

February 2024

GVR Clay Studio of Green Valley

A Green Valley Recreation Hobby Club



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

from Julie Jacques

The Canoa Hills Exhibit was a huge success. The Reception was well attended and our Committee did an awesome job of setting up the new display area. The Desert Ukes gave us great entertainment. Thanks to everyone who helped with this event.

The Education Committee felt that a smart TV would be a great addition to our classroom. They researched which brand and model would work best for us. Al Koss and Terry Chute purchased a 55 inch Samsung Smart TV. GVR maintenance crew installed the TV and ran power and internet supply for us. Jon Otto and Al Koss are working on setting up a way so that we can all use it for watching clay related videos. Directions will be posted by the TV when it's ready for your use.

Kay Eason, our Monitor Co-Chairman, is stepping down after several years of dedicated service. Kay has worked tirelessly to keep our Monitor program running smoothly. She has established a Training program to assure that members can receive the skills necessary to carry out their duties. Kay and Ellen Wacai have created many methods to make our Monitors feel confident in the job of monitoring. Thanks to Kay for a job well done. Hopefully we will see Kay "Playing in the Clay"!

DeeDee Guizlo has been approved by the Board to become the Monitor Co-Chairman. Thanks to DeeDee for taking on this important job.

Larry Carter has been approved by the Board to be our Facilities Chairman. Larry has already stepped up to help with many projects that needed a handyman's skill. He has done major maintenance on our slab rollers and repaired the tables in the sculpture room and classroom that had the tops delaminating. Larry has hung up clipboards in our rooms for you to write down any maintenance issues that you notice. Thanks, Larry!

On Saturday, March 16th, the 7 clubs based here at Santa Rita Springs will be holding an Open House. The Studio will be closed to our membership for working on projects until 1 PM. We will have members assigned to greeting visitors, giving demonstrations, tours, and serving refreshments. There will be a Concert upstairs at 1 by the Elderly Brothers. The concert only requires a Food Bank donation and it's a fun group to hear. Come and tour the clubs here at the Springs and enjoy the concert.

The studio has been very busy this past month. Remember that you can work in the classroom and use the wheels in the classroom whenever there is not a class or meeting scheduled. You can find the classroom schedule on our website under Studio Calendar.

Until next month,

Julie

Annual GVR Clay Studio Artists Exhibit at Canoa Recreation Center



Smiles abound now the show is up and it looks great! Thanks to the committee: Sheryal Atkins, Denise Nichols, Marilyn Montmomery, Connie Davis, Carrol Randall, and Ruth Clayton.





Phil Hoy and President Julie Jacques chat while the Desert Ukes play in the background. Below, Carrol Randall, Doug Davis and Jeani Gustafson pose in front of the Clay Studio banner.







The Show runs from February 2 through February 29
at Canoa Recreation center at
3660 S. Camino del Sol





FUN WITH SCULPTURE

Elenie Eliassen, Nancy Schultz, and Val Downs offer their expertise and time to help aspiring sculptors once a week in the sculpture room.



Many years ago, the sculpture room was developed and a program for teaching was established by the late Marie Hartman. In the sculpture room, there is a plaque on the wall honoring Marie's contribution to the clay studio.

Elenie was new to Green Valley 28 years ago and took GVR classes to find her passion. Her first ceramic class was taught by an instructor who worked in the Mata Ortiz style. She dug her own clay and learned about

the processes. She took a wheel throwing class but found it hard on her back and then considered sculpture. At first, she was greatly intimidated by Marie Hartman and was a bit hesitant to try to sculpt. She said it was the best choice as she enjoyed those years of working with Marie. This may be why many studio members are reluctant to try to sculpt as well. So by teaching Fun with Sculpture, the three instructors offer their expertise in a fun way because it can seem very intimidating.



Marie continued to teach until her death at 92 years old. After working with Marie, Elenie took classes from a French sculptor, Philippe Faraut, who offered three day workshops in Phoenix. She continued to take classes from Faraut for the next two years. She teaches sculpture the Faraut way using his technique. Elenie is a highly accomplished sculptor as you can see from the photos. The piece on the left is on exhibit at the Canoa Show.



Some of Elenie's work.





Sherry Durnford is taking her first sculpture class and she is delighted with her owl that she is making with the help of the instructors. Sherry has been a member of the studio since 2014; but since she is a Canadian Snowbird, she can only be in the studio two months a year. She also likes to work on the wheel.

Val, pictured here, Nancy and Elenie all offer help and are genuinely nice to members of all skill levels.



Glazing News

Test tiles are for sale! Have you ever worked hours on a piece only to find that the glaze combination you chose just didn't work to your liking? **Run a test tile first.** The tiles are in the glazing area and all you need to do is purchase one at \$2.00. This cost includes the firing as well.

Please fill out the firing slips completely and include as much information as possible about the glazes you have used that might affect firing. Chris suggests that you can write in-depth notes to accompany the firing slips as well.

A glazing workshop will be announced in March that use scrap glaze chips.

Look at these examples. You can see these examples as well as others on the shelves by the patio door.

These pieces were created in a glazing workshop taught by Teresa Turocy.

These techniques use glazes that are called runners. To be able to use runners, you must first be instructed on their use.

The Suggestion Box is not just for pretty: We are listening to your concerns.



These examples are located by the patio door in the shelves near the underglazes and Stroke and Coat bottles.





The idea is to create a catalog of glaze combos. The pottery examples will be returned to their owners eventually so be sure and check them out. The plan is to continue experimenting and recording the results.

The ceramics will be taken home eventually but the plan is to create a binder of a variety of visual examples and instructions.

This time of year, the studio welcomes back the winter visitors.

Many of them are accomplished potters and worthy of featuring. Let me introduce Becca Dunn who visits us from Twainheart, California in the Sierras. She has a studio at her home and enjoys working on her pottery in her outside studio in the woods. She belongs to a studio there, as well, called Quyle Kilns.



Becca came to Green Valley as a birding photographer and found the clay studio. She took a class called Glazed and Confused where basic techniques were taught as well as layering glazes. She does not normally sell her work but gives them away to friends and family. Lately she has been working on throwing minatures off the hump. She has had a lot of luck selling her tiny pots from the display window without trying she has sold 41 of them. So people are looking at our work on display.



Becca's work.

What's new in the studio?

Kathy Cooklock's husband made us several heart molds with his 3-D printer. They are in the handbuilding room in a box with the texture and cookie cutters. They are awesome!!

We have a lightbox for tracing patterns. It is in the handbuilding room above the textures.

We have installed a 55 inch smart TV in the classroom. Directions will be posted when it's ready for your use.

Clipboards are hung in each room for you to record maintenance issues that you find.



So much for this month. The studio is buzzing with activity as the winter visitors are beating the cold back home by hanging out in the clay studio.

If you get a **THIS CARD IS AWESOME CARD**, PLEASE SEND ME YOUR INFO AND PICTURE.

Then walk around the studio, find someone's work you like, and place your card on their work. Pass around the kudos. I try to feature individuals that haven't been in the newsletter so we can get to know our fellow members.

Please send edited art images, a photo of yourself, your name and captions to Denise LeCount-O'Brien at rurt2dede@gmail.com