

MILE HIGH POLYMER CLAY GUILD NEWSLETTER

Winter 2010 www.mhpcg.org

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Greetings & Happy New Year to all of you! I hope you had a joyous holiday season whether you celebrate the birth of Christ, Hannukah, Kwanza or Winter Solstice. Personally, I've spent more time in contemplation & almost no time on the hustle & bustle of preparing for the holiday itself. The older I get, the more I appreciate a peaceful heart.

We have a terrific year coming our way as a guild. This month we'll hold our Holiday Recovery Party with the very popular silent auction where we bid on donated items such as gently used tools & publications. There might even be a bit of original art to bid on again this year. We'll have a few door prizes & our gift exchange for those who enjoy the fun of surprises & the frustration of losing that one 'perfect' gift. And this year we'll be saying farewell to one of our most beloved members. Our Barb Harper has made the difficult decision to step down as swap meister, bead jar keeper & member. She has all kinds of sensible reasons for leaving

us & we must take comfort in knowing that our loss will be Pike's Peak Guild's gain.

In early May, probably the first weekend, we'll have Lynn Anne Schwarzenberg here to present a two-day workshop featuring her caning techniques. Details & fees are still being worked out & all will be revealed as we know more. We're excited to have Lynne Anne here for the first time in our area. She taught at Las Vegas Clay Carnival in November. Ask member Diana Aungst how much fun she had in Lynne Anne's class. You can see Lynne Anne's work on her website:
www.riverpoetdesign.com/

Our annual Guild Retreat is scheduled for June 4th and 5th. Kathy Ham is spearheading the plans. If you have ideas or know what you can do to help, make a point of letting her know. (Her e-mail is: LVH10884@comcast.com) All your suggestions will be taken into consideration. Make sure you sign up as soon as it's announced. You don't want to

miss out on this one.



I want to thank our webmistress Janice Calm for all her efforts to make our website user friendly, all-inclusive and up to date. You can access the membership directory for any member's contact information and if you're reading this, you already know our newsletter has gone 'green' and is posted on the website.

We just might be adding one more one-day workshop in August. We've spoken with Maggie Maggio, Leslie Blackford & Judy Belcher about whether one of them would be interested in spending a day with us while they're in Colorado for another event. We'll keep you posted when we know more.

October 16th & 17th we have a date with Jana Roberts Benson. You may be familiar with her very intricate arabesque

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canes. What you may not have seen is her more recent work in organic forms. She'll be teaching three of her own processes in this workshop. Registration & fee information will be announced.

We're in for a busy, exciting year and I'm really looking

forward to learning more about this amazing medium along with you. Remember that the best way to learn something is to make a commitment to teach. Please sign up to present a demonstration of something you're interested in doing and ask around if you need help.

And speaking of help, we'll be having election of officers in the spring. We always need people who are willing to hold office, serve on the board & keep burdens light throughout our group. We always need help with setting up & clean up at the close of meetings. I'll see you there!

FYI: Elected officers comprising the Executive Board are: President, Vice President, Secretary & Treasurer. Standing Chairs also serve as Board members and include: Webmaster, Librarian, Newsletter Editor & Program Chair. Ad Hoc Chairs, such as Retreat Chair, may serve on the board in an advisory capacity. Election of Officers takes place at the April Clay Day.

BOTTLES OF HOPE CHALLENGE

Deb Wozniak has spearheaded our Bottles of Hope project for several years. As members cover small bottles provided by the guild, Deb delivers them to medical facilities whose patients are undergoing cancer treatment. Often small messages are placed inside the bottles sharing inspiration and encouragement.

Deb is organizing a "Bottle of Hope Challenge" for the dreary days of winter & hopes everyone will participate. Here's how it will work:

- In February we will demonstrate ideas for covering the bottles. You may pick up empty bottles then or at the Janu-

ary party.

- March Clay we'll bring our finished Bottles for display & take pictures for the website. Certificates will be awarded for outstanding bottles in the following categories: Critters, People, Flowers, Angels, Abstract, Favorite PC technique or Miscellaneous. You decide which category your bottles fit.

If you www.google.com & enter "Bottles of Hope" you'll find dozens of sites with tutorials, pictures and information.

Plan to participate & share your talents and good wishes with others.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Susan Crane Tracy Rosen Carolyn Myers Abby Rothman Bette Lorman

Contact information for all members is on our website in the members' area.

EXPLORING THE RAINBOW WITH TINA HOLDMAN

Tuscany Colors—Basic Recipes

Alrighty folks, so have you developed a taste for inclusions yet? Do you love those nice earthy colors that are so en vogue right now? Then I do have the recipe collection for you! For some of you long-timers, you'll remember that I made a recipe of Tuscany colors using Premo clay. This is a collection using Kato Clay. These colors are NOT the same in both collections.

