

**MILE HIGH POLYMER CLAY GUILD (MHPCG)
April-June 2021 NEWSLETTER**



LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT: I've been thinking a lot lately about growing our community. I met a girl at Michaels who was looking for clay and told me it was for a school class. If anyone has information about what schools might be teaching polymer clay or suggestions about ways we can reach younger people, please let me know. Any ideas about how to reach potential new members are always welcome. Before Zoom, we were limited to bringing in a teacher twice a year or so. Now, we are able to have someone monthly. Since training is a good recruitment tool, I think we might be on our way to attracting more members.

❖ **MHPCG OFFICERS**

- ❖ + President: Kari
- ❖ + VP Membership: Sue
- ❖ + Treasurer: Sherilyn
- ❖ + Secretary: Bertha
- ❖ + Library: Tina G
- ❖ + Newsletter: Caroline H.
- ❖ + Website: Bertha
- ❖ + Store: Rosanne
- ❖ + Swaps: Julie A & Pam
- ❖ + Demos: Peg H
- ❖ + Group Orders/Goody Bags: Kari

GUILD NEWS:

❖ Due to Covid-19, meetings continue on Zoom the fourth Saturday of the month until our space at the church is again available. We have decided to have a Play Day the **second Saturday** of each month on Zoom. This will give members an opportunity to have unstructured time with guild friends. You can work on any project you want and enjoy sharing with others. No agenda, just do your own thing! This gives you the opportunity to bring a friend a couple of times to play. Their free "guest pass" is only good for two sessions, but we are hoping they will be interested enough to join the guild when they see how much fun it is.

Key takeaways from our monthly board meetings:

- ❖ Dues this year are \$15, half of the usual \$30. Your June 2021 dues can easily be paid through the guild's new and secure PayPal account. The directions will be in the monthly Reminders, or you can also email Sherilyn or Sue for help!
- ❖ Dues during the COVID period are needed and appreciated as the Guild has ongoing obligations at the church to pay for storage of our valuable library, ovens and other tools, as well as our Zoom account for meetings and the prizes we give out at each meeting.
- ❖ We are searching out a way to be able to bring our Zoom meetings into our in-person meetings, once we can have them again. This could be very helpful to someone who can't attend meetings due to illness, bad weather, etc. We have a new member, Donna Haynes, who lives in Illinois, who is participating via Zoom. Some polymer clay guilds have disbanded in other parts of the country, so this may be an opportunity for others from out of state to join our group.
- ❖ The Board is actively searching for well-known artists to demonstrate during our Zoom meetings. You can just watch or work along. We will also have MHPCG members demonstrate.

GUEST TRAINERS AND TRAININGS

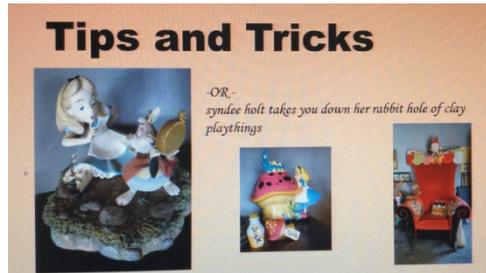


In January 2021, we had **Teresa Salgado** attend our meeting, do a studio tour and answer questions from members. Teresa is well-known for her free You Tube videos. Her Facebook page can send you to her hub, where you can see her current activities. She also hosts a craft series with her daughter Elaina. Teresa is always doing something new! She is focused on teaching and welcomes questions from polymer clay artists. Teresa's shop, Tiny Pandora, is familiar to polymer clay enthusiasts because it features tools that make work so much easier.

Deb Hart graciously agreed to do a free demo of her Magic Swirl cane on Zoom for the three Colorado polymer clay guilds on Sunday, March 14th. She demonstrated her favorite swirl cane made with scraps. We made the cane along with her and below you can see the results.



The bear on Deb Hart's work bench is something she teaches in one of her classes. Sounds like clayers have a lot of fun with this class.



At the March meeting, we hosted **Syndee Holt**, a Colorado polymer clay artist, teacher, Sculpey Brand Ambassador, writer and photographer. Over the years, Syndee has come up with some smart tips for polymer clay artists and shared them with us. She also introduced some of the new Premo colors: turquoise granite, mauve, forest green, burnt orange and premo mint. Souffle colors ochre and ivory will be out later this year. Syndee provided information about findings, techniques and products. Syndee has a website and blogs: <https://synssculpeyblog.wordpress.com/>.

❖ **Check out our MHPCG website for the Spring and Summer schedule for visiting (Zoom) artists and demos**

SPOTLIGHT ON MHPCG ARTISTS: DIANE KREMER

Diane Kremer is a member of MHPCG and is the current president of the Rocky Mountain Bead Society. She has a degree in computer engineering and an MBA and she was involved in high tech for 20 years. She has enjoyed many crafts, such as beading, wire wrapping, metalsmithing and macramé and did jewelry as a hobby for 15 years.

A friend from the Bead Society suggested she go to a Christy Freisen polymer clay class at the Great Create and she was “hooked”. When she started out, Diane watched a lot of you tube videos and eventually began taking polymer clay classes. “Learning new things floats my boat” she says. Diane has taken a lot of classes during the pandemic since teachers have been available via zoom. She has especially enjoyed Debbie Crothers, Lynn Yuhr, and Kathleen Dustin.

After her daughter left home, Diane decided to make her jewelry hobby into a business. She and her friend became booth partners and hit the craft show circuit for a while. She has recently set up a website, www.DianeKremerJewelry.com and is still working to produce new product lines for the website. She has been primarily using polymer clay for 3 years and all of her new jewelry pieces have polymer clay in them.

Some of Diane’s favorite tools are her Lucy Clay Squirrel, with which she can condition clay quickly, her JoolTool that makes sanding a lot easier and her stand for her Dremel, which allows her to use it as a drill press.

Asked for her advice for polymer clay artists, she says “Just do it! Don’t let yourself worry about being perfect. Learn as much as you can. If you want to sell, do it a step at a time. Get your feet wet at something small like a church bazaar and move forward from there.” Below is some of Diane’s work:



SUGGESTION BOX

Don’t forget to email me with suggestions for the newsletter. We would like it to reflect more of what our members value. You can reach me at news@MHPCG.org.

INTERESTING SITES, VIDEOS AND INFORMATION:

❖ Struggling to find Sculpey Clay?? Polyform is now producing again, though people are snapping up the clay quickly. Find them at Sculpey.com. I just got a shipment with both black and white! Free shipping over \$35! The name Sculpey Products was taken by another company that sells clay, but is out of stock, so for the time being, go directly to the source.

❖ GreenstuffWorld.com (for rollers)

❖ Citadel Paints

OUR EARRING (AND OTHER ITEM) EXCHANGE TOOK PLACE IN MARCH. ON THE NEXT PAGE ARE SOME OF THE GIFTS WE GAVE EACH OTHER. THEIR BEAUTY IS MUCH GREATER THAN CAN BE SEEN IN THESE PICTURES. THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO PARTICIPATED.

