



Recap: The Many Uses of Ultralight by Dawn

By Kim Day | polymerclay@gmail.com



Those who missed this awesome program were probably surprised at Clay Camp when there were so many bars of Ultralight in the brown bag exchange. It was because Dawn's demo was so inspiring, several of us figured it would be an excellent thing to share. Here's a quick recap on some of the uses Dawn shared with us in May.

Ultralight bakes at Premo temperatures. It feels like marshmallow before it's baked, and it feels kind of like marshmallow after it's baked. As the name implies, it is very lightweight, and has been

used for bead cores or forms. Dawn's program, however, focused on non-traditional uses.

Super Sculpey Ultralight (UL)... Ultra versatile

By Dawn Gray

Frosting – UL can be mixed with Sculpey clay softener until a buttercream like consistency is achieved. It can be mixed in a ziplock bag but it is fairly messy to transfer to the piping bag. I found that a palette knife on a tile worked very well. To add color to your frosting oil paint works very well as it has a very long drying time and once it is thoroughly mixed with the clay does not seem to clump or dry as I think

acrylic paints might. Alcohol inks would probably work though I don't like how much they fade while baking so rarely use them unless my piece has already been baked. Pan pastels would also be a good way to color the frosting as would other brands of colored clays. One thing to keep in mind is that UL is an opaque white clay so most colors will be pastel even if a lot of colorant is added. It would be interesting to see what the new Kato blackout would do, if you would end up with gray. Once mixed it is easy to transfer to a piping bag and decorate with it as you would with real sugar frosting. (Which I have found is an art unto itself – I am not at all good at it). I found a great YouTube tutorial by Hummingbird Traveler Studio that outlined this use for the UL.

Carving – UL can be run through the pasta machine after it has been warmed up a little in the hands. Straight out of the package it is very slick and the pasta machine can't really get a good grip on it. Once you have a thin sheet of clay the surface can be colored with mica powders or Pan Pastels and then baked. Once baked you can carve into it very easily. Flat surfaces can be carved and made into individual stamps or texture sheets. Carved designs could be added to rounded beads and then painted. Amazon sells carving tools for printmaking that are very similar to the ones that I have had since I was a kid. Made in Japan to last.

Drawing – The texture of UL makes it perfect for accepting color be it paint, Pan Pastel, marker, oil pastel, graphite, charcoal or Posca pens. It does resist water so watercolor media directly on the clay surface tends to bead up. Watercolor paints can be added on top of other media though they would need to be sealed with a layer of Krylon or Pym II (for those of us who have been hoarding it). UL is very soft even when baked so things like hard pencils which need to be pushed down to work will likely score the surface so should be avoided. This softness could be a drawback for some projects but could be fixed by adding UL to the brand of clay you normally use. As a Kato user I have learned that it resists all attempts to draw or paint on it. Posca pens will work a little if the surface is textured but not always very well. Adding Kato and UL together would give a firmer, stronger clay that would accept other media.

Sculpting – UL by itself is pretty soft for sculpting but using a mix of UL and your clay brand was recommended by someone online with 4 parts scrap and 1 part UL. Others made their armatures of wire and foil, roughly sculpted with UL, baked and then added detailed sculpture on top of it with a regular brand of clay. I am not usually a sculptor so I didn't personally try these out.

Molding – I was surprised to find out how well UL does with texture sheets and molds. I had some very thin nail art texture sheets which were too soft to really use with Kato clay but the UL picked up every fine detailed line. I rolled out a sheet of UL and used it to make a more firm texture sheet. The nail art sheets had some tiny little images for individual nails which I cut out and glued to the ends of pencils to use as

stamps. I also used it inside a round mold to make my squirrel totems. I easily pushed the clay into the mold and then baked it while still in the mold. After baking it was easy to pull the totem out, clean it up with my carving tools and then paint them.

