



Membership: If you haven't renewed your MDPAG membership, plan on doing it by the Sept. 17th meeting. Anyone who hasn't renewed their membership by then will be removed from the Members Only Yahoo Group.

Education: Lynda Gilcher will be her on October 10th & 11th to teach Extruded Cane workshops. You can take Saturday's class for \$75 or both Sat. & Sun. classes for \$105. Registration deadline is Saturday, Sept. 26th. There is a lot of interest in these workshops so they will fill up quickly. <http://www.mdpag.org/pdfs/Lynda%20Gilcher-October%202015%20%20Registration.pdf>

Library: Librarian Scott Raft is always interested in your ideas of what new books and dvds would be good additions for the MDPAG library.

Retreat: Mark your calendar! The 2016 Retreat will be held on April 7-10 at Colombiere Center in Clarkston, MI.

Website: Send jpgs of your work, Retreat, workshops, clay days, etc. to Webmaster Linda Vilas-Helton.



Summer
meeting
pics



Thank you to all members who worked on
decorating photo frames for
Gilda's Club at the August meeting.



Photos by Charmaine Lipa

Denise's Corner



Moving forward

Welcome everyone to a new year. Thank you all for your support and, I hope, understanding as I learn the role of President. With the first two meetings behind us, the year is off to a good start. I thought the "make and take" project went great at the July meeting. Thank you, Susan Kaplan, for demoing and bringing the supplies. I loved seeing all the beautiful frames members decorated for Gilda's Club at the August meeting.

Sometimes I wish I had a reset like computers and phones. When the screen freezes, just push a button and it's refreshed. There's nothing worse than brain freeze - not the kind you get from ice cream but the kind when there is an overload of information.

Besides books and dvds on polymer clay, there's so much on the internet - websites, tutorials, online classes, YouTube videos, Facebook and Pinterest, etc.- that it can become overwhelming.

When I see an interesting idea or technique - online, in a class or from a book or dvd - I take notes so I can try the technique later on. *(Continued on Page 3)*

ALL MEETINGS:

Library: Librarian Scott Raft will be bringing the library materials to the meeting. Pay your 2015-2016 dues so you can check out items. If you have a suggestion for library items MDPAG to consider purchasing, let Librarian Scott Raft know. Thanks!

Member Ideas: We are always interested in your ideas for upcoming meeting demos, swaps, make & take projects and other topics. Share them at a meeting or send your ideas to Vice President Chirs Corliss.

Show and Tell: Bring in work you have recently created to show fellow MDPAG members at the Show & Tell table.

FAIRY DOORS SWAP:

Chris Corliss will demo how to make one at the Oct. 15th meeting.

Swap details:

- Doors should be no larger than 2" x 2" .
- You need to sign up to participate. You can sign the swap sheet at the Oct. meeting or on the Swap Database on the Members Only Yahoo group.
- The swap sign-up will close on Nov. 1.
- A total number of doors to be made (including 2 for MDPAG - one for an auction and one for a charitable project) will be announced on the MO group in November at the Nov. 19th meeting.
- Doors are due at the March 17, 2016 meeting. Late ones will not be accepted.

Upcoming Events:

Thursday, Sept. 17th: Membership Meeting: 7 - 9 pm

Demo: Denise Osborne will demo making a swan walk retro cane.

Membership: If you haven't paid your dues, plan on doing so at a meeting or mailing your dues and membership form to Membership Chair Denise Osborne. Thanks!

Raffle: We will be raffling off a clamp-on task light with magnifying glass and a teal frame with some of the cats from Retreat. Plan to bring money to buy some tickets!

Gilda's Club Donations: Please bring in any small items you have created that you would like to donate to Gilda's Club for the Alternative Christmas Gift Fair. They can be polymer art, or any other craft you enjoy working in.

Saturday, Oct. 10th & Sunday, Oct. 11th: Lynda Gilcher Extruded Cane Workshops

Lynda will be teaching using an extruder to make complex flower, leaf, geometric and accent canes. You can attend Saturday's class or both days. Registration form and class fee(s) are due by Sept. 26th. Contact Education Chair Susan Kaplan if you need more information.

Workshops will be held at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 39020 Five Mile Road, Livonia, MI. They will be held at 9 am to 5 pm on Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm on Sunday. Please arrive 30 minutes before class start time. Pasta machine motors will not be allowed in the classroom.

Thursday, Oct. 15th: Membership Meeting: 7 - 9pm

Demo: Chris Corliss will do a demo on making fairy doors.

