

November 2008

Hello Bear Lovers!

Given the current state of the world, I think it's time for some fun news! It seems as if all we hear now days is grim news... Although we cannot ignore it, we can escape from it for a time. "Bear" news is always fun and can bring smiles as well as lower your blood pressure! The bears don't eat much or cost much to keep. They don't break, yell, argue, or snore, but they do listen intently, snuggle whenever you like and calm the spirits. Chris will attest they are everywhere in our home and I cannot imagine life without them! I always have enough love to adopt more. If you do too, guess what?! I have all kinds of critters looking for a new home. They bring good cheer and hope for a brighter future. Most are ready for the upcoming Christmas party on Saturday December 6th in Pleasanton. You know the one! This is the 16th year of celebration and all of the artists invite you to come for fun, free food, drinks, door prizes and great company. If you've attended before, you know it really is more like a party than a bear show. It's a place to share your love of bears, catch up with people you see at other shows and enjoy just getting together. It's our gift to you with no parking fees or cost to get in the door. There are lots of door prizes and the cookies are always yummy!!! You can find all the information listed on the enclosed flier or contact me if you have any questions. We really want you to come and just have fun!!!!

If you have that feeling of needing that special bear or critter for the holidays or for someone special, there are so many to choose from!!! There are bears for every occasion, Christmas bears as well as spring, summer, and fall bears! I'll do my best to describe a few.

"Zoanne" has a mohair lavender coat. She loves pansies and has them on all her pads. She stands 9" tall while "Sprout", who stands just above her at 10" tall, has a dense and fluffy caramel alpaca coat. Her facial expression says, "Please take me home. I promise to be a good bear." She has wooden inserts in her feet that allow her to stand and bendable wrists so she can also be on all fours. "Becker" is 8" tall and can stand on his own too. I love his fur. It's a soft curly gold mohair. He has a great hand blown green glass pendant that matches his hand-dyed silk ribbon.

I also have a couple of bears that celebrate the autumn season, which is one of my favorite times of the year. "Winterbearry Brown" is a 10" floppy bear. His foot pads have pine cones done in silk ribbon embroidery. He has a great necklace with stone, glass and metallic beads to off-set his gilded pine cone and maple leaf. His mohair coat has to be seen in the sun! It's different shades of reddish brown that glint in the light. His friend, "Forrest", is also 10" tall but a bit portly and is aptly named as he has a gold mohair coat with a dark taupe background. His pads have acorns done in silk ribbon and glass beads with a maple leaf in the background. He also has a gilded maple leaf and acorn necklace. I think he's the first one I've done with a combination of silk ribbon embroidery and appliqué. "Sierra" is a lot smaller at 6 ½" tall but he's so happy to have his orange and black glass ladybug around his neck. He feels really lucky and wants to share that with you. His face has an old fashioned look and his joints are soft but not floppy. He has a couple of new friends too. "Perri's" coat is really different. It's gold mohair with teal tips. His foot pads have silk thread embroidered roses and his collar has a glass rose and leaves to match. "Gypsy" really stands out in this trio! His coat is deep red mohair with black tips. His foot pads have white silk thread roses that contrast with his coat. He too has a glass flower and leaf necklace.

There are several spring like bears that remind you how colorful that season is. There's nothing like bright colors to light up your day! "Sweet Strawberry Girl" at 8" tall is just what her name implies. Her mohair coat is apricot with coral tips that perfectly matches her glass seed beaded strawberries on her foot pads. She has a silk ribbon bow in the same colors that offsets her necklace which has a metal glazed strawberry and white glass flowers and leaves. She has the sweetest expression on her face. She has a best friend "Cherie Cherry" who's a little taller than her at 9 ½". She has a mohair coat that's light rust with dark rust tips. She also has cherries on her foot pads that are done in silk ribbon and glass cherries all around her neck. What a pair!!

Need smaller bears? You know me! I love doing the little 6 ½" girl bears with their fancy crocheted dresses and matching silk thread embroidered flower pads. They always have color coordinated necklaces too. Even smaller are the little 6" "Tattered Teddy Girls". Be sure to check them out too!! There are several different color combinations in alpaca as well as mohair. Have room for a little bigger one? "Spicy" is almost 10" tall. His coat is old fashioned brown with black guard hairs and then distressed. He has variegated turquoise silk ribbon flowers on all his pads. His necklace has a wonderful hand blown glass heart with lots of matching glass rose flowers and leaves. His body is soft stuffed so he's fun to cuddle.

There are a couple of baby bears with floppy joints as well. "Landa Lynn" is 8" tall. Her coat is curly ivory mohair. She reminds me of Christmas. She has red and gold silk thread roses on her pads that match her bib, of course! The bib has an unusual trim which is vintage. She has a pacifier that is perfect in color to match her ensemble. "Sandra Lynn" is a little smaller at 6". Her mohair coat is ivory with soft gray tips. She has bright red, apricot and yellow roses and a matching bib. She is a younger baby so she needs her bottle near at all times. You have to see their little pacifiers! I only have a few of them. (They're actually little red and gold colored glass mushrooms but they look just

like pacifiers, perfect!!) I've had them for years, just waiting for the right bears to use them. Sometimes it's the little things in life that make creating the bears so much fun!

