

Oy vey! I gotta Kvetch; I schlep myself down Gore street to get you a bowl, Now a Mensch knows you want a nosh, so why not a bissel of soup with the bowl?

Every year for Christmas I give little hand turned pottery bowls. I have done this for the last 10 years or so, I get all my Christmas shopping done in Perth Ontario walking down a street with 150 year old stone buildings beside a canal built in the 1820's.



Why bowls?

1. The bowls are sold in Perth Ontario Canada at **Riverguild Fine Crafts**; the Riverguild is a cooperative retail store<sup>1</sup>. I like the idea of artists' co-ops and see no reason why everything is not sold through a co-op of one sort or another.
2. The bowls are a fundraiser for "Empty Bowls". The purchase of a bowl supports local food security programs. Since Empty Bowls Perth began in 2002 more than 10,000 handmade bowls have sold. This has provided over \$200,000 to local food security programs in our community: The Table Community Food Centre, YAK Youth Services, Food for Thought: Lanark County School Nutrition Program, the Lanark Highlands Food Pantry, and the Guatemala Stove Project.<sup>2</sup>
3. Jackie Seaton was a potter who died in 2013. He was the founder of empty bowls, he lived just up from Kiwi Gardens on Harper Road and he is the potter who made the sink in our bathroom at the farm, I stopped in at his shop numerous times and remember him selling us the sink for 30 dollars, normally 200, because it had a crack in it and he repaired it on the spot, its been working fine ever since.
4. I have bought 20+ a year for 10 years or about 200+ /10,000. I feel part of it now.
5. When Judy and I were married, one of my uncles gave me a check and then he gave me a great big bowl for fruit and the like. He said he gave it to us to have something to remember him by as the check was so transient and impersonal. I give the bowls in memory of Uncle Murray.
6. A bowl is a very practical thing; everyone needs a bowl at least once a day. So my money is going towards something that has intrinsic value.
7. I have never seen an advertisement for hungry bowls or bowls in general. I would prefer to not buy something that was advertised at Christmas.
8. I like bowls, they are inherently symmetrical. I distain the asymmetrical.

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## *Merry Christmas A Christmas rant*



The longest night of year occurs at the Winter Solstice, at sunrise light beams through openings in the great monolith signalling the return of summer. A similar alignment occurs at the midpoints between solstices. In this regard, Stonehenge built perhaps 10,000 years ago marks a traditional recording of Christmas and guides us to its true meaning.

### **References**

<sup>1</sup> Riverguild <https://www.riverguild.com/> 51 Gore Street east, Perth, ON. K7H 3C6 613. 267. 5237 [riverguildfinecrafts@gmail.com](mailto:riverguildfinecrafts@gmail.com)

<sup>2</sup> Empty Bowls <https://www.emptybowls.ca/>