

## Southern Connecticut Polymer Clay Guild

Website: <http://scpcg.org>



# Now-A-Newsletter

*Virtual Meeting on:* June 19, 2021, 11am Eastern Time

*Zoom Meeting Pre-Start* 10:45am

NAN Submissions: [scpcgnan@gmail.com](mailto:scpcgnan@gmail.com)

**Meeting Location: Virtual (Zoom)**

Carole Monahan-Kampfe, President: [compelledcraft@ymail.com](mailto:compelledcraft@ymail.com)

NAN Submitted by Michelle Pini

Helen Wyland Malchow, VP: [silverthumb@earthlink.net](mailto:silverthumb@earthlink.net)

### LOGIN INFORMATION

**Virtual Zoom Meeting:** Carole Monahan is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6715873145?pwd=Vjh5S0FhQmIxMWRmMlg2Vm9JSG1LUT09>

**Meeting ID: 671 587 3145**

**Passcode: 8rUrdi**

### TAKE NOTE

**Guild Challenge Due at June Meeting:** Using sculpting tools, canes, the theme of summer, bring your imagination to life.

### AGENDA

**Demo:** "Cat variation on a theme" - Cumba

**Elements of design with Helen:** Then Helen will cover this month's design element topic of SHAPE AND FORM. Helen wanted to address the concerns of HOW to use design elements in what we create. Helen asked that we grab our sketch books and draw out what we love. It can be cats, flowers, trees, fish, ANYTHING! She will show us how to incorporate elements of designs.

**Show n' Tell**

## ☞ MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO CLAY ☞

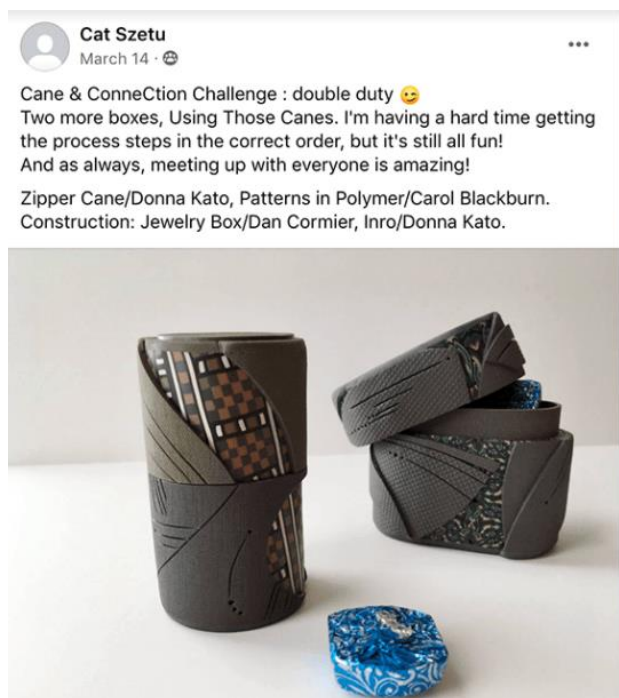
From Sharon Mihalyak:

We've been having fun Zooming with friends this past year. Our Clay ConneCTion Virtual Retreat spun off 2 Challenge groups.

One was 820 ConneCTion Challenge that became **ConneCTion Challenge** (after August ended and the Zoom continued).

This Challenge is a self-directed challenge where we work on projects/ themes that we decide on individually and we share our progress. (There is no Challenge Police) Currently, the group meets on the first Saturday of the month.

We can log in at 6:45 and the meeting starts at 7 pm.