Faux Ceramics – A good faux ceramic texture can be made by adding grout to the UL. I use

SpectraLOCK Stain Proof Grout Part C. I mix the two together until I can't get any more of the grout to incorporate. It will get very sticky from the glue in the grout but it will give the UL a texture that feels very much like ceramic pottery. I used it to cover a paper mache form.

Floats – One of the properties of UL is that it is less dense than water so it floats well. I made a lily pad /flower shape to try it out. It was about 5" in diameter and it is floating in the pond now. It can support a votive candle in the middle as well.

Tips and Tricks:

- It is soft enough to cut with scissors
- To get a super smooth surface on Ultralight clay, wrap some of it around your fingertip and smooth clay with clay.

Addition by Kim:

She then used clay frosting dollops to stick two sheets of baked clay together. After baking, these were rather permanently attached. We unanimously decided this was our new mini gingerbread house glue.

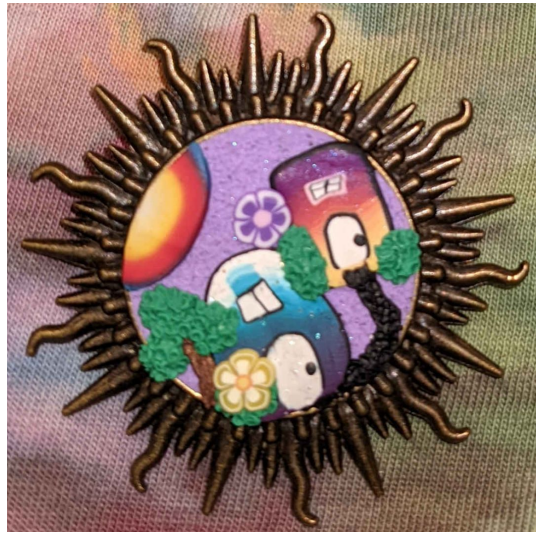
Show & Tell



Work by Dawn



Work by Katie



Work by Kim



Work by Maria



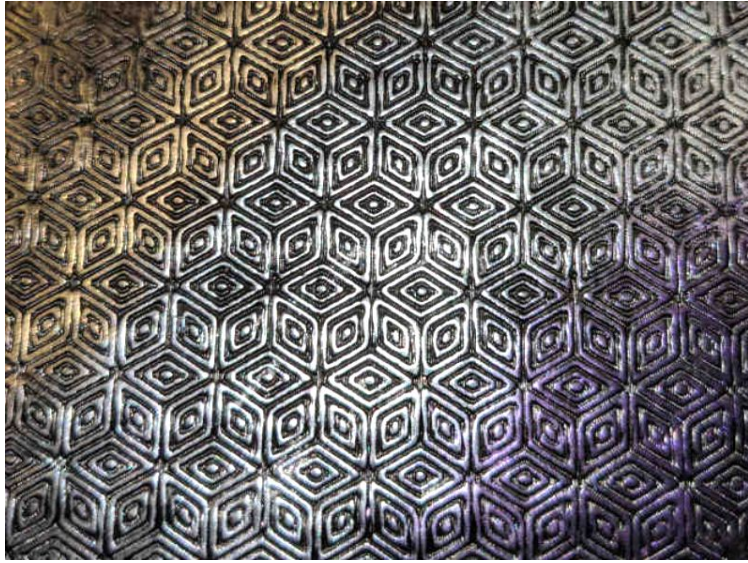
Work by Sharon



Nan's ATC



OJoy texture roller



Around Camp







June Program: Clay Social

By Kim Day | polymerclay@gmail.com



As always, the monthly program after Clay Camp is a Clay Social. This gives us a chance to talk about the fun we had, do or use some of the new tools or techniques we were inspired to try by seeing what other people made, etc. So bring a clay project (or non-clay project, we don't judge), log on, hang out. Bring questions because this is an excellent time to pick the

brains of a bunch of experts. Or opinionated non-experts. No, I'm not calling anyone out, I'm just doing a failed attempt at humor.

