



## The Once & Future Potter

*by John Walters*

In the Spring of 1959, I was a senior at Manhattan High School. My girlfriend said she wanted me to meet someone. That someone was Angelo Garzio, internationally known professor of ceramics at KSU. We went over to his house in Manhattan, and I saw pottery that you would NOT see at K-Mart! It expressed the artistic imagination of the potter and piqued my interest.

The next year as a freshman in physics at KSU, I also took a semester of Angelo Garzio's "ceramics." My first pot was a "pinch pot." I took a tennis ball sized piece of clay and pushed it around with my fingers until it was a small bottle 4" wide and 1 7/8" high. We fired it without glaze, and I liked it, as did Angelo.

I really liked being able to visualize a shape and make it appear before my eyes! I made some bowls that I liked, and they were accepted in a national invitational show in California!

I knew I could be a potter, and Angelo knew it, also. By that time, I was dating my future first wife, and, we were already making plans for raising a family. At 18-years-old, I needed a job to support the family. I liked science equally well. Maybe I could do pottery as a hobby? I took another semester of ceramics the next year and made further progress. But there was a problem. When I switched from thinking science to thinking pottery, the transition was instantaneous. When I tried to switch back to thinking about science. The process took a whole 24 hours! I could not mix science and pottery!

I told Angelo I would have to drop out of ceramics. Science would pay the bills; I would starve as a potter and much less be able to support a family. I switched to chemistry my senior year, got a graduate assistantship at Iowa State University for the fall of 1963. My girlfriend and I got married that summer

See POTTER, page 2

## POTTERY, from page 1

while yet in Manhattan. We had three children while we were at ISU. I got a good job with Phillips Petroleum in 1968, and we had another child in 1969. In 1985, I tried thinking about pottery again and ideas flooded my brain! I couldn't think of science until the next day!

Eventually, I retired in Bainbridge, Ga., in May of 2001. Three weeks later, we were visiting parents at Meadowlark Hills. As I got up on a Saturday morning, I heard the still small voice tell me, "You can make pottery now." Angelo lived on Blue Hills Road just a half mile away! I called him, and we arranged a visit that morning. I told him I was finally going to make pottery. He was dubious. I deeply disappointed him for more than 40 years, but he made a few phone calls and got me good prices for a very good kick wheel and kiln. When we got back to Bainbridge, I ordered the pottery equipment and set up a studio in the barn on our property.

Southwest Georgia is the source of more than half the world's kaolin, so I drove out into the countryside to look for clay. I drove to the Big Slough, parked my full-sized pickup, and there was clay 20 feet from the truck! I dug 1,000 pounds of the clay in a wide and very shallow hole (so no one would trip) and drove back to the barn. I mixed the clay with water in batches, sieved it to remove roots and pebbles, and semi dried it in flowerpot bottoms, each 3 feet wide. I aged the clay in 20-pound logs for a few weeks; ageing accomplishes rearranging the tiny clay crystals so they slide past each other more smoothly. Bainbridge is a small town. People knew what I was doing, so the farmers in the area offered me clay from their land as well. ("That old stuff, all I do is slip and fall on it! Take as much as you want!")

On our next trip to Manhattan, I took three samples to Angelo. When he got to the Big Slough sample, he asked, "WHERE did you find that?" It was the best unblended clay he had ever handled!

I proceeded to make bottles, bowls, and other



**Large hanging pot.  
[One-inch coin for reference]**

shapes and found out how to make MY pottery! I was able to make the shapes I desired quickly, but it took a few hundred pieces to understand how to glaze for the appearances I wanted. I made all my glaze from my own recipes. I began to show my work in the shows of Southeast Georgia. People liked what I made, I sold  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the 1,200 objects I made, gave some to family, and kept a couple of dozen – my most favorite ones. A few dozen I buried in the

woods on my property because I did not want to admit I had made them! I made bowls from 2 inches wide to 12 inches wide, limited by the size of my electric kiln. I made bottles of various shapes, from 2 to 12 inches high. I made hanging pots from a few inches wide, up to the size of my kiln. I also made a dozen or so tea sets. One of those I showed in the regional Southwest Art show in Albany. When the receiving lady unpacked the set, she said "I'm buying that one", so it was sold before it was shown!

