



Education: We will be having two workshops during the same weekend in June. **Lynda Gilcher** will be teaching how to create a simple cane using an extruder and disks and use slices to cover a bowl form. **Kathy Bingaman** will be teaching combining polymer clay with found objects (shells, sea glass, etc.) in jewelry. Registration forms will be available soon.

Library: The library has a new book "Polymer Clay Bracelets" by Bettina Welker.

Please return all items to Sue Screws so she can take inventory prior to Retreat. Library items will not be available at the April meeting so Sue can take inventory. If you would like to borrow library items for Retreat, email your request to Sue Screws and she will bring them to the April meeting.

Retreat: Info on pages 2 and 4.

Website: Send any jpgs of your work, from meetings, classes or Retreat to Linda Vilas-Helton. Thanks!



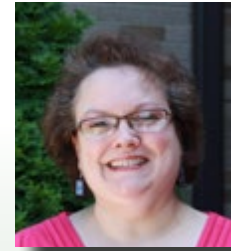
At the March 19th meeting members enjoyed seeing one another after a long winter break.

Sue Screws gave a very impressive presentation on jewelry findings which included dozens of jewelry pieces (her work and by other artists) and file boxes full of photos and notes.



Photos by Charmaine Lipa

Linda's Corner



Our Look: A Revised Logo

Sometime around 4-6 years back a second MDPAG logo was brought into occasional use. To maintain a consistent look and brand for our guild, the board has recently decided we must choose one version to use moving forward.

The revised logo is a merging of these two versions. This version uses the original "clay formed" looking letters for MDPAG, and the four colorful background squares from the second version. The merged logo contains a combination of colors from the old logo (blue and purple) and second logo (orange and green). We also have a special 1-color "textured" version that will adorn our special Retreat goodie bags and T-shirts.

Service to the Guild

Are you interested in helping plan what we will be doing in upcoming meetings, our annual Retreat, clay days, educational opportunities, and other guild activities?

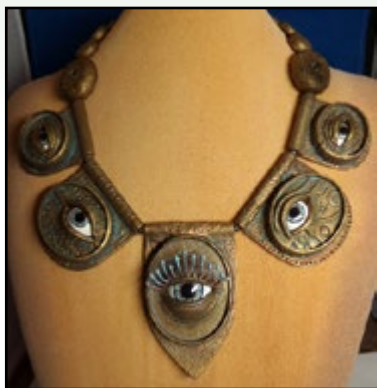
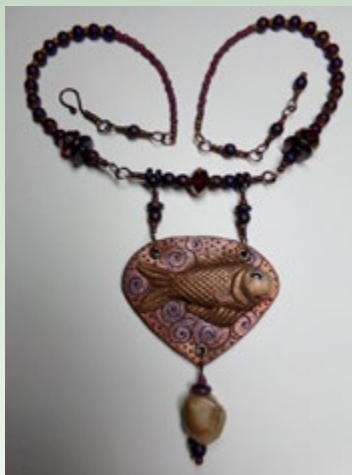
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Retreat 2015

Guest Artist - Kathy Bingaman

Kathy will bring her enthusiasm and creativity to Retreat. She will demonstrate different techniques for creating polymer clay jewelry. You can see more of Kathy's art pieces or learn more about her at her website:

<http://www.bingamandesign.com/index.html>



(More Retreat info. on Page 4)

Upcoming Events:

Thursday, April 16th: Membership Meeting: 7 - 9 pm

Call for Nominations: We will be accepting nominations for the Executive Board Offices of President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary. The responsibilities for each position are on pages 3 and 4.

Demo: Sue Kelsey will demonstrate making polymer clay masks (the theme of our upcoming swap).

Education: The next workshops will be in June. **Lynda Gilcher** will be teaching how to create a simple cane using an extruder and disks and use cane slices to cover a bowl form. **Kathy Bingaman** will be teaching combining polymer clay with found objects (shells, sea glass, etc.) in jewelry.

Membership: Membership forms for the 2015-2016 year will be sent out after the April meeting (with absentee ballots). Dues will stay the same - \$30 for local members and \$15 for distant members.

Library: The library has a new book "Polymer Clay Bracelets" by Bettina Welker. Please return all items to Sue Screws so she can take inventory prior to Retreat. Library items will not be available at the April meeting so Sue can take inventory. If you would like to borrow library items for Retreat, email your request to Sue Screws and she will bring them to the April meeting.