Clay Camp 2022: Round-up

By Kim Day | polymerclay@gmail.com



So, Clay Camp was not a financial success this year. The Guild lost around \$4,000 due to not meeting camp minimum numbers. Don't worry, the Guild has this money, we'll be fine but we need to adapt and make changes for next year, including possible venue changes. Your board is hard at work brainstorming future solutions!

We don't measure the success in terms of finances alone however. Instead, we are grateful we had a chance to meet together after a long time apart, to enjoy beautiful views as we stuffed our faces with wonderful meals. We enjoyed the company of four people that had never been to our Clay Camp before – Gil, Esther, Joy and Shanti. We welcomed a visit from David of Blueberry Beads, who generously provided a sample pack for each camp member of kato, pardo, cernit metallics and translucent clay. Joy brought a goodie bag of random cutters in an actual goodie bag (a lovely pouch with a fun craft saying on it) from her store OJoyCreations.com. The raffle table had more donations on it than ever.



And as usual, Meredith spiced up our party on Saturday night with an awesome costume and her engaging personality. Until we meet again, dear friends. But, as someone mentioned, the ending of Camp wasn't as sad as it has been before, because we knew we would be able to see each other again on Zoom, very soon.

Clay Camp Classes

We had some excellent classes this year! Susan Locsin taught ice dyeing, Dawn Gray taught clay doodling, Maria Brown taught folk art designs, and Nan Robkin taught clay transfers. Here are some photos of the classes, works in progress, final projects, etc. Enjoy!



Dawn's Clay Doodling class



Dawn's clay doodles, in progress



Clay doodles by (left) Jill and (right) Jerri



In class: Esther, Kim M and Katie



Mariah working on her folk art piece



Folk art work (left) unknown, (right) by Maria



Folk art work (left) by Mariah, (right) by Shanti



Folk art work (left) by Jerri, (right) by Sharon



Ice dying class



Jerri's Transfers



Sharon & Mariah

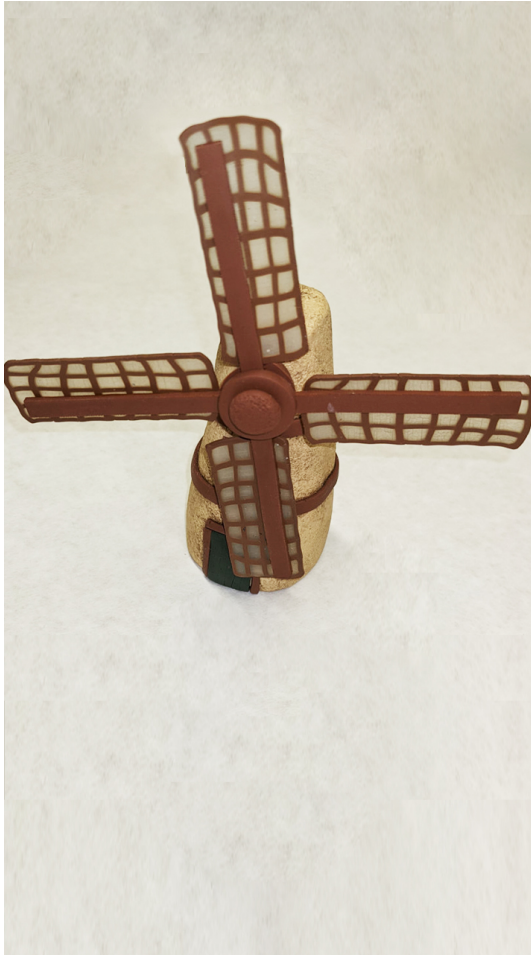
Bottles of Hope (BOH)



Top to bottom, left to right: Esther, Dawn, Esther, Kim M.



