



# Florida Society Of Goldsmiths

**It's Here! Time to Register!**

**NE Chapter of Florida Society of Goldsmiths**

**January 2 - 7, 2011**

**Plaza Resort and Spa, Daytona Beach, Florida**

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Instructors:

**Juan Carlos Caballero-Perez**  
**John Cogswell**  
**Andy Cooperman**  
**Bill Fretz**  
**Marilynn Nicholson**



This exciting week of instruction with metalsmiths from across the country includes 2 sessions of classes, 10 to choose from in all.

Spaces are still available in all classes, but they are filling up quickly.

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<http://app.expressemailmarketing.com/get.link?linkid=2236460&subscriberid=119662204&campaignid=592615&linkurl=http%3a%2f%2fwww.fsgne.com%2f>

**Download workshop details and registration forms TODAY!**

**Questions?** <http://us.mc355.mail.yahoo.com/mc/compose?to=fsgne@yahoo.com>

or call Karen 386-871-9070 or Chris 386-801-0959

## Message from the President...

—Lisa Compagnone



Have you ever had someone state an observation that initially seemed rather obvious or simplistic, but begins to resonate more and more strongly as time goes by? At the first Revere Academy East held at Wildacres in 2001, Alan Revere said during the opening night's presentation that one of the reasons he gravitated towards jewelry arts was because jewelry is so often associated with moments of great happiness, love and significant occasions in life, as opposed to, say, being a divorce attorney. So while I agreed with Alan, it didn't rock my world.

Fast forward to present times where I own a working metal studio and gallery featuring custom jewelry. People come in for different reasons – to get out of the Florida heat, browse around or buy a vacation memento. But to work with someone who wants me to create a symbol of how deeply they love another person brings the designer into the orbit of the celebration which changes the entire process for me. The customer's expression the first time they see the finished piece and it exceeds their expectations is an unbelievable rush. Huge smiles, big hugs for everyone and a few teary eyes, mine included. Turning a nice piece of jewelry into a cherished family heirloom is incredibly gratifying.

So Alan, you were right – we really do have the best job in the world. It just took me awhile to finally get it.

Til next time,

Lisa

## State VP Appointment

I'm very happy to announce that Deb Blazer, NE Chapter, has accepted and been appointed to the position of State FSG Vice President. Deb's exceptional organizational and artistic skills will be an asset to FSG for years to come.

The slate of officers to be voted on at the State Board Meeting in August is as follows:

**President, Lisa Compagnone**

**Vice President, Deb Blazer**

**Secretary, Bev Fox**

**Treasurer, Joyce Howell**

# Director's Perspective... Tips and Tricks

—Jean Marie DeSpiegler



Through out the years we find we do many things automatically, and have to stop and think when someone questions us as to why and where did you learn that neat trick? A lot of the time we have no idea why or how or even when we learned... Well this is the column where we can learn some of those nifty tips, tricks and timesavers, maybe even money savers and pass them on to others.

When you drop something tiny on the floor, put your cheek against the floor and scan for the item. This works better than looking at it from above.

To sharpen an automatic center punch, unscrew the center punch; being careful to not lose the springs and see what order in which everything will need to be replaced. Place the actual punch, which is usually a sharpened steel rod, into the chuck of a flex shaft and use a sharpening stone or separating disc to achieve the proper angle at the tip.

Use nickels when soldering since the solder won't stick to the nickel very well. This allows you to use them to balance items of unequal height or use them as heat sinks. They will discolor from the heat, but can be used forever.

To 'draw' the finest line on silver, first color the area with a permanent marker in a dark color and then scribe the line. The silver scored line is much easier to see and more precise than an ultra fine marker. Any mistakes in the scribed line might be able to be burnished out so that you can start over.

A sewing needle used to replace the graphite in a mechanical pencil as a handy scribe and can be safely stored to travel to workshops.

If you find something inspiring, don't just draw your idea; try to also capture the inspiration either through a photograph or small box for your finds. It may inspire other ideas or helps you to realize a detail that sparked your imagination.

