

The Newsletter of the Loose Bead Society of Greater Milwaukee

The Loose Bead Society of Greater Milwaukee began in 1999 as a fellowship of kindred spirits with the purpose of sharing and promoting the creation of beautiful beadwork.

We're Having Fun Now!

I have a group of neighbors and friends who often join together for some good food and an evening of cards or board games. When the game playing gets going, one of the fellows in the group generally comes out with a comedic, "Are we having fun yet?" and as our party spirit gears up, he adds a raucous, "We're having fun now!" I recently caught myself using his line when talking about LBS, "We're having fun now!"

Each month as I start the meeting, I try to celebrate the fun we've had the previous month. We had special fun in August, thanks to our visit by Christi Friesen. While our fun in July was tempered by the sadness of losing our member Lisa Phillips, we remembered the joy she brought through her ever present kindness, expertise, and willingness to serve. By honoring individuals, committees, table captains, etc. each month, we share the joy of members working together.

Many of us have experienced one of the joys of membership merely by mentioning the name Loose Bead Society. How often does our name bring smiles to those who love the play on words that "loose bead" elicits? In addition to being Loose Beaders, I love the fact that we are called a Society and choose to use the word with a capital S. To me the word Society evokes a kinship that goes beyond a common craft. By definition a society implies a collaboration which allows its members a means to accomplish their and the society's goals.

A few years ago the LBS members came together to prioritize our common goals. It was this collaboration that has made us the strong Society we are now and that led to our goals becoming our reality. We initiated so many activities I cannot mention them all. None of this could have occurred without the hard work of individuals volunteering to serve on the Board and committees, nor without enthusiastic members coming to meetings and participating in events.

To ensure that our Society maintains the successes of the past and leads us to an even more spectacular future, I am asking for even more enthusiastic involvement. Keep coming to meetings; keep making those positive suggestions; keep volunteering to help out: serve as a committee chair, run for office, be a table captain. As members of this Society, you will feel the joy! It is in becoming involved that one comes to realize the full joy of being a part of this energetic, caring group. Each committee and each event needs *your* involvement. The more you participate, the more you will be saying, "Yes, we most definitely are having fun now!"

—Helen Dahms, President



Volume 10 Issue 3

Autumn 2011

2011 Fall Bead-In Wants You

Who: You

What: 2011 Fall Bead-In

When: Saturday, October 15, 2011
9:20 a.m. – 4:45 p.m.

Where: New Berlin Public Library

RSVP: No later than October 10

Please join us for a day of open beading in the Community Room. Registration for the day is only \$2 for LBS members and \$5 for non-members. If you wish, you can also order lunch for \$8 from Great Wraps.

You can register by getting the form from our website and mailing it along with your check to **Kathy Willmering**.

You won't want to miss this great opportunity to sit and bead with your fellow Loose Beaders, so get those forms and checks to Kathy ASAP.

