



## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**from Julie Jacques**



Thanks to Chris Shepardson for stepping up to be our Glaze Chairman. She has been working with Marilyn over the summer to have a smooth transition. Chris has had her first meeting with her committee and they have hit the ground running.

Thanks to Chris and her committee for undertaking this vital job.

Lynn Morgan has been making shards for the kiln committee. Jay says they are the MOST beautiful shards he has ever seen! Thanks, Lynn.

Thanks to Amy Hellman who has donated a single serve Keurig coffee maker. Javaphiles rejoice! Please be sure to unplug the machine when you are done.

Applications for the Board of Directors are due by Nov. 1. Each year we replace three members to our nine member board. You will find the applications on our web page and completed forms should be placed in my mail slot by the library.

We will be replacing two of our kilns. The new ones have been ordered and should be here by late October or early November. If you are interested in purchasing either of these two kilns, please see the ad in the newsletter.

We are getting reports of Covid infections. The CDC says if you have very mild symptoms you should isolate yourself for at least 5 days. If you have had a fever and other more serious symptoms you should isolate yourself for 10 days. Please do not come to the Studio if you have Covid, a cold, the flu or any other contagious illness. We have many members for whom a common cold would be a major health event. **If you are in the Studio and you are sick, you will be asked to leave for the sake of our members.** Covid alerts will be posted on our web page.

Raku and horsehair firings are starting this month. Raku will be the second Wednesday and horsehair will be the third Wednesday. Starting time will be 8:30. Members are invited to come and watch the magic on the patio.

Our Stewardship Committees spends one Monday morning per month cleaning the Studio. They do an awesome job! Our window shelves have gotten quite dirty with bugs and cobwebs and our cleaners will not touch your art. If you are displaying your art in a window, please take your art out and clean the shelves. Please clean your storage space, also.

Sheraldine Gardener is planning a Day of the Dead party for Nov. 2, in the Anza Room. Watch the bulletin board, web page and monitor's desk for details.

That's all folks, Julie

## **Chris Shepardson of the Glaze Committee:**

**PLEASE Do not to return glazes that have been cross contaminated with water or iron oxide. We have had several velvets and now even**



**high fire glazes that have been affected by mold. Glaze prices have risen substantially. These are costly problems.**

**Yes, we need to remember that other people like to use the same glazes. When you take the jar, studio people may think it is all used up. So therefore they open a new jar.**

**Do not open a new jar until the first jar is completely empty. Thank you.**

## **Farewell to Big Bertha**

If you have spent much time in the Clay Studio you may have overheard discussions about Big Bertha. She has been with us for eight years and has developed quite a reputation. Sometimes Jay will be a little short with her and she will really get fired up. Other times she will give him the cold shoulder! Many of the guys won't go near her when she's in one of her moods. Her hot flashes are



epic! Despite all her character flaws she has served us well and we will miss her. Hopefully, in her retirement, she will only need to get fired up once or twice a month. Adios, Big Bertha.

## **For Sale~ We are replacing two of our kilns.**

1) Kiln # 1~Big Bertha is a Skutt KM1227 which we purchased in 2015. 240 volt, single phase. Cone 10 Kiln She has always been used for bisque firing. New KM1227's are \$5000 plus tax and delivery. Available late October or early November. Price \$850

2) Kiln #7 is a Skutt KM1027-3 which we purchased in 2012. She has usually been fired to cone 5.5. New KM1027-3's are \$3700 plus delivery and taxes. Available late October or early November. Price \$700



Beautiful piece by Ellen Wacai. This original version of this deer dancer plate was made by the famous Native American potter, Maria Martinez. The design was created by Maria's husband, Julian. They were residents of San Ildefonso Pueblo, New Mexico during the early 20th century. Her work was not limited to the black pottery they were famous for. I have always admired their work.

Ellen has traveled to many pueblos and is quite knowledgeable about the Native American art and culture.



**Even covered in clay slip, Brian can make some beautiful pots in the studio.**



Brian Alboucq, with clay all over his glasses, enjoys challenges. He creates lidded containers and then uses a scraffito method to add a basket weave look to the vessels and lids. The blue jar is mottled blue. Brown jar is red/brown velvet with ochre celadon. Vase



Brian is originally from Spokane, Washington. He likes working in clay because it keeps his mind occupied.



is seaweed over Firebrick. Brian was recently photographed by Sue Peetom after he had spent some time on the wheel throwing a large dish.