Fairy Door Swap Sign Up: You can sign up at the mtg. or on the MO group database. Deadline to sign up is Nov. 1. Doors will be due at the March meeting and will be returned at the April meeting. Number of doors you need to make will be announced on the MO group and at the Nov. meeting.

Garage Sale: Bring in any items you would like to sell to other members. They should be polymer clay or art related - books, dvds, supplies, clay, etc.

Potluck Sign-Up: Sign up for bringing a dish to the Nov. 19th meeting - appetizers, desserts, fruit, munchies, etc. Vegetarian and gluten-free items are always appreciated.

Gilda's Club Donations: Please bring in any small items you have created that you would like to donate to Gilda's Club for an Alternative Christmas Gift Fair. They can be polymer art, or any other craft you enjoy working in. You can also bring in donations for their wish list: <http://www.gildasclubdetroit.org/ways-to-give/wish-list/>. A representative from Gilda's Club will be attending the meeting to explain Gilda's Club and how it helps its members.

Thursday, Nov. 19th: Membership Meeting: 7 - 9pm

Potluck: Bring in the dish you signed up to bring. If you didn't sign up, feel to bring something.

Gift Exchange: Bring an item you created that will fit in a paper lunch bag. This is an optional event but a great way to give and receive something special.

Summer Workshops Pics



Students enjoyed learning new techniques from Lynda Gilcher and Kathy Bingaman at MDPAG's summer workshops.

Photos by Kathy Weinberg

Denise's Corner *(Continued from Page 1)*

When I finally find some time to clay, my brain won't settle down enough to try a technique. I want to dive in and try so many, I don't know where to begin or what to focus on.

Sometimes I'll take a walk to clear my head, but no matter where I look I see a pattern that would make a great cane or a texture that would add just the right touch to my current WIP (Work in progress). More information to process and work on.

To reset my brain and get focused, I put away the tutorials, books, Pinterest pins, and Facebook links and just start playing with my scraps. I figure no harm done if I end up with mud. Another idea is to use blue and white or black and white for trying out a cane for the first time. It means less colors to condition and, if it doesn't work out, I have a nice blue or grey to work with.

Keeping a list of projects that I will need to work on also helps me stay on track: trinkets for Retreat; something for the gift exchange at the November meeting and at Retreat; something for the Silent Auction; Bottles of Hope, Beads of Courage and Hearts for Heroes for our charity projects.

Moving forward can be slow but I find my creative groove and start to relax and remember why I enjoy the medium of polymer clay, although it still would be so much easier if I had a reset button.

Denise Osborne, MDPAG President

Upcoming Events:

Thursday, Sept. 17 • 7-9pm

- Swan walk demo - Denise Osborne
- Raffle • Bring in donations for Gilda's Club Alternative Christmas Fair

Saturday, Oct. 10 • 9am-5pm

& Sunday, Oct. 11th • 10am - 6pm:

Lynda Gilcher Extruded Canes Workshops
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Livonia

Thursday, Oct. 15 • 7-9pm

- Fairy door demo - Chris Corliss
- Swap Signup • Garage Sale • Bring in donations for Gilda's Club - Alternative Christmas Fair and Wish List items - A Gilda's Club representative will be at the meeting

Thursday, Nov. 19 • 7-9pm

- Potluck • Gift Exchange • Swap Info.
- More Info on Page 2*



Meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month, excluding Dec., Jan. and Feb.

All meetings take place at 7-9pm
Royal Oak Senior Center, 3500 Marais



Dorothy Greynolds
5678 Eldridge Drive
Waterford MI 48327

OUTREACH PROJECTS:

Here are several ways to donate your creative talents to help others.

Beads of Courage:

Make fun beads to help boys and girls struggling with cancer or other serious illnesses. All styles are appreciated in any clay (except Sculpey 3 because it's brittle). Drill a hole in the bead large enough for a round toothpick to slide through.



Bottles of Hope:

Decorate small glass bottles (MDPAG provides) for Gilda's Club. Use a favorite technique or try a new one. The decorated bottles are given to Gilda's Club members (men, women, teens and children) who are dealing with cancer or other serious illnesses, as an encouragement



Hearts for Heroes:

Make hearts about the size of a quarter for the armed forces. Attach them to a lanyard hook or fishing swivel hook. More masculine colors/styles are appreciated.



Gilda's Club:

Bring in donations for their Alternative Christmas Fair booth (Sept. & Oct. meetings) and their Wish List (Oct. meeting only). *More info. on Page 2*