

# Mile High Polymer Clay Guild Newsletter

Spring 2010 [www.mhpcg.org](http://www.mhpcg.org)

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Happy Spring everyone! Well, maybe I'm pushing it just a little. Bet I'm not the only one ready to spray paint the lawn and leftover snow a bright, spring green.

We have lots of exciting events planned. In May, we're hosting Lynne Ann Schwarzenberg for a two-day workshop. You've already received an email announcing registration. In June we'll hold our annual guild retreat. It promises to be even more fun than last year. No, really. Then in October we're having Jana Roberts Benzon for two-day workshop. All details for these opportunities are included in this newsletter or will be announced a little later when we open registration. In addition, our regular monthly meetings offer some fantastic demonstrations.

The Eilene J. Loring Guild which meets in Longmont, is up and running. We had seventeen members at the March meeting. The EJL guild has a great opportunity to host their first workshop. Maureen Carlson will be with us for a one-day workshop on August 19th at the Bead Lounge. Details will follow soon. You'll want to be a member of the new guild if you plan to sign up for this. Sister guild membership is \$15 a year, just as it is for the Pikes Peak Polymer Clay Guild.

And speaking of dues—it's nearly that time again. Remember to maintain your membership so you can use our terrific library and equipment rentals as well as have priority for workshop registration & regular Clay Day fun. Shortly after the June 1st deadline we'll be changing the access code for the Members Only section of our very informative website.

April is also our time for electing officers.

Helen McKee has graciously agreed to be our new treasurer. Our dear Milli is due for a well deserved break after serving in this office for three years. Thank you, Milli! If there is an office or other loving task you see yourself doing, please let one of the board members know of your interest. The board meetings precede our regular monthly get togethers and all members are welcome to attend.

And speaking of officers and loving tasks, I need to thank our current board members and others who consistently take charge to make sure things are done. Sue Mueller just keeps doing what she does best: keeping us informed about special events & keeping track of membership & contact information. Karen Sexton continues to create our quarterly newsletter. Now that we've gone 'green' she has a little more creative room to include photos & other items which add so much to each issue. These two people are my sounding board. They keep me balanced and help with every aspect of planning and communications. Janice Calm works on our website all the time to make sure it's up to date and user friendly. Lucille Fischetta has been our recording secretary and just seems to find things that need doing. Debra Wozniak and Angela Konikow are an awesome twosome. They do everything that needs to be done to make our meetings happen smoothly. Tina Gugeler is our tireless librarian. She's always looking for the newest, most informative DVDs, videos and books. And in case you don't already know this, she's a walking encyclopedia in her own right. Karen Green makes sure we have yummy goodies at our meetings by signing up hostesses. Deb Brooner is our uncrowned caterer and helps us plan our special event meals. Suzanne McGuirk did such a wonderful job decorating and plan-

ning our holiday party. Wasn't that fun?! Thank you all for everything you do to make this such a special, friendly, welcoming group!

The Synergy II conference was held in Baltimore in February. It's the International Polymer Clay Association's bi-annual event. By all reports, it was a terrific happening. One of our members, Ann Kruglak was able to be there and she's promised to share her experience with us soon. One of the Synergy's highlights was the creation from Charm City Cakes celebrating the organization's 20th anniversary. There's supposed to be a picture of the cake in the next Polymer Café magazine & <http://polymerclaydaily.com/> has information & links to other sites covering the conference.\*

I'm working on a crab agate cane using tinted translucent clay and am using thin sheets of pearl to create the cell walls. I think I'm on to something! The new formula Kato Polyclay has finally been released and shipped out. All the new clay I opened today cut like butter! What's on your clay table?

Happy Claying!

*Peg  
Harper*



### ***MHPCG Board***

#### ***Elected Officers:***

Peg Harper, President

Sue Mueller, Vice President

Lucille Fischetta, Secretary

Milli Barton, Treasurer

#### ***Appointed Chairpersons:***

Tina Gugeler, Librarian

Janice Calm, Webmaster

Debbra Wozniak, Program

Karen Sexton, Newsletter Editor

### ***Coming Events***

**Clay Days:** April 24

May 22, June 26

***Dues are due June 1st***

**Lynne Anne Schwarzenberg Workshop**

**May 1 & 2**

**Meet the Artist Reception**

**Friday April 30th 5-7 at the Hampton**

**Retreat:** June 4th & 5th

**Jana Roberts Benzon Workshop**

**October 16th & 17th**

*\*Editor's note: You can read other first-hand accounts of the Synergy II Conference, view pictures of participants and outstanding polymer clay art these sites:*

