musicians, art lovers, students, patrons, and supporters of the arts. There is something of interest for everyone at Studio 1219. The bigger our base, the bigger the pool of talent and creativity we have working with us and strengthening our team. The cost of membership for Friends of 1219 will be \$30.00. Yeah, Baby, but these are Friends with benefits:

- ❖ Quarterly Newsletter
- ❖ First to hear about events and shows
- ❖ Discount on matting and framing through Chuck Meeker
- ❖ Automatic Membership in Blue Water Arts Council
- ❖ Networking opportunities and members' only activities
- ❖ Be a key player in helping raise the profile of arts and culture in our community

## Artists' Network Membership:

The Artists' Network members will enjoy the benefits listed above as well as have the opportunity to display work in the galleries that has been juried-in. As we move forward, it will be important to keep an eye on quality and quantity. David Stoneberg, Gallery Director, is responsible for seeing to this difficult task. Since he has already demonstrated his artistic sensibilities, those of us who are in the network will have to work with him in keeping an open mind and a cooperative attitude. Artistic egos need to move aside in the spirit of trusting David's judgment.

## We Want You Back!

If you were a member of the Artist's network in the past, but have not renewed your membership, this newsletter is being sent to you for the sole purpose of tempting you to come back and visit the Studio and see its fresh new look—and perhaps that will entice you to either join Friends of 1219, or talk to David about Artist Network Membership. We want your face, your smile, your spirit, your hands to join ours—in fact, all of you is welcome, needed, and appreciated.

## Take Note: New Perks for Members

The owners of the Port Huron Fitness Center at the Thomas Edison Inn have not only generously donated a three month tanning and gym membership to our Annual Gala Event, they have also offered our members the opportunity for a two week free introductory membership. If we can get 8 more paid members, we will all get a monthly discount. The initiation fee is also waved. There is a full gym, a yummy, large pool with hot tub, classes, and the nicest group of people north of the Studio waiting there to answer your questions and help you with your fitness goals. Call Karen at 984-8811.

In addition, Chuck Meeker, who does amazing and creative custom matting and framing out of his home, will offer members a discount. Chuck has also agreed to oversee the matting studio that is in the basement of 1219. This room was cleaned and organized during the shut-down and is now ready for members to use. There is to be a small fee for use of this room, but at the moment, it has not been decided how this will work. So the room is open for business. Chuck is going to be offering a workshop to teach members how to use this equipment, share his expertise, and offer a hands-on learning opportunity. Anyone interested in this workshop, should call Maureen in the education department. Chuck can be reached at: 982-7492.



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### Contributors

Tara Russel	David Stoneberg
Carol Henry	Maureen Scallen
Patti Yunker	Deb Maxwell
Dave Rutkofske	Jody Parmann



Deb & her daughter, Hannah with Governor Granholm.

## Members' Kudos:

Grace Grogan, photographer, was named Photographer of the Year for Shutterbugs Camera Club. Grace scored the top number of points for the year's competitions. Congratulations to you, Grace.

Deb Maxwell's pit-fired vase was selected for installation in the residence of Governor Jennifer Granholm as part of the Governor's Residence Michigan Artist Program. Nearly 400 individual works were initially considered by selection committees involved with the program. Works by 31 artists have been installed. The vase will be on display in the residence through July 2008. Deb and her daughter, Hannah, are pictured here with the governor. Too cool!

Local photographers, LeeAnne and George McInnis's photos were featured on the cover and in the related article of a national magazine, *The Brass Bell*. This magazine's subscribers are antique Chris Craft owners. The featured story was on local boat, *Black Beauty*, owned by Rick and Dianne Laenen of St. Clair. Anyone who has seen *Black Beauty* cruising up the river will understand why this gorgeous boat would be chosen for such an article. If you would like to take a look at this cover, google: Brass Bell WoodyBoater, *Black Beauty*. Check out this blog for any information on classic wooden boats.



