

Jacobson helping library with her hobby

By Amy Alder
Managing Editor

The Cambridge Friends of the Library are gearing up for their annual Art and Craft Fair set to take place Saturday, Nov. 2 at Cambridge High School from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

There will be over 90 vendors, one who is a familiar face at the Cambridge Community Library.

Sharon Jacobson has been a local librarian for 14 years and is now going to be offering her handmade jewelry in an effort to help the library raise funds for their new building.

Jacobson started making jewelry as a hobby, something to fill her time at night.

"I always liked crafting," Jacobson said. "I would do things with my kids when they were in 4-H. But I never really thought of making jewelry. I never really wore jewelry, except for maybe earrings."

It was at the urging of her daughter Jackie seven or eight years ago when she really started getting serious.

"I've never liked watching TV," Jacobson said. "If my husband wasn't around, I probably wouldn't have a TV at all. I set

up my table in the living room and can work away while he watches TV. It's kind of a way we can spend time together."

For Jacobson, this has always been meant to be just a hobby. She never wanted to go into big business, just wanted something to fill her time.

She said she totally enjoys it though, and loses track of time

when she's making her jewelry. A lot of times she'll start working after dinner and before she knows it, the time is 10 p.m.

"You really lose all track of time when doing this," Jacobson said. "You get so involved in putting the pieces together and what they are

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going to become. It's really a lot of fun."

Her pieces are varied depending on what types of beads she finds. She said that if people want to classify what she does the best description would be beaded jewelry.

"I do beaded jewelry," Jacobson said. "I don't ever do wire wrapping and I never use plastic, except in the bracelets for children. I like to use glass and ceramic beads, some semi-precious gemstones. I don't use sterling silver or gold. I try to keep it simple."

Her prices reflect that, offering quite a range from children's bracelets at \$1, earring sets from \$6-\$8, bracelets from \$8-\$14. Her highest priced item runs about \$23.

"It really depends on the materials I use, but most of my items are pretty reasonable,"

Jacobson said. "I try to make something that will appeal to everyone."

She has taken vintage brooches and designed her pieces around those. She has also taken people's requests and made items.

"I like doing custom pieces," Jacobson said. "If people would like something, all they have to do is ask. Most of my items are one-of-a-kind pieces anyway. I rarely make the same thing twice."

She said that she has been surprised at the response she has gotten and is flattered when someone says how much they like her pieces.

"It gives me kind of a boost when I hear the compliments," Jacobson said. "It makes me feel good that I can make someone happy with the pieces I make."

As she stated, this is just a

hobby and she doesn't ever see it becoming anything more.

"I might have my grandson help me make a Web site some day, but I'm happy with showing at the local farmers markets and fairs. I'm excited to be a part of the Cambridge Friends of the Library Art and Craft Fair again this year. I love the library and am happy to help them reach their goals to build the new library."

She said she hopes that people will stop by her booth and look at her jewelry, maybe buy a piece or two.

Those wanting more information are always welcome to stop by the Cambridge Library and talk to her in person or give her a call at (608) 338-8819. She also has an e-mail address, abbykittykitty@hotmail.com.