***<http://dailyartmuse.com/2010/>*** (March 8th post); ***<http://blog.craftedu.com/>***.

# EXPLORING THE RAINBOW WITH TINA HOLDMAN



## *Grandmother's Quilts*

This collection of pastels reminds me of the colors of older quilts you can sometimes find in the Midwest. My grandmother was an enthusiastic hand quilter and had a fairly large stash of old feedsacks. Feedsack material is just about what the name would imply, that is, the livestock feed came in sacks and the sacks were made of printed cotton material that was recycled into clothing and quilts.

As many of you know, I tend to prefer saturated colors and avoid the softer colors of the rainbow. If you are fond of pastels, your waiting will be well rewarded in this collection. These colors are great if you are sick and rather disgusted with the extended winter and its accompanied browns, browns and well, more browns in the dreary environment.

I will be switching back to using Premo from Kato Clay due to its availability and, OK, it's regular cheapness when on sale at the various hobby stores. If you happen to mix these colors & decide they are a tad too dark for your taste, just add more Premo white. You could also replace the Premo white with Premo pearl for a nice color collection that has luster. So work out those kinks in your wrists and elbows, bolt down that pasta machine and watch these colors glow in your work area as you whip up a bit of Spring.

The Premo colors you will need to mix this collection are: White, Ecru, Turquoise, Cobalt Blue, Orange, Burnt Umber, Fuschia, Green, Sea Green, Raw Sienna, Violet, Purple and Alizarin Crimson.



# Grandmother's Quilts



**Turquoise**

7 parts Premo White  
6 parts Premo  
1 Part Premo Cobalt Blue  
1/2 part Premo Sea  
Green



**Purple**

6 parts Premo White  
1 part Premo Ecru  
1 part Premo Violet  
1/2 part Premo  
Fuchsia  
1/2 part Premo Purple



**Yellow**

10 parts Premo White  
2 parts Premo Cadmium  
Yellow  
2 parts Premo Zinc  
Yellow  
1/2 part Premo Raw  
Sienna



**Pink**

12 parts Premo White  
1/2 part Premo  
Fuchsia  
1/4 part Premo  
Alizarin Crimson



**Peach**

10 parts Premo White  
2 parts Premo Ecru  
1 part Premo Orange  
1/2 part Premo Raw  
Sienna  
1/4 part Premo  
Fuchsia



**Green**

9 parts Premo White  
3 parts Premo Ecru  
3 parts Premo Sea  
Green  
1/2 Part Premo Green  
1 part Premo Raw  
Sienna  
1/2 part Premo  
Burnt Umber



**Congratulations!** Laura Schiller's article "Mushroom Homes for Bugs" is in the Spring issue of *Polymer Café*. Her work is colorfully featured on the cover, too. Have you seen Laura's carved eggs (<http://www.lauraseggs.com/Home.html>)? She was recently notified one of her submissions was chosen for the American Egg Board's annual Whitehouse display & will be given to the First lady. At our March Clay Day Laura shared tips for making the polymer clay flowers that frequently adorn the eggs.

Jeanne Foute's faux beads are runners-up in the current *Polymer Cafe* Faux contest. Jeanne lives in Pueblo and is a member of PPPCG.

### ***New Members—Welcome!***

**Dyanna Morrow**

**Paula Tomlinson**

**Lin Chirico**

**Sheila Furth**

*Membership contact information is on our [www.mhpcg.org](http://www.mhpcg.org) website in the Members' Area. If you've forgotten the password, please contact Sue Mueller or Karen Sexton.*

### ***Changes:***

**Maria Clark:** [mariaclark@q.com](mailto:mariaclark@q.com)

**Kathy Ham:**

[passionfruitdesigns@comcast.net](mailto:passionfruitdesigns@comcast.net)

**Ruth Erickson:**

[thecasualquilter@comcast.net](mailto:thecasualquilter@comcast.net)

**Cynthia Highfield** 4300 E. 105th

Thornton, CO [windsorhigh@q.com](mailto:windsorhigh@q.com)

**Angela Moore** is now **Angela Anderson**

*We are nearing our maximum limit for Lynne Anne's workshop. If you're interested in attending, contact Sue Mueller today!*

## **Lynne Ann Schwarzenberg Workshop**

**May 1st & 2nd**

**Hampton Inn 137 Union Lakewood, Colorado**

**\$200 (includes materials)**

## **Fabulous Foliage, Petal Mania & Perfect Pods**

***Meet the Artist Reception 5-7 p.m. Friday April 30th at the Hampton***

***(All MHPCG member are welcome)***

Send check to Sue Mueller, 20 W. Ranch Trail, Morrison, CO 80465

You may post date your check to April 20th when it will be deposited.

