

# WAC NEWSLETTER



willamette  
art center

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- WAC Outreach
- Amanda's Glaze Tips
- Family Clay Sunday
- Recovering from the Carr Fire
- And, more ...

## THE STUDIO IS OPEN!

Take advantage of the open studio time that comes with your class to practice skills. Open studio is a great way to create in community.

### Day Pass

Adult Day – \$12

Open studio passes give you access to our equipment and glazes. We also sell clay, tools, and firing tickets at the monitor desk.

Day passes can be purchased in the studio on the day of use. Longer-term passes can be purchased on our website (no cash sales).

### Long Term Studio Passes

15 visits	\$125
1 month	\$60
45 visits	\$360
1 year	\$600

## OPPORTUNITIES

### ART VENDORS @ ENGLEWOOD FOREST FESTIVAL

On Saturday, August 10, the WAC will have an information and rock painting booth at this entertaining northeast neighborhood event in Englewood Park. Volunteers are needed for set up, two shifts, and tear down. Plan to supervise kid rock painting and share WAC information. Join us for a delightful day of music, dance, arts, and community fun. See the sign-up sheet next to the entry door and sign up today! [englewoodforestfestival.org](http://englewoodforestfestival.org)

### SEEKING VOLUNTEERS FOR ARTISANS' VILLAGE @ STATE FAIR

If you enjoy great artwork, music, people watching, and putting smiles on patrons' faces, join us when the WAC sponsored Artisans' Village returns to the Oregon State Fair, August 23 through September 2. The WAC will again host a Raku pottery painting booth, pottery demonstrations, and possibly a pottery sale (still in the planning stage). It's our largest fundraiser of the year to support the Willamette Art Center. Please volunteer for one of these fair jobs: cashier, receipt writer, glaze helper, or Raku firer. We will also need volunteers to help set up and tear down the booth. Volunteers receive a free pass to the State Fair, a free WAC T-shirt, and the satisfaction of knowing they have helped keep the Willamette Art Center going strong! Sign-up opportunity details are coming soon.

## JOIN THE TEAM!

### Seeking a part-time Administrative Assistant

The ideal candidate is efficient, detail-oriented and skilled in developing and maintaining workplace and customer relationships. Visit the website for a job description.

# BOARD NEWS

Josie Hummert is a new addition to the WAC Board of Directors. She is filling Jennifer Lassen's open position and will serve on the board until the next election. Josie brings a wealth of non-profit, marketing, and graphic design experience. Thank you, Jennifer, for your many contributions and service to the WAC. Welcome, Josie!



Josie Hummert

Heather Skinner recently stepped down from the Board of Directors. Heather was instrumental in improving the look and tone of the WAC's communication and social media presence during her term. Please express your gratitude for her two and a half years of service when you see her around the studio or at a local art fair.

The Board seeks one member to fill the vacancy on the Board. If you would like to nominate yourself or another member, contact Sage Dunham at [wacpresident@willametteartcenter.com](mailto:wacpresident@willametteartcenter.com).

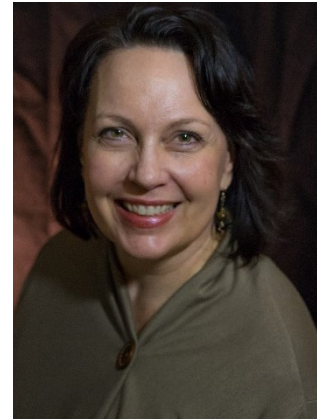
A very valuable person at Willamette Art Center will be leaving for a well-deserved next chapter as a retiree. Sue Karnosh has been with WAC since its inception -- nearly 20 years! She has served in many behind-the-scenes capacities: bookkeeper, web master, class program and newsletter graphic designer, technical manager, office manager, and program administrator. Thank you, Sue, for your dedication to the WAC! Happy retirement and we hope to see you in the studio playing with clay.

**Next Board Meeting**  
August 14 @ 5:30 p.m.

# DIRECTOR'S CORNER

By Lisa Joyce, Executive Director

The WAC board approved a new mission statement at its July meeting. This important decision follows a series of conversations led by board member and Strategic Planning Committee Chair, Carla Axtman, during which she gathered feedback from staff, monitors and instructors. We followed those conversations with a survey of community members, which showed strong support for updating the mission with a statement that more clearly describes the WAC's purpose.



The new mission statement is:

*Willamette Art Center's mission is to maintain a sustainable and welcoming community for lifelong learning and exploration of the arts.*

It replaces "The Friends encourage lifelong learning and exploration of the arts as a vital ingredient for the health of individuals and communities."

