

Texas Gulf Coast Ceramics Society

February 2005 Newsletter

Top Priority News (Houston Chronicle Thurs. Feb. 17, 2005) *Faces In The Crowd*

Gene Brennan swears she has clay running through her veins. She fell in love with ceramics at her first class in Rawlins, Wyo. more than 30 years ago. Brennan, 56, has done others things in her life, but she keeps coming back to ceramics. She and her husband, Jim, own Brennan's Pride Enterprizes Ceramic's,Etc. in Alvin. Both of Brennan's grandmothers were good at crafts. When she was 2 years old, her maternal grandmother taught her how to make Christmas ornaments. Brennan treasures the ceramic pieces that her paternal grandmother, a hobby ceramist, gave her. When the woman who taught Brennan's first ceramist class in Rawlins decided to retire, Brennan brought all of her molds and equipment and set up a studio in her basement. She attended seminars and teacher certification classes and opened a full-service shop in a rental house next door to her home. She taught day and evening classes six or seven days a week. *"It was a lot of work and lots of fun,"* she said. *"Those were the ceramic boom days."* In 1980, she and her first husband and two children moved to Berthoud, Colo., where she worked for the federal government as regional manager for federally employed women, an organization working to end discrimination in the federal work force. She and some friends raised horses. She also worked as a bartender and sold Mary Kay cosmetics. She still managed to make time for ceramics, teaching classes in her home and adult education classes. After Brennan and her husband divorced, she moved to band divorced, she moved to Denver, where she met



her husband Jim. She and Jim have seven children from their previous marriages and 25 grandchildren. They moved to Houston in 1997 and then settled in Alvin, where she continued her Mary Kay and business and did ceramics as a hobby. Brennan made a few ceramic gifts, then took a class at a Houston ceramic shop just to see how much things had changed. When she did, she hooked again. Two years ago, she opened Brennan's Pride, a full-service ceramic and porcelain shop. Her husband retired recently from Lucent Technologies and helps and with the business. In addition to teaching a variety of classes, such as the delicate lace drape technique. Brennan frequently hosts ceramics and porcelain teachers at her shop. Although she frequently paints ceramics for people and has a number of ribbons and awards for her work, she said she gets a lot satisfaction from teaching people how to do it themselves. *"There's nothing better than helping them paint something; they're so proud that they did it"* Brennan said. She thinks ceramics is a good way to reduce stress. *"It's great for kids, too"* she said *"you sit them down with a ball of clay and show them how to make something and they settle down. It's a very calming thing."*



Editor's Letter (Ideas, opinions, and a brief introduction to this month's newsletter)

February was a get-up-and-go type of month. **Houston Chronicle** had a history on Gene Brennan in the *Faces In The Crowd* section of the paper. **WOW!! Two thumbs up** for Gene and her great job she does in keeping up with ceramics. It takes will power and dedication to make the public aware that the fired arts are out

there for any adult or child to enjoy. The Chronicle did misquote her quite a bit. She is not a sculptor or a potter...she is **Ceramist!!** Also, her grandmother taught her crafts at about age 5 not 2.

February had a Sunday for the Open House at Brennans for Doc Holiday molds and their products. It was a day to remember at highway 6 between Alvin and Melvin. Note the pictures in this newsletter.

Personal – “Get Well Wishes” to Jeanne Bell & Julie Young from all of us at TGCCS

Sell - Buy - Trade – Want

Jim Brennan repairs kilns and sells used kilns including new Paragon Kilns. He is looking for parts from old kilns that are being thrown away. Call (281)585-8888

Mold, Molds, Who’s Got the Mold: Gene Brennan is still looking for a flying eagle on a stump –Bryon molds



“Like It or Spike It” - Doc Holiday stuff - pictured here
Rating.....“Like It”!!!

Upcoming Classes If you have classes coming up, please send an email and they will be placed in the next newsletter.

Brennan’s Pride(281) 585-8888 March 19 – “Duncan Essentials” Tracy Hughes – 1st of 4 Duncan Certification classes

March 27 – Sunflower Design “Tea & Crackers” John Duncan

Gene Brennan – airbrush, lace drape, hand building, pen & ink, etc.

FREE CLASS w/Connie Bailes on Victory Spanish Color paints for porcelain May 1st!!!!

Colorific porcelain slip and Victory Spanish Colors available...Call Gene for more details

Katy Country Ceramics(281) 391-9555 – Call for clay hand building classes & for any repairs on Olympic & Paragon Kilos

The Ceramic & Pottery Center(281) 332-4490 – Call for class details

March 8 – Grape Piping Class

March 12 – Glaze Class

March 26 – Precious Metal Clay Class

Last Minutes Thoughts

Emails are nice! If you decided and would like to join our society mailing list or be removed, please

send email to: ceramicshouston@yahoo.com

or call one of our member shops continuously

mentioned on previous newsletters.

Upcoming Events

Our next meeting is February 7th, 2005, starting at 7 pm at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church on Scarsdale. Please come join us. Bring some of your pieces for show and tell. Come and VOTE on the Society’s latest revisions!

***Board meeting at 6:00 pm.....Please try to be there.**

