

# March-April 2023

Issue 2023.2

# Clayfolk News



POTS AROUND
THE WORLD

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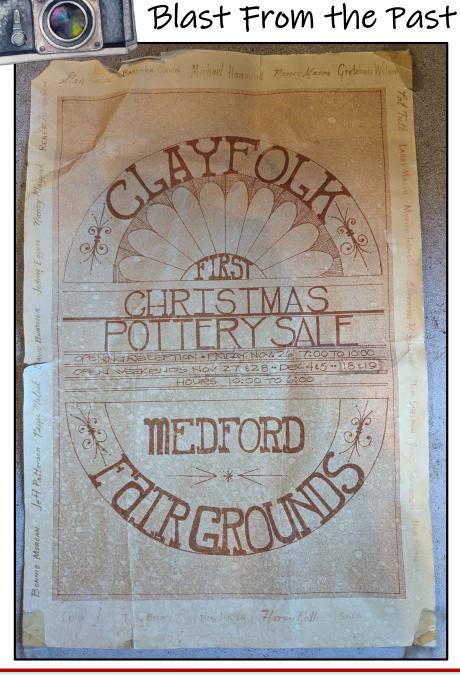
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Let's start this issue with time travel! This poster says, "First Christmas Pottery Sale." What year do you think that was? If you look closely at the picture, there are names around the edge.

Click here to see a
larger version and zoom in
to read the names.
en click on the the Pop Quiz liv

Then click on the the Pop Quiz link below and tell us what you think.

~ POP Quiz ~



THANK YOU to everyone who sent in pots you found in your travels around the world and brought them home with high hopes that they wouldn't get broken on the way!

Also, thank you for contributing new member introductions, updates, tips & tricks, and news.

It is greatly appreciated and makes the newsletter much more interesting to read!

#### **2023 CLAYFOLK OFFICERS**

President: Bill Thompson president@clayfolk.org

**Vice President: Open** 

vicepresident@clayfolk.org

**Secretary: Natalie Stolzheise** 

secretary@clayfolk.org

**Co-Treasurers:** 

**Debbie Thompson \* Ray Foster** 

treasurer@clayfolk.org

#### **Members at Large**

- Polly Beach
- Summer Brendlinger
- Janice Shenker

#### **COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

**Archivist: Open Position** 

**Empty Bowls** 

- Jackson Co.: Open- Josephine Co.: Roxanne

Hunnicutt

- Douglas Co.: Peppi Melick emptybowls@clayfolk.org

Enews: Bob Causey enews@clayfolk.org

Library: Viviana Padilla library@clayfolk.org

Membership: Bob Causey membership@clayfolk.org

**Newsletter:** 

Kathy Forester Helgeson Kathy@RogueEd.com or newsletter@clayfolk.org

Points: Patt Causey points@clayfolk.org

Scholarship: Betsy Moore scholarship@clayfolk.org

Show Chair: Michael McKinney showchair@clayfolk.org

Webmaster: Pat Richey webmaster@clayfolk.org

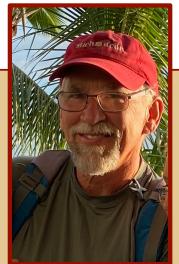
Workshops:

Carole Hayne & Jim Nordal workshops@clayfolk.org

# A Message from our President Bill Thompson

#### AS THE WHEEL TURNS ....

A number of years ago, I was traveling through southern Italy on my way to the Amalfi coast and by chance stopped at a little hotel outside the town of Sorrento. It was perched on a cliff and boasted a private "pebble" beach,

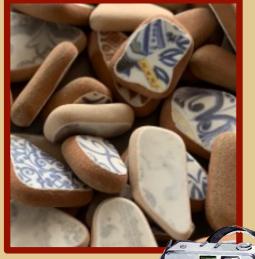


accessed by an elevator that appeared to date back to the sixties and clung tenuously to the cliff face. We bought a bottle of wine and rode the elevator down to the beach trying not to focus on the toll years of the salt air may have had on the elevator's support system. As we cracked our bottle of wine and looked around this little enclave in the cliff, I discovered that the "pebbles" that made up the beach were in fact sea tumbled shards of Italian tile that had been reclaimed by the ocean from homes along the cliff face. The tiles were rounded to the size of nice skipping stones, the backs were terracotta and the front hand painted tile. While my friends enjoyed the wine and the view, I spent my time picking through these little treasures and ended up bringing

home a bowl full along with a bottle of wine as a memento of this wonderful spot. Unfortunately, I no longer have the tiles or the wine, but I do have a photo that shows what they look like.

