

February 2023 edition



## **WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

**On 1/23, Clay Studio members met in the DeAnza Room for the Annual Membership Meeting to elect a new board and honor outgoing board members.**



**Thank you for your service:**

**Left to right; Bud Montgomery, Susan Anderson, Tom Healy.**

**The new board finds the Clay Studio in sound financial standing with many enthusiastic members stepping up to continue the great programs and ongoing improvements.**

## **Welcome the new board:**



**From left to right:**

**Front row: Laura Hayden, Julie Jacques, Lee Curtis, Pam Bybee.**

**Back row: Marcia Campbell, Al Koss, Kay Eason, Katy Casey, Charlie Radebaugh**

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**from Julie Jacques**



In 2021 Susan Anderson took over as President and has served for the past two years in that capacity. Susan oversaw the completion of the classroom and the new storage space. Susan coordinated the

reopening of the Studio after being shut for Covid for almost a year. She ran the reopening like a well-executed military deployment. Under her leadership, we reopened and had no major Covid incidents in the studio. We've come a long way from March 2021 when we needed to sign up for a space to work and keep 6 feet apart! Susan was instrumental in obtaining the Fiesta room for our use and has been a key player in our raku and horsehair firings. Susan also loads kilns once a week! I have no idea how she fits pickleball, MahJongg and her pets into this schedule. Be sure and thank her for all her service to the studio.

Bud Montgomery has served on the Board for 6 years. He served as Treasurer for 4 years and kept a keen eye on our funds. Bud is always ready to jump in and help us with his woodworking skills.

Marilyn Serra stepped in to finish Paul Wolford's term when he sold his home here. She helped with the reopening, chaired the glaze committee, helped revise the Intro to Clay Class as well as stepping up to teach the monthly classes. Another busy lady.

Tom Healy is stepping down from the Board. Tom helped with the reopening and stepped in to become the Facilities Chairman. He was with us through clogged drains, monsoon floods, leaking ceilings, and several improvements to the Studio. Our board members all deserve our thanks for the time they spend keeping the Studio running smoothly.

Our new Clay Studio board is seated and ready to move forward. Our new Board: President-Julie Jacques Vice-President-Lee Curtis Treasurer-Laura Hayden Assistance Treasurer-Katy Casey Secretary-Pam Bybee Directors: Al Koss Charlie Radebaugh Marcia Campbell Kay Eason.

Our Board meeting dates are posted on the bulletin board in the main room. They are usually on the 3rd Friday at 9 AM. They are open to all our members to attend. We are a committee driven club so if you have issues, they need to be directed to the committee chairperson. Committee chairs are on our web-site.

We have a “new” Newsletter Editor. If you see newsletter worthy art or events, please snap a picture and send it to Denise O’Brien at [rurt2dede@gmail.com](mailto:rurt2dede@gmail.com) with a brief explanation of the art or event.

### **COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Facilities Committee: 2/7 at 9:00 AM

Policy Review: 2/9 at 3:30

Glaze Committee: 2/14 at 9:30 AM

Board Meeting: 2/17 at 9:00 AM

All meetings are held in the studio classroom.

### **UPCOMING WORKSHOPS**

Information on workshops can easily be accessed by going to the GVR Clay Studio website and clicking on CALENDARS or by using this direct link [Classroom Calendar](#)

### **And now a word of thanks from Kay Eason**

I want to thank the monitors for functioning so well through many changes this year. You have accommodated the changes, offered suggestions that improved monitoring, and have stepped up when we were shorthanded. We have a great bunch of dedicated members.



