

# Mile High Polymer Clay Guild Newsletter

July, August, September 2007 mhpcg.org

## *President's Letter*

Hi, everyone. Thank you for electing me President of our guild. I am looking forward to the coming year.

I want to thank everyone on the Board and committees for their hard work during the year. Two of you will be leaving the Board and I want to extend to you a special vote of thanks for your involvement. Diane, for making our guild a truly wonderful one with over seventy members, and to Bonnie for her secretarial duties and for keeping us on the straight and narrow. You both will be missed. For those not leaving, your dedication is truly a work of love. Even though I was unable to attend, I have heard the Retreat was a large success. Thanks to Bonnie and Diane for the food that was enjoyed by all, to Peg Harper for making the contacts for goodie bags donations and raffle items, and to Karen and Susan for getting the flyer out and organizing classes, duties, etc., to Milli for making all the name tags, to Barb Harper for creating the beautiful pendants, and to Marian who graciously donated polymer-related items to be sold with money given to the guild. (We netted about \$100.) An extra special thanks to our instructors for their wonderful demos. **And ... a special thanks to all of you for pitching in and helping to make the retreat a success!**

I am looking forward to another exciting year with the new board members:

### Elected Officers:

Gerrie Wolf, President  
Susan Mueller - Vice President  
Millie Barton - Treasurer  
Patty Davis - Secretary

### Standing Committee Chairs:

Karen Sexton - Newsletter  
Debbie Woznick - Program  
Tina Gugeler - Librarian  
Lucille Frischetta - Webmaster

### Other committee chairs:

Angela Konikow & Peg Harper - Store  
Barb Harper - Swapmeister  
Karen Green - Refreshments

I feel taking the office of president with a group like this is going to be much easier than being treasurer. I look forward to another fun-packed year with Debbie Jackson's workshop coming up in August, our party in January, and of course the retreat in May. I am sure we will be planning other events throughout the year for the entire membership. If any of you have ideas for the year and want to share them with the board, remember that we meet at 8:30 a.m. prior to our monthly guild meeting and all are welcome.

Sincerely,

*Gerrie Wolf*





# EXPLORING THE RAINBOW

by Tina Holdman

## Color Recipe Collection #14 - Spring/Summer Colors

This color collection is an extension of the Color Recipe Collection #13 which appeared in the last newsletter. Both sets of colors are designed to work well together. The purple, raspberry and coral colors work as accents for the yellows and greens in these collections. Once again, if you wish to intensify the lighter colors, reduce the white and ecru from the mix.

If you are still haunted by memories of our hideously long winter, these colors will be a great way to brighten up your clay area. The colors remind me of the flowers that we see in the early summer: lilacs, phlox, periwinkles. While I tend not to usually be drawn to these colors, I'm finding the last two collections rather intriguing and am itching to think up a project that will maximize their use with each other.

These are rich and saturated colors despite the majority being in the light to medium color range. I suspect they would be great in a flower cane, blended together in a not-so-traditional skinner or even combined in a checkerboard cane.

In any case, I hope you have fun mixing and creating a masterpiece of your own with this collection. *Tina*

### Dark Raspberry Lilac

3 parts Premo Magenta  
2 parts Premo Alizarin Crimson  
1 part Premo Purple  
1 part Premo Ecru  
1 part Premo Violet

### Medium Raspberry Pink

9 parts Premo White  
3 parts Premo Violet  
2 parts Premo Ecru  
1 part Premo Alizarin Crimson  
1 part Premo Magenta

### Light Purple Lilac

8 parts Premo White  
2 parts Premo Purple  
1 part Premo Violet  
1 part Premo Ecru

### Medium Pineapple Yellow

10 parts Premo White  
5 parts Premo Zinc Yellow  
2 parts Premo Cadmium Yellow  
1 part Premo Ecru  
1/4 part Premo Orange

### Medium Coral Orange

4 parts Premo Orange  
2 parts Premo White  
1/4 part Premo Cadmium Red

### Light Sage Green

7 parts Premo White  
6 parts Premo Ecru  
4 parts Premo Green  
2 parts Premo Burnt Umber

### Dark Green

4 parts Premo Sea Green  
3 parts Premo Green  
2 parts Premo Raw Sienna



# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

**Dan Friedlander**  
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## SWAP NEWS

Swapmeister Barb Harper reports the Black & White Bead Swap with our Pikes Peak Polymer Clay Guild pals is successfully underway. Twenty-six intrepid clayers are at work on their beads which are due at the July Clay Day. The exchange will be held at the August meeting, so even if you didn't sign up to participate, you'll have an opportunity to view the treasures.

