



Why is my pottery wonky?

We've all been making pottery for the holidays, and nothing is more disappointing than having your piece come out of the kiln "wonky" or warped. Cries are heard throughout the studio: "Why did it warp?" Here are a few reasons and a couple of videos that will help you avoid future warping.

Overhanding: Clay has memory and it remembers how it was shaped. [Clay Memory Video](#). There are other reasons as well, including: **the walls are too thin; rolling out clay unevenly; uneven drying and drying too fast; not keeping it flat; and the choice of clay.** [7 Reasons your Pottery is Warping Video](#) This is a good video, but be prepared for a 2 minute commercial in the middle about her sponsor. You can fast forward through it. *Here's to less warping in the New Year!*



Learning to Throw



Learning to throw on the wheel can sometimes seem daunting, but Mitch Kotula and Janet Sinderbrand's December Wheel Classes helped five studio members become more confident. Their instruction was clear and provided basic understanding of throwing skills. There was an instructor for each learner, and this greatly enhanced the experience. Many thanks to mentors Joanne Ploch, Rich Briggs and Martha Abrams for sharing their skills.

But it wasn't just the number of instructors that made the difference. Another learner said, "The instructors were so calm and patient and that made learning so much easier." The learners unanimously agreed that the classes met all of their expectations and then some. As with anything, practice is the key to success. Most of the learners commented that all they need to do now is PRACTICE! Seeing all the pieces that were put in the bisque recently, it looks like these students are doing just that.

Check out the photo gallery on the PFP website for additional pictures of this class.

Quilt of Valor for Mitch



On November 9, we gathered to honor fellow potter, Mitch Kotula, as he received the Quilt of Valor for his military service. Mitch shared various situations he had gone through during his many years of service, including a near-death experience. We all gained a greater appreciation for Mitch and the sacrifices he made to defend freedom around the world. Mitch, we salute you!

Make a Soup Bowl for Hospice

Each year PFP supports Soup on Sundays, a charity event for VIA Health Partners, formerly Hospice and Palliative Care Charlotte Region. The event is on January 26th at Philip Van Every Culinary Arts at Piedmont Community College. We're encouraging members to make bowls approximately 5 inches in diameter and 3-4 inches tall, hand built or wheel thrown. They must be completed by January 20th. Join us during the afternoons of January 4th and January 8th to work as a group. Clay will be provided.



Fresh out of the Kiln



"Fabulous!" Janet Sinderbrand exclaimed when she saw this piece come out of the glaze kiln. Not only is it beautiful, but there is a sweet story behind it as well. Sharon Snyder collaborated on this piece with her granddaughter, who is an artist. She drew the design on the bowl that

Sharon had created. Then Sharon painted over the design with underglaze and added a few more elements. The bowl was then covered in a clear glaze, with amazing results.

New Glazes: Be sure to check out the new shades of Mayco underglazes in 2 ounce jars. Let the Board know which glazes you like. There is also a new Mayco glaze called Ivy, and you can find the test tile on the board.

Dates to Remember

- **January 4, Saturday, 1-4 p.m.** Making Soup Bowls in the studio.
- **January 8, Wednesday, 11:00 a.m.** PFP Club meeting in the studio. Stay afterwards to make soup bowls.
- **January 26, Sunday, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.** SOUP ON SUNDAYS. 425 N Kings Dr, Charlotte. Ticket sales open on January 1. [Click to RSVP.](#)