



# Mile High Polymer Clay Guild Newsletter

## Winter 2013

### President's Letter

Hi, All,

I hope everyone had a good holiday and plans on coming for the holiday recovery party. If you haven't been, you don't know what you're missing so please do your best to come. We'll have our annual silent auction, and a nice lunch followed by a rousing and possibility competitive gift exchange.

Your board has been busy. We've got plans for a spring workshop with Doreen Gay Kassel and a summer retreat in July. If you've been to a retreat or "Make it Take It" event, you know how much fun it is claying together. It's also a learning experience. So beginning in February, we want to see everyone claying at clay days. To encourage this, we will draw for a prize at each meeting among people who bring something to work on.

As I expected, Christi Freisen's class was a lot of fun and everyone came away with some lovely pieces and inspired to do more. I've been participating in an earring a week project on Flickr and the pair for week 36 was done with Christi's stained glass technique and too much glitter. By the time you read this, I should be done with all 52 pair. You can see all the work on [www.flickr.com/groups/1867825@N21/](http://www.flickr.com/groups/1867825@N21/). It was a fun project. Some weeks had themes which were sometimes helpful (fall colors), and other times not so helpful (games). After hours of thought and several failed attempts at Monopoly pieces, I finally decided on puzzle pieces made from a pixilated cane for the games theme. Here are some of my favorites.



So here's a toast to a happy new year and happy claying.

Elare



# *Annual Holiday Recovery Party*

*January 26, 2013*

Our Holiday Recovery Party is an MHPCG tradition and this year we're fortunate to have our enthusiastic past-prez **Peg Harper** honchoing the event. The day begins with a Silent Auction directed by Angela Konikow. It's our major money-raising project and proceeds are used to finance our retreats, guest artist workshops and special equipment purchases. The Auction offers a variety of treasures and competitive bidding brings out the beast in many of us. Some folks bring a desirable piece of their own work and others bring unwanted tools, books or clay-related items in good condition. Popular items include findings, instructional videos, jars of beads, texture plates, rubber stamps, storage containers, etc.

This year's luncheon will feature a make-your-own sandwich buffet. We are asked to bring a salad or dessert. **Suzanne McGirk, Tracey Rosen, Janice Calm & Lin Chirico** will decorate the tables to transform our meeting room into a snazzy holiday setting. **Marian Gurnee, Amy Broadhead, Patty Schneider, Milli Barton & Kathy Ham** will organize the feast.

**Debra Woziak** will again referee the the Gala Gift Exchange which is the main afternoon event. Participants draw numbers to determine the order in which they choose a gift. Their choice is either a wrapped gift or a previously opened one, in which case the person whose gift is taken gets to select another. Due to high spirits and time constraints, we limit 'stealing' a specific gift to three times. Popular gifts have included original polymer clay creations as well as new items related to polymer clay. Imagine getting something made by one of your favorite MHPCG artists!

Throughout the day we'll have special tables set up on which you can display your polymer work & other things you've made. (We have many multi-talented members.) You may sell/buy displayed items & each artist acts as their own cashier. Plan to bring things for the gallery. The oohing and ahing is great fun!

Guests are welcome. It's a great opportunity to bring a friend who is interested in polymer clay.

We always need ad hoc helpers, so plan to help out however is needed. Set-up begins at 9:30. Clean-up will be organized by Sherilyn Dunn, Amy Broadhead, and EVERYONE ELSE. *Please plan to stick around and do your part.*

Peg asks that we remember to wear our name tags. Even though you may know every face & name, we will have guests and new members.



**DOREEN KASSEL WORKSHOP**  
**FRIDAY/SATURDAY MAY 17 & 18, 2013**

**LOCKWOOD CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**  
**LAKWOOD, COLORADO**

*You may sign up for either one or two days.*

**Friday—Ornaments & Small Sculptures**

In this class you will learn techniques for crafting fanciful ornaments & small sculptures using glass ornaments, polymer clay & oil paints. We'll create whimsical creatures & use lollipop sticks to turn ornaments into standing figures. We'll make pieces with charming detail & nuanced color.



