

MILE HIGH POLYMER CLAY GUILD NEWSLETTER

JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH 2009 WWW.MHPCG.ORG

President's Letter

Greetings to you all and Happy New Year! We had a terrific 2008 thanks to many generous people who've worked very hard to make our guild the best it can be. At our Annual Retreat last May, many brave members clayed the night away & enjoyed great demos on Saturday. Our guest artist, Shane Smith, just couldn't help teaching us lots of great stuff the whole time. The Tory Hughes workshop in October was a smashing success. We enjoyed an amazing surge in membership thanks to your outreach and your desire to, as Marian says, "Get 'em hooked!" Barb Harper's contribution to our silent auction last year led us to publish Tina Holdman's color recipes in a book which has been sold out & which has reached clayers nation-wide.

We'll begin 2009 with our Annual Holiday Recovery Party on the 24th. Look for details inside. We voted to change our menu this year: everyone will be bringing their favorite appetizers to share. This is a great chance to swap a recipe or two. And, since the Pikes Peak Guild was snowed out two weeks in a row for their party, we've invited them to join us for ours. The more the merrier!

In May we'll be hosting Donna Kato for a one day workshop. Registration is now open. You'll find a form in this newsletter.

Our annual two-day retreat is scheduled for June 5 & 6 and again we've shaken things up a bit. We thought you'd enjoy doing a hands-on workshop this year. We'll be swapping tiles and covering a journal that day. There may be a surprise guest artist in the afternoon. All will be revealed.

During the year we'll be enjoying more exciting demos like making a name stamp, a monogram cane, further adventures in resin ... etc.! Tell us what you'd like to learn!

Here's another thing we'd like to know from you: Should our newsletter "go green"? That is, be published in .pdf format on our website rather than mailed to each member? How would you feel about being able to download the parts you want (like the color recipes and the calendar) and print just those for your files each quarter. Let us know your views. E-mail me (pegharper@harpersound.com) or Karen Sexton (bobwire123@msn.com).

There are so many people to thank here: our executive board and standing committee chairs have worked tirelessly to make sure our guild grows and improves and spreads the word, not to mention the physical labor that faithful members put into each clay day. And I do want to personally thank Angela Konikow for all that she does for us. If you don't know that, just sit there some Saturday and watch her! Marian Gurnee and "Marian's Minions" have created a perpetual Garage Sale which has helped us clear out our studio areas and support the guild store. The store is thriving and we need your ideas for merchandice you want stocked. Gerrie Hunt is coordinating the color chip project and Deb Brooner introduced some lovely, fresh food to our retreat. Debbra W. has some great demonstrations lined up and is pursuing more. After Lucille's brave efforts to update our somewhat stale newsletter, Janice Calm has taken it on and is working on eliminating old information and making room for new. So many to thank! Thank you all for allowing me to be your President this year.

With wishes for a peaceful and prosperous new year,

Peg Harper





EXPLORING THE RAINBOW WITH TINA HOLDMAN

KATO COLOR RECIPE COLLECTION: SAFARI INCLUSIONS

All right clayers, roll up your sleeves, warm up your machine, and clear a space on your clay table. I have pulled together a recipe collection that will keep you busy for some time. This month is a fabulous 3-for-1 deal especially for your mixing pleasure. The color palette itself is a collection probably anyone can use if coordinating jewelry to a wardrobe. And why would I make such a grandiose statement, you may ask, or at least wonder? About everyone I know has a pair of tan pants and a white shirt. And that includes both men and women. This palette includes three shades of khaki, that is, a light and dark khaki as well as taupe.

The first set of colors is your standard opaque recipe collection. You are, of course, welcome to just mix and use this set and then stop. But we will make fun of you at the

next guild meeting and you will feel totally timid for not trying at least one of the advanced recipe mixing collections. But if you are brave and daring and decide to mix the tints and granites, you will need to make extra of the basic opaque set because you'll use them in the advanced mixes as well.

So, to summarize, you'll mix Collection #1 of the opaque colors, you will then use the opaque colors to mix Collection #2 of tints, and then you will use Collection #2 to mix Collection #3 of the complex granites. One builds on the other -- now is not that just so efficient? And they all coordinate together, so they work for a truly huge, handy, textured palette to use for a nice set of clay creations.

