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# See you Oct 4th for Clay Social!

From: Northwest Polymer Clay Guild Newsletter <newsletter@nwpcg.org>

To: Maria Jam <mariajambrown@yahoo.com>

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Northwest Polymer Clay Guild  
**Clay Play**



## September Highlights

### **Faux ceramics, real fun!**

by Ria Mendoza Hoyt

The September meeting was a full, fun-filled event for the Guild. We started off with a very

### ***Don't miss a thing!***

*We have a lot going on right now and this newsletter issue is extra long. Don't miss a thing,*

relaxed time catching up with each other followed by a colorful program. But before I go into that... as you may have heard, we received a ton of polymer clay donations from Cheryl Simmons' wife and Kim Day brought a small portion of that last meeting. Members were free to browse and get what they needed. There will be more in the October meeting, so be sure to check Susan's announcement below.

After members gathered what they wanted from the collection and organized the rest, we gathered around for the faux ceramics program, more specifically faux raku, demonstrated by Holly Alanis. Raku is a type of Japanese pottery that involves the use of intense heat and water which produces a very interesting crackling effect.



First, Holly prepared a sheet of white polymer clay. She soft cured it using a heat gun. After curing it for a couple of minutes, she put it on top of an unbaked, conditioned layer of colored polymer clay and ran it through the pasta machine together until she achieved the crackle effect on the white layer.

*scroll down slowly and check each article and announcement. We have donations, gingerbread houses, round ornaments, clay days and more lined up for the next two months.*

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### **Quarterly Board Meeting & Clay Social**

October 4 | [Artworks](#)

*There will be a Board meeting at 5:30 p.m.*

*Contact any Board member if there are any issues you want tackled. NWPCG will meet as usual at 6:30 p.m. and it will be followed by Clay Social.*

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### **Gingerbread House Party**

October 14 | 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. | [Hillside Community Church](#)

*Bring 1:4 sized polymer clay candies and a potluck dish and prepare for a great day making polymer clay gingerbread houses!*

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### **NWPCG Clay Day**

Oct 21 | 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. | [Third Place Commons](#)

*Come and clay with friends. Look for us at the food court. [Check our website for updates.](#)*

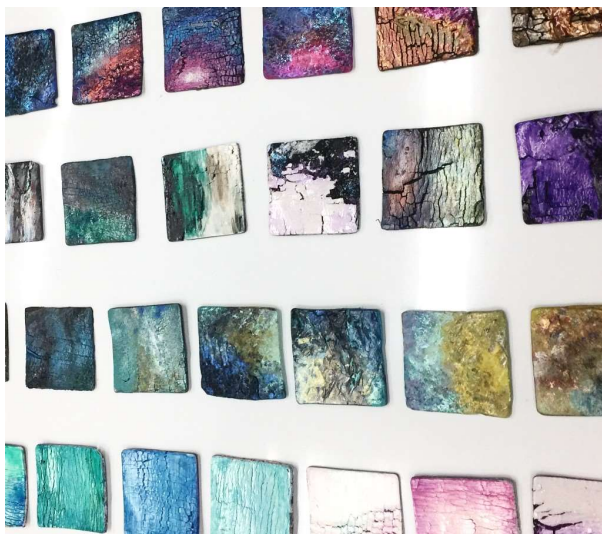
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Once she was satisfied with the crackle, she applied the sheet to the bead of her choice and painted the piece using acrylic paints and Pearl ex powdered pigments.



To prepare for this demonstration, Holly created an impressive sample of faux raku tiles to show us the wide range of finishes we can achieve with this technique.



### **Business Meeting & Round Robin**

November 1 | 6:30 p.m.

| [Artworks](#)

*We will have our quarterly NWPCG business meeting followed by a program on covering a round ornament by Maria Brown.*

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### **Southend Clay Day**

Nov 25 | 10:00 a.m. - 5:00

p.m. | [Hillside Community Church](#)

*Bring any project you want to work on and come clay with friends. [Check our website for updates.](#)*

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### **Connect on Pinterest**

*Look for our [Pinterest account](#) and share ideas and inspirations with us. [If you want to pin with us, email Ria.](#)*

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### **Connect on Instagram**

*Look for our account on [Instagram](#) and follow us! [If you want your project featured, just send Ria an email at \[newsletter@nwpcg.org\]\(mailto:newsletter@nwpcg.org\) with the photo and a caption.](#)*

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### **Amazon Smile**

*Did you know that we are*

Here is another sample of a finished piece created by Holly. Beautiful right? It just makes you want to grab those clay, heat gun and have a go at it!



