



# BSNM Newsletter

April 2024

The mission of this newsletter is to inform our members of the activities, events, and classes in the local beading community and to provide a forum where members can share beading knowledge and techniques.

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This newsletter welcomes new ideas from members and solicits articles and items of interest. Any special events taking place in your life (birthdays, anniversaries, condolences needed, new job, moving, births, weddings, awards, trips, transitions, etc.)? All manuscripts are subject to editing. The editor does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of information contained in the articles received. Please send all contributions for the newsletter to the editor in care of the Bead Society of New Mexico.

## From the President

Dear Members,

We have had a busy month. Thank you to Myra Gadson who presented information on how she has been so successful selling her jewelry. **Myra's** jewelry shows at Yucca Art Gallery, Weems Gallery, Placitas Studio Tour, and Corrales Art Studio Tour. She also displayed several beautiful jewelry pieces at the meeting, so it is no wonder she has been so successful for so many years.

**Thank you to all our members who made and donated over 100 jewelry items that will be sold at the Fiber Arts Fiesta** charity booth to raise funds for the Watermelon Mountain Ranch animal shelter. The Fiber Arts Fiesta will be at Expo New Mexico in the Manuel Lujan Building on April 12-13th. Several Albuquerque art guilds as well as many vendors will be displaying their art. Fiber Arts still needs volunteers for the charity table to help sell the doo-dahs made by the guilds. If you can volunteer, please leave a message for Twyla Caudill at 505-340-5077.

It was great to see so many BSNM members at the **Whole Bead Show in Santa Fe!** The show had local, national, and international vendors including BSNM members Alice Helstrom, Anna Holland, Betcey Ventrella, and Nikia Angel.

Join us at our **April 16th general meeting** as Melody MacDuffee tells of her journey with Soul of Somanya, a fair-trade non-profit. It all began when an issue of *Bead & Button* magazine found its way into the rural community of Somanya. A representative of a group of Krobo artisans emailed Melody MacDuffee asking if she would come and teach them her skills. Six months later, lugging six suitcases filled with jewelry-making tools and supplies, Melody was on her way to Ghana. It will be so interesting to hear the rest of her story. Melody will also be bringing a trunk show of colorful West African beads with her, including beautiful purses, cabochons, pendants, spacer, and translucent beads. **PLUS, on Saturday and Sunday, April 20 and 21, Melody will teach four classes.** For more details, or to register for these classes, go to the BSNM website [www.beadsocietynm.org](http://www.beadsocietynm.org). Midway down the Home Page, see the Upcoming Classes. Click on the link for each class to register

Thank you,

Helen Yackel, BSNM President,

505-850-7983,

[beadsocietynm@gmail.com](mailto:beadsocietynm@gmail.com), [www.beadsocietynm.org](http://www.beadsocietynm.org),  
[www.facebook.com/BeadSocietyNM/](https://www.facebook.com/BeadSocietyNM/)



## Upcoming Events

**April 9**

### Board Meeting

**Tuesday, April 9, 2024 12:30 am to 2:30 pm**  
**Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 8600 Academy Rd. NE**

The Board will meet to conduct the business of the bead society. Board members please plan to attend.

**April 12-13**

### Fiber Arts Fiesta 2024

**Friday and Saturday, April 12 and 13, 2024**  
**10:00am to 5:00pm both days**  
**Manual Lujan Building, New Mexico State Fairgrounds, Albuquerque, NM**

BSNM sponsors the Beadwork competition and provides volunteers for the Fiesta (in the BSNM booth and in general). Volunteering or attending the Fiesta is a great way to meet new people, reconnect with old acquaintances, and be thoroughly inspired by the creativity that abounds at the Fiesta.

General admission: \$10 per day

Parking: \$10 per day

Exhibits, vendors, and classes!

Volunteers are needed for the BSNM booth and general staffing. Contact Twyla Caudill at 505-340-5077. Entry is free with volunteer badge and BSNM will reimburse your parking.

**April 16**

### General Meeting

**Tuesday, April 16, 2024 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm**  
**(set-up, social time, and buying raffle tickets beginning at 5:30 pm)**  
**Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 8600 Academy Rd. NE**

Melody MacDuffee, bead instructor and author, will give a presentation and trunk show in anticipation of her upcoming classes. Melody is the co-founder and director of Soul of Somanya, a fair trade non-profit that offers paid training and steady, living- wage employment to disadvantaged Ghanaian artisans. She will be bringing a lively trunk show of colorful West African beads and purses with her, as well as beautiful cabochons and stone pendants.

Melody is the author of four books (three of them on wirework) and five wirework booklets. She has taught her distinctive jewelry-making techniques all over the U.S. and as far away as Morocco and West Africa. Her Craftsy instructional video, *Filigree Jewelry with a Twist!*, came out in 2015, and she is a regular guest artist on Jewelry Television 's Jewel School. Melody was also the winner of *Bead & Button's* 2019 Bead Dreams Grand Award in the wire category.