You can cut a groove in the front edge of your bench to stop small stones, rivets, or other round items from rolling onto the floor.

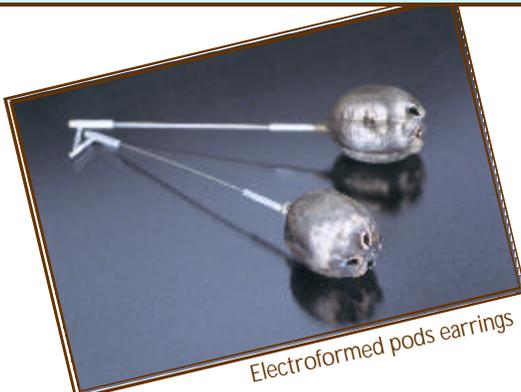
A traditional fire scale preventative is made of a saturated solution of granular boric acid in denatured alcohol in a squat glass jar with a tight fitting lid or rubber ring with a clamp on the glass lid. To use; dip the metal into the solution, place on soldering pad and light with torch to burn off the alcohol. Repeat this three times and secure the jar lid and remove from area. Then solder as usual. The boric acid is a compound in some fluxes and does not interfere with the solder. You can not use this with an anti-flux, as they will both be rendered useless. You can find granular boric acid as a roach preventative, but look for a brand without any inert ingredients which are just filler. The denatured alcohol has much less water than rubbing alcohol and is very flammable, so be careful.

I took a great class with Rhonda Coryell on fusing of granulation to Argentium silver and the most important tip she gave on Argentium is to not touch it while it is hot or very warm. A friend recently complained that it had cracked while she was soldering and when questioned she said she probably did either push a bezel flat onto the piece while soldering or had picked it up too soon. There is a published articles on Argentium by Cynthia Eid on the Ganoksin Orchid list and I recommend it highly.

Now it's your turn; What nifty tip and or trick can you share with the rest of us?

# Meet our Members

—Jean Marie DeSpiegler



Electroformed pods earrings



Enameling Extraordinaire

Amy Reeves, an FSG Member from Washington State, has been featured frequently in Art Jewelry magazine; most recently in the January 2010, in her article "Learn Electroforming". Her work is shown in "500 Bracelets" and has been in many exhibitions in Washington.

She took her first jewelry making class at Pratt Fine Arts Center in Seattle. It was a hobby and side business for many years until in 2001 when she made it a goal to make a living solely with her jewelry making skills. After earning a BFA in Metal Design from the UW and taking many workshops with national known masters of metalsmithing, she began teaching and found that she really got a lot from encouraging and nurturing creativity in others. She feels that she is an arts educator first and a metalsmith second.

Reeve's very favorite techniques are fabrication and electroforming with her inspiration coming from exploring new techniques, new mediums, and new ideas. "I think that is why I am drawn to teaching. Prepping for class often means experimenting." Says Reeves. "My Dad gave me the good advice of: find what you love to do and then figure out how to make a living at it.

Reeves feels her work tries to mimic organic surfaces and structures, and patterns found in the behavior of nature. Her favorite tools are her torches. "I love soldering! It still seems as magical to me as the first time I watched that ball of solder run into a line down the seam between two pieces of metal."

Reeves would love to take more workshops, but has recently opened a business to teach classes in Tacoma WA; called Tacoma Metal Arts Center and you can find information about it online at <http://www.tacomametalarts.com/>. Her work is currently on display in the Anita London Memorial display case at the Morean Arts Center in St. Petersburg, FL

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## The Pennsylvania Society of Goldsmiths...

—Jean Marie DeSpiegler

...president **Christopher Darway** is proud to announce that PSG has established a scholarship fund "**The Phil London and PSG Founders Scholarship**" in honor of their founder, Phil London. The \$1,000 scholarship is available to a metal/jewelry student attending a four year college or university in the state of Pennsylvania and is applied to their tuition. Phil London also is a founder of FSG.

