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beadshop LIVE: 3.13.19 Never Stop Growing Mala Set



*With Janice Parsons and
Kate Richbourg on beadshop LIVE
Samples by Janice Parsons
Photography by Baranduin Briggs,
Karen Marshall, and Janice Parsons
Episode Notes by Drea Carbone*

We're all always growing...have you noticed that? No matter what age we are, we seem to always be astounded that we continue to learn and grow with each experience we encounter. Janice's latest Mala is a testament to that notion. With a matching "wrist Mala," Janice has created a beautiful set to help us grow through our beadwork. Making a Mala is a very personal experience...we hope you enjoy making your own, whether it's a traditional 108-bead masterpiece or a smaller "worry bead" bracelet, or both! Without further ado...here's Never Stop Growing.

With both Janice and Kate in the office, there's a lot of banter!
Fast forward to **Minute Marker 19:00** to get right to the learning.
Also, check out the **Tassel Tricks and Wrist Mala** show on the Free Tip Friday
following this broadcast, on 3.15.19.

Minute Marker 19:00

We have a really wonderful and in-depth [How To Knot A Mala Handout](#) already, so here in the Notes we'll be covering just the basics. We start out with a little set-up. Janice is using one of her favorite boards, [The Ultimate Design Board](#). You can easily lay out projects, fit in little [bead triangles](#) filled with loose beads and findings, and design away!



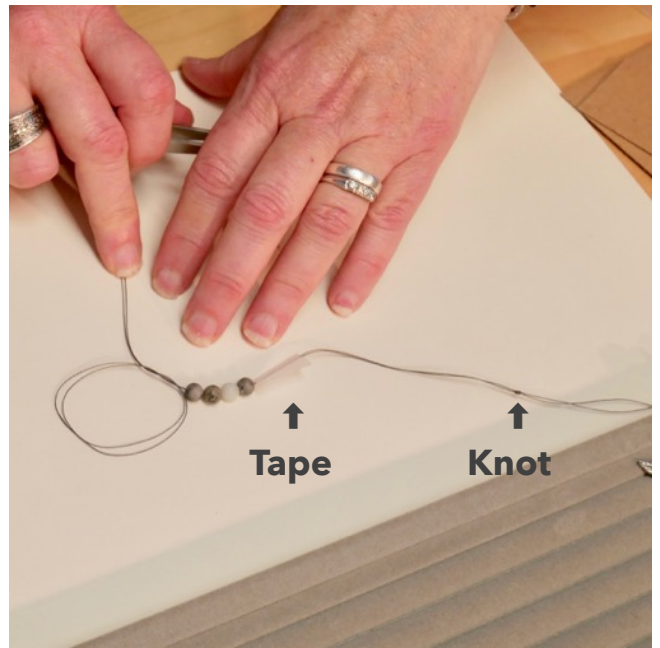
Minute Marker 23:00

Janice has strung this Mala on [Tuff Cord #1](#), which was a first for us. We usually use [C-Lon](#)! But Janice wanted to try something new. You can learn all about Tuff Cord and our other stringing materials on the [Stitchionary](#), as well as in our [Tricks to Laddering handout](#), which Janice discusses much more than just laddering in. (Please Note! We don't carry all the threads written about in Tricks to Laddering, but it's a great guide nonetheless!) Janice chats a bit about the different sizes of Tuff Cord we carry, as well as what to choose for what kind of bead you're using. With our [6mm stones](#) today, we're using #1, but if you wanted to make a Mala with glass beads you could size up to Tuff #2. Choose a thread that fits the beads!

Minute Marker 28:00

Janice is ready to string. She has cut about 4 yards of Tuff Cord #1. She strings a [Flexible Eye Needle](#) to the center, so her thread is doubled over. At the very end she ties a safety knot, and about three inches from that she adds a little flag of scotch tape. She tests three beads to make sure their holes will be large enough to accommodate *four* strands of Tuff Cord.