Hip, hip, horray for the following MHPCG & PPPCG members who are participating in this co-op event: MHPCG members Clare Parmuk, Deb Brooner, Karen Green, Diane Luftig, Caryl Unrein, Peg Harper, Barb Harper, Rhonda Caldwell, Sue Mueller, Maria Clark and Karen Sexton and PPPCG members Peg Montieth, Anne Morris, Tracy Miller, Gina Stephenson, Lynn Goldman Thomas, Eve Rosoda, Louise Ferris, Marcine Etchieson, Sally Dru, Terry Niznik, Betty Wilkinson, Cathie Graeser, Bev Pressey, Marie Cacciatore and Kaye-Del-Mare Wilson.

# BEADS, BEADS, BEAUTIFUL BEADS

KAREN SEXTON



I just love beads -- all sizes, shapes, materials and colors but polymer clay, most of all. Of course the black and white bead swap has had me in a frenzy of brainstorming what kind of beads to make. Here's a my list so far:

bicones, bicones flattened & textured, Mike Buessler mobius beads (black with white lining?), oval (with bead roller), chunky square pillow beads with black/white canes, round with black/white kaleidoscope canes, retro canes using only black/white, made with extruder, Skinner blend snails black to white, black and white checks, collaged canes using translucent, white & black (striped loaves, spiral cane, checked) This list is still a work in progress.

My file with bead ideas & tips is bulging at the seams so especially for our new-to-clay members, here are some favorite tips:

The simplest way to apply cane slices to a bead is to make a square cane & a square bead the same size. Apply 6 slices to the 6 sides and smooth the canes with a chunky knitting needle. Once smooth, roll it back into a round shape. Hint: You need a light touch.

Use scrap clay as the bead base. Roll a log of scrap & cover it with a sheet of black clay. Cut the log into equal sections & pull the black clay over the scrap to make a completely black bead. (Thanks, Karen Lewis (Klew).)

To cut beads the same size, use a ruler, Marxit or even comb.

To make beads to exactly fit a bead roller or to get them all the same size, roll a sheet of clay at #1 and cut with a Kemper 3/4" cutter. Combine squares until you get a bead that fits the roller or is the size you want. Make a note of this so you won't have to figure it out every time you use your bead roller!

Make bead caps using metallic clay rolled at #4 & cut with a tiny aspic cutter. The clay can be textured & brushed with Pearl-X for a more metallic look. Brushing on a thin coating of Future before cutting the individual caps will assure the Pearl-X doesn't rub off on the base bead.

To achieve a perfect finish on round beads, don a pair of latex gloves & give the beads a final roll before baking. This produces a lovely, smooth surface & eliminates a lot of sanding.

There are several practical ways to bake beads without getting flat spots where they rest on the baking sheet. My favorite is to string them onto a very thin knitting needle & rest each end on a scrap-clay holder. (I rolled a round ball, flattened the bottom & formed an indentation across the top in which the knitting needle rests securely.) Baking the beads on a nest of polyfill also works, but be careful not to get the rack too close to the toaster oven coils! Although one can buy a rack designed for holding polymer clay beads, there are several effective & inexpensive devices. A shiskabob rack works well for holding the needles aloft as does a basket made with 1/4" hardware cloth. One of the easiest methods is to simply bake the beads in a pan of cornstarch. Diane L.'s beautiful flower beads are done this way and their smooth surface is a result of having been lightly rubbed with the cornstarch before baking.

Bead finishes reflect individual tastes. Many people prefer the natural beauty of a bead well-sanded & simply buffed. However, if the bead is finished with Pearl-X or metal leaf it's necessary to add a protective finish after baking. Barb H. applies Future to things hot out of the oven. I recently discovered the ease of dipping Pearl-X'd beads into Future instead of using a brush. I stuck each bead on a toothpick, dipped, twirled off the excess & stuck it into a block of styrofoam. For a high-gloss finish, Dura-Clear Varnish (DecoArt) is available at most craft stores. For an antique look, Sarajane Helm's recipe for Verathane + Pearl-X + acrylic paint produces a lustrous permanent surface.

Of course nearly every book written about Polymer Clay has information and ideas about making beads. Two of my favorites are Making Polymer Clay Beads by Carol Blackburn and Making Beautiful Beads (Lark Books). Since faux amber, jade, ivory and raku translate beautifully into beads, Tory Hughes' and Irene S. Dean's books on creating imitatives are also high on my list.

Our guild library has several video tapes with valuable

information. Gwen Gibson's vhs Creations Du Jour from the South of France, Vol. 1 & 2, shows how to use silk screened clay to create unusually shaped beads; Lindly Fani's video Tantalizing Translucents introduces crayon inclusions for creating luscious citrus colored beads in unique shapes; Tory Hughes' Basic Bead Shapes in Fimo covers traditional and innovative beads; and Karen Lewis (Klew)'s videos, Applied Millefiore Beads, and Bead Shapes & Design, Vol. I and II, reveals her secrets for making antiqued drum beads embellished with tiny canes. All videos open doors to design, color and innovative techniques.

