



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

from Julie Jacques



As we all know, prices for most things have climbed these past few years. After careful analysis, the Finance Committee has determined that we are not charging enough for clay and firings. Clay prices have increased over this past year. What we charge for clay needs to cover delivery, TPT tax and some general operating expenses. The glaze prices have also increased by at least 20% (a glaze we just received doubled in price). Firing fees need to cover the cost of our glazes and kiln operations. As of the end of September, we have spent \$18,105. on glazes, \$2509. on kiln maintenance and nearly \$9000 on two new kilns. Because of these facts the Board voted to raise both clay and firing fees effective November 1. Our clay prices, because of a one ton price that we receive, are still well below the Marjons' retail price. Example: With the new pricing we will charge \$21.25 for speckled buff and the Marjons' retail is \$28.07 plus \$2.52 tax for a total of \$30.59. We will now use the one ton price for our special order clays and many of those prices will actually go down. For example: Frost Porcelain price will drop by \$3 and Gault Paper by \$2. If you have

questions about clay prices and firing fees please contact me and I will share with you the data that the Finance Committee used to determine these price increases.

If any of you have priced membership at another studio, you know that our Studio is still the best bargain around!

The dues for 2024 will remain at \$35. Membership forms are on our webpage and you can submit them with your check by placing them in the box by the handbuilding room door. Kathleen asks that you print neatly and be sure you put your correct GVR #.

Our new kilns are in and Jay and his friend Ross had them fired up and running within hours. Big Bertha and #7 have both been sold and sent off to their new homes. Thanks to Stan and Brian for helping with the moving of the old kilns and the assembly of the new kilns. Special thanks to Jay and Ross for their work in getting the new kilns running.

Chris Shepherdson has purchased some long, tiny spoons for stirring and dishing out the velvets. They work great for mixing and help you get just a tiny amount. I admit I WAS a shaker which caused the lids to be very messy and waste a lot of our very expensive glaze.

The pails of scrap clay in the rooms and on the patio are for anyone to take. Throw the pieces into a pillow case and let it sit in a pail of water (at home) for a couple of days and then hang it in a tree or just lay it on some rocks. When it starts to firm up, wedge it up and you have a free bag of clay!

The annual migration has started and it's great to see our friends return to the studio. Don't forget that all Studio events, classes and workshops are posted on our website. www.claystudiogvaz.com

Julie

ART IN THE PARK

Wow what a showing of members' talent!

The crowds showed up for a beautiful day in our gem of a park, Desert Meadows. There were musicians, food and drinks, and of course **ARTISTS.**

To my surprise, some of our potters are also musicians. The Outlaws performed in the Barrio area of Desert Meadows Park and invited the audience to join in singing. Pictured here from left, Nancy Schultz, Lee Curtis, and Suzzy McCafferty



Our President, Madame Julie Jacques



Left: Canadian, Karla Burron
Center: Sally McDermot
Right: Kathleen Ritcher



Theresa Turocy holds an example of her new glaze pouring technique. An intricate member of the clay studio, Theresa just finished teaching TableTop Totems. The results are fabulous.



Left: A beautiful use of decals and texture. Above: A limited color scheme and bright Stroke and Coat glaze makes a striking design.

Susan Anderson specializes in Raku and Horse Hair Firing techniques. If you want some good background on it, ask her or Doug Davis.

We don't see her much at the studio because she arrives very early in the morning to unload and load the kilns. And she has a studio and Raku kiln at her home. Susan has mastered the wheel and loves to learn everything about the art. She was telling me all about Saggar firing. Susan has been a past president of the clay studio where she was instrumental in creating our Educational Room. She was president during Covid, lucky woman, where she had to make hard decisions on reopening.



Susan served 23 years in the Navy, which took her to the Pacific. She spent most of it in Thailand, Japan, Korea, and Okinawa. Thank you for your service.

Now she enjoys life with her husband and her dogs. She focusses on the 3P's: Pottery, Pickleball and Puppies.

If you go to her house during the Tubac Art Center's *Artists Open Studio Tour*, you can see her lovely backyard and outdoor gas kiln. The studios of over 50 local artists in Green Valley, Tubac, Tumacacori, and Rio Rico are open to the public for free.

So mark your calendars for March 8-10, 2024, 10 AM – 4 PM. Look for the Tour's booklets in the studio, local businesses and the Tubac Art Center.



Karen Wolffis can't get enough of art. Her lifelong passion to create has guided her through many mediums. She paints in oil, works in lapidary where she has created thousand of earrings and necklaces. She also belongs to the glass studio. You can say Karen is a JACK OF ALL ARTS. You can find her work in the Artisan Shop at West Center.

She remembers fondly that her mother was also a jeweler in Michigan.

As a life long painter, Karen's painterly use of velvets shows off her skills.





This Piece is Awesome

This awesome pot was made by Beverly Taylor. She learned the traditional coil and paddle technique from Sam. She used speckled buff clay body with iron oxide, black velvet underglaze and art deco green glaze to accent her design. Beverly joined the studio last spring/summer after they moved here from Alcade, NM. She loved high school art ❤️❤️. She said after trying other handbuilding techniques, she said that she loved the rustic pot technique because it was fun and easy.



Nancy Schultz created textural plates in Red Stone. You may know Nancy as a teacher. She fills her time with the studio and playing her guitar.

Next step is adding colored oxides after Bisque firing. Then underglazes and glazes..



