

Inspirations

A newsletter by and for the SFJAG

October 2007

**Meetings Move
to Thursday
Nights Starting in
December!**

**South Florida
Jewelry Arts Gala!
December 20th,
2007**

**“Don’t let your
habits become
handcuffs”.**

—Anonymous

Inside this issue:

Pearl Knotting	2
Intro to Polymer	2
December Gala	2
Ideas for 2008 Classes	3
Fall Art Festivals	3
New Books	3
Notes and Re- minders	4

My Journey by Laurie Yoder

I have always enjoyed artistic pursuits. As a child in New York, I started ballet dancing at the age of three, and I learned to play the accordion at the age of ten. I dabbled in a variety of art mediums, but it wasn't till I went to an Art Fair and saw a Victorian brooch made from ribbon, lace and fake pearls that my interest turned to jewelry. I went right away to a craft store and bought a few items and when I got home with my purchase, I proceeded to make myself a Victorian brooch. It was quite a revelation to discover that not only was I capable of creating jewelry to my liking, but that others liked as well. I went from making jewelry from found items: beads, buttons, tiny mirrors, lace, to working with polymer clay. Then I turned to metalsmithing and silver, in particular.



Laurie Yoder's Grand Prize winning piece at the 2007 North American Design competition

I studied metalsmithing at Miami-Dade College, Miami, FL, and later graduated from The First Institute of Gemology & Jewelry, Coral Gables, FL in 1994. I have expanded my knowledge, through workshops around the country, and I continue to take workshops whenever the opportunity presents itself. You never stop learning!

In 2001, I took my first metal clay class and instantly fell in love with this fabulous material. Now I work almost exclusively in this art medium. I sketch my ideas, drawing from memory, imagination and inspiration, but my designs are never a blueprint for the final product, as I often make changes in the process of working, to accommodate a new idea. Due to my Fibromyalgia, I gave up teaching to devote more time to studio work, which allows me to work when I feel up to it. I have always enjoyed the meditative silence of working alone in my

studio. I prefer to make one-of-a-kind pieces and my work is a bit eclectic, each piece has to be a challenge. I especially like making hinged boxes, as they provide me with the opportunity to add a little surprise on the inside. I occasionally use resin in my work to add color, collages, and something special to my pieces.

I've found joy in all my artistic endeavors, but working with metal clay has opened a whole new world for me. The process of creating is as fulfilling and rewarding as reaching the end result. When you can call your work "play", life is good.

October Meeting— Pearl Knotting Demonstration



A string of pearls can make many statements.

So we learned lots of information on pearls at our September meeting from GIA and we have plenty of pearls in our stash. Now its time to start stringing! Knotting a strand of pearls is a basic technique that can be used to create a variety of looks such as classic and elegant, contemporary and sleek or bold and beautiful by varying the number of strands, size, shape and color of the pearls.

Diane Jones will demonstrate the basics of pearl knotting. Small kits will be available for purchase, otherwise bring your pearls, some silk cord with a

needle attached (such as Griffin), scissors, task light, beading mat and magnifiers, if you need them (and who doesn't?).



November Meeting— Intro to Polymer Clay

Polymer clay can take many forms from wild to mild. It is one of those techniques that for little start up costs you can get virtually instant gratification creating beads, findings, charms, and pendants. You are only limited by your imagination.

A brief introduction to polymer clay will be provided that includes reference books and websites. If you work with polymer bring in your stuff and show it off!

Everyone attending will have a

chance to play with some clay and actually make some pieces that will be baked and ready to take home before you leave. You can then incorporate them into your jewelry! We can't wait to see the variety of results.



Polymer clay beads



Pendant by polymer clay artist Helen Breil

December Meeting— South Florida Jewelry Arts Gala!

As part of our celebration in December, we would like to showcase the variety of mediums in which our members create their jewelry art. Whether you are a novice or professional we would like your participation. So think ahead to what piece represents your passion and skills.

All pieces will be grouped by medium such as beadweaving, silver smithing, PMC, polymer clay, fiber, mixed mediums, stringing, etc. A 4 x 6

card will be used for each piece to describe the jewelry, artist and provide contact information (website or e-mail).

Everyone should provide their piece ready for display secured to a frame, jeweler's display mount or other display piece. We would love everyone to use black or white as their background color so that there is uniformity in the background and the jewelry will stand out. More information will be distributed at a later date.



Let's Party!

Guest Teachers and New Classes

One of our many missions is to bring in instructors to share their experiences in various media. We are starting to look ahead to 2008 and need your input. A survey will be distributed to our members soon to find out more about our member and what workshops you would like to see next year. Your input is important, so please respond!