These three tested beads will be needed at the beginning of your Mala journey and at the end. When you have completed the rest of the Mala, you'll come back to these three beads and go through them again to finish. Janice slides those tested beads all the way down to her tape flag. That extra 3" length between the tape and the safety knot? That's there so we can tie the final knots between these three beads at the very end, so it's very important to leave that length!

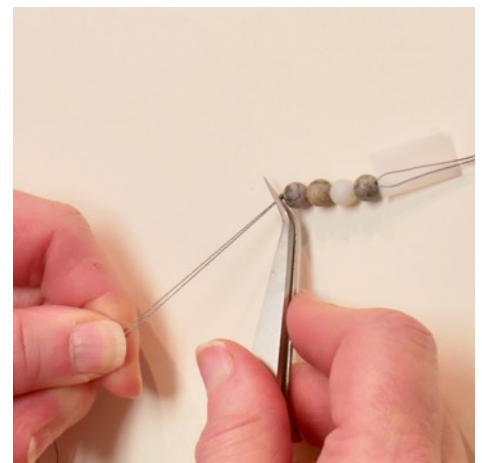
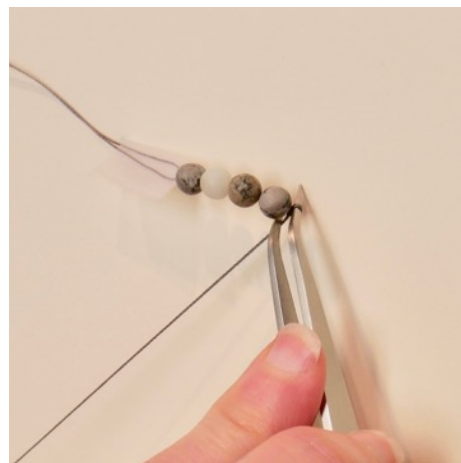


Minute Marker 35:00

Time to knot! You can do a couple different ways to knot. You can watch and learn more...we have loads of videos and handouts!

[Contemporary Bead Knotting](#) has [FB Live 1.23.19 Working with Bullion \(Belvedere\)](#) as well as [FB Live 10.25.17's Tres Chic and Green Guardian](#). [All the Zen of Stringing Projects](#) (there are three different videos in Zen, one for Branching Out and Out of the Blue together, one for Fishing, and one for Homecoming). Plus check out the [FB Live 10.24.18 Cultured Girls](#) and [FB 3.7.18 Trail's End Bracelet](#) videos, too. In our [Class Handouts](#) you can find classic beadshop classes, like [Gem Knotting](#) and [Pearl Knotting](#).

Like Kate says, there's no one right way to knot...there are lots! You do you...find the way that works best for your style and your hands! Kate knots with [tweezers](#): Tie an overhand knot and use your tweezers to move the knot closer to the bead. Once it's right up at the edge of the bead, use the tweezers to push the knot tight up against the bead.



Minute Marker 38:30

While Kate strings on more beads, Janice chats a bit about her Wrist Mala. We go more in-depth into these “worry beads” on [this Free Tip Friday broadcast](#). More on that at the end of these Notes!

Janice has also curated a few different colorways for Malas...here are her selections:



Purple Tuff Cord or Regular C-Lon
6mm Matte Dog Tooth Amethyst Star Cuts (station beads)
6mm Matte Angelite Rounds
6mm Matte Purple Crazy Lace Agate Rounds
6mm Purple Crazy Lace Agate Rounds
8mm Large Hole Amazonite Faceted Rondelles (for wrist)



Black and Grey Tuff Cord or Regular C-Lon
6mm Labradorite Star Cuts (station beads)
6mm Labradorite Rounds
6mm Matte Porcelain Jasper Rounds
6mm Matte Onyx Rounds
8mm Large Hole Matte White African Opal Rounds (for wrist)



Blue and Blue-Green Tuff Cord and Regular C-Lon
6mm Matte Black-Gold Amazonite Rondelles (station beads)
6mm Amazonite Rounds
6mm Blue Crazy Lace Agate Rounds
6mm Lapis Lazuli Rounds
8mm Large Hole Sodalite Rounds (for wrist)