Also in our library are two new books by Christi Friesen, whose sculpture techniques lend themselves to making artfully enticing beads.

Of course there's a wealth of info and inspiration on the net. Check out the tutorials on [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com), [www.polymerclaycentral.com](http://www.polymerclaycentral.com), [www.pcpolyzine.com](http://www.pcpolyzine.com) (look in the archives), and [www.sculpey.com](http://www.sculpey.com). For inspiration, look in on polymer clay artist Bettina Welkers' site. Her bead

work will amaze you! ([www.flickr.com/photos/beadworx/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/beadworx/))\*

Results of a bead challenge to "create 50 beads using only 5 colors of clay" can be seen on this site: [www.polymerclaybeads.blogspot.com/1007/06/blog-post.html](http://www.polymerclaybeads.blogspot.com/1007/06/blog-post.html). Think what fun it would be to create 50 beads using the recipes featured in our newsletter.

Don't forget: our Guild Bead Jar always has room for your creative contributions! Happy Beading! KS

*SPECIAL THANKS* to retiring webmaster **Karen Goulet** who has unselfishly given her time and talent to designing and maintaining our web site for over seven years. Sue Mueller reports that many members have discovered the guild through our website.



## **Debbie Jackson Workshop**

**Thursday, Friday, August 16th & 17th**

**Lockwood Community Church 1345 S. Union Lakewood, Colorado**

**Day 1: Mezmerizing Metallics:** Components & Embellishments, Collage Pendant, Stretch Bangle with Jones Tones, glitter & sparkle leaf canes

**Day 2: Metallic Bead Bonanza:** Granulated Beads, Fuzzy Beads, Freshwater Stick Pearls, Glitzy Beads

**Take either or both days: \$70/day; \$120 both days**

(Tuition includes materials fee. Add \$30 2007-8 dues if not yet paid.)

Send check made payable to MHPCG to: Sue Mueller P.O. Box Breckenridge, CO 80424

Questions? Call Gerrie Wolf 303 985 9594 or Sue Mueller 970 453 0262

*Have you seen Debbie's Book 'Making Polymer Clay Jewelry' or did you catch her guest appearance on the Carol Duvall Show?*

# WEBSITES WORTH VISITING

[www.jacquardproducts.com](http://www.jacquardproducts.com)

Product information and tutorials using Pinata Inks, Pearl-X, Lumier, etc. by artists Patricia Kimle, Marie Segul, Syndee Holt.

For sculpture enthusiasts ...

Check out [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) for Maureen Carlson's videos clips previewing on-line streaming video instruction you can purchase from

[www.weefolk.com/inst\\_list.htm](http://www.weefolk.com/inst_list.htm)

Take a video tour of her Center for Creative Arts in Jordan, Minnesota via her colorful website, [www.maureencarlson.com](http://www.maureencarlson.com)

[www.stepbystepbeading.blogspot.com/](http://www.stepbystepbeading.blogspot.com/)

Some of the techniques demonstrated have possibilities for combining with polymer clay.

[www.libzoid.net/blog](http://www.libzoid.net/blog)

Artist insights and array of links to other fascinating sites.

[www.ghostcow.com](http://www.ghostcow.com)

A gallery of stylish work, unusual findings and cordings. (Thanks, Sue Mueller!)

Butterfly cane tutorial

[www.pcpolyzine.com](http://www.pcpolyzine.com)

(November 2003 archives)

Fairy face tutorial download

[www.goddess-dreams.com](http://www.goddess-dreams.com)

Video directions for constructing a macro- photo box

[www.strobist.blogspot.com](http://www.strobist.blogspot.com)

Especially for PMC enthusiasts:

[www.creativetexturetools.com](http://www.creativetexturetools.com)

Color combination ideas:

[www.scrapitude.com/colorcombo/](http://www.scrapitude.com/colorcombo/)

Whimsical illustrations - are they polymer clay?

[www.terrytaylorstudio.com/](http://www.terrytaylorstudio.com/)

An astonishing collection of links to interesting sites:

[www.gypsypurple.blogspot.com/](http://www.gypsypurple.blogspot.com/)

[www.elogodesign.com/color-matching-guide](http://www.elogodesign.com/color-matching-guide)

