

2025 Fall Classes

NEW THIS QUARTER

Silver Fabrication: Basics & Beyond with Melinda Pate and Hugh Bennett

A silver class for beginners, intermediate and advanced students. If you're just beginning or an advanced student working on your own projects this class has something to offer for everyone.

Silver Fabrication: Independent Work with Melinda Pate and Hugh Bennett

A silver class for intermediate and advanced students. You will need to bring all your own supplies, and you can use our benches, tools, and equipment to finish up your projects

Discovering Silver: Adventure Begins with Cameron Dean and Teresa Estes

A first stop workshop for true beginners wishing to embark upon an adventure toward becoming a silversmith. You will be introduced to many different foundational skills to take with you on your journey forward. You will learn the different variations of sheet silver, wire, and solder. You will learn how to safely manage a torch, flux and solder, cut, file, stamp, create decorative components, polish, and of course, where to purchase materials.

As this workshop concludes, our hope is that your artisan heart is inspired to begin creating your own beautiful designs for future projects.

All needed materials will be supplied in kit bag, including sterling silver and silver solder, to complete a pendant.

*****We will also take a break from instruction time, so pack a hearty snack to bring with you.**

Jewelry Lab with Bill Clemons

Do you need some bench time for something you're working on? Do you need to use a torch, but you don't have one at home? Then this is the perfect place for you. You will need to bring all your own supplies, and you can use our benches, tools, and equipment to finish up your projects.

Surfite Artisans Workshop with Mickey Rathsam

Surfite/Surfstone is a manmade product made from the build-up/build up of colorful resin layers created in the surfboard glazing process. The resin or "glass" is applied to the board as the final sealing process, and any runoff drips onto a tray under the board.

In this class you will learn how to cut, shape, polish, and drill Surfite to be used in your jewelry making projects. Surfite is very light weight and strong. It can be used in any type of jewelry setting.

(Pendants, rings, belt buckles, earrings, etc.) Using the proper techniques you can achieve a mirror like finish on the final product. You will learn those techniques in this class.



Christmas Leather Earrings with Jamie Zimish

In this class you will create up to five pairs of Christmas Leather earrings. Choices include: Angels, Christmas Trees, Snow Men and Poinsettia, and one leather ring.



KEUM BOO with Melinda Pate and Mona Collins

Keum boo means “attached gold” in Korean and refers to the method of fusing high karat gold with fine (pure) silver or depletion gilded sterling silver. Aside from its beauty, the keum boo process is a very affordable way to incorporate real gold into designs at a price both the maker and potential buyer can afford.

Keum boo is a technique applied at the very end of a piece’s construction. Additional firing will cause the gold to melt into the silver. So, all pieces for this technique should be finished to the point of no additional soldering operations being needed. However, it will be possible to punch out and dap some simple round earrings and then keum boo them within the class time. Ideally, all participants should come with either a fine silver or sterling project(s) ready to go. Adding keum boo to fine silver pmc pieces is especially successful.

Hot plates, sharp scissors and agate burnishers along with decorative punches and liver of sulphur will be available in class. But if anyone has their own agate burnisher or small decorative punch (we have a heart and a circle...possibly a butterfly—all from Michaels) they would be good to bring as well.

No silver will be available for purchase in class.

DO NOT BRING: any manufactured pieces (non-handmade items) fine silver is preferred, but sterling can be used.

Classes with Special Guest Instructor: Warren Feld

WIRE WEAVE MAYAN PENDANT

Learn to create beautiful wire woven patterns and textures. Then create a textured pendant befitting a Mayan King!

Wire weaving is a set of techniques, similar to basket weaving, where you wrap thin WEAVE wires around thicker BASEWIRES to create patterns and textures. You can then use these wire-woven strips to make all kinds of things, such as the framework to turn a cabochon or bead into a pendant, earring dangles, bracelets, bails, and the like.

In this class, we learn about

- materials and tools needed
- preparing the wire before weaving
- practicing by creating a 2-BASE WIRE soumak weave sample called Dressed or Nude
- practicing by creating a 2-BASE WIRE basket weave sample called Simple Basket Weave
- Project: Mayan Pendant: using our wire weaving technique to create a structural component, shaping this to fit it around an elongated teardrop bead, and turning the bead into a pendant
- Discuss metal oxidation techniques



Wire Working Intro/Mix'nMatch Bracelet

Learn 9 different wire wrapping techniques. Then, using what you have learned, create the components needed to construct a Mix N Match Bracelet all your own.

