Welcome to UU Salina
UU Minute

FAMOUS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

A few notable and interesting people in history were UUs.
UU Minute, page 2 of 4

- John Adams (1735–1826) – second President of the United States
- Abigail Adams (1744–1818) – women's rights advocate, First Lady of the United States
- John Quincy Adams (1767–1848) – sixth President of the United States. Co-founder, All Souls Church, Unitarian (Washington, D.C.)
• Louisa May Alcott (1832–1888) – author of *Little Women*.

• Roger Nash Baldwin (1884–1981) – founder of American Civil Liberties Union

• Phineas Taylor (P. T.) Barnum (1810–1891) – American showman and Circus Owner
• E. E. Cummings (1894–1962) – poet and painter
• N.C. Wyeth (1882–1945) – illustrator and painter
Chalice Lighting

Let us hold a quiet moment together as our chalice is lit.

As the wild wind bites, so does the still flame warm us... it draws from us the words we need to give and to receive: words of greeting, words of comfort, words of solace, words to challenge our minds and words to bring us to action.
Let us gaze upon this, our common flame,
so that we remember who we are and what we can do when we are together.

-- By Ben Soule
First Reading

COMMENTS ON PERSISTENCE
When...it seems as though you could not hang on a minute longer, never give up then, for that is just the place and time that the tide will turn.

(Harriet Beecher Stowe)
That which we persist in doing becomes easier - not that the nature of the task has changed, but our ability to do it has increased. (Ralph Waldo Emerson)
Never, never, never, never, never give up.
(Winston Churchill)

Never, ever, ever, ever give up.
(Charles Schulz)
Most success springs from an obstacle or failure. I became a cartoonist largely because I failed in my goal of becoming a successful executive. (Scott Adams: *Dilbert*)
Second Reading

COMMENTS ON ART
Art consists of limitation. The most beautiful part of every picture is the frame.
Gilbert K. Chesterton
Rational thoughts never drive people's creativity the way emotions do.

Neil deGrasse Tyson
Creativity is allowing yourself to make mistakes. Art is knowing which ones to keep.

Scott Adams
A work of art is above all an adventure of the mind.

Eugene Ionesco
The art and science of asking questions is the source of all knowledge.

Thomas Berger
You use a glass mirror to see your face; you use works of art to see your soul.

George Bernard Shaw
Presentation

Thinking Outside the Jewelry Box

Micki Taylor
Why do I call the presentation “Thinking Outside the Jewelry Box”?

The settings for the stones are sewn together rather than made of metal.

I'm not interested in “fashion” – just in making jewelry for fun, so I don't have to follow any convention.

I'm not making a living at it, so I am free to arrange the stones and beads in a way to please my own eye, and not worry about acceptance.

I'd like to thank Lee Romaniszyn for asking me to do the show. I didn't know how much fun it would be talking to people about the show and having you try on the necklaces. It's cool to see them on other people!

I'd like to thank Paul for his help in making the picture frames work for jewelry, for helping bend some of the metal parts, and for advice on color and composition.
Background: I have a Bachelor's in theatre (emphasis in costume design) and English. I got bored making costumes in Hollywood, so I got a Master's in nutrition and worked in a hospital until I moved to Kansas 18-20 years ago. When I retired, I thought I was going to do botanical illustration. At the River Festival I found a bead embroidery artist named Micheline Brierre. I bought a piece from her every year until three years ago, when I decided that I could make beaded embroidered jewelry myself.

I'm self-taught, through books, and examining photos of jewelry on the Internet, and experimenting. What is in this room is more than half of all the jewelry I have ever made.

In the newsletter, Willow wrote that I was going to talk about the process. “Process” can refer to either the physical or the creative process. So I will cover both. First, the physical materials.

Slide 3
The first thing you need to know is the difference between a bead and a cabochon. A bead is any personal ornament with a hole in it. A cabochon is a flat-ish stone or glass piece without a hole.
The embroidery is done mostly with seed beads. The majority of them are 2mm wide about $\frac{1}{16}$th of an inch. The most uniform ones are usually made in Japan.

Next is the process.
How Seed Beads are Made

Mix the raw materials SiO2, NaCO3, and CaCO3 with coloring ingredients and place them in a 1400C furnace to make the melted glass.

