

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.

Showing Our Stuff – and Theirs – at Rings & Things



When Rings & Things brings its traveling bead show to Milwaukee, LBS members never miss it.

This Spring, R&T invited LBS to demonstrate new products while also promoting the Society. Here, showing Wubbers wire shapers and Czech tile beads are left Kathy Waldo, below left Pam Autio, and below, Sue Stachelski.



Across the Pond ... A New Bead Friend In the UK

Recently the Loose Bead Society received a complimentary email from Shirley Isaacs. What made this email noteworthy was not that Shirley was stating how much she wished she could participate in our events, but that the reason she is unable to join us is because she lives in NW London, a place she describes as “a desert as far as beading is concerned! :)”

Upon reading this email, I couldn't ignore an opportunity to ask her for more information about beading in the United Kingdom.

(Continued on Page 2)

LBS Strung Together

Volume 12 Issue 2 Summer 2013

Across the Pond ... (Continued from page 1)



British Beader Shirley Isaacs

Ms. Isaacs's response to my inquiry was that beading in the U.K. is not that exciting! "There are lots of small/local beading groups who do super things and lots of individuals, too, and they love doing it. However, we don't have the same huge resources as you have in the States, and you also have to know where the bead shops are - - and there aren't that many around.

"For example, if I want anything in the beading line, I usually order online as there are a couple of websites that I use in the UK. I rarely order from the US as we usually have to pay an import tax. If I do come across a bead shop when I'm out, I usually dive in!"

Two Major Groups

The two major bead organizations in the U. K. are The Bead Society and the Beadworkers Guild. The following links provide an interesting view of their beadwork community.

www.beadsociety.org.uk
www.beadworkersguild.org.uk
www.bigbeadlittlebead.com (look under guides and information)
www.beadmagazine.co.uk

Shirley continued, "However, having said that beading is not such a huge interest here, when the annual Knitting & Stitching Show comes round - it is always absolutely packed. They don't just specialize in beads/beadwork - though most of the UK bead companies are there."

Of course, I immediately went online to check out this show and discovered there are package deals for flight/hotel/show. There are several shows throughout the year: wouldn't October be a simply

grand time for a trip to London! (See details at www.twistedthread.com).

Shirley's entry into the bead world started when she attended a five day course on making amulet bags in a residential college in The Midlands. Ms. Isaacs recalled, "My first bag was just awful - completely misshapen - but I loved it!" That sounds a lot like what most of us would say about our first project, doesn't it?

"Beading, Chatting & Eating"

From there she continued to learn more stitches at home. She took City & Guilds courses in patchwork, quilting, and embroidery . . . "where I loved using beads!" Ms. Isaacs has expanded her knowledge by returning to The Midlands for what she describes as five days of "beading, chatting and eating!"

This summer's workshop, exploring the technique of Soutache Braid, will be held from July 28th to August 2nd. (I checked this out, too, and it sounds like a fabulous beading retreat!!)

After expanding her knowledge, Shirley has taught beadwork and has had some of her projects published. She sells *some* of her patterns on a U.S. website - Sova Enterprises.

Shirley also told me of her love of books by Cheryl Assemi. After emailing Ms. Assemi, they became cyber friends and through her, Shirley joined up with an American cyber beading group. Shirley's son attended Santa Cruz University for a year, and Ms. Assemi very kindly invited the Isaacs to meet up when they took their son to California.

Initiating Relationships

Since then, the women have continued a friendship; their husbands both play bridge and have even ended up at the same tournaments in Europe from time to time. Such interesting relationships the love of beading initiates!

Shirley Isaacs has never been able to attend our Bead&Button Show, and I doubt any of our members have been able to attend the Knitting & Stitching Show in London, but who knows?

When a common interest is shared, people come together. One email starts a connection . . . who can know where it might lead? I am delighted that Ms. Isaacs has found the Loose Bead Society, and we have found her!

— by Helen Dahms

LBS Needs Everyone — YOU, too!

The Loose Bead Society has had some very rewarding volunteer activities in the past three months. We had jewelry distribution at the Cinderella Project. It was quite fun to see the faces of the young ladies light up when they found a piece of jewelry that they really liked!

We helped assemble pieces of the Bead It Forward squares into quilts, shadow boxes, and ornaments. You have to stop by the auction area in the foyer of the bead marketplace during the Bead&Button Show and check out some of the pieces.

