



August 2020

The Kiln Post

Making A Difference

With Ben's Bells Let's Do It Again!

This time you can choose between 2 projects.



Bells

Ben's Bells will have grab and go (curbside pickup) kits available for 10 clay artists to help them

Ornaments

Ben's Bells will have grab and go (curbside pickup) kits available for 10 clay artists to help them

create traditional Ben's Bells.

**You do not have to be a member
to sign up.**

Registration is limited to 10

Click the box to register

Click Here
M.A.D. About
Ben's Bells

make Ornaments.

**You do not have to be a member
to sign up.**

Registration is limited to 10

Click the box to register

Click Here
M.A.D. About
Ben's Bells

Kits can be picked up on Tuesday, August 18 or Thursday, August 20 from 10 AM until 2 PM at the downtown Tucson studio.

- Use Ben's Bells back door, located on the north side of the street across from the parking garage at 58 W Jackson St
- Masks are required
- Your kit will contain everything you need (except a rib) to make all the components for a minimum of 10 Ben's Bells or Ornaments
 - A block of clay for you to slab & rib
 - All tools and materials
 - Step-by-step instructions
- You may return your Bells or Ornaments, either bisqued (^04) or greenware
- The deadline for returning all completed work, scrap clay and tools is on or before Thursday, September 10, 2020



Karen's Korner

THE UPSIDE OF DOWNTIME

The “downtime” imposed by this pandemic has certainly produced its ups and

downs for people around the world. For me personally there have been definitely more ups than downs, and I am extremely grateful that I am allowed this perspective.

For me, the downside of downtime is similar for many of us: I miss my friends and family, including my SACA friends. I miss my pottery classes and gym workouts. Any spa days are nonexistent. I do realize that this is a pathetic list compared to those whose “downtime” consists of managing children’s online learning or working from a chaotic home.

The upside of downtime includes the lower stress level comprising my days. I enjoy quiet periods of perspective that sneak in unannounced. While stitching a Christmas stocking for a three-year-old, I carry on imaginary conversations with him. I look for ways to let him know I’m thinking about him even while we are apart. Or sometimes the name of a friend comes to mind, and I am free to pick up the phone and pick up where we left off. Because normal life is so changed, I have begun to add surprising items to my list of Gratuities. “FaceTime” is now right next to “air conditioning,” which I added soon after we moved to Arizona. The list also now includes “daily naps” and even “streaming TV.” I can’t keep track of days, but I am grateful that right now I don’t need to.

Many formerly “insignificant” daily factors have gained importance as the previous noise of daily life has muted. I see how my life is enriched by these uncelebrated bits and pieces, and I’m happy to add them to a list of things I am grateful for. Definitely not trivial are two new names just added beside adult family/friends who have populated my list for years. The youngest entries, grandsons Carter and Lomond, 6 and 3, have now joined the list of people and things I pause to appreciate daily. Their presence there reminds me how they can find new wonders every day, and how they add joy and hope for the future. Here’s wishing you joy and wonder every day, as well as hope for the future.

[Karen Phillips](#)

SACA President



Inspiring The Teacher Within

SACA Member, Susan Barzacchini

Are you thinking about teaching others what you know about your art? Do you find yourself molding clay through your fingers and thinking, “It would be groovy to share this technique?” Passing on artistic knowledge to others either in person or virtually via Zoom, Skype, Facetime, or another platform can be immeasurably rewarding.

The Kiln Post Editor, Denise Gullett, asked me to write an article on how I perform my workshops to share with all of you at Southern Arizona Clay Artists. I created the following ideas in hopes to inspire the teacher in you.

What makes for a successful workshop/retreat?

- **Knowing your audience is key.** Are the participants at a beginner, intermediate or advanced level? Neophyte students, in an advanced class, can slow down the group with questions.
- **Add mystique.** I find that students want to learn what they can’t figure out themselves through “reverse engineering.” Reverse engineering is simply figuring out for yourself how something was created. Add the element of mystery in creating the art and watch the interest grow. People want to know how to solve the creative mystery.
- **Supply all the materials.** This one can be tough on a budget, but it really helps to smooth out the wrinkles when teaching. Everyone has full access to the same materials and subsequently, they add their artistic style to the finished piece. I promise, no two works of art will be exactly the same, even though the supplies are identical. The students tend to coo over the variances in each other’s finished work. If you are providing all the supplies for a virtual class, having a designated pick-up point or mailing supplies are an option. Price your class accordingly if you provide the supplies.

