

October 2021



President's Message

The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly

Fall is arriving, our temperatures are declining, and we are starting to dry out from a very wet monsoon season. I am also looking forward to seeing the return of some of those we have not seen in some time – it will be good to have you back in the studio. With that in mind, let's review what's happening and has changed in the last six (6) months, since we re-opened.

The Good First of all, we reopened on 22 March, after being closed over a year. We were cautious and took it slow, keeping everyone's safety foremost in our minds. Our new Classroom (formerly called the Fiesta Room) is complete, equipped, and in use for classes, meetings, and workshops – all under budget! The Classroom schedule is posted on the Education bulletin board, so you may see when it is in use – please try to plan ahead to retrieve your items so you do not interrupt classes or meetings.

We have new computers, which are in the testing phase, that will replace our aging (and unsupported) systems. Once these are thoroughly tested, we will let you know when they will be installed and any changes that might affect you. We are trying to keep changes to a minimum, but updates to software may result in some minor changes.

We have a brand-new kiln in operation, to replace the small one we used to use for mostly low fire. We also have another replacement kiln on the way – it should be here close to the end of the year. Great job Kiln Chairs!

We have embarked on an exciting new endeavor – an Education Work Group (WG) is working to create an education “system” which may result in changes to the Ed Comm structure, the Intro to Clay course, and the creation of a systems of classes, workshops, and demos. We have a fabulous studio that is the envy of many who visit – we hope to create an education system that takes full advantage of all our studio has to offer. I'll keep you updated on progress from this group – or you can see some of the fruits of their labor in the Classroom. Just remember, it's a work in progress!

The Bad Although I had hoped the virus would be long behind us, that is not the case. We continue to be cautious and ask that everyone respects the guidelines we have asked all to operate within. Specifically, keep your distance from those you are not around frequently, wash your hands often, cover your nose and mouth if you sneeze or cough, stay away from the studio (or wear a mask) if you have travelled recently, and **DO NOT COME TO THE STUDIO IF YOU ARE ILL**. We've had a couple of instances of sick people coming to the studio which causes quite a disruption, as well as concern to those who are in the studio. We would prefer to not go back to the days of stopping everyone at the door and asking questions, so please refrain from coming to the studio if you do not feel well or have a fever.

The Ugly My memory! I drove to the studio the other day, checkbook in hand, ready to pick up my clay. As I got out of the car, I realized I did not have my GVR card – drat! So, frustrated (with myself), I got back in my car and drove away without my clay. As a reminder, you must have your GVR card to enter the studio – no more typing in your number at the keyboard. By the way, I blame the memory lapses on the Green Valley water system, it can't be aging, can it?

Some other quick reminders/updates:

- The studio remains closed on Monday mornings (8-12) for Staff to complete their work.
- GVR and Clay Studio Code of Conduct posters are displayed as a reminder to all.
- Classroom capacity for Classes and Workshops is currently at 12 – please do not rearrange the tables. Seat yourselves “on the diagonal” (opposite corners) - our Facilities Comm worked hard to figure out how we can still have some social distance AND conduct classes with 12.
- The Classroom Calendar is up and running and posted on the Education bulletin board. As a reminder, priority of use for the Classroom is 1) GVR Classes, 2) Studio Meetings, 3) Workshops, 4) Overflow. Shelf space is primarily for Class use, overflow when the rest of the studio is full.
- The Handbuilding Room has had significant light improvement and table adjustments to allow folks to sit at tables without bruising their knees and shins. (Good job Facilities!).
- The Classroom's lighting remains an issue, but Facilities is working with GVR to improve visibility.
- There is a trip hazard in the Sculpture room – it's marked with tape. GVR has the work order to repair this, so please avoid this area.
- Raku and Horsehair firings resume in October – 1st and 2nd Wednesdays, respectively. Remember, you have a 2 item and 5lb limit for each firing.

That's it for now – I'll keep you updated as things change. Please stay healthy and safe and let's watch out for each other!

Susan

October Calendar



Education Work Group: Every Monday and Friday at 9:45 AM

Facilities Committee: Monday Oct 4 at 9:00 AM

Finance Committee: Wednesday Oct 13 at 9:00 AM

Kiln Committee: Tuesday Oct 19 at 9:00 AM

Glaze Committee: Tuesday Oct 26 at 9:30 AM

Board Meeting: Friday Oct 15 at 9:30 AM

All meetings are held in the studio classroom.

Glaze Notes...



Over the summer I've been listening to a lot of comments regarding the glaze sample board. It's too dark, there's not enough color, what happened to my favorite glaze etc. etc. So... we've been busy testing, testing, testing!

Although there have been delays in getting some of the glazes we've ordered, we still have several to review and hopefully approve at our September meeting. Keep your eyes on the sample board... new glazes are coming!!!

A COUPLE OF REMINDERS

- If you break a sample tile let a committee member know, we will replace it.
- Don't bring the glaze jars to your work station, someone else will always be looking for it. Put what you need in a cup and place the jar back on the shelf.

Next time you see a glaze committee member, thank them for cleaning and maintaining all the glazes.

Thank you...

your friendly Glaze Committee

Glazing Workshop Oct 13 & 20

When: Wed, October 13, 12pm – 3pm

Where: Studio classroom

Description Instructor: Marilyn Serra.

This 2-session workshop will cover glazing with high fire glazes including crystal glazes, celadons, and extreme runners. It will include tips on how to prepare bisque ware for glazing and glaze application. Material fee: \$5.
Workshop minimum/maximum: 6-12

Storage Space for Members

With the addition of the Fiesta Room, we have increased our storage space for members. You may have a storage space in the main room or in the new storage space in the new area with the wire racks. Please keep your items within the allotted space.

Steps to obtain/change your Storage space:

- 1) Find a space with No name on it.
- 2) Check the book to make sure it does not already belong to someone.
- 3) Put your name on the space and in the book by the number.
- 4) Remove your name from your old space (if you had one) and from the Storage # in the Storage book.
- 5) Put your Storage # in the Service Book by your name...under the Box marked Cubby.

REMEMBER ALL YOUR TOOLS AND CLAY MUST BE STORED IN YOUR STORAGE SPACE. IF YOU CAN'T FIT IT IN YOUR SPACE IT SHOULD GO HOME. APRON'S CAN GO IN THE HALL ON THE HOOKS. ONLY MEMBERS WHO DO NOT HAVE A STORAGE SPACE CAN STORE CLAY IN THE "COMMUNITY CLAY STORAGE" AREAS.





More display space, storage and brighter hand-building room!



You know things are back to normal when Bob Lancaster is bringing donut holes to the studio again!!



Ruth Clayton, editor