These colors are rich and loamy, just right for those who live in khakis, olives and browns. The Granites would make nice accent colors or perhaps used to make 'river stone' bracelets. These colors would work well with metallics, cream and ecru shades as well as with beiges and umbers.

#1 Mahogany Brown

3 parts Kato Brown
1 part Kato Red
1/4 part Kato Black

#2 Butternut

2 parts Kato Brown
2 parts Kato Yellow
1 part Kato Flesh
1 part Kato White

#3 Rich Forest Green

4 parts Kato Green
4 parts Kato Brown

#4 Walnut Brown

8 parts Kato Brown
1 part Kato Orange
1/2 part Kato Black

#5 Rust

2 parts Kato Brown
1 part Kato Orange

Just a few reminders before you move ahead to the inclusion part of this collection. I use the 3/4" Kemper square cutter for my 'parts' measurement on everything. If you use a smaller measure, the colors will be more intense & if you use a larger measure, then the colors will be lighter. The translucent is rolled on the #1 (thickest) setting. The opaque recipe color (Mahogany, Butternut, Forest Green, Walnut & Rust) will be rolled at a #4 (middle) setting.

I put the Embossing Powder (EP) in the middle of the opaque/translucent mix, fold it over & seal the edges before putting it through the machine. You may want to mix the embossing powder in small amounts instead of one huge pile. I put an index card under the pasta machine feed to minimize the mess. Have fun!

Tuscany Granites

#1G —Mahogany Granite

10 parts Kato Translucent
3 parts Mixed Mahogany Brown Recipe (rolled at #4 on PM)
1/8 tsp Tim Holtz Black Soot EP
1/8 tsp Tim Holtz Aged Mahogany EP

#2G—Butternut Granite

10 parts Kato Translucent
3 parts mixed Butternut Recipe (rolled on #4 setting)
1/8 tsp Tim Holtz Frayed Burlap EP
1/8 tsp Tim Holtz Vintage Photo EP

#3G—Forest Granite

10 parts Kato Translucent
2 parts mixed Rich Forest Recipe (rolled at #4 setting)
1/8 tsp Tim Holtz Pine Needle EP
1/8 tsp Tim Holtz Frayed Burlap EP
1/8 tsp Tim Holtz Tea Dye EP

#4G—Light Walnut Granite

10 parts Kato Translucent
1 parts mixed Walnut Brown Recipe (rolled at #4 setting)
1/8 tsp Tim Holtz Shabby Shutters EP
1/8 tsp Tim Holtz Vintage Photo EP
1/16 tsp Tim Holtz Walnut Stain EP

#4G—Medium Walnut Granite

10 parts Kato Translucent
4 parts mixed Walnut Brown Recipe (rolled on #4 setting)
1/8 tsp Tim Holtz Walnut Stain EP
1/8 tsp Tim Holtz Black Soot EP

#5G—Rust Granite

10 parts Kato Translucent
2 parts mixed Rust Recipe (rolled on #4 setting)
1/8 tsp Tim Holtz Dried Marigold EP
1/8 tsp Tim Holtz Vintage Photo EP
1/16 tsp Tim Holtz Brushed Corudroy EP

COOL TOOLS – BY MARIAN GURNEE

Check out the Creative Metal tools by Walnut Hollow. They are similar to the Ten Seconds roller texture tools. Both were created for PMC but work on polymer clay as well. The differences between the three texture roller sets for each company are different designs and prices. Also, the Walnut Hollow tools allow for the rollers to be screwed in on both ends of the handle and easily changed as needed. Creative Metal 3 head Roller Tool sets are \$6.99 & \$8.99. Check out these tools at the www.WalnutHollow.com website or at a Denver-area JoAnn's super store. www.PolymerClayExpress.com offers Ten Seconds sets of 3 heads permanently on its own handle & sets cost about \$18 each.

Creative Tools also has a small master head set for \$8.99 with 4 different heads, a small foam pad and a handle. There is also a Beginner Kit for working on soft metal sheets such as aluminum, bronze or copper.

The Beginner Kit has two handles, metal cutting scissors a large foam mat, a small texture sheet, a small piece of soft aluminum and more roller heads. There is one duplicate roller head design if you buy each set. There's no duplication of designs between the two brands.

These tools are very useful in creating a finished edge on clay bezels and to frame designs on pendants. Some of the heads are ball and circle tools. Having a tool on both ends is handy. The texture sheet included is made the same as the large clear texture sheets we use for polymer clay.