Top to bottom, left to right: Joy, Nan, Mariah, Gil

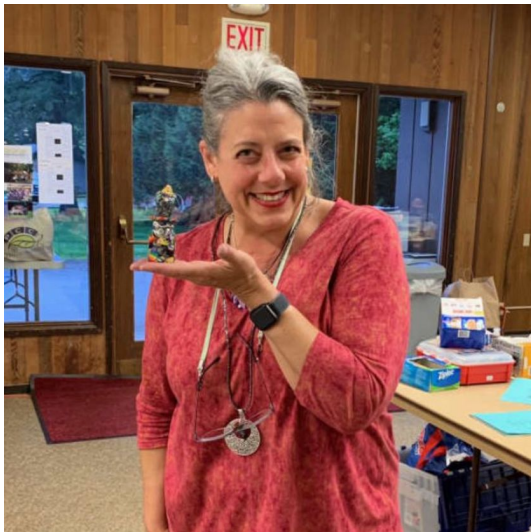


Left to right: Pamela, Sharon

BOH Winners



Top to bottom, left to right: Esther, Kim M. Mariah, Nan, and Pamela. Each winner received a beautiful Bottles of Hope ribbon.





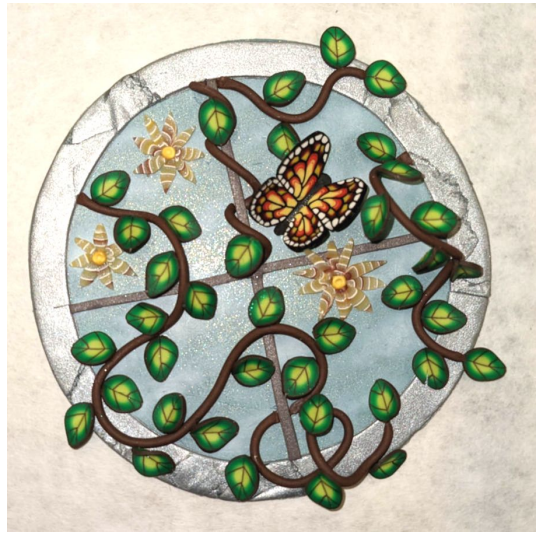
Cheryll Cane Challenge

In memoriam for our dearly departed Cheryll, we showcased her extensive cane collection and made a challenge to make something using her canes. It could be solely her canes, it could be using her canes in combination with your other work. Here are the entries and winners of this challenge.

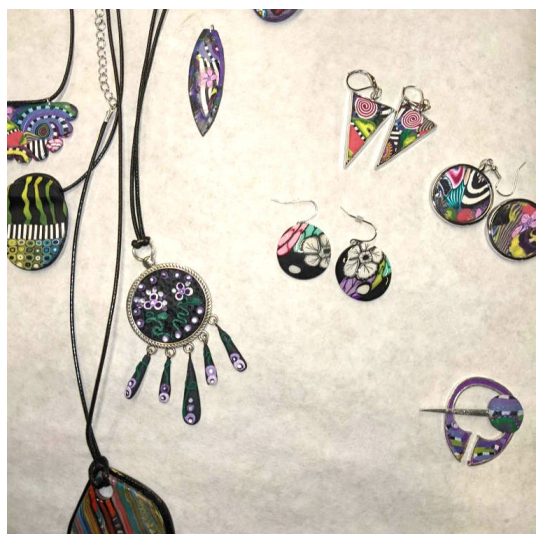




Top to bottom, left to right: Dawn, Kim M, Nan and the Cheryl Challenge Ribbon



Top to bottom, left to right: Kim D, Mariah, Pamela, Kim M





Kim M



Clay doodles by Sharon

Cheryll Cane Challenge Winners





Winners (top to bottom, left to right): Dawn, Kim D., Mariah, Pamela and Sharon.

