



## LA MANO POTTERY AUGUST NEWS

Last winter, La Mano participated in the Empty Bowls project in Bay Ridge. For those of you who don't know about it, Empty Bowls is an international grassroots effort to fight hunger. The basic premise is simple: Potters and other craftspeople, educators and others work with the community to create handcrafted bowls. Guests are invited to a simple meal of soup and bread. In exchange for a cash donation, guests are asked to keep a bowl as a reminder of all the empty bowls in the world. The money raised is donated to an organization working to end hunger and food insecurity. La Mano collected over 75 pots to donate. We were thrilled to engage in such a worthwhile project with a community outside of Chelsea.

A few weeks ago, we saw a listing in the Clay Art Digest for a kick wheel looking for a home. A potter, Ed Huml, was remodeling his studio and no longer had room for it. We at La Mano have always wanted a kick wheel; it has been on the top of our wish list for a long time. We responded quickly to Ed that we were interested. He wrote back immediately that he would love for us to have it. He then thanked us for donating all of the bowls to the Empty Bowls project this past year. It turns out Ed was the person who organized the event! It's a small world.

Now we have made a new friend and resource. Ed is a high school art teacher; we know we will keep in touch and potentially do some more projects together. And Ed knows his beloved kick wheel will be in good hands.

Yours in Mud,  
Diane, Julie, and Peggy



Ed Huml sitting at his kick wheel

### GET DIRTY AND REGISTER NOW FOR A FALL POTTERY CLASS

After much research, we have found an online registration program that is very user friendly to make it even easier to sign up for one of our pottery classes online. **If you have taken a class with us before, and have not received log in info for this new system, please [email us](#) and we can send it to you.**

You can [register on our website now](#) for a Fall class -- we have Hand Building, Wheel, Adult/Child, Youth, and Silver Clay classes to choose from.

**La Mano will be closed on Friday, August 30 - Sunday, September 1 and will reopen on Monday, September 2, from 12:00-6:30pm. Regular studio hours will resume on September 3.**



A limestone statuette from about 2000 BC of an ancient Egyptian potter & Bob Pesce at our new kick wheel.



### KICK IT!

Now that we have one, we started wondering about the history of kick wheels. Some say it was Khnum, an ancient Egyptian deity, who made the potter's wheel. He used it to form the bodies of children out of clay, then placed them in women's wombs. Archaeologists found a potter's wheel at the Mesopotamian city of Ur in modern-day Iraq that dated back to about 3129 BC. Wheel-made pieces of pottery that date back even earlier have been found in the area.

La Mano's new kick wheel works in essentially the same way as the ancient potter's wheels mentioned above. A shaft connects the lower kick wheel (ours is cement) to the higher wheel (made of wood) where the clay is formed into pottery. Bob Pesce, studio potter, will be giving a free demonstration on how to use the kick wheel for all of our in-house potters and registered students on September 10th, from 5:30-6:30pm. Sign up at the front desk if you plan to attend.

### POTTERY TIP OF THE MONTH

Next time you go to the dentist, ask him or her if they have any old tools that they can give away. Dental tools are great for carving!