Cover shot by LeeAnne McInnis

Greg Lashbrook and Kathy Johnson's film, "Freshwater Focus: Beneath Port Huron's Blue Waters" premiered in November to a full house at McMorran auditorium and is available for purchase at Studio 1219. The DVD features Greg's underwater video work over the last few years. For anyone who wonders "What's down there," this DVD has the answer. The buzz is that this is an excellent film. Also, check out Greg's awesome painting on glass in the fine arts gallery at 1219.

Rhonda Johnson has had a busy year with pieces chosen for the 2007 Michigan Education Association's Annual Purchase Award in Lansing, as well as shows in Romeo and Saginaw. She also won first prize for the art contest that Main Street Port Huron had during the Coast Guard Days in August for her painting of Vantage Point. We applaud you, Rhonda!

(Your honors and media attention mentioned here- send info for next month's issue to: geolee1122@comcast.net.)

## Media & Promotions Committee: Old Dog, New Tricks

Our committee will be covering both media and promotions with the goal of significant improvement in these areas. We will know if what we are doing is working if we see and increased traffic at the gallery, in classes, and at our events. Under the media category, we will work on improving the web site with the long-term goal of offering items for sale from the gallery. This committee will need tech-savvy people to assist us with future improvements. A more immediate goal is to initiate a quarterly newsletter that...Voila! You are holding in your hands! The purpose of this newsletter will be to keep members up-to-date with what's happening, changes as they occur, opportunities to volunteer, and to serve as a vehicle for improved networking and collaboration. Anyone who would like to contribute to the newsletter is welcomed to become a committee member or submit ideas to: Deb Maxwell, LeeAnne McInnis, or David Stoneberg directly. See contact info at the bottom of this article. Another challenge for our committee was to supply content for a brochure for the Studio that will be placed with tourist information venues. We're happy to report completion of that goal. Look for the new brochure to appear soon.

The second area of concern for our committee is to improve promotion of events, classes, rental space for private functions, the gallery and gallery shows. This is going to call on those with great heart and great creativity as our budget is small. We need to improve our efforts in "getting the word out." We welcome ideas and/or those who have the desire to help us tackle this challenge. Specific needs for

our committee are: someone to help with newsletter distribution. We also need someone to help organize a mailing list. If you are willing to offer some time for these efforts, please contact one of us whose information is below.

During our first meeting that was held on January 23rd, we polished up the mission statement for Studio 1219 and narrowed down a list of taglines to two. We decided to use two taglines depending on the situation: Studio 1219: An Inspiring Place to Discover and Studio 1219: Your Inspiration Destination. The committee is currently working on putting together distribution lists for media outlets. One way we can "get the word out" cheaply is by using e-mail. Happy Note: Dani Roper who has her own radio show is on our committee and has volunteered to help us promote our classes. She has arranged for a video to be made by a professional videographer to be shown as PSA's. Yay for Dani!

Bryan Turner has agreed to sell ads for the newsletter. Thanks so much, Bryan!

I know he would appreciate some assistance with this. One way to help is by sponsoring your own ad. The cost is minimal. This is a great group with very up-beat energy.

Expect the miraculous! We are all very excited to get started.

Thanks also to Jody Parmann for helping us make our newsletter look snazzy!

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geolee1122@comcast.net / 810 966-8856

**David Stoneberg**  
david@studio1219.com  
810 984-ARTS



## A Word From the Gallery Director

Hello Fellow Artists And Friends,

Well, if you haven't been in to the Studio lately, you're in for a surprise. The shutdown that took place in the earlier part of January has brought many upgrades and changes to the studio. These changes include more lighting, new colors, a neater, more professional appearance, refinished classroom floor, new computers to handle the ever-growing sales and financials of the studio and the list goes on. A very special thank-you to those of you who helped with these changes.

My hope for the New Year is that this quarterly newsletter will help answer questions, make us all feel more connected, and raise awareness of happenings at the studio. There are a lot of "snail mailer" in our network that don't have computers or never check their e-mails, so we hope this newsletter will be the solution. Of course, if it only raises more questions for you, please feel free to contact me at the studio as usual!