**Saturday—Beastly Boxes**

We will build on a small box and make delightful creatures & beasts to nestle inside. We'll create comfy nooks for any manner of beast or creature. Doreen will show how to create a special character that will rest in the box & we'll finish it using the texture & oil paint technique that will give the piece gentle coloring and vintage feel.

No special sculpting skills are needed for either class. Doreen's students are consistently surprised at the charming results they achieve.

*Note: MHPCG is offering two free workshop days to members. Details about having your name put into the 'hat' for the drawing will be sent via e-mail. Be sure to sign up if you're interested. If you have already registered & your name is drawn, you will be credited for one day & your tuition refunded.*

Send check made payable to MHPCG to: Susan Mueller 20 W Ranch Trail Morrison CO 80465

One day: MHPCG member \$125 Non-members \$140  
Two days: MHPG member \$175 Non member \$190

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate: Friday \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday \_\_\_\_\_ Friday & Saturday \_\_\_\_\_

*See Doreen's work on her website: <http://www.doreenkassel.com/>*

## Guild News

### *Putting the Clay Back in Clay Day!*

During recent years we've drifted away from the guild's original goal: working with clay! Our meetings have been steadily shrinking time-wise & between the shortened length & one or two demos, time doesn't allow for setting up & working on projects.

The Board has concluded that we can best serve our members if we have one featured demo followed by having members bring their clay equipment & devote the remainder of the day to claying.

This will add importantly to meeting quality by giving us opportunities for:

- informal demos & sharing
- working on individual projects
- using guild equipment: buffer, extruder, pmc kiln, & newly acquired rubber stamp & doll mold sets.

At each meeting we will spend the first part of the morning setting up our work stations, followed by a brief business meeting and demo. After that there will be time to clay-clay-clay! Our meeting time will be extended back to the original 9:30 to 3:00.

But wait, there's more! *Each person who is set up & ready to clay will receive a free ticket to a raffle. Prizes will be awarded each meeting.*

**Patty Schneider** and **Rosanne Thompson** will have the guild equipment out and ready to use. Plan to use the extruders and buffer or try the rubber stamp sets or doll mold. Mark your calendars & begin thinking about what you'd like to work on. It can be catch-up work (sanding, adding pin backs, mixing colors) or project-related. It's your choice.

New Clayers: Bring your projects & questions & we'll help answer them or ask about a technique & we'll be all set up to show you how.

Mark your calendars: *Clay Day, February 23, 2013 is the start date for our new claying adventure.*

### *New Hats & the Illusive Website Password . . .*

**Amy Broadhead** has volunteered to work with **Tina Gugeler** in the library. Tina has devoted many years to building & maintaining our library & deserves some time to enjoy Clay Day. Thanks, Amy, for your help!

**Patty Schneider** is handling sales in the Guild Shop (currently stocking buna cord, o-rings & blades) and has been researching group orders: things unavailable locally & pricey items we may be able to get a better deal on. She is planning to survey preferences at the Holiday Party, so be thinking of suggestions!

*Yes, the password required for the website's Members Only section eludes most of us!* The Board

understands! Since there is a lot of good information in the MO section & the only thing we *don't* want to share publicly is the membership list, we are removing it. Sue Mueller will e-mail an updated list quarterly. Please print off a copy or save the file so that you'll have that information handy. In the Members Section you'll find issues of all the newsletters including Tina H's color recipes.

We'll e-mail members when the password has been removed. Thanks, Laura Schiller, Webmaster, for orchestrating this important change!

# Exploring the Rainbow with Tina Holdman

## COLOR RECIPE COLLECTION -FIVE COOLS AND A WARM

All right, admit it, you're wondering about the name of the title of this collection of colors, right? What can I say? Even a verbose polymer clay soul such as my own bad self runs out of steam sometimes. This set goes very well with the Bowl of Peaches set of colors, by the way. Exceptionally well.

I was sitting in my clay space looking at a bunch of snow when I mixed this set, I must have been ~~thinking~~ thinking summer, as it has no less than four greens. Different greens, mind you, but greens nevertheless.