The new mission statement better communicates the WAC's purpose.

- "Welcoming" tells the world what we do and strive to cultivate – a safe space where artists can create in a community setting.
- "Sustainable" indicates that the board and staff will make decisions that ensure that the WAC remains financially stable by wisely managing resources and seeking additional funding to keep programs affordable.

What I find most promising is that the process of developing this new mission engaged the community in conversation. It truly reflected our goal of fostering a sense of shared ownership of the organization's direction.

There will be more conversations to come as we build out the Strategic Plan. I hope to hear from you.



# Recovery from the Carr Fire

July 23, 2018 | By KD Rowell

Three days after the fire started, it jumped the Sacramento River, changing course to east, northeast, making its way to Redding (CA). The temperature was estimated to have reached at least 1600 degrees. A hundred homes were burning within a half hour of evacuations. A few neighbor's homes were left standing with greenery at the back or front. I automatically believed there was beauty to find in the ashes of our community. So, I spent the rest of the summer and into the fall sifting through the ashes of my home of nearly 30 years. I hoped to find beauty from what for humans was destruction while it was just nature's transitioning energy for me. I initiated a search for 'findings' of the fire's making and discovered miracles beyond what I found in standalone sculpture.

As I sifted in the deep ash, wrapped up in gear from head to toe, I nestled into the beauty of the things that survived and the newly formed pieces formed from aluminum tire rims, melted mirrors, and shards of shattered window glass. After years filled with tactile-

only art experiences, I could now easily see sculpture in nature. During this experience of life in miniature, I saw figures and forms in the fire's remains.

The sculptures represent this part of the journey and include findings of melted material and ceramic pieces that survived. The foreground pieces include an aluminum door frame (I see a tree on a hill), a melted brass bowl, a ceramic ornament by DeGrazia, a piece of etched slate, ceramic domes, and holding the totem, a Southwestern native coil bowl. The two green figures on either side of the central totem are a result of figures I saw in small pieces of melted glass. The tall figures are my offering to the tree energy that was lost. The center sphere of the totem includes a bit of my father's ashes. The figures are ethereal for me, as if the figures were created to show the power of loss, both their own and mine.

# It's A Wrap, Family Clay Style

By Kelly Matney



Another Year of Family Clay is in the books. It was wonderful to meet all our new families and an honor to see returning faces as well. Being a part of Family Clay these past two years has inspired me and taught me to think outside the box! My goal is to teach essential ceramic skills within a small 2-hour window that allows the artists' creativity to shine.

This year I was blessed with an amazing co-teacher, Doug Dacar, to help manifest my lofty goals. With his wealth of knowledge and expertise, he brought many of my wild ideas to life. Amie Lake and Jules Vogel, returned for their second year, and Emily Jackson was the perfect addition to our team. Together they were able to add their artistic flair to our projects in addition to helping with the hours of prep it takes to get ready for our families. Jan Prowse joined us as cashier to keep everyone signed in and in line. Her smile always makes people feel welcome and happy to be at the Willamette Art Center. Our family clay volunteers gave over 15 hours a month to support this mission. Many other smiling faces helped fire projects, make clay balls, wipe tables, organize tools, the list goes on. It is because of these volunteers that we can make personal connections and support the Family Clay families' creative efforts.

Each Sunday we laughed, scored, and pinched with more than 75 families. We learned to make pinch pots, scratch to attach, wipe our bottoms, and why we always leave an air hole. We developed friendships and pushed each other to grow.

Next season we hope to start even earlier! The project lists are already made, and we are in the works to bring you an unforgettable year at the Willamette Art Center. Please tag us in any posts on social media so we can see your finished projects being used.

Lastly, I would like to give a thank you to our generous sponsors who help keep us going year after year. Please reach out if you would like to help support our mission to bring affordable clay experiences to our community. Family Clay is for everyone. We'll see you in the fall.

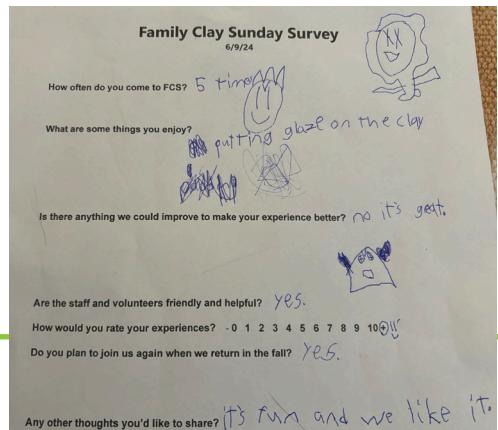


## WE ASKED, THEY ANSWERED

We received survey responses from families and are sharing the joy with you!