— by *Kat Feldman*

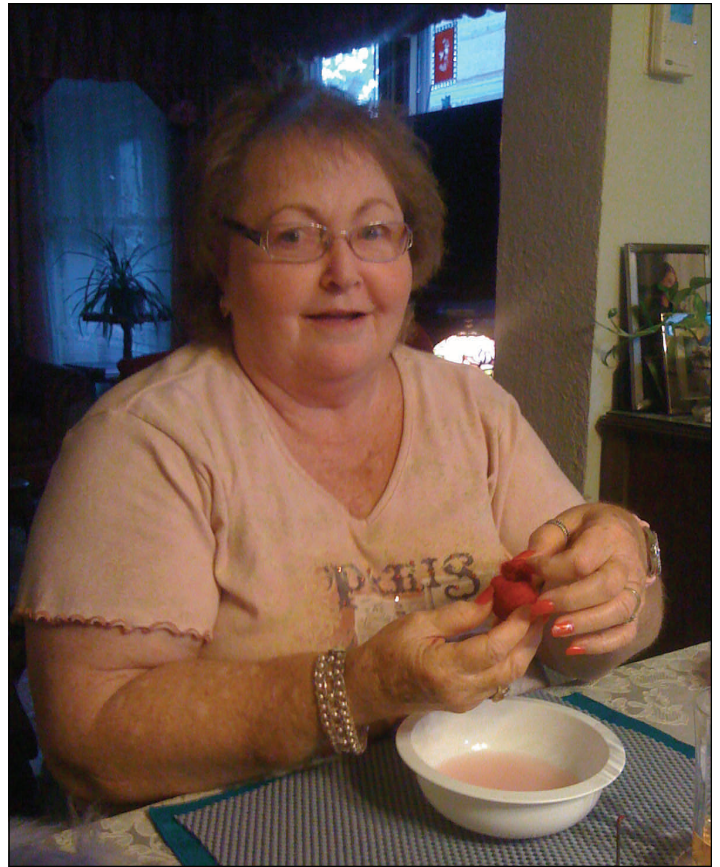
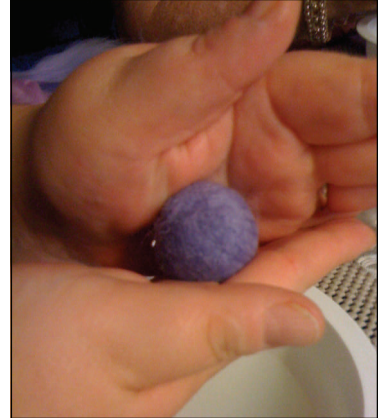
Community Service Highlights

Six Community Service volunteers gathered at the home of **Jan Falk** to learn how to make felted beads for a workshop being offered at the Badger Association of the Blind.

Volunteers included **Mary Wurzburg, Judy Hider, Addie Peterson, Karen Weinberg, Michele De'Brabant** and **Traci Otte**.

Jan's instructions will enable the volunteers to teach blind and visually impaired students how to make a felted bead necklace on October 19.

— by *Michele De'Brabant*



Photos by Michelle De'Brabant



Psst — Wanna Buy More Beads?

The Loose Bead Society will be staffing a table at the Milwaukee Bead Show on Sunday, October 2, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

We are going to be promoting our wonderful Society and selling colorful, luscious, custom-created seed bead mixes put together by LBS' own **Kathy Willmering**.

The Milwaukee Bead Show will be at the Wyndham Hotel – Airport (4747 S. Howell Ave). Admission to the show is only \$2, and there's free parking.

Welcome New Loose Beaders

We continue to grow and have new and talented people join our group. As of mid August, we have 194 members, with 40 people being brand new members. Thank you to everyone who has talked up our society to your friends! Thank you to all our new members for joining!

Just in case you haven't met them yet, our newest members are: **Jessica Akin, Gayla Boehlke, Gretchen Burt, Sandra Fischer, Alicia Griffin, Fran Habel, Krystal Hartman, Bonnie Hayburn, Susan Hottinger, Sandy Ingram, Karen Jacobs, Joan Jeselun, Peggy Jurmann, Michelle Kearney, Margot Manassa, Sharron Manassa, Gail Morgan, Jane Radoszewski, Patti Shallow, Lee Sorensen, Tammy Wolter, and Erica Woollums.**

— by *Kathy Willmering*

Exciting New Bylaw ... Coming Soon to LBS!

If you are like most members, your eyes glaze over the minute a Board member mentions anything pertaining to our 501c3 status. I always had that reaction until I became a member of the Board and felt I should now pay attention.

As our society grows, we have an increase in financial activity and the need for a complete understanding of our 501c3 status seems to have grown. In as few words as possible, 501c3 status is given to non-profit organizations. We qualify because our society is educational in nature.

In order to ensure that LBS is in complete compliance with federal regulations for 501c3 organiza-

The Milwaukee Bead Show, sponsored by local bead store Knot Just Beads, features a variety of exhibitors from Wisconsin and elsewhere, some who exhibit just at this show.