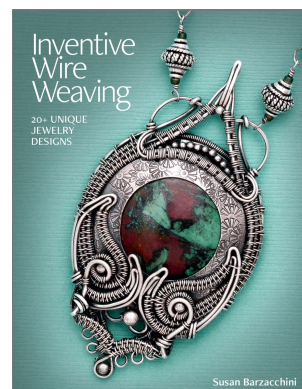
- **Allow enough time.** It seems that in most workshops that I teach, the class is fastidious in creating a sort of race to see who can get done first or keeping up with their neighboring artist's pace. Preface that the class is not a timed-test and each person will work at their own pace. Allow a little extra time for methodical learners.
- **Walk the room and offer assistance.** Make yourself readily available to assist those who are struggling. Offer genuine reassurances to students. In your "virtual" room, make time to check in with students along the way.
- **Define YOUR style.** That may sound obvious, however, continuity in your work holds great value in teaching. It allows each student who connects with your art to want to create as you create. Have you ever seen something really cool in the art world and said to yourself, "Yes, I want to learn how to immerse myself in that style of work?" I said just that thing when I signed up for Golem Studio's SACA's class "Beads! Glorious Beads" in Tucson. Vladislav Ivanov's class broke our piggy bank so that I could fly from Chicago to Tucson, stay at a hotel for the week and take the class just to learn his style and it was well worth it.
- **Realize the impact you might have.** Teaching the arts can lead to teaching a future teacher or an award-winning artist. The impact that teachers have inspiring others can be incredibly rewarding. As people learn a new skill, their minds can become immersed in the topic which can be cathartic for teacher and student.
- **Patience is truly a virtue when teaching.** When I teach wire, one of the first things that I mention to my class is that there are two ways to weave wire; one, is as an angry wire weaver and the other is a happy weaver. I let them know that angry work looks angry and happy work looks more fluid. Telling your class to "love" their work and their materials can sound pretty strange, but it does have value in the classroom. One teacher I know begins every class with chair yoga and positive affirmations.
- **Be prepared and have written and photographed instructions.** If the workshop is taught more than once, creating take-home instructions for the students is a bonus. I always supply each student with a step-by-step pictorial and written tutorial so that they may recreate the project on their own at home. This helps the instructor as well as students who like to work ahead. It also allows each person to focus on the teachings instead of taking notes.
- **Practice your lesson at home.** Give the class a go in your leisure time, by creating and re-creating the project a few times with the mindset of the class participants. As this is being done, ask yourself if the steps are doable for beginners or interesting enough for the advanced learner.
- **Smile.** Remaining positive and encouraging during the class, gives the students confidence in the teaching experience. It conveys to the class that you enjoy what you are doing and that you appreciate their presence.
- **Virtual Teaching can be an option.** Over the last several months, my husband and I have taught virtually via Zoom and Skype, including three national television appearances. We teach virtually for our Chicagoland libraries with success. We always perform a trial-run with the librarians and television producers to make sure that our technology works and that

our techniques look spiffy in front of the camera. Recently, we included a tight-shot pictorial of our photo steps to create a piece. We use a split screen to demonstrate and show the photos. We may pause for questions at designated times during the class. After the demo, we open up the virtual room for additional questions and answers. Providing a supply list before the class via email is also helpful.

In conclusion, teaching and learning can be rewarding and lifechanging. Teaching is giving of self and knowledge. Dazzle the world with your art and illuminate the corners of the mind. Make the difference the way you know how and impart your legacy.



*Susan Barzacchini is the author of **Inventive Wire Weaving**, a step-by-step pictorial and descriptive book on how to create wire jewelry from thin threads of wire. She also holds workshops, has written articles for *Art Jewelry Magazine*, taught at the national *Bead and Button Show*, and appeared on *Jewelry Television (JTV)* to demonstrate wire-weaving. She is currently writing her second book: *Wire-Weaving and Metal Cold Connections* for jewelry designers.*





**Have you got your 50-50 Drawing tickets?
Better hurry!
Time is running out!**

We will live stream the drawing on our Facebook page, [Southern Arizona Clay Artists & Friends](#), in late September. Keep your eyes open for a special Email Blast announcing the date and time.



Shows

UPDATE

Summer is a slow time for the Shows committee, especially with the advent of Covid-19. At this time, we are setting up a schedule for next seasons shows. Save the following dates:

Tucson Botanical Gardens **2020**

TBG has cancelled all art events for the remainder of 2020

Joel Valdez Pima County Library **2020**

December 1 thru December 30

Non-juried SACA members only

Tohono Chul Gardens **2021**

Friday, February 26 and Saturday, February 27.

Juried SACA members only

Tucson Botanical Gardens **2021**

Friday, May 7 and Saturday, May 8

Mother's Day Weekend

Open to all SACA members.



We like to hear about what our members are doing.
Send us some pics of what you are working on.

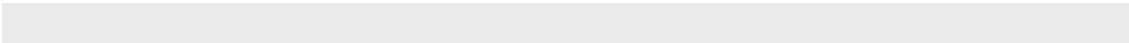
[The Kiln Post](#)



Southern Arizona Clay Artists & Friends

[Join the Group Now!](#)

Tell your friends to join us. Membership in SACA is not required.
You will always find a link in the footers of our newsletter and website.



Millions for Tucson Raffle Tickets Still Available



THE JIM CLICK
MILLIONS
FOR TUCSON
RAFFLE


YOU COULD WIN



One of three great prizes:
A NEW 2020 FORD F-150 PLATINUM,
two round-trip, first-class airline tickets to anywhere in the world
OR \$5,000 cash!

(Restrictions apply to airline tickets. Please see Millions for Tucson Raffle Rules)



 Join Southern Arizona Clay Artists & Friends

Copyright © 2020 Southern Arizona Clay Artists, Inc, All rights reserved.
