

February, 2025

GVR Clay Studio of Green Valley

A Green Valley Recreation Hobby Club



Message from the President, Kerry Boll



Dear Members:

We have a showcase Artist Reception and Show at Canoa Hills Recreation Center beginning February 2nd. Please sign up! The more the merrier! Submissions should be dropped off Saturday, February 1st at 8:00 a.m. at Canoa Hills. The Artist Reception begins at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 2nd and ends at 6:00 p.m. We are

looking forward to seeing all your work and you there!

On Saturday, February 8th, we will have our Open House beginning at 9:00 a.m. until Noon. The studio will be closed during this time and a big thank you in advance for the volunteers who will be helping!

Wait – there's more! On Monday, February 17th we have forty members signed up for the Live Demo. Jeff Rottman, owner and handbuilding potter will show us the many ways to use his GR Forms. All those on the waiting list will be accommodated. *The

Sunday afternoon, (prior day) we will be moving many chairs into the classroom. Please note that everyone won't necessarily have a chair.

We had a great showing at the Annual Meeting January 16th with 58 in attendance and I just wanted to reiterate and repeat – THANK YOU to all our members for making our studio a great place to work!

For those who have display windows, please take the time once every two weeks to dust and clean your shelves. It's amazing how quickly things look dusty and dirty.

Have a Happy Valentines Day!

Kerry

Glaze Committee News from Christine Shepardson

We are continuing with our testing of Running Hot Chowder, expect a decision by end of February.

Our Cuerda Seca kit has been freshened up, and will be maintained by the Glaze Committee. The new bottles are a bit larger, but there are a few less colors . We did leave empty bottles for members to use for other colors. Please clean these extra bottles if you use them. There are plenty of blunt tip needles in 3 sizes and extra tops. We also have 2 sizes of long pins that work perfectly for cleaning the blunt tips.

We have one container of wax resist that is dyed green. It is

available in the main room drawer with the other wax resist.

We now have englobes, in 5 colors. They are located in the area by the 2nd sink in main room. They are a hybrid of slip, glaze and underglazes and are used to change the color of your clay. They may be applied to greenware or bisqueware. These will fire matte. **DO NOT PUT ON THE BOTTOM OF YOUR PIECE.** They are a Mayco product; their website has more information about these.

Eggshell Wash is food safe, but does scratch easily with utensils, prob best not to use on dinnerware that will be subjects to silverware etc

Another new product coming to the low fire area is French Dimension by Duncan. They are used for raised design effects like dots, squiggles and outlines. They only come in black and white. **LOW FIRE ONLY!**

Good news is that glaze prices are still increasing, but by much smaller percentages. Thank you for everything you are doing to decrease waste.



Brian Alboucq threw this large plate and then textured it. To finish it, he applied Autumn Foliage Interactive Pigment, wiped back and then high fired it. The results were magnificent and it reminds us of wood or basket.

Attention All Studio Members - 1/20/25

Some of our Monitors have been faced with some very unusual situations during this last week. Many of us can learn about these things that sometimes happen in the course of monitoring.

Last week two of our monitors were preparing to close the studio when they discovered that someone had been working with overly wet clay on the red clay wedging table in the main room. While we are sure it was not intentional, the results were that the canvas was left soaking wet, there were bits of clay spread over the front of the table, the inside of the parking lot door, and walls etc.. It must have been very challenging to the person when they were unable to clean the area thoroughly on their own. It would be helpful if anyone finds themselves in such a situation, they should bring it to the attention of the monitor to let them know that they need assistance. If the clean up is so complicated, it may be best to ask for GVR assistance from the custodian. As you all know, it is not the responsibility of the monitors

to clean up any other member's work area. This example demonstrates that in the future, you should avoid trying to wedge overly wet clay on the canvas topped wedging tables. Take the easy way out. Uncover your clay and let it dry on its own.

Over I weekend, some members were working in the wheel room when it came time to close the studio. Some had not cleaned their space by closing time. Please remember that you are responsible for planning your work such that you are at a stage when you can close down your project **by the time the studio closes.**

We appreciate your attention to these examples. It will be a good opportunity to us all to improve our procedures by thinking about the outcomes in advance.

Thank You,

Ellen Wicai and Dee Dee Guizlo,

Monitor Co-chairs



The GVR Clay Studio: Caring, Sharing and Creating Good Cheer during the Holiday Season.

