

January, 2026

*GVR Clay Studio of Green Valley*

A Green Valley Recreation Hobby Club



## Message from the President, Kerry Boll



Dear Members:

Happy New Year to you and your family. We had a successful Holiday Party this year with close to 100 members and spouses attending. Thank you to The Illuminators (the band including our John Turner), to our members who donated to the band, Sheraldine Gardner for coordinating and the setup/teardown crew - Brian Alboucq, Marti DeLong, Sally Richards,

Paula Worthley & Jane Ercolani.

We have heard some rumbling about space to work in the studio by some members. Let it be known, that we have not yet reached two people per table and our attendance on a daily basis is good but not over our capacity. We have not yet filled the new clay storage area in the classroom either. Remember, we are a

sharing, caring and an overly creative group: be considerate and respectful of others. The studio is all our HAPPY PLACE!

The spray booth. Folks it is your responsibility if you use the spray booth to clean it when you are finished spraying your pottery. After the New Year, I will put a signup sheet by the booth that you must complete when using it with your name and an area to check that you cleaned it properly. Ron Jared & Lynn Morgan cleaned it and it took them a couple of hours. Thank you two!

Our board meeting will be held on January 8th at 9:45 a.m. before our Annual Meeting which will begin at 10:30 a.m. in the Anza Room. Don't forget the studio will be closed until noon that day. During the meeting we will be given introductions and updates from each of our clay committees from the chairs. You will also be introduced to the board members, given some surprise news on the studio and you will have the opportunity to ask any questions you may have.

The Clay Club Canoa Hills Monthly Exhibit is coming up on Sunday, February 1st (you will bring your submissions from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m.) and an artist's reception will be on Monday February 2nd from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. We will be putting out exhibit submission forms after the new year by the front register and we encourage EVERYONE to put something in and show off your hard work! Thank you Sheryal Atkins for coordinating. She has done this for several years and our Amy Helman will be taking the reins to lead next year.

One more date to mark on your calendars. Our Open House will be on Saturday, February 7th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The studio will be closed during this time.

I have to give a big shout out to our Newsletter Editor and Chief - Denise O'Brien. THANK YOU for always making stars out of our members and for keeping everyone up to date on new items/glazes/techniques being used, etc.

Enjoy 2026! Make it the best year ever!



Marilynn Serra had such a great idea; we thought it was worth sharing. She works in such small, colorful, intricate designs and uses underglazes to achieve her watercolor effects. So Marilynn has a paint saver palette, lidded tray that she stores tiny amounts of underglazes. The name of the colors is written on the lid. They dry out between uses and so she has to add a dab of water into the dried color she

will be working with. This saves her time and cuts down on waste.



## **Desert Weeds Can Bring A Pot To Life.**

### **Works by Christine Hansen**

Can you guess ‘How Christine created her pots?’ Can you guess what the names of each of the dried weeds sprigs? Hopefully we will find out next month.

Christine was one of the first clay studio members I met after I joined. She walks around and chats with people about their work, complimenting them on the good things she sees. Meanwhile she is always working on unique pieces herself, like multiply clay bodies wedged together.

Thank you Christine for sharing these pics. More next month.





Unfortunate, preventable accident.

The plaster molds are fragile and super expensive to replace; so if one is broken, someone like Larry will give it a try to piece it together. The mold would never be the same but hopefully useable. This mold rolled off the foam and onto the floor.



So keep this in mind when working with molds. Do not store on foam cushion. Once the clay has been pressed into the Mold, bands should be tight around the vessel and placed upright on a flat surface.

If you see someone about to make a mistake in the studio, say something to them. It is your business to take care to our studio. If someone is using metal tools on molds, say something to them.



Watch for water on the floor and other dangerous scenarios as well. Take care of each other and the studio.



As hard as Larry tried he couldn't put it back together again. Several Big Pieces were missing; so if you try to help clean up an accident, just don't throw away the pieces.

These molds cost hundreds of dollars and are not easily replaced.

## A Message from the Glaze Committee

### Christine Shepardson has some Good News

We have approved 1 new glaze, Cosmic Gold Dust by Amaco, we should have it available in January. It is incredible when it has some sun shining on it! Other possible new glazes are going thru testing, give us some time, we may have found the fuchsia color that has been requested, or something just as beautiful.