I would just like to thank everyone for their patience as we continue to grow and streamline the workings of the studio. We are still in our infancy, but we have grown leaps and bounds in the two years we have been open. Stop in and enjoy the wonderful gift that is our Studio 1219!



David Stoneberg

## From Maureen Scallen, Educational Director

Jerry Powers, well-known pastel artist, will present a workshop in pastels here in April. See [www.jerrypowers.com](http://www.jerrypowers.com). There is a mosaic birdhouse workshop



Maureen Scallen

also in April, and an Introduction to Glass Bead Making workshop to be held in May. Also offered is a children's workshop in songwriting and an opportunity to preserve your child's or grandchild's handprint in clay.

These workshops are in addition to the wide variety of classes offered. See: [www.studio1219.com](http://www.studio1219.com).

East China Schools Art Students' work will be on display in the classroom starting February 9th. The Girl Scouts will have a Troup Art Show in the classroom in March. We are looking for artists, educators and volunteers to help plan Fire and Ice which will be held September 13th and 14th, 2008. Call Maureen at the Studio for more information. 984-ARTS.

## Chalk Talk: Join the Huddle

These are the hard times. These are times of economic uncertainty—when funding for arts and culture has steadily declined, when retail sales are down, when new job opportunities are scarce and gas prices are high. Furthermore, we are encountering that old double whammy, in that during these trying times our community is facing new challenges that seem overwhelming.

We who volunteer and work at Studio 1219, however, have a mission. In pursuit of this mission, we have discovered a collective energy that feels pretty good. We have recently made the place that we gather and grow—our “home to the arts”—more beautiful. We have a plan that is being implemented that will bring even more energy to the Studio. We have had a series of successful and really fun events, and there are more on the horizon. We have offered community members of all ages many, many new opportunities to become inspired, to spend some time getting acquainted with their spirit, and to share some fun while they were at it. We have established a place for artists to network, display their work, share ideas, collaborate on projects and more. We ARE the buzz, and we are proud of it!

What has already happened demonstrates what can be done when like-minded people come together and work cooperatively. We are all in this together, and teamwork is how we will proceed. There is no room for naysayers, unhealthy competitive thinking, over-active egos, arm-chair critics and general negativity because this is the hour for unity. Unity is how we shall overcome obstacles, quiet the critics, and prove the naysayers wrong.

Let's join forces to continue our important mission. Let's remind others that money spent locally is funneled back into the community. Let's remember that advancing arts and culture in a community is good for everyone. We are creating jobs, not



sending them overseas. Let's keep in mind that the quality of what we offer is important. Let's all keep our Studio clean and running smoothly. Let's remember to treat those who come into the Studio as honored guests. Let's put our egos aside and cultivate a spirit of inclusion. Let's cheer each other on. Let's be grateful for these opportunities. Let's remember to say thanks to those who support us.

Please add your energy to ours. Volunteer to help on a committee. Your support matters. Together we have already made a difference. Let's everyone of us—pay it forward.

### Some Uplifting News About Studio 1219:

Even though the State of Michigan is in recession, Studio 1219 has made significant gains, proving we DO have support for arts and culture in Blue Water Area. In 2001, State funding grants for Arts and Culture was 27 million. In 2007, funding dropped to only 7 million. We have gone from 3rd in country for arts funding on the state level, to 49th.

During that same year that saw a drop state-wide in government support for the arts, sales increased 10% from 2006 to 2007. Class/Workshop participation increased 12% from 2006 to 2007. Special events at the Studio brought in roughly \$12,000. The Renaissance Roam participants doubled in numbers from 2006-2007. In addition, the Women's Show Month in October raised over \$4500 to assist local hospitals in providing breast cancer screenings for uninsured and underinsured women. All of these victories provide us with many reasons to celebrate: the hard work of our volunteers and dedicated staff, the talent of our local artists, the support we receive from the Community Foundation, the DDA, and Acheson Foundation, and more. Let's make 2008 even better!