Oh, and by the way,

I want to say I really enjoyed our recent meeting. Thanks to all that participated.





What makes the world a better place for all of us? You... o and another <u>Clayfolk Show</u> scheduled for November 3-5 at the Medford Armory. Yes, this is a BIG change for us. Yes, it's a big surprise but we have always understood that the Armory's military usage)

will supersede any other scheduled event. This year their schedule is moving our Show to the beginning of November. Please mark your calendars accordingly!

Anticipate 70+ artists, their latest wares and customers filling the aisles from miles around! Early indications point toward another fabulous year for our Show.

The Show application is again available online. Your Show Chair recommends completing the application online, if at all possible. Why, might you ask?



- · Minimizes errors in organizing applicants by booth requests, work shifts, committee assignments and more.
- · Facilitates Work Shift Chair assignment.
- · Reduces overall time demand in Show planning.
- · Supports communication among the Show chairs.
- Immediate date stamp for tie breaker...clickity click, done.
- · Faster than paper.
- Less painful than a paper cut (it could happen)

What's new?

The application you get with this newsletter indicates that no major changes are in the wind for this year. For our first Show in three years, 2022, we had fewer applicants than booths. Understandable given we just emerged from a lingering pandemic. We also posted record sales. Hmm, could be something to this Clayfolk brand after all, right? If you're interested in being part of our unique Clayfolk Show vibe, apply now. If you want to win that points tie breaker, apply now. If you want to exercise your right to display your finest clay art at the oldest pottery show in Oregon...yep, apply now.

#### Radio/TV

This position is available to anyone and doesn't require you live in southern Oregon. Got good online and phone communication skills? Tell



your Show Chair. You'll be working with our Promotions/Publicity team (Graphic Design, Promotions chair, Social Media). They're seasoned veterans, professional, effective and fun to work with.

#### Host a Potter (NEW for 2023)

The idea is for local members within commuting distance from the Medford Armory to offer a room, a parking spot or other cost saving amenities to our members that are travelling to this year's Show. Example: Grateful Dad Pottery in Grants Pass is a Harvest Host and has one RV space available for use.



If you're interested in, curious about or otherwise want to

help a traveling Clayfolk member with lodging, parking

or other during this year's Show, contact your local Show

Chair, Michael McKinney gratefuldadpottery@gmail.com or 503.863.7197 (text/voice but text is best).

# Tips and Tricks ~ Vinegar!

# Gwen Childs

Lots of potters use vinegar instead of slip in "score and slip" joining. Clay is mildly alkaline, and vinegar is mildly acidic, so the chemical reaction helps fuse the two pieces of clay. My hint is to use a spray bottle. The vinegar really gets into the crevices. I bought little bottles found in the traveler's section of the toiletry department for \$1, which would last a few months before corrosion caused them to fail. Five years ago, I found this big bottle which was sold to spray vinegar. I have run at least a half a gallon of vinegar through it, and it has not corroded so far. .



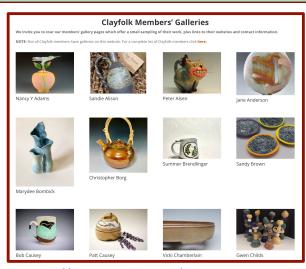
Four Monks Cleaning Vinegar

# 2023 Clayfolk Meetings Calendar: changes are possible!

Month	Meeting type	Meeting location	Host	Agenda	Time
Jan. 19 (Thurs.)	Board	<del>Zoom</del>	Bonnie	NA	6:00-7:30 PM
<del>Jan. 28 (Sat.)</del>	28 (Sat.) General		Bonnie	Show & Telll	<del>2:30-4:00 PM</del>
Mar. 16 (Thurs.)	Board	<del>Zoom</del>	TBA	NA	6:00-7:30 PM
Mar. 26 (Sun.)	General	In Person (with a Zoom option)	TBA	TBA	<del>2:30-4:00 PM</del>
June 15 (Thurs.)	Board	Zoom	TBA	NA	NA
June 24 (Sat,)	ine 24 (Sat,) General		TBA	Swap Meet, Potluck Picnic	2:30-4:00 PM
August 10 (Thurs.)	(Thurs.) Board		TBA	ТВА	6:00-7:30 PM
August 20 (Sun.)	General	TBA	TBA	ТВА	2:30-4:00 PM
October 12 (Thurs.)	Board	TBA	TBA	NA	6:00-7:30 PM
October 22 (Sun.)	Show Chairs	GP Museum of Arts	Michael McKinney	Chair Reports	12:30-2:00 PM
October 22 (Sun.)	General	GP Museum of Arts		Booth Pick	2:30-4:00 PM
November 3-5	Show and Sale	Medford Armory	Show Chair	Show and Sale	Fri, Sat, Sun TBA