For the following collection, you will need Kato Polyclay in the following colors: brown, black, magenta, flesh, white, yellow, orange and green.

#1 Rugged Brown

12 parts Kato Brown
1 part Kato Black
1 part Kato Magenta

#4 Light Khaki

10 parts Kato White
1 part Kato Brown
1/2 part Kato Yellow

#6 Safari Green

9 parts Kato White
6 parts Kato Brown
3 parts Kato Green
1 part Kato Yellow

#1 Dark Khaki

3 parts Kato Brown
3 parts Kato Flesh
2 parts Kato White
1 part Kato Yellow
1/4 part Kato Black

#5 Cornmeal Yellow

4 parts Kato White
3 parts Kato Yellow
1 part Kato Brown
1/4 part Kato Orange

#3 Taupe

6 parts Kato White
2 parts Kato Brown
1/2 part Kato Black



EXPLORING THE RAINBOW - CONTINUED - SET #2 - TINTS

All right, for you brave souls out there just waiting for a mixing challenge, this next collection will keep you busy for a bit. This part of the collection is called "tints" which is basically one part translucent clay mixed with one of the above opaque colors mixed together with alcohol inks. I have used Adirondack Alcohol inks, which are sold in two and three pack sets at your favorite hobby store.

You will use a standard #1 setting to roll out your translucent clay. This will be the thickest setting on your machine. You'll then need to roll your opaque color (rugged brown, dark khaki, taupe, light khaki, cornmeal yellow, & safari green) on a medium setting. I use a #4 on a 9-setting machine. You'll cut your colored 'parts' from this thinner sheet. So your translucent 'parts' will be thicker than your opaque colors.

If your bottles of ink get clogged, use either a needle or your needle tool to clear out the hole. I mix the translucent and opaque colors together first, then roll out a little sheet and put the drops of ink in the middle of the sheet. I then fold the sheet over and seal all the edges, placing the folded edge in the pasta machine first. Most of the time this works pretty well. Notice that I said most of the time.

You'll also always want to wipe down your pasta machine rollers with baby wipes after mixing with alcohol inks lest you have unintentional color mixes next time you use your machine.

If you don't like ink-stained hands, you might want to wear gloves. Personally, I like that old 'artistic' look you get with stained hands, but each to his or her own. You'll also want to put a folded paper towel or index card down under the catch area of the pasta machine for the 'oops' factor. You can let the ink dry a bit on the clay before mixing it in. It does not seem to change how it mixes and makes it easier to use. If you will be mixing the next collection of granites, then double the amount you'll be making and set half of the clay aside, because you'll be using the mixes in the next collection.

But, before you even think about getting those inks out, you'll need to have a damp rag or several wipes handy for whatever spills seem to happen. I learned this the hard way, much to the entertainment of my cats. You might not want to wear any of your favorite clothes, either, since ink seems to want to go everywhere. Didn't I say you had to be brave and daring to try mixing these advanced collections?

Clay needed: Opaque colors in Set #1 - Rugged Brown, Dark Khaki, Taupe, Light Khaki, Cornmeal Yellow, Safari Green. Kato Translucent.
Adirondack Alcohol Inks: Espresso, Mushroom, Caramel, Red Pepper, Latte, Meadow

#1T - Rugged Brown Tint

10 parts Kato Translucent (rolled at #1)
1 part Rugged Brown (rolled at #4)
8 drops Adirondack Ink - Espresso

#2T - Dark Khaki Tint

10 parts Kato Translucent (rolled at #1)
2 parts #2 Dark Khaki (rolled at #1)
10 drops Adirondack Ink - Latte

#3T - Taupe Tint

10 parts Kato Translucent (rolled at #1)
1 part #3 Taupe (rolled at #4)
8 drops Adirondack Ink - Mushroom

#4T - Light Khaki Tint

20 parts Kato Translucent (rolled at #1)
2 parts #4 Light Khaki (rolled at #4)
4 drops Adirondack Ink - Mushroom