My first wife, Karen, died in March of 2007, but I continued to make lots of pots. In September, I made two large hanging pots for our son Nathaniel. For each one, I used 5 pounds of clay, which is the size of a cantaloupe. I centered each in a few seconds, raised a cylinder 8 inches wide to a height of 15 inches, narrowed the top down to a drain spout about 4 inches long and only a half-inch wide, all in only 5 minutes for each. It was easy! In October, Karen's sister Kathy wanted another one and I said "Sure!" I went out to my studio in the barn and started the same process with the same clay as the other two. I could not raise a cylinder! I tried another piece of clay – failure again! I went into the house and asked God what was wrong. He told me "You can stop making pottery now".

My six-year pottery career was over, in which I made everything I had imagined and wanted to make. I married Janet in November of 2007 and moved to California. My life was too busy for pottery. I had no room for a studio and was 2,500 miles from the wonderful wild Georgia clay.





*In November, Meadowlark Foundation received gifts benefiting the Good Samaritan Fund, Helping Hands Fund, Meadowlark Memory Program, Meadowlark Parkinson's Program, and the Purpose in Motion capital campaign.*

### Memory of

Carol Balding	C. Clyde Jones
Mary Lou Basham	Ron Janasek
Dixie Braden	Darrell Larson
Dorothy Buller	Venita Patzell
John Vogt	

### Honor of:

James Beck	Dick Ketterman
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## Merry Christmas

Thursday, December 25th  
Reserve your spot at Prairie Star  
Seating's from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

*Choice of Starter*  
SHRIMP BISQUE  
CANDIED BACON & PECAN SPINACH SALAD

*Choice of Entree*  
6OZ FILET & LOBSTER TAIL  
SURF & TURF \$36  
SURF \$30  
TURF \$28

*Sides*  
SMOKED GOUDA SCALLOPED POTATOES  
HERB ROASTED VEGETABLE MEDLEY

*Choice of Dessert*  
EGGNOG CHEESECAKE  
GLAZED CHOCOLATE TART

## Christmas Menu

**PEPPERMINT MOCHA**  
Steamed milk, espresso, and peppermint syrup with your choice of chocolate \$4.50/\$5.00

**ICED GINGERBREAD CHAI**  
Chai tea, oat milk and gingerbread syrup, topped with whipped cream \$5.00/\$5.50

**CINNAMON DOLCE LATTE**  
Steamed milk, espresso, brown sugar cinnamon and vanilla syrup topped with whipped cream & cinnamon \$4.50/\$5.00

**SUGAR COOKIE LATTE**  
Steamed milk, espresso, caramel and cookie butter syrup topped with whipped cream & sprinkles \$4.50/\$5.50

**BISCOFF LATTE**  
Steamed milk, espresso, Biscoff cookie butter, and vanilla syrup \$4.50/\$5.00

## EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

### Big Chiller Replacement

Beginning Monday, Dec. 15, Meadowlark will replace the large chiller that provides air conditioning to the East Tower, most of Miller, and Tinklin. Work is expected to take three days, with the goal of having the system operational again by Wednesday evening. Crews will work from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day.

With cooler temperatures, the need for air conditioning should be minimal, though the Community Room may be affected. A backup plan is in place should any issues arise.

Please note: a crane, equipment, and work trucks will occupy several parking spaces on the south side of the Bramlage lot during this project. We appreciate your patience and understanding.

### Message from the Outdoor Committee

It is getting close to Christmas. If you are looking for a healthy and affordable gift, consider buying a cute teddy bear-shaped bottle filled with our extra special Meadowlark honey. Bottles are only \$6.45 each. Inquire at the Hospitality Desk!

Additional note from resident Sue Hunt: Meadowlark has bee hives on campus! They are located in the south meadow near Kimball Avenue. These hives are maintained and harvested by Valor Honey.