Individual pics clockwise: Jan Kochendorfer, Elaine Spindler, Chuck Dorr, Julie Schmidt, Kitty Bottemiller, Lee Curtis, and Santa. Larry Carter.

Music, door prizes, games, secret Santa, and lots of good food and comraderee.





Let's thank all of **the instructors who share their time and expertise.**

There are always interesting classes being offered year round. Some are GVR (which require signing up online and will cost money), and some are workshops and pop-up sessions. So check the bulletin board in the

main room. Some of these workshops will cost if there is a material fee while most are free. If you have signed up for a class and cannot attend, take your name off the list so others on the waiting list can be added.

Without these teaching volunteers, our studio would not be as welcoming. They teach us the basics of the ceramic processes, guide us through the chemistry of glazing, motivate us to build forms we never dreamed of achieving, and answer questions when we need help later

with our own ideas. Thank you: Kerry Boll, Val Downs, Elenie Eliassen, Donna Herrera, Tess Janka, Sue Peetoom, Nancy Schultz, Marilynn Serra, Christine Shepardson, Teresa Turocy, Janice Walker, Sue Helle, Sally McDermott, Christine Hansen, Pearl Lentz, Amy Hellman, Jane Ercoloni, Kathy Cooklock, Kathleen Ritcher, Mary Beth Fairbrother, and Stephanie Andrews.



Janice Walker's classes are only offered during the winter and are extremely popular.

Janice works with applied stains and rubs to achieve





both decorative and realistic finishes rather than using glazes.

Sue Helle has examples in the Education room of her classes being offered.



*Change for
MAP 2024*

Thank you, everyone for your support of the studio's 3rd annual fund drive for the Green Valley Recreation Foundation's Member Assistance Program fund drive. This event helps those in our GVR community who are finding it a challenge to pay their yearly GVR dues. With help from our clay studio Board of Directors, the club donated **\$474.27** this year. Thanks all!

Al Koss would like you to know that there are still openings for the GVR offered Southwest Storyteller Class taught by Donna Herrera Dates: Feb 2/19, 2/22, 2/26, 3/1, 3/5 & 3/8 Time: 8:30 am to 12 noon Cost: \$60.00

Come play in clay and make a Southwest Storyteller with kids climbing all over it. SUPPLIES: one UNOPENED bag of Redstone or Speckled Buff clay, 1 round loop tool #7205, 1 feather texture brush tool #7003, 1 clear film bag, 1 clay bag, and basic clay tools; buy at Clay Studio. Bring a finished 10" by 10" shard with edges turned up to the first class along with a piece of tee-shirt big enough to keep your creation moist. Call me if you need instructions for making the shard. Look in the membership book at the studio for a phone number,



****IMPORTANT: You MUST currently be a paid member of the Clay Studio and have successfully completed the Introduction Classes to join this class.**

Donna says: "this looks like a complicated class, but it's really fun and EASY!"

Kerry Boll's Story teller figure.

Majolica test workshop taught by Laura Hayden for the Glaze Committee.



In November some members got together to “play “with the Majolica glazes that were in the studio. These products had been purchased by Marilyn Serra when she was in charge of glazes. Testing started, but they never reached the approval/workshop status. We were very pleased with the results and ease of use. Members expressed great interest in using them. We had a demonstration on Jan 20 that was well attended. They are now available in the low fire area by the stroke and coats. Use 3 coats of the Spectrum Majolica white base, once dry decorate with either majolica glazes or stroke and coats....ONLY ONE COAT NEEDED! This process works well on white, red and speckled buff clay. Remember it is LOW FIRE ONLY!! Thanks to Marilyn for starting this process. There are many excellent

videos on u tube, Linda Arbuckle’s videos are quite useful.

Barb Haymond with her design.



Pottery Helpful Hints:

Janet Stellema recently began using the app, Clay Lab. You can upload photos of various stages of your work, record glazes and dates you work on each piece. I always have everything with me as it is on my phone!

Kathleen Brady created these lovely outdoor lanterns



The clay body is B mix with grog and the glaze is goldenrod shino. The design was inspired by the shadows of palm fronds in the

garden and was cut from a half inch slab. The bottom is notched so the cord fits under the piece and a standard luminary bulb is used.



Stephanie Andrews built this figurative sculpture from speckled buff.

Way to go!



So much for this month. Kitty Bottemiller will be publishing her first newsletter for the Studio in March until I return to the studio in mid-March. If you have

something you'd like to contribute, send pics and info to Kitty -

kbottemiller963@hotmail.com. She is a welcome contributor to the newsletter.

