

CONNECTIONS

NEWS FROM WISCONSIN DESIGNER CRAFTS COUNCIL, INC

Fall 2011

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



What an exciting and busy year 2011 has been for our organization!

Wisconsin Designer Crafts Council is 95 years old this year. Formed in 1916, we are the second oldest professional crafts organization in the country. Read about our beginnings in this newsletter and join us in wishing one of our long standing honorary members, Annette Hirsh best wishes on her birthday this October.

Our Morning Gallery in the Marcus Center also celebrated a significant milestone this year with its 5-year anniversary. Congratulations to all the Gallery Staff and exhibiting artists who have made this possible. We couldn't do it without you!

January 2011 also saw the return of the juried gallery exhibition "The Best of Contemporary Craft". After a 6-year hiatus, this was the 81st year for this exhibition! We plan to continue this opportunity for members to showcase their best work on a bi-annual schedule.

Many of you may remember the "Crafts Collection" show WDCC used to stage each fall. The WDCC Board has revisited the idea of having a pre-holiday season show many times and we are excited to be able to launch "Winter Glory", another WDCC-sponsored Fine Craft Show this November. Read more about it in the accompanying article.

I am very excited to be a part of these events and extremely grateful for the support of our board of directors and our membership as we work to continue the tradition started 95 years ago!

Fondly,
Barb Chappell



WDCC Launches Winter Glory November 18-19 at the Harley-Davidson Museum

WDCC members know that summer weekends are filled with competing art and craft events, from the Lakefront Festival of the Arts in June to the Hidden River Art Festival in mid-September. Although vendor opportunities are plentiful in Wisconsin for one busy season, what's been missing from the selling scene for a few years now is a fall event timed for holiday shopping.

Knowing that WDCC members would benefit from a venue for holiday sales, the WDCC board authorized the first Winter Glory Fine Craft Show. Forty-two members, chosen from participants in recent Morning Glory shows, will be on hand to offer jewelry, wearables, ceramics, photography, and

woodwork. If this year's show is a hit, we expect it to continue as an annual event. In subsequent years, members will jury into the show using the Zapplication process, just as they do now for Morning Glory.

Winter Glory will be held at the Harley-Davidson Museum located at the crossroads of 6th & Canal streets in Milwaukee. The show will be open Friday, November 18, 3-9 p.m. and Saturday, November 19, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission is \$5.00; parking is free.

Let's launch a new holiday shopping tradition in Milwaukee. We need your help to make Winter Glory a success!

Mindy Brooks, Program Chair

WDCC MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Please keep us informed of your accomplishments. Submit information to WDCC, 3900 W. Brown Deer Rd., Suite 130A, WI 53209, or fiberwood@aol.com

WDCC Celebrates 95 Years!

September 26, 1916, a dozen freshly scrubbed craftsmen sat in a room of the old Milwaukee Art Institute to discuss the formation of a society.

They had several objectives in mind: to build fellowship, talking about common problems, working together toward mutual goals and to help raise the standards of public taste by influencing the design of every-day objects. This group also hoped to influence time-worn customs entrenched in the crafts, narrowing the gulf between the designer and workman, and encouraging the workman to use his own designs, instead of those dictated by tradition.

They originally called themselves the Wisconsin Craft Workers, but quickly changed it to The Wisconsin Society of Applied Arts (WSAP). Two months after the first meeting, the first Annual Show was launched at the Art Institute in November 1916.

In the 1930s WSAP was quartered in 3 floors of 628 N Broadway. Shops were set up for almost every craft and members were free to come in and work on the equipment as well as participate in shows

held there. In 1937, the organizations reappraised itself and concluded that some of their original objectives had come to pass. Under contemporary trends a WSAP report stated, "Designer and craftsman are inseparable and the term applied arts is inadequate and not expressive of the modern, functional idea of art. In June the membership voted to change the name to Wisconsin Designer-Craftsmen.

The Milwaukee Art Center was home to the organization from 1957-74. In 1975 Margaret Fish Rahill, director of the Charles Allis Art Museum partnered with WDC and thus began the Morning Glory Fair. In 1982 we became Wisconsin Designer Crafts Council.

WDCC has had many nationally recognized members through the years: Fred Fenster (metal), Harvey Littleton (glass), Jean Stamsta, (fiber) and Don Reitz (ceramics) to name a few.

Congratulations to WDCC and all the craftsmen who give life and vigor to our organization and vitality to the contemporary crafts movement.



Long-standing WDCC member Bob Dickey was inspired by our panel discussion at the annual meeting in 2010 to submit an article to a magazine for publication.

Bob has been designing, building and marketing jewelry and keepsake boxes and accent furniture utilizing domestic and exotic hardwoods for over a decade. He is a regular exhibitor at the Morning Glory Fine Craft Fair and represented in Morning Glory Gallery in the Marcus Center.