### Line Dancing

Starting in January, Meadowlark is planning to offer Line Dancing classes to residents and Passport members. Before days and times can be finalized, we need to have an idea of the number of people interested in the classes. If you would like to participate, please sign up in the Blue Book at the Hospitality Desk. More information to come.

### Christmas Cantata

*Friday, Dec. 12, at 7 p.m.*

College Avenue United Methodist Church Adult Choir presents a Christmas Cantata at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, in the Community Room. The group is directed by Amy Rosine with Dawn Anderson on piano. All are invited!

### Worship Services

*Sunday, Dec. 14, at 10 & 11 a.m.*

Join Rev. Melanie Nord, Spiritual Life Leader, for worship at 10 a.m. or 11 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 14, in the Community Room/Chapel. Continuing the four-part Advent series, this week's sermon title is Darkness Continues.

All are welcome to enjoy coffee and fellowship before or after worship in the lobby between 9:30 a.m. and 12 p.m.

### Little Apple Chorus Holiday Concert

*Sunday, Dec. 14, at 3 p.m.*

Meadowlark has free tickets available for the Little Apple Chorus show, "Holiday Harmonies," on Sunday, Dec. 14, at 3 p.m. in Forum Hall at the K-State Union. Doors open at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are available at the Hospitality Desk while supplies last!

### Holiday Piano Recital

*Sunday, Dec. 14, at 7 p.m.*

On Sunday, Dec. 14, at 7 p.m., in the Community Room, Tammy Yeager and students from the Manning Music School will present a Holiday Piano Recital. All are welcome!

### Prairie Star Writing Group

*Tuesday, Dec. 16, at 1 p.m.*

Join Cathy Hedge at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 16, in the Patriot Room for this session's theme: "My Favorite Guest." With the holidays in full swing, come write and share about the memorable guests — delightful or challenging — who have shaped your gatherings. Who would you choose to welcome at your door again, and what would you say? All are welcome to join the conversation and creativity.

### Carols & Cocoa

*Tuesday, Dec. 16, at 3 p.m.*

Get ready to sip, sing, and celebrate! Back by popular demand, the Meadowlark Ambassadors are teaming up once again with beloved music enthusiasts Jim Reed and Vera Williams to bring you a heartwarming holiday gathering: Carols & Cocoa!

## EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Join us for this merry come-and-go celebration during our regular Coffee Corner time between 3 and 4 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 16, in the Community Room. Enjoy joyful Christmas carols led by Jim, Vera, and the Ambassadors, along with delicious hot cocoa and cookies, to keep your spirits bright! All are invited to attend!

### **Volunteer & Tech Helper**

**Tuesday, Dec. 16, at 4 p.m.**

Deborah Goins will be available to help residents with technology questions between 4 and 5 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 16, in the Flint Hills Room. Deborah looks forward to building connections through this opportunity and meeting others, so be sure to stop by during her visits on the third Tuesday of every month!

### **FUMC Communion**

**Wednesday, Dec. 17, at 9 a.m.**

Join Pastor Donna and Pastor Courtney from First United Methodist Church at 9 a.m., Wednesday, Dec. 17, in the Bison Room to receive communion. This opportunity is open to anyone wanting to invite Christ into his or her heart.

### **ARTFul Making**

**Wednesday, Dec. 17, at 1:30 p.m.**

Boost your creativity and well-being at ARTFul Making, an informal art session led by Kim Richards from the K-State Beach Museum of Art.

Explore new techniques or enjoy the always-available watercolor materials in Meadowlark's KSU Classroom at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 17. All supplies are provided—just come for art and conversation. No registration required.

### **Veterans Group**

**Thursday, Dec. 18, at 10 a.m.**

Veterans and their spouses are invited for coffee and conversation at 10 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 18, in the Manhattan Room. This group meets every third Thursday.

### **Card Making with Michelle Lehmer**

**Thursday, Dec. 18, at 2:30 p.m.**

The next Card Making with Michelle Lehmer class

will occur on Thursday, Dec. 18, at 2:30 p.m. in the Flint Hills Room. She provides card making supplies for FREE! It's a fun time for all.

