

September, 2025

GVR Clay Studio of Green Valley

A Green Valley Recreation Hobby Club



Message from the President, Kerry Boll



Dear Members:

What a fun filled summer at the studio. Hope you are enjoying the improvements we are making. Btw - We have a suggestion box and are always open to new ideas.

As we prepare to welcome back our part timers please remember the considerations we

all share to make the studio a warm place to create art together. Use drying shelves appropriately based on space and please do not store items that should be in your cubby spaces. Clean your space for the next friend behind you. And if you are not in the studio for more than two

months you have to remove everything and relinquish your cubby space.

Reminder — everyone in the studio has an obligation to do service on a timely and monthly basis. If you have any questions on use and policies, please review them on our website. **And for the record, everyone is required to scan their GVR badges every day you use the studio.** We will not babysit those who wish to be cute and not scan so they can surpass service - you will lose your ability to be in the studio for a period of time or for good.

Looking forward to seeing the studio filled, laughter a plenty and creativity a flowing.

Thanks!

Kerry

Every Wednesday, there is a drop-in beginning sculpture opportunity. The instructors, Elenie Eliassen, Val Downs and Nancy Schultz are there to help anyone who wants to give it a try. You never know what you can accomplish until you try it.



Here is Elenie with one of her finished statue and her new students.



The Summer of Big Pots



Lynn Morgan is working on an oversize sculpture. Pieces must be under 22 inches tall and 22" wide to fit into the kiln. So she devised a way to create two pieces that would then be fit together after glazing.

Notice how she kept the insert part unglazed. This is for two reasons. #1. Glazes increase the size a bit, which could be a problem with fitting the two pieces together. #2. Also, then she will glue the pieces together and unglazed areas will adhere together better.





**This is truly the
summer of
large pieces.**

Brenda Eddy is working with
speckled buff on her ocean
themed pot.





Denise LeCount-O'Brien is working with B3 Brown which turns black after high firing. The pot mold number is A1 and A2. There is another of these 18" pots labeled B1 and B2. It is a beautiful shape.

Suzzie McCafferty is going to break a record with her handsome, tall hand built pots.





Meanwhile in the wheel room, Brian Alboucq's work is recognizable due to his use of textured rollers. "25 pounds of clay".

Jay Grotthousen has been throwing some extra large ones.





Ron Campbell's super tall sculpture is actually two pieces that will be fired separately. The man's tunic overlaps the legs, which is a separate piece.

Suzzie McCafferty's design continues all the way around her pot. Love it!



Teri Williams mixed media vase is tall and thin.

More Americans are picking up pottery as a screen-free hobby and a way to make new friends, *Axios'* Megan Stringer reports.

- **Why it matters:** Throwing pottery on a wheel is calming, therapeutic — and just the right amount of challenging. It takes some skill and creativity, but it's accessible to people who don't usually think of themselves as artsy.

"I think it's always good to have other outlets outside of the norm of going to restaurants or going to bars," Lindsay Werner, who owns Mud Studio locations in San Antonio and Austin, told KSAT in San Antonio.

- **"We're so isolated** and technology-focused today ... and this is like getting back to the Earth," Chicago resident Kelsie Huff told the Chicago Sun-Times.

Zoom out: New ceramics studios are opening around the country, from Overland Park, Kansas, to Atlanta.

- **Longtime spot** Greenwich House Pottery in Manhattan opened a second location last year, citing an explosion in bookings.
- **"People want a community, and they want to make things with their hands rather than swipe the screen all day,"** Fabio Fernández, director of Greenwich House Pottery, told *The Art Newspaper*.



Megan's thought bubble: I began throwing wheel pottery a little over a year ago, and I love how it's embedded with life lessons. One of the biggest is learning to control what you can — and let go of what you can't.

- **Clay teaches me** to assert myself and be direct. If I want the clay to do something, I have to tell it.

