



WORKING AT HER WHEEL is Eastport resident and potter Barbara Moskol, whose art has been influenced by island life for years using sea glass to create celadon hues in her glazing. (Lora Whelan photo)

Eastport potter inspired by island life

by Lora Whelan

Place and time have a significant impact on Eastport resident Barbara Moskol's pottery practice. The island city and its wealth of sea glass have been influencing her works for about 20 years, and with the pandemic changing how lives are lived, that too has had an influence on her work in the last few months.

Gazing into the luminous celadon hues of Moskol's sea glass pottery is like looking into the clouds on a sunny summer day or the quiet world of a tidal pool. Her bowls, cups, teapots and other creations have been mesmerizing customers since the long ago days when she was in Bowdoinham, had started an arts league there and realized that people liked what she made. They were buying. She says, "I thought, 'Oh, look at that,'" and she was off.

Just about 50 years ago Moskol embarked on her training at Wesleyan Potters in Connecticut, with a pivotal teacher being Betsy Tanzer, an internationally known artist. Moskol well remembers learning to use the kick-wheel. Being seven months pregnant made the experience memorable in more ways than one, she admits with a grin. Along with raising a family and practicing her art, she also trained as a counselor. While she's now retired from counseling, she notes her love of both. She explains, "Counseling was something I loved to do, but ceramics takes me to a very different place. It leads me."

Being led by her art sometimes delivers the gift of surprise to her doorstep, Eastport's plethora of sea glass being one of

them. "I love this place and sea glass." She gestures around her house at the jars filled with glass that has been worn and buffed by the ocean. "I like color, and I wondered what would happen if I took it and ground it up a little and put it on top of glaze." She gave it a try, and "it looked like a pool from Yellowstone Park." In other words, it was otherworldly in its beauty. She loved it and has been using the technique ever since, or that is until COVID-19.

While Moskol had been throwing her pots and using clay that could be high-fired because of the requirements of the sea glass and glaze, she found that when the pandemic arrived and began to settle in, she was being led by her art in a new direction. She began working more with terra cotta clay. It's softer and can take brighter glaze colors, she explains. It's also faster to work with and has a shorter firing time. "I felt like I needed to do things faster and less carefully." Rather than working in her studio space, where she feels surrounded by water and its influence, she covered the kitchen table to protect it, slapped down clay and began pushing, pinching and shaping by hand. She remembers thinking, "What am I doing?"

The results are different from her thrown pots. "I'm not experiencing peace when I make them." Instead, she's thinking of how good a bowl of stew or a big mess of pasta would taste coming from such a bowl placed on the table for a gathering. The colors and patterns edging the interiors reflect the energy of gathering, containing and providing, traits that are practical and warming, she adds, and that are needed more than ever during these times.



Hard to believe he turns 65,
The youngest boy of Bart and Vi
Seems only yesterday he was fixing
planes up high.
Don't think Marilu will get away
Scott-free.
That's what she gets for marrying
into the family.
She's one hot tamale.
If you see them around town,
you know what to say.
Wish these spring chickens
a Happy Birthday.
*With lots of love,
Your two troublemakers*



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EASTPORT

by Sharon Cook
Tel. 853-4806

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Lots of bright and cheery fun will be happening in Eastport this holiday season. There will be a holiday house and business decorating contest with cash prizes of \$100, \$75 and \$50 prizes in each category. This contest is funded by the Eastport Development and Growth Effort. Criteria will include originality, homemade, lighting and anything goes. Call Tessa Ftorek at 853-2525 or Diana Boone at 853-4884 to register.

The Eastport Garden Club will sponsor a virtual house tour. More information will be available on Facebook.

A tree lighting will be held in the gazebo next to the Peavey Memorial Library, and the fifth annual Community Christmas Trees will be displayed at Eastern Maine Images Gallery. Ornaments can be dropped off at the gallery.

CURBSIDE PICK-UP

The R&M IGA has shifted gears from volunteer weekly delivery service to curbside pick-up. Gratitude is extended to the IGA and all of the volunteers who have been providing the home-delivery service since March. The curbside pick-up service will be available Monday through Friday.