We all share in the excitement of this great honor. Congratulatory emails may be sent to Phil at [FSG@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:FSG@tampabay.rr.com)

## Attention All Lapidary Enthusiasts!!

—Jenaay Brown

There are 2 great lapidary clubs in the Greater Tampa Bay Area. Both offer classes in lapidary arts, beading, silversmithing and more!

Suncoast Gem and Mineral Society in St. Petersburg, FL <http://sgams.com/index> . SGAMS is a member of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, which in turn is a member of the American Federation.

Tampa Bay Mineral and Science Club in Brandon, FL [www.tampabayrockclub.com](http://www.tampabayrockclub.com) . This club will be hosting their 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show and Sale on October 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> in Riverview, FL. Check their website for more details.

Let us know if you know of other gem, mineral and lapidary groups throughout the state. We all have some very common interests—gems and other beautiful stones!

Editors note: I Googled: American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, clicked on Clubs and then scanned through to Florida and found quite a few through out the state.

## From the (new) Editor

—Valerie Harmon-Curtis  
[vjhjc@yahoo.com](mailto:vjhjc@yahoo.com)



I am a fairly new resident of Florida, having moved from Tolleson, AZ in the spring of 2008. Tolleson is 17 miles SW of Phoenix. My Family were pioneers in AZ and the Southwest. One of my Great Grandfathers was the first City Marshall of Globe, Gila Co. And on the other side of the family a Great Uncle was the Federal Marshall for 20 years of the whole South East corner of AZ. Both have streets named after them, one in Globe, the other in Miami, Gila Co.

My interest in jewelry goes back to my childhood when my Dad gave my Mother a Sapphire and Aquamarine white gold ring for their 10th anniversary. My six year old self coveted that beautiful ring and it became mine when I was 21. My first custom piece was a sentimental piece of Apache Tear. I was so enthralled watching that Hippy create a pendant for me. I knew then, I wanted to learn how to do that. I took classes and read every book I could find. Years later I was able to attend GIA and was about half way through a GG program when life got in the way and I was unable to finish. I continued to take jewelry classes, mostly from Parks and Recreation and Gem and Mineral Club instructors until I moved here. I have resumed taking online classes from GIA, perusing books, magazines, searching the web and asking questions. I also teach beading classes at one of Pensacola's Parks and Recreation facilities.

I have been doing school newspapers, church programs and restaurant menus ever since they were run off on spirit duplicator machines in the '50's & '60's. The first big newsletter I did was for an international service club in the '70's when I lived in Hawaii. I typed that one on an IBM selectric and sent it off to the printer. I have continued to do newsletters, brochures, business cards and church programs where ever and when ever there has been a need and they would let me. A couple of years ago I attended the meeting to re-organize the FSG chapter in Pensacola and volunteered at that time to do their Newsletter and I was hopeful when I read FSG State was looking for new editor for the quarterly Newsletter and immediately sent off an e-mail offering my services. I am truly delighted to be your new Newsletter Editor.

# Announcements

## Hello Fellow Artisan,

Chris Hierholzer and I are putting together a fund for the families in Louisiana whom have been directly affected by the Oil Spill. I know you have seen what is happening here in our neighborhoods. Many people are in need of help.

We've organized a Charity Auction on eBay Giving Works that will take place during the months of September and October for which a number of jewelry artists have already donated one of their pieces to be auctioned off. We're are looking for more artists to contribute pieces to the auction, and we'd greatly appreciate it if you would mention the project in an upcoming newsletter.

Here are the details:

All pieces must be donated. 100 percent of the proceeds from each auction will go to Louisiana's Second Harvest Food Bank, which has seen an increase in patrons since the oil spill first happened.

If you would like to participate, please send us a high-quality photograph of a jewel you would like to donate, please attach your name on the image, along with the image send a description of that item and a link to your website (if applicable) for the listing no later than August 15<sup>th</sup>. If you have a mini bio, please send that as well, since many consumers like to "meet the artist" that they are purchasing from.