Donations: Outreach Chair Kathie Harroun had enough "Bottles of Hope" to take another box of them to Gilda's Club. Retreat is a good opportunity to work on beads and bottles.

Swap: We will swap masks this year! They will be due at the May meeting (so you can make them at Retreat) and will be returned at the June meeting. A signup sheet will be at the meeting and a database will be set up on the Members Only Yahoo Group.

Thursday, April 30th - Sunday, May 3rd: MDPAG Retreat

Retreat will be held at Colombiere Center, 9075 Big Lake Rd., Clarkston, Michigan

Thursday, May 21st: Membership Meeting: 7 - 9 pm

Election: We will be voting on the Executive Board positions. If you can't attend the meeting and want to vote, send in your absentee ballot to Denise Osborne.

Topic: We will be doing a make-and-take project of polymer-clay covered drill bits for drilling holes in beads. Bring clay, work surface, pasta machine, canes, tools, stamps, etc.

Show and Tell: Bring in items you created, won in the Silent Auction, received in the Grab Bag Exchange or purchased for everyone to see.

Library: All items will be available for checking out.

Swap: All masks are due from swap participants. If you can't attend the meeting, please let Swapmeister Denise Osborne know.

June Potluck Signup: Sign up to bring an item for our annual Potluck meal. A database will be set up on the Members Only Yahoo Group.

MDPAG Executive Board Member Responsibilities

President:

- Be responsible for the administration of the Guild.
- Set the agenda for all Board meetings and for all business to be brought up at Guild meetings.
- Preside over all Board and Guild meetings to be sure that the agenda is followed.
- Be personally familiar with the status of all committee work to assure that the committees adhere to the Guild's policies and purposes and that the programs are being carried forward effectively. Be a member ex-officio of all committees (except the Nominating Committee).
- Appoint a parliamentarian to aid in the running of meetings and related matters if desired; and
- Approve bills for payment.
- The President may authorize individual expenditures not already in the budget up to \$200.00 and may be a signer on any check along with one other executive Board member.

Vice President:

- Assist the President in the accomplishment of his/her duties.
- Assume the President's responsibilities in his/her absence.
- Book meeting locations, dates and times for Clay Days and all general meeting as determined by the Board.
- Inform the treasurer of payments needed for meeting room rentals and any other expenses.
- Be responsible for planning all of the programs held at Guild meetings.
- Post the annual meeting schedule to the Members-Only Internet news group and send the information to the Web Site Coordinator for the web site.
- The Vice President may be a signer on any check along with one other executive Board member.

Treasurer:

- Administer and keep accurate records of the Guild's finances.
- Deposit the Guild's funds in a bank designated by the Board.
- Pay bills on behalf of the Guild and have the power to approve bills for payment.
- Prepare monthly financial statements for presentation at Guild meetings and post those statements to the Board internet group immediately after the meeting each month.
- Prepare an annual financial report for presentation at the Annual meeting held in June of each year.
- Prepare the budget for presentation at the first Fall meeting each year.
- Prepare interim reports upon the direction of the Board.
- The Treasurer may be a signer on any check along with one other executive Board member.

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Linda's Corner

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Volunteers are needed for board openings. As always, all four executive positions are up for reelection. Please see descriptions of all the positions in this newsletter on pages 3 and 4. We will be accepting nominations at the April meeting and the election will be held at the May meeting. Of course, as always, all members may also vote via the absentee ballot. Those will be mailed out with membership renewal forms after the April meeting.

We are also looking for volunteers to maintain the Guild library. Board members usually meet about four times a year. Yes, of course there is work to do, but it is also fun to plan and work together to assure things run smoothly. This is our guild! It is what we make of it. Can we count on you?

Stepping Down, But Not Gone

After three years, I will be stepping down as President. Increased responsibilities at work has unfortunately made this move necessary. But, I will still be serving on the board, and I am also looking forward to being able to direct more attention to the MDPAG website.

Linda Vilas-Helton
President, MDPAG

Retreat 2015:

Demos - Guest Artist Kathy Bingaman will do jewelry demos. If you want to do a demo, let a Retreat Co-Chair (Chris Corliss or Kathy Weinberg) know.

Silent Auction - Plan on bringing items you've created or polymer clay related books, dvds, tools, etc. Also plan on bidding on items. It's your opportunity to get a work of art or other treasure and support MDPAG.