From the Desk of Christine Shepardson, Glaze Committee:

Just a few things

1) underglaze pencils have been approved for members use, we must purchase our own

2)S and C Gray hare approved

3)Glaze Turquoise Lake is being evaluated as a possible dipping glaze. A pint is available for your use. Please let us know your thoughts

4)Thanks to a member's suggestion, we now have long handled spoons with a small bowl available to stir and dispense the velvets. Please consider the use of the paint palettes when appropriate.

5) Please leave your suggestion and questions in the box, we review at each committee meeting.



Marti DeLong worked on her owl sculpture for four months until she got it just right. She was working with Val in the sculpture room. Marti was unhappy with the initial glaze firing results and decided to go with a spray finish

so she used Rustoleum spray and then use an acrylic gold rub to bring out the depth and shine. She found the eyes on Etsy and added feathers to a truly mixed media look. Very fun, Marti!

Desert Meadows Park.



Not to my surprise, some of our potters are also involved in volunteer organizations.

Preparing for the Plant Sale and Art in the Park was especially busy for our club leader, Julie Jacques. All year-round, she and the volunteers work in the garden which was established in 2014. The park is a testament to the power of volunteerism.

Volunteer Julie Jacques has been a part of the project since 2020. She was looking for a way to give back and stay busy during COVID.



The nursery team: Julie Jacques, Kathleen Richter, Jerry Cuffe, Terie Gempel, Bob Lane and Marilyn Montgomery. (Not pictured: Sally Hennessy) Chuck Parsons

“At that time, we had a couple tables here and that was it. We had one rack over here and people would bring pots and things and we would put them there and price them,” she said. “I just priced a few things one week. We started potting plants for propagation and from there we added tables and started selling off the end.”

MINI STACK TOTEM CLASS

WOW...what fun we all had creating our individually styled totems. Julie Jacques, Bonnie Lufska, Kerry Boll, Jane Ercolani, Mary Medigar, Carol Z, Chris Shepardson and Pearl Lentz joined me... Teresa Turocy on a 5 week journey of creation and Fun.

We started with a planning session. Working with design concept and deciding how you might glaze so you used the right clay body. We had 8 great minds, everyone did something different.

Thanks to Margie Champlin we had all the templates for the 4 different size birds by Jena Bedson a clay artist from New Zealand. Check out Jena's work on Pinterest. These templates are available just ask one us from this class, we are usually in the hand building room.

Each week we would gather in the classroom and share ideas and work on different pieces of our totems. Teresa's husband Dave created metal stands for our totems at the GVR metal shop. I'm sure many of you have seen them in the classroom on the shelves.



Jane working on her big bird. Chris is working on her jumbo bird. Julie is working with paper clay for her animal figures and Kerry has lot of his pieces already created and oxidized. And who says the facilitator can't create as well!



Carol is making a planet inspired totem. She is glazing Saturn in the photo.

Pearl totem is desert inspired with cactus and birds.





Mary created her totem using speckled buff clay, oxidized her pieces then used velvet underglazes wiping back glaze just a little so oxide would show and high fired to bring out speckles in the clay

Pearl used BMix clay and Stroke and Coat glazes and low fired to showcase her totem. She added beads to the bottom clay base for a third dimension.



Kerry and Jane both used Speckled Buff clay and oxidized their pieces with burnt umber oxide. They then applied velvet underglaze and wiped back to highlight the oxide. High fire to bring out speckles of clay.

Teresa used BMix clay and Stoke and Coat glazes for her totem. Several shades of yellow were used with cantaloupe and sage green as well. Low fired so we could glaze all edges.



Article and layout by Theresa

Welcome to Horse hair firing.

Doug Davis knows the art of horse hair firing. Susann Ecklund and I tried it for the first time on Wednesday. With Susan Anderson's and Doug's help, we experienced the exciting but unnerving process.



Doug and Susan like to use porcelain clay bodies, I used Soldate and WSO, and Susann used B Mix with grog. Both Doug and Susan burnish their pieces in the leatherhard stage and then apply thin layers of Terra Sigillata slip. Once more, they burnish until their pieces are smooth as glass. Check out Doug's work.



Doug gets excited when things go well.



Susan Anderson and Susann Ecklund check out the work cooling on fire bricks.



We used Velvet Underglazes for our accent designs. The horse hair process is similar to Raku except the pieces are fired to around 1450 degrees before they are removed from the kiln and the horse hair is applied to the surface. Raku is fired much higher because they are glazed with Raku glazes. Both processes are a bit risky in that any time a pot is removed from a red hot from a kiln and exposed to the air, they experience Thermal Shock. We were lucky in that only one pot experienced some minor cracking. SUCCESS!

Monitors

Only you can delete your sign Up Genius sign-ups!

- 1) From your personal computer, sign into your SUG account.
- 2) Go to your sign-up and click on the X
- 3) A box will open that says “Are you sure?”
- 4) Click “Yes, delete”

That’s it...you can now go back and sign up where you want to monitor.



If you have images and articles, please email them to me, Denise at rurt2dede@gmail.com. Plus, thank you for all the praise over the newsletter; nevertheless, when I mess up, forget something, or misspell a name, please forgive me.

Next edition will be December 1st and I will skip January because I am having total knee replacement surgery in December and will not be in the studio for a while. However please continue to send me info and images.

Have a great Thanksgiving.