There will be little hassle for your involvement, and all listings will mention the generous donations from each participating artist, which will likely drive traffic back to your website. We can also provide a "Giving Works" badge that you can put on your site to point people to your auction item.

Once your item has been bid on and the auction closes, all you'll have to do is ship the item to the highest bidder. eBay Giving Works will take care of handling all payments. I will contact you with shipping details.

We will be promoting the auction through various PR activities to generate consumer interest in the auction items and recognition of all of the artists who donate.

Some of the artists that have already contributed are Tom McCarthy, Jerry Scavezze, Patsy Croft, Brenda Radford, Ileana Rojas Bennett, Carolyn Bensinger, Chris Hierholzer, Mary Timmer, Ray Parisi and Mary McBride.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Thanks for your consideration,

Patsy Croft

"Jewelers for the Gulf"

[Patsy@patsycroft.com](mailto:Patsy@patsycroft.com)

205 478 9977

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# Greater Pensacola Chapter

—Chris Bowen, Kristina Weick

Our Summer started off on a high note at our June Chapter meeting with a demonstration/mini class in Stone Setting by co-President Chris Bowen. He brought his tools, stones, settings, bench-mate as well as a ring clamp to show us different methods and how circumstances would dictate why one should choose one method over the other. He explained each tool, how to use it and the advantages, each step along the way, how to hold the Setting Burrs in the Flex Shaft and from start to finish how to create the seat, and using his bag of tricks including deliberately (at least he said it was deliberate) making a mistake so we could also learn how to fix our own mistakes. To finally setting the stone. It was very informative and went a long way toward taking the mystique out of stone setting.

Our relationship with our new home at the beautiful Sanders Beach Corinne Jones Community Center continues to solidify. They have allotted us three weekly time slots. 10 am to 1pm on Mondays which has had Steve Robinson teaching during Session #1 Soldering Skills. Session #2 Metal Beads. Session #3, starting 8/2 will be: Earrings, Earwires: Exploring Design, Construction and Materials.

Open shop is available from 3pm to 8pm on Mondays as well.

Kristina Weick is on tap to teach Rings, Rings, Rings on Thursday's from 5pm to 8pm.

Joe Cunningham will give a mini demo on Chasing and Repousse at our 8/11 membership meeting.

Four GP Chapter members were able to attend WildAcres this past spring and judging from the pictures sent to us they had a great time. [Here are excerpts from one of our newest members, Deb Lyons, first experience at WildAcres] " The information overload the first day had my head spinning! I have to admit I was very intimidated when I saw how advanced some were. I pressed on and by the end of the week felt I had gained so much knowledge and experience. - After classes we also had the time to meet the rest of the group and this provided the opportunity to establish new friendships. "

## Opportunities

Entries now being accepted for  
Art Buzz 2011,  
a 'coffee table' book.  
<http://www.artbuzz.org/competition.html>

Gasparilla Festival of the Arts 2011,  
Tampa, FL  
is now taking applications.  
Deadline is September 28  
Applications: [www.zapplications.org](http://www.zapplications.org)  
Show website:  
<http://www.gasparilla-arts.com/>

Stephanie Polk  
applied for the  
studio makeover,  
so let's all keep our fingers  
crossed that she gets it!

# North East Chapter

—Chris Carlson



Instructor Adrienne Gaskell  
"kumihimo pajama party"



Linda McCauley  
NE Board Member

No "summer vacations" over here!

Without even catching our breath from our spring schedule that included Bill Fretz, Brenda Burd-nik and Marilyn Nicholson, the Northeast Chapter began its ambitious summer schedule with a new beginners program designed and conducted by Sonja Marshall-Bone. Other programs sched-uled this summer include kumihimo with Adrienne Gaskell, torch file enamels with Chris Heirhol-zer, texturing cabochons, chasing and repousse, & hydraulic press with Tom & Kay Benham, be-ginning enamel and screen printing enamel techniques with Kathy Wilcox, and Concrete for Fun and Profit with Tom McCarthy.... Yes, folks, that's just the *summer* schedule! In addition, our Open Studio program is alive and well with a once-a-week opportunity for members to come and work and share ideas thanks primarily to Linda McCauley's dedication to keeping the doors open.