## Members Gallery

If you would like to be included in the Clayfolk Gallery, please send Webmaster, Pat Richey, a brief bio of yourself and your work, your contact information and a max of 8 images of your work. Please indicate which image you want as your featured image. View some of the existing gallery members to see what is needed to be included in the gallery. Send pics and bio to riverpointstudio amail.com



https://www.clayfolk.org/member-gallery

Clayfolk is excited to be adding another Spring pottery sale this year to be held at the EdenVale Winery in Medford.

We will be showcasing a wide variety of work from Clayfolk artisans.

Enjoy live music by the "Tradewinds Trio".

Food and wine will be available for purchase.

Hope to see you all there.













Bernie DeLallo



# CLAYFOLK SPRING SHOW + SALE

An outdoor pottery event

Saturday, May 13, 2023 10 am - 5 pm EdenVale Winery 2310 Voorhies Road, Medford, Oregon Free Admission www.clayfolk.org

> Artwork show is by: (from left) Madalynn Massey, Bernadette DeLallo, Lynita Zajack,











•10 am - 5 pm Food & Drinks

•10 am - 5 pm

Tradewinds Trio

•12 pm - 2 pm

















In 1997, as a fresh-faced and enthusiastic, 21-year-old BFA student, I participated in a study-abroad semester in Costa Rica. As an art major with a minor in Spanish, I took classes with the locals at the University of Costa Rica, or "La UCR" as it's known in San Jose. My classmates quickly adopted me in "el taller" (the studio). I may have been a bit of a novelty, but my classmates enjoyed teaching me as much as they enjoyed learning from me!.



One of my favorite takeaways from my time in the studio was the "coffee time" tradition. At about 2:00 every afternoon, someone would put on a pot of coffee, someone else would buy a baguette from the corner store, and we would all stop working to sit around the studio table and talk. The stories laughs, and bonding that happened around that dusty table are some I will remember forever.

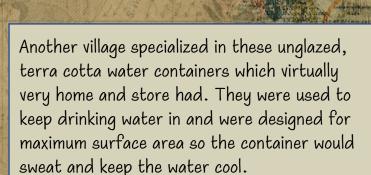




The day we went on an excursion to some remote, "finca" (ranch-type property) to dig wild clay, was truly an experience! I seriously doubted there was any way that the muck we were digging up could amount to a final piece, but I followed directions and went along with the plan. The attached photo is the result of the wild clay we dug out of the creek-side location. It is inspired by much of the lush green flora I was surrounded by for the whole amazing experience.



