

U.S. Clay Today Autumn

OCTOBER 2005 Events:

Oct. 1st & 2nd:
Grant Diffendaffer
"Totally Textured
Beads" Workshop
Optimeyes, Westland

October 20th:
Meeting
6:30 - 9:30 pm
Royal Oak Senior Ctr.
• Auction Color Swap
• Translucent Flower
Cane Application
Demo by
Kathy Weinberg

Saturday,
October 29th:
Play Clay Day
10-5
Optimeyes, Westland

Details on Page 2



Metropolitan Detroit
Polymer Art Guild

PONDERINGS FROM THE PREZ

During the hot summer days when I couldn't do very much clay because of my broken wrist, I had lots of time to think about creativity and where my art is going next. During this period of artistic inactivity I took three wonderful classes with Lindly Haunani, all dealing with aspects of color and polymer clay. My style won't change, but it will become more diversified color-wise.



Creative:

(kri-ay'tiv) adj.

Showing imagination
and originality as well
as routine skill.

Oxford American Dictionary

Along these lines, the beginning of the MDPAG season is a good time to take stock of your art and where you would like to go with it during the next months. There is an abundance of talent in our guild and it needs to be recognized and applauded. We will be seeking members for demonstrations at meetings and on clay days. While we are bringing in nationally recognized teachers, some of you should consider teaching a members-only class. Submit a proposal to the Board. If you have any desire to travel and teach, this is a good opportunity to develop your class in a friendly environment.

We need to be pro-active and positive in promoting ourselves and our guild. An article about MDPAG published in Polymer Café would be a good start. Who wants to write it? So take a few minutes to make a plan on how your art is going to grow this year. If you feel like sharing, post your goals on the members-only group. Your plan, like mine, is a work in progress and will change. Bring your new work to guild meetings to share. Take lots of pictures so you have a frame of reference to see how you are growing and changing. Share your progress with an article in the newsletter.

Happy claying!
Jean Comport

MEETING TIME CHANGE:

We have the room from 6:30 to 9:30. The business portion of the meeting starts at 7:00 and will end at 9:30. You can come at 6:30 to chat, return library materials and to set up show and tell items.

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OCTOBER EVENTS:

GRANT DIFFENDAFFER "TOTALLY TEXTURED BEADS"

2 DAY WORKSHOP

SATURDAY OCT. 1ST, 10-6 & SUNDAY OCT. 2ND, 11-5

The workshop will be held at Optimeyes in Westland.

There are a few spaces available. Deadline to register is Sept. 30.
Class registrations and supply list are available on the MDPAG
Members Only Yahoo site. For more information, contact
Education Chairperson Kathy Weinberg at (734) 354-7836
or W8KOQS3rd@yahoo.com.

GUILD MEETING

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20TH • 6:30 - 9:30

Show and Tell, New Stuff, Library

Auction Color Swap

Bring in a small block of new clay and one or two embellishments.
Bags will be provided for you to put them in, along with your name.
Each participant will choose one of the bags and make an item using
the clay and embellishments in the bag. You can use additional colors
of clay and embellishments in your finished item.

Bring in your finished item to the November meeting. All finished
items will be donated to the Silent Auction. Some of the proceeds
from the Silent Auction will be used for the Trina's Way Fund and for
a Hurricane Relief Fund.

Translucent Flower Cane Application Demo

Kathy Weinberg will give a demo on the use of translucent flower
canes. She will show how to apply and layer them on eggs and flat
surfaces and how to smooth and finish.

PLAY CLAY DAY

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29TH • 10 - 5

Clay Day will be held at Optimeyes,
35184 Central City Parkway, Westland

Bring your pasta machine (without motor), clay, work surface, tools
and ideas for current or new projects. There are many restaurants in
the area for lunch or you can bring your own.

MY LIFE AS A STAR

When producer Cam Frierson called and asked me to do a segment on HGTV's "That's Clever", I was floored. Never in my wildest dreams did I even imagine such a thing happening to me! She told me they wanted more than just my flip flop earrings. We put our heads together and came up with a coordinating Asian themed gift box, using a new technique I developed. The earrings and gift tin became my "segment 1" project. I also needed a "segment 4" project for the end of the show. That evening I scrambled to make the tin and photograph it for my "pitch" to the executive producers. I was sworn to secrecy until after Cam made the pitch and had news for me.

