The Orlando Area Polymer Clay Guild, formed in the fall of 2003, has continued to grow and thrive under the tutelage of many of the original members. We meet on the last Saturday of the month at the First Methodist Church in Winter Garden, Florida, and welcome anyone who would like to come and “clay” with us whether they are beginners or experienced enthusiasts. Each month a member of the guild or an invited guest gives a tutorial on a chosen clay technique. We are proud of our warm, sharing group of ladies, many travelling long distances to be there each month.

Right now, we are looking forward with great anticipation to our 7th Annual Orlando Clay

Fandango Retreat that will be held at the Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center on May 3-7, 2012. This all-inclusive 5-day, 4-night event provides an opportunity for formal instruction as well as a retreat-only option for those to who want to meet and clay with others, watch the demos, and participate in all the many available activities. We provide valuable goodie bags to each attendee and conduct an auction and raffle with great pieces of work from many well-known and highly-respected clay artists. There are door prizes and contests in which to participate as well as a brown bag swap and for the first time this year, a polymer clay pin swap. Attendees make the pins at home and bring them to Fandango to swap with other attendees during the retreat. There is no limit on the number to be made; participants are bounded only by the number of pins they want to trade.

Some of our past retreats have featured world-famous talented instructors such as Donna Kato, Judy Belcher, Leslie Blackford, Kim Cavender, Lindly Haunani, Julia Sober, Sarah Shriver, Maureen Carlson, Christi Friesen, Lynn Schwarzenberg, Dan Cormier and Tracy Holmes, Julie Picarello, and Penni Jo Couch. Additionally, we have had the opportunity to view demonstrations at Fandango by many well-known artists such as Carol Blackburn, Kathy Davis, Suzanne Ivester, Barbara McGuire, Linda Hess and many more.

This year, we are fortunate to have three very talented instructors: Meredith Arnold, Doreen Kassel, and Barbara McGuire. Each instructor will conduct a 1-day workshop for 3 days as the retreaters rotate through their classes. In addition, we have impromptu and scheduled demos provided by Linda Hess, Alice Stroppel, Nancy Welch and others who want to share their expertise. Susan Clark, a guild member and one of our participating vendors, will also be teaching kumihimo braiding for those who want to use this lovely art in making their polymer clay jewelry.

We have provided photos to highlight some of the many things we have learned at our guild meetings and at last year's Fandango. Hope you enjoy them!

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Polymer Clay Guild Highlights Sharing about the guild with us at your WCA Guild Lounge Kathi

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