Among the exhibitors this year will be Loose Beader **Cindy Collins**, who has an Etsy shop under the name Beadwork Ingenieur.

Cindy says she will be selling polymer clay beads and focal pieces as well as some finished jewelry. She will also have chain maille supplies for sale.

— by *Kat Feldman*

Loose Bead Society 2011 Board Members

Helen Dahms, President
Julia Miller, President Elect
Maggie Roschyk, VP-Programming
Kat Feldman, VP-Special Events
Judy Markworth, Secretary
Amy Smith, Treasurer
Brenda Schweder, Past President
Kathy Willmering, Membership Coordinator
Traci Otte, Website Coordinator
Michele De'Brabant, Community
 Service Coordinator
Carol Haiar, Newsletter Coordinator

tions, a group of Board members comprised of **Helen Dahms, Michele De'Brabant, Julie Miller, and Amy Smith** investigated the federal guidelines and studied the original LBS application.

We found that we have everything in order with one minor exception. There is an addition to our bylaws mandated by the government; this addition was previously unpublished and must be voted on by members.

Members will be receiving a formal notification of this addition, and a vote will be taken at an upcoming membership business meeting. The details and wording can wait; I don't want any eyes to glaze over yet!

— by *Helen Dahms*

Wit, Wisdom & Wizardry of Christi Friesen



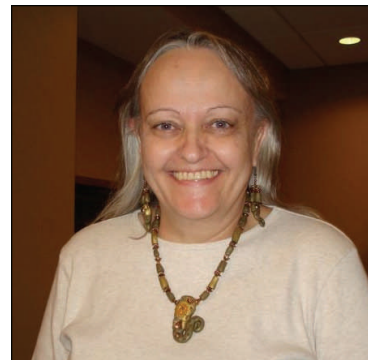
Christi Friesen firmly believes that “the world is a better place for there being more interesting things in it.” And Christi — noted polymer clay artist and extraordinary teacher — is responsible for plenty of those “interesting things.”

Christi presented August’s program to delighted LBS members, and two clay seminars to a lucky group of beady students the previous weekend.

Christi’s meeting topic was “Designing Jewelry: Color, Movement, & Balance,” liberally illustrated with examples of her work. Christi describes her poly clay and mixed media jewelry as “a sculptural canvas yet you get to wear it.” Her work liberally incorporates precious stones, pearls, fibers and beads. She claims — modestly but incorrectly — that her “only claim to fame in beading is to do a crimp.”

Students at her weekend classes enthusiastically turned out lily ponds, sprites, moths, flowers, wrap vessels, steampunk creatures, ocean scenes, wall pieces and even jewelry. They happily showed off their creations at Table Talk to widespread acclaim from other members.

“I’m so impressed with myself” was a common comment during the seminars as Christi’s lively instructions and examples



led students to create artworks they'd thought were beyond their capabilities. All this while having an absolutely wonderful time!

Christi offers free downloadable projects and lots of inspiration on her website, www.cforiginals.com. She also notes that the Fire Mountain Gems website (www.firemountaingems.com) offers free, very detailed instructions for her Peacock Pizzazz necklace.

She advises beaders to study "all artworks, not just your medium or one artist. If you focus on one artist, you tend to absorb their style."

She adds that, "It's perfectly okay to just do art — beading or whatever — for your own enjoyment."

— by Carol Haiar



Photos by Traci Otte



Wisconsin Handweavers, Inc. & The Loose Bead Society of Greater Milwaukee
 present the
61st Annual Exhibit & Sale
Loominosity
Free admission
 Thursday: 10 AM - 8:30 PM
 Friday/Saturday: 10 AM - 4:30 PM
 Sunday: 1-4:00 PM
 New Berlin Public Library
 15105 Library Lane, New Berlin
 (east of Moorland Rd. & south of National Ave.)