Cam phoned the next afternoon with the news that they loved my project. I was going to be on the show! I needed to provide detailed directions, supply lists, and partially completed projects or "step outs" for tape day. I also had to get my work space and home cleaned up for filming.

Finally the date for my pre-tape visit arrived. Field producer Amy Stark and Director Renato Moore came to my home to go over the projects and how the tape day would go. Renato's first impression was that I was pretty straight up and conservative.

My intro was filmed on my deck the next morning. Renato wanted me to act like I was

sweeping the deck with a broom. Much to Renato's surprise, I was soon marching around in the back yard like a drum major. Amy wanted to



include my boys in my segment, so we played "bubble ball". I ran around the yard blowing bubbles while my boys chased and broke the bubbles with baseball bats. By the time we were finished, my hair had flopped and my make-up was running down my face; and we hadn't even started filming any of the clay stuff.

It was hot, and the air conditioning had to be turned off because of the noise. My biggest issue was keeping my eyes on the camera. Renato would give me a line, and I'd deliver it perfectly, only to look at him for approval, rather than into the camera. It was exasperating.

For the most part during my taping, I forgot about the body microphone that I was wearing. It was attached to the front clasp of my bra, and I wore

the transmitter on the belt of my jeans. Half-way through the filming and after making many adjustments to the mic, I finally got fed up. I pulled up my shirt, and told the sound guy to fix the mic himself! I figured it was something he'd surely seen before, and it wasn't any worse than my bathing suit. Later, while comparing notes with Kim Arden, I realized with horror that the sound guy heard everything I did, including my trips to the bathroom.

I have to admit, I did some of the typical goofy things that you associate with CCTC (soon to be called "That's Clever"). By the end of the day I was tired of keeping a plastic smile on my face and was throwing my project together. It was an exhausting seven hours. Despite the minor problems, we wrapped everything up right on schedule.

I'm waiting on pins and needles to find out when my segments will air. Those of us who filmed for "That's Clever" don't have the "right of first refusal" so we won't see the segments before they air. I'm hoping that they will use every minute of my segment for serious claying and that my family, friends and the general public will be spared all of the outrageous goofy stuff I did in front of the HGTV camera. If not, I'll blame it on the Parrot Bay in my coffee!

Kathy Weinberg

MEMBERS ONLY

YAHOO LIST UPDATES

We will be setting up more files on the Yahoo group.

Here are some of the ideas we came up with at the last board meeting:

For Sale items List
Swap Ideas List

If you have ideas, post them to the Yahoo group or contact List Moderator Lynda Struble at (248) 352-8377 or LyndaStr1@yahoo.com for more information.

DEMO VOLUNTEERS

Have you been working on a technique you really think is great or using a new tool, paint or other product that other clayers would love too? Consider giving a demo at an upcoming meeting.

Contact Vice President Cathe Bedard at (989) 982-8094 or cbbedard@yahoo.com to schedule your demo. Thanks.

THANK YOU, SUE BINKOW

At the September meeting Sue Binkow graciously offered to help out newsletter Co-Editors Rhea and Dorothy by writing upcoming "Member of the Month" articles.

MPDAG LIBRARY NEWS

NEW ACQUISITIONS:

"Making Animal Characters in Polymer Clay" book by Sherian Frey.
"Beginning Workshop" video by Tory Hughes

BOOKS ON ORDER:

"Polymer Clay Surface Design Recipes: 100 Mixed Media Techniques Plus Project Ideas"

by Ellen Marshall

"Art Faces in Clay"

by Maureen Carlson

"Clay Techniques with a Pasta Machine"

by Maureen Carlson

"Polymer Clay for the Fun of It"

by Kim Cavender

To be Published January 2006

"Polymer Clay Creative Traditions: Techniques and Projects Inspired by the Fine and Decorative Arts"

by Judy Belcher

To be Published January 2006

If you have suggestions regarding items to consider purchasing for the guild library, contact Librarian Georgana Gersabeck at (248) 546-6257 or geogersabeck@wideopenwest.com.