### **The Dancin' Stew Holiday Spectacular**

**Friday, Dec. 19, at 7 p.m.**

Join us in the Event Center as we welcome back The Dancin' Stew for a fun and festive evening of music. This group began after the performers sang together in *Beehive: The '60s Musical* and decided to keep the harmony—and the fun—going. Known for their groovy '60s diva sound, they'll bring a special **holiday flair** to this performance. You won't want to miss it!

### **Shopping at Target & Dollar Tree**

**Saturday, Dec. 20, at 10:30 a.m.**

The next scheduled shopping trip is Saturday, Dec. 20, with transportation going to Target and Dollar Tree West. The bus will depart from the Village Entrance at 10:30 a.m., and the return time is set for 11:45 a.m.

Next month's trip will travel to Hobby Lobby and Dollar Tree East on Saturday, Jan. 17. Please sign up in the Blue Book to participate.

### **Retirement Party for Rick the Mailman!**

**Monday, Dec. 22, at 1 p.m.**

All are invited as we celebrate Rick the Mailman and his retirement! Be there on Monday, Dec. 22, at 1 p.m. in the Event Center as we show Rick how much we appreciate him! More information to come.

### **New Years Eve Party**

**Wednesday, Dec. 31, at 6:30 p.m.**

Ring in the New Year with music, dancing, and fun in the Event Center starting at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 31! Meadowlark welcomes back Johnny Cyrene, the Prairie Rose DJ, who has been sharing his love of classic country and '50s-'60s hits since 2006.

Enjoy an evening of great tunes and good company, with an early countdown and toast at 8 p.m. All are welcome!

# RESTAURANT **SPECIALS**

<b>Sunday, Dec. 14</b>	<b>Sunday Brunch</b> Brunch Menu available from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.	<b>\$14</b> <b>Dinner</b> Homemade Chicken Tenders Herb-Roasted Potatoes Honey-Garlic Carrots
<b>Monday, Dec. 15</b>	<b>\$11</b> <b>Lunch</b> Roasted Pork Sandwich Sweet Potato Fries	<b>\$15</b> <b>Dinner</b> Chicken Parmesan <i>served over Linguine</i> Garlic Bread Side Caesar Salad
<b>Tuesday, Dec. 16</b>	<b>\$12</b> <b>Lunch</b> Beef & Broccoli Steamed Pork Dumpling	<b>\$15</b> <b>Dinner</b> Bacon-Wrapped Meatloaf <i>stuffed with Cheese</i> Cheesy Potatoes Peas & Onions
<b>Wednesday, Dec. 17</b>	<b>\$11</b> <b>Lunch</b> Cowboy Burger French Fries	<b>\$14</b> <b>Dinner</b> Swiss Steak Mashed Potatoes Honey-Glazed Carrots
<b>Thursday, Dec. 18</b>	<b>\$11</b> <b>Lunch</b> Fried Chicken Sandwich Macaroni Salad	<b>\$17</b> <b>Dinner</b> Chicken & Sausage Cajun Pasta Garlic Bread House Side Salad
<b>Friday, Dec. 19</b>	<b>\$11</b> <b>Lunch</b> Soup and Salad Bar	<b>\$17</b> <b>Dinner</b> Lemon-Pepper Baked Cod Rice Pilaf
<b>Saturday, Dec. 20</b>	<b>\$11</b> <b>Lunch</b> Sloppy Joe Tator Tots Broccoli Salad	<b>\$15</b> <b>Dinner</b> Chicken-Fried Steak Mashed Potatoes & Gravy Corn



# Weekly Opportunities Calendar *Dec. 14 to Dec. 20*

**Sunday • Dec. 14**      *Put your trash at the curb!*

8:45 a.m. ~ Transport to College Ave UMC, ME  
9:30 a.m. ~ Sunday Morning Fellowship, ME  
10:00 a.m. ~ Transport to College Ave UMC, ME  
10:00 a.m. ~ Worship Service, CR  
10:30 a.m. ~ Transportation to FUMC, ME  
11:00 a.m. ~ Worship Service, CR  
7:00 p.m. ~ Holiday Piano Recital, CR