Two of Bob's unique wood projects (modular wine rack and Pagoda Jewelry Box) will be featured in upcoming issues of *Woodcraft Magazine*.



Help us spread the word. Visit the Facebook pages of WDCC and the Morning Glory Gallery and "like us"!!!

WDCC will be publishing an updated membership brochure for mailing late this fall. If you have any change to make to your contact information, please let us know by October 15. You can email our membership chair, Laura Livermore at Silkbylaura@wi.rr.com with your updates.

We are planning workshops for 2012 and need your input. Is there a technique, medium, or artist you would like to have a workshop with? Would you like to present a workshop to our membership? Is there a topic regarding business, marketing or finances that you would like more information on? Please contact our program chair, Mindy Brooks at mfkf@aol.com with your suggestions.



Annette Hirsh with Royal Miree, recipient of the Jules Hirsh Memorial Award.

"The first WDC show I entered must have been in the early '50s in the Milwaukee Art Institute on Jefferson. I was delighted to be a new member of WDC, attend meetings and enter my early metal work in their annual shows. I've been on and off the board through the years, and remain the WDCC historian. Our WDCC has changed through the years, however the one area which has remained constant is our high quality...and we can be proud of that." *Annette Hirsh*

Morning Glory Fine Craft Fair 2011

What a great weekend and lively crowd we had for the 37th Annual Morning Glory Fine Craft Fair! Saturday presented a few showers to contend with but many artists reported brisk sales even during the rain.

Thank you to all our exhibiting artists who so graciously contributed work to the silent auction. We had an excellent response, providing funds for WDCC to support AWE, Artists Working in Education. Thanks to Hazel Wheaton and Cathy Jakicic for running this activity.

Thanks to our show chair and "master of the squeegee", Barb Heimsch for co-ordinating such a great event. Our thanks also to the wonderful staff and management of the Marcus Center, all our volunteers, Bill Grey for marketing and promotion and all our exhibiting artists.

Next years fair takes place on August 11-12, 2012.



Mixed-media artist Mary Hager celebrates 20 years of exhibiting at the fair!



Ceramics artist Jeff Raasch 2011 Best in Show winner.

Congratulations to this years award winners.

Best in Show

(\$500.00 - Invited Back)

Jeff Raasch - Ceramics

WDCC Award of Excellence

(\$200.00 - Invited Back)

Kim McClelland - Printmaking

Erika Mock - Fiber/Wearable

Terry Groseclose - Jewelry

Lou Zale - Photography

Nancy Gardner & Burton Isenstein - Ceramics

Marcus Center Award of Excellence

(\$100.00)

Mary Christian - Fiber/Wearable

WDCC Award (\$100.00)

Jan Byron - Mixed Media

WDCC Honorable Mention:

(\$200.00) Larry Sanders Gift Certificate

Ann Marie Cianciola - Jewelry

\$100.00 Artist and Display Certificates

Angelo Fico - Glass

Ryan Myers - Ceramics

Jules Hirsh Memoriam \$50.00

Royal Miree - Sculpture

Terry McCarthy Purchase Award

Nancy Gardner & Burton Isenstein - Ceramics

Cliff Matyszczk

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Morning Glory Fine Craft Fair

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CONNECTIONS

Morning Glory Gallery Celebrates 5-Year Anniversary!



Our handsome fine craft gallery inside the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts in downtown Milwaukee celebrated its 5-year anniversary this summer. Where has the time gone? The Morning Glory Gallery birthday celebration coincided with Milwaukee's summer Gallery Night & Day and the Morning Glory Fine Craft Fair. Enthusiastic customers were given the opportunity to register to win theatre tickets and several gallery gift certificates. Plus, a free gift was supplied with each purchase of \$40 or more.

The new performing arts season unfolds at the end of September and the Gallery is ready for a steady stream of customers leading up to the holidays. Season ticket holders to the Milwaukee Symphony, Milwaukee Ballet, Florentine Opera and Marcus Broadway series, as well as other customers, will enjoy discovering new work by WDCS members. While most sales take place during evening and weekend performances in Uihlein Hall, the Gallery is also open on Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 12-6 p.m. Our semi-annual jurying will add new artists and new work to the Gallery this fall.



The Morning Glory Gallery continues to offer an exciting venue that brings together performing arts with fine crafts in a unique partnership. We are thrilled to operate the Morning Glory Gallery for the benefit of our WDCS members, the Marcus Center and all of our customers.

Stop by and visit the Gallery soon and enjoy handmade crafts by other WDCS artists. We look forward to a prosperous holiday season and many more successful years ahead. *Morning Glory Gallery, 929 N. Water St., Downtown Milwaukee, 414.765.7227*
Gallery@marcuscenter.org

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CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE IN CRAFTS
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