



Just touched down after attending another incredible bead show. Sure there's the great shopping—the pure joy of walking down aisle after aisle of gorgeous artisan beads, pearls, stones, and crystals or discovering an entire side room taken over by a seed-bead vendor—the kind of place where you will often find Beyond Beadery (see page 44 for the entertaining story of Betcey Ventrella's start). But what I love most is the excitement at the heart of the beading community. Attending this year's Tucson bead shows re-

mind me that the beading community is the most friendly, fun, and loyal to be found. During tough economic times, we're pulling together to keep innovating and staying true to what brought all of us together in the first place—beads.

Speaking of community, are you a part of *Beadwork's* Reader Advisory Panel? If so, you may have been among the 1,700+ people who voted on this issue's cover image. Hands down, the winner was Jamie Hogsett's delightful Brass Garland necklace (page 32). In fact, this cover received twice as many votes as the number-two-ranked choice. We agree Jamie's necklace, as well as Lisa Kan's Passionflower necklace (page 28)—an attractive fusion of seed beads and brass—and Scarlett Lanson's lusciously berry-toned Heavenly Hibiscus Bangle (page 24), celebrate the spirit of spring and lighten the mood in these serious times. So do Phyllis Dintenfass's Serengeti Earrings (page 52). Our reader surveys tell us again and again that peyote is your favorite stitch, so you're bound to be amazed by this stitch's versatility when you see how Phyllis's earrings take shape.

I encourage you to find a local bead shop, attend a bead show, gather a group of crafty friends, and chat in a forum (beadingdaily.com is a great place!) to feed your passion for beading and meet new like-minded friends. During trying times, you realize the importance of a strong, supportive community. So turn off the nightly economic news, start a new project, and escape into the world of beads. Be sure to share your new creations with us and those around you—I can't wait to show you how I'll put my recent bead purchases to work in upcoming issues.

Have fun!

Melinda

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HAPPENINGS

join our community!

Visit beadworkmagazine.com after each new issue is released to vote on your favorite projects, offer feedback, and share what you'd like to see in future issues. To automatically receive the surveys and participate in fun special assignments like voting on covers, visit interweave.com/bead/beadwork_magazine/bwarp.asp to become a member of our Reader Advisory Panel.

Take a Class, Plan a Getaway.

Explore a new seed-bead technique, learn new ways to work with wire, shop 'til you drop, and more—enrollment is now open for classes at Bead Fest Philadelphia, August 21–23, and Bead Fest Portland, September 24–27. Sign up at beadfest.com—many classes sell out fast!

BEADING FOR A CURE. Working from the same kit of beads, designers across the country created works that are now being auctioned on eBay in honor of beader Layne Shilling, who lost her battle with colorectal cancer in 2002. Sponsored by the nonprofit charity Beading For A Cure, the auction will donate all proceeds, minus small operating expenses, to the National Colorectal Cancer Research Alliance. Voting ends April 30; visit www.beadingsforcure.org.

BEADWORK

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