

Madison Bead Society

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President Letter – March 2018

March madness is here and it's real!

There's basketball, the crazy weather, the Art Glass and Bead Show (AGBS), the closing of Madison Bead Company (which I'm sure will hit me harder in a couple months), and Easter is April 1st this year which means all the planning and shopping has to be done in March. I won't go into the craziness that is work but it doesn't help the madness. I hope to see a lot of you at AGBS and remember, our March meeting is the Monday following AGBS.

University Hospital Display

This May, MBS will again have a display at the UW hospital—this is the 12th time we have displayed there. It is a chance for the society to reach out to potential new members and gives us an opportunity to sell. Display items are sold through the Hospital's gift shop (20% of sales are donated to the Hospital's art fund).

Members may submit up to 6 pieces (we are asking for a mix of large pieces, such as necklaces, chunky bracelets, chunky earrings; and small pieces, such as earrings or simple bracelets). You can drop off your submission at Meant to Bead (110 Columbus St., Sun Prairie) between **April 15th and 22nd**. Or you can bring them to the March 26th or April 23rd MBS meetings.

Each item needs to be accompanied by a card (available at *Meant to Bead* or our March and April meetings), giving the artist's name, title or name of the piece, technique used, and the price (tax not included). If you do not want to sell a piece, write NFS next to the price (a value is required for all items for insurance purpose). Each item, plus card, needs to be in its own small plastic bag, and the small plastic bags need to be in a larger plastic bag. This permits the exhibitor to pick and choose items for the display. The exhibitor will have a nice variety to work with if we collect about 80 pieces. We will send an email if we have fewer than that and need more.

Wally Brinkmann will return all unsold items, as well as checks or cash for items sold, at the June 25th MBS meeting. Let her know if you need your items before that date. Any items not picked up at the June meeting will be available at *Meant to Bead* a couple days after the meeting. Wally will send a check to the Hospital's art fund amounting to 20% of all items sold. Artists who had items sold are required to reimburse her.

Email Wally if you have any questions (wabrinkm@wisc.edu).

March 26th Meeting: Bead Crochet, the Basics

Mary Jo is going to go over the basics of bead crochet; however, there's not enough time to finish a project. She insists that you do not need to know how to crochet to do bead crochet. The plus of this program is we'll be using bigger beads. [A tip if you've never tried bead crochet before – don't use black thread or black beads. I know from experience.]

Presenter: Mary Jo Schiavoni

Supplies: Crochet thread size 10 or pearl cotton size 10/2 (size 8 pearl cotton can work in a pinch)

3 colors of size 6 beads (or you can use pony beads) – Bring LOTS

Crochet hook, size 3, 4, or 5 (depending on the thread and bead size)

Long-eyed needle or regular beading needle; Scissors (wirecutters optional)

Location: Alicia Ashman Library, 733 N. High Point Rd.; 6:30-8:30 p.m. (6:00 p.m. Board meeting)

Mary Jo will give us some tips on stringing but if you can, pre-string enough beads to learn the technique in the workshop. If you want to string more, here are some patterns using 3 colors:

*striped spiral: AABBBCCAABBBCCAABBBCC, etc.

*little diamonds: ABBCBB or AABCCB or BABBCB

*sawtooth design: A, 5B, 2A, 4B, A, C, A, 3B, A, 2C, A, 2B, 5A, B (“5B” means five color B beads)

Each pattern needs an entire spool of pearl cotton, as bead crochet requires a lot of thread.



Pictured is a spool of size 8 pearl cotton and 2 bead crochet necklaces Mary Jo made for me in a “talent exchange” MBS did several years ago. She assumed I could finish them off (connect the two ends) and I was too embarrassed to say I had no idea. I’ve done a lot of beading since then but I’m still vague on the correct way to connect the 2 ends of bead crochet. This picture also illustrates a modified diamond and the spiral patterns. Note, these pieces were made with size 10 or 11 seed beads but the technique is the same.



Size 10 pearl cotton (on the left) is available at Wisconsin Craft Market.

Happy beading!

Pat Reichert

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