We worked with Rings & Things to demonstrate beading and wireworking at their recent traveling bead show. We got a chance to tell even more people about our Society and how great we are. Plus, there's a good chance you volunteered for the Loose Bead Society at the Bead&Button Show. That's quite a bit of activity!

Thank you, everyone, for your efforts in keeping this Society thriving!!!

But, we need more volunteers. Keeping this happy group going requires help from many people. We need people to come up with ideas for and organize our fabulous monthly programs, presentations, and hands-on activities. We need people to organize our extra-monthly activities such as Bead-Ins, Retreat, Spring Challenge, Rummage Sale,

LBS Welcomes More New Members

Once again, the Loose Bead Society is delighted to welcome new members into our group.

In March, **Margaret O'Day** and **Mary Rasmussen** joined the Society's membership.

April saw **Jane Paulsen**, **Mary Label**, **Kathleen Goudie**, **Nadine Galloway** and **Susan Tobias** added to the LBS roster.

And in May, **Jenn Silva** and **Deborah Dunn** joined our ranks.

Four more bead stores have joined LBS as corporate members, and we are eager to check out their beady offerings. Please welcome **Studio Beads, LLC** in Deerfield, IL, as a new member, and welcome back the **Glass Onion Bead Co.** in Appleton, WI, **Creative Mode** in Stoughton, WI, and **Funky Hannah's** in Racine, WI.

Bead&Button Show participation, community events, and more. We need people to write and edit our newsletter. We need people to maintain our website.

We need people to help meet and greet new members and make them feel welcome. WE NEED YOU! Won't you please consider taking on a little more and especially consider stepping up to a leadership role.

In the spirit of keeping you updated on whether I'm actually trying anything new, I'm happy to report that I've played around with polymer clay for the first time. I took one of Julie Picarello's classes and enjoyed the experience — and the clay. One thing I really liked about Julie was that she encouraged the class to use colors they are comfortable with instead of delving outside your color comfort zone. She said we're doing enough exploring with a new technique, might as well be comfortable with the colors we were using.

I also picked up a book on basic kumihimo techniques — *Japanese Braiding* by Jacqui Carey. I have tried several of the other weaves, but the results are not (yet) satisfying with C-Lon and seed beads. In fairness, the book wasn't written for someone trying to use seed beads in the process. Just means there's more for me to explore.

— *Kathy Willmering, President*

Button, Button ... Who's Got the Button?

The Annual Button Society Convention will be held this year in Appleton, WI, from August 12-17. The show will feature 50 dealers from around the world who will have buttons, buckles, netsuke and other button related items for sale.

The show will also feature numerous racks with trays and frames of buttons on display. Lisa Schultz, president of the National Button Society, says, "Many people who come just for an hour to see what button collecting is all about find themselves still looking four hours later!"

The convention is being held at the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel; admission is \$10. Visit the NBS website at nationalbuttonssociety.org for details.

Can't make it to Appleton but still interested in buttons? In addition to the NBS site, the *Bead&Button* magazine website carries articles on buttons contributed by — who else — members of the National Button Society. Visit *B&B* at www.beadandbutton.com.

Playing with Polymer ... with Julie Picarello

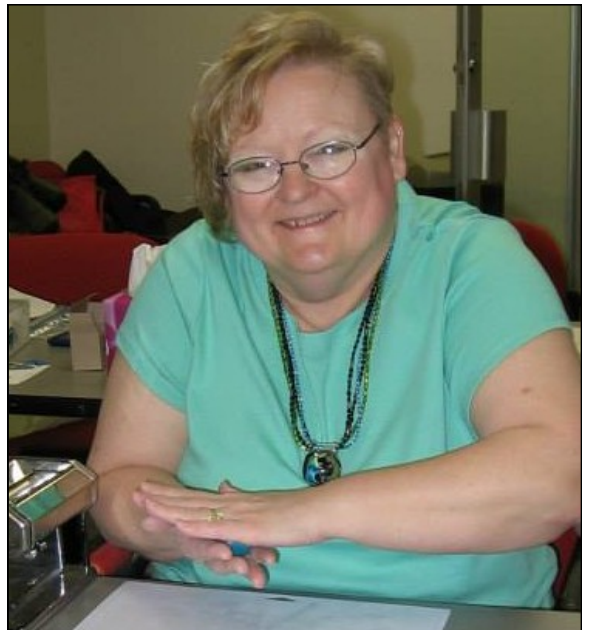
Noted polymer clay artist Julie Picarello joined LBS members in April for a fun weekend of classes and a lively Monday evening talk. Julie is the author of the book *Patterns in Polymer* and has won many awards for her stunning, beautifully-colored work.