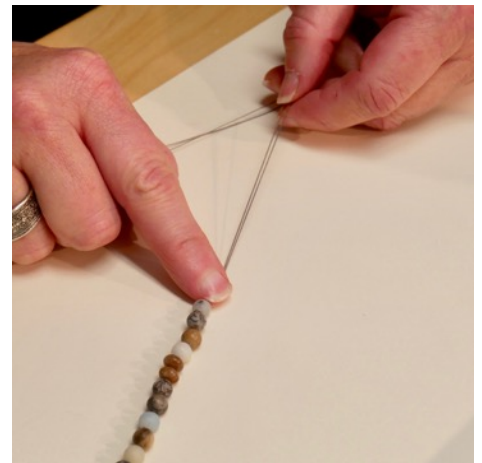


Brown and Green Tuff Cord and Regular C-Lon
8mm Malachite Coins (station bead)
6mm Fancy Jasper Rounds
6mm Matte Green Aventurine Rounds
6mm Rhyolite Rounds
8mm Large Hole Matte Bloodstone Rounds (for wrist mala)

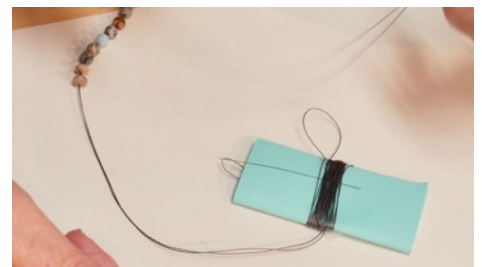
Minute Marker 46:00

Back to knotting! Kate has knotted several beads and has strung several more onto her thread, keeping count of both her beads and noting her station bead placement. With a Mala you want a total of 108 beads plus a guru bead. You may also want stations, though it's not necessary.

Kate shows another knotting method here. She makes a loop around her thumb and middle finger, holding her threads between her thumb and index finger. Then, using that open space between her fingers, drops her beads through the hole. This ties your knot. Pull the rest of your thread through. Using her awl, she "walks" her knot closer to her bead before tightening it. The awl helps to position the knot, and then Kate uses her *next* bead to push her knot into place, pulling on the threads to tighten the knot perfectly in place.



Janice shows a nice little trick here, too. Once you have a bunch of beads pre-strung, coil up the rest of your loose thread around a piece of cardstock or piece of paper. Less tangling, less time dragging long lengths of thread through your knot, and an easier overall method. Smart!



Here's one more closeup as Kate uses a bead to tighten up a knot. Janice isn't sure it'll work...there's nervousness...and then...pop! The knot is in place, the beads are in place, and Kate can move onto the next one. Good trick, Kate!





Minute Marker 51:30

Let's talk Mirage Beads! These mood beads are color-changing and we just love them. Janice has a great story about meeting the inventor of the mood bead! How groovy. See how we use them in Setting The Mood wrap bracelets, too!



Janice discusses an issue she ran into... the bead hole on her Magical Mystery Mirage Bead was so big it could fall over the entire tassel she's made. That's why she's added charms directly onto her tassel, it's holding the bead in place. See how her jump ring goes right through the top of her tassel, and then her charm and briolette hang below? Another fix could have been using a smaller-holed bead or making a larger tassel. You do you! Later, we *try* a smaller bead, but decide to stick the the larger one JP originally chose.