Necklace by Nancie Chmielewski
www.wihandweavers.org • www.loosebeadsociety.org

Exhibiting at a German Bead Show

“It was ah-mazing,” says Maggie Roschyk of being part of the first ever Beaders Best Perlenkunst-Messe bead show in Hamburg, Germany this August.

The show was well-organized, and the crowds were very good. “My booth was right in front, and every time I looked up the first day more people were coming in the door,” Maggie recalls.

Maggie had one table on which she displayed some of her bigger pieces, including those that had been on the cover of *Bead&Button* magazine. At another table she conducted 30-minute classes in such basic stitches as square and ndeble.

“The students were wonderful,” she says. Though she taught in English, there was no language barrier as those standing to watch the lessons translated when necessary. “It was a blast,” Maggie adds. Many of the students were professional women who worked long hours and wanted to learn to bead for relaxation.

A highlight of the show was a bead jewelry fashion show organized like a couture runway show. Models in black sheath dresses and black heels modeled gorgeous, show-stopping jewelry while the crowd took pictures and videotaped.

The bead show was sponsored by the German bead magazine *Perlen Poesie*; the show promoters invited



Maggie to participate. “It’s about time Germany had a bead magazine,” Maggie says, “because many of our stitches originated in that part of the world. And it’s a gorgeous magazine.”

She felt her world get a little smaller while trading business cards and making German Facebook friends. But on the other hand, Maggie feels personally enlarged. “I feel a kinship” with those she met, she says. “Those folks are crazy about beads and so am I.”

— by Carol Haiar

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We are sorry to say that both Giralte and Nottingham have closed their doors, although Marge Giralte now has a shop on Etsy.com. The Loose Bead Society thanks both Marge and Petra Dekan for their friendship and support and wishes them all the best in the future.

Bay View Gallery Night

I had a unique showing/selling experience this summer. The Bay View Arts Guild, of which I am a member, wanted to participate in a Bay View Gallery Night but didn't have a location. One member took the idea to his fellow MakerSpace members and they voted to let Bay View artists and friends show at MakerSpace. This is a section of the old Rexnord factory at Chase and Oklahoma.

Ever been in a space that is different than what you are used to? Well, this was like showing in a loud indoor bazaar which was a little bizarre, pretty grubby and huge. There is nothing majorly wrong with that. I had an electric hookup which helped show my feltworks.

Fellow LBSer **Karen Costello** was set up next to me with her recycled metal can jewelry, and her husband displayed his photographs. For Karen, it was only her second show. Says Karen, "There were 27 or 28 exhibitors, and it was a lot of fun, with nice attendance. Everybody really liked what they were doing."

Traffic was steady all evening. Add a small music combo, and later an awesome blues man, and it was really quite festive. I sold mostly felted flowers that June evening and made some good contacts. Always be open to the possibilities. You never know where they will take you.