Treasurer/Registrar Lori Hunter keeps us all in suspense as the drum roll sounds and we get our weekly updates on the Winter Workshop registrations. Our Early Bird response was over-whelming, and a couple of the classes are already very close to reaching capacity. *You know you want to be there.....so why wait?* Mail your application and check today for the best chance of get-ting your favorite instructor. Is it Andy, Marilyn, Bill, Carlos or John? Call or email [fsgne@yahoo.com](mailto:fsgne@yahoo.com) Co-Chairs Karen Tweedie 386.871.9070 or Chris Carlson 386.801.0959 with any questions.

We had some studio "upgrades"—literally—with Sid Sharples raising the legs on half of our stu-dio benches, bringing them up to standard bench height.

In addition to our beautiful and informative website that is created and maintained by Karen, be sure to visit our Blog. Sonja creates the blog, and while they share *some* of the same information, you can be sure you won't miss any news by visiting both—and often! You can check our chap-ter's calendar of classes by going to the blog, and then clicking on the Open Studio link on the right side of the page.

If you love shopping Amazon, please make our website your first stop and then use the Amazon link so we can get credit for your purchase. Every penny helps ... and we're not kidding!

We are thrilled to be able to offer such a wide variety of classes and workshops all year long, and we are very appreciative of every member who participates.

With our sincere thanks, Karen, Chris, Lori, Linda, Sonja & Sid



Jenaay Brown WC (Honorary NE)  
at Cab Carving Class



Tom & Kay Benham, Instructors @ Cabochon Carving Class

# South East Chapter

—by Tracey Egert



President Terry Walker



Carol Entin



Fabrizio explaining....

Our new president Terry Walker has kept things moving in our chapter. She conducted a very thorough/informative workshop in April on Acetylene torch use. She covered everything from A to Z – and then some - helping to relieve the fears of new-to-soldering people as well as empowering others with good, sound safety guidelines.

At our April general meeting members had a chance for some “hands on” participation as Carol Entin verbally and visually walked us through how to draw wire beginning with a “lump” of metal and ending with wire of the gauge of your choice/need. She made it look so easy as she pointed out the advantage of being able to “create” the wire you need for a specific application right when you need it.

Amy Wolsky presented a great wax carving demo at the May meeting.

The SE Chapter “ramps up” again in October (15, 16 & 17) with a 3 day workshop by John Cogswell. We can’t get enough of this guy! Then in November Juan Carlos Caballero will be teaching his first SE Chapter workshop. Topics for both workshops will be decided soon so stay tuned for announcements/details. FSG-SE will be having a juried show at the Armory Arts Center in West Palm in January 2010. The show is open to **all** members of FSG - local chapters and at-large members. Installation will be on January 3rd. The reception will be on January 14th at 6:00 p.m. Hours of the show are 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Saturdays. Take down will be on February 26th by 2:00 p.m. Prizes will be awarded in different categories. There will be a modest application fee. Further “details” and the name of the juror will be announced soon.

Beth Katz will be teaching 2 workshops at the Armory Arts Center in West Palm Beach this fall. The first one, Hollow Rings will be November 13, 14 & 15. The second class, Flatware, will be December 11, 12 & 13. Tuition, which includes lunch, will be announced soon. Check the Armory Arts Center website <http://www.armoryart.org/> for further information.

Susan Lewis has been busy teaching at her studio in Davie and “hitting the road”. In March, she taught two metal clay classes for Interweave Bead Fest in Santa Fe, NM. Coming up in August, she will teach three metal clay classes for Bead Fest Philadelphia, August 20-23. Here is their web site: [Bead Fest Philadelphia: August 20-22, 2010](http://www.beadfestphiladelphia.com/). They have a great Market Place and it is a fun show.

