



**Art Box Artist of the Month:
Ms. Donnie Spielman**

Several months ago I took a wire-wrapping course offered at The Art Box. Donnie Spielman taught the class, and I left with a magnificent gemstone pendant I had created myself. You need not bring anything because it is all included in the price of the course; Donnie brings it all with her. Here is her story in her own words....

"This is a hobby that I totally love! It started almost 5 years ago when I began beading and then discovered the beauty of rocks and the awesome surprises that they hold inside. It started with tumbled rocks, then I bought a tumbler and started tumbling my own. From there I learned to cut or slab my own rocks and make cabochons. (Cabochons are stones that have a flat back and a smooth polished dome) They can be set by creating a bezel of copper or silver to set them in or wrapped with wire to make a pendant that can be hung from a cord or chain. Cutting, grinding and polishing a rock from start to finish is something that I find shuts my mind right down and relaxes me. Sometimes it seems I am a little out of place with my hobby down here in the Keys where everything is sand dollars and seahorses, fishing and everything having to do with oceans, boats and seafood, but this is my art and I love it. I also love creating beautiful pieces for others to wear, so I guess you could say I create wearable art."

Over the years Donnie taught herself and credits friends along the way for their help, for which she is grateful. "It is always challenging to learn something new and right now I am learning metal smithing. With metal smithing I am able to create bezels into which I can set my cabochons, or cabs as we call them. In working and forming the metal I am also able to add some forms of sea life to my art by using a rolling mill. So many new things to learn and so little time to play!"

Stop by the Art Box and sign up for one of Donnie's amazing classes.



Cabochons

Donnie at work.



JON & JOANNA DREAVER

The Art Box

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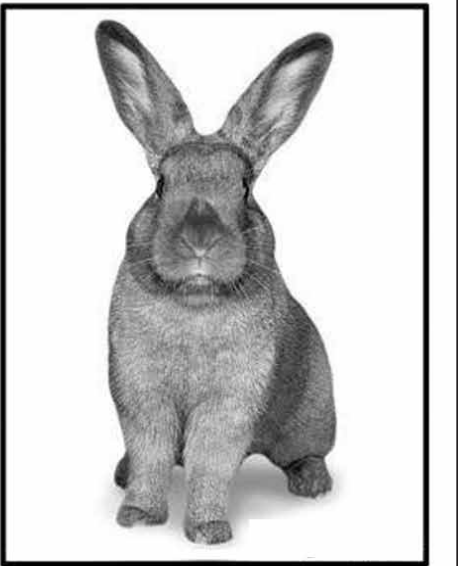
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This is an Easter bunny. This is a 10 year commitment.



Get the facts before you buy a pet rabbit for Easter.



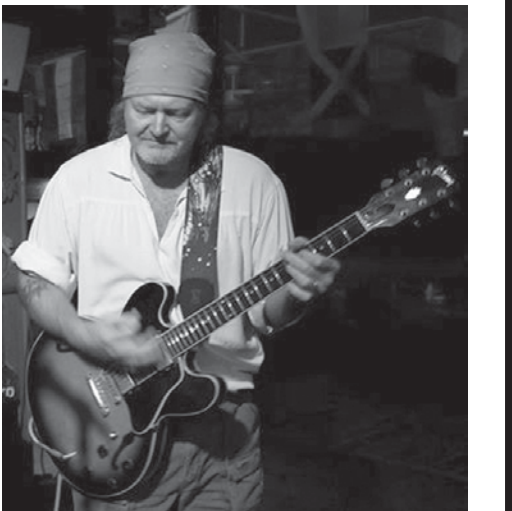
Sounds of the Keys



Stereo Underground at the Big Chill.



Dance to Jimmy Ray Thursday nights at the Pilot House.



John McKinna at the Mandalay.



Igor and Red Elvices rock out at Gilberts. What a party!



Lee Sharp at Jimmy Johnson's Big Chill Saturdays 1 to 5.