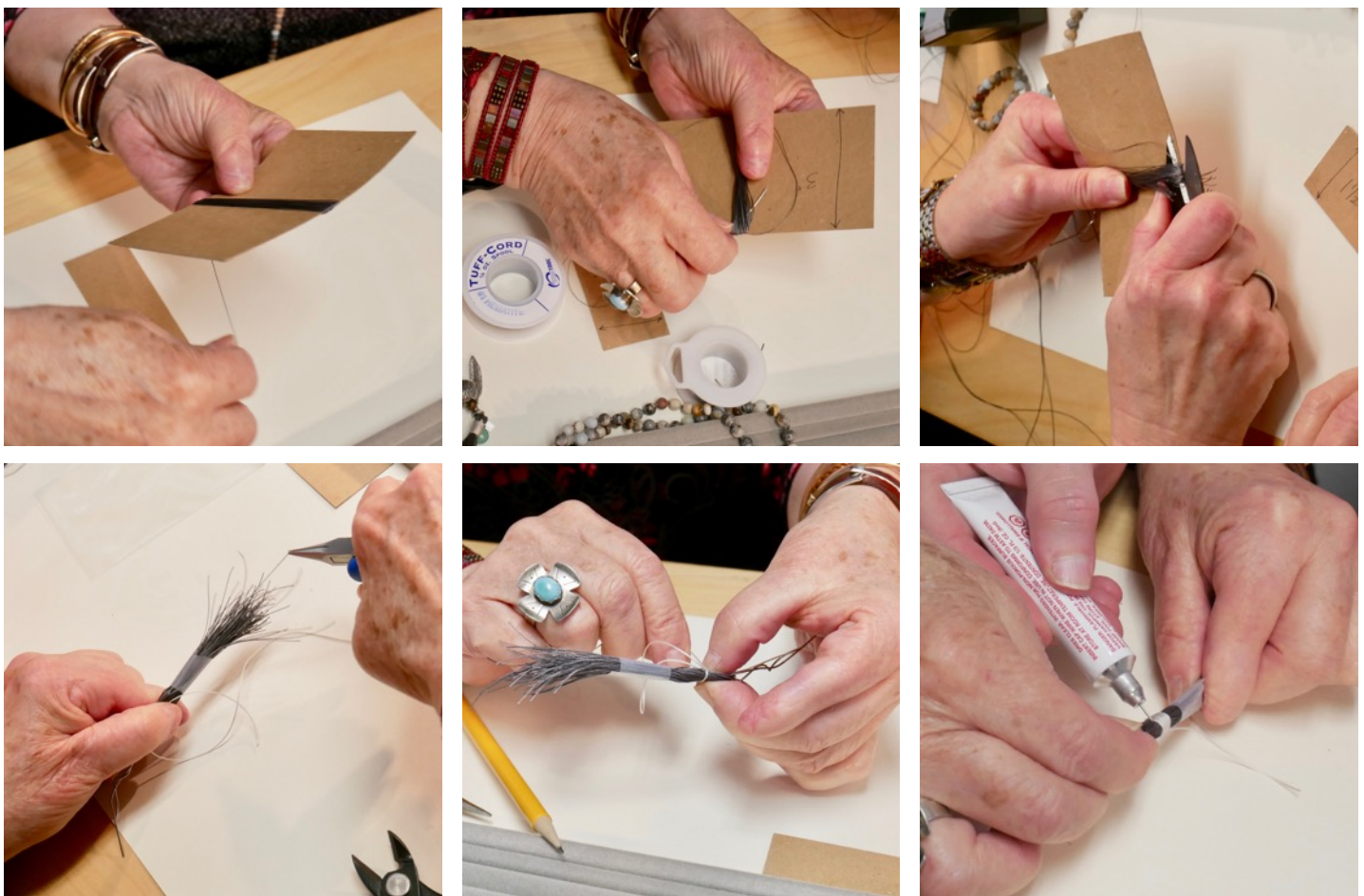


Minute Marker 1:00:00

Tassel time! Using templates made from scrap cardboard, Janice and Kate begin to wind their thread around and around the cardboard. One is 3" wide, the other and inch and a half. The 3" one is for our traditional Mala and the smaller 1.5" one is a good size for our first mala. Kate snips a little cut into the side of the cardboard to hold the loose thread tail...smart trick! Wind around and around until you have a tassel as thick as you want it! The gals are using Tuff #1 again.