Grab Bag Gift Exchange - Bring in an item that will fit in a paper lunch bag.

Collaborative Projects - We will be creating a wood panel full of cats (similar to the owl one from last year's Retreat). A cat pattern pdf will be available at the April meeting and at Retreat.

We will also be doing a project with circles. Donations of black beads (any shape or finish, pea size or smaller beads) will be greatly appreciated.

Goody Bags - always a fun part of Retreat.

Tiny Trinket Exchange - bring in 1" tiles or trinkets to swap.

Flea Market - Bring in items to sell. Also a great way to acquire new things.

And more!

More information and a list of volunteer opportunities, will be going out to all Retreat attendees soon.

MDPAG Executive Board Member Responsibilities

(Continued from Page 3)

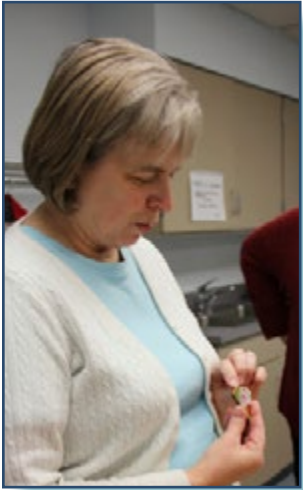
Secretary:

- Keep copies of the Bylaws and keep them current.
- Record minutes from all Board and Guild meetings.
- Prepare a synopsis of Board activities, drawn from the Board minutes, for distribution to Guild membership through the Guild's newsletter or internet sites, if requested to do so by the Board.
- Assist the President in developing and distributing the agenda for Board Meetings and Guild meetings.
- Handle outgoing correspondence, thank-you notes, etc. on behalf of the Guild at the Board's direction.
- The Secretary may be a signer on any check along with one other executive Board member.

Librarian's Responsibilities: (This is not an Executive board position)

- Purchase and maintain items in all media on the subject of polymer clay and related subjects.
- Establish or maintain appropriate policies related to the access of such items by members.
- Contact members who have overdue or damaged library items. Report to the Membership Chairman the names of members who have failed to return library items after the allowed two-month check-out period, and the names of members who owe the Guild for replacement of lost or damaged items.
- Maintain an up-to-date listing of library items and a record of members who check items out. Inventory library items immediately before and after Retreat and before the September membership meeting.
- Provide the Website, Newsletter and Members-Only internet news group coordinators with a the current library procedures and a current listing of library materials; and update that listing as materials are added to or taken from the library.

Membership Meeting Pictures



At the November meeting members enjoyed the potluck meal and a chance to receive a special item in the Gift Exchange.



Mask Swap Details:

- Masks will be no larger than 2" x 2" x 1/4" thick.
- One mask will be made for each person who participates. A final number will be announced on April 28th on the Members Only Yahoo Group.
- Please sign or initial your masks.
- Your name must be included with each mask. Masks need to be in individual baggies and all in a box or large Ziploc bag.
- Masks don't all need to be the same so feel free to try out different designs or techniques.
- Sign up by April 28th. A sign up sheet will be available at the April meeting and on the Members Only Yahoo group.
- Long Distance members can mail theirs in (with money to cover return mailing) and their box will be mailed out by the Swap Meister.
- Masks are to be turned or mailed in by the May meeting and will be returned by the June meeting.

Thanks to Denise Osborne and Dorothy Greynolds for offering to be the Swapmeisters.

Photos by Kathy Weinberg

Upcoming Events:

Thursday, April 16 • 7-9pm

Membership Meeting

Royal Oak Senior Center

Call for nominations • mask demo

Mask Swap Signup • All library items due

Thurs. April 30 - Sun. May 3

MDPAG Retreat

Colombiere Center, Clarkston

Guest Artist Kathy Bingaman

Thursday, May 21st • 7-9pm

Membership Meeting

Royal Oak Senior Center

Election • Mask swap due

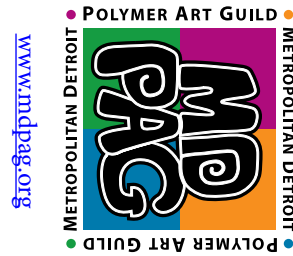
Make-and-Take drills • Potluck signup

More Info on Page 2



Meetings are held on the third Thursday
of the month, excluding December,
January and February.

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



Dorothy Greynolds
5678 Eldridge Drive
Waterford MI 48327

More March Meeting Pics



Photos by Charmaine Lipa