#5T - Cornmeal Yellow Tint

10 parts Kato Translucent (rolled at #1)
2 parts #5 Cornmeal Yellow (rolled at #4)
8 drops Adirondack Ink - Caramel
2 drops Adirondack Ink - Red Pepper

#6T - Safari Green Tint

10 parts Kato Translucent (rolled at #1)
2 parts #6 Safari Green (rolled at #4)
14 drops Adirondack Ink - Meadow

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Stan Estoll

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Changes:

Terri Hawkes-Valdez's new email is:
tvaldezterri@q.com

LIBRARY NEWS

Librarian Tina Gugeler reports the following new books in our library:

[Polymer Clay & Mixed Media - Together at Last: Incorporating Craft Materials and Found Objects in Clay Figures](#) by Christi Friesen

[The Art of Polymer Clay Millefiori Techniques: Projects & Inspiration for Creative Canework](#)
by Donna Kato

[Polymer Clay for the Fun of It](#) by Kim Cavender

[Art Faces in Clay](#) by Maureen Carelson

[How to Make Polymer Clay Beads: 35 Step-by-step Projects](#) by Linda Peterson

[Down Under](#) (Beyond Projects: The CF Sculpture Series, Book 5) by Christi Friesen

[Clay Fun Tips & Techniques](#) - donated by Judi Weers, www.cardinalcreations.net

MILE HIGHER MEMBERS IN PRINT

Sue Mueller, Karen Sexton, the late Eileen Loring, MHPG founder Lynne DeNio & PPPCG member Shane Smith have their work pictured in Donna Kato's fabulous new book, [The Art of Polymer Clay - Millefiori Techniques](#).

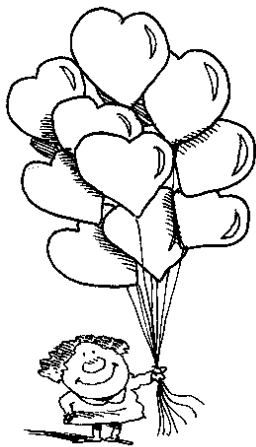
Karen Sexton's article, "Extruder Magic" is in the Winter '09 issue of [Belle Armoire Jewelry](#).

WELCOME OUR NEW WEBMASTER

Janice Calm has graciously agreed to assume the important task of Webmaster. Although new to polymer clay and our guild, she has an impressive background in computers, having worked as a computer instructor for the past ten years. Her educational background includes GIS/mapping with a masters degree in geographic information systems and cartography. She has always loved art and describes herself as 'more of a pencil/pen & ink artist' but is enjoying learning polymer clay. She was raised in Arvada, spent a year in VISTA, two years in Japan, 7 years in Montana, and is now back in Arvada.

Her goals for our website include developing a member only/interactive section where members can access the newsletter, directory, demo handouts, etc. She plans to develop the gallery, showcase the members who want to have more exposure to the public and develop the instructors area of the site.

You can send info and pictures to Janice at: jankristin@yahoo.com.



We owe a sincere thank you to Lucille Fischetta who valiantly took on the website and devoted her time and energy to updating and improving it. Lucille even took a special class to gain the skills she needed.

Thanks, Lucille! You are appreciated!

WEBSITES WORTH VISITING

"Going Green"

If you're wondering what an on-line newsletter looks like, take a look at these guild sites: www.mdpag.org/news/htm, www.papcg.org. You'll see how both the the Metro Detroit and Philadelphia Area guilds' on-line newsletters take advantage of color, photos, and attractive, easily read formats. The advantages are not only money saving & eco-friendly, but you can click & directly access websies right on the pages.

www.traceychapman.com (Have fun with this interactive coloring book!)

www.toycyte.com (This will be of special interest to our sculptors.)

www.artbeadscene.blogspot.com (Something for everyone!)

www.recreationscharmade.blogspot.com (Unique designs from a talented French clayer)

www.naamage.com (Tutorials from an Israeli pc artist)

www.polymerclay.craftgossip.com (news, ideas, inspiration)

www.mariesegul.blogspot.com (Cernit color-mixing recipes & other ideas shared by this generous polymer artist)

HOLIDAY RECOVERY PARTY

Our Holiday Recovery Party is a MHPCG tradition and the Silent Auction is our major money-raising project. Some of us bring a desirable piece of our own work and many others bring unwanted tools, books or clay-related items in good condition. Popular items have included: findings, instructional videos, jars of beads, texturing devices, rubber stamps, storage containers. The Auction will be held between 11 a.m. and noon.