Photos by Ria M Hoyt and Holly Alanis  
Finished pieces by Holly Alanis

an [Amazon Smile recipient](#)? Simply choose the Northwest Polymer Clay Guild as the recipient and with every eligible purchase you make using [this link](#), Amazon will donate 0.5% to our Guild.

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### **Write for the newsletter**

Do you have a product, book or tool you want to review, or perhaps you want to write a tutorial? [Email Ria.](#)

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### **Contact our Board Members**

If you need to contact any of our Board Members, the full list of emails is available on our website. [Please click here to view the list.](#)

## Show & Tell



Charlie Nagel's ATCs (left); Andrea Rivers' painted rocks (right)



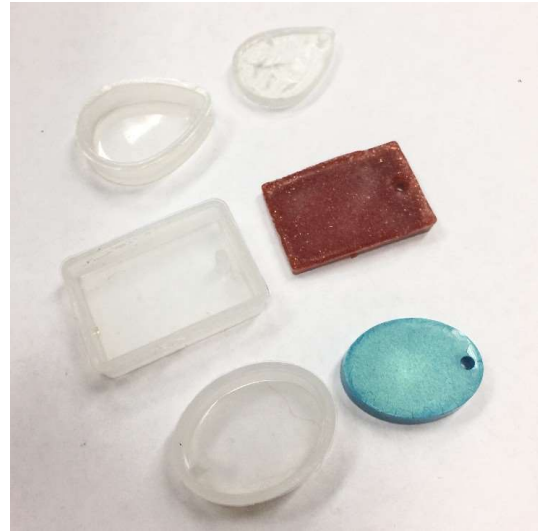
Works by Susan Locsin



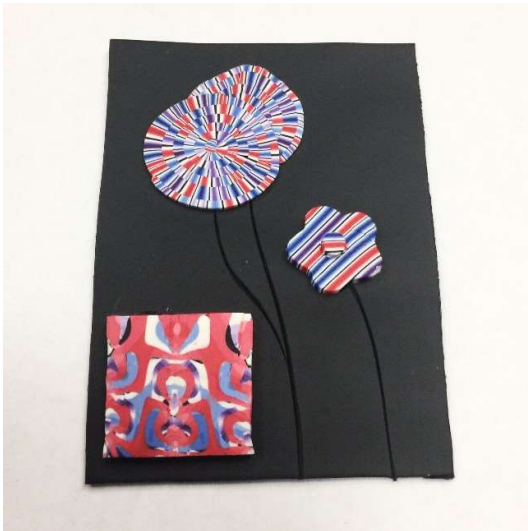
Pendants by Susan Locsin (left); Mosaic tiled picture frame by Andrea Rivers (right)



Giant teeth sculptures by Holly Alanis



Mica shift and playing with clear liquid Sculpey and molds by Andrea Rivers



ATC (left) and bowl (right) by Susan Locsin



Zipper hearts by Nan Robkins and Marie Segal (left);  
Keychains by Kim Day (right)



Keychains by Kim Day



ATC by Charlie Nagel (left);  
Cathy Gilbert's award-winning chickens (right)

## Gingerbread House Making Party!



Some of us got together last year (after seeing an awesome gingerbread house cookie cutter at the craft store) and made mini clay gingerbread houses. We had so much fun, this year we wanted to open it to everyone in the Guild. To accommodate the expanded numbers, we'll be using the church in Enumclaw where we hold our southend meets-up. The drive is a little long but I'm sure we can get some carpool groups going. The good news is, the room we use at the church is very group friendly – lots of tables and chairs and access to fridge and microwave. We could probably use the oven/stovetop in another part of the church if we really needed to.

Here's what you need to know:

Date: October 14th, Saturday, 10am to whenever (5pm+)

Where: [Hillside Community Church, 24015 SE 436th Way, Enumclaw, WA 98022](#)

What to bring:

- Polymer clay,
- Polymer clay candies (baked and ready to use is recommended, bring some to share. Make them about 1/4 the size of the real thing),
- Polymer clay tools,
- Work surface, and
- Potluck dish.

I will have some clay "frosting" (white clay mixed with liquid clay) available to share. We will also have a cookie cutter template, though you're welcome to make your own designs.