**Twyla Caudill will return your Fiber Arts entries if you didn't pick them up at the show.**

**May 21**

### General Meeting

**Tuesday, May 21, 2024 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm**  
**(set-up, social time, and buying raffle tickets beginning at 5:30 pm)**  
**Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 8600 Academy Rd. NE**

We will have a brief business meeting and then conduct our annual **Bead Swap!** A great opportunity to clean out unused inventory or items you no longer want (such as beads, tools, patterns, books – anything bead related) and maybe swap/buy to obtain new inventory. Items should be priced to sell.

Each person is allowed half a table for their wares. (If your neighbor isn't selling, you may be able to negotiate the whole table.)

**Please bring a cloth to cover your wares until we get to the swap portion of the meeting. And, please, no buying before the swap begins.**

**Your membership must be up to date to participate in the swap.**

## Upcoming Events

April 20-21

### Classes with Melody MacDuffee

**Saturday and Sunday, April 20 & 21, 2024**

**New Mexico Bead Company, 4111 Louisiana Blvd, Albuquerque, NM**

**Quick and Easy Wire Bezels – Saturday, April 20, 2024, 10:00am to 12 noon** (2 hours); Beginner; \$35

This class is great for beginning wire workers or for those who would like to learn this technique. It will cover a unique yet quick and easy way to attractively bezel cabochons without the need for soldering or torches.

Students need to bring:

- Beading mat, light source, and reading glasses or magnifiers
- Wire working tools including flat needle nose pliers (not ridged); round nose pliers; wire cutters
- Optional: metal file



**Twisted Wire Floral Earrings or Sweetheart Pendant – Saturday, April 20, 2024, 1:00pm to 4:00pm** (3 hours); Beginner; \$35

Choose the project you like best to work on in class. By the time you leave you'll have the skills and know-how to create both.

Students need to bring:

- Beading mat, light source, and reading glasses or magnifiers
- Wire working tools including flat needle nose pliers (not ridged); round nose pliers; wire cutters
- Optional: metal file



**Make Your Own Findings – Sunday, April 21, 2024, 9:30am to 11:30am** (2 hours); Beginner; \$35

Learn to make simple yet decorative clasps, ear wires, headpins, and bead wraps to use in your own creations.

Students need to bring:

- Beading mat, light source, and reading glasses or magnifiers
- Wire working tools including flat needle nose pliers (not ridged); round nose pliers; wire cutters
- Optional: metal file



**Bezeled Stone Pendant – Sunday, April 21, 2024, 1:00pm to 5:00pm** (4 hours); Intermediate; \$55

Learn a quick and easy bezeling technique and then go on to embellish your bezeled stone with lavish banks of colored wire fringe for a completely unique effect.

Students need to bring:

- Beading mat, light source, and reading glasses or magnifiers
- Wire working tools including flat needle nose pliers (not ridged); round nose pliers; wire cutters
- Optional: metal file



**Register on the BSNM website: [www.beadsocietynm.org](http://www.beadsocietynm.org) A complete list of tools and materials that students need to bring will be provided to registered students.**

## Welcome Visitor and New Member

Welcome visitor **Dawn Volpe** and new member **Carrie Rogers**.



## Winner, Winner

**Denise Tapia** won the doorprize at the March meeting – a beading book from the BSNM stash.

We had multiple raffle items at the March meeting. The winners were:

**Christine Fearfield** – vintage green & gold necklace

**Linda Gregory** – vintage pink necklace

**Cody Slater** – two strands of coral beads

**Pat Verrelle** – strand of coral beads

**Dawn Volpe** (visitor) – Peach Fuzz raffle basket

## April Raffle Basket

Depending on its chemistry, turquoise can occur in various shades of blue, blue-green, and green. The Turquoise Treasures raffle basket celebrates all the colors of turquoise with beads and other goodies. (Basket worth at least \$75)

For a chance to win this basket, be sure to buy your raffle tickets at the April general meeting (\$2 each or six for \$10).

