



July 2020

Happy Half New Year

While the rest of America was celebrating the birth of our nation, my husband and I were secretly celebrating another milestone. 2020 is more than half over! Yay! Yes, we are now on the downslide of this very awful year. 2020 brought discomfort and inconvenience to all and downright tragedy to many. We must weep with those who are suffering and bring them comfort where we can.

But it does us no good to wallow in the negative for long. We also need to uplift each other and keep our focus on brighter days ahead. Some good will come out of this experience if we look for it. My husband and I are closer than ever since he's been working from home for so many months. Our daughter appreciates us more than ever since she has been unable to visit.

The same holds true for RMBS. We have been forced out of our comfort zone as an organization and will learn and grow and be stronger for it. We've had to re-think and adapt everything we have traditionally done. Now that we have our sea legs under us in regards to the "virtual", it's time to hit the gas pedal and see what more we can do. If you have never used Facebook or attended an online meeting, give it a try. Covid-19 will be here for a little while more, so let's adjust and not let it beat us!

And once the pandemic has past we will appreciate each other more than ever. We'll have a new space to call home. Face-to-face interaction, live classes, luncheons and celebrations - won't that be lovely? And who knows, maybe we'll keep the best of that virtual stuff going as well. Brighter days are ahead, but in the meantime let's enjoy each other virtually and keep our community strong.

Love to all,
Diane K.
RMBS President

Virtual meeting July 23rd at 6:30

Status of In-Person Events

The RMBS Board has officially decided to cancel all in-person events for the remainder of 2020. But don't despair! We are busy working on lots of fun new virtual events - some of which you will read about in this very newsletter, some that are still in development. If things make a radical change for the better regarding Covid-19 we will definitely re-evaluate this decision.

Programs

We are looking forward to working virtually with our members this month! We will be transitioning our Facebook Page to a Facebook Group. You can join the group here:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/rockybeads>

There is a virtual meeting July 23rd at 6:30pm. We will have another bead-in! In this meeting Jo Ann Patterson will introduce a Round Robin event. She will showcase a doll she made with a group of beaders in a previous round robin as well as give an idea of the steps involved for participants.

We will be starting some small group activities to help keep the group connected. These events will be presented through email and the Facebook group. Please stay tuned for more details and activities.

We know we would typically have the Sampler in July. Unfortunately we are not doing this event this year. However, we know many of you are eager to take some classes and commiserate with friends. Check out this Facebook group created by Beki Haley to find virtual classes, tutorials and other offerings from bead teachers

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/BeadingClassesKitsTutorials/?ref=share>

Member Survey Results

A big thank you to everyone who completed the member survey last month. The board reviewed the results and will take action on your wonderful suggestions. Here are a few of the key takeaways from the survey:

- The membership is pretty evenly split on whether they would consider attending an in person event during the remainder of 2020
- Most of the membership (73%) is willing to try online classes, as long as the topic was interesting to them and the cost not too high
- Most of the members (71%) want to see more online meetings while the pandemic continues

- We got lots of very helpful suggestions about things to do in upcoming meetings
- Generally positive & appreciative comments about our efforts to keep RMBS going “virtually” during the pandemic

Call for Online Teachers

Although we are not having an in-person Bead Sampler this year, we would like to offer a few “mini-classes” for free to our members. Are you willing to teach one? This is not a paid teaching opportunity, but rather a chance to give back to your fellow RMBS members. You do need to have a good internet connection, webcam or cell phone cam, confidence teaching and the ability to show what you are working on (usually via an overhead camera showing your hands). If you have the technology and are willing to give this a shot please email RMBSinfo251@gmail.com. If you know someone who is not an RMBS member but would be willing to share their skills with us anyway, please forward this to them. Thank you.

New Church Tour

Most of the extended RMBS board was able to tour the new church facility (Wellspring Englewood) on June 30. We were favorably impressed! The church basement has a cafeteria style room with kitchen attached, similar to our meeting room now, though not quite as large. It is plenty big enough for us though. The church is newer and therefore less run-down than the current facility. There is a storage room we can use (sharing with the weavers guild, just like we are now). There are also a couple of classrooms we may be able to use when we have multiple classes going on simultaneously (for example, during the Bead Sampler). The only negative is that it has a few more stairs to climb than our current church, and no elevator. Spirit of Hope does plan to install an elevator but of course that will not happen overnight. The move is tentatively planned for early September, but there is no exact date yet. Let us know if you have any questions.



Meeting Room



Kitchen



Storage Room



Class Room