## Special Events Committee: The Fun One!

by Carol Henry

I am honored to have been asked to head up the Special Events Committee for the next year. We are excited about the upcoming schedule and want to do everything we can to make the community proud of Studio 1219. Our goal for this year is to get this committee up and running, plan the four major events, raise money and get more people into the Studio, thus increasing sales.

I know that it is the volunteers who put the 'special' in events! That is where you come-in. Whether you sign up for the committee itself or volunteer to help at an event, it all combines to whip-up a winning recipe. The Annual Gala, Renaissance Roam, Fire and Ice and Women's Month in October are the four main activities that this committee will be working on for 2008. I am thrilled to be working closely with, Sue Andrews, Deb Dunkel, Dani Roper, Deb Packard, Patti Yunker, LeeAnne McInnis, Gwyn Atkinson and, of course, the staff of Studio 1219.

We meet monthly to develop a comprehensive plan for each event that will show off the amazing artistic talent in this community, as well as raise money to keep the Studio viable. Oh, and did I mention we have lots of fun while doing it? Well we do, and we welcome each and any of you to join in the comradery. This is a great way to chock-up those volunteer hours. Please contact me (Carol Henry) at 987-4522 or e-mail me at john\_carol\_henry@sbcglobal.net

## Announcing: Blue Water Musicians' Network



Blue Water Musicians' Network (BWMN), a new non-profit, has converted the downstairs office space at Studio 1219 into a retail area carrying consignment music equipment such as acoustic guitars, electric bass guitars, speakers, microphones, PA systems as well as CD's from local musicians. BWMN accepts donations and consignment items with the hope of getting this equipment back in the hands of new musicians or those looking to save some money. Membership is open to anyone interested in bringing more live music to our community. Monthly events sponsored by BWMN are 3 family friendly events: a Drum Circle, held the first Thursday of each month starting at 7 PM, the Blue Water Acoustic Café starts at 6:30 PM on the fourth Saturday of each month and an Old Time Jam is held the fourth Friday of each month starting at 7 PM. BWMN is open on Saturday from 12 - 5 and any time by appointment. For an appointment or more information on events or membership, contact: Dave Rutkofski at: woodsedge@advnet.net or call: 810-434-9967.

## Introducing... The House Committee!



The gallery proudly reopened on January 18th following a three week flurry of activity to spruce up for the New Year. If you haven't been in, do so soon; you will be amazed. We have the following hard workers to thank: Jane and Bill Barden, Chris Bice, Loi Brickey, Richard Cameron, Jeannine Capadagli, Duane Collins, Deb Dunkel, Don Enger, Susan Gardez, Maryann and Jim Grenon, Dennis and Sue Hanser, John and Carol Henry, Virginia Kuhr, Kristine McGill, LeeAnne and George McInnis, Richard McKinna, Bryan Morgans, Marcus Otis, Vicky Path, Ken Riedel, Dennis Snyder, Davide Stoneberg and Linda Wysocki and her sister, Alene. WELL DONE, thank you all.

The committee is small right now but we expect to expand quickly. I am Patti Yunker, the chair for this year. My assistant is Deb Dunkel who will be the chair next year. Members at large are Marilyn Biernot-Hess, Sally Haas, Carol Henry, and Deb Packard. We have been charged with taking care of the general appearance of the building, keeping it clean, (yes, even the toilets—in case you think it is all glamour!) displaying and arranging the merchandise and art, hanging of paintings, promoting the concept of a Gallery Gift Shop (items under \$20.00 that guests can pick-up as they wander through the galleries), using themes as a means to increase sales (Valentine's Day, Halloween, etc.), contacting artists to pick-up removed art, and organizing volunteers to do all these things! Whew! We'll be needing you! Please call me at home (810-765-3724) or e-mail me (pattiyunk@earthlink.net) if you have questions, suggestions, or wish to join us. It will be a good way to put in your volunteer hours, invest in the gallery, and get to know the other members.