In this class, you will learn about wires, tools and several wire-wrapping techniques. With each technique, you will also be constructing components that will be used in making a bracelet. Students will get a start in designing and constructing their bracelet but will need additional time at home to complete the project.

Many students love working with wire to make jewelry. The wire is soft enough to manipulate easily, but strong enough to hold a permanent shape once it has been worked on. Wire can be cut, bent, hammered, twisted, coiled, spiraled, woven, looped into any shape you can imagine. We will be practicing all these techniques.

COMPONENTS AND TECHNIQUES WE WILL BE LEARNING

- (1) Spiral Dangle
- (2) Head Pins
- (3) Simple Loop Drop With Bead(s) and Eye Pin
- (4) Coil Wrapped Drop With Bead(s)
- (5) Spiral Bead Cap Connector Piece
- (6) Simple Figure 8 Bead Link
- (7) Caged Bead Drop
- (8) Coiled Coil Wrapped Bead
- (9) Jump Rings

Then putting it all together into a finished MIX N MATCH bracelet



Wire Wrapped Cabochon Pendant

Nothing beats a hand-crafted, wire-wrapped cabochon pendant! The look is artistic, personal and easy to do.

You will kick off the experience by picking your cabochon among many different gemstone cabs brought by the host. In this workshop, we learn how to use wire to create a frame and cage to fit and secure a 30x40mm gemstone cabochon. We continue with these same wires at the top of the piece to fashion a bail. Then we learn a series of tricks and devices for both tightening our constructed cage as well as adding artistic flourishes.



Wire Weave 2 & Sun Pendant

Wire weaving is a set of techniques, similar to basket weaving, where you wrap thin WEAVE wires around thicker BASEWIRES to create patterns and textures. You can then use these wire-woven strips to make all kinds of things, such as the framework and caging to turn a cabochon or bead into a pendant, earring dangles, bracelets, bails, and the like. In this class, we learn about- materials and tools needed- preparing the wire before weaving- practicing by creating a 3-BASE WIRE soumak weave sample- practicing by creating a 4-BASE WIRE soumak weave sample- using wire crochet to

create a bezel for securing a cabochon- Project: Sun Pendant: Creating a 7-BASE Wire Woven sun pendant with simple wire bail



PEARL KNOTTING – Special 3 hour class with Special Guest Instructor: Warren Feld

*Classic Elegance! Timeless! Architectural Perfection!
Learn a simple Pearl Knotting technique anyone can do.
No special tools. Beautiful. Durable. Wearable.*

Student is taught a non-traditional Pearl Knotting technique which is very easy for anyone to learn and do. Does not use special tools. Presents a simple way to tie knots and position the knots to securely abut the bead. Anticipates both appeal and functionality. Shows clearly how to attach your clasp and finish off your cords.

Most traditional techniques are very frustrating. These can get overly complicated and awkward. They rely on tools for making and positioning the knots. When attempting to follow traditional techniques, people often find they cannot tie the knots, make good knots, get the knots close enough to the beads, nor centered between them. How to attach the piece to the clasp gets simplified or glossed over.

Pearl Knotting doesn't need to be this hard. By the end of *Pearl Knotting...Warren's Way*, you will have mastered hand-knotting pearls.



BEAD WEAVING FRINGE: CATERPILLAR ESPIRITU BRACELET

WHAT THIS CLASS IS ABOUT:

Capture an aspiring, spiritual essence! Learn to create an expressive fringe bracelet using a very large palette of colors and shapes.

Student is taught to use a Simple and Straight Fringing technique. We discuss various different ways to create bead woven fringes. We practice adding a Picot Edge to each fringe. We learn to make a button loop, embellish that loop with beads, and add a button as clasp to the project. We discuss issues of managing thread tension, how to read simple diagrams, and how to manage a project with a very large palette.