*I enjoy being creative, learning new art skills and bonding with my family. How affordable it is!*

*Thanks for being kind and patient with the kids. We love our keepsakes we've made!*



*We like the family environment and great friendly staff.*

*You are doing a great job making everyone welcome!*

*We like time to do an activity that the whole family can enjoy trying something new.*

# AMANDA OHRN'S GLAZING TIPS

To see more, check out @ohrnmandamanda and #wacglazes on Instagram.



## 01 Ferns & Green Satin Matte

A fern-textured bowl. The rim was brushed with red iron oxide stain, which was lightly wiped back with a damp sponge, and then wax was painted on the rim. The piece was then dipped in Green Satin Matte.



## 02 Wiggle Wire

A wiggle wire cup glazed in Jeff's Long Beach Blue. The glaze has a satiny feel and breaks nicely over the texture. Fun fact: the wiggle wire was made using a spring from an umbrella!



## 03 Wavy Handles

A wavy-handled mug glazed in Jeff's Long Beach Blue on the inside and most of the outside, with a rim dipped in Amber Celadon. I've never used Jeff's Long Beach Blue on a smooth surface before, and I like the soft look and feel of it. It also broke nicely over the vertical lines of the piece and overlapped well with the Amber Celadon.



# WAC Sponsors

Oregon State Fair

Travel Salem

Salem Health

CBTWO Architects

The Grand Hotel & The Hotel Salem

Salem Convention Center

Salem Electric

City of Salem

Dutch Bros

John Gear Law Office, LLC

Highway Trailer Sales

If you know of a business looking to expand their visual reach or support the arts, contact Lisa Joyce, [lisa@willametteartcenter.com](mailto:lisa@willametteartcenter.com).

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

If you have ideas, questions or concerns feel free to connect with a board member. They represent you and want to hear from you.

Sage Dunham - President

Dana Field - Vice President

Claudia Hill - Secretary

Dave McConnell - Treasurer

### Directors at Large

Pam Baldwin

Carla Axtman

Wendy Cornelisen

Josie Hummert

One vacant position

### Board Committees and Chairs

**Auditing** — Wendy Cornelisen

**Nominating/Bylaws** — Pam Baldwin

**Personnel** — Sage Dunham

**Strategic Planning** — Carla Axtman

**Budget** — Dave McConnell

**Membership** — Josie Hummert

**Scholarships** — TBA

**Marketing/Communication** — Lisa Joyce

**Safety/Facility** — Dana Field

**Fundraising** — TBA

# Custer Feldspar

## & MAKING SENSE OF GLAZING WITH WAC GLAZES

By Michelle Blumenthal

You may have noticed recent changes in WAC glazes - in fact, these changes are happening in pottery studios everywhere. Glaze and clay chemistry was forever changed when one ingredient, a volcanic potash mined in the Black Hills of South Dakota, became unavailable last year. R.I.P. Custer Feldspar.

Custer Feldspar was widely used in ceramics for decades, basically controlling the shrinkage, vitrification and workability of clay bodies and melting point, gloss and color development of glazes.

As soon as Custer Feldspar became scarce, WAC Studio Technician, Nikki Svarverud began testing new glaze recipes. While her goal was to find alternate recipes to duplicate WAC's long-time favorite glazes, the reality is that nothing will ever be exactly the same without Custer Feldspar.

Nikki's goal for WAC's array of glazes is always, first and foremost, consistency of results across all the clay bodies offered by WAC. She enjoys glaze chemistry and readily accepted the challenge of making glazes without Custer Feldspar. For the past eight months, she has been working behind the scenes to try to re-create the long-time favorite WAC glazes and test new glaze recipes for consistent colors and results.

While Nikki continues to work behind the scenes, here are a few things you can do to make sure you achieve the best possible results for your pottery with WAC glazes:

**1 Stir, stir, and stir again.** If you stir the glaze and then walk away to pick up your piece, stir it again. Use a spoon to reach the bottom of the bucket to determine if all the ingredients of the glaze have been evenly incorporated and not gooped at the bottom of the bucket.

**2 Less is more, and one is enough.** Because of the variable melting points of glazes, don't apply glazes very thickly. And, since it will take more time to determine which glazes work well together, avoid combining or layering more than one glaze until more testing can be done.

**3 Use a cookie.** A cookie is a sacrificial bisque-fired "tile" placed under your piece to catch any glaze that may otherwise run onto the kiln shelf. Nikki requests that your cookie be only slightly larger than your piece, so please plan accordingly.