This year's potluck lunch will feature appetizers -- so bring your favorite. The guild will provide beverages.

The Gala Gift Exchange is the main afternoon event. Participants draw numbers to determine the order in which they choose a gift. The choice is either a wrapped gift or a previously opened gift, in which case the person whose gift was taken gets to select another. Due to high spirits and time, we limit "stealing" a specific gift to

three times. Popular gifts include original polymer clay creations as well as new items related to polymer clay. Imagine getting something made by one of your favorite MHPCG artists!

We'll have special tables set up on which you can display your polymer clay work or other things you've made. (We have many multi-talented members!) You may sell/buy displayed items and artists act as their own cashier. Plan to bring things for the gallery -- the oohing and aahing is great fun!

Guests are welcome. Bring a polymer clay. We're looking for friends.



CONGRATULATIONS, TEJAE!

Tejae Floyd's beautiful encased heart was a top 10 finalist in NPCG's 2008 Progress & Possibilities juried show. See the gallery of finalists at www.npcg.org and Tejae's other work at www.tejaesart.blogspot.com.

JULIE PICARELLO

MOKUME GANE MIXED MEDIA WORKSHOP

Pikes Peak Polymer Clay Guild is sponsoring a workshop by California artist Julie Picarello. It is scheduled for April 25 & 26 in Colorado Springs. Cost: \$145
Contact Tracy Miller for registration information. (tmsilks@msm.com 719-536-9514)

Julie's fabulous work can be viewed at her website: www.yhdesigns.com

MHPCG BOARD

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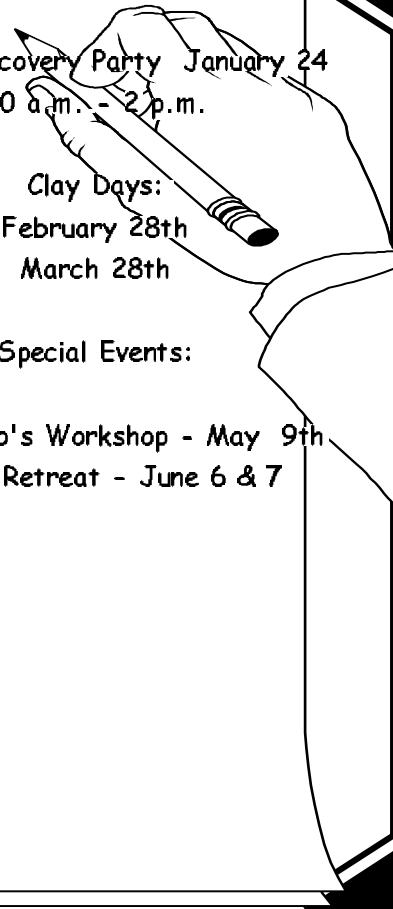
COMING EVENTS

Holiday Recovery Party January 24
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Clay Days:
February 28th
March 28th

Special Events:

Donna Kato's Workshop - May 9th
Annual Retreat - June 6 & 7





Discover the Magic of Polymer Clay
Come spend the day with our
artist/instructor Donna Kato
approaches for making colorful, unique polymer clay creations. Learn
from the Master!

Register early to guarantee your spot in Donna's Workshop!
Only 25 participants for this all-day workshop (must be a
current member of MHPCG. See www.MHPCG.org for
membership information.
Postdate your check to April 15, 2009, if you prefer.
Materials/tool list will be available in early April, 2009.

Where: Lochwood Christian Fellowship
1354 S. Union Blvd., Lakewood, Colorado
When: Saturday, May 9, 2009
Cost: \$90 for this exciting, fun-filled instructional extravaganza

Mail in registration:

Name _____
Address: _____
City _____ State/Zip; _____
Phone _____ E-mail: _____

Member of MHPCG? (circle one) Yes No

Mail your check made payable to MHPCG to:

Susan Mueller P.O. Box 4629 Breckenridge, CO 80424