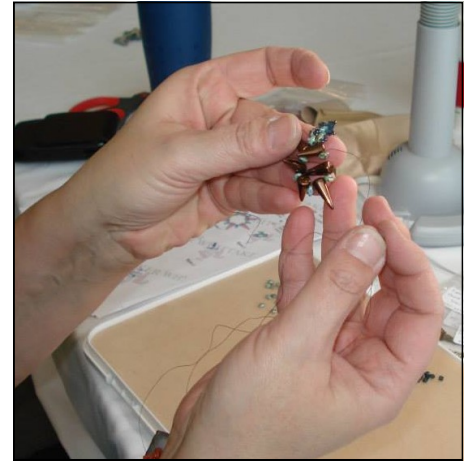
Julie, who is known for her imprint techniques, made those techniques available to the Loose Bead Society in three classes. Eager students made Lizard Tails, Pendulum earrings, and All Meshed Up pendants with metal accents.

Special effects that seemed complicated were made simple, and Julie also demonstrated how to achieve vibrant colors and amazing textures.



Julie Picarello poses with that all important polymer clay tool, her pasta machine.





The Spring Retreat in Racine is an occasion for camaraderie, interesting classes, good food, and lots of late-night jewelry making.

A Great Time at the Spring Retreat



On Being VP of Special Events

I have happily survived two terms as Vice President of Special Events for the Loose Bead Society and have mixed feelings about stepping aside. But the time has come for me to give the opportunity to someone else. I am writing this article so you can see what is involved and maybe throw your name in the hat to replace me.

This is probably the one Board position that has the most fun. And, yes, it helped to have a dedicated committee to pull off these "special events." I am most sincerely grateful to them for all they do and have done to help me get the job done right.

Together we planned the weekend Spring Retreats, including jurying class projects, planning menus and fun things to do, keeping track of registrations, etc. (Pictures on this page highlight members enjoying the Retreat.)

We presented Design Challenges to stimulate the creative juices of our membership – covering themes like the life cycle of a butterfly, the Royal Wedding, and the latest, "What Milwaukee Says to Me."

Another event on the plate is the twice-yearly Bead In, where we get together for the day to work on projects of our own choosing. We might also have classes and lunch. We've represented the Society at the Milwaukee Bead Show promoting membership and selling supplies.

As you can see, this position is not only fun but responsible for some important activities for our membership. The experience has helped me grow personally and professionally. I am proud to have been an integral part of the LBS and look forward to the future serving wherever I can.

-- by Kat Feldman

BEADSHOW & BUTTON®

May 31–June 9, 2013 Frontier Airlines Center, Milwaukee WI



Artist:
Frank
Scott

Loose Bead Society 2013 Board Members

Kathy Willmering, President
(Open), President Elect
Maggie Roschyk, VP-Programming
Kat Feldman, VP-Special Events
Judy Markworth, Secretary
Marilyn Johnson, Treasurer
Julia Miller, Past President
Sue Stachelski, Community
Service Coordinator

Kathy VanDemark, Membership Coordinator
Carol Haiar, Newsletter Coordinator
Traci Otte, Website Coordinator

Midwest Beads

The Store For Bead Enthusiasts!

Midwest Bead & Supply, Inc.
Alice & Gary Lauber

15780 W. Capitol Drive
Brookfield, WI 53005
(262) 781-7670
www.midwestbeads.com

Shop ONLINE and
take 25% off your
jewelry order.
Use the
coupon code
LOOSE during
check out.



Chris Mode
www.CreativeMode.com

20% OFF FOR LBS MEMBERS
ANY TIME, ANY PLACE, ANYHOW!
CHECK OUT OUR *online video* FOR MORE INFORMATION

BRENDA SCHWEDER
J E W E L R Y



ELECTICA

Beads from around the World

Check Facebook or our website for:

Upcoming Trunk Shows

Monthly Class Schedule

Make & Take Events



www.electicabeads.com

monday tuesday thursday friday 10am-6pm wednesday 10am-8pm saturday 10am-4pm

Glass Onion Bead Co.