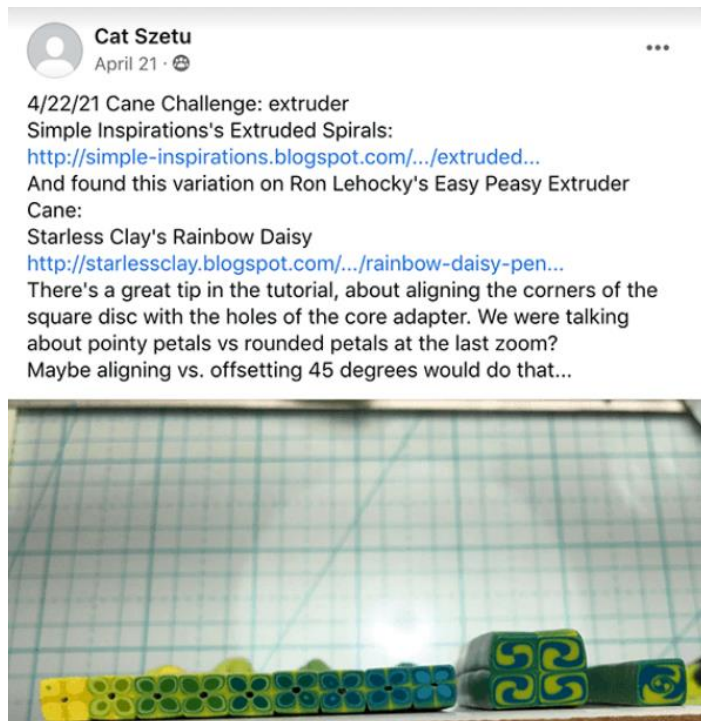
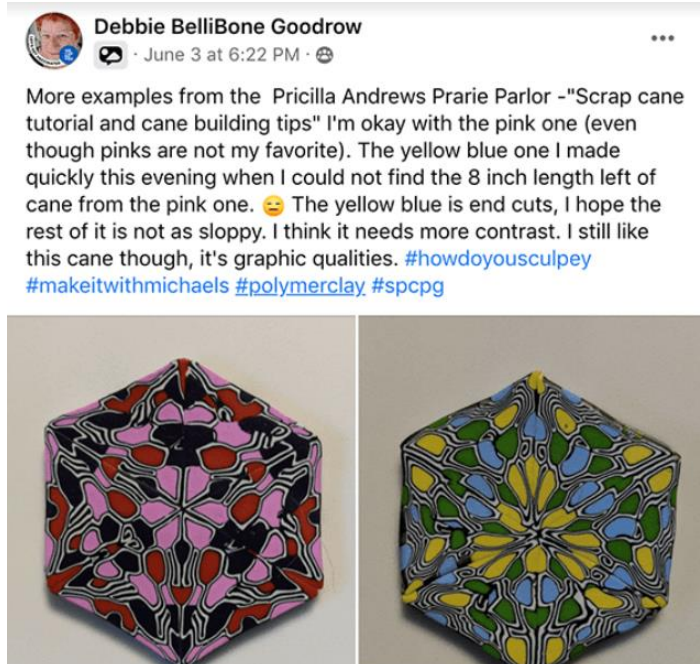


The **Cane Challenge** meets every other Thursday evening. Log in is at 6:15 and the meeting starts at 6:30 pm. Debbie Goodrow finds cane tutorials online and we share them with the group. It's great to see the different interpretations! Also great to have some help working out the "bugs" when the cane doesn't come out the way you expected!

Tutorial suggestions are always welcome. Please send to [dgoodrow@gmail.com](mailto:dgoodrow@gmail.com).

Sharon Mihalyak sends out the Zoom link and the cane tutorial links prior to each Zoom meeting (and a Reminder the day of/day before).

If you're not on the email and want to join us let her know - email [sharchar@gmail.com](mailto:sharchar@gmail.com)



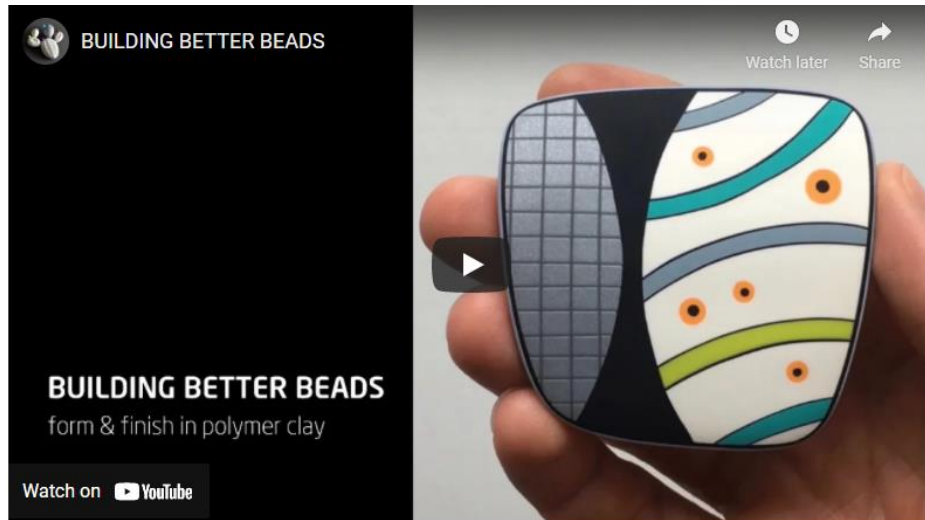
I think these challenges have helped us through our other challenges this past year. You don't have to participate in the challenge. Lurking is OK.

I lurk and find inspiration in the community and the sharing ~ Sharon



## OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

From cat Szetu: <https://www.dancormier.ca/building-better-beads-2021>



## BUILDING BETTER BEADS

form & finish in polymer clay

### **B is for BETTER : Make 2021 Better with Building Better Beads**

From the most intricate cane work to the simple sweep of a Skinner Blend, from mokume to mica shift and more, **polymer clay can draw us in in so many ways** with its colors, patterns, and textures.

But all too often, **a closer look can reveal something compromising**: a crack, a bubble, a fingerprint, an unsealed seam, an unfinished edge, a neglected backside... and why? Is it a lack of skill? A lack of will? A lack of planning?