**Monday • Dec. 15**      *Trash & Recycle pick-up*

9:30 a.m. ~ Seated Strength, CR/**1960**  
9:30 a.m. ~ Memory Care Partners Group, **STM**  
10:00 a.m. ~ Tuttle Creek Ladies' Group, BR  
10:00 a.m. ~ Tuttle Creek Men's Group, MR  
10:30 a.m. ~ Weights 101, CR/**1960**  
11:00 a.m. ~ Rock Steady Boxing, **PF**  
11:30 a.m. ~ Sit & Be Fit, CR/**1960**  
1:00 p.m. ~ Parkinson's Exercise Class, CR/**1960**  
2:00 p.m. ~ Tai Chi, **1960 only**  
5:30 p.m. ~ 5th Floor Supper, MR  
7:00 p.m. ~ Community Bingo, CR

**Tuesday • Dec. 16**

10:00 a.m. ~ Memory Activities Class, EC  
10:00 a.m. ~ Mat Yoga, KSU CL  
10:30 a.m. ~ Steady Yourself, CR/**1960**  
11:15 a.m. ~ Chair Yoga, CR/**1960**  
1:00 p.m. ~ Prairie Star Writers Group, PR  
2:00 p.m. ~ 10-Point Pitch Group, GR  
2:00 p.m. ~ Social Circles, PS  
3:00 p.m. ~ Cocoa & Carols, CR  
4:00 p.m. ~ Tech Help, FHR  
5:30 p.m. ~ 2nd Floor Supper, BR

**Wednesday • Dec. 17**

9:00 a.m. ~ FUMC Communion, BR  
9:30 a.m. ~ Seated Strength, CR/**1960**  
10:00 a.m. ~ Walmart/Dillons Shopping Trip, ME  
10:00 a.m. ~ Memory Care Partners Group, FHR  
10:00 a.m. ~ Memory Café, KSU CL  
10:30 a.m. ~ Weights 101, CR/**1960**  
11:30 a.m. ~ Sit & Be Fit, CR/**1960**  
11:30 a.m. ~ West Monarch Luncheon, BR  
1:30 p.m. ~ ARTful Making, KSU CL  
2:00 p.m. ~ Tai Chi, **1960 only**

**Wednesday • Dec. 17, continued**

3:00 p.m. ~ Rock Steady Boxing, KSU CL  
3:00 p.m. ~ Sing-a-long, FHR  
4:00 p.m. ~ 4th Floor Social, FHR

**Thursday • Dec. 18**

9:00 a.m. ~ Messenger Team, KSU CL  
10:00 a.m. ~ Mat Yoga, KSU CL  
10:00 a.m. ~ Veterans Group, MR  
10:00 a.m. ~ Memory Care Partners Group, **WPL**  
10:30 a.m. ~ Steady Yourself, **1960 only**  
11:15 a.m. ~ Chair Yoga, **1960 only**  
11:30 a.m. ~ Lettuce Ketchup, KSU CL  
1:00 p.m. ~ Parkinson's Exercise Class, EC/**1960**  
2:30 p.m. ~ Card Making with Michelle, FHR  
5:30 p.m. ~ Meadowlark Circle Dinner, MR

**Friday • Dec. 19**

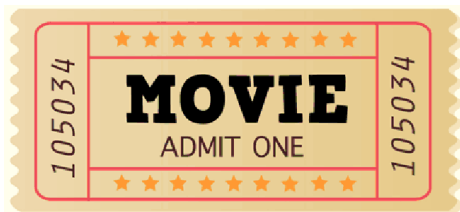
7:30 a.m. ~ Rock Steady Boxing, **PF**  
9:30 a.m. ~ Seated Strength, CR/**1960**  
10:30 a.m. ~ Weights 101, CR/**1960**  
11:30 a.m. ~ Sit & Be Fit, CR/**1960**  
2:30 p.m. ~ Fanny & Furby, KR  
3:00 p.m. ~ Catholic Rosary, CR  
7:00 p.m. ~ Dancin' Stew Holiday Spectacular, EC

