



Mile High Polymer Clay Guild Newsletter Winter 2011

President's Letter

Happy New Year to you all! I hope your december gatherings and feastings were lovely. For me, after many years of being our family event planner/hostess, it's wonderful to appreciate smaller, more intimate gatherings.

Our Holiday Recovery Party (1/22) should be intimate and rowdy at the same time. Look for details about what you should bring to contribute to our gathering. We'll have our famous silent auction, yummy potluck and the sometimes raucous gift exchange. (I'm just hoping Gary can manage to sleep the night before.)

Our October workshop with Jana Roberts Benzon was a dream come true for me. I hope it was the same for the others who attended. She's a generous, encouraging teacher as well as one of the most talented artists in our pc community.

The first annual Make It & Take It event was casual, laid back and lots of fun. We all enjoyed two whole days of playing with clay and eating whenever we felt like it. We're thinking we'll have to do more of these kinds of get-togethers. Great fellowship!

The coming year promises many new adventures. **Laura S.** and **Angela K.** will be launching our new swap during this first quarter. We'll have Christi Friesen for two days in the spring. She's offering several short projects. If you are a fan of CF Originals, please let us know what you'd like

to learn from her. Our Annual Spring Retreat is scheduled for the first Friday and Saturday in June.

We need to hear from you about whether or not we should keep our guild store open or if you'd rather we make group purchases for specific items (buna cord, blades, etc.) when it provides a benefit for the general membership. We no longer receive a guild discount from Prairie Craft, so buying Kato Polyclay products is not a better deal than your individual purchasing online directly from Vernon. Most products and tools that are the momentary 'I' things are available at brick and mortar stores or from reliable online vendors. I'm still happy to make group orders from Fire Mountain Gems because we do get a better discount that way. (I'll be making an order in January. If you'd like to be included, please let me know by 1/15.)

We're negotiating with Sarah Shriver to teach a two-day workshop in October. Take a look at her amazing cane work and wonderful palettes at <http://www.sarahshriver.com/>.

We also want to have Jana back, perhaps in the spring of 2012.

This letter is already long but I want to take time to thank all the wonderful women who step up and take on loving tasks to keep this great group going and growing. Oh, where to begin! - **Sue Mueller** who is

President's letter, continued

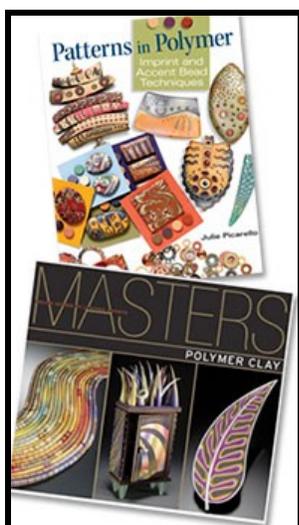
our VP/Membership Chair/Workshop Registrar ... **Karen Sexton**, who edits & produces are newsletter each quarter and who will be starting a blog for us soon ... **Helen McKee**, who has taken on being the treasurer of both this guild at the EJL group in Longmont ... **Tina Guguler**, our librarian who is a font of knowledge herself and one of the most resourceful clayers I've ever met ... **Debra Woznick** and **Angela Konikow** who are always there and know all the eccentric workings of our facilities ... **Janice Calm** who's worked on our website to freshen and keep it up to date ... **Clare Pramuk** who allowed me to have the sum-

mer off from conducting meetings and who will be helping with our website ... **Marian Gurnee** who continues to clean out and downsize her studio while providing us with what seems to be endless 'garage sale' merchandise ... **Karen Green** who signs up hostesses for yummy goodies at each meeting ... **Tina Holdman**, our mad scientist, always cooking up great new color recipes and all those who've shared themselves by providing demonstrations this past year. Most of all I want to thank *you* all for making this such a sharing, warm, caring group. I'm excited to begin this new year and see what wonderful things are in store for us.

Peg

Laurel Mueller, newly elected Rocky Mountain Bead Society president, contacted Peg about the possibility of re-establishing a relationship with our guild. In the long-ago past, we exchanged one program each year with RMBS and provided some special workshops for them. Their November meeting is a member challenge that includes polymer clay classes and product and book sales. One of their 2011 initiatives is to connect their society with other related guilds in an effort to improve members' experience, gain new members and continue to fulfill the society's mission statement.

Currently they have a call for teachers for their Bead Bazaar in April. If you are interested in that opportunity or in attending or speaking at one of their meetings, please contact Laurel Mueller: laurel@beaditcolorado.com Note: There are a number of MHPCG members active in RMBS: **Maggie Gizza** is a long-time member and **Sue Waldheim** is a program chair assisting with teacher-coordination for the Bead Bazaar. The Bead Society's website is: <http://www.rockybeads.org/>



Start saving your pennies! Julie Picarello's book, Patterns in Polymer, will be out in June. Those who took Julie's class sponsored by PPPCG a few years ago will no doubt be especially interested. Check out her website and Flickr site for more inspiration.