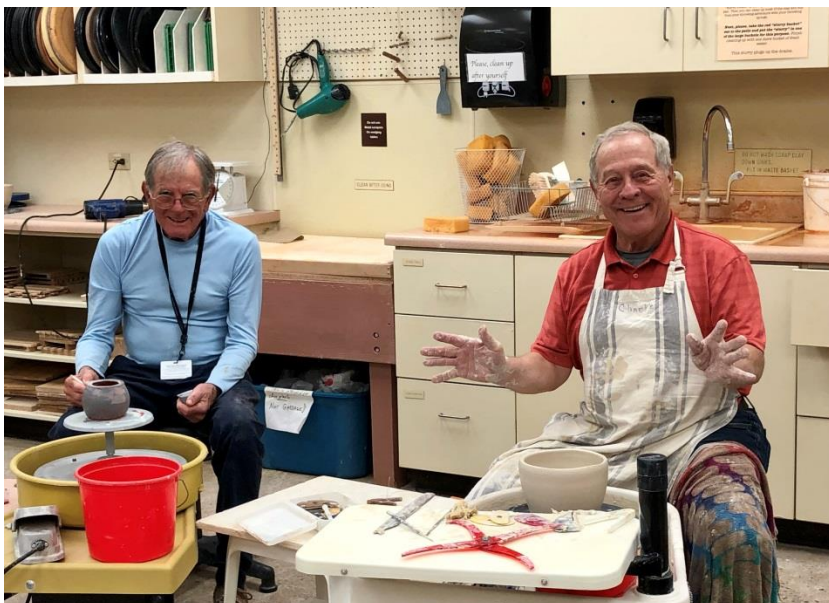
*On a cold and stormy Sunday afternoon,  
The clay studio artists found it a boon.  
Smiles and creative projects could be found everywhere,  
Plenty of ideas to motivate and share*



Susann Ecklund comes to the studio rain or shine. She has so many ideas she wants to explore.

Chris Shepardson builds her new cactus planter in the handbuilding room where she can watch the rain.

Dean Wolford and Charlie Radebaugh know how to “throw away” the rainy day blues.





Karen Wolffis cleverly creates whimsical figures for hours. Watch her use Velvets to blend colors for painterly effects.

### **Some Information about Kilns, Firings and Kiln Techs.**

During the high season (winter) Kilns are fired every week day Monday through Friday. In the low season they are fired 3 days a week; Monday, Wednesday and Friday. All firings take 2 days until the kilns have cooled enough to unload them. This means if you put your piece to be fired on a holding shelf at 11:00am on Wednesday; it will go into a kiln on Thursday during high season. During low season however it will not go into a kiln until Friday.

Occasionally, especially in high season there may not be enough kiln space for all the pieces waiting to be fired. So, if your piece does not get fired according to the schedule just described, it is probably because there was no room for it.

### **Some reminders:**

Please place your piece in the right section of the holding shelves. If the appropriate section is full, place an obvious note with your piece.

Do not glaze to the bottom of your piece unless you are providing some way to raise it from the kiln shelf.

You may use oxides and Velvets to bottom of your piece. If you use color to the bottom, please tell us what it is.

Place only stable pieces for firing. (There is slight movement in a kiln and if unstable, your piece may fall over and ruin one or more other pieces.)

Do not ask us to load pieces that you have trouble handling safely. (We will have the same trouble.)

Generally kiln techs work once a week from 1.5 to 3 hours. They are very responsible, conscientious and committed. It is rare that loading and unloading doesn't get done as scheduled. A Kiln Tech Schedule is posted outside the holding room.

Kilns sometimes fail. This is signaled by a beeping sound so if you hear beeping from the kiln room call Jay or Katy. Jay is our Fixer and can usually attend to failures within a couple of days.

Studio members are invited to tour the kiln room but must schedule this as a group activity. Talk to Jay or Katy about this.

## **Join in the Raku and Horsehair firing fun.**

1st Tuesday of each Month - Raku Firing on the Patio, times vary depending on outside temperature. 2nd Tuesday of each Month - Horsehair Firing on the Patio, times vary depending on outside temperature. Check bulletin board in studio. The best clay bodies to use for these high stress gas firings are Soldate and WSO.

## ➤ Covid Alerts

*Please text the president (520-870-9122) if you have been working in the Studio and then tested positive for Covid.*

*Covid alerts will be posted on the web-site.*

## **Contact Tracing**

*It is no longer necessary to have guests and visitors sign the*

*Contact Tracing list.*

**The teachers, Sue Peetoom and Marilyn Serra, and participants pose for the Official January Intro to Clay Studio class picture.**



## **ARTS AND CRAFTS SHOWS IN FEBRUARY**

### **Annual Clay Studio Artist's Exhibit and Reception**

Canoa Hills Recreation Center



Reception 3-5:00 pm

February 1<sup>st</sup> through 28<sup>th</sup>

Artist's work and images to follow in the March Newsletter.