Brian has been with us now for one and a half years. He had had a year of ceramics in college and had a girlfriend at one time that had a clay studio. So you might say, he has a passion for pots.







**Lookie, Lookie. In the Handbuilding room,** you will see table covers located under the slab roller. **Please use these vinal~ pads for your molds.** The Vinyl pads will help keep the stainless steel table tops from being dented or scratched

**Some finished pieces from  
Sam's, Sit with Sam sessions**

What wonderful texture!  
Marilynn Serra built this during  
one of Sam's sessions. She  
commented that it was a nice  
break from using molds. She  
said she made this pot in two  
hours, using Sam's paddle and  
coil hand building method. Her  
pot, Happy, Happy, is stained  
with red iron oxide and has only  
a hint of glazes. It will be a fine  
flower pot.



Sue  
Peetom  
has  
glazed  
her Sit  
with Sam  
pieces  
and they  
are in the  
display  
window.

## **Classes and Workshops are all listed on our web-page.**

You must register for Classes through GVR. You can register through the Active

Net site, at any GVR Service Center or by calling 520-625-3440.

Workshops are free and you can sign up on the Education Bulletin Board.

Kent Amerman is doing free wheel tutoring~information on the bulletin board.

Deb Goalby is doing a free workshop on centering and Japanese Spiral Wedging. Sign up on the bulletin board.

Introduction to Sculpture classes are being taught in September, October and November. Cost \$30. Information on our website. Sign up through GVR.

## **GLAZE COMMITTEE NOTICE**

Glaze prices continue to increase, close to 20 percent. These glazes are owned and paid for by members' dues and firing fees. Let's use them as we want, but try not to waste. Anybody have ideas how to minimize waste, please we want to hear from you.

We have had loss of glazes due to contamination.

Please just take a little and get more as needed, and do not put your glaze back if there is a possibility it was contaminated.



Completely rinse all objects to be dipped, we recently had to strain a 5 gallon bucket because of sediment.

We now have a suggestion box, we want to hear from members!

Thanks,  
Chris Shepardson



**Nov. 2, 2023**

***Day of the Dead  
Party***  
**From 2:00 - 5:00 pm**



**Watch for Poster in the Clay Studio  
Also sign up sheet.**

**Thank you,  
Sheraldine Gardner**



**People put your ID/chop marks on your pieces before you put them in the holding room for firing! There are fewer and fewer as the weeks go by...**

There are so many going in without ID, it is difficult to ID pieces! People are not sure it is theirs, people are asking about construction, color, compliments, and there is a need to know for the kiln committee, etc.

We emphasize how important this is! Please ask Sue Peetoom or Marilyn if you have forgotten how to place an ID during construction or when it is bone-dry and ready to go into the kiln without harming their piece.

***Welcome back to our seasonal visitors.***

Here are a few service hints & reminders from Paula & Jane:

Monthly service is required of any member who uses the studio.

Please remember to record your service in the service book.

Missed service needs to be made up, including any months missed before you left for the summer.

If you have any questions or issues with getting your service done, please let us know. You can click on the service tab on the studio website to send us a message, or just email us at

[gvrclaystudio02@gmail.com](mailto:gvrclaystudio02@gmail.com)

Regards,  
Paula & Jane  
Service Committee

### Notice of a Change

**When you received your eblast telling you that the October 2023 Newsletter was available on our Website, it also marked a change to our method of sending eblasts to provide timely information to themembers of the studio. From now on, your eblasts will be coming from eblasts@claystudiogvaz.com**

**– Still the GVR Clay Studio, just a new address, format and sender. Please, add this email to your email address book!**

**Mike Kearns has been a member of the GVR Clay Studio for 20 years. Over that time, he has served us well and in many ways we may not remember. Mike has been a member of the IT Committee, was a Vice President at one time, a**



**major contributor to implementing our current POS system, when we had nothing. He had a big part in creating the Clay**

**Studio's project measuring tool the Monitors use to determine what to charge members for firings, made sure the important eblasts got to members and at times found used**





computer equipment in the Computer Club for the Clay Studio to use. If you have ever been to the Canoa Hills Clay Studio Show, you may remember Mike and his guitar entertaining guests as they enjoyed your art work.