## BSNM Board Works for You

The ladies of the BSNM Board do a lot more than just run the general membership meetings every month. Following are some of the things the Board does for you (every month or as needed throughout the year):

- Coordinate presenters and activities for the general meetings
- Coordinate instructors for classes
- Coordinate classroom space for meetings and classes
- Maintain our membership roster
- Maintain our email list
- Maintain our website
- Maintain our social media presence
- Reconcile the monthly earnings and expenditures
- Prepare and submit state and federal taxes and reports
- Post minutes of Board meetings to the website
- Post the monthly financials to the website
- Take in donations of beads and other supplies
- Evaluate donations and price and mark items
- Coordinate volunteers for special events (such as Fiber Arts Fiesta, Placitas Flea Market, Turquoise United, and New Mexico State Fair)
- Coordinate special events (such as Anniversary gala and field trips)
- Coordinate and set up special exhibits (such as Fiber Arts Fiesta and local libraries)
- Coordinate volunteers to bring snacks to the general meetings
- Coordinate donations for raffles, flea market, and charities
- Prepare and distribute the monthly newsletter
- Prepare the monthly raffle basket
- Organize the storage unit(s)
- Keep in touch with our business members
- Provide welcome packets to new members
- Prepare handouts for members
- Prepare recruiting materials for new members
- Prepare the annual budget
- Coordinate bead challenges

## Turquoise Bead Challenge

Turquoise is used and admired around the world. Part of the allure of turquoise is knowing where your gemstone beads came from – Mexico, China, the Middle East (Iran, Afghanistan), the United States, or elsewhere. For this challenge, create jewelry using your favorite turquoise.

Keep in mind that, if desired, you can have the jewelry you created for this challenge offered for sale at the BSNM booth during the Turquoise United Symposium in August 2024.

There is no kit for this challenge.

### Rules:

1. All submissions must be completed by you prior to the June 21, 2024 BSNM general meeting and after the June 2023 meeting.
2. You may create a piece of jewelry (necklace, bracelet, or earrings) or a set of jewelry (such as necklace and earrings, bracelet and earrings, or necklace and bracelet).
3. At least 50% of the finished project must be turquoise (the stone, not just the color) incorporated into the design.
4. **You must identify the country of origin for the turquoise used in your design, and the mine it came from if known** on a card that accompanies your finished project.
5. Your **finished project must be brought to the June 2024 general meeting** where members will vote on the entries.
6. Judging will be based on creativity in presentation and materials, and mastery in craftsmanship. Judging will also be based on how closely the entries followed the rules. Prizes will be awarded!

Happy beading and good luck with the challenge! Try to use this challenge to broaden your beading horizons. Learn something new or try something different!



## Support Our Local Businesses

**A Few of My Favorite Beads:** Call 505-974-1645 or come by to see our latest beads. We carry seed beads, crystals, and other bead items for your projects.

**Baskets of Africa:** Come see our great selection of beautiful artisan-made, fair-trade baskets. Call 505-323-2315 for appointment or go to [info@basketsofafrica.com](mailto:info@basketsofafrica.com).

**Beadweaver of Santa Fe:** We are still offering a 10% discount to BSNM members.

**The Beaded Iris: We now offer 15% discount to BSNM members,** as well as our punch cards for future savings. Come on into the store and rediscover all the beads, crystals, delicás, findings, thread, and other products you need to complete your beautiful project.

**Open beading on Wednesdays.** Store hours are Mon. through Thurs. 10am to 5pm; Fri. through Sat. 10am to 4pm; Sun. closed. Phone: 505-299-1856; email: [beadedirisstore@aol.com](mailto:beadedirisstore@aol.com).

**Glorianna's Beads (Santa Fe):** 70 West Marcy Street, Suite B. Phone: 505-982-0353. Open Tues-Wed and Fri-Sun 10:30am to 4pm.

**Mama's Minerals:** 2500 12th Street (12th and Menaul), right across from the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center. Bead Society members get 15% off on regular-priced merchandise. [www.MamasMinerals.com](http://www.MamasMinerals.com).

**Meltdown Studio:** Check out our new and returning classes at <https://www.meltdownstudio.com/group-classes-1>.

**New Mexico Bead Company:** New Mexico Bead Company is located at 4111 Louisiana NE, Albuquerque (north of Montgomery). 505-243-2600. Website: <https://www.nmbead.com/>.

**Santa Fe Jewelers Supply:** Open 9:00am to 5:00pm. Curbside pickup, mail order, or visit our showroom today! Order on our website at [www.sfjs.net](http://www.sfjs.net) day or night. Phone: 505-988-9157.

**Stone Mountain Bead Gallery:** We're open Mon. through Sat. from 11am to 6pm; Sun. 12:30pm to 4:30pm. Call 505-385-2200 to arrange contactless pickup. **20% off for BSNM members.** Back issues of *Bead&Button* magazine are 50% off.

**Thomason Stone Supply:** Stop by and see all the new goodies!! We have everything you need for creating beautiful jewelry! Store hours are Mon. through Sat. 10am to 6pm. Call us at 888-353-9934 or 505-268-9934. Website: <https://www.thomasonstonesupply.com/>.

**Thunderbird Supply Company:** See our website (<https://www.thunderbirdsupply.com/>) for online and in-store specials. Store hours: Mon.-Fri. 9am-6pm; Sat. 10am-5pm.