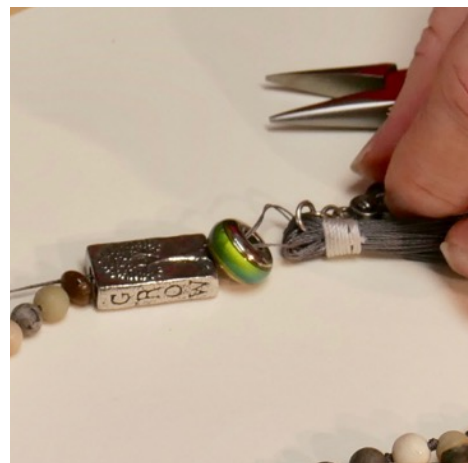
Using a scrap piece of wire, Janice gathers all the threads under the wire and twists the wire into a rough loop to keep all the threads together. The wire is holding the top of the tassel in place. Kate comes in and snips on the opposite end to free the tassel from the cardboard. Janice loosely tapes around all the threads, then pulls some of the shorter threads to even out the tassel...after all is said and done you give your tassel a little "haircut," too.

Above the piece of tape, silk wrap! Janice is using Regular C-Lon and a dab of GS Hypo Cement to secure. You could also use a Transitions Bead to crimp, or macrame, or whatever you like! Our How To Silk Wrap Skill Builder will explain the silk wrap technique.



Minute Marker 1:11:00

Let's add the guru bead. String down through a rondelle, through the Green Girl Grow Strong Guru bead, through the Mirage Bead, and finally through the top of your tassel...feed your needle through before removing that scrap wire! Then, string your way back up through your three beads.



Kate adds a jump ring through the top of the tassel, again, to keep the larger holed beads from falling off. Depending on the size of your tassel, you may not be able to fit the jump ring through all of the threads! No worries. Fit through what you can. Attach your charms to this jump ring. Janice has one charm and one wire-wrapped briolette.

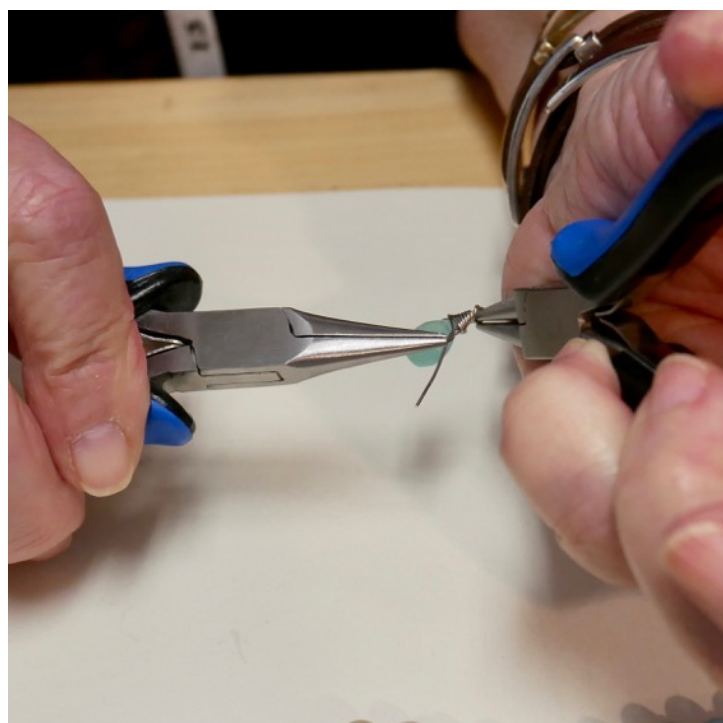
Minute Marker 1:18:30

Back to knotting. Just above the rondelle, tie a knot, and then add your beads and continue to knot up the other side of your mala towards the back. While Kate knots, Janice goes over the wire-wrapped briolette technique. On the Wrist Mala, Janice did a wire-wrap through her gurus beads and tassel, but more on that later in the FTF bit... There's some chit chat about having tags made to brand your jewelry. Here are the links Kate mentions:

Infinity Stamps

MicrostampUSA

Frontline Engraving



Minute Marker 1:33:30

But, what happens if you break a thread? Janice shows the solution.