## **2023 Artisan Festival at the West Center**

at 111 S. GVR Drive February 17 & 18

Benefits The Arts and Craft Association and other GVR Clubs. Did I mention ALL THE DOOR PRIZES!?!

### **Shelf Life**

Please remember that items left on the drying shelves for more than 30 days without being worked on (tag redated) will be considered abandoned and be placed on the back patio table where they may be taken by any member. Sculptures need more drying time so they are given 60 days.

### **New Glaze Info:**

Try the new Mottled Blue, which is in a 5 gallon bucket. It breaks beautifully on texture.



After testing several blue glazes, the 5 gallon pail of Indigo Float, which is no longer available, has finally been replaced with Mottled Blue.

Although the Glaze Committee discontinued 4 glazes, much to the dismay of a few members, we did approved 10 new glazes... Acai Gloss, Fairy Rose, Chai Gloss, Lustrous Jade, Oolong Matte, Hibiscus Gloss, Tiger's Eye, Tourmaline, June Bug and of course Mottled Blue. Take a look at the High Fire glaze board for samples of these glazes.



Also, all Celadon glazes have been approved for use in the Studio but not all will be kept in inventory. We will know better by the end of the summer which Celadons will remain in stock... all others may be individually purchased. Also, all Celadon tiles are now displayed on a new board to the right of the holding room door. More new sample boards are in progress!

Next time you see a Glaze Committee member taking care of the glazes, please thank them for keeping all those glaze containers clean!

Marilynn Serra Glaze Committee Chair

*Also Thank You Marilyn for your service on the Board.*

### **It's EMPTY BOWLS time again!**

The Valley Assistance Services has again asked for donations from the Clay Studio members to fulfill their yearly quest to help families and

individuals in Green Valley who suffer from food shortages and other living challenges.

Therefore, a box has been placed on the top of the library in the Studio for anyone willing to donate bowls to the cause. The bowls can be any size, any décor, and color. The box will be monitored, and as it fills up the donations will be taken to the VAS office.

The Empty Bowls Walk-Through will take place on Saturday, February 18, 2023 from 10:30 am to 1:00 pm. There are flyers posted in the Studio in the main room over the glaze sample board and over the white wedging table in case you wish to participate in the event itself. Deadline for placing bowls in the box is February 16, 4:00pm.

Please consider donating to this most worthwhile cause.



As our bowls are filled,  
let us remember those  
that remain empty

## **Sculpture Room Shelves**

***The drying shelves in the Sculpture room are reserved for sculptures. Now that we have the extra drying shelves in the new “Fiesta” area there should be no need for hand builders to use the Sculpture room shelves.***

## **And now a word from our Service Committee:**

Successful operation of our clay studio is dependent upon every member doing his or her monthly service. Our current monthly service requirement is 2 hours & 15 minutes. In each calendar month in which a member uses the studio he or she must perform & record service in the service book. If, in any month you use the studio & do not record service, that missing service should be made up in the following month.

**Coming into the studio to buy tools, take a class, or buy a firing slip counts as studio usage.**

Lastly, sincere thanks to all of our members who faithfully perform & record their service every month. We appreciate you!

Paula & Jane

[service@claystudiogvaz.com](mailto:service@claystudiogvaz.com)

## **Scrap Clay**

Scrap clay should be placed in the appropriate buckets in each room. When those buckets are full, please help us by dumping them in the large buckets by the gas pig on the patio. We have a member who comes and takes them for his use. Anyone may take the clay and reclaim it. There are many articles on the internet on how to make the clay usable.

## **Holding Room**

Please pick up your pieces from the holding room as soon as possible. Space is limited and it is hard for the kiln techs to find space in the holding room. Thanks!





## Sculpture Workshop Pictures

Instructor, Nancy Schultz is pleased with the way Trudie Colip designed her snail shell.

Instructor, Elenie Eliassen works with Elaine Spindler on arm proportion.





## Advanced Molds Workshop Pictures

Instructor Bonnie Luksha complemented Diane Willcutt on her design and placement.

Instructor, Jane Ercolani helps Ann Montgomery level and trim her pot's lip.



Please send pictures and articles to Denise at [rurt2dede@gmail.com](mailto:rurt2dede@gmail.com). Sincerely, Denise LeCount-O'Brien (your new newsletter lady.)