

The Dollmaker's Dispatch

Published Monthly by

Michigan Doll Makers Guild

Oldest Doll Club in Michigan, Chartered in 1978

<http://michigandollmakersguild.com/>

JULY 2008



Meeting - Wednesday, July 2

Michigan Doll Makers Guild will begin meeting on the first WEDNESDAY of each month starting with in July in the large room just inside the front door. . The Macomb Library is scheduling us for the first Wednesday evening of every month, beginning with July 2.

Program: How to Use a Bead Armature

MEETING DATE

Wednesday, July 2

Will be at

Regular Meeting Place:

Michigan Doll Makers Guild
Macomb Library
(16480 Hall Rd. (M59)

6:30 PM

(South/West Corner of Garfield
Road)

Clinton Twp, MI 48038-1132
586-286-6660

Future Meeting Dates

2008

August—Picnic

Member Beverly Loftis will present a demonstration on the proper use of bead armatures when making soft body dolls. The beads are available as finished armatures, or as a single length of beads which may be purchased along with different joints and tools for making custom armatures.

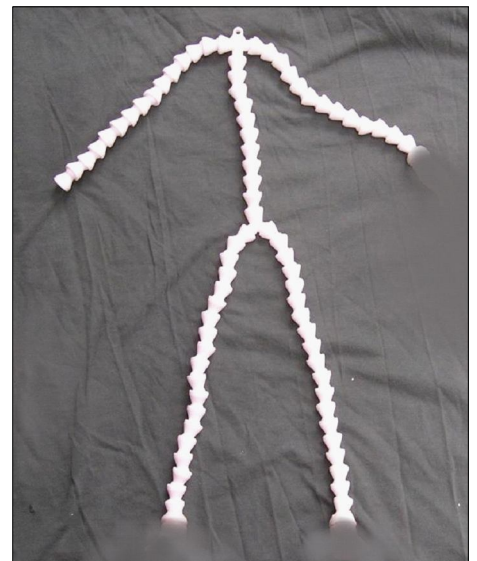
The beaded armature, although more expensive, creates a more stable doll with the ability to adapt to more intricate positions than the usual wire armatures.

Armature body beads, T or Y joints, or complete bodies may be purchased at most doll supply stores or online.

One online source is Mini World:

<http://www.miniworldolls.com/TS9Armature.htm>

Armatures of this type are appropriate for dolls with cloth bodies, whether the doll be of porcelain, polymer clay, vinyl, or other material.



2008 Executive Board

Diane Boatman—President

Linda McArthur—Vice President

Rita Paulus —Secretary

Ila Hoetger—Treasurer

Lorrie Cross—Membership Co-Chairmen

Barb Tornow—

Jane Covington—Newsletter Editor

JULY HOSTESSES - Rita Paulus, Diane Boatman, Karen Hayes, Karen Tracz

The calendar of programs for 2008:

January—Jane Covington (Video and use of heat set oil paints)

February—Meeting Canceled

March—Karen Hayes, Valentine Box

April—Ila Hoetger “Cartridge Pleating”

May—All Members—Ribbon Roses, Braids, and Other Trims

June—Diane Boatman,

“Miniature Millinery”

July—Beverly Loftis, “Bead Armatures”

August—Picnic

September—Linda McArthur

October—Karen Tracz

November—Rita Paulus

December—Christmas Party

Note: Again this year members are responsible for our programs. A member responsible for a program may choose among several types of doll related presentations such as:

Demonstration,

Informational (new products or methods)

Hands-on workshop,

Teaching new techniques (sewing, painting, etc)

Bringing a guest dollmaker,

Talk or picture show of doll museums, etc. visited

Displaying collections

Personal experiences in dollmaking

Any other informative topics or methods.

Madame Alexander Doll Company Becomes Stop on New York Gray Line Bus Tours

Effective immediately, the Alexander Doll Company has become the newest stop on the Gray Line Bus Tours of New York City! This is an impressive achievement, since it is the first time in fifteen years that Gray Line has revised their tour itinerary for this particular route of uptown New York .

If you want to take Gray Line to the Madame Alexander Doll Company, they are now stop #34 on the "hop on hop off" Double Decker Bus Tour Uptown Loop. The company is now open to visitors seven days a week from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, where visitors can see the museum-quality Madame Alexander Heritage Gallery and the Company Store.

