

**MILE HIGH POLYMER CLAY GUILD (MHPCG)
July-September 2021 NEWSLETTER**



LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT:

I hope everyone is doing well. I am very happy to announce that we are now able to meet in person again. It's been too long. Our first in-person meeting at the church was June 26th. Our guest trainer gave us the opportunity to try our first dual meeting – in person at the church and on Zoom and to help us work out the kinks. This combination will allow those who aren't able to travel, feeling ill, or not comfortable meeting in person yet to join our meetings at the church. Our out-of-state members can also join us via Zoom.

❖ **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: Sue Mueller, our Vice President, is moving to the Grand Junction area to be closer to her family. She will continue to attend meetings, either in person or on Zoom.

Dues this year is still \$15, and easier to pay through the guild's new, secure Paypal account. If you have difficulty with the directions you received via email, you can email Sherilyn or Sue for help. If you want to pay by check, please send to Sherilyn Dunn, 7110 W. 20th Ave, Apt 104, Lakewood, CO 80214

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GUEST TRAINERS AND TRAININGS



Jana Roberts Benzon was our guest trainer in April. She is an internationally known polymer clay artist and teacher. Jana demonstrated how she makes very thin flowers for necklaces and brooches as well as her mixed media, such as the piece above. She uses wedges of Play Dough white to prop up petals when necessary because it doesn't stick to polymer. Interestingly, she now bakes almost exclusively on a specific kind of sand. Jana's website is www.janarobertsbenzon.com.



Our guest trainer for May was Katie Oskin of www.katersacres.com. Her website has a blog, tutorials you can pay for and some for FREE. Worksheet tutorials are only \$2.49! Katie creates whimsical art. In her presentation, she highlighted ways to emphasize noses, ears, etc, to make whimsical creatures more interesting. She also discussed some of the most important things she has learned in her polymer clay career, including the importance of adding about 15% Original Sculpey White to all her sculptures to strengthen the Premo she uses.



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Our guest trainer for June was Jan Montarsi. Jan taught an interesting way to do a skinner blend out of triangles. He chooses his color palette and uses the entire width of his clay conditioner to do the original Skinner blend. He then cuts it apart and makes several small canes he can put together in a larger cane, with contrasting colors against each other. He doesn't need to cover each cane with a contrasting color, as many polymer clay artists regularly do. The photo above shows how he does two sides of triangles to make the angles for the Skinner blend. Jan is very interested in having less clay waste and showed how his process is designed to end up with very little. Look him up at https://www.facebook.com/jan.montarsi/?show_switched_toast=0&show_switched_tooltip=0&show_podcast_settings=0

The Guild was very excited to have Carol Blackburn join us for a day training on June 12, 2021, teaching her Missoni-inspired technique. (Missoni sells upscale fabric and Carol was a textile designer in her other life.) The training was completely full! Carol taught the cane, as well as how to make a hollow bead from it. She then showed how she uses thin triangular portions of the cane plus Skinner blend triangles to make a veneer for use in one of her signature pendants or brooches. We all learned so much!



TRAININGS IN THE PC COMMUNITY:

Christi Friesen is sponsoring her “Mighty Mitten Adventure, online July 30-August 1, which will feature various workshops. Check this out on her website www.christifriesen.com You'll also find some of her tutorials there if you want something to purchase to do at your leisure.

Lisa Renner has a workshop called “Bobble Heads” – whimsical humans with mixed media including polymer clay. This can be accessed anytime at www.lisarenner.com.

Curious Mondo is featuring Helen Terlalis Dorn's “All Creatures Great and Small training September 13-15, 9-12 MT. For questions, contact them at www.curiousmondo.com.

The Indy Jam will be taking place IN PERSON this year October 15-17 in Indianapolis. It features Theresa Salgado, Susan Bailey, and D.J. Flames. You can read about this yearly conference in-person conference at www.tinypandora.com/products/indyjam-2021.

Leslie Blackford's website www.themoodywoods.com is the place to find information on the Atlantic City Clay Escape, October 5-9, 2021. This in-person conference features Leslie, Donna Kato, Kathleen Dustin, Laura Tabakman, and Barbara McGuire.