**4 Leave room for glazes to move.** Nikki recommends a minimum of 1/4" of unglazed area at the bottom edge of your piece. Jim Ransom suggests adding a foot with a profile to the edge of your piece will also help keep the glazes from running onto the shelf.

**5 Handle with care.** Be particular about your handle placement and where the glaze line ends - beware if your handle ends at the bottom edge of your mug, that is a very common spot for the glaze to run and stick to the shelf.

**6 Test, test, test.** As always, for best results, create test tiles using the clay body you want to glaze before using glazes on precious projects.

**7 Be patient.** New glazes are coming but this process takes time. Watch for the arrival of brand new glazes and say goodbye to glazes like Rutile Blue and Ohata Plum. If you see Nikki at WAC, please thank her for all her hard work in trying to solve the puzzle of making all new glazes - working without Custer Feldspar is like baking bread without yeast!

WILLAMETTE ART CENTER

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Newsletter Team | Lisa Joyce, Executive Director — Pam Baldwin, Editor — Josie Hummert, Graphic Design

# Artfully Mindful Workshop

By KD Rowell, Instructor



I come from an eclectic experience, educationally and socially, with an ongoing desire to create art and feel safe enough to do so because I am not an 'artist'. I do not feel totally comfortable making art, but through art therapy training, I was introduced to tactile only experientials. Those using art materials became my favorites and are what I offer in the mindful sculpting workshops. Participants engage in a variety of art processes that are useful for reflection, creative delving, energy release and are, for some, transformative. They have multiple opportunities to play with a variety

of fine art materials, tools and clay. Experiential art processes help the maker let go of visual/ cognitive control. Each offering helps initiate becoming more confident and aware of one's artistic language. Opportunities to create inspire adjustments in one's thinking, feeling and communication with both self and others. In the process of creating (initiating, making, reflecting) we are allowed to let go of the should and should nots many perceive. Consider the workshop a chance to add meditative art processes to your self-care tool belt.

## IN THE STUDIO ...



Margrethe Gregg "hangs out" with the extruder. Should she be frustrated or collaborate? Damion B. to the rescue!



Super father-daughter wheel throwing team! Marybeth and Damion Blair



Then Margrethe Gregg made these two pieces. Karen Hackney designed and applied underglaze to finish them.



### What Clay is Best for Raku?

Instructor Doug Dacar says, "All the clay will work but clay with sand, grog or both have a greater chance of not cracking. Recycled works best because it has a little of everything. I think that's why it has been so successful. Dakota white and CAC white also work well."



The little lost kitten found a home!

# With Gratitude

The Willamette Art Center thanks all of our volunteers, students, and donors for your support. Participation in classes, volunteering at events, and financial support is the reason the WAC thrives and has grown tremendously since opening to the Salem community in 2006.

Thank you, **Doug Dacar**, for remaining on staff to maintain and repair our kilns and wheels and manage clay orders.

A donor sponsored Washington Elementary 4<sup>th</sup> graders to attend sessions at WAC. This was a fantastic experience for students and instructors, demonstrating that there are no language barriers to artistic expression. An amazing thank you gift is pictured.



Claudia Hill, Board Member



Greg Gregg – Gotta love the outfit and this dedicated volunteer! Greg Gregg donates mega-hours recycling masses of clay scraps into great reusable clay.

## WAC Outreach

Did you know WAC will host private educational and community events? Anything from a field trip for a class or group, team building, club activities, and more. WAC can help you plan a fun activity.

If you would like to schedule a clay workshop for a special group, contact [lisa@willametteartcenter.com](mailto:lisa@willametteartcenter.com).

## Reminders

### *Don't Recycle Clay without Checking*

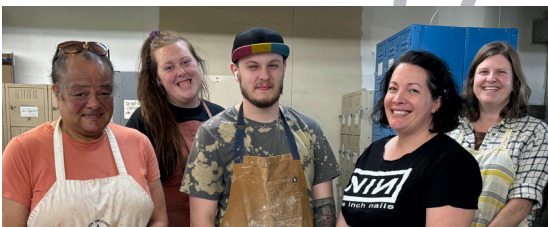
Carefully sift through your water buckets and trays for tools, leather, plastic, and other non-recyclable bits and bobs before dumping them into the bins.

### *Mark Your Pots*

It is really important to mark the bottom of your pot to be fired with your name or special mark. Always write your name on the back of the firing tickets. Also add the special mark if you use one.



# Class Pictures



# Class Pictures