**Thank you, Mike for all your service over the years and please welcome Carol Zychowski as she takes on the responsibility for eblasts to studio members.**

**Carol will be using MailChimp. Shortly after you get your October notice, Carol will be sending a “test email” from the new system so that you will recognize the new format for our eblasts. PLEASE do not use this UNSUBSCRIBE link, unless you do NOT wish to receive the earliest notice of classes, closings, workshops and parties. Once you UNSUBSCRIBE, MailChimp will not send you any more eblasts until YOU SUBSCRIBE again.**

**Thank you, Mike, Carol and members of the GVR Clay Studio. Jon Otto – IT Chair**

## **Raku / Horsehair**

**2 PIECE LIMIT PER FIRING PER MEMBER!**

**5 LB MAX per piece. Remember all pieces must be able to be handled with TONGS.**

**You must be present. SHOW-UP 20-30 min. before firing**

**Here are some VERY BASIC GUIDELINES to increase your chances for success as these pieces go through THERMAL SHOCK when fired.**

### **RAKU**

- **Clay- Bmix/w grog, Soldate, WSO**
- **Build a well-constructed piece with uniform thickness and (if hand building) strong joints. The fewer seams the better. Remember it will be handled with tongs.**
- **Dry it.**

- Pay for it. Bisque it.
- Glaze it. Raku glazes are on the shelves in the raku area over by the parking lot entrance door. Follow the directions on the jar.
- **\*NOTE\*** Unglazed areas of your piece will turn **BLACK** during the reduction process.
- Pay for a **RAKU** firing and place glazed pieces on the shelves in the Raku area.
- **SHOW-UP** on the patio 20-30 min. before firing time with your piece and firing slip.
- The **RAKU TEAM** will coach you through building a reduction/combustion container for your pot!
- Pieces are then placed in the kiln by the kiln techs.
- The kiln is slowly raised to 1830 degrees. The process takes 1.5 to 2 hours.
- Pieces are then placed in the reduction chambers for 20 min.
- After 20 min. the pieces are revealed. You may be happy, surprised or sad! Once they are cooled you can take them home. Usually, it's all over by **NOON**.

## **HORSEHAIR**

- Clay- horsehair/feathers show up nicely on white clay (Bmix or porcelain for example), but red clay (Redstone for example) offers a nice result too.
- Once again, build a well-constructed piece with uniform thickness and strong joints. The fewer seams the better.
- **REMEMBER YOUR PIECE MUST BE ABLE TO BE HANDLED WITH TONGS!**
- Dry it.

- You may add velvets or terra sigillata, to greenware if desired. ASK if you have questions!
- Pay for it! Bisque!
- Bisque it!
- **\*\*DO NOT GLAZE IT\*\***
- Pay for it for HORSEHAIR!
- Place on shelves in Raku area!
- SHOW-UP on the patio 20-30 min. before firing time with your piece and firing slip.
- The firing team will coach you so you're prepared when your piece comes out of the kiln.
- Pieces are then loaded into the kiln.
- The kiln is slowly brought up to 1350 degrees.
- The pieces are removed from the hot kiln and placed for you to apply horsehair/feathers to.
- **\*\*1350 degrees \*\*DO NOT TOUCH YOUR PIECE\*\***
- After your piece has cooled it's yours to admire!

Raku and Horsehair firings provide instant results. Some results you may be happy with. Some results maybe not so much! ALWAYS FEEL FREE TO ASK QUESTIONS! When in doubt DON'T until you ASK.

**COME JOIN US!**

Doug Davis (usually in the wheel room)

### **Kiln Requests**

All pieces **MUST** be bisque fired before any glaze can be applied. Items that are not bisque fired first will blow up and ruin the other pieces in the kiln. Always check the





bottom of your piece and remove all glaze.

When placing items in the holding room, please use the smallest shelf that your work will fit on.



So much for this month.

Fall is around the corner and so is my knee replacement. I may not be able to put out a newsletter when I'm recovering. Please send me images, names and captions to Denise at [rurt2dede@gmail.com](mailto:rurt2dede@gmail.com)

When you get a THIS PIECE IS AWESOME CARD, PASS IT ON. Walk around the studio and find a work and place that card on it. Share the kudos. I am especially seeking out members who have not had their work in the newsletter yet.