This set has four greens, a deep red and a beautiful dark smoky blue. The smoky blue is my favorite, hands down and was a difficult one to match to my inspiration sample. I generated several fails before getting it right. While these colors do coordinate with each other for the most part, they are exceptional colors that would coordinate well with other sets.

### #1 Light Green Sage

5 parts Premo White  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  part Premo Rhino Gray  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  part Premo Denim  
 $\frac{1}{8}$  part Premo Wasabi

### #2 Opaque Mint Green

14 parts Premo White  
1 part Premo Denim  
1 part Premo Cobalt Blue  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  part Premo Wasabi

### #3 Plain O'Green

3 parts Premo White  
2 parts Premo Spanish Olive  
2 parts Premo Cobalt Blue  
1 part Premo Wasabi  
1 part Premo Denim

### #4 Forestish Green

3 parts Premo Navy  
3 parts Premo Cobalt Blue  
2 parts Premo Wasabi  
2 parts Premo Denim

### #5 Deep Smoky Blue

4 parts Premo Navy  
3 parts Premo Denim  
1 part Premo Ultramarine Blue  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  part Premo Black

### #6 Blood Red

4 parts Pomegranate  
2 parts Premo Alizarin Crimson  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  part Premo Black



## Just a click away

<http://claymagination.blogspot.com/> Canadian artist Vicki Turner has been working with clay for over 20 years. She recently started this blog to detail her work & its process.

<http://artefacts-antiqueimages.blogspot.com/>. Here's a good source of copywrite-free vintage art. Transfers, anyone?

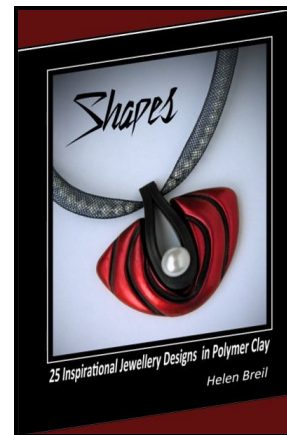
<http://earrings-everyday.blogspot.ca/> Need ideas? Check out this site for design inspiration for earrings and display.

<http://craftstew.com> This site is an huge treasure trove of tutorials, videos, patterns & ideas for all-things-crafty. It's a perfect place to spend a snowy day exploring.

<http://www.ejrbeads.co.uk/tutorials.htm> Here are several unusual jewelry tutorials by British artist Emma Ralph.

<http://www.helenbreil.com/FreeTutorial.php>. On her attractive website, Canadian neighbor Helen Briell shares a picture tutorial detailing an innovative use for the extruder.

Did you know Helen has a new e-book, Shapes: 25 Inspirational Jewellery Designs in PC? Looks promising!



### Bottles of Hope

How about this idea for creating some whimsical Bottles of Hope for our on-going project? We have small bottles available — you provide the clay and talent. Ask Debbra Woziak for details.



### Tina's Treasurers by Tina McDonald

Many of us forget that polymer clay is used for more than just jewelry. That was what this year's retreat was about and I'm disappointed I missed it! The retreat was about sculpture—big and small. There are groups of polymer clay artists who create polymer clay miniatures such as food. This is extremely popular in Japan. Some of these techniques could translate into other polymer items. Search YouTube for many excellent demos. And the field of real cake decorating also translates into polymer clay. Take a look at this brush embroidery tutorial & think about how the same thing could be done with extruded clay. YouTube has several good videos. Search "frosting brush embroidery".

Happy Claying!

Tina



## **2013 Coming Events**

**Holiday Recovery Party  
January 26**

**Clay Days: February 23  
March 23**

**Doreen Gay Kassel Workshop  
May 17th & 18th  
Artist Reception May 16th**

**Summer Retreat July 12 & 13**

### **MHPCG Board of Directors**

**President: Clare Pramuk  
Vice President: Susan Mueller  
Secretary: Kathy Ham  
Treasure: Sherilyn Dunn  
Webmaster: Laura Schiller  
Program Chair: Debbra Woznick  
Librarian: Tina Gugeler  
Newsletter Editor: Karen Sexton**