WEBSITE:

Library information is available at the MDPAG website:
www.mdpag.org

Current lists of library books and videos
Borrowing Policy
Checkout Procedures

MEETING MINUTES

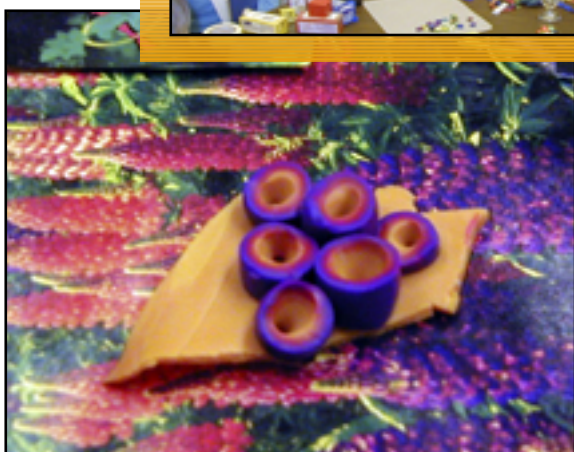
The meeting minutes will now be available on the MDPAG Members Yahoo group. Some copies will also be available at the guild meetings.

MARLA FRANKENBERG WORKSHOP PICS



Marla came to town in August to teach her "Marlafiori" translucent caning class to an appreciative group.

LINDLY HAUNANI WORKSHOP PICS



Lindly had an enthusiastic class "dancing with the rainbow" when she taught here in May!

Photos by Sue Kelsey

LINDLY'S WORKSHOP IN MINNESOTA

Jean Comport and I drove to Maureen Carlson's Center for Creative Arts in Jordan, Minn., for a long weekend in July to attend two classes taught by Lindly Haunani: **Mosaic Magic** and **Rainbow Totems**. Both classes were follow-ups to Lindly's **Dancing with the Rainbow** color workshop that she taught for MDPAG in May of this year.

The Center is in an old house that backs up to a river in Jordan — a small, low-key, antiques-based tourist town. Maureen has a shop and a large work area downstairs and dorm rooms upstairs complete with a couple of bathrooms and a kitchen. The Center "feels good" and provides a "creative cradle" for class participants: freedom to explore your art and safety to share your work with others.

Mosaic Magic

Since everyone in the class was familiar with Lindly's approach to color, we did not have a "formal" color-mixing curriculum. Instead, Lindly shared her knowledge of color with us during the mosaic class by mixing colors for individual students or by showing us the results of incorporating glitters and embossing powders in the clay.

Lindly taught how to make partially "faux" mosaics on Friday. Instead of hand-placing each individual tile, Lindly encouraged us to establish blocks of color in our designs.

Each color block was applied to the base, then embossed with a pin tool to appear to be several tiles instead of one large tile. After we baked the mosaics we "grouted" them. Some of us just used the "mud" made from our mosaic colors, others chose deeper or lighter colors or even grouted different areas with different colors.

Rainbow Totems

The Rainbow Totems class allowed Lindly to share her interests in spirituality and healing with the class. We spent two days meditating about a specific Chakra area in order to get in touch with our feelings. During the meditation for each area, we:

- Applied all of our senses to the Chakra (sight, taste, touch, smell, sound, intuition, etc.)



- Associated the Chakra with an animal

- Visualized specific colors (for example, which red was the red that we saw for the base Chakra? Each of us actually "saw" different colors of red.)

- Mixed the Chakra color for that area of our totem

- Applied the clay to our totem pole.

We used either half of a mailing tube (It would just barely stand in Maureen's large oven) or a plastic M&M container as the base of our totems.



We waited until the totems were complete to bake them. Right before we put them into the oven we wrote three things that we'd like to change about our lives on strips of paper and placed them in the totems. Some of us also put stones, beads, or other items inside our totems to make them resemble rain sticks.

There is no way that this review can, to quote Lindly out of context, "convey [her many] years of opinion on working with color, the exercises [she has] developed, the flow and synergy of the workshop." But you can check with either Jean or me to hear how much fun we had.

Cathe Bedard

photos by Maureen Carlson

SEPTEMBER MEETING PICS



President Jean Comport calls the meeting to order.



Sue Kelsey demonstrating the StamPress on clay.

