



**Education:** Klew (Karen Lewis) will be here in the fall to teach two classes. Information will be out later this year.

**Library:** If you have overdue library items, be sure to turn them in at the next meeting. If you know of books, dvds or magazines that would be good for our guild library, let Librarian Scott Raft know.

**Outreach:** Kathie Harroun has bottles to cover for Bottles of Hope. These are given to boys, girls, teens, men and women so all types of designs, canes, colors are appreciated. You can also make small cured canes (1/4" or smaller in diameter) beads or zipper pulls for Kathy Weaver's charity project to help kids in hospitals. More info. on back page.

**Retreat:** Retreat 2019 will be MDPAG's 25th Retreat! It will be held April 4-7 at the Colombiere Conference Center in Clarkston, MI.

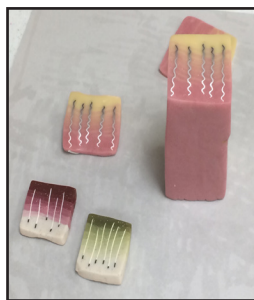
**Website:** The website needs your pictures! If you have some good ones of your polymer clay artwork and from guild events, send jpgs to Linda Vilas Helton. Thanks!



*Class Pics*



*In November Melanie West came to teach organic caning to enthusiastic members.*



*Photos by Dorothy Greynolds*

## Denise's Corner



### Challenge Yourself

Happy New Year everyone and welcome back! I hope everyone had a wonderful winter hiatus. Now it's time to get back into the swing of things with MDPAG. This was the first year we did not schedule any Clay Days during January and February since moving meetings to Saturdays. The days we would have had Clay Days on were snowy and icy. Did you get a chance to create with polymer clay? If so please share at the March meeting and/or our various social media sites.

Polymer clay caning artist Lynn Ann Schwarzenberg posted on Facebook she was going to set a personal challenge for herself for the month of November to make 100 pairs of earrings. She asked if anyone else wanted to join her on this quest and I accepted the challenge. I was going to make 100 Bottles of Hope in one month. I've always found working on the bottles a way to improve my skills and try new techniques.

*(Continued on Page 3)*

### **Bead Swap Info.**

Participants: Jean Comport, Kathy Weinberg, Susan Kaplan, Elizabeth Walther, Kathryn Savickas, Helen Pope, Diane Ferguson, Andrea Nofz, Alice Jenks, Charmaine Lipa, Dorothy Greynolds, Jane Sylvester, Mona Sullivan, Lori Kozlowski, Beverly Currie, Julie Madden, Kathy Weaver, Kathie Harroun, Sue Screws, Suzanne Stiles, Linda Vilas Helton, Janis Garich, Dee Johnson, Hope Swann, Bonnie Goldmacher, Becky Preston, Denise Osborne, Rosana VanHorn, Anne Niemann, Billie Conroy, Phyllis Crawley, Carol Vandebogart, Lorna Dufrane, Cindy Bolton

- Beads can be of any style (canes, sculpture, molds, etc.).
- Beads need to be cured with the ball chain going through them, center the bead on the length of the chain. Position the chain little above the center of the bead's height so it is less likely to flip over.
- Sign, stamp or initial the beads so participants know who made them.
- Place each bead in a small Ziploc style bag labeled with your name.
- Make 34 beads. If you would like to make one extra for the guild, it would be appreciated.
- Beads are due at the March meeting and returned at the April meeting. If you can't attend the meeting, bring them to Retreat and turn them in to Kathy Weinberg, Swapmeister.
- If you need your swap items mailed to you, include return postage with your box/package.

### ***Upcoming Events:***

All meetings/clay days are held on the third Saturday of the month at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 39020 Five Mile Road in Livonia. The time is 10 am to 5 pm. The meeting portion will start at 10 am followed by time to clay. We may have sign ups for bringing food. Bring your clay projects to work on or plan on doing charity donations. (See Back Page). Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

#### **Meeting/Clay Day: Saturday, March 16: 10 am-5 pm**

**Clay Day:** Plan on making your beads for the swap (if you signed up for the swap), creating Bottles of Hope and/or canes and beads for Bracelets & Badges of Hope or leaves for Retreat. More information on our Outreach projects on the back page.

**Demos:** There will be a demo on making metallic leaves for the collaborative project for this year's Retreat. There is a pdf of the leaf shapes on our Yahoo Groups page in the "files" area in the Retreat Collaboration folder. You can print it out and use it for shapes to trace onto your clay.

**Election:** Nominations will be taken for Executive Board members (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) for the 2019-2020 year.

**Lunch:** We will have a baked potato bar. We will provide the baked potatoes. Bring a topping to share and any other food you would like for your lunch.

**Swap:** Bead swap items are due. If you can't attend the meeting, bring them to Retreat or mail them to Swapmeister Kathy Weinberg. Please include return postage if you need them mailed back to you. (Swap details and participant list in the box on the left).

#### **Retreat 2019: Thursday, April 4 - Sunday, April 7**

It's hard to believe but this year we are holding our 25th Retreat! **Kim Cavender** will be our Guest Artist. She has many demos ready. She will be demonstrating: making rock beads using Ultralight clay, making wood grain and succulents and using a flexible mold. All the pieces you make can be assembled into a piece of jewelry. She will bring finished pieces to sell.