The Heritage Gallery showcases the **85 year history** of the Alexander Doll Company, with hundreds of dolls from the Madame Alexander archives on display. There is also a showroom where guests can view the current year's collection. The Gift Shop offers discounts on retired dolls, sample dolls, and slightly imperfect dolls. Some items are deeply discounted.

Even if you are a New York resident or a collector of dolls visiting New York that isn't necessarily a tourist, if you take Gray Line to Madame Alexander you get a coupon for a very generous 15% discount on all items in the Company Store. If you want to make a day of it, I've been told by Madame Alexander representatives that Stop #34 also includes Harlem's "Dinosaur Bar-B-Qu" known for its Southern Fried food.

To purchase tickets for the bus tour, you can visit www.newyorkstseeing.com or call their number toll free: 800-669-0051.

Gems from the Internet !

Doll Artisan Guild International Convention in Orlando, FLA.

Special Dollmaking Exhibit: Grand Exhibit Of Royal Dolls By Ron Booker and Kristin Thor

<http://collectdolls.about.com/library/weekly/aa070800e.htm>

Presented were some of the fabulous dolls made by **Ron Booker** and Kristin Thor that were presented at the "Grand Exhibit Of Royal Dolls" at the Doll Artisan Guild International Convention in Orlando, FLA. Visit this site to see gorgeous dolls.

Butterfly Wings

By **Debbie Smith**

Have you tried free motion embroidery? here is a mini tutorial on how I made mine:

<http://mom99.blogspot.com/>



[dolls,puppets.ets](http://www.dolls,puppets.ets.com/)

Alexander Mergold

puppetry and dollmaker

<http://www.freewebs.com/amcreatures/>

Not only is his work awesome, he also makes and sells sculpting tools that you can't find anywhere else. (I just ordered a set of 3 sizes of tools for creating scales, like for mermaids, and a set of 5 tools for making various sizes of fingernails. Jane)



Don't miss this site!!

Beth Cavener Stichter—

Not exactly dollmaking, but the character of this sculptor's work is inspiring.



<http://www.followtheblackrabbit.com/>

Look What We Did !

This page is available for members to share Photos, Stories, etc. Items may be mailed to me or e-mailed. Both addresses (snail & e-mail) are available on page 4. Photos will be returned, if requested.

SHOW US WHAT YOU ARE WORKING ON!

Karen Hayes



I just finished this **original doll** which I sculpted in 1983 for my little granddaughter **Allison** who just turned eight years old. She saw the painted doll head lying on my work table downstairs where it had been for many years. She fell in love with it and wanted me to finish it for her.

I think it does look somewhat like her. The doll is sitting in a rocking chair which belonged to my **Grandfather Harris**. That isn't so unusual except that he was born in **1861** and was the last of thirteen children who had supposedly used this chair. That might explain why it's been repaired so many times!

Karen Hayes



From the Editor...

Wow! Thanks to the members who have brought such...

... interesting programs this year!! We have learned so many new things... ribbon trims, buckram hats with millinery wire shaping, cartridge pleats, and Karen Hayes' gorgeous Valentine box. We are all so much smarter now, I'm sure that I will have lots of good stuff for page 3. Keep those cards and letters (and pictures) coming!!

Now I have a **special request for members and associate members** - send me pictures of your first (or close to first, early) doll. I look at some of my early dolls and think, Gee—those look pretty good. So send them by e-mail or snail mail and we will all enjoy seeing them.

For those of you who are digital photo buffs—here is a terrific freebie to give your photos a bit of glitz! Photo editing doesn't necessarily take a complicated program. FotoFlexer takes commonly used tools and puts them online. You can edit your photos right on the Web site. Clear up blemishes and add neat effects. Tutorials are available for advanced features. Go to the following website and download to your Computer:
fotoflexer.com

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PLEASE READ THIS!!!

Starting with the May 2008 issue, this newsletter will be posted on the MDMG website. Members without access to the Internet will have their copies sent through the mail as usual. The newsletter may be printed from the website if desired.

The website is:

<http://michigandollmakersguild.com>



I ordered something called Incredible Shrinking Thread.

You do an embroidery design using this thread instead of traditional decorative thread. Then you steam it with your iron. The thread shrinks up, creating interesting texture similar to smocking. Right now it only comes in black, white, ecru, and gray. I guess if it catches on they will come out with lots of colors. I hope it works because it costs about \$4 a spool.

Meanwhile I guess I'd better keep it separate from the sewing thread... or I'll have some very interesting items—right up until they're pressed!!

See you at the meeting!

Jane Covington, Editor
covington2@aol.com