THEMES – Please keep in mind any objects or mini paintings in your medium that would be appropriate for a particular holiday or season of the year that could be sold for around \$20.00. This is an important area for us in terms of income for the studio. Right now we should all be thinking SPRING for both the smaller items and our selection as a whole. Suggestions – bird houses, bird baths, garden art, toad houses, wind chimes, cards, stationery, kites, etc... Call me if you can add to this list and I'll get it out to the other artists. We should have a display in the front window no later than April 1st.

We need to keep changing our merchandise/art to keep people interested and coming in.

Catch ya later, Patti

# STUDIO

12-19



1219 Military St.  
Port Huron, MI 48060

Artist Network Meeting  
March 20th, 7:00 p.m.



## Restructuring of the Studio: *All Hands on Deck* by LeeAnne McInnis

Gosh, we almost didn't notice, but our little Studio has been growing up. And, like any "coming of age" story, ours has been filled with moments of triumph, a few missteps, some ruffled feathers here and there, some memory-making, new friends, and the realization that it takes a whole lot of time, energy, love, patience, perseverance and good, old-fashioned rolling-up the sleeves and getting paint on your nose to make it all come together. Right now—at this time—the positive energy is palpable. The galleries look amazing, and we have much to be proud of. To make these things happen, and to continue to move the Studio forward, we needed—and still need a plan.

Any plan must have some parameters that are imposed by the circumstances of a given situation. Our situation was that the very capable and dedicated staff members are all part-time employees. The demands of running the Studio are overwhelming. The Studio is this huge, multi-purpose "womb" of sorts; and "the coolest of the Cool Cities' Projects." (This is what John Bracey, Executive Director of Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, said about us when he visited recently.) So, all that the Studio is today has grown beyond the original concept. In order to keep up with the demands, something had to be done.

Hence: "The Plan." The plan was simple: let's get more volunteers involved and move in the direction of a co-op. Let's have the staff work with these volunteers because twenty five heads are better than three or four. It might not take a whole village, Chums, but it takes a lot of collective, positive energy. We had to start making more money. We had to spiff-up the galleries and eliminate some of the clutter. The feedback we were getting from the public was giving us the raspberry on the amount of STUFF jammed into our gallery space. Visitors said they were turned off by the chaotic look of it.

Committees were formed with a chairperson and a co-chair. The committees are: Events, House, Media and Promotions, and Pottery Studio. There

are term limits so no one gets burned-out. (Well, hardly anyone—I do suspect that they may find a couple of dried-up carcasses of some older women by the time Ren Roam is over! They'll be clutching empty wine bottles and wearing their party hats when they are found!)

The chair-persons are then responsible for moving to step two, which is to identify other positions related to their area and recruit other members to take the lead on these. That's where we are at this time. But at the moment, we are also knee-deep in planning for the Annual Gala that will be held on February 26th, and we have started planning the Renaissance Roam that will be in May. These events are the major fund-raisers for the Studio, so they are very important to us.

Unfortunately, all of these things are happening at once. I like to compare it to the perfect storm! The newsletter, the restructuring, the Gala, Ren Roam; and in addition, the new arts council that is being formed, are all taking time and energy away from staff and our committee members—at the moment, a finite group. It is a very exciting time, but we need more help! That's where you come in, I hope. If you can offer time and creativity to help make all of these events and initiatives a reality, we bless you. We kiss the hem of your garment! If not, please be advised that my cousin, Guido, will be calling on you soon. Just kidding about Guido. He's in Florida.

Each Committee Chair has written a little bit about their area of responsibility. If you have an interest in any of the "jobs" that are mentioned, or if you would like to work on an event, please contact the committee chair of your choice. One last thing: we have a "No Bad Attitude Policy" in effect. If you are disgruntled, please stay home and kick the sofa. We are all working very hard and doing the best we can. Your ideas are important, but only if you are willing to help make them happen. It's "all hands on deck" time. Let's join hands and make this our most successful year ever!



*"Unity is the great need of the hour. Unity is how we shall overcome."*

*-Martin Luther King Jr.*