



## 2018 Spring Retreat



### Amanda Cosgrove Paffrath

An art lover since early childhood, Amanda took her first formal art class at Wustum Museum at age 5, began creating beaded jewelry at age 8 and was introduced to glass blowing as a high school student of Dave Drewek at The Prairie School. She took several semesters of glass sculpture in college while earning a practical degree in Sociology and Social Welfare from UW Madison in 1989. For ten years she worked as an advocate for battered women, all the while created jewelry and blowing glass whenever she could. In 1997 she took a chance on a dream and opened Funky Hannah's Beads & Art. In 2005 another dream became reality when she collaborated with other local glass artists and opened a public access glass blowing facility and gallery – Hot Shop Glass. She now spends time running two arty businesses, teaching beadwork and glass blowing and creating her own art when she can! Her work is in collections throughout the United States, Europe and South America.

Amanda has volunteered for many social justice causes and is a strong advocate for downtown Racine. She lives just north of downtown Racine with her two kids and husband singer/songwriter Mark Paffrath.

“Creativity is just what I do. I haven't known life any other way. I have such a deep appreciation for the stunning creations in the world around us and am inspired to create from this place of awe and reflection. Whether working with tiny beads or big hot gathers of molten glass, I am completely transfixed by the play of color and light, perfect connections and happy accidents that occur as the creative process unfolds.