Susan Kaplan and Kathy Weinberg, Retreat Coordinators, will be emailing information to all Retreat attendees. This will include information on all Retreat activities and events, and a material list for Kim's demos. This year there are 40 people signed up to attend.

#### **Meeting/Clay Day: Saturday, April. 20: 10 am-5 pm**

**Demo:** Suzanne and Bev will demo tiled flower pots. If you would like to make one, bring clay (black, brown or terracotta colored clay would be best, texture tools, textured rubber sheets, rod or brayer, blade, Exacto knife, embossing powder, baking tiles and adhesive glue. Some small flower pots will be provided. If you have one you can bring, that would be appreciated too.

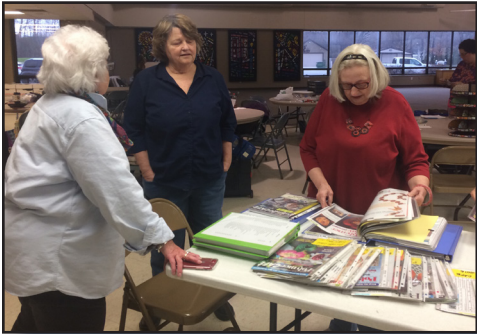
**Election:** Absentee ballots will be available for members who plan to vote by mail, rather than online.

**Lunch:** Bring your lunch or plan on getting something from a nearby restaurant.

**Retreat Show & Tell:** Bring in items you created, won or bought for everyone to see.



## October and November Meeting Pics



### Try a Challenge on Facebook

If you are considering trying a personal challenge Denise Osborne suggests one that's currently on Facebook called Bottled Up! 2019. Anita Buckowning, a MDPAG long distant member, set it up.

The goal is to make Bottles of Hope each month with a designated color and theme. The color follows the monthly birthstones and the theme is listed in the announcement section. For example, March's color is aquamarine and one bottle is to be about spring and the other is about a lion. Check it out. Imagine how happy the person who receives the bottle will be and the opportunity you will have to grow as a polymer clay artist.

### Denise's Corner (from Page 1)

We both exceeded our goals. I made 110 bottles! It was fun and a good experience.

Lynn set another goal but gave herself more time to make 100 pendants. I also set another goal for myself to make 2 ornaments a week for Katie Oskin's CF Christmas Tree. I started out great trying new tools and tutorials and having a great time when life stepped in and derailed my adventure.

After a few weeks of a creative block, my challenge was having a negative effect on my creative mojo. I know I'm capable of being successful in my quest and I just needed to forgive myself and move forward. My Dad always said when all else fails do the math. There are 52 weeks in a year with 2 ornaments a week I should end up with 104. So I have 40 done. I have 8 months to make 64 - 8 a month - awesome.

I didn't jump right back in to making the ornaments. I channeled my creativity in other outlets: oil painting, scrapbooking, ATC cards and jewelry making.

I also made my trinkets for Retreat and am working on components for a mosaic wood frame, with inspiration from Kathy Weinberg's incredible work.

We all go through creative blocks from time to time. Don't let it stress you out or stop you from moving forward on your personal journey with polymer clay. Try the Facebook challenge (on the left). Have fun, make mistakes, try new things, and enjoy. Happy clayng!

**Denise Osborne,**  
MDPAG President



**2018-2019**

**Meeting/Clay Days: Saturdays 10-5:**

July 21	March 16
August 18	April 20
September 15	May 18
October 20	June 15
November 17	

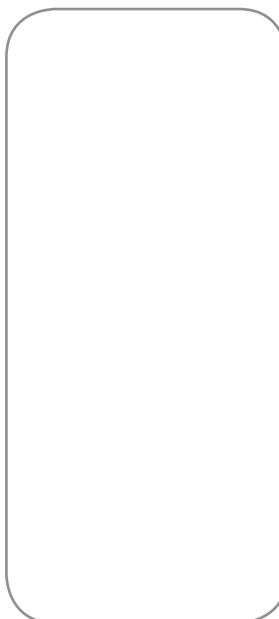
**Retreat: Our 25th!**

April 4-7, Columbiere Conference Center, Clarkston, MI.

*Guild meetings are held on the third Saturday of the month March - Nov. at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 39020 Five Mile Road in Livonia.*



*Cut this out and use as a bookmark!*



Dorothy Greynolds  
5678 Eldridge Drive  
Waterford MI 48327

**OUTREACH PROJECTS:**

*Use your creative talents to help people dealing with cancer and other serious illnesses. Bring them to meetings, Clay Days or Retreat. Your donations are appreciated!*

**Bottles of Hope:**

Decorate small glass bottles (MDPAG provides) with cane slices, Skinner blends, textures, etc. for Gilda's Club. Bottles are given to their members (men, women, teens and children).



**Bracelets & Badges of Hope:**

MDPAG member Kathy Weaver sends bracelets, badges and zipper pulls to children's hospitals across the US.

Any of these are greatly appreciated:

- Zipper pulls: sports, superheroes, Minecraft, etc. Use fishing swivel hooks or lanyard hooks on them.
- Badges: sports, superheroes, Minecraft, etc.
- Spacer beads: cured clay, metal, plastic or glass - 6mm or smaller
- Cured Canes: any colors, patterns or holiday themes (3/8" - 1/2" in diameter) Kathy will slice and drill the canes and use them and spacer beads in bracelets.