Continuing Classes

Love Knot Ring with Michelle McIntyre

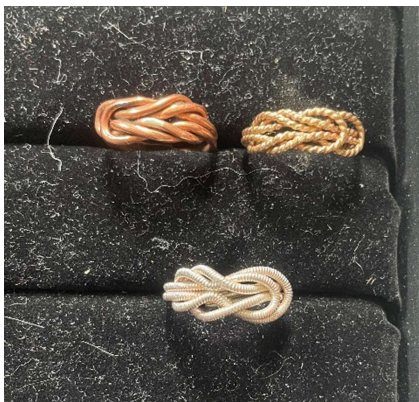
This Love Knot ring class will introduce students to beginning Silversmithing. While the picture may lead you to believe that this is a wire wrapping class (no stones set during this class), this is a true Silversmithing class. Students will learn:

1. Basic Silversmithing hand tools and their uses
2. How to cut, file, and solder silver, copper, or brass wire
3. How to put a final polish on your piece

Students will need to bring 10 inches of either 12- or 14-gauge wire of their choice. If students do not bring their own wire, wire will need to be purchased from the Silver classroom and will either be Brass or Copper. No previous experience is required but a willingness to learn and have fun is essential!

The class is a one-day class and will last four hours.

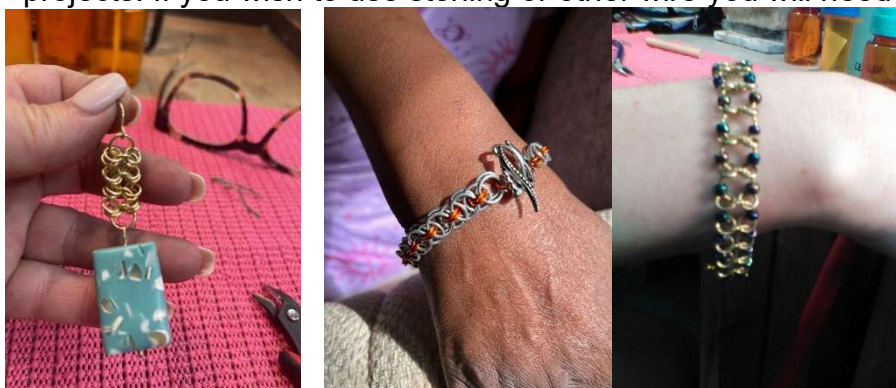
Class time 9:00-1:00



Copper Lab Class with Debbie West & Leah Cothorn (Intermediate - Advanced Students Only)
Perfect opportunity to practice the technique of Copper Fold Forming or Raising a Vessel Etc.

Chain Maille Jewelry (Solderless Chain Making) with Rita Heffner

This class is designed for the beginner to learn the basics of making chains with unsoldered jump rings. Students will be shown how to take raw wire to finished jewelry. You will be shown how to select the wire gauge and jump ring size, coil and cut jump rings, weave the chain patterns, polish and complete the jewelry item. Byzantine, Box Chain, Helm Chain and other chain weaves will be taught. It is recommended that you bring your Optivisor or other magnifier to use in class, as these are not provided. The school will provide all other loaner tools. Copper wire will be used for various projects. If you wish to use sterling or other wire you will need to bring it with you



Flame Painting/Embossing with Rita Heffner & Allison Hodde Kit fee required

The art of using the flame from a torch on a piece of copper sheet to bring out vivid colors on the copper. The copper is then sealed to preserve the colors.



Faceting with Allison Hodde

Faceting is the art of cutting gemstones to look like diamonds, so that it gathers light and then sends it back to the viewer. You will learn to use a faceting machine. The beginning student will learn the basics and use simple material and design to cut their first stone. During this process you will learn the proper use of the faceting machine, how to read a facet diagram, and various tricks of the trade. These techniques can then be used by the student to cut semi-precious and precious gemstones.

