
New Officers, Snake Figurines & Mokume Gane, and more!

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



Guild Highlights

By Kim Day

Election Results

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Our results are in, please welcome our new and returning board members for the 2019-2020 term, approved by a landslide! Grace Seto is the new VP of Membership, Cathy Gilbert is the returning Treasurer, and Susan Locsin is our returning and new Secretary. We will have a transition meeting in January, so be sure and contact Kim Day if there's anything you want us to talk about.

Clay Day Recap in Photos



Katie and Pat Weibel



Kim Day's snowflake cane



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NWPCG Program

Nov 7 | 6:30 p.m.

| [Artworks](#)

Be sure to scroll down and check what materials to bring to clay along and create snake figurines and mokume gane.

PC Ginger Bread House Making Party

Nov 3 | Issaquah

Don't forget, we're making ginger bread houses with pre-made candies. For the guide, read last month's newsletter. If you signed up and don't have the details yet, please [email Kim Day](#).

NWPCG Program

Dec 5 | 6:30 p.m.

| [Artworks](#)

It's going to be another fun celebration with gifts, brown bag exchanges and more!

NWPCG Clay Day

Dec 8 | 9:00 - 5:00 | [Third Place Commons](#)

Join us for a day of claying at Third Place Commons, Town Center at Lake Forest Park. We'll be in a long table by the stage.

Cathy Gilbert



Kim Day's unicorn poop



Liz White



Patti Steele-Smith's work in progress



Maria Brown

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Clay Day and Show & Tell
Photos by Kim Day

Top photo: Kim Day's snowflake cane in progress

Show & Tell



Beads and bowls by Aparna Radhakrishnan



Earrings and Holiday ornaments by Aparna Radhakrishnan



Tic-tac-toe and figurines by Aparna Radhakrishnan



(L) Buttons by Debbie Shapiro and (R) bowl by Kim Day



Snake by Cathy Gilbert



Snowflake ornament by Kim Day



Pixelate cane beads by Patti Steele-Smith

Programs

NWPCG Monthly Meeting | First Wednesday of the month

November Program: **Round Robin**

November 7 | 6:30 p.m. | [Artworks](#)

Mokume Gane

By Charles Nagel



The term Mokume Gane when applied to polymer clay refers to techniques involving creating veneers from layers of different colors of clay. Here are some of the things we will need:

- Clay: three sheets of conditioned clay in complementary colors – two light and one relatively dark. (Among my favorites are silver, black or navy blue, and medium or light blue.) Also, we'll need one or two sheets of neutral or scrap clay on which to arrange the veneers.
- Tools: flexible, ripple, and firm tissues blades are essential. Linoleum carving tools or an Xacto knife fitted with a router blade are needed for carving the block of uncured layers of clay. Wood carving tools with blades for gouging or cutting grooves are good alternative to those knives. The surgical curettes that Grace shared with us a while ago are ideal for this application. A glazed ceramic tile on which to adhere the block and either a friend to hold it steady or a small clamp to keep it from sliding around when you're shaving or carving the clay are useful.

If you don't have carving tools, don't worry; I'll bring some for us all to use.

Sculpted Snakes

By Cathy Gilbert



To clay along, please bring:

- One block of conditioned clay in the color of your choice - snake body
- One or more square canes for decoration (other shapes might work). Newer canes rather than older will be more successful, but not strictly necessary. About 3/4" to 1" in size. They can always be reduced if necessary.
- Also, it's possible to use the mokume from Charlie's demo or other types of veneer sheets.
- Smidgen of black clay for eyes or seed beads.
- Slicing blade
- Pokey tool
- Work surface
- Additional tools that could prove useful: pasta machine, texture sheets, small square cookie cutters or other shapes could work too.