Some people like their bears without ornaments or any decoration at all. I have those too!! "Spark's" coat is an African mohair blend. It's a material that was used to make coats back in the 40's and 50's and is bright white with a black background. "Casper's" coat is dark gold with teal colored tips just like "Perri's" mentioned above. It's a great color combination for an old looking bear as well as being unique. "Fuzz B's" coat is soft tan with curls. All three stand 12" tall. They sport hand made leather collars with rusty bells. (Don't worry I sealed the bells so the rust does not rub off.)

I recently made another "Bixley" bear. You may remember I mentioned him in the last newsletter. He is, indeed, a most unusual bear! His coat is made from a vintage, early 1900's carriage robe. It is very dense gold mohair with swirls of brown running through it! This bear is actually "Bixley Sr.", being a little taller at 12" than the last one. (The fur is so dense it's very difficult to make smaller bears.) He has a collar of stone beads and ceramic bear teeth. He's a very serious looking, but unique, limited edition bear! I hope to be able to make one or two more of these guys out of the fur I have left. However, that will be it. I like the feeling of knowing there's a piece of history that's represented by this guy.

You are probably wondering if there are any Christmas bears? Silly you!!! Of course there are!! There are several different Christmas color combinations of the 5" tall "Elf Fairy" bears with colorful wings that shimmer and shine in the light. "Bearsietta" is definitely set for the winter holidays! Her coat is white mohair with bright red tips. Her wool felt pads have silk thread embroidered poinsettias and a red flower necklace. Her sister, "Ci-Ci", has the same color mohair coat but she has red and white peppermint candy embroidered on her pads. Each stitch of these candies was done with a French knot. I can't tell you how long it took to do those!! These little guys stand 6 1/2" tall.

Let's not forget about this year's Christmas ornament, "Belle Noel", a limited edition of 12 bears. She is 4" tall and all hand stitched. She has a soft white alpaca fur coat and each of her wool felt pads has a delicate pink and lilac embroidered flower. Her necklace has a pink crystal bear in the center with lavender glass roses along with pink and lavender Swarovski crystals. She has a crystal beaded hanger on top of her head that allows her to hang from a fancy bell that's fashioned from a sheer net-like fabric in pink, soft green and lavender. The bell has sides shaped like flower petals that are wired so you can change the shape to whatever pleases you. The bell is 3 1/2" tall. There are only a few of these little girls not spoken for. Just let me know if you're interested in one. She does have a couple of friends, "Ivory Wee Bit O'Fluff" and "Brownie Wee Bit O'Fluff". Their names really say it all. They are just 4" tall with fat little tummies. Each one has an alpaca coat with red silk thread roses on their pads. These little guys fit in the palm of your hand quite nicely. I am working on a panda right now and hope to have one done in time for the show. It has a wonderfully soft and curly mohair coat. I have a Santa hat ready and waiting. He should be fun to decorate for Christmas.

How about something different than a bear? "Squiggles" is a brown and white fluffy bunny done with spring flowers on his foot pads. He snuggles with "Chrissy", another bunny whose fur is very unique, coming from a recycled lavender fur coat. She loves being petted and told how pretty she is. I also have one kitten, "Chyler", with the softest coat you can imagine. He's a tiger like kitten with little mice embroidered on his foot pads. He has a wooden mouse as part of his collar and an alpaca mouse that's his best friend.

What could be better than a party with bears as the major attraction, free entrance, free food, door prizes and friends gathering? Would 10% off the adoption fees help? (The limited edition Christmas ornaments are excluded.) This discount also applies to internet and mail orders as well until December 31st. I promise to get pictures of the bears taken after the December 6th show. I had hoped to get them done before then but life has just been too busy lately and I have to rely on my daughter posting them on my website. She has a very busy life too and I wouldn't want to put her in a bind by promising something she would not have time to do.

As you know, postage is getting more expensive. So, I am trying to find a more cost effective, timely and environmentally friendly method of communicating with you all. Let me know if you would rather get this letter via email than "snail mail". If so, please send your email address to me at sajohnst@ix.netcom.com. You also can use the link on the www.suebbears.com web page but sometimes I have problems getting the emails in a timely fashion. We hope solve the problem by getting a faster internet connection next year that will also allow us to include a few pictures.

Most of all, Chris and I wish you Happy Holidays and a very Happy & Prosperous New Year!!! I'm very thankful for all your support through the years and for giving the bears such wonderful homes!! Please do come to the Christmas show if you can. We just want you to have fun!! If you're not able to attend, I hope to see you some time in 2009!!!! Because of Tessa's arrival (my first grandchild) in early March, I'm not sure which shows I will be attending but don't hesitate to email me or call me at (916) 972-7655 and ask. Meanwhile, "Happy Bear Hunting"!

Hugs and Best Wishes!!!!

Sue'B'