Some of the ideas bouncing around for 2008 include:

- Ceramic Beads (2-day class) with Jennifer Heynen. Try your hand at making some bright, funky colorful beads! Jennifer's work can be seen at her website www.jangles.net
- Dancing with the Rainbow, (2-day class) with Lindly Haunani. A multi-sensory class on the use of color in your designs
- (1 day class) with Loren Damewood. His recent prolong knot bracelet workshop was so much fun we are hoping to have him back with a wire woven ring class.
- A 1 or 2 day metal clay workshop with one of our local master instructors
- Wire Workshop/Retreat (2 to 3 days) with Janice Berkibile and Tracey Stanley

And don't forget both accredited and continuing education classes offered at Miami-Dade College in metalsmithing and PMC. For more information go to www.mdc.edu. As well as classes at Fairchild Gardens (www.fairchildgarden.org).

Please visit our website for details on these and many other educational opportunities.

Fall Art Shows

It is the season for the fall art shows throughout the State. Many of our members are represented at these juried shows, meaning that they had to apply and were selected to participate. Please support our members and introduce yourself when you see them at their booth.

- In the Park with Art - Coral Reef Park October 28th and 29th; Joyce Nelson
- Annual South Miami Art Festival, Sunset Drive, November 3rd and 4th, Joyce Nelson
- Annual Festival of the Masters, Downtown Disney, November 9th to 11th Adrienne Gaskell, Joyce Nelson
- Florida Craftsman Craft Art, Downtown St. Petersburg, November 17th and 18th, Joyce Nelson
- Naples Renaissance Fall Art Festival, Naples, Florida, November 24th and 25th, Joyce Nelson
- Winter Park Autumn Art Festival, October 13th and 14th Adrienne Gaskell
- Great Gulfcoast Art Festival, Pensacola, November 2nd to 4th, Adrienne Gaskell

If you are going to be in a show, let us know!
Deadline for the next newsletter in December 15th.

New Books Available

A new book *New Directions in Metal Clay* by Cece Wire is now available showing some of the many advancements in the use and design of metal clay. One of our guild members, Tia Vellani has a piece highlighted in this book.

Two new bead weaving books are now available *The Art of Beaded Beads* by Jean Campbell and *A Comprehensive Guide to Off-Loom Bead Weaving* by Carol Huber Cypher. *The Art of Bead Embroidery: Techniques, Designs and Inspirations* by Heidi Kumli and Sherry Serafini is beautiful! And there is a third in a series of micro-macrame *Let's Mix It Up* by



This is Tia's piece that is in the new metal clay book!

Kristine Buchanan. Donna Kato has a new book out *The Art of Polymer Clay Creative Surface Effects*. And in January 2008, Laura McCabe will have a book out *Creating Crystal Jewelry with Swarovski*. I am sure there are more, so no matter what area you work in, there is plenty to choose from.



Organizational Tips and Techniques

If you have found a storage solution that really works well in your workspace for storing beads, findings, semi-precious, wire, you name it, please share it with us. We would like to know for our January Meeting "***I've Just Got to Get Organized!***". If you broke through the barrier and have created an organized space, take a picture and e-mail it with a description of what makes it work for you. If it's a special storage system write down where you purchased it (phone number, address and/or website that would be great) and forward the photos and info to adriennegaskell@msn.com.

Guild Survey

A member survey will be distributed at the next couple of meetings and via e-mail to find out more about our members and listen to what directions you would like to see us move in. We are planning to increase the number of workshops available to members but need to know what your interests are. Do you want a completed project at the end of the class or are you interested in expanding your skills and learning concepts of design? We need to have your response by the end of October so that they can be compiled and used to help us make the right decisions and plans for 2008.

December—Silent Auction

We having a Silent Auction as part of the December Gala on Thursday, December 20th. We are encouraging our members to contribute to the auction by submitting one of their pieces of jewelry for auction or another form of their expression (quilters, painters, wood turners, etc.) or solicit a gift certificate from various places of business that you frequent.

A percentage of the proceeds will go to charitable work such bead classes and projects for the young women of Casa Valentina. If you would like to make a donation please contact either Barbara Skigen (besski@bellsouth.net) or Myriam Ribenboim (ribenboim.m@erm.com).

"Creativity is allowing yourself to make mistakes. Art is knowing which ones to keep."

-Scott Adams

Join Us

Meetings

**Third Wednesday of Each Month
(until December, then its Thursdays)
South Miami Elks Lodge
6304 SW 78th Street**

6:30 to 7:00 pm. Informal Socializing
7:00 to 9:00 pm. Meeting

Check our website www.sfjag.org for the monthly presentation or demonstration. We invite you to come by and join us, and welcome any ideas and suggestions. **Please note that meetings move to Thursday night starting in December.**

Contacts

Adrienne Gaskell—President

adriennegaskell@msn.com

Maria Perez-Ferreiro—1st Vice President

Mpf_consulting@yahoo.com

Bernadette Denoux—2nd Vice President

eclectiq01@aol.com

Cathy Messina—Secretary

teacup363@aol.com

Maureen Shankey—Treasurer

mshankey16@hotmail.com

Cathy Kononoff—Showcase Chair

newfmama@comcast.net

Phyllis Haines—Co-Showcase Chair

Lynn Yuhr—newsletter editor

lynnyuhr@bellsouth.net

Mailing Address:
8780 SW 150 Terrace
Miami, Florida 33176

Website: www.sfjag.org
E-mail: info@sfjag.org