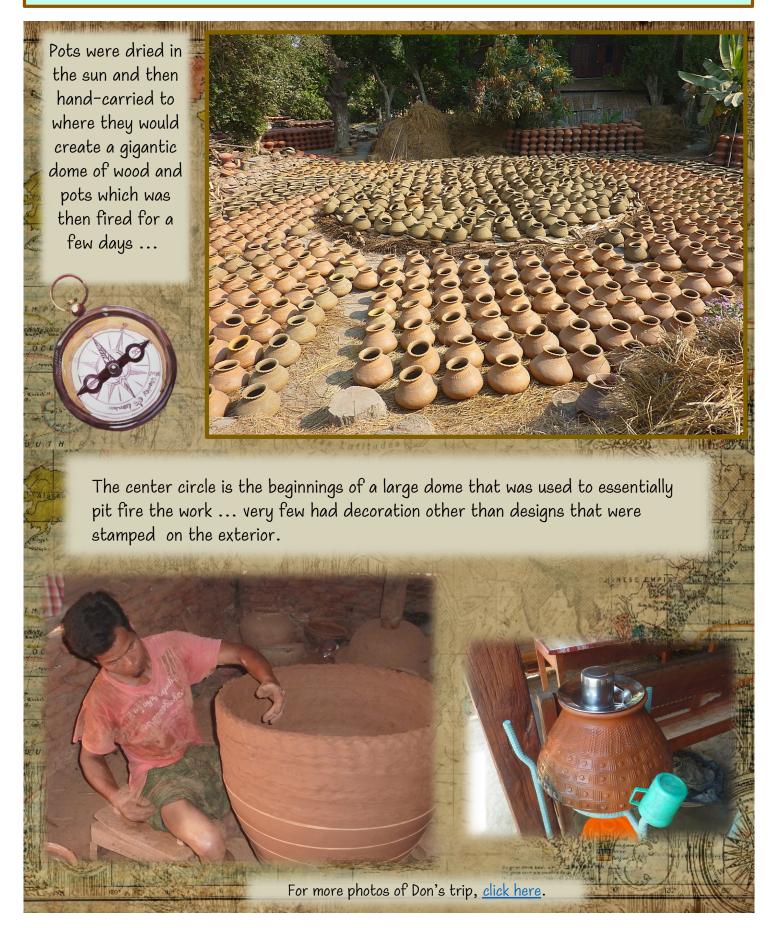
In 2018 I went to Myanmar (previously Burma) and spent a few weeks going up the Irrawaddy River into northern Myanmar. Along the way I visited a number of pottery villages ... basically the village just made pottery which you could see in most of the markets and homes. At one village they made water catchment containers which came in various sizes ... the ones in these pictures are the smaller of the sizes ...



Think how many pots you would lose if you had to carry them on your head. Maybe a "Potter Challenge at the next show???"

Don't miss Don's video - amazing!

Myanmar



### Sandie Allison



This last September I traveled to Morocco. I found so many beautiful pieces that I loved, including this \$3 unfinished 14-inch pitcher. I almost didn't get it home. It had to be wrapped several times in all my clothes, in the middle of my suitcase. It was \$100 to ship to Oregon! I couldn't wait to glaze it when I got home. I also took pictures of several patterns imbedded in stucco walls in Marrakech. Here is one example of a tile by my Riyad. Now it's on my platter in Gold Hill, Oregon!





century oil lamps that that I found in Israel.

My husband and I traveled to Costa Rico in 2013. One of our excursions took us to a small town of Guaitil. The Chorotega people, although a diminishing population, are still proud of their ancestral methods of pottery making. At the time I had not started my pottery journey. I was mesmerized by the traditional ways they produced their pottery, from mining the local clay, using a kick wheel, to the burnishing the pieces with stone then to wood burning kiln.

The second piece I would like to share was from South Korea. While visiting in 2014, again still not on my personal pottery journey, we visited a replica ancient village with numerous trade homes. The



pottery "hut" was populated with resident artists that were practicing the art past down from their ancestors. I could have spent a fortune on large sculpted pieces, but settled for a small vase that I could safely transport home.

"Perhaps this was a part of my personal pottery journey, I just didn't know it yet.





Jim Koudelka

#### Approaches to Throwing and Beyond

Using the vessel as a canvas has always been part of Jim Koudelka's functional and sculptural work

In this hands-on workshop he will present some of the ways that he approaches throwing, In this hands-on workshop he will present some of the ways that he approaches throwing, altering and manipulating pots on and off the wheel. He will share ideas, techniques and materials involved in his throwing, altering, design and surface work through visual presentations and discussions. He will center, open and throw larger amounts of clay using a pounding bag, and show his footless, slumped bowl technique as well as other techniques. tips and tricks he has amassed over his 50 year career.

> Saturday-Sunday, May 20-21, 2023 9 am-noon & 1-4 pm

**Bloom Pottery** 

300 E Hershey Street, Suite 7 Ashland, Oregon

Clayfolk members Non-Clayfolk members \$170

Register on-line at Clayfolk.org For more information, contact Jim Nordal at nordalj@gmail.com or (541) 592-6110.

the Oregon College of Art and Craft, Portland, Oregon where he taught for twenty eight years.

Clayfolk is now taking online reservations for the Jim Koudelka Workshop to be held May 20-21. Register on the Clayfolk website



~ Bloom Pottery Members ~ Special 20% discount for Bloom Pottery members.

When registering, check the box under your name and phone number. If you are a member of Clayfolk and Bloom, you will get 20% off the member price.