For any questions or to RSVP, email me at [polymerclay@gmail.com](mailto:polymerclay@gmail.com) or call or text (text preferred) at [\(206\) 999-4156](tel:(206)999-4156)

RSVP? Yes please! Even with short notice, it will help to decide which room in the church we will use, thanks!

Ciao!



## **Tote Bag Challenge**

by Susan Locsin

The library is hosting a tote design challenge! Select your inspiration from the library holdings. Take a picture of your inspiration and create something based on it. Bring it to the November meeting and there will be an informal vote after.

The winner's art will be adapted for embroidery on the new Guild totes. The winner will receive a free tote emblazoned with their design. Other members can pre-order a tote for delivery in December.

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## **Guild Contributions**

by Susan Locsin



Many of you knew Cheryll Simmons, a long time NWPCG member, friend and polymer clay enthusiast. Her wife, Kara Woods Hunnicutt, has graciously donated all of Cheryll's tools and clay to the Guild.

At our October 4th meeting, we will be sharing this treasure with Guild members. Please come with bags or containers for your finds. Among

Cheryll's things were an LC Slicer and LC Extruder. Both will be added to the Guild library for use by all members at meetings.



President's Message | [president@nwpcg.org](mailto:president@nwpcg.org)

## Life & Claying

When I agreed last fall to run for President, my mother was living in Sequim and I visited her a few times each year. She was hospitalized at the start of January, and moved from there to a nursing home, to my home, and now to her own apartment nearby. She's doing well considering all of her health issues but it's been very exhausting. And so, I'm resigning as President at the end of this year. I've certainly enjoyed it and will continue to be involved in the Guild.

I was pleased to take a polymer clay class at Bird Tail Beads and meet their instructor Em Fine. We hope to see her at a meeting soon! I'm very pleased with how my leaf necklace turned out. I was also pleased to be able to have their class schedule available when I was demonstrating at the Washington State Fair. Even though their clay classes are on weekday afternoons, it's nice to be able to direct people to beginning and intermediate clay classes happening in our area! If you know of someone who might be interested, their schedule can be found at [Birdtailbeads](#) and they also have classes with Precious Metal Clay.

Help us spread the word about Clay Camp! At each meeting and claying event, we will have a stack of "Save the Date" cards to hand out for next year. Our Clay Camp e-zine is a great way to showcase how much fun we had at Camp Huston this year. There's a link on our [webpage](#).

Right now I'm enjoying playing with texture sheets and mica powder – thanks to Maria for showing us such cool mosaic tiles – and await the arrival of my acrylic paint markers so I can paint on clay like Andrea does. Andrea's polymer clay painted "rocks" are so fun! For me, learning new techniques like these is the second-best part of getting together with other members of our Guild. I've learned from many other members too, and love being able to ask questions about their projects as I watch them being made. The best part of attending Guild events? The friendships I

have made. These are benefits I couldn't find on YouTube or Facebook groups. As busy as my life has become, our events are an important part of my life. I encourage you to take the time to come to one of our meetings or clay days. Bring your clay and have some fun!

***Liz White***

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## October Program: **Clay Social**

By Cathy Gilbert | Oct 4 | 6:30 p.m. | [Artworks](#)

Can you feel it? The smell of Autumn in the air? The crisp, cool air in the morning? The changing color of the leaves? The birds flocking to the north and the south? The lamentations of the children going back to school; the joyful faces of mom's and/or dad's waving as their children head off to their doom (heh, just kidding!)?

Yep, it's Fall! So come on out to the clay social next Wednesday (the 6th) and celebrate MY favorite season! With Halloween just around the corner, Thanksgiving on deck and Christmas fast approaching, there will be plenty of inspirations for polymer clay crafting. And as always, good company to be had. See you then!

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## November Round Robin: **Cane-covered Round Ornaments**

By Maria Brown | November 1 | 6:30 p.m. | [Artworks](#)

November's meeting topic will be a demonstration on how to cover round ornaments with polymer clay. I will show you a few different techniques, one will be with square cane slices. It's easy and a great way to use up leftover canes.

If you're like me, you've probably got some old, scratched-up glass Christmas tree balls hiding away somewhere. Bring them and some to share, if you have them. We'll magically transform them into beautiful one-of-a-kind artworks. Okay, it's not magic, but they are cool techniques!