Susan is planning some workshops at her Davie studio beginning in 2011 and will be resuming regular classes in September 2010. The new class schedule should be available on her website, [www.SJLMetalArt.com](http://www.SJLMetalArt.com) sometime in August. Her students are busy and creative. One of them, Charlene Klanfer, had 3 pieces accepted for the PMC Guild Exhibition: *Cultural Messages: Symbolism through the Ages* that will be at Purdue University this summer in conjunction with their Conference, and also will be included in the [PMC Guild Annual](http://www.pmcguild.com/).

# North West Chapter

— Sandi Jones

FSGNW had a whirlwind year with yet another move to a new studio – our 6<sup>th</sup> move since our chapter began over 15 years ago. Our new space is a charming small cottage surrounded by big oak trees on the property of the LeMoyne Center for the Visual Arts. LeMoyne is the oldest and one of the most highly respected arts organizations in Tallahassee, so we are thrilled to join them and they are happy to have us. We were able to confidently move our studio with the offer of a loan from the West Coast Chapter, which thankfully, we haven't needed – yet. Their support means a lot to us.

The most fun we had this year was when we brought Fred Woell and his wife Pat Wheeler to Tallahassee in March. Fred taught a PMC certification class one weekend and a bead making class the next weekend. Both workshops were very successful. Fred has a special place in the hearts of many of our members who have taken workshops from him over the years. We love his humor and teaching techniques. Our chapter, as usual, showed Fred and Pat warm hospitality, and we ended their visit with a big party at the home of Quincie and her husband Bill.



Our chapter has conducted many successful workshops over the year, most of which have been taught for free by chapter members. We also had a summer social, hosted and organized by Suzi Kamin, to celebrate the new studio where we raffled off donated goods to help raise money. In July, we began "open Studio" on Thursday nights for members. All of our activities are possible because of a great core group of dedicated members.

In October, our chapter will participate in and curate the semi-annual jewelry invitational show at LeMoyne. We have helped with the show many times over the past years and it always pushes our local jewelry artists to a new level. The show is very popular in Tallahassee and draws a big crowd. More importantly, it supports LeMoyne's art education programs and the future of the LeMoyne Art Foundation so we love being part of such an important community outreach.

As we reflected on the past year to write this report, we received news about Ronda Coryell's illness so it seemed fitting to acknowledge her contribution as one of the founding members of the NW chapter. From the beginning, Ronda was generous with her knowledge and had a vision of where FSG could take her and the rest of us. Ronda's enthusiasm, generosity and creative energy is still a force in our NW chapter and one of the reasons we are still a strong cohesive group today.

## South West Chapter

— Bob Small

We had our Ring of Fire exhibit and Joe Reppert took first place in jewelry & Bruce Carlson took 1st place in sculpture.



Sunday Fun Day we had Bev Fox teaching us reticulation.

SW Chapter has open studio on the 3rd Saturday of each month.

In our yearly challenge Bruce also took first place with his submarine tea strainer. (the theme this year was Fantasy Under the Sea).

Please visit our yahoo group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/fsgsouthwest/photos/album/0/list>

## Opportunities

Do you know of an FSG member that has an interesting story that they would share with our readers?

Please contact Jean Marie at:  
[fsgjm@earthlink.net](mailto:fsgjm@earthlink.net)

Hot Summer Arts in Stuart, FL

Deadline for September Show is August 7

[http://www.martinarts.org/includes/downloads/has\\_application.pdf](http://www.martinarts.org/includes/downloads/has_application.pdf)

Call for exhibitors + a fine arts competition at  
Marble Festival in Jasper, GA

Deadline 09/01/2010

<http://www.pickenschamber.com/Marble>

The Bakehouse Art Complex  
(Wynwood Arts District, Miami)

Is calling for artists, in all media,  
to represent one of the 7 deadly sins  
for their national, juried exhibition.

<http://www.bacfl.org/uploads/call%20to%artists.pdf>

# West Coast Chapter

—by Clara Ricker



## WEB SITE:

Visit [www.wcfsg.org](http://www.wcfsg.org) for information on our Chapter, upcoming workshops, and to view/borrow from our extensive lending library.

