

Inspirations

A newsletter by and for the SFJAG

Volume 1, Issue 1

September 2007

Welcome to the inaugural issue of *Inspirations*. We are hoping that the information contained in these few pages will inform, instill and yes, inspire you to become more active in pursuing your art and participating in both the guild and our art community. The South Florida Jewelry Arts Guild is a very diverse group that represent novices to professionals in a variety of jewelry and art mediums. I look forward to hearing from you and hope you will share your experiences, happenings in our community and great ideas.

Regards,
Lynn Yuhr, Editor

SAVE
THE
DATE

JAG Holiday Spectacular

Thursday
December 20, 2007

Finding Inspirations by Maureen Shankey

I don't look for inspiration. For several years I did NO art work. I spent my art time filling myself with images of nature, art, and interesting arrangements of everyday objects. I have collections of shells, rocks, sticks, stones, fabric and books that continually charm me. I mastered the principles and elements of design, making them part of me.

I have a muse! When it is time to work I just sit still and let her guide me. I let the piece of work participate in the process, allowing decisions to be

"If I create from the heart, nearly everything works; if from the head almost nothing."

-Marc Chagall

abandoned and new directions to emerge. Right brain is where art comes from and the left brain is where language comes from so it is a wordless process, everything needed has been internalized. I advise artists who are developing a process of creativity to FILL themselves with images, study design and to just let them develop without trying to be absolutely in charge of everything. And I recommend reading *Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain*.

My collections started when I was four or five with rocks. When I was five years old and lived across the street from the Gulf of Mexico there was a jungle in my backyard. I spent every allowance on art supplies. So it has been a life long process.



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Laurie Yoder's award
-winning creation
"The Apple Tree. "

Congratulations to Laurie Yoder

Our own Laurie Yoder has won the Japan Jewellery Designers Association Chairman's Award at the 2007 Silver Accessories Contest sponsored by Art Clay World for her piece entitled The Apple Tree.

The theme this year was "change". The concept was everything in this universe is constantly changing and the challenge was to show the changes within your heart, mind or anything else that you wish to express.

"Life is a series of changes, and changes are necessary for growth. In

nature, the simple apple seed changes into a fruitful tree. Similarly, an artist should welcome change, so growth can take place in awareness and creativity, resulting in artistic accomplishments," explains Laurie.

Laurie is a metalsmith, who began experimenting with metal clay in 2001. She is certified in both Precious Metal Clay as well as Art Clay Silver. We are honored to have her as a member of the guild



Felted beads.

August Meeting—Felted Beads

By day, Dr. Dee Dee Skigen is a Mental Health Counselor and expert in Child Play Therapy. After hours, she indulges her creative side.

A few years ago, the long-time knitter was looking for something more creative to do with her skills. She began experimenting with felting (typical scientist.....).

The unique needle felting techniques she has developed will be demonstrated at our August meeting. You won't want to miss this

presentation. The felting process is amazing! A small area will be set up for those willing to get their hands wet to try a little felting themselves.

Dee Dee is a woman of many talents. You may have seen her beautiful woodturning at the Beaux Art Show or the Ramble at Fairchild Tropical Gardens. She is also a member of the South Florida Fiber Artists.



Pearls, Pearls, Pearls

September Meeting—Pearls

When it comes to pearls there is always plenty to choose from. But have you ever wondered what exactly you were buying or whether they were a good deal? Well, a member of GIA (Gemological Institute of America), Marisa Zachovay, will join us for a lecture on pearls in September.

The GIA was founded in 1931 as a non-profit center for education and research. The GIA has become a renown source of information and a

world leader in education. We are fortunate to have available to us some of their courses in Fort Lauderdale during the month of September. Classes include:

- Diamond Grading,
- Gem Identification,
- Colored Stone Grading, and
- Pearl Grading.

Please visit their website www.gia.edu for more information.

Guest Teachers and New Classes

One of our many missions is to bring in instructors to share their experiences in various media.



Prolong Knot
Loren Damewood
August 25th
Location:
Pinecrest Gardens

The Prolong Knot uses one strand of wire throughout, bent around in a bracelet shape. All supplies and tools will be provided. The cost for the class is \$105. Loren's work can be seen at his website www.golden-knots.com.

Accredited and Continuing Education Classes Offered at Miami-Dade College

Maureen Shankey is teaching jewelry and metalsmithing at Miami-Dade. Classes are being offered both Mon/Wed evenings and Tues/Thurs mornings. Continuing Ed classes are being offered in metal clay and PMC certification 2.

For more information go to www.mdc.edu.

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

Save The Date! December 20th Celebration and Silent Auction

Save the date for SFJAG's event of the year on Thursday, December 20th. This holiday celebration will feature appetizers, desserts, wine, a silent auction, a display of guild members jewelry and much more.

Friends, family and other community artisans will be invited to join us. The event is designed to:

- Celebrate our accomplishments,
- Introduce ourselves to potential new members,

- Create ties between associated guilds and organizations, and
- Raise funds to further SFJAG goals.

Lynn Yuhr and Linda Landy will be chairing this exciting event. To get involved, please contact Lynn at lynnyuhr@bellsouth.net or Linda at llandy@bellsouth.net.

Though still in the planning stages, the event promises to be one to remember. Watch the newsletter and website for more information,

“Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once they grow up.

—Pablo Picasso

Birthday Present Raffle

All members, please remember to bring a wrapped present (minimum \$10 value) to the meeting of your birthday month. We will be raffling off these presents at each meeting. Raffle tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. If you miss the meeting in the month of your birthday, please bring it the next time you attend. In June we raised \$52 from the birthday raffle and only had one present! This has been a fun way to raise a little money and ohhhh open a present.





Reminder - 2007/2008 Membership Dues

The dues for 2007/2008 will be \$65 (\$45 dues +\$20 assessment). Last year's assessment provided us with funds to pay our rent for two years. At the May meeting, the membership voted to continue the assessment to raise money for the much needed camera/projector for meeting presentations. Make check payable to Jewelry Arts Guild and give to Adrienne Gaskell or Maria Perez-Ferreiro at the meeting, or mail to: SFJAG, 8780 SW 150th Terr, Palmetto Bay, FL 33176.

Goal Met

Your assessment dollars have been successful! One of our goals was to purchase an audio/visual system for the guild. The system allows the projection onto a large screen of a technique or demo being done at the front of the class so that everyone attending can benefit from the demo. We are just getting too big to crowd around a table. With your help and financial support a camera, projector and screen has been purchased.

New Meeting Day!!

Because our numbers are growing so fast, we have decided to move our meeting place into the larger room at the Elk's Lodge. This requires us to make a change to Thursday instead of Wednesday nights. December will be our first Thursday night meeting. Meetings will be held the third Thursday of each month. We promise to send out many more reminders, but wanted you to know as soon as possible.

Ideas, Suggestions, Contributions

We need you now more than ever as our membership increases. You are the guild. Your participation, feedback, contacts, ideas and contributions are what make us who we are. While we can't do everything, we sure can try, so share with us and help us grow.

Join Us

Meetings
Third Wednesday of Each Month
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.**

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