
Jan & Feb activities and Dec Highlights!

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

To: Maria Jam <mariajambrown@yahoo.com>

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Happy New Year!

Guild Highlights

By Kim Day

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We had a large amount of delicious food, cheery music, and good company. We ate, talked, then did the drawing for the raffle prizes, and the brown bag exchange. I must say, the brown bag items were some of the best we've seen, check out the sculpture Gil brought (though I forget the name of the sculptor). I also went around and admired the clay jewelry people were wearing, and had to snag a picture of this lovely bracelet for... inspiration, yeah that's it. It's nice to have time to just celebrate being together!



Gil's Show & Tell: Caterpillar from "Alice in Wonderland"



Gil's Brown Bag contribution

- Guild Highlights
- Monthly Programs

- Jan - Clay Social (Jan 8th)
- Feb - Round Robin

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January Meeting: Clay Social

Jan 8th | 6:30 p.m. | [Artworks](#)

Please note: the meeting is on January 8th, 2020

February Program

Feb 5th | 6:30 p.m. | [Artworks](#)

Paradox Cane - details in program section below

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Let's Be Friends

*IG & Pinterest: @NWPCG1994
Send us photos of your works to be featured in our social media accounts – show off your work!*



Photos by:
Kim Day & Katie
Weibel

Editor's note: if you made this bracelet, please email Ria so we can credit you in the next issue.

Programs

January: Clay Social

By Kim Day | polymerclay@gmail.com | Jan 8th | 6:30 p.m. | [Artworks](#)



What a great way to start off the year, by chatting about our holidays and showing off our new goodies (I assume other people also buy themselves craft supplies as Christmas presents from significant others). Bring a project to work on (clay or otherwise), or wander around and see what other people are doing. This is a great time to ask questions, or browse our lending library (available to members only).

Note: Our January meeting is on January 8th, 2020.

February: Round Robin



I will lead the group in making the paradox cane, as taught by Vivid Clay in a beautiful picture-only tutorial from Facebook. It looks great by itself, but it is also magical when you tessellate it! If you are a slow worker, you can come prepared with skinner blend sheets from half a block each of two colors (white and black is pretty stunning). If we finish the canes early, we can also make things with them, so bring background or scrap clay as well.

Materials:

- Work Surface
- Half a block of two colors that blend well together. White as one is a good choice.
- A quarter block of a color for the stripes. It can be the same as your dark skinner blend color, or different.
- Clay Blade
- Pasta Machine
- Optional: Deli paper, acrylic roller, scrap clay, background clay, burnisher (not used in cane making, but for making things with the cane after).

Have a program idea?

Email Kim

Program Recaps

Braided Snowflake

By Cathy Gilbert | Nov 6th, 2019 | 6:30 p.m. | [Artworks, Edmonds, WA](#)



It's funny the places polymer clay people can find inspiration. Pinterest is a great place to start (when it's not a total time waster) but with this ornament, I found it in food! I've been fascinated with the round braided loaves of bread and wondered if it could be adapted to polymer clay and the answer is yes!

Here are some lessons we learned:

- Don't make them too big (two inches in diameter or smaller), or too thick (less than 1/4 inch is good) - anything larger makes the ornament look a bit clunky and sometimes difficult to work with.
- Four or five layers work great, but it makes a difference which color is on top of the stack and which is on the bottom. Those are the colors that will be most evident.
- Also important, you need well-conditioned, flexible clay. Don't try to use that stuff that's been laying around for several years. Fresh clay work better.

I don't know about others, but I seem to get a lot of dings and finger gouges during the twisting process - so take extra care when turning them. If you do get them, it's pretty easy to smooth those out with a smoothing tool or your fingers before baking. Hope these tips help!

People at the meeting came up with such gorgeous creations! I wish I'd thought to take pictures! If you have photos, send them to the newsletter so it can be shared!

Editor's note: if you made the ornament in the photo, made during Cathy's class, please email Ria so we can credit you in the next issue. Thank you!

Vinegar Egg Tip

By Ria MH | riamhoyt@gmail.com

Jodie Larowsky, a long-distant member and President of the AZPCG (Phoenix, AZ) emailed us and offered suggestions for blowing out the egg in our Vinegar Egg Ornament program led by Kim Day:

- Use a needle tool to poke holes in the top and bottom of the egg.
- Slightly open the hole at the broader end of the egg.
- Using a fine knitting needle or a stretched out paper clip, poke the contents of the egg to make sure you puncture the egg sac in a few places.
- Then, instead of BLOWING the contents of the egg out with your mouth, place the tip of an ear syringe over the smaller point of the egg and squeeze gently to force out the contents of the egg. Once the egg is empty, fill the syringe with water and squirt it through the egg to rinse it. After, tip it on end to drain and bake as instructed in the article. By using the syringe, you don't hurt your adenoids – highly recommended!!!

Thanks for emailing us Jodie!

Announcements

First 2020 Meeting: January 8th

By Kim Day | polymerclay@gmail.com

Please don't forget, our meeting in January will not be on the first Wednesday of the month. If you show up then, the doors will be locked and no one will be there, since it's New Year's Day. We will instead be meeting on Wednesday, January 8th, 6:30 p.m. start time as usual.

JANUARY 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Classes: Online PC Classes

By Meredith Arnold | meredith@artworks-edmonds.org



A five-week polymer clay class is being offered at North Seattle Community College on Saturdays, from 10 am to 2 pm, Feb. 22 - Mar. 21. Learn new things each week including a variety of surface techniques, simple construction for complicated looking results for boxes, bracelets and sculpture, cane techniques and more complete with pro tips, short cuts and the easiest way to get the results you desire. Instructor is Meredith Arnold. [More info at North Seattle College.](#)

President's Message

By Kim Day | polymerclay@gmail.com



Challenge Yourself

And it's a new year! Somehow, even though it's just a construct to help us measure time, it feels like a fresh beginning. As long as we have the belief, we can make use of it for good (the placebo effect has been proven

effective even in medical trials). Although I am allowed to whine about how crowded the gym is going to be for a few months.

In terms of clay goals, there are some fun Facebook and/or Pinterest groups that run challenges. Feel free to send links and I'll share them in the next newsletter. Here's a link to a popular one run by [Katersacres, it has the description for 2019, but I'm sure the Facebook link and philosophies are the same for 2020.](#)

It's straightforward, you pretty much pick a personal challenge for yourself: want to make a pair of earrings every week for 52 weeks? Want to complete a half finished project each week? Make a dragon? (This is the one I'm tempted to try.) Or even a simple: I want to make SOMETHING each week. It's a fun community to post your pictures in, and see what others are making.

You can do your own challenge too, without being involved in a specific group. What do you want to do? Is there a skill you've wanted to acquire? Sculpting, carving, caning, or making things shiny and polished? Is there a tutorial you purchased or found on youtube that you just haven't quite found the time to complete yet? This is the time to believe in yourself, to make goals, to start the year off on the right foot. If we get sidetracked, we'll just pick up again some time and pretend we never left the path.

Remember to have fun while claying, if you focus less on having perfect results it becomes easier to make the time for it.

Happy New Year clay friends.

Kim Day

 Forward

NWPCG website



Newsletter Editor & Designer: Ria Mendoza Hoyt | riamhoyt@gmail.com

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EIN# 91-1713162 | Our mailing address is:

Northwest Polymer Clay Guild (NWPCG)

P.O. Box 904

Lynnwood, WA 98046

Add us to your address book

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