## WILDACRES:

Those that attended the 2010 WildAcres Summer Workshop had a great time in the mountains. The weather was beautiful with warm sunny days and cool evenings.

Participants had fun learning new skills with Betty Helen Longhi in "Shell Forming" with Jean Stark in "Loop in Loop Chains", John Cogswell's "Tiny Diminutive Teapots", Juan Carlos Caballero Perez in "Bi Metal" and Zack Noble's "Blacksmithing on a jewelry scale."

We had six days filled with good food, refreshments and a wonderful artistic experience we will all treasure for years to come. Thank you to all the participants and volunteers for making our 2010 Wildacres Summer Workshop such a successful and memorable event.

Next year will be the **West Coast Chapter's 25th Summer Workshop at Wildacres.** The Wildacres Committee has already started planning a fabulous event. Visit our web-site [www.wcfsg.org](http://www.wcfsg.org) early in 2011 to see more details.

## WORKSHOPS:

John Cogswell will be at Art Center Manatee in Bradenton on November 12, 13 and 14 for a workshop on "Clasps and Closures".

## WC METALS STUDIOS:

WC has three metals studios that we actively and economically support. Art Center Manatee, Morean Art Center and Hyde Park Art Center. We also have an ongoing relationship with the Florida Craftsman's Inc. All WC members can display their creations for sale at the Florida Craftsman's Gallery in St Petersburg. WC supports two high school metal arts programs, Largo High School and Youth Arts Corp of Pinellas at the Morean Art Center. We also provide assistance to the Pinellas Technical Education Center.

## WC LENDING LIBRARY:

Brenda Harrelson maintains our library of books, instructional CD's and tapes.

She is in the ongoing process of acquiring new technical CD's to replace the VHS recorded material. Please let Brenda know if there are books or CD's that we should purchase for the library.

The library material is available to all FSG members. There is a postage and handling charge for checking items out of the library. Brenda can be reached at: [baubleheaven@yahoo.com](mailto:baubleheaven@yahoo.com)

## CHAPTER / WORKSHOP INFORMATION:

Chapter Meets: 2pm – 3rd Sunday September - May

Visit our web site: [www.wcfsg.org](http://www.wcfsg.org) Contact: Clara Ricker (941) 713.3837 [claracricker@aol.com](mailto:claracricker@aol.com)

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Dining Hall

Diana Keenan —GP



Diana Keenan —GP



Diana Keenan —GP

West Coast  
Wildacres  
Summer  
2010

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

—Jenaay Brown & Jean Marie DeSpiegler

FSG wishes  
Phil London  
a speedy recovery

FSG wishes  
Chris Darway  
a speedy recovery

**Ronda Coryell** of the **Revere Academy** has been in the hospital and is ill with Guillain Barre. I thought I would fill you in a little bit about what is going on with Ronda. Guillain Barre (GB) is a very rare, but serious autoimmune disease where your body gets triggered by something, frequently a viral, bacterial or other infection. The immune system starts making antibodies against some protein in our own body causing an inflammatory reaction and lots of self destruction. In this case the target protein is in the covering over the nerve fibers.

Once triggered the body makes more and more of these antibodies causing more and more destruction. So the point of the current therapy she is having is to infuse into her blood stream some generic antibodies which should interrupt this process and hence stop the natural progression of destruction. Sort of like putting a lot of cars into all of the parking spaces so the cars with the bombs can't park and are taken out of circulation by other parts of the immune system. Kind of confusing isn't it? But the damage that has already been done will continue to cause chaos within her body.