<http://www.yhdesigns.com/>

http://www.flickr.com/photos/julie_picarello/

A second book you may be interested in is Masters of Polymer Clay, featuring the brilliant work of 40 top-notch polymer clay artists. Both books promise eye candy and inspiration!

Exploring the Rainbow with Tina Holdman

This color collection was designed to fill out the Premo full set of recipes. I made a strand that includes all the recipes from my Guild book including the ones made from the last few newsletters. I noticed that I did not have many recipes for reds. Now I'm not quite sure how this happened. I like reds, I really do. And as some of you well know, I do go through my periods of 'eye-exploding brights' with my personal palettes. I will make right by all of you and give you a lovely set of reds to use on whatever project next requires a red of some sort.

Now mixing reds, I have found, is a fairly aggravating experience. I dug out some

sample paint cards with a nice selection of reds to mix. I conditioned my Premo clay, got comfortable, and settled in with a cup of tea. However, the colors did not mix up right, even after a judicious selection of my favorite cuss words and the copious use of chocolate on the part of this mixer. The first couple of recipes went as expected but after that, not so much. I have more than my usual 'old bachelor' and 'wild and single' recipes of mixes gone wrong.

There are blue-reds and warm reds and my personal favorite — the true red. I love, love, love this shade. This is the red of classic primary color palettes and is a clean, bright color.

Premo colors you'll need to mix this collection are: Raw Sienna, White, Alizarin Crimson, Ecru, Violet, Fuchsia, Cadmium Yellow, Zinc Yellow, Cadmium Red, Turquoise, and Ultramarine Blue.

Opaque Medium Raspberry

3 parts White
2 parts Alizarin Crimson
2 parts Cadmium Red

Medium True Red

4 parts Cadmium Red
2 parts Ecru
1 part Cadmium Yellow
1 part Violet

Dark Mauve

3 parts Ecru
2 parts Fuchsia
2 parts Raw Sienna
2 parts Alizarin Crimson
2 parts Cadmium Red
1 part Violet

Earthy Brick Red

4 parts Cadmium Yellow
2 parts Cadmium Red
2 parts Raw Sienna
1 part Alizarin Crimson
1 part Zinc Yellow
2 parts Fuchsia
1 part Violet

Dark Ruby Red

2 parts Cadmium Red
2 parts Violet
1 part Alizarin Crimson
1 part Turquoise
1 part Ecru

Dark Crimson Red

1 part Ultramarine Blue
1 part Cadmium Red
1 part Violet

News, Views and Tips

Resin's popularity as a surface for polymer piece finishes has users debating how best to deal with the problems such as bubbling. Here's one clayer's solution, posted on Polymer Clay People newsgroup:

"If you hold your resin source high above your project and pour it so your pour line is as thin as a pin, most of the bubbles will pop on the way down. If you are embedding something, pour into one corner, very slowly, and you will have a lot fewer bubbles. This technique allows the resin to flow over the item, and the movement is slow enough to sort of push the air out of the way, as opposed to gobbling up the air bubbles. Once the item is covered, let it sit for a few minutes. If any bubbles emerge, pop them by moving a pin through the bubble.

Now and then I discover an admired but forgotten technique like Judy Belcher's cloisonné pin. The directions are in in her book, **Polymer Clay Traditions** as well as in the HGTV archive:

<http://www.hgtv.com/crafting/clay-cloisoneacute-pin/index.html>



Polyform's recent announcement of their new color selection brought a cry of display & protest from clayers throughout the world. The main concern was that the plan included removal of zinc yellow and cobalt blue, two of the most-used primaries. The deluge of well-written e-mails from creditable artists such as Lindly Haunani and Carol Simmons caused Polyform to reconsider their decision and we were assured that they had contacted their distributor about keeping zinc yellow & cobalt blue in the collection. Discontinued colors are: red pearl, green pearl, sea green, copper, frost, fluorescent green, fluorescent yellow, fluorescent red and glow-in-the-dark.

The new 2011 line of Premo! Accents include: Magenta Pearl, Purple Pearl, Bright Green Pearl, Peacock Pearl. Translucent Blue, Translucent red, Translucent Yellow, Translucent Green; Blue Glitter, Red Glitter, Frost White Glitter, 28K Gold and updated Copper, Antique Gold, Bronze, Blue Granite, White Granite, Gray Granite and White Translucent (replaces Frost).

See the new colors on-line at: <http://www.sculpey.com/products/clays/premo-sculpey>

At the recent MITI get-together, **Marian Gurnee's** impromptu demonstration of an easy extruded flower cane was a surprise gift. Using a Makins' Extruder, she first inserted a large hex die into the screw top & then put in the thinnest corer, pointed out. She then stacked the barrel with 4 or 5 different colors (as we do for a retro cane), mixing lights and darks. The extrusion can be sliced into tiny flowers or cut & combined to form a larger cane. Marian told us that translucent clay gives a nice look, too. Thanks, Marian!