I will also bring free samples of my Ornament Baking Tube (pat. pend.) for curious clayers. You're curious now, aren't you?

You will need:

- work surface
  - pasta machine
  - 4 to 6 ounces of your favorite colors of clay
  - texture sheets and mica powders, optional
  - about 3-4 inches long of any square cane, about one inch square
  - blade for slicing cane slices and an exacto blade
  - smallish 'roller' for smoothing (I use a knitting needle)
  - isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol
  - old glass Christmas tree ball
  - pencil, chopstick, bamboo skewer, or skinny little stick from your yard
  - masking, blue, or Scotch tape.
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## Demos at the Fairs

Text and photos by Kim Day



With our busy, busy Fair season finally at an end, here's a quick recap of what we did as a Guild. Thanks for many member contributions, we were again able to hand out over a thousand key chains in total! Not only are people astonished we're giving them away for free, but they also said they had a hard time choosing because there were so many beautiful ones.



We did two long (and very hot) days at the Evergreen State Fair in Monroe, and two short and one very long day at the Washington State Fair in Puyallup. The Monroe Fair was a bit cramped for space, but we had plenty of room in the Puyallup demo area. With a constant stream of people, we had people who had never heard of the medium and people that had dabbled in the past. Many people tried to buy our demo pieces as well. :) Maria and Liz did a great job of selling the Guild, and welcoming people to the booth. Andrea did a steady stream of lentil swirl demoing (while adding to the current key chain selection! So nice being able to bake while down there). I attempted to describe caning with moderate success. Terri was a veritable button factory and Cathy made the most stunning Labyrinth door knocker while constantly questioning if it was good (it is!!!! I'll keep telling you, so ask away).



So, long days, but long days with clay and friends. Those are good days to have. Thanks again everyone that donated keychains, beads, and most of all, time!

## Elections are coming!

by Kim Day

As the nominating committee, Susan Locsin is willing to run again for Secretary and Cathy Gilbert is willing to run again for Vice President of Programs. Thank you ladies for being awesome and doing such excellent jobs!

Elections will happen in October, anyone else wanting their name in please let me know before the meeting. But.. we need another volunteer! Liz White announced at the last meeting that due to family health reasons, she will be stepping down from the Presidency at the end of December. Although according to our rules this position doesn't need to be voted for until next year, we're taking this time as a chance to fill the upcoming vacancy. The rules for having a non-profit require this position to be filled, so if you are available please consider helping out. We will also consider non-

local candidates with the idea of moving the quarterly board meetings to Skype/Google Hangouts/FaceTime.

President duties are as follows:

- Run Board meetings - make an agenda including old business (programs, web, membership, library, outreach, newsletter, treasurer) and new business. These meetings typically last 30-45 minutes and happen four times a year. The first meeting, when budget is set, may take a little longer,
- Vote on issues when needed like changing bylaws, approving budget and approving scholarships for Clay Camp,
- Write for the newsletter - President's message and any article you think pertinent (philosophy, recipes, clay tips, state of the Guild, etc.),
- Let the Board know if you can't attend business meetings which occur the month after a board meeting so a VP can lead them.

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## Announcements

### *Whatcom Weavers Guild's Annual Fibers & Beyond Sale and Exhibit*

Shop for unique fashion and home décor items handcrafted by talented local weavers, felters, basket makers, spinners and jewelers on Saturday, Oct. 14, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### *Bead Fest Tacoma*

If you love to learn new beading techniques from top-notch instructors, bond with other art enthusiasts and shop for tools and gems then Bead Fest Tacoma is the place for you!

### *Photographing Art Work*

Coming up on Oct. 28, 2-5 p.m. for \$40, Artworks will be offering a class taught by Meredith Arnold where students can get hands on experience photographing one piece of their work. Students will be given tips and tricks on how to create a simple set up, how to make special effects, easy to use apps and more.

### *Sculpt Your Own Santa*

Learn how to make your own Santa with polymer clay! This class will put emphasis on sculpting the face, how to apply a beard and mustache, creating a fat little \*bowl full of jelly\* and cool Santa boots. Free during the live stream on November 6, 7 and 8.

### *New Classes with Meredith Arnold*

Expand your skills with Meredith Arnold's classes including a Dichroic Polymer Clay class she's teaching at the To Bead True Blue show in the Tucson Gem Show

on January 27 to February 1, 2018.

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**Visit the NWPCG website!**



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