

## SANDY DODES

Sandy was the first born of 5 siblings, during a 1965 Michigan blizzard. She was a city girl for 30 years. In kindergarten, she showed the teacher how a square peg, DOES fit into a round hole. In the Talented and Gifted program, she learned of games from around the world; complex crafts like mosaics or weaving and extended science exploration. She liked to see how things fit together.

Her aunt and uncle were hard working "do-it yourself" folk. For two weeks every summer, their country home was an oasis of nature. During high school, Sandy joined marching band and took Tai Chi. She met her husband in stage crew. His Belgium grandma told her of an old art form called "Spelwerk".

Sandy was member of a lace making group (GLLG), showed off at craft shows and fairs. In the early 90s, she completed many intricate "doilies". She earned a second-degree black belt in Taekwondo (TKD), instructed and was scout leader for both of her children. Mending the family's clothes, dresses for a wedding and hand sewing patches, led to scrap quilting. Continued study illuminated Celtic knot designs for empty spaces. She figured out how to make fishermen nets for beans and cargo covers.

Her current full-time job along with her husband is living life as modern homesteaders. They preserve harvests; maintain an aquaponic greenhouse with 60+ fish and a small poultry yard. As a mentor in a Christian Bipolar support group, she uses her TKD training to share self-control techniques. That same training keeps her from chaos by constructively redirecting life's extra energy. Metal scraps as art is a new focus. Finding the right thread to follow, color choice or tool to use, is fun! So much dross is burnt off; the beauty finally shows as gold and is perfection.

## WHY I CREATE?

As a "cracked human", I enjoy the tremendous challenge of creating something of beauty, using everyday items. When my reality is not along with those around me, the value is hard to see in that moment. I am closer to the Creator, when I try to imitate His Work. My ultimate purpose is to be a help, not a hindrance. I've learned to not push the edge too hard. It is important for me to create, to ease my path back to sanity and show diligence with a clean heart until my last day.