It's a party! And you're invited!

Holiday Recovery Party

January 22, 2011

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Lockwood Christian Fellowship, Lakewood, CO.

Morning fun will include the Silent Auction & Members' Gallery

Potluck Luncheon at noon (bring a salad or main dish)

Chinese Auction Gift Exchange after lunch

Bring your work to display & sell. Guests are welcome!

***Christi Friesen
Workshop***

April 30—May 1st, 2011

*Sue Mueller will be sending details and
registration information via e-mail in
the very near future.*

Check out Christi's workshop topics:

*[http://store.cforiginals.net/
workshops.html](http://store.cforiginals.net/workshops.html)*

*Browse www.cforiginals.net to view
Christi's work, books, on-line classes and
free tutorials. (She's amazing!)*

***Coming
Events***



Clay Days

January 22 (HR Party)

February 26

March 26

Christi Friesen Workshop

April 30 & May 1st
(Saturday/Sunday)

Spring Retreat

One of the internet's best advantages is giving us the opportunity to view work by polymer clay artists around the world. I recently discovered Eva Haskova & e-mailed asking if I could display a picture of her beads in our newsletter. She graciously agreed. You'll undoubtedly want to see her other work on her attractive website:

<http://www.eh.multidesign.cz/> Even though it isn't in English, her work speaks for itself. Thank you, Eva.



Got resolutions? Creative Sparks, by Cynthia Tinapple & Dayle Doroshow, will give you plenty of guidance in getting & keeping ideas flowing. Need a daily push? Try TADA (True Addicts of Daily Art) at <http://www.flickr.com/groups/tada365/> This Flickr group will help you commit to making progress *every day* on your art jewelry creations. Post photos to show your daily progress. By year's end you'll have at least one collection that is "Show Ready". (Thanks, Cynthia Tinapple for sharing this interesting info on www.PolymerClayDaily.com.)

<http://www.youtube.com/user/garbedesigns> contains four videos of Linda Garbe's unique work. Read her interesting background [here](#).



http://www.desiredcreations.com/howTo_Desk.htm I just re-discovered California artist Desiree McCrorey's site and am happy the tutorials are still posted. For the past several years Desiree's work has set a standard for craftsmanship and creativity. The How-To section has a variety of tutorials, from basic Skinner Blend & variations to unusual beads, how to mold hands & feet, cover an Altoid box and create authentic-looking faux surfaces (ivory, bone, lapis lazuli), and more! There's something for beginning clayers as well as 'old stagers'. I was especially interested in her Casablanca beads and her steps in making a brass wire bezel.



<http://kristinaklarin.blogspot.com/> Kris Klarin has an eye for identifying key colors in a photograph & translating them to stripes of acrylic paint. Inspiring. Note: this blog was formerly called "Color Stripes".

<http://maryhardingjewelrybeadblog.blogspot.com/2010/12/sneak-peak-artbeadscene-holiday.html>

Mary Harding's site offers a video showing how she creates her ceramic beads as well as links to many other beaders. Interesting work.

<http://www.tooaquarius.com/2010/11/15/making-big-canes/> Canadian artist Elaine Rob-taille, the new editor of Polymer Clay Gossip blog, has a post on her website about making large face canes. Her site displays her inspiring polymer clay work including some charming bowls made entirely of canes.

*A Good Time was Had By All
at the November Make It Take It event.*

Eighteen enthusiastic MHPCG members enjoyed a non-stop claying extravaganza at our first-ever Make It Take It event. Organized by our super - hostess Kathy Ham, we got started Friday mid-day, enjoyed a sumptuous pizza feast and continued through the evening and all day Saturday. Planned demonstrations included Peg Harper showing how to make her beautiful rose-encrusted ornaments. Peg generously furnished all the materials and many of us took home finished heirloom creations to be enjoyed for years to come. Sue Mueller demonstrated using Lazertran images on holiday pins & offered a variety of transfers for this project. Deb Wozniak amazed us with an easy but impressive holly leaf cane. There were several impromptu demo's: Marian Gurnee showed an extruded flower cane made using the Makins' hole adapter & hexagonal die & Barb Harper created a triangular bead dish with some of her beautiful cane scraps. We all agreed that it was a great event and one we hope to repeat soon — perhaps mid-winter when the snow flies?



Barb Harper, Angela Anderson & Tina Gugeler



Sue Mueller, Gerrie Wolf, Angela Anderson & Kathy Graeser



Marian Gurnee, Catherine Roche, Deb Brooner, Sue Waldheim & Gerrie Wolf



Cathie Graeser



Marian Gurnee & Angela Anderson



Deb Brooner, Cynthia Highfield, & Sue Waldheim



Deb Brooner, Cynthia Highfield, Sue Waldheim & Peg Harper