— by Jan Falk

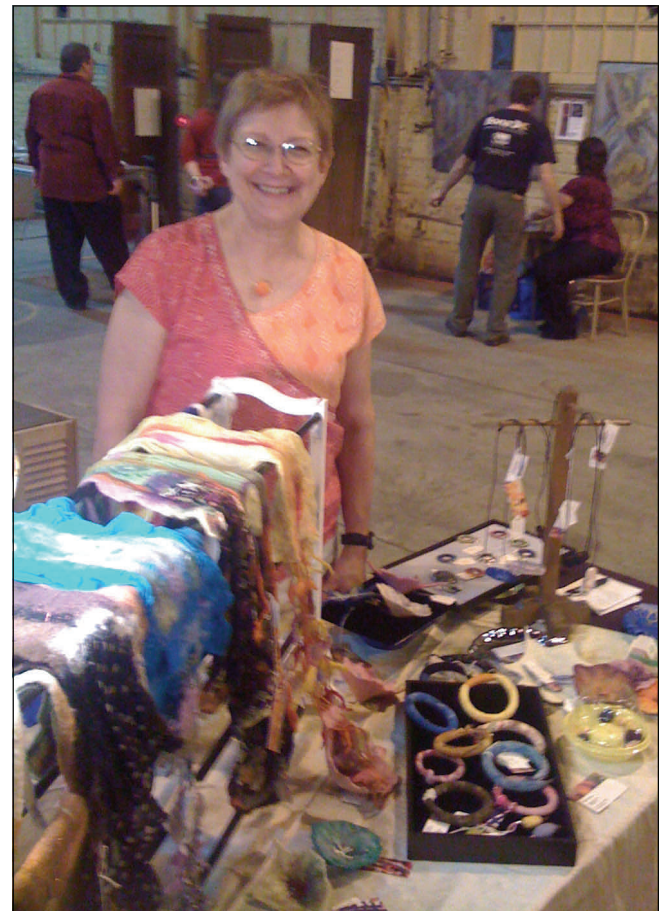
Calling All Contributors-to-Be

To be the best possible newsletter for all Loose Beaders, *Strung Together* would like more contributors from our membership.

You are invited to write book reviews, report on bead stores you visit during your travels, and tell us about your favorite beady or creative websites. Don't worry if you think you are not a writer – we will be happy to polish your material.

And we welcome your story ideas! What do you think you and other members would enjoy hearing about? Which of our endlessly creative members would you like to get to know better?

Please don't be shy! Catch the newsletter coordinator at the next meeting or contact her via our website. We want a newsletter that reflects everyone in our Society.



Wiring Round the Bend

Members who attended the July meeting had the fun of crafting their very own wirework bracelets, compliments of **Susan Beal** and **Judy Menting**.

The bracelets expanded the horizons of members more used to needle and thread in working with beads. But they soon discovered that going outside their comfort zone was well worth it as they studiously wrapped wire and adorned their bracelets with beads and pearls.

Table Talk for the evening also featured wirework, with members showing a wide array of wire jewelry.



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Rummage Sale a Beady Success

The Loose Bead Society's late-July rummage sale was a rousing success, if overall sales and a high level of fun are any indication.

"I sold practically everything, so I thought it was wonderful," says vendor **Joanne Bergmann**. "I sat next to a lady and bought some of her things, too. We seemed to have what the buyers wanted, so it went well."

In all, twenty-six tables were sold and two additional tables were used by LBS. The LBS table did nicely in sales and some of the vendors donated their unsold beads to the Society at the end of the rummage sale.

Ruth Maegli organized the event for the Society. She says, "I want to thank all those who came early and stayed late to put up and take down tables. Beaders are awesome!"



Loose Bead Society Corporate Members

Corporate Sponsor

Kalmbach Publishing Company

(Publisher of *Bead&Button*, *BeadStyle* and *Art Jewelry* magazines)
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P.O. Box 35
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www.loosebeadsociety.org

Upcoming Events for Bead Lovers

Mark your calendar for these upcoming Loose Bead Society happenings!

October 2 Milwaukee Bead Show 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. at the Wyndham Hotel Airport (4747 S. Howell Ave.)

October 15 Bead-In 9:20 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. at the New Berlin Public Library You must pre-register!

October 17 Membership Meeting 7 p.m. at the New Berlin Public Library (15105 Library Lane, 1 block south of National Ave. at Moorland Rd.)

- Election of new officers
- Program on Czech beads and bead factories presented by **Helen Dahms**
- Table Talk: Display your jewelry made with Czech beads

Remember that the meeting room is available at 3 p.m. for open beading on meeting days!

November 3- 6 Loominosity Exhibit & Sale
 Presented by Wisconsin Handweavers and the Loose Bead Society

November 21 Membership Meeting 7 p.m. at the New Berlin Public Library

- Hands-on workshop: Beaded Button Garden
- Table Talk: Display your jewelry that incorporates buttons

December 3 President's Trip Bus trip to the Racine Art Museum to see "Terra Nova: Polymer Art at the Crossroads"

December 19 Membership Meeting 7 p.m. at the New Berlin Public Library

Holiday event:

- Volunteer recognition
- Mingling and refreshments