

# The Dollmaker's Dispatch

Published Monthly by

*Michigan Doll Makers Guild*

Oldest Doll Club in Michigan, Chartered in 1978

<http://michigandollmakersguild.com/>

JUNE 2010



## MEETING - THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 2010

Michigan Doll Makers Guild will meet at 6:30 PM, Thursday, June 3, 2010 at the Flower Factory, 45160 Utica Park Blvd, Utica, MI 48315. Directions are included on page 2. Alesia Ruffin will continue helping those who did not finish their macrame' jewelry from the May meeting. Ila Hoetger will show a collection of dolls that she has collected on her travels.

### MEETING DATE

**Thursday,  
JUNE 3, 2010  
6:30 P.M.**

**Flower Factory**  
45160 Utica Park Blvd,  
Utica, MI 48315  
(586) 254-8182  
**Directions, p 2**

**Future Meeting Dates**  
**2010**

**First Thursday of each month**  
At the above address unless  
notified otherwise

### 2010 Executive Board

**Diane Boatman—President**  
**Linda McArthur—Vice President**  
**Rita Paulus —Secretary**  
**Beverly Loftis—Treasurer**  
**Barb Tornow—Membership**  
**Jane Covington—**  
Newsletter Editor

## Raffle Doll 2010



The MDMG raffle doll for this year is an antique reproduction By-Lo baby. This doll has been called “the million dollar baby of the Nineteenth Century” and was originated by Grace Putnam in Germany.

The doll was assembled and dressed by Diane Boatman. The head was china painted by Jane Covington from a photo of an original By-Lo doll. The eyes are German blown glass, as are found in all antique and requisite in antique reproduction German dolls. Tickets will go on sale this month.

JUNE HOSTESSES - Rita Paulus, Barb Tornow, Karen Tracz

**DIRECTIONS for Meeting Location  
Flower Factory Incorporated**

45160 Utica Park Blvd.

Utica, MI 48315

(586) 254-8182

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

The Flower Factory is located approximately 3 miles WEST (on Hall Rd.) of our previous meeting place, the Macomb Library. Turn right onto UTICA PARK PLACE BLVD. (just before the bridge over Hwy 53). The Flower Factory is a large store on the right about 0.2 mi..

**Madame Alexander Buys  
Lee Middleton Company**

Reference - News-Sentinel

The Lee Middleton Doll Company has been acquired by Alexander Doll Company," said CEO Robert Porell.

The company designs and manufactures all of the exclusive dolls for the Madame Alexander Doll Club. Lee Middleton Doll Co.'s purchase was made official Thursday.

Porell said there is a possibility the doll shop and former factory in Ohio will be purchased by the Alexander Doll Co. If this occurs, the Lee Middleton Doll store will remain open and Alexander Doll Co. shipping operations could move there.

Lee Middleton Doll Co. opened in Belpre, Ohio, in 1989 as the Middleton Doll Co. Lee Middleton retained the original company after a divorce and renamed it the Lee Middleton Original Doll Co.

Lee Middleton died in 1997.

The Alexander Doll Co. was founded by Madame Beatrice Alexander Behrman, whose father owned the first doll hospital in America, in 1923.

**Madame Alexander was the first to have a doll based on a licensed character - Scarlett O'Hara from "Gone With the Wind."**

**Gems from the Internet !**

**Online Fabric Retailers~**

I ran across an online list published by Threads magazine organized by product category which I felt was a "Treasure Chest" to anyone who enjoys sewing and costuming. I plan to publish the whole list a bit at a time. Here are some of the names and websites. Enjoy!!

**FUR, LEATHER, AND SUEDE**

H.E. Goldberg & Co. -

<http://www.HEGoldbergFur.com>

The Hide House - <http://www.HideHouse.com>

Leather, Suede, Skins, Inc. -

<http://www.LeanerSuedeSkins.com>

Montana Leather Company—

<http://www.MontanaLeather.com>

Oregon Leather Co. -

<http://www.OregonLeatherCo.com>

Tandy Leather Factory -

<http://www.TandyLeatherFactory.com>

**HEIRLOOM**

Adrienne's Attic - <http://www.Adriannes.com>

Martha Pullen, Co. -

<http://www.MarthaPullen.com>

**LACE, LINGERIE, AND BRIDAL**

Baltazor Fabric Boutique, LLC -

<http://www.Baltazor.com>

Elingeria (Germany) - <http://www.Elingeria.de>

F&S Fabrics - <http://www.FAndSFabrics.com>

Haberman Fabrics -

<http://www.HabermanFabrics.com>

Lace Land - <http://www.LaceLand.com>

Lace Heaven - <http://www.LaceHeaven.com>

Sew Sassy Fabrics -

<http://www.SewSassy.com>

TO BE CONTINUED

# 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!**

## "China Painting"



MDMG's newest member **ALESIA RUFFIN**, who is an accomplished sculptress, has embarked on a new phase of doll making— or, as she wrote:

**"I'm finally learning to china paint!!!! YAAAAAY!!!!!"**

She goes on to explain her new experience:

"Sorry the images are grainy— I took the pictures with my camera phone, - you still get the idea!

"The lady head is my practice piece, I think she's coming along nicely. If all goes as planned she will have grey/green eyes and soft brick lips, her shadow will be smokey and she will be costumed as a Flamenco Dancer, but right now she's looking a lot like Nefertiti (who happens to be one of my favorite historical characters as well as one of my many nicknames), so her costuming could very possibly change although the eye color is completely wrong for Nefertiti. The third photo is after the second firing ready for the third.

"The pouty head (middle right) is my second piece so that I can have a day of painting instead of just a few hours. This is my first layer of paint and has yet to be fired."

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The doll on the lower right shows the finished macrame' necklace that Alesia showed us how to make in our May meeting. Anyone still needing help can bring their work to the June meeting for further instruction.



# From the Editor...

## Time to start that Competition Doll!

Thanks to Alesia for sharing her experiences in beginning china painting!! Most of us have been there—and the first thing we learn is ...

...how wonderful it is to work in a media where mistakes are made over and over and the paint comes off instantly and we can begin again. Nothing is “engraved in stone” until it is kiln fired. I still remember when learning antique reproduction eyelashes—if I got even 2 or 3 really gorgeous—I fired them before they got ruined and worked new ones around them—sometimes 2 or 3 at a time. My first A. Marque doll lashes (each lash is split over a deep crease in the eyelid) were done over at least 100 times. They were gorgeous. My teacher fired them. I took the head home, got into the kitchen and dropped it on the floor and broke it into 2 pieces—a top head and a lower head. I was crushed. I did others, but I kept that first one and 20 years later glued the two pieces back together and made an adorable Christmas doll wreath with it!!

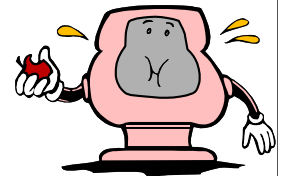


### MY A. MARQUE WREATH

Dollmakers have so many terrific choices to make—porcelain, cloth, original sculpt, to name a few—in the search for their “perfect doll”. It really is possible to keep on and on re-creating our childhood fantasies as we pursue our “perfect” doll.

See you at the meeting!

Jane Covington, Editor  
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