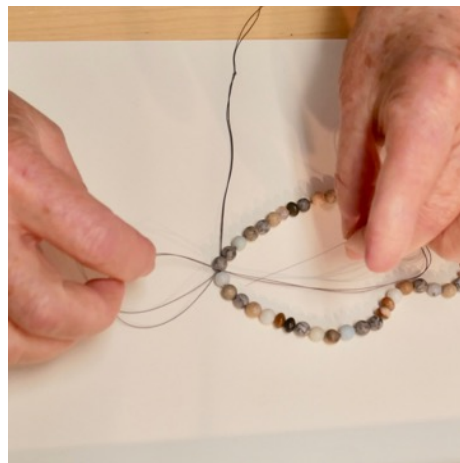
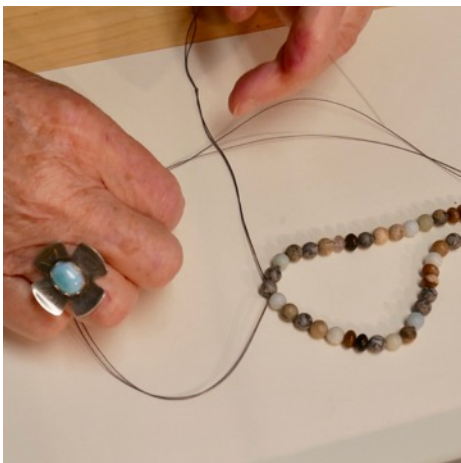
With the broken thread, pull it further up through the last bead strung. Tie a knot as normal, capturing *both* broken tails and the unbroken thread. Whoops! Kate cuts the wrong thread! So she repeats the process. Add another bead and you can continue to knot as normal.

I don't have photos of this process, unfortunately...so be sure to watch the video carefully! Janice shows the technique quite well.

Minute Marker 1:36:00

Time to finish! For the purposes of our live show, we're just pretending we have knotted the complete second side of the Mala...

Do not tie a knot after your final bead. Bring your needle and thread right through the first bead on the opposite side, and bring all the beads together, so your Mala is now forming a complete circuit. Next, we'll tie the knots between our final several beads. Janice showed this technique just a few months ago during the [Belvedere Broadcast](#), if you'd like to see it done more than once!



Janice calls this knot "over the river and through the woods." Bring one thread over to create a loop, then bring the other thread under and through the loop. Then tighten your knot down right between your beads. Take your needle and go back through the next bead. Bring your thread through smoothly so it doesn't get twisted on you as you pull it through the bead. Tie your "over the river" knot again...make a loop, go around and through...knot tied! Continue through the next bead and tie another knot. Once all your beads have a knot through them, you've done it! To end the threads, add a dab of glue, then trim the tails once cured. Finished!

Now then...onto the Wrist Mala! And onto the next video. [Check it out here](#). In addition to the Wrist Mala, the ladies go over some tassel making...I'll add photos of these finished tassels here, but will focus on just the Wrist Mala in Notes.

Minute Marker 9:30

Don't worry...you've got worry beads now! Let's learn about making them. Janice chose to use 20 beads, and she decided on large-holed stones strung on a fine chain, one we call Little Keyhole. The two Malas make a really lovely set.