**Treasures of the Gypsy/Gypsy Raven:** Treasures of the Gypsy Show Room is open by appointment, as well as for classes. Please contact Pamela Armas to schedule your appointment at 505-847-0963, or email her at [gypsytreasures@cs.com](mailto:gypsytreasures@cs.com)

## Beading Groups

**Bosque Farms:** Do you live in the Bosque Farms area? Join BSNM member Kathy Jost at the Bosque Farms Community Center for the **BFCC Bead Group on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm.** Bosque Farms Community Center is located at 950 N Bosque Loop in Bosque Farms, New Mexico. Phone: 505-869-5133.

**Placitas:** This beading group is taking a break. We'll let you know when they start meeting again.

## Rock Crystal: Gemstone for April

Rock crystal is the clear, colorless variety of quartz, valued for its clarity and total lack of color or flaws. It is widely used as a popular ornamental stone and is also used as a gemstone. Although it is one of the least expensive gemstones, cut rock crystal has been used as imitation diamonds. Of course, rock crystal lacks the fire, color, and the rarity to be ranked as a fine precious gemstone. None the less, rock crystal is widely used as a gemstone due to its beauty, affordability, availability, and ease of cutting.

The largest use for rock crystal is in ornamental carvings. The most well-known of these ornamental carvings is the crystal ball of fortune telling fame. While rock crystal is common, it is hard to find large crystals with the clarity and size required for crystal balls. Other carvings include pyramids, obelisks, figurines, eggs, bowls, and wands. There are many fine chandeliers that are outfitted with rock crystal ornaments.

Rock crystal is formed of the two most abundant minerals on earth: silicon and oxygen. For centuries, ancient peoples believed that the clear crystals were permanently frozen **ice**. **Quartz's high thermo-conductivity**, which makes it feel cool to the touch, may have added to this belief. Regardless of what these early civilizations may have believed, historical records show the use of rock crystal for decoration and jewelry for at least 4,000 years. And tools and weapons were made from rock crystal long before it was used for decoration and jewelry.

Metaphysical uses for rock crystal include as a cleansing tool to clear impurities and psychic debris **from a person's aura; to realign** body, mind, and spirit; and increase powers of concentration and focus.

In the United States, locations that are noted for the clarity and quality of rock crystal produced there include **Arkansas ("Arkansas diamonds"), California, and New York ("Herkimer diamonds").** Smaller quantities can be found in Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Georgia, Montana, Nevada, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Washington.

Rock crystal is a birthstone for April, as well as for the zodiac sign of Leo (July 23-August 22).



## Thanks to Our Business Members

photos by Pat Verrelle

We want to say thank you again to our business members who donated items for our Anniversary Gala raffle.

Jason Hanes, store manager, will help you at **Mama's Minerals** new location (2500 12th Street – 12th and Menaul – right across from the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center). **Mama's Minerals** donated beautiful stone beads for the 40th anniversary celebration. Thanks **Mama's Minerals**!!



Alex Nunnally (Director of Operations for New Mexico Bead Company, located at 4111 Louisiana Blvd. just north of Montgomery) donated a \$50 gift certificate and \$50 worth of beautiful stone beads. **PS, it's a beautiful store!!**



Robert Steinberg of Stone Mountain Bead Gallery donated a \$20 gift certificate.

Cael Chappell of Baskets of Africa donated a woven tote, and a wire basket and a pair of earrings that were included in the Ruby Anniversary raffle basket.

Jerome Nunez of A Few of My Favorite Beads donated seed beads that were included in the Ruby Anniversary raffle basket.

Jill Erickson of Desert Rose Trading Post donated a lapis and turquoise reversible necklace and a coral necklace and earring set.

## Meet Member Pam Troutman

by Laurye Tanner



Pam Troutman was born in Nashville, Tennessee in 1958. She moved almost every year until 2014, when she and her husband moved and retired to Mariposa.

Pam started beading in the late 1990s. A friend was a glass bead lampworker and introduced her to beads. Before moving to the Albuquerque area, Pam was a member of the Northern Virginia Bead Society.

After following BSNM on Facebook, she joined after moving here. Her first meeting was actually the field trip to Taos in 2017.

She joined the BSNM board as the Meeting Coordinator and is now the Photographer.

Pam's business is Star\*Art Jewelry. She sells her beaded art necklaces and other jewelry on Etsy at [www.StarArtJewelry.etsy.com](http://www.StarArtJewelry.etsy.com) and at Amapola Gallery and the Romero House in Old Town.