See Lynne Anne's work at: [www.riverpoetdesign.com](http://www.riverpoetdesign.com)

*\*Participants must be an MHPCG member in good standing. Non-members may join by sending dues to Sue Mueller. See [www.mhpcg.org](http://www.mhpcg.org) for membership form & information.*

## Products etc.

**Caryl Unrein** reports finding a kit of dental tools at [www.DuluthTradingCompany.com](http://www.DuluthTradingCompany.com) These come in handy for all kinds of sculpting and detail work. Thanks, Caryl!

### ***Can You Believe it?***

This unusual idea appeared on my Polymer Clay People newsgroup recently. The full description of this new technique is posted as "Using Water Absorbing Crystal Gel To Create Polymer Clay Base For Baking, And For Making Hollow Beads" If you try it, let us know how it works!

[http://www.garieinternational.com.sg/clay/shop/gel\\_crystal.htm](http://www.garieinternational.com.sg/clay/shop/gel_crystal.htm)

This artist works with children & posts interesting ideas and projects suited for youngsters.

### ***Does It Really Work?***

Check out this information about removing polymer clay & liquid clay from your carpet!

[http://www.garieinternational.com.sg/clay/shop/cleaning\\_pc.htm](http://www.garieinternational.com.sg/clay/shop/cleaning_pc.htm)



<http://www.ornamentea.com/> This online vendor offers an impressive variety of embellishments & materials for mixed-media creations including these paper mache animals. A cane-covered camel might be just the eye-catching nick-nack you've been looking for!

**Angela Anderson** discovered this paint which is ideal for adding glitz to polymer clay projects. It's especially useful in adding metallic trim to the sides of pins, pendants, etc. and comes in a variety of beautiful colors. Read more at: <http://www.viva-decor.us/precious-metal-color>



**Precious Metal Color**

Create a unique metal varnish that produces a brilliant color effect.

***New Library DVDs:*** Tina G. reports these new video tutorials in our MHPCG library:

Jana Roberts Benson—Dimensional Jewelry Designs

Lynne Ann Schwarzenberg—Using Floral Canes to Make Tiles & Veneers

## Serendipity

*My time spent noodling through websites & links brings a wealth of inspiration and ideas as I find new blogs and artists' sites. Here are a few treasures discovered recently. KS*

<http://www.myoats.com/create.aspx> Here's an intriguing drawing program that offers countless opportunities for designing kaleidoscopes.

<http://atclindab.blogspot.com/> This beautiful blog is filled with inspiring pictures of altered art, with a list of you-tube videos demonstrating a variety of techniques.

<http://beadnerd.com/> Lori Greenberg posts thoughtful and informative information about many facets of marketing art.

<http://www.sarahshriver.com/> Sarah is a talented and highly respected polymer artist whose intricate caning never fails to interest and inspire. We have her caning video in our guild library in case you'd like to follow in her footsteps.

<http://z-llyynn.blogspot.com/2009/04/focus-and-fair-sunday-lately.html>

Visit artist Lynn Davis as she explores a new technique. It's interesting how each artist approaches the creative process in a unique way. Note: Lynn's work was featured on the cover of the 2010 Winter *Belle Armoire Jewelry*.

<http://www.polymerclayweb.com/ceramics.asp> Click here to see a tutorial for crafting faux ceramic beads. I used this process to make tiles for a box top. Using alcohol inks + liquid clay results in some beautiful citrus, spring-like colors. Try it!

<http://christinekane.com/blog/> Read this author's inspiring and introspective posts. Lots of insights into the creative process, use of creative time and other topics near to the artists' heart.

<http://vintaj.com/> The latest issue of *Belle Armoire Jewelry* features metal, vintage pieces & many leading artists' most recent work reflects ornate, mixed-media designs. Local hobby stores are stocking metal jewelry embellishments and this on-line vendor has tempting metal pieces as well as a gallery of lovely jewelry & tutorials available for free download.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N5UWzdlieYE> View a demonstration of the new *Able Cane Slicer*. Its unique design may be just what we've been looking for! Or not!