I learned to make snakes very early on in my polymer clay adventuring. I had the good fortune to belong to the Guild when Mike Buessler was sharing his immense talent with us and he showed us how to make them. I had a great time and made a dozen or two. When fair demo time rolled around this year, I took a few to show off and they proved to be quite popular. I remembered why I loved making them and thought others might enjoy making them too. As you can see from the supply list, there is great scope for imagination and crafting these slithery critters. Bring your clay and your creativity and have fun!

December Program: **Holiday Party**

By Kim Day | December 5 | 6:30 p.m. | [Artworks](#)



*Ornaments by Maria Brown from last year's wrapping
a round ornament with canes program*

It's (almost) that time of year again! Since we're coming up on my favorite meeting of the year, I thought I'd throw a few reminders out there for old timers, and a few info bites for newer members. For the December meeting, we will be having our annual Holiday Party! Bring a potluck dish of your choice (if able, don't let not being able to bring a dish stop you from coming). I'll bring my usual toffee, and you'll all remember why you keep me around. We've had people bring bread, chips and dip, soup, curry, cookies, brownies, meatballs. Not that food is everything but... we have some amazing cooks in the Guild!

Other activities include the optional non-raffle raffle, and the brown bag exchange. Feel free to bring donations (clay supplies, handmade things of all crafting varieties, etc) for the non-raffle. Tickets are \$1 each and are divided by entry. All proceeds go to support the Guild. For the optional brown bag exchange, remember to bring something you would be happy receiving. In an unmarked brown (usually lunch size bag, provided at the meeting), put in something. Clay, jewelry supplies, handmade ornaments, chocolate, texture sheets and stamps have all been popular items. Those that bring a brown bag (one per person limit) take turns either opening a new bag from the table, or stealing (gasp! do this, it's fun and guarantees the item found a good home) an already opened item. Once an item has been stolen, it is no longer available to steal.

And lastly, we'll be doing a drawing. Remember those index cards you filled out during the year for show and tell? They each become an entry in the drawing for a nice JoAnns gift certificate. Anyways, hope to see you there!

Have a program idea? Contact Cathy, click the button below.



President's Message | president@nwpcg.org

Germs aplenty

It's that time of year when sicknesses abound, germs multiply, and thank goodness I have you all to whine about it with! Forgive yourself when you're just not up for your normal tasks. Yeah... that's why my house is so messy.

My son is working with a charity called Blue Skies For Children. If anyone has good condition blankets they don't need, please consider donating them at the November Guild meeting. If you don't, no worries, but figured it couldn't hurt to ask.

Anyways, our Gingerbread House Party is looking like it will be a blast (Nov 3). We'll have all sorts of show and tell from it in time for the November meeting. We have a fun round robin in November, and of course coming up is my very favorite Holiday/Winter Party with the brown bag exchange and the raffle in December. There will be more information in the next newsletter and on the website.

So, remember last month when I said you still had plenty of time to start on those Christmas presents? Less time now, but still plenty, don't wait until December to start! Yes I'm telling myself this, but if it happens to help anyone else get started all the better.

For those that can't make the monthly meetings, try and come to our Third Place

Clay Days (next one is on December and we hold it every two months). I had the best time hanging out, making unicorn poop, yelling "what?" at Cathy repeatedly (so the Commons can be a bit loud, still fun!). I made one gorgeous cane and one crappy cane, and have some plans for that pretty one already. I feel like I learned a lot about sculpting just by watching Patti, and had a mini lesson from Krithika on how much less time a small flower cane takes than one that will last 10 years. I could make so many more canes if I didn't super size them all. Be amazed at her sugar skull when you see them!

Anyways, happy claying, happy recovering those that get sick, and thanks for being awesome.

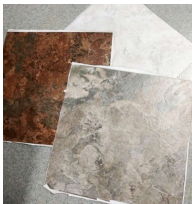
Happy Claying,

Kim Day

polymerclay@gmail.com

Expert Tip

By Liz White



Here's a tip I learned from a professional bead artist: flooring tiles from a hardware store make great backdrops for small-item photography.

[NWPCG website](#)



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