1011 W. College Ave. Appleton, WI 54914
phone 920.733.2853

WWW.GLASSONION.BIZ

Largest selection of beads in Northeast Wisconsin



JSM BEAD COOP

931 N. 8th Street
Sheboygan, WI 53081
Phone: (920) 208-BEAD (2323)
Fax: (920) 208-2326
www.JSMBeadCoop.com
info@jsmbeadcoop.com

Hours: Tues to Sat 10am-7pm -- Closed Sun & Mon

Semi-Precious Stones - Pressed Glass - Bead Tools - Bead Classes

Funky Hannah's™



A beautiful shop located between Milwaukee & Chicago in charming historic Racine on the shore of Lake Michigan.

324 Main Street, Racine, WI
262-634-6088

Beads & Art

funkyhannahs.com

STUDIO BEADS, LLC

816 WAUKEGAN ROAD
DEERFIELD, IL 60015
847-607-8702
WWW.STUDIOBEADS.COM

Huge selection of seed beads, findings, Delicas, tools, vintage & finished jewelry

Bringing Bling to Local Cinderellas

The days and weeks leading up to the actual Cinderella Project event were busy ones for our LBS members! Approximately 35 members donated over 300 beautiful jewelry items. Together with pieces saved from last year, we had over 400 items.

The Community Service Committee and the event volunteers gathered on a Sunday afternoon to prep the jewelry for distribution and plan the displays. We wanted this to be a special time for the deserving young women attending prom, when they could feel as if they were shopping in a fine jewelry department for accessories for their beautiful gowns.

On Saturday, April 13, our volunteers met at Destiny High School to "set up shop" and assist the girls with their selections. The girls, their "fairy godmothers" and others in attendance that day were amazed by our selections and the fact that almost every item was hand made!

While a myriad of colors were available, we found that crystal, white, and black jewelry with silver or gold accents were the most popular. And the girls do love their bling!

I encourage you to begin making items for next year, keeping those colors in mind. We also welcome donations of supplies.



Among those representing the Loose Bead Society at the Cinderella event were President Kathy Willmering, Judy Hider, Diane Wheeler, and Sue Stachelski.

Thank you to all who contributed to this year's Cinderella Project, whether it was in the form of supplies, jewelry, or your actual presence. We are looking forward to 2014!

— by Sue Stachelski
Community Service Coordinator

What Says Milwaukee to You?

This year's Challenge is truly individually-tailored, because Loose Bead Society participants get to choose their own Milwaukee inspirations.

Those inspirations could draw from Lake Michigan, the zoo, museums, architecture, the breweries, Harley-Davidson, our sports teams, Summerfest, the State Fair or other area highlights. Or, you can relay a story from your past in Milwaukee and interpret that.

Submissions can be jewelry, accessories, sculpture or wearable art. And, since this *is* the Loose Bead Society, each submission must contain at least *one* bead.

Still not convinced that you should enter the Challenge? In last year's Challenge, **Brenda Schweder** drew an "inspiration" that didn't exactly make her heart soar. Her response to that piece ultimately became an article in the Spring *Wirework* magazine.

Brenda points out that creative challenges help us grow exponentially, and that if we lack confidence we should start small and ramp it up. We should be proud of our art as an expression of our thoughts and ideas, and we should have fun doing it!

Loose Bead Society Of Greater Milwaukee
P.O. Box 35
Brookfield, WI 53008-0035

www.loosebeadsociety.org

Loose Bead Society Corporate Members

Corporate Sponsor

Kalmbach Publishing Company

(Publisher of *Bead&Button*, *BeadStyle* and *Art Jewelry* magazines)
 21027 Crossroads Circle, P.O. Box 1612, Waukesha, WI 53187
 262-796-8776 www.beadandbutton.com

Corporate Members

Brenda Schweder Jewelry

414-313-0234 www.brendaschweder.com
LBS discount: 15% off etsy with special code

Creative Mode

608-838-8011 www.creativemode.com
LBS discount: 25% off online jewelry order

Eclectica

262-641-0910 www.eclecticabeads.com
LBS discount: 10% off beads & findings

Funky Hannah's Beads & Art

262-634-6088 www.funkyhannahs.com
LBS discount: 10% off merchandise

Glass Onion Bead Company

920-733-2853 www.glassonion.biz

JSM Bead Coop

920-208-2323 www.jsmbeadcoop.com
LBS discount: 10% off all merchandise

Midwest Beads

262-781-7670 www.midwestbeads.com
LBS discount: 10% off beads & findings

Studio Beads

847-607-8702 www.studiobeads.com
LBS discount: 10% off all seed beads