Totem Swap

This year's theme (and the previous years, because of canceled camps) was totems. Everyone was given a size range (1-3 inches), and told to put a hole in it, and everything else was left to the imagination. Maybe it was due to the inspiring theme, maybe it was due to extra time to work on it, maybe it was due to seeing the initial ones others made and coveting them, but something magical happened and this swap was the best one ever. If you weren't sure who some of your totems come from, I'll have everything labeled with pictures here. Thanks to everyone who participated!

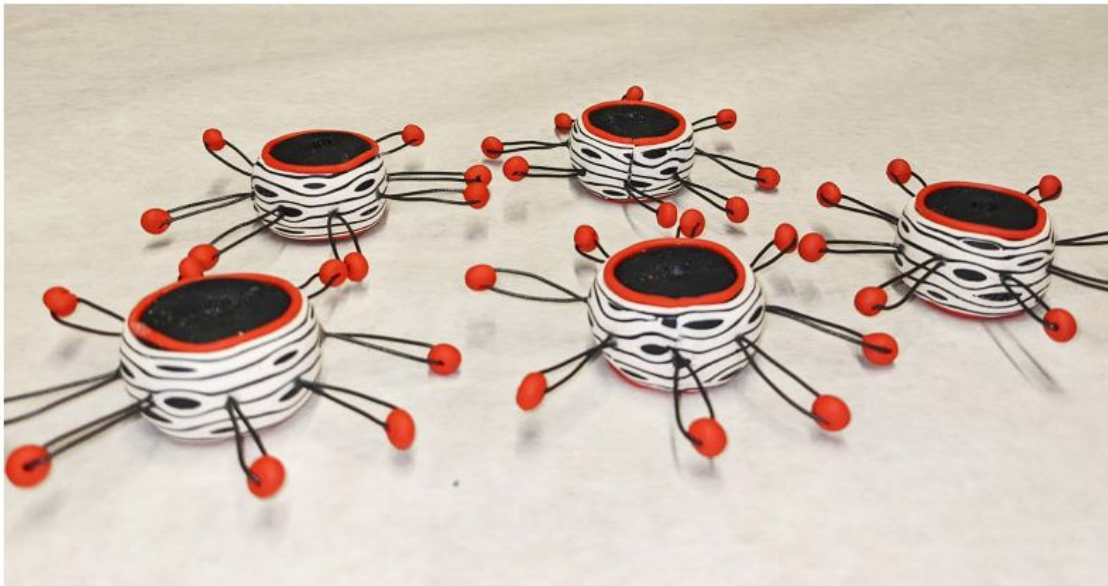
2023 Swap Announcement: this will be announced for many months, but the swap theme for next year will be cats and/or dogs. Beads, sculpture, wall art, jewelry, notebook covers, phone holders, canes, the sky is the limit. Like this year, we will let people enter in groups of 5 or 10, where each group needs to be different than your other groups (within a group they can be the same or different).

















Katie





Kim D.





Maria











Totem stands



Announcements: Classes & More

By Kim Day | polymerclay@gmail.com

Free Syndee Holt Zoom

(from her newsletter)

Hi everyone, I hope you are enjoying your 3 day weekend! (And not working like me! Gotta keep those projects coming LOL).



In my last couple Zooms with guild groups, I've raved about the Premo Apricot and Teal that were just announced. Well, the color coming NEXT WEEK is one of my all-time favorites - and it's SOUFFLE! Yay!! Fantastic Summer color (I like it teamed with Midnight Blue and Igloo).

Here is a bracelet I made with NCT scraps featuring both the Teal and the Apricot. As I say in my latest Zoom, Apricot makes a fantastic pop of bright tone where we would normally use a white or off-white.

OH! And speaking of Zooms, I normally do my free Zooms with clay groups and guilds, but a poster on a Newbie FB site asked for help. Soo, I'm presenting my "syn's Tips, Tricks, and Toys" Zoom next Sat., June 4th at 11 am (Pacific Daylight Time - so adjust the time for your location). The Zoom will be about 90 minutes and is designed for all levels of clayers. If you would like to join us, here are the details:

Join syn's Zoom Meeting

- Saturday June 4th at 11 AM Pacific Daylight Time
- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81851261365?pwd=L3lzV1QrRjdQbUw3SUV0V0NFNWdldz09>
- Meeting ID: 818 5126 1365
- Passcode: 955242

Again, there is NO CHARGE and I do not record my sessions, but you are welcome to take photos and screenshots (and ask questions of course).