It's easy to want to make something beautiful, and there's no shortage of lessons for learning how to turn a few blocks of clay into a decorative patterned veneer. But sometimes it's not so easy to honour that veneer with the presentation it deserves as a finished piece. I believe that's because **the fundamental basics of technique in form and finish have been overlooked and under taught.**

In my next online course, **I hope to change that.**

### **FINISHING RIGHT FROM THE START**

With a material that lends itself so well to 'play,' there's a lot about these fundamental techniques that can feel like 'work.' More thorough mixing, more careful cutting, longer leaching, slower baking, endless sanding... The non-decorative stuff can take longer than anything else, and why bother finishing the back of the brooch if no one's going to see it anyway, right?

It's true that seeing something through can feel like a lot of work. But **a beautifully crafted object is worth the effort.** Good craftsmanship can make all the difference... the difference between whether or not you get into that next-level

craft show or gallery, or the difference between feeling the need to point out the flaws in your work instead of standing proudly behind it with the knowledge that you gave it everything you could.

There's a lot of mediocre work out there. **Better crafted, better finished work will make your work stand out.**

This isn't to suggest that perfection needs to be your goal. As part of the process, **mistakes can be your best teachers.** But there are always ways to make a good thing better, and in doing that, we are always growing, as designers, as builders, and as artists and ambassadors for our medium. **Good work habits make good work,** and there is nothing more rewarding than that.

**My next course is about getting from good to better.**

Better tools. Better skills. Better habits. Starting things right.

Better planning. Better processes. Better finishing. Right from the start.

In every workshop I teach, even if the focus isn't on finishing, **the fundamentals of craftsmanship are part of the teaching,** and integral to the learning. But most workshops usually only last a day or a weekend, rarely enough time to cover the content, let alone implement the practice in a mindful way.

With online learning, without the limits of time and space that come with an in-person workshop, curriculum content can **span wider, reach farther, go deeper.** Instead of everyone (teacher and students) trying to cram everything into a single weekend, in a single space (often crowded), at a single pace (sometimes too slow, sometimes too fast), **my online workshop will last for a full four weeks.** You can come and go as you want or need to, based on your own experience, skill, and learning style. You'll have ample time to complete the workshop project once, or rewind, review, and repeat if you want more practice in a mentored real-time environment. And via our virtual classroom, I'll come to you, so **you can work and play and learn in the space you know and love best: your own studio.**

With content delivered through video, written lessons, and other internet-accessible resources, **you'll have a front row seat for every demo;** a place to **ask questions, post images, and get feedback** (teacher to student, and peer to peer); and **24/7 access** to read and review everything as you go, whenever you want, for the duration of the workshop... without ever leaving home. Four weeks instead of two days, in your own studio. What could be better than that?

If you want to learn everything from practical tips and tricks to a whole new way of thinking, idea to object, there's no better workshop offered in our HoCo! School than Building Better Beads. And with so many other workshops and Master Classes waiting for a spot on our curriculum calendar, BBB may not be back for at least another year.

Better not miss it...

-Dan

**REGISTER NOW. REGISTRATION CLOSSES SUN JUNE 27TH:**

<https://www.dancormier.ca/building-better-beads-2021>

**From Carole:**

There is a big Mokume Gane event in August Helen is one of the presenters.  
<http://polymerartsummit.com>



And from Luann an oldie but a goodie!

<https://luannudell.wordpress.com/2017/08/04/haters-gonna-hate-its-just-chalk/>

## HATERS GONNA HATE: “It’s Just Chalk!”

*You don’t have to defend your choice of materials.*

*In fact, make it a selling point!*

*It’s not WHAT the material is, it’s what you DO with it.*

**When I began to share WHY I use the materials I use, it became a selling point.**

**TRAVELING EXHIBIT**

The Traveling Exhibit – Dorian Merriman-Boddy is our Traveling Exhibit Coordinator. With setup help from a number of other members, our Exhibit will continue to inspire those with artistic interest.

**Traveling Exhibit Locations:** On Hold at this time

Contact Dorian to schedule the Traveling Exhibit in a Library or other public space near you.  
[dorianmboddy@gmail.com](mailto:dorianmboddy@gmail.com)

**MEETING MINUTES**


Physical Meetings on hold due to Covid-19.


- Demo:** "Twisted Extruder Beads and Mica Shift and Mica Powers"- Debbie Jett
- Elements of design with Helen** first of an ongoing series to cover elements and principles of design
- Show n' Tell**

**New Members**

New Members Always Welcome!

**Where do we meet?**

**Sept-June:**  
 Virtual Meetings

**July & August:**  
 Until Further

(See our website for directions)

Meetings are usually on the 3rd Saturday of each month at 11 am. Check our website for location/time changes, or email [scpcgnan@gmail.com](mailto:scpcgnan@gmail.com) if you welcome to attend and join.

**Notice**

(There is no fee for the first meeting, so come see what we're about)

**Southern CT Polymer Clay Guild**

Visit our guild website:  
<http://www.scpcg.org>



The Bottles of Hope website is:  
<https://www.bottlesofhope.org>

SCPCG Facebook Page:  
<https://www.facebook.com/scpcg.org>

**NAN Submitted by  
 Michelle Pini**

[scpcgnan@gmail.com](mailto:scpcgnan@gmail.com)