Get a glimpse of Jim Kaudelka and some good tips on centering and throwing in this demonstration video

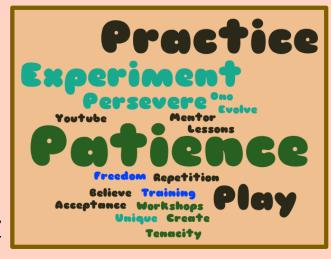


# In Fond Remembrance and Respect ~ Kat Hacker

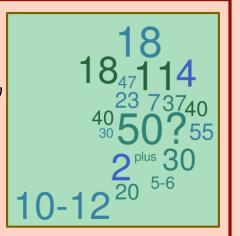


In a recent survey Clayfolk members were asked, "If you could give your best word of advice to a person just starting in ceramics, what would it be?" Thirty-two people responded and the results are shown in the word Cloud below. The larger the font, the more people responded with that particular word.

The most frequently given advice: "Patience"



Members
were next
asked, "How
many years
have you
been doing
ceramics?"



The next question asked for the best advice you could give a new potter? Click here for lots of advice...





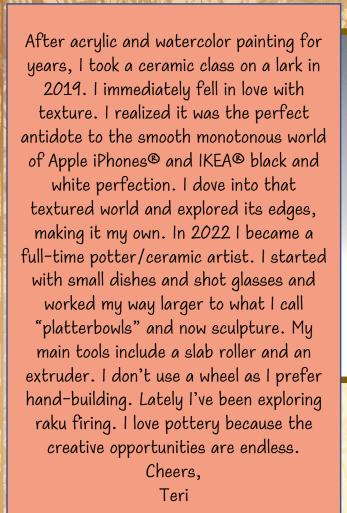
#### Recent New Members ~

2023 Members	First	Last	Email	Phone	City
3/21/2023	Wilson	Banks	banksw541@gmail.com	541-450-5680	Phoenix
3/23/2023	Ralston	Christina	riverclayart@gmail.com	530-598-8831	Yreka
4/4/2023	Barb	Campbell	redstarseeker@yahoo.com	458-272-7783	Corvallis
4/8/2023	Suzanne	Call	callsuzanne6@gmail.com	520-253-0684	Medford
4/10/23	Youngstrom	Rain and Maya	familytree611@gmail.com	541-846-1945	Williams

Invitation to new members: — Please send some information about yourself and some pictures of your work to the email below. This group prides itself on a very special "family feeling" — so don't be distant cousins! We want to get to know you!

Send your intro and pictures to <a href="mailto:newsletter@Clayfolk.org">newsletter@Clayfolk.org</a>

# Introducing Teri Fehrendorf ~





# Introducing Suzanne & Robert Call ~

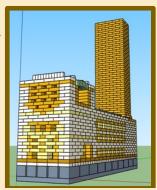


# Introducing Gracie Mills ~

Hi I'm Gracie and I'm new to Clayfolk! I have been doing pottery since early 2021 when I was able to take my first wheel throwing class at a local pottery studio here in Southern Oregon. I'd wanted to try pottery since high school but could never find my "in." To say I fell in love would be an understatement. I slowly built a garage studio with just a wheel and one shelf, and now have a fully operational studio that I love spending time in. Outside of pottery, I am an avid fly fisherwoman and find that my experiences as a woman in the outdoors inspire the style of pottery I create. Thanks for having me!

The Train Kiln Update was accidentally omitted from the last edition of Clayfolk News — On occasion, the staff here at the Clayfolk newsroom just can't get their act together. Sincere apologies! Including news from both updates ....

On January 14 about 20 folks came to The Rogue Train Kiln Ground-breaking and Potluck at Woodland Sun Ceramics and Homestead. The project broke ground with the tremendous help of Todd Simpson and his super-tractor. At the kickoff gathering folks had a chance to be introduced to the kiln site, work done so far, our current brick collection, a sketch-up of the kiln, a timeline, as well as do a bit of work moving bricks. Caitlin Deane and Don brought many boxes of brick donated by the Linnemeyers from Cave Junction. A group also moved 450 bricks from one pallet that was on straw bales and tipping over to another pallet next to it on the ground. Many hands make light work.