This PPT is one of my most often changed/updated presentations. As I find new things, I add them. As I get tired of older content, I remove it. As I find things to make our clay life easier, I add it. As I find areas that cause difficulty for other clayers, I add my solution.

You already have the invite above, but if you plan to join, drop me a response to this and include anything you are hoping to have me address! Heck, I've got like 3 days to make changes to add them...not like my usual one hour before changes.

IF you can't join us Saturday, but belong to a group or guild - just contact me and let's see if we can't work out a date I can present to your gang. I've

got a whole menu of PPTs I can present.

Also don't forget PCA 2022 with my base relief sculpting (cheater style) class is still available: at <https://bit.ly/PCA2022-syn>

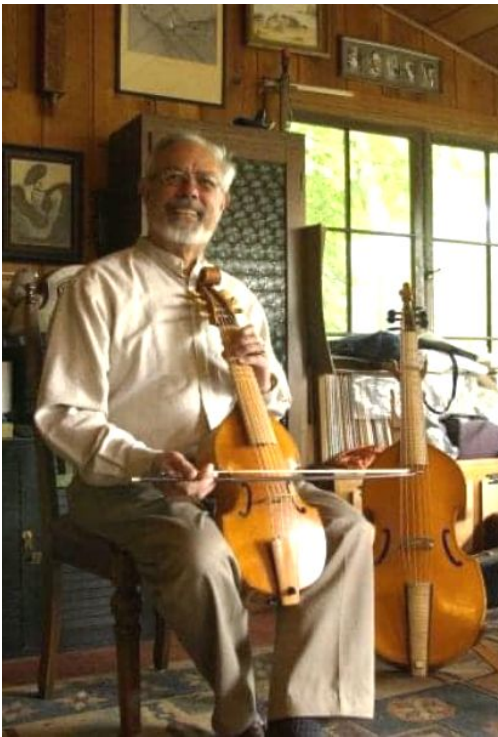
And Earring Camp just launched as well: <https://createalong.com?aff=3>

Back to the clay table...

xoxo, syn

In Memoriam: Charlie Nagel

By Kim Day



Clay Camp was not without sadness. Charlie was registered for Camp, had made 25 totems for the swap. We were sad when he had to cancel due to health reasons, and he sent his totems to Meredith to bring to Camp. Then, days before the Camp, we received this news.

I'm a good friend of Charlie's, and I'm very sorry to tell you that he passed away on [May 6th]. It was very sudden. I last spoke with him by FaceTime on Monday morning and I could tell he was not at his best, but I didn't think it was serious. By the afternoon, his wife Justine took him to emergency room at St. Anne's Hospital in Burien. He was admitted to ICU. By Tuesday morning, he was in a coma. He

died peacefully soon after life support was removed Friday afternoon. He was 88.

I know he had been much looking forward to this year's Camp, but withdrew a few weeks ago because of health problems that he (and his doctors) thought were treatable with surgery. Unfortunately, other systems gave out first. We received this message from Brian:

Please share this news with the rest of the club. No plans have been made for a life celebration at this time. If anyone would like to send a card or note, they should go to:

Justine Nagel

Post Office Box 525

Vashon, WA 98070

Thank you and I hope the camp goes well. I'm sure the members have been missing the time to be together over the last two years.

- Brian Thompson

So please, feel free to send Justine a card, send in a favorite photo of Charlie or his work (for next month's newsletter). At Camp, we wanted people to be able to have a piece of him, and we gave one of his totems out as a keepsake. There are more, so if you would like a Charlie totem, please contact me at polymerclay@gmail.com and I'll see that one finds its way to you. He was and will be missed.