*[If you would like to be the subject of an upcoming article (member, board member, or business member), please contact Laurye Tanner at [lauryert@yahoo.com](mailto:lauryert@yahoo.com) or at [beadsocietynm@gmail.com](mailto:beadsocietynm@gmail.com)]*



## Whole Bead Show Recap

by Pat Verrelle

Ava Motherwell invited BSNM members to the Whole Bead Show to greet the public and canvass for new members, plus Ava gave BSNM discounts and set up tables for BSNM. IT WAS AWESOME!! An excellent show. And yes, we have new members. Thank you Ava! Additional vendors have promised discounts for BSNM at **next year's show**.



BSNM table at the Whole Bead show. Jewelry left to right: Turquoise and orange necklace with German resin beads and chrysoprase pendant **from Ava Motherwell's booth**. Carnelian, copper, black spinel, fire agate, and copper metal work, with Brazilian fire agate pendant necklace by Pat Verrelle, copper metal work by Claudette Jaramillo. Grey and white agate pendant with agate and silver bead necklace by Deb Cole. Yellow and white acrylic bead necklace by Pat Verrelle (beads from Ava Motherwell).



From left to right: Ava Motherwell (vendor and owner of The Whole Bead Show and the Renaissance show) pauses briefly for photo op with Pat Verrelle (past BSNM President and current Vice President), Betcey Ventrella (owner of the fabulous Beyond Beadery), and Deb Cole (past BSNM Treasurer).



Betcey Ventrella, owner of Beyond Beadery, had an unbelievably imaginative huge booth with incredible beads, art pieces, and gorgeous beaded purses Betcey brought back from her fabulous, adventurous recent trip through India.



Tiffany Gabaldon, in her colorful outfit and adorable hat while assisting Betcey Ventrella at the Beyond Beadery booth at the Whole Bead Show.



Nikia Angle, BSNM member, models her beautiful bead embroidery necklace at the Whole Bead Show. Her booth was amazing! Nikia teaches classes in Albuquerque and Hyatt Tamaya during her bead retreats.

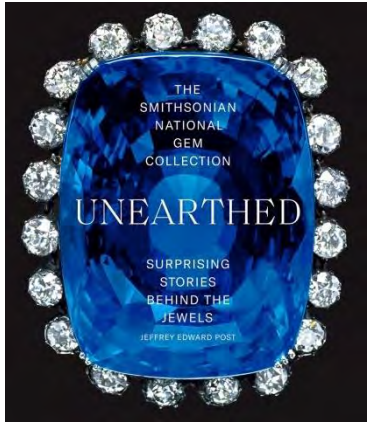


Hannah Rosner modeling her fab bead embroidery necklace. BSNM hopes to bring Hannah back to Albuquerque to teach a class in bead embroidery. What a sweet and talented lady. **Hannah's booth included beautiful lamp work beads, made by Hannah and her husband and beautiful bead embroidery work by Hannah.**

## Smithsonian Gems Book

### *The Smithsonian National Gem Collection—Unearthed: Surprising Stories Behind the Jewels*

by Jeffrey E. Post



The scandals, mysteries, and human stories behind the world's greatest gems are brought to life by the curator of the Smithsonian's National Gem Collection

Dr. Jeffrey E. Post, curator of the National Gem Collection for more than 25 years, separates fact from fiction in an all-new and original book, revealing fresh information and regaling the reader with anecdotes and tales of some of the world's greatest and most famous gemstones. Dr. Post is the author of the now out-of-print book *The National Gem Collection* (Abrams, 1997), which has sold more than 50,000 copies. In this brand-new book, he tells the stories of the Smithsonian's most famous gems, including the Hope Diamond, Star of Asia Sapphire, Carmen Lucia Ruby, Hooker Emerald, and Blue Heart Diamond—and also presents the tales, details, and fascinating facts surrounding rarely displayed gems from the Smithsonian vault and additions made to the collection since 1997. Not only a resource for learning about rare and beautiful gems, the book also presents the stories of the people who once owned or were associated with these jewels—from ordinary people to kings, emperors, maharajas, celebrities, and captains of industry.

Lushly illustrated with professional and detailed photos or every type and description of the gemstones mentioned, this version of the *National Gem Collection* is split into three parts: storied items, notable gems, and families of gems.

This 8.65-inch by 0.95-inch by 10.05-inch paperback book was published by Abrams Books in March 2021. It has 192 pages. The list price is \$22.49 on Amazon. Also available on Kindle for \$11.99.

## Call for Entries: Little House Auction

OffCenter Community Arts Project is thrilled to be hosting the Little House Auction at FUSION again this spring! In addition to being the most fun, this event is an important fundraiser for our organization. Help keep OffCenter running smoothly by sharing your creativity and joining us for the exhibit and auction this May!



Use your mixed media talents to support the local art community. You can create your house using one of the blanks provided by OffCenter or use materials you have on hand (wood, paper, found objects) to create a house. Your finished house/artwork should be no larger than 6 inches wide by 6 inches deep and 22 inches tall.