Start with the chain, and measure it around your wrist, and make sure the chain will fit around the largest part of your hand, since this does not have a clasp or any stretch. Add a bit extra, to account for the space the beads will take up. Kate's normal wrist size is an exact 7", Janice is measure this wrist mala for Kate to measure just over 8". There will also be a tiny bit of extra space where your wire wrap joins the end links of the chain. Janice uses 20G wire to fit through these tiny links and wire-wrap through her Hedgehog Guru bead and tassel. The tassel uses the 1.5" template that Kate and Janice made previously. Since you're not using a thread, wire wrap a closed loop through the top of the tassel. Feed your tassel onto the open loop of wire, then wrap it closed. To help stabilize the Guru bead with its very large hole, Janice lined the hole with some 8/0 metal seed beads. The Skill Builder How to Wire Wrap a Bead Unit will show you hot to make this component. At one end, the tassel, at the other, the two links of the ends of your chain, with beads strung on. Add charms...and you're finished!





Up close and personal with the tassels! Check out that MONSTER tassel Kate made so many years ago. Love it! The tassel broadcast mentioned during the show can be found right here in [this Blog Post](#). The Peyote Stitch "beaded bead" used on the one tassel is taught in two FB Live episodes...[11.8.1017 Beaded Bead Stacks](#) and [5.30.2018 For The Guys](#). Want even more Tassel ideas? Just search our Blog for "Tassel," loads of fun projects and ideas pop up!

That's it for these Notes, this week! We'll see you back in the beadosphere real soon...until then, happy beading!

Links to Events and More...

- Last Week's FB Live Broadcast: [Tracks Bracelet](#)
- [Facebook Live Youtube Playlist](#)
- [FB Live Archive Page](#) on beadshop.com
- [Free Tip Friday YouTube Playlist](#)
- [FTF Archive Page](#) on [beadshop.com](#)
- [The Journey Bead Retreat](#)

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Wasn't it so much fun to have Janice back on the west coast this week? These two ladies really are just like Lucy and Ethel sometimes!

Links to This Project's Ingredients...

[How to Knot A Mala and Recipe](#)

Never Stop Growing

- 1 Spool [Hematite Tuff Cord #1](#)
- 1 Spool [Oyster Regular C-Lon](#)
- 1 Strand [6mm Matte African White Opal Rounds](#)
- 1 Strand [6mm Matte Silver Crazy Lace Agate Rounds](#)
- 1 Strand [6mm Matte Black Gold Amazonite Rounds](#)
- 1 Strand [Black Gold Amazonite Large Hole Rounds](#)
- 1 Strand [6mm Wood Opalite Rondelles](#)
- 1 Tube [8/0 Metal Seed Beads- Matte Zinc Plate](#)
- 1 [Grow Strong Bead](#)
- 1 [Little Hedgehog Bead](#)
- 1 [Magical Mystery Bead](#)
- 2 [Peruvian Chalcedony Briolettes](#)
- 1 [Resting Buddha Charm- Antique Silver](#)
- 1 [Flight Charm- Antique Silver](#)
- 1 Foot [Little Keyhole Chain- Antique Silver](#)
- 1 Pkg [24G Titanium Non-Tarnish ParaWire](#)
- 1 Pkg [20G Titanium Non-Tarnish ParaWire](#)
- 1 Pkg [6mm 18G Jump Rings- Antique Silver](#)



You will also want to have...

- [Flexible Eye Needles](#)
- [GS Hypo Cement](#)
- [Ultimate Design Board](#)
- [Bead Triangles](#)
- [Maxi Shears](#)
- [Thread Clippers](#)
- [Knotting Tweezer or Awl](#)
- [Chain Nose Pliers](#)
- [Bent Nose Pliers](#)
- [Round Nose Pliers](#)



We love to see Janice's notes on a project she designs. One thing to note here? A traditional Mala uses 108 beads, not 104...just a little OOPS moment!

What did they wear?

The ladies had some prized jewels on this week!



As always, Janice wore her trusty Trail Ride, the Prairie wrap she is rarely seen without. Her has patina'd to a rich dark brown. She also had on a Mosaic 4 Wrap, Cranberry Relish, and finally, one of Kate's signature rings from her first book...what a stunner!



On Wednesday's show, Kate wore a pair of our Soft Flex Earrings, the Purple Sage. But the real show-stoppers were Friday's pair, an absolutely glorious Friday-inspired pair Kate hand made.