- Text and photos from Miyuki Beads, Japan
Pulling

Pull molten glass into a long hollow tube.
The exact process is a secret.
Cutting

Cut the long glass tubes into short pieces using a special cutting machine.
Mix carbon powder with these cut pieces and heat them to 700C to make the cut pieces into round beads.
Rounding

Rinse
Tumble to polish
Smooth the surface
Extra Processing

Line with silver

Or dye

Or add coating
Why do I make jewelry?
I have always loved stones. I love the patterns and colors in rocks. Gerald Gillespie used to polish stones. He recently told me that there is something spiritual about our attraction to stones. I agree and can see how people can attribute healing powers to gemstones. Just staring at a stone can inspire a sense of wonder in nature. I think our brains evolved to appreciate beauty.

And not just our brains.

Bowerbird Nest and Yard

We are not the only creatures who create art. If one item is moved, the bowerbird will put it back to correct his design.
How do I make the jewelry?

I glue a cabochon (stone) to a piece of sturdy felt-like fabric. Then I put strands of nearly every type of bead in my stash around it until I find a combination that I really like. Then I use special beading thread to sew the bead around the stone, usually 2-4 beads at a time. I run several strands of thread through just the beads, to make the lines smooth. I cut off the excess fabric, put on an Ultrasuede backing and sew it on with beads.
Bead Embroidered Jewelry
I train my brain to produce designs the same way that Robert Louis Stevenson did his writing.

He relied on his Little People or Brownies to create his stories in his dreams. He wrote:

“Who are the Little People? They are near connections of the dreamer’s, beyond doubt; they share in his financial worries and have an eye to the bank-book; they share plainly in his training; ... only I think they have more talent; and one thing is beyond doubt, they can tell him a story piece by piece, like a serial, and keep him all the while in ignorance of where they aim…

And for the Little People, what shall I say, they are but just my Brownies, God bless them! who do one-half my work for me while I am fast asleep, and in all human likelihood, do the rest for me as well, when I am wide awake and fondly suppose I do it for myself. That part which is done while I am sleeping is the Brownies’ part beyond contention; but that which is done when I am up and about is by no means necessarily mine, since all goes to show the Brownies have a hand in it even then.”
So who or what are these brownies?

They are not just as Robert Louis Stevenson said, the “near connections of the dreamer”. They are the neural connections of the brain, the parts that work behind the scenes, their magic hidden from our conscious minds.

You learn, research, practice – filing your knowledge in the brain. But your brain does not just store information like a file cabinet. The Brownies are making connections between the thousands of points of knowledge you have filed. Hundreds of thousands of ideas, pictures, musical notes, patterns, etc. RLS's Brownies are inside everyone's head. They are writing stories, drawing pictures, composing music, and making jewelry patterns. This goes on without you being aware of it. Then the Brownies may present their creations-- your creations-- to your conscious mind.
But first you have to nurture the Brownies. You have to study your subject and file the ideas. Not to copy them, but to order the Brownies to do the type of work you want. The more information you feed them, more ideas are delivered to your conscious mind for you to put into action. [Like ordering a pizza and having it delivered. Brownies are the pizza delivery guys of your mind/brain.]

For my process, I look at a lot of pictures of other people's jewelry and art, nearly daily. I know this gives my neurons something to work with, to grow the creative parts of the brain. I can look at 100 pictures and then, often the next morning, a design pops into my head. It won't look like anything I saw in those 100 pictures, but I know it came from a synthesis of all the art I have ever seen. Most of the synthesis was done in the non-conscious parts of my brain, by the “neuro-Brownies” connecting bits from many different files in my memory banks.

The other thing I do is try everything. I find a stone and put it next to nearly every bead in my stash. I keep going until some combination of colors and shapes sets off the neurons in the reward center of my brain.
Discussion (as much as I can remember)

- Where do you get your stones?
- Mostly from India. Jaipur, Rajasthan is one of the largest stone cutting centers in the world. The stones come from many parts of the world, but are cut and polished in India.
- I buy from some American lapidaries because you can get more interesting shapes. A few stones are from American sellers who buy from overseas. A few cabochons are from China.
- It is not unusual for me to look at over 1000 stones before I buy one.
Discussion, 2

- When did you start making jewelry?
- About three years ago. The work you see in this room – about 24 necklaces – is more than half of all the jewelry I have ever made. My mother and nieces and a few friends have the rest.
Discussion, 3

- How did you learn?
- Mostly from books and looking at photos of work by other bead embroidery jewelers. It is quite an engineering problem at times to figure out how to attach components. Findings (usually metal clasps and connectors) that are made for stringing beads don't always work for the objects I put together. Sometimes I need to run steel beading wire through a piece to strengthen it so it will hold a heavy stone.
Discussion, 4

- What is your favorite stone?
- I answered charoite and amethyst lace, but that was wrong.

I love any stone with an interesting pattern. The lines, colors and specks of crystals in a pretty stone can keep my eyes busy for a long time.