It will take some practice to get good at texturing metal sheets but I can see they will be nice to use as a metal additions to pins or pendants.

Carol's Fabulous Salsa Recipe

Carol Devlin & Barb Grindle brought delicious refreshments to the November meeting. Carol's Tomatillo Salsa received rave reviews and she generously shared the recipe.

Tomatillo Salsa

- 1 1/2 lbs fresh **tomatillos** or 2 cans
- 4-5 **Serrano chilies** (char/peel/seed for mild)
- 4 cloves **garlic**, unpeeled
- 1/2 cup chopped **cilantro**
- 1/2 **onion**, chopped
- 2 tsp. **kosher salt** (must be kosher)

Remove husks from fresh tomatillos & rinse under warm water to remove stickiness. Place fresh tomatillos, serrano chilis & unpeeled garlic cloves on broiler rack 2" from heat. Broil 6-7 minutes until tomatillos are slightly charred. (Do not broil canned tomatillos.) After broiling, remove stems from chilies & peel garlic. Place all ingredients in processor & blend. *Use as a dip or serve with meat. Delicious with goat cheese on crackers. Use in mashed avocados for quick & easy guacamole. Add more cilantro, salt & paper if you like.*



Antje Ryken's polymer clay jewelry was juried into the *Boulder Open Studio Holiday Market*. Antje tells us she hired a professional photographer to take pictures of her work & feels it was a worthwhile investment.

Antje was also featured in the Fashion column of Boulder's Friday Magazine, with her leaf necklace prominently pictured.

Congratulations, Antje! We're happy to see your work recognized!

Laura Schiller's sculpture, "Amongst the Flowers" won 4th place in the current Polymer Café magazine's contest. The theme was Flower Power. Laura's comments reflect her humor & ability to turn mistakes into successes: "I have really gotten into making bugs in the clay & this particular bug needed a place to call his own. This piece was revealing to me because a cane I intended for butterflies turned into a cane I could use with flowers."

Laura is scheduled to demonstrate her flower-making techniques at a future clay day and we look forward to learning from an expert!

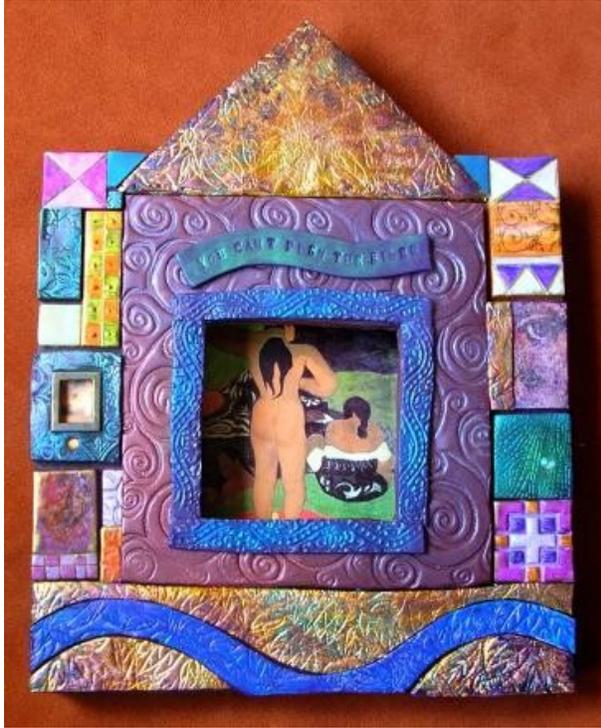
Got Junk? (clay, that is) Ann Kruglak is looking for contributions of scrap clay that she can use for polymer clay art & gift items to be sold to support rainforest preservation. She has raised about \$9K to date (in just under two years) but is running short on clay. She donates 100% of proceeds to the cause which is The World Land Trust—US (www.worldlandtrust-us.org) They are a small organization so all the money goes to actual land and habitat preservation rather than to marketing.

Contact Ann if you can help with this worthwhile project. Her phone # is 303 443 1310 & her e-mail is listed on our website in the members' directory. Check out her website at: www.MysticalDreamerArt.com

Kathy Ham has volunteered to lend her creativity and enthusiasm to our Retreat this year. Please contact her & offer to help! She will be organizing a steering committee & needs people to help with planning, preparation & ideas.

Kathy launched her polymer clay jewelry business in November with showings at private homes & at the Finishing Touch Craft Fair at the Lone Tree Golf Club Hotel. The business name "Passion Fruit Designs" certainly reflects the colorful whimsy of her original art. Good luck, Kathy!