We saw her feeling fine last week then a little weak on Saturday developing double vision thereafter and then lost coordination and unable to stand upright by Sunday and lost all reflexes in her arms and legs. Monday brought about paralysis of her arms and continuing weakness of her legs. Now since yesterday she is having trouble swallowing including her own saliva. So the next few days will be critical in terms of her breathing muscles her heart rhythm her blood pressure etc. She may need to go on a ventilator if she can't breathe on her own. This sure sounds scary but the good news is that the body can recover from this if the docs can support her until the healing can take place. The nerve fibers that have been damaged take a very long time to grow back and repair themselves thus the lengthy recovery. It can also be quite painful. This condition is so infrequent that figuring out prognosis and the course of any one patient is at best an educated guess based on what has been seen in the past. Sort of good news bad news, but hopeful that she will recover completely. Kaiser Hospital seems to be doing a great job. She will be in the hospital then in rehab for quite a while. I think sending lots of cards will cheer her up. I will continue to post as news comes in. Please feel free to pass this on and anyone who would like to be including in the loop I am happy to add their email address. Meanwhile your thoughts, prayers, and good wishes are what we can all do now and in the weeks and months ahead. I know that we will all be pulling for Ronda and helping her recover.

Many FSG members know her from her teaching (granulation, Argentium and more). In addition she used to live in Florida and, I believe, started the Tallahassee chapter of FSG. She teaches at Revere Academy of Jewelry Arts and is a world's expert or the world's expert in using Argentium Silver. She has talent as an artist and a teacher oozing out of every one of her pores. and their Ronda started on treatment IVIG two days ago and we hope this stops the progression of her symptoms. Right now she is in a lot of pain and is weak. Her family asks we not visit yet. I will continue to post and hopefully we can schedule visits so as to not overwhelm her. Ronda is the best. Her enthusiasm is legendary. She makes everyone feel welcome and talented. As a friend she stays connected and gives 150% in any relationship. She can stand up for her beliefs and convictions and does! She gives and gives and gives without questions or expectations of repayment. She so freely shares her love of jewelry making and her knowledge. She is well loved by those who know her.

I sent out the information on Ronda as soon as I received it and was unaware that the disease attacked Ronda in early July. I have an update that she is now home from the hospital after spending a month in the hospital and rehab. She has made remarkable progress in her recovery, but still has a long way to go. She was fortunate to have been diagnosed quickly and able to start treatment in the early stages of the diseases.

For those of you who do not know Ronda, she was a founding member of FSG and has taught for us numerous times. She is an instructor at Revere Academy of Jewelry Arts in San Francisco and is a phenomenal artist. There is a fund raiser being suggested to assist Ronda. I do not have all the details at this time and recommend the website that I mentioned earlier.

Jean Marie DeSpiegler

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# Florida Society Of Goldsmiths

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## **FSG Is Open To All Metal Artists**

FSG is known for its mission statement of Education in the Metal Arts for All. While our name is Goldsmith, many of our members work in silver and other metals as well. We welcome the curious collector as well the beginning and professional metalsmith. Our workshops are well known nationwide; as well as the tips that we try to include in every issue of our newsletter.

In 1999, FSG created the National Metalsmiths Hall of Fame. Artists, Educators, and Patrons are selected and recognized for their exceptional careers and achievements in metalsmithing and related fields. This project is funded entirely by donations.

Florida Society of Goldsmiths is run almost entirely by volunteers. Half of all membership stays in the members area to assist in running local programs. The other half is used to maintain our corporate charity (501 (c ) 3) non-profit status as well as host workshops nationwide.

FSG offers scholarships to FSG members to many of our major workshops. Details are available on our website. [www.fsg4u.com](http://www.fsg4u.com)



## **FSG Dues**

\$40 single—\$60 Dual  
\$20 student (18+ Fulltime)  
See FSG4U.com  
For membership application

## **FSG Lending Libraries open to all FSG members**

### **WC Chapter Library contact**

Brenda Harrelson—[baubleheaven@yahoo.com](mailto:baubleheaven@yahoo.com)

### **SE Chapter Library contact:**

Beth Katz—[bethkatz@aol.com](mailto:bethkatz@aol.com)

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### **DEADLINES for submissions:**

January 15 for February (Winter edition ~ April 15 for May (Spring edition)

July 15 for August (Summer edition) ~ October 15 for November (Fall edition)

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