Please do not bring the glaze containers to your work area, this has resulted in multiple containers of one color glaze being opened. Recently we found 2 nearly empty Red Gloss containers behind one that was half full. We ordered more but it will be sometime in January before it arrives, it is special order. If you think there is a problem with a glaze, please let us know and show us the problem piece. We recently heard “thru the grapevine” that Deep Firebrick Red was coming out orange. We quickly tested it and got the correct color that was expected, it would have helped to have seen the problem piece. And know the lot number of the glaze.

We have added 4 more new Stroke and Coat colors. They are Leapin Lizard, Wine about It, TuTu Tango and Just Peachy. This updates our collection with the newest colors. Remember that we have not thrown any away; you can still access those colors that we are no longer purchasing in the D/C glaze area.

We are fielding many questions about the engobes. I did a bit of investigation and came up with these facts Engobes Primary purpose is to coat or change your clay body color. It has a higher clay content and is lower in colorants, has some fluxes to help

with bonding NEEDS TO BE HIGH FIRED May be applied to greenware or bisque. Can be applied more thickly for texture Shrinks at similar rate as Clay does, therefore less risk of peeling. Fires matte. May be applied to bottom edge of your piece but not on the bottom of the piece. Underglazes Contains some clay, but also high density stains, pigments and fluxes. Used for detailed painting and decoration. CAN BE LOWFIRED OR HIGHFIRED Can be applied to greenware or bisque. Fires Matte Best applied in thin layers, too thick and it may crack or peel May be applied to bottom edge of your piece but not on bottom of your piece.

As our newer members become more comfortable with glazing we know many of you are wanting to try layering of glazes. Remember what you see on the internet will most likely not be the result you get! There are sooo many variables that can affect your results. These include clay body, thickness of glaze, the order the glazes are applied, the kiln temp, where in the kiln they are placed, the slope of your piece, the texture your piece may have and probably lots of more factors that I know little of! We encourage you to buy a test tile for \$2 and see what you get. Also remember that any 2 glazes when layered are totally unpredictable and have the potential to run like crazy! I can give you some examples of my early mishaps! So have FUN but test first!

### Luncheon news from Sheraldine Gardner

I would like to thank everyone who helped set up for the Holiday Party on Dec. 18th and then tore down and put everything away after the party. Thank you all so very much, what a bunch of GOOD people.

# 2025 Holiday Party



What fun it was  
to enjoy a luncheon  
with you.





# Door Prizes



So much fun





# Yummy Food



## Anyone wanting to donate unwanted cardboard on behalf of Sahuarita Food ?           By Kitty Bottemiller

Want to help the hungry in our community, including Green Valley? And support job-training, healthy eating, financial wellness programs & many more locally-provided human services?

Donate your unwanted cardboard! Nonprofit Sahuarita Food Bank & Community Resource Center accepts shipping, moving & store boxes for commercial recycling, & gets paid for it by a commercial recycler. This defrays our overhead costs, enabling us to focus more funds to address vital community need.

To Donate:

- Bring your clean, unwanted empty boxes & wood pulp-type packing material to food bank loading dock on the south side of our building at 17750 S La Canada Dr, Sahuarita, just south of Good Shepherd church. Look for the bin with the "cardboard" sign.
- Cardboard may be left 24-7 year-round, but we suggest daylight hours, & to bring them flattened, if convenient. Also not to leave them rainy or windy conditions.
- *Please don't leave cardboard at the Clay Studio!* Questions? Email Clay Club member Kitty Bottemiller, food bank Community Engagement Volunteer, at [kbottemiller@sfb-crc.org](mailto:kbottemiller@sfb-crc.org), or text 360-480-4130.

Any cardboard helps us give a hand up to those in need of food assistance, and a path out of the poverty cycle for good. And your efforts are deeply appreciated!



This fun pot was created by Michelle Furry.

So much for December, please send me images and articles for February. Please use Times New Roman.



I will not be in the studio in February, as I am a Field Trip leader for the Photo club upstairs and have lots to do. Miss you all. Denise LeCount OBrien, [rurt2dede@gmail.com](mailto:rurt2dede@gmail.com) or text me 3098300177. Please use Times New Roman.



