

Trina's Way Program

"Trina's Way" was established in memory of Trina Kern, a longtime guild member and past President of MDPAG. For years Trina was known as the only member to attend every workshop offered by MDPAG. She loved polymer clay and wanted to learn all she could.

Although Trina passed away in 2003, she will always be remembered for her generosity and kind ways. As a board member, President of the guild, or as a caring friend, she was always there to lend a helping hand. Marie Johannes, the founder of MDPAG, proposed establishing a program in Trina's honor. She donated items from her polymer clay art collection to the Silent Auction at our guild's Retreat in 2003. Proceeds from the sale of these items established the "Trina's Way" fund.

Since then the guild has continued to donate auction proceeds to the fund. In the autumn of 2007, the "Trina's Way" Committee was formed to decide how best to use these funds in a program to honor Trina. **A committee of guild members who knew Trina, came up with this proposal:**

1. We propose to use the "Trina's Way" funds to have a teacher come in to teach a one-day workshop. We would schedule 1-2 of these classes over a weekend, as needed to allow guild members to take the class. The number of students that can sign up for the classes are limited to the funding available. Workshops would be technique-based, rather than project classes. These would happen every two years or so, as funding allows. Classes would be paid by the guild out of the "Trina's Way" fund, making the classes free to guild members in good standing at the time of sign up.
2. In order to attend the class, every person would need to make five bottles for "Bottles of Hope" (one of the charities the guild donates items to). These would be half of their "payment" for the class. These items would be collected before the class and donated to the appropriate group in the name of Trina Kern.
3. As the second half of their "payment" everyone attending the class would commit to using the technique taught to make five more "Bottles of Hope". In addition, they are encouraged to make at least one additional item of their choice using the technique taught in the class. These items, along with any donated by teachers, would be placed into the Silent Auction. All funds raised by the auctioning of these items would go directly into the "Trina's Way" fund. We feel that this proposal encompasses "Trina's Way" and spirit completely.

Trina loved to teach polymer clay to others, so what better way to honor that than to use the fund to teach. Like Trina, it gives unselfishly to others at large with the required "payment," as Trina would do herself. And by donating those items in Trina's name, we assure that she is remembered in the way that reflects her best.

Members of MDPAG enthusiastically approved of the proposal. The first workshop, taught by Karen Lewis (Klew), was held in October, 2008. Other guest artists have included Tory Hughes, Doreen Kassel, Lynda Gilcher, Sarah Shriver, and Marie Segal.