While leveling the site for the kiln shed and foundation, we hit a deep patch of soft clay. We consulted our helpful experts ---Jesse Jones, Dave Cornell, Matt Kraus, and Bill Marn -- on what to do and decided to remove the clay and fill the hole in with rock so the kiln will be on more stable ground. With Todd's help again and a rented excavator we removed the patch and filled the depression with rock. We also laid landscape cloth underneath the rock so the rock wouldn't just sink into the ground. Now the frozen ground needs to melt and dry out some so that it can be leveled, and layer of gravel be spread for the concrete foundation of the kiln. Many kudos to Todd and our experts.

Soon we hope to pour the concrete pad for the foundation and footers for the shed that will cover the kiln. With luck we'll also get the kiln shed erected. We'll be announcing work parties for those tasks. We'll also continue to dismantle old kilns and move donated bricks and other material to our stockpiles.

So far, we have around 2,000 bricks donated, about 2/3s of what we need. Un-used electric and gas kilns have also been donated and sometimes dismantled or are in the process of being dismantled. Recent brick and kiln contributors include Todd Simpson, Carole Paquin, Teri Hartnell-Nelson, Larry and Nancy Mason, Art and Barbara Linnemeyer, and JoAnne Eggers. Todd Simpson also donated a rolling metal shelf cart. Monty has completed a 3D CAD model of the kiln so we have a good idea of how we will use the bricks we have and

what bricks and other materials we still need. Many bricks will need to be cut, for that we have purchased a used brick saw from Dave Cornell. We have also purchased a welder which will help us construct the iron kin frame.

We are still looking for bricks, angle iron, ceramic fiber, kiln shelves and furniture for this project. Donations are greatly appreciated for this community kiln project. In the coming months we will also start exploring grant possibilities.



#### APRIL... The Rogue Wood-fire Train Kiln mission continues on ...



This year's wintery mix of weather has provided us with a greater understanding of possible water issues we need to consider before we pour kiln's concrete pad. Monty and I have dug ditches for a while now to redirect water from the kiln site. The graveled pad did not collect much water during the recent wet weather: that's good. We will likely put perforated pipes around three sides of the kiln shed to redirect water and increase the size of the future concrete pad in order to mitigate future above/underground water issues.



In February and March we acquired another donated kiln. Early Clayfolk member JoAnne Eggers donated her 30 cf gas kiln, which she built over 40 years ago. From what JoAnne says it served her well and she was ready to let it go and have the materials be used in our train kiln. John Prybil, Susan Hansen, Dave Cornell, and JoAnne helped dismantle the kiln.

In May, we hope to build the concrete form and pour the concrete kiln pad, but that depends on the weather. Currently around the site is still quite roughed up due to precipitation and traffic. We would like to smooth the area out before pouring the pad.



We believe we almost enough bricks for the train kiln; although, we will have to cut to size and clean many of the bricks. We are looking for a powerful generator we can use to power our brick saw. Any suggestions?

In March, Lomakatsi Forest Restoration Project thinned our woods. We now have many slash piles and wood drying on our land, probably enough for the next five years of wood-firing. We'll be looking for help to collect the wood to bring to the kiln site.









If you are interested in helping and/or being on the email contact list for this project, Jane@washdish.com

### More Tips & Tricks ~

This podcast is a wealth of information — and entertaining too! Lots of great information...at times about things you didn't even know you didn't know!



Matt and Rose Katz of the Ceramics Materials Workshop will answer your burning questions about clay and glaze.



In each episode co-host Kathy King will present listener submitted questions that will be answered in a comical, but also insightful way. This show will have you laughing and learning about the chemistry behind ceramics in no time.





Jewelry organizers are great for small stuff. Cut through the bottom of some of the pockets to make room for longer items.

Tired of wax build-up? Fix that by cutting a slit in each side of the jar, run dental floss through both cuts and secure with a bit of tape. No more brushing on the side of the jar!



Clayfolk Tips and Tricks department ~ A treasure trove!



In-person Meetings! What a treat. Big thanks to Rosie for hosting the meeting and engaging us in a fun project; Sgraffito tiles! (And the treats were tasty, too!)







# ~ Good Bye Kim ~

Kim Schumacher, a long-time member of Clayfolk, is moving to North Carolina. We wish her well with her move and her continued pottery journey. She will be missed!





The 2023 "Furball" being put on by the Rogue Valley Humane Society. There will be a silent auction during this event, and they need donated items for the event. They do such wonderful and compassionate work. They help cats and dogs that are ill or injured, give pet food to those families that need help, care for neonatal kittens at their facility, provide spays/neuters, teach through their youth community outreach, etc. If any Clayfolk artists would like to donate an item for the silent auction at the Furball please contact

Karen Morris, 541-415-0766.