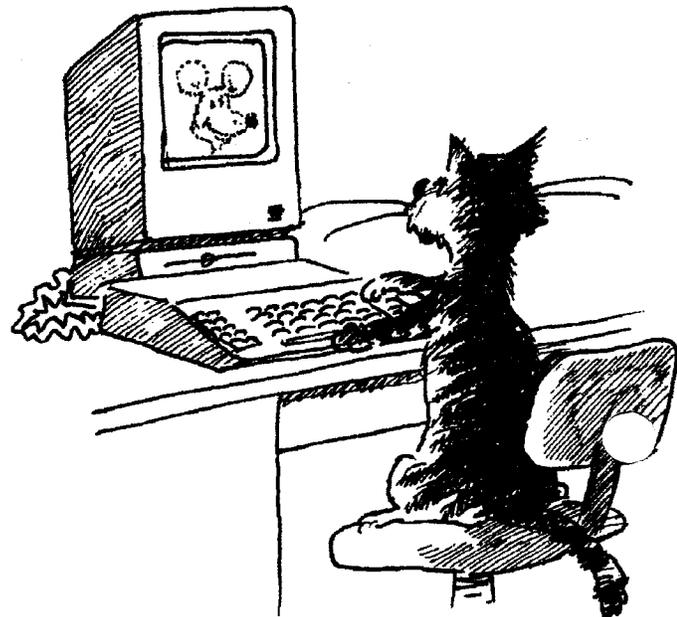
A flower cane tutorial for Tina's new color palette:

[www.cindysartandsoul.com/flowercane2.html](http://www.cindysartandsoul.com/flowercane2.html)

Fantasy creations in pc & mixed media:

[www.whispersinthewoods.com](http://www.whispersinthewoods.com)

(Look under 'artists hints' for doll-sculpting instructions.)



# MEET OUR NEW MHPCG WEBMASTER

My name is Lucille Frischetta and I moved to Colorado from New Jersey last November. I've been married to Frank for 36 years. My eldest daughter Gabrielle lives with us and my youngest daughter Jennifer, her husband Mike and my daughter Alexis Jade live in Lafayette. We wanted to be closer to family and since we were both retired, the time was right.

I spent over 30 years in the telecommunication industry and was caught in a 2003 downsizing. I've always been a creative person. I felt if I was not doing some kind of art or craft work, something was out of balance in my life.

My first exposure to polymer clay was in Colorado while visiting Jennifer. It was during her college days and her friends were making candles as Christmas gifts. One of the young men was covering the top of a jar with flowers made of clay. I was intrigued.

In 2008, Gabriella was hospitalized for several months. (She is handicapped and uses a wheelchair to get around.) I needed something to relieve the stress and pressure and polymer clay did the trick. I bought some clay and was on my way.

Naturally I needed a clay buddy so I enlisted my friend Marie. We became "two ladies, some clay, and Thursday night". My first pasta machine was my mother's that she had used to make pasta. I'm sure she would not have been happy had she been there! We taught ourselves for about a year until we discovered the NJ Polymer Clay Guild in 1999. That's when we discovered we had a long way to go.

I was NJPCG librarian from January to September 2006. I taught classes at Michael's for several months in 2005. I enjoy working with people who are new to clay.

I consider myself a mixed media artist. Nothing is junk, even something has an alternative use. Never throw anything away!

I made friends with some very talented people at the NJ Bead Society and traded polymer clay lessons for beading lessons. Clay and beads are a nice combination. I like to apply clay to glass votives, baby food jars, glasses, pasta sauce jars -- and on and on. I love the way the light plays through clay on glass.

I use all brands of clay -- Fimo, Sculpey, Premo and Kato Polyclay. I have not used Kato Clay much but I hear it's the best. Most of the clay in my designs is mixed with translucent. I enjoy making canes and something I call "funky mokume gane". After I set all the layers, I poke holes and mush the clay into a ball. Every slice is an adventure.

I joined MHPCG to meet people. I knew it was a place to find friendly and creative people and I was right about that. I volunteered to work on the website because it was something I always wanted to learn. How hard can it be -- right?

I feel the guild web site is a place to introduce new people to the medium as well as to our group. It is a way for us to put our face to the world. It should be welcoming, informative and educational. I invite each member to list three things they would like to see in our site. My three would be: information about our members and pictures of their work, technique lessons for beginners through advanced clayers, and information about the past meeting as well as the next one. I also envision an ongoing calendar of our meetings and workshops as well as any classes our members are teaching around the area. We all need to remember that this website is a reflection on all of us.

What do you want the world to know about Mile High Polymer Clay Guild? Please send me your ideas: [lucki46@comcast.net](mailto:lucki46@comcast.net). I'll be waiting to hear from you!

*Lucille Frischetta*

### FAQs

Why are Swap beads due in July when our Swap doesn't take place until August?

PPPCG, our swap-buddies, meets early in August. Barb needs our beads to take down to their meeting.

## Clay Days

July 28 - Swap Beads are due

August 18th \* Note date change  
Bead Swap

September 22

Debbie Jackson Workshop  
August 16th & 17th

If you haven't yet signed up to bring Clay Day refreshments, please contact Karen Green. She has several dates open!

Plans for the MHPCG store are underway. Peg Harper & Angela Konikow have some great ideas. Watch for details in our e-mail reminder!

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