SENIOR CENTER

The Eastport Senior Center board of directors met November 10 and, after much discussion, decided to close the cen-

ter. This decision was reached because of the increase in COVID-19 cases in the county. The last meal for the year was held on November 11, and the center will be closed until the new year.

The Christmas box will still be taking donations. To make a donation, contact either Karen Tinker or Regina Mitchell at 853-7150, and pick-up will be arranged.

CHRIST CHURCH

The Rev. Lynn Rutledge will lead services on Zoom on Sunday, November 15, and Sunday, November 22, at 9:30 a.m. For an invitation, contact Madeline Murphy at: <mmurphy627@myfairpoint.net>.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

At this time, the congregation is meeting at the senior center on Boynton St. for in-person worship services. Sunday services begin at 10:30 a.m., and everyone who attends is asked to wear a face covering. Retired pastor Patrice Goodwin will be leading worship and delivering the message at the Sunday, November 15, service. The service for Sunday, November 22, will be lay-led, and in lieu of a sermon a facilitator will lead an interactive discussion of a scripture selected from the common lectionary. A list of scriptures for the week as well as a reflection on one or more of the scriptures can be found by going to <ucc.org>, selecting the heading "Sermon Seeds" then choosing the appropriate date.

Local students win Tongren awards

The Maine Community Foundation has announced the recipients of the Sally Stetson Tongren Scholarship Fund for Washington County. The fund provides renewable support to graduating seniors of high schools in Washington County who are pursuing post-secondary education.

A total of \$115,000 was awarded to 23 students. Renewal recipients are Mailena Alicea, Addison; Audrey Bradbury, Madison Greenlaw, and Roxanna MacGregor, Eastport; Danielle Ingemi and Brianna Renshaw, Marshfield; Farrow McKenna and Rana Turchi, Machias; Tyler Sprowl, Jonesport; Jaiden Veal, Perry; and Nicolas Willey, Milbridge.

First-time Tongren scholarship awardees are: Kaci Alley, Jonesport; Reese Brown and Myah Jellison, Cherryfield; Haley Cherry, East Machias; Jordyn Cowger, Danforth; Jason Garnett, Denysville; Silas Goldfarb, Steuben; Cooper Leighton, Machiasport; Destiny Look, Machias; Adam Robinson, Addison; Madelyn Willey, Milbridge; and Rodrigo Zamora Paniagua, Harrington.

The next deadline for applications is May 15, 2021. Applications are available at <www.mainecef.org>.

Births

Calais

Kaylee and Scott Lursen are the proud parents of a daughter, Mia Lynn Lursen, who was born on October 10, 2020, at the Down East Community Hospital (DECH) in Machias and weighed 7 lbs., 3 oz.

Laura and Dylan Ramsdell are the proud parents of a daughter, Katherine Joyce Ramsdell, who was born on October 27, 2020, at the DECH in Machias and weighed 6 lbs., 11 oz.

Charlotte

Erin Frost and Spencer Ward are the proud parents of a daughter, Ella Virginia Ward, who was born on October 28, 2020, at the DECH in Machias and weighed 6 lbs., 8 oz.

Jonesboro

Janessa and David Pritchard are the proud parents of a son, Hudson Leon Pritchard, who was born on October 20, 2020, at the DECH in Machias and weighed 6 lbs., 14 oz.

Lubec

Rebecca and Dylan Lord are the proud parents of a daughter, Halle Louise Lord, who was born on November 6, 2020, at the DECH in Machias and weighed 9 lbs.

CORNERSTONE CHURCH

112 County Road, Eastport

Are you running late for church? Did you oversleep?

Would you like to watch church service
from the comfort of your own home?

Now you can.

Cornerstone Church is livestreaming their Sunday service on
Facebook – Cornerstone Church of Eastport Maine and
YouTube – Cornerstone Church Eastport
Service will start at 11:00 a.m.

* If you need assistance shopping or running errands
Please call 214-0205 or 904-7446.