- \* Read the [Artist Info Sheet](#) here!
- \* Want to create a house without using one of the wood blanks? Awesome! Just [fill out the online form here](#) so we save a spot for your house!
- \* Once you're finished with your little house, **DO NOT** bring it to OffCenter. All artists are asked to **drop off finished house/artwork at FUSION on Monday, April 29 between 11 am and 3 pm.**

Questions? Send them our way: email [Mika@OffCenterArts.org](mailto:Mika@OffCenterArts.org)

### Save these dates:

- \* Preview the houses during ABQ Artwalk on Friday, May 3, 2024.
- \* Join us for the Little House Auction at FUSION on Friday, May 10, 2024 from 5:00 to 8:00 pm!

Interested in being a sponsor? Show your support for access to art for all by sponsoring the Little House Auction! Email [Mika@OffCenterArts.org](mailto:Mika@OffCenterArts.org) for info.





## Romancing the Rust: Recycled Metalsmithing with Kit Carson

Terri Haag, March 13, 2024.

[https://www.interweave.com/article/jewelry/recycled-metalsmithing-kit-carson/?utm\\_campaign=IW+Jewelry+-+NL&utm\\_id=Newsletter\\_20240319\\_GPM240317022&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=omeda&oly\\_enc\\_id=7354A2943523A3R](https://www.interweave.com/article/jewelry/recycled-metalsmithing-kit-carson/?utm_campaign=IW+Jewelry+-+NL&utm_id=Newsletter_20240319_GPM240317022&utm_medium=email&utm_source=omeda&oly_enc_id=7354A2943523A3R)

Kit Carson is an artist who sees beauty everywhere he looks. "I call it romancing the rust," he says about his signature style. "The rust is what makes this stuff so interesting. People love the antiqued surfaces of my jewelry pieces and artwork, and everyone wants to know the secret of how I created the beautiful, multi-hued patina. The secret is . . . I didn't."



Kit Carson working on a sculpture with moose antlers  
(Photo by Terri Haag)

### Look for Beauty Everywhere

If you want to incorporate rust and discarded objects into your jewelry and into your work, Carson advises: "Be mindful. Pay attention. See the beauty in the prosaic, in the discarded. New life is everywhere, even in the junkyard. Especially in the junkyard."



A series of license plates ready for their next life  
(Photo by Terri Haag)

The way Carson sees recycling is, "It was new, it got used, it 'died' and was buried, and I came along and resurrected it. I give it an entirely new life, but I try to keep the sense of its history alive and well. First, I pick up a license plate and brush off the dirt and

termites, and then I let it guide me, to guide it, to a new life as a bracelet, pin, bola tie, belt buckle, sculpture, whatever."

### Kit Carson's Recycled Jewelry

Carson says his work is a combination of basic techniques and vision, adding "The process is simple, the materials are accessible, and everyone with a vise, a saw, a grinder, and a few hammers can pretty much do what I do. It's how someone's artistic temperament and sense of design come into play that's important."



Recycled steel, 14K gold, gemstones  
(Photo by Kit Carson)

If bracelets could talk, Carson's would sound like Gene Autry, or Mae West, or even Onnie, my own antiques and minerals-dealing grandmother. They would speak of assembly lines and cotton mills, or a ranch forge, or a road sign from Route 66. His work has a romantic, shabby chic flavor that's less shabby and more chic, with a strong whiff of Steampunk lurking about.

Decades of sun and weather randomly strip away paint, revealing layers of color right down to the aubergine-cinnamon rust. I love that color, says Carson. The combination of colors and composition is so rich it would bring tears to Cézanne's eyes," he says.

### Mixing Old and New

Carson explains mixing the old and new, "I take rusty scrap steel, enhance it with whimsical and precise engraving, and add high-grade turquoise set in 22-karat gold. I think it's this unexpected juxtaposition of the prosaic and the refined that defines art jewelry. Or at least my art jewelry. It's an innovative risk, to say the least."

"Of course, the realm of ideas is more perfect than the reality of manifestation. A sudden idea and a quick sketch on a napkin can lead to weeks at the bench to actually build it. That's how it works with creativity in all the arts; the ideas come when you aren't consciously trying. Like Bob Dylan said, 'I don't feel like I actually write a song, I just see the words go by and try to get them down before they all disappear.'"

## Keep in Your Thoughts

Mari Mikkelsen, whose brother recently passed away  
 Helen Yackel, whose brother recently passed away  
 Collette Chamberlin, who is undergoing chemo for breast cancer and had surgery on January 9th  
 All those who are going through a difficult time, whether that may be due to a death, illness, or the stress of modern living

If you would like to send a card or note of encouragement to any of these members, please address the envelope to them **in care of the Bead Society of New Mexico, P.O. Box 91655, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87199**, and we will ensure that they get your messages.