But the practice also helps me accept that things will go wrong and break — constantly. That's OK, because I can't make beautiful vessels without working past those wonky ones.

- **My first mugs** were shallow with lopsided handles. Now I can create mugs with symmetrical bases and comfortably smooth handles.



Janet Parrell says the following about her work.

“Made with speckled buff clay
I used red iron oxide outside
I used Toshi Brown inside and
also put Toshi Brown on outside
accents”



“Used speckled buff clay.

Left the outside bare-no glaze was used.

Inside I used Iron Yellow glaze over everything including the flowers and leaves.

Then I wiped off some of the Iron Yellow glaze with a damp sponge on the flowers and leaves in spots and then applied the moss, teal and cayenne over the top of the entire flowers and leaves.

Leaves are glazed with Moss Satin Matt

Flowers are glazed with Teal Satin Matt and cayenne. satin Matt.”

THE KILN COMMITTEE IS REQUESTING THE FOLLOWING REMINDER FOR ALL MEMBERS:

Underglaze may ONLY be put on GREENWARE.

Please do NOT apply Stroke & Coat glaze to greenware. Stroke & Coat glazes are to be applied only AFTER the piece has been bisque-fired.

Although the Stroke & Coat do indicate possible use before bisquing, this is not allowed in this studio. It has happened that in the bisquing process another person’s piece has been affected by S & C.

Again, UNDERGLAZE ON GREENWARE ONLY.

THANK YOU.

A Walk Around the Studio









Keep
up the
good
work



A Journey to Africa and Lessons of a Lifetime **By Teri Williams**

We had lost contact...two 20 somethings after TWA *Stewardess* training in 1970. Yes that's what we called ourselves back then. It was the best possible time to be a flight attendant! We bumped into each other 35 years later when we were both living in Napa, California and are now the best of friends.

One night at a small gathering, Claudia and her hubby, Rob shared the details of their upcoming trip to Malawi Africa and mentioned their flight would stop in in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. As time went on it seemed I should go too. This would be a “working” trip... so what could I bring to the table? Beads! But somehow by the time we left the small plan of making beads grew beyond this potter's abilities and the end blue print became: “build a clay studio”!

We left SFO with hearts pounding. I was so blessed to meet sweet Gyrum, my Childfund Child in Ethiopia, spending a day with her and her grandmother. A day neither of us will ever forget. Then on to Malawi to regroup with Rob and Claudia.



In Lilongwe, Malawi's capital, another potter heard about our trip

and volunteered to help...and we began! There our ladies bashed, ground and sifted their own stoneware! No pugged or bagged clay in this town! Somehow I'd never made the connection of stoneware and hard rocks but those ladies never complained. By the time we left Lilongwe, they had a clay studio! What a joy to leave that gift with them.

Next we're off to Zomba in the southern part of Malawi to help women build a little business of bead making. To the rescue: **Go Go Grandmas!** This is an organization that supports grandmothers who are raising their grandchildren due to their parents dying either from AIDS, malaria or other illnesses. The older women are no longer competitive in the limited job market in Malawi though they need to fund the enormous burden of raising young ones.

Over the next few days each woman brought a different type of clay from their area. It was amazing how many different shades of clay came in. All of *us* were different shades too (pictured right)! They are so poor but full of faith and joy. It was a lesson that stayed with me. *They* taught us way more than we taught them.



Years later a package arrived from Malawi. What in the world could this be? Come to the studio and see! It will be on display at the front desk.

Never underestimate your talent or contribution when stepping up to a need. Wisdom, knowledge and direction will appear when it's needed. Always, always believe and take the first step. The rest will follow!!

So much for this month. The lack of captions is because of my cataracts. Good vision and captions will return in October, hopefully. I enjoyed working with Teri on her article. Next month I will feature Liane Redpath Worlund's work .



If you have something to share, please write it up and send it to me at rurt2dede@gmail.com (that's = Are You Arty too? dede)

Let's try to keep stories two + pages and please use Times New Roman and size 18.