**Saturday • Dec. 20**

9:00 a.m. ~ Tai Chi, **1960 only**  
9:30 a.m. ~ Band Bust Exercise Class, **1960 only**  
10:30 a.m. ~ Depart for Shopping Trip, VE

**Room Abbreviations**

<b>1960</b> , TV Channel 1960	ME, Main Entrance
BR, Bison Room	<b>MM</b> , 120 Scenic Drive
CR, Community Room	MR, Manhattan Room
CY, Courtyard	<b>PF</b> , Peakform Wellness Center
EC, Event Center	PR, Patriot Room
FHR, Flint Hills Room	PS, Prairie Star Restaurant
GC, Grosh Cinema	<b>STM</b> , St. Thomas More Church
KR, Kansas Room	VBL, Verna Belle's Lounge
KSU CL, KSU Classroom	<b>WPL</b> , Wamego Public Library



## GROSH CINEMA SHOWTIMES

MONDAY TO SATURDAY 1:00 P.M. / 4:00 P.M. / 7:00 P.M.  
SUNDAY 2:00 P.M. / 6:00 P.M.

### SUNDAY: Dec. 14

***THE NATIVITY STORY*** (2006) PG, 1 hr. 41 min. *Holiday Family, Adventure*

Cast: Keisha Castle-Hughes, Shohreh Aghdashloo, & Oscar Isaac

A drama that focuses on the period in Mary and Joseph's life where they journeyed to Bethlehem for the birth of Jesus.

### MONDAY: Dec. 15

***FIDDLER ON THE ROOF*** (1971) G, 3 hr. 1 min. *Classic Musical, Period Drama*

Cast: Topol, Norma Crane, & Leonard Frey

In 1905 Russia, a traditionalist Jewish peasant contends with three of his daughters marrying men with modern romantic ideals, all while anti-Semitic sentiment threatens his village.

### TUESDAY: Dec. 16

***CHRISTMAS ON THE RANCH*** (2024) TV-14, 1 hr. 26 min. *Romance, Drama*

Cast: Jade Harlow, Houston Rhines, & Saige Chaseley

When a talk show relationship expert with her own romantic hang-ups gets stranded at a ranch before Christmas, the charming rancher reminds her that love is always worth the risk.

### WEDNESDAY: Dec. 17

RESIDENT REQUEST

***UNSINKABLE MOLLY BROWN*** (1964) Approved, 2 hr. 8 min. *Classic Musical, Western, Romance*

Cast: Debbie Reynolds, Harve Presnell, & Ed Begley

A poor, uneducated mountain girl leaves her cabin in search of respect, a wealthy husband, and a better life in this fictionalized biopic of Margaret "Molly" Brown, who survived the 1912 sinking of the RMS Titanic.

### THURSDAY: Dec. 18

RESIDENT REQUEST

***STAR WARS: A NEW HOPE*** (1977) PG, 2 hr. 1 min. *Action Epic, Sci-Fi, Quest*

Cast: Mark Hamill, Harrison Ford, Carrie Fisher

Luke Skywalker joins forces with a Jedi Knight, a cocky pilot, a Wookiee and two droids to save the galaxy from the Empire's world-destroying battle station, while also attempting to rescue Princess Leia from the mysterious Darth Vader.

### FRIDAY: Dec. 19

***NATIONAL LAMPOON'S CHRISTMAS VACATION*** (1989) PG-13, 1 hr. 37 min. *Comedy, Holiday*

Cast: Chevy Chase, Beverly D'Angelo, & Juliette Lewis

The Griswold family's plans for a big family Christmas predictably turn into a big disaster.

### SATURDAY: Dec. 20

***THE POLAR EXPRESS*** (2004) G, 1 hr. 40 min. *Holiday, Family, Adventure, Animation*

Cast: Tom Hanks, Chris Coppola, & Michael Jeter

On Christmas Eve, a young boy embarks on a magical adventure to the North Pole on the Polar Express, while learning about friendship, bravery, and the spirit of Christmas.