## Happy Birthday

Sylvia Chao – April 29

Sandy Greenfield – April 30

If your birthday isn't listed here, please let us know at [beadsocietynm@gmail.com](mailto:beadsocietynm@gmail.com) so we can wish you a Happy Birthday!

## BSNM Financials Available on Website

The monthly and annual financial reports for the Bead Society of New Mexico are now available in the "Members Only" section of the BSNM website (you must have/create an account on the website to access these documents). Go to [www.beadsocietynm.org](http://www.beadsocietynm.org) and log in to the website (click on "Log In" in the far upper right corner of the homepage; you need to register first if you haven't done so before). Hover over the "Members Only" section on the right end of the categories bar with your mouse and click on "Financials" in the drop-down menu. Then click on the document you want to read. (You may need to temporarily disable your pop-up blocker since the documents may open in a new window or tab).

## Get More Information on the BSNM Website

■ **Classes:** For classes taught by our business members and other non-BSNM-sponsored classes, go to <https://beadsocietyofnewmexico.wildapricot.org/Bead-Time> for dates, times, and descriptions.

To review class details and to register online, log in to the BSNM website with your email and password and go to the event page <https://beadsocietyofnewmexico.wildapricot.org/Meetings-Classes-and-Events>.

■ **Craft Shows and Other Events:** To see upcoming shows that our members are involved in, go to the Members Art Shows listing at <https://beadsocietyofnewmexico.wildapricot.org/Art-Shows>. Send the information and event link to [beadsocietynm@gmail.com](mailto:beadsocietynm@gmail.com) so we can include your event.

## 2024 BSNM Calendar

The following is the calendar for BSNM meetings and events for 2024. Both general meetings and Board meetings are held at North Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 8600 Academy Rd. NE. **Dates and events are subject to change.**

General meeting, 3rd Tues., 6:00pm	Board meeting, 2nd Tues., 12:30pm	Classes	Special events
Jan. 16 – cancelled	Jan. 9		
Feb. 20 – Annual gala and raffle	Feb. 13		
March 19 – Myra Gadson presentation; Make bracelets and earrings for Fiber Arts charity	March 12		March 22-24: Whole Bead Show
April 16 – Melody MacDuffee presentation & trunk show	April 9	April 20-21 – Melody MacDuffee classes	April 12-13: Fiber Arts Fiesta
May 21 – Annual swap meet	May 14	May 25 – Multi-strand Necklace class, Anna Holland	May 18: Mama's Minerals outing & lunch May 24-July 6: Esther Bone Library display
June 18 – Joe Dan Lowry (Turquoise Museum) presentation	June 11	June 22 – Wire Lace Bracelet class, Pam Troutman	June 8: Placitas flea market June 14 & 28: Esther Bone Library classes
July – no meeting	July 9		Field trip (Madrid)
August 20 – Stamped Copper class	August 13	Fired Clay class, Mary Sharpe-Davis	August 8-10: Turquoise United Convention
Sept. 17 – Rick Hatfield, beaded sculpture artist	Sept. 10		Sept. 5-15: State Fair
Oct. 15 – Elections	Oct. 8		Halloween challenge/party
Nov. 19 Make and Take Hair Combs	Nov. 12	Bead Crochet class, Mari Mikkelsen	
Dec. – no meeting	Dec. 10		

As of March 30, 2024

## New Workshops at Gypsy Raven Studio/Gallery

All workshops will be held at Gypsy Raven Studio/ Gallery located at 111 W. Broadway, Mountainair, NM 87036. For multiple day workshops Pamela Armas will make arrangements with local hotels with special rate discounts for those that need overnight lodging. Lunch and dinner can either be brought by the attendee or B Street Deli has a good menu for take-out. **Note: Each student will have their own 6-foot table.** We are always cautious and aware of safety measures. For lunch you can either bring your own or you can order from our local B Street Deli who make delicious sandwiches and more. Menu available in class.

**To sign up for any of the workshops**, contact Pamela Armas by email at [gypsytreasures@cs.com](mailto:gypsytreasures@cs.com) and she will email you a form to fill out to register for class. Mail form and check made out to Pamela Armas to: Pamela Armas, P.O. Box 748, Mountainair, NM 87036. Phone: 505-847-0963. **Maximum of 10 students per workshop. No cancellation refunds within 72 hours of workshop.**

### “Ancient Easel Book” a mixed media workshop with Pamela Armas

**Sat. and Sun., April 27-28, 2024 10:00am – 5:00pm both days** (2-day workshop)



Spend the weekend creating a 4" x 6" book with 8 pages which are made from interesting papers and fabric, stained and collage. Each page depicts an ancient symbol, and the pages are embellished with charms and beads. The book is attached to an easel which we will construct from local tree branches. The easel is 9" x 11", and the easel sticks are wrapped and embellished with beads and charms. The top of the easel has a detachable "spirit wand" with a carved bone mask, and is embellished with raffia, fabric and beads.