Eliana Berlfein's shrine reflected her travels & evidences her considerable artistic talents.

At our October Clay Day, Helen McKee shared her secrets for creating flawlessly finished jewelry. Helen's necklaces are awesome and reflect her considerable talents. Especially interesting was a set of beads showing a comparison of various stages of sanding, buffing and polishing.



Tina Gugeler discovered the SonicScrubber at King Soppers & later found the kit with scrub heads. She used double stick foam tape to adhere sandpaper to the scrub pads & finds the adapted devise works well for sanding beads. However, she recommends dipping the bead in water & then sanding rather than immersing the scrubber in water.

Another tip: Tina keeps a dampened paper towel & burnt umber acrylic paint in a tea can for ready-antiquing.

If you missed the October workshop and want to meet Laurie Mika and learn about her art, go to www.youtube.com and search "polymer clay mosaics Laurie Mika". Or, check out her web-site: [www:lauriemikaart.com](http://www.lauriemikaart.com)

Her work is featured in the current Somerset Studio Workshop publication & her book, Mixed Media Mosaics thoroughly covers her special techniques & mosaic projects.

Laurie is a master teacher whose well-planned instruction motivated workshop participants to create themed shrines, each uniquely reflective of personal color palettes & viewpoints.

Gwen Cavanaugh said, "I enjoyed the class. I also enjoyed seeing all the pieces that everyone did. Laurie seemed to put forth that extra, coming down Saturday evening & checking things out & staying to do the review of our pieces Sunday. She came prepared with sources for us and directions for doing things at home. I enjoyed the weekend very much.

WEBSITES WORTH VISITING

Peg Harper bought the wing molds used for Milli's ornaments at: www.firstimpressionsmolds.com She is requesting a catalog for our guild library.

Maria Clark reports <http://www.allorings.com/> has a variety of buna cord bracelets that are available in colors as well as black. The site contains a sizing chart that gives the inside diameter, making it easy to figure out a size that would work for you. Maria finds the Buna N, size 335 seems best for her because it gives plenty of room for adding beads, jump rings, etc. She found the 338 to be too large and more suitable for men's bracelets.

<http://www.foahdesigns.com/test/foah/PrintTutorial.php>

This well-done tutorial shares a nifty technique for printing directly onto a baked sheet of polymer clay. Check out the gallery for interesting project pictures.

<http://2goodclaymates.blogspot.com/>

This blog by Canadian artists Carolyn & Dave Good, offers some well-done caning tutorials. I especially like the blue/white snowflake cane posted on Oct. 11, 2009.

You'll also find tutorials for constructing a name stamp and name cane.



http://www.craftinamerica.org/video/story_381.php These free videos showcase fiber, glass, clay, metal and book art crafts-people discussing their inspiration and work. Sponsored by the Craft In America organization.



<http://www.firstpalette.com/home.html>

If you enjoy doing crafts with children, this nicely done site will provide lots of tutorials and ideas. The basket construction using polymer clay would be fun for adult clayers, too.

For a thorough and interesting review of the new *Pardo Clay*, check out <http://blog.craftygoat.com/> It was posted September 20, 2009. Angela regularly reviews books and new products relating to polymer clay and other crafts.





CONGRATULATIONS, DEBI

Deb Brooner's beautifully crafted polymer clay cards were featured in the October-November Polymer Café magazine. She brought the cards displayed in plastic sleeves & we all enjoyed oohing and aahing over the them at the October Clay Day.

MHPCG member Ann Kruglak also has an article in the Polymer

<http://www.voila.eu.com/> Check out this colorful and creative blog launched by "world-wide polymeristas" following the Euro Clay Carnival in October. Their very professional work is evidence that polymer clay is truly a world-wide artistic medium.

Find out what colors reflect your personality by taking this [Pratt & Lambert Color Personality Quiz](http://www.prattandlambert.com/color/personality-quiz/interior/index.jsp).

<http://www.prattandlambert.com/color/personality-quiz/interior/index.jsp>



*This is my color personality profile room.
Is anyone surprised at the colors? KS*

DATES TO REMEMBER

January 3rd—EJ Loring Guild Meeting

January 23rd—Holiday Recovery Party

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

February 27th—Clay Day

March 27th — Clay Day BOH Challenge

April 24th Clay Day—Election of Officers

May 22—Clay Day

June 4th & 5th - MHPCG RETREAT

June 26th—Clay Day

July 24th—Clay Day

August 28th—Clay Day

September 25th—Clay Day

October 16th & 17th—Jana Roberts
Benzon Workshop