Tribute: Peace Charlie Nagel

By Meredith Arnold & Nan Robkin



Charlie was a grand man. I was lucky enough to get to know Charlie better many years ago at a weekend polymer workshop retreat on Whidbey Island. Our instructor was Kathy Amt. Gwen Gibson sat next to Charlie and they became great friends, too. Now that they're both gone I can imagine them experimenting with polymer and having interesting conversations. It was at that workshop that Gwen took a torch to some frozen clay (outdoors, of course). I forget what that was about but I do remember the look on their faces as the experiment proceeded. Naughty children comes to mind...

As Nan Robkin says: Charlie was always a gentleman, in every sense of the word. He was generous with his clay techniques and making molds. He made a wonderful gluten free apple crisp which was a tradition at the Guild Christmas party (and which Meredith looked forward to every year!).

Nan reminded me that Charlie was always willing to help out and even

found us a meeting place in Lake City, where we met for years. He even stepped up to be President of the Guild for a term.

Before we met Charlie he created welded sculptures. That's where his passion for creating sculpture began. Sadly, he ended up losing a part of a lung because of the welding. He wanted to continue sculpting that wouldn't require welding. This is how he found polymer clay. He loved creating pieces that looked like metal and using textures from nature to create organic surfaces in his pieces.

Charlie was a psychology professor at the U.W. Later, his keen interest in music resulted in his becoming a published author many times over. He enjoyed researching and discovering bits of Baroque music and arranging them for our modern day instruments. He even entertained us at Clay Camp with Kara Hunnicutt playing a duet he arranged. He played his viola de gamba and Kara played her cello. It was a memorable musical moment! Charlie was in a kazoo band at one time as well, which fit his humor perfectly.

Charlie helped me when I came to camp with a concussion. He was always so kind and had such a nice way of communicating. He asked me what info had I been given about my concussion? I told him the doctor said I would be fine in a couple of weeks. Charlie got a look on his face, looked me in the eye and said "That's optimistic." He kindly told me the more realistic picture and I have never forgotten that moment or how much I appreciated his speaking up to help me.

All of us in the Guild have been so lucky to have Charlie's quiet support. He always donated to every non-raffle which over the years amounted to quite a lot.

We will all miss Charlie and his wonderful bear-like hugs, his humor, talent and his solid, reassuring presence.

These pix are Charlie holding his work made at Clay Camp the last few years before COVID.



Charlie's mismatched socks



Charlie was an avid collector and creator of polymer clay Artist Trading Cards (ATC) and was always happy to show off his collection, explain how it is done and invite people to join in. Below are Charlie's totems for the Clay Camp 2022 swap.





Meetings: Zoom

By Kim Day | polymerclay@gmail.com



We have our monthly meeting over Zoom the first Wednesday of the month from 6:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

We also have small informal clay days every Wednesday 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. and every Saturday 10:00 a.m. - noon. All of these use the same Zoom link.

You are welcome to invite other people you know to these, there is no membership requirement for our informal get togethers. They can also craft with other mediums than clay.

If you'd like to be on an email list for people who want to schedule Zoom things outside these Wednesday and Saturday times, please let me know with very specific words "Add me to the Zoom email list" at polymerclay@gmail.com

[Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 988 553 9980

Password: clayisfun

From the President: Cat time!

By Kim Day | polymerclay@gmail.com



Here's a picture of a cat, in honor of next year's swap theme: Cats and Dogs (or Cats, or Dogs, or CatDogs as Pamela was saying).





Kim



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Changing your email? You can [update your personal](#) information to ensure that you receive our newsletter. You can also add your website or social media links to your profile. This link is also available in every newsletter at the footer area.

If you haven't yet, please add "newsletter@nwpcg.org" to your address book so our newsletters do not go to spam.

Update

 Forward

NWPCG website



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

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