Workshop cost: \$225.00 for 2-day workshop plus a \$30 kit fee. Deposit of \$100 is due by April 1, 2024 to hold your place. Balance is due April 15, 2024. Material list will be sent to you once you register.

### “A Show of Hands” a cloth book workshop with Pamela Armas

**Fri., Sat., & Sun., May 17, 18, & 19, 2024 10:00am – 5:00pm each day** (3-day workshop)

I always think about that incredible creative process that engages the mind and translates to our hands. This book is dedicated to the hands all over the world who keep things moving, beautiful, functioning, living, and so much more.

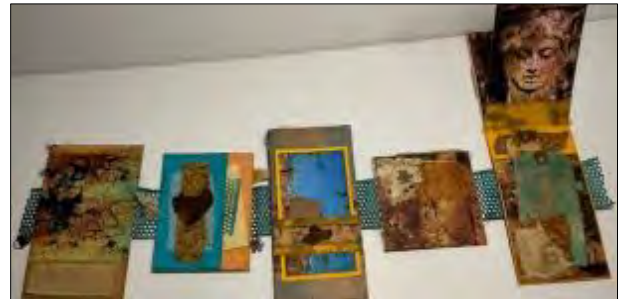


In this workshop we will create an 8½" x 11½" cloth book with 10 beautiful, removable pages representing hands. Pamela has selected a collection of fabrics to create this book along with a selection of hand images for you to use. We will embellish our pages with trims, beads and charms. Pamela will show you an easy beaded-edge technique to embellish your book edges. The cover of the book has an 8"x4" metal hand which represents the contents of the book. Each participant will trace their hand on a provided heavy weight paper to give to each person in class. The book will have a pocket for these "hands of friendship."

Workshop cost: \$330 plus a \$30 kit fee for 3-day workshop. Deposit of \$100 and workshop registration form is due by April 15, 2024 to hold your place. Balance of \$230 is due May 1, 2024. Material list will be sent to you once you register.

### “Rust Never Sleeps” a mixed media workshop with Cynthia Leespring

**Sat.-Sun., July 27-28, 2024 10:00am – 4:00pm both days** (2-day workshop)



Spend the weekend creating a double-sided, 5-page book honoring the natural power of rust and patina. Learn techniques for making pockets, tags, inserts and fold outs using images, fibers, rusted items, and even dry wall tape.

Cynthia is a Northern New Mexico artist who has created in many media, but she always comes back to fiber and paper. Her art centers on her interests in history, nature, magic, women, and her favorite muse, the Moon.

Workshop cost: \$225 plus a \$20 kit fee for 2-day workshop. Deposit of \$100 and workshop registration form is due by June 15, 2024 to hold your place. Balance of \$145 is due July 1, 2024. Material list will be sent to you once you register.

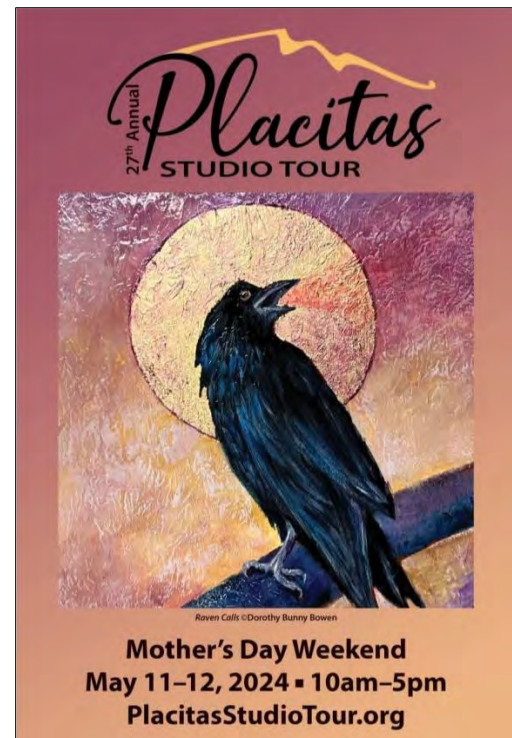


Pat Verrelle, Deb Cole, and Pam Troutman have booths at this event.



Barbara Rosen (#21) and Leah Ready (#29) will have jewelry at this event.

For event booklet and map, go to <https://corralessocietyofartists.org/studio-tour/>



Myra Gadson (presenter at March meeting; #41) and Rick Hatfield (presenter at September meeting; #26) will have artwork at this event.

For event booklet and map, go to <https://placitasstudiotour.com/index.html>



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**2024**  
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- June 