## On-Line Tutorials—Just a click away!

*It's amazing how many on-line tutorials are available, both for purchase and for free download. Did you know that [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) has hundreds of polymer clay videos? The generosity of artists who post tutorials is admirable and reflects the sharing spirit that characterizes our polymer clay community. KS*

One of my favorite sites offering free tutorials is by Ohio artist Ponsawan Sila. Her work is unique and colorful and her slide-type tutorials are excellent. You'll enjoy her posts as she chronicles her on-going creative journey. <http://www.silastones.blogspot.com/> The tutorials can also be found at: <http://www.polymerclaybeads.blogspot.com/>

If you're new to polymer clay you may enjoy browsing through the archived tutorials on <http://www.pcpolyzine.com/> Although this e-zine is no longer active, the tutorial treasures still remain. Thanks to our Texas member, **Marty Woosley**, who was instrumental in starting and contributing to this effort.

<http://www.tooaquarius.com/learn/> You'll find a new perspective on color-mixing as well as tutorials and other useful information on this site.

*I've recently purchased several tutorials and have been very pleased with the quality and with the instant-gratification of on-line ordering. Pay Pal makes it almost too easy! With just a few quick clicks, I hear that welcome 'ding' as the material arrives in my In Box! KS*

[http://www.etsy.com/shop/Naftali?section\\_id=5902974](http://www.etsy.com/shop/Naftali?section_id=5902974)

Janice Abarbanel's tutorials include a crackle focal bead pendant set in a sterling silver bezel as well as an unusual modern mica bead or pendant

Cindy Lietz offers inexpensive sets of on-line archived video tutorials as well as a monthly subscription service. The videos focus on a specific technique with good camera work and sound quality. The archive sets contain 4-5 techniques, including color recipes, caning, textures, etc.



Michigan artist Christy Uliczny's tutorials are excellent with good instructions & pictures. Her stone surface technique is truly unique. Also worth considering are the Tina Holden's series of faux pebbles lessons. These and other tutorials are offered at: <http://www.claylessons.com/>

Canadian artist Helen Breil offers a variety of tutorials at <http://helenbreil.com/>. Most feature her unique surface texturing techniques. C



# Spring Retreat

An open studio event focusing on  
Polymer Clay Boxes

Friday, June 4th & Saturday June 5th

Lockwood Christian Fellowship

1254 S. Union Blvd. Lakewood, Colorado

It's time to sign up for the Mile High Polymer Clay Guild Spring Retreat! This year we will have an open studio event (similar to last year) focusing on boxes—either embellished with clay or made entirely of polymer clay. Friday evening demos will present techniques and ideas. We will send a list of suggested tools & materials with your confirmation e-mail.

Please join us as we foster creativity, learn new skills share ideas & make new friends.

## Schedule of Events

### Friday

- ◆ 4 p.m. Gather for social time and set up your work space
- ◆ 5:30 Catered Dinner
- ◆ 7:00-9:00 Demonstrations—ideas & techniques for boxes
- ◆ Friday night: bring your sleeping bag for a slumber party or drive home & sleep in your own bed.

### Saturday

- ◆ 7:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast
- ◆ 8:00 a.m. Open Studio time to create your box
- ◆ 12:30 Catered Lunch & group photo
- ◆ 1:30 to 3:30 Open Studio time
- ◆ 3:30 Project sharing
- ◆ Clean-up

Questions? Contact Kathy Ham at [passionfruitdesigns.com](http://passionfruitdesigns.com).

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Since this is a cooperative event, participants will be assigned to help with either set-up, clean-up or food serving/clean-up. You may check your preference on the form below. Space is limited to 40 participants & registrations will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a beginner? \_\_\_\_\_ Intermediate? \_\_\_\_\_ Expert? \_\_\_\_\_

Send check payable to MHPCG to: Sue Mueller 20 W. Ranch Trail, Morrison, CO 80465

2010 Dues (if not yet paid) \$30 (\$15 PPFCG paid members)

Retreat Registration \$25 (includes food, special materials & GOOD TIMES)

Indicate your preference: \_\_\_ Set-up (1 p.m. Friday)

\_\_\_ Clean-up (Saturday at the end of the event)

\_\_\_ Kitchen (food prep & clean-up)