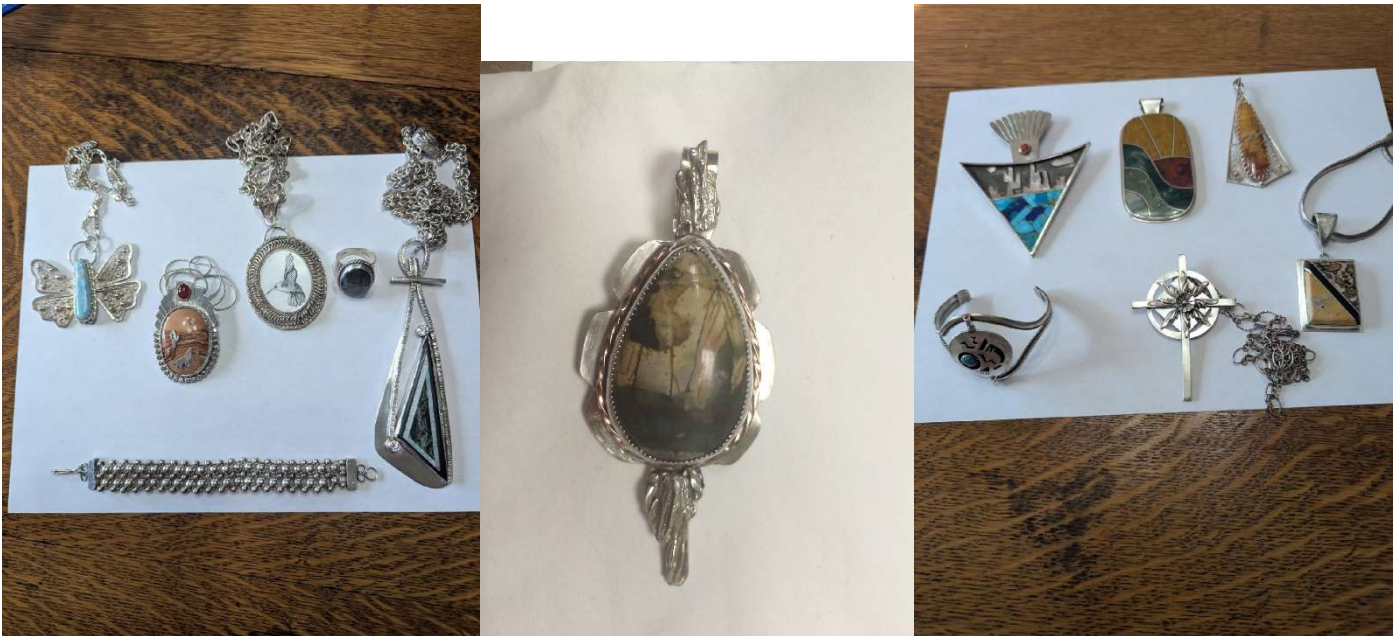


Lapidary with Steve Kanies, Mark Leftwich, Jim Paris, Gary Branscome, Bill Painton, Chrystie Stachura, Gina Simpson, Allison Hodde, John Martin, Michelle McIntrye Supplies \$5 and up
Lapidary is the art of cutting and polishing stones. The student will learn how to cut gemstones, using specialty saw and grinders to shape the gemstone into cabochons (cabs) that can be set into commercial jewelry, or can be used in wire wrapping or silversmithing projects. Students will be provided with their first slab (a slice of agate or jasper). Students may bring their own rocks and slabs and instructors will have other slabs and rocks available for the student to purchase. Day and night classes are 2- 3 hours long, offered each week for the 3-month quarter. You should cut a number of gemstones during the quarter. Your instructor will help you learn what to look for in gemstones and how best to orient them into a beautiful design



Silver Jewelry/Silver Smithing with Eileen Smiley, Jennifer Murray, Melinda Pate, Hugh Bennett Supplies \$50 and up (Depending on the price of silver)

In this class you will learn the art of silversmithing or fabricating silver into beautiful jewelry. Using an acetylene gas torch, you will learn the fine art of soldering, and basic jewelry design. For new silversmiths you will learn the basics which include the proper way to handle a torch, how to use various hand tools and basic jewelry design. For the more advanced or retuning students you will learn new techniques and have the ability to complete your own designs and projects. Instructors will have silver and other materials available for students to purchase. Each instructor will teach his or her methods and designs. As you advance you will be given the option to advance to more challenging projects. You may purchase gemstones and/or silver from the instructor or bring your own, except where the instructor teaches different projects in class



Tiffany Style-Stained Glass Class with Debbie West Supply fee required

This class will teach a copper foil technique that involves wrapping each piece of glass in a copper foil tape, and then soldering them together.

You will learn how to Cut and Shape Glass, Copper Foiling, Soldering, Proper Cleaning, Using a Patina and Waxing.

2025 Fall
MTGMS Class Descriptions



Be watching your email POP UP Classes. Also be watching us on Facebook, they will be announced there first.