Website:

www.clearsnap.com

Toll-free: 888-448-4862.

(If you order one, mention that you saw Sue demo it at a meeting).



Members check out polymer clay artwork at the "Show & Tell" table.

Photos by Kathy Weinberg

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Marlene Blum
Lucie Giebelhaus
Tracie Jackson
MaryAnn Kurczyk
Jean Rasmussen
John Willems

RETREAT REGISTRATIONS

If you need a Retreat registration form, there are more available. Contact Retreat Chair Diane Boatman at (248) 357-2090, email her at dlbmb@comcast.net or see her at a meeting.

IN THE NEWS

In Print:

On Thursday, August 11th, MDPAG member **Joan Eaton** was featured in an article in "Detroit News Livingston (County) newspaper. The article included a photo of Joan's mixed media artwork and one of her working in her studio. Congratulations, Joan! URL for the article: www.detnews.com/2005/livingston/0508/12/B04L-277461.htm

On TV:

MDPAG members **Kimberly Arden**, **Suzanne Boissy** and **Kathy Weinberg** will be featured in upcoming episodes of the HGTV show "That's Clever" (previously called "Crafters Coast to Coast." More info: www.HGTV.com.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

September:

John Willems 9/3

October:

Anita Behnen 10/2
Linda Vilas Helton 10/3
Sandy Kucyk 10/4
Kimberly Cochran 10/9
Dorothy Greynolds 10/14
Kimba Wilson 10/14
Sue Screws 10/23
Lenore Kagen 10/24
Vicky Mooney 10/29
Juanita Moreno 10/30
Kathy Weinberg 10/31

C/O Rhea Schaefer
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Oak Park MI 48237



**Metropolitan Detroit
Polymer Art Guild**

www.mdpag.org

FIRST CLASS

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MEETINGS:

Room opens at 6:30, meeting start at 7:00 pm

Oct. 20: Auction Color Swap, Transp. Flower
Cane Application Demo

Nov. 17: Holiday Party, Silent Auction, Grab
Bag Gift Exchange, Bring in Color Swap Items
for Silent Auction

PLAY CLAY DAY:

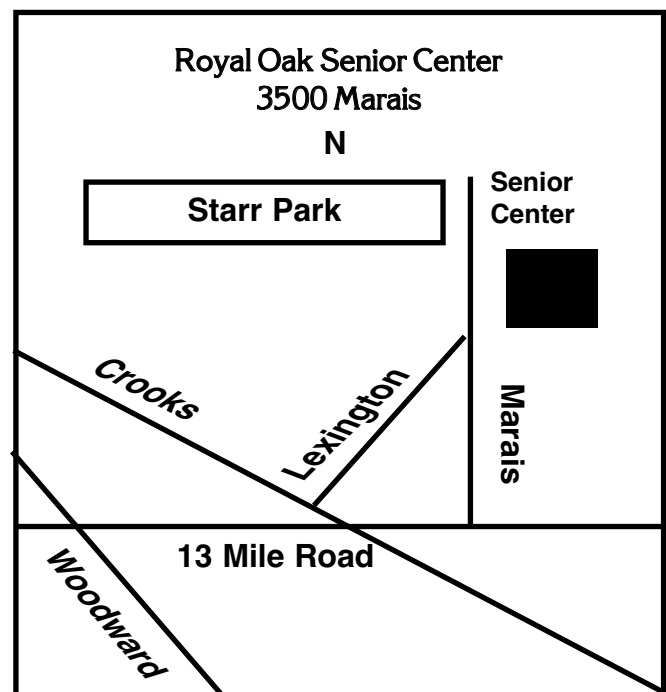
Saturday, October 29th · 10-5 · Optimeyes,
35184 Central City Parkway, Westland

GRANT DIFFENDAFFER WORKSHOP:

Sat., Oct. 1 & Sun., Oct. 2. · Optimeyes, Westland
Contact Kathy Weinberg for more info.

RETREAT:

March 23-26, 2006 · Colombiere Center,
Clarkston. Contact Diane Boatman for more info.



Meetings are held on the third Thursday of the
month Sept. - June, excluding December
All meetings take place at 6:30-9:30pm
Royal Oak Senior Center, 3500 Marais