<u>briankarenm@amail.com</u>

**Southern Oregon Clay Distributors** 

Reach them at 541-535-1311 or order online at orders@socd.biz



# Learning Opportunities ~

# BUILDING WITH TEXTURES GLEANED FROM NATURE

Sitka Center for Art & Ecology

All Levels Welcome September 7 & 8, 2023 10:00 - 4:00





Creative Arts
Community at
Menucha

Week 2: August 6 - 12, 2023

#### Clay Vessels with Jennifer Hill:

Participants will learn exciting variations of ancient hand building techniques to create clay vessels with surfaces inspired by natural forms and textures. We begin with small maquettes to "sketch" out ideas while discussing what forms interest each individual, then move onto full sized vessels based on classic hand-building processes with suggestions to personalize the forming process. I will provide terra sigilatta, a super fine clay slip, which students hand burnish onto the pieces to create a finished but natural looking surface, and underglaze washes to add color in a naturalistic manner. Students will be able to bisque/low fire some pieces by the week's end.

#### Sitka Workshop Overview

Create personalized clay vessels inspired by your favorite natural textures using a unique variation on coil building. Each work will develop layer by layer from the bottom to the top, reflecting the way botanical forms generate growth. This free-form style of building begins with simple planning: Participants are encouraged to bring images or objects found outdoors, in the produce section, etc. We start with quick maquettes (3-D sketches), then begin vessels that can be completed within the weekend. Discussion throughout the workshop will include finishing techniques including underglaze washes and terra sigillata for surfaces that compliment nature.

About the Instructor

Jennifer Hill is a studio artist and freelance instructor. Earning a BFA and MFA in ceramics lead to teaching in colleges and art centers for over 20 years. She lived on Kauai for several years and attended art residencies in places as diverse as Rome, Italy and Missoula, Montana.

jenniferhillceramics.com



Kendra Ortner has a new online clay class. It's very beginner oriented, just about hand building a little plate and an intro to sgraffito. It's on Skillshare at

byhandathome.com/skillshare.

Here's a link to the intro on Instagram:

https://www.instagram.com/p/CrlrJaApWNE/

# A Couple of Late Additions ~



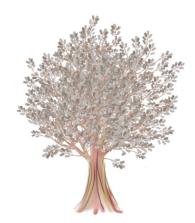


Art revealing the U.S. gunfire epidemic.



Counting. Caring. Connecting.

# It's Spring & We are Busy Planting Hope!



Remember how overloaded our metaphorical tree of Soul Box panels was last year? We have been successfully trimming it down by sending out Branches all around the country, where they can grow awareness of the gun violence epidemic in their new locales. There are now less than 30% of our display panels remaining. Don't miss your chance to adopt 6, 12, or more panels for use in your city and state — at no cost to you.

Make your request ASAP to receive your panels in time for June activities. Be part of The Soul Box Project's media event *This Loss We Carry – NATIONWIDE*, Wear Orange Weekend, and/or Gun Violence Awareness Month.

## Click Here for More Info



Clay Buddies Facebook

A great place to share and get advice!

# And Last - but certainly not least - Our Tiles ~



# Beautiful collaboration!

Thank you, Rosie!



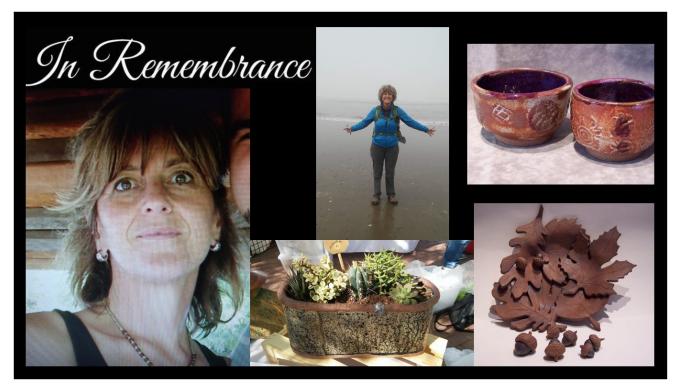








Rosie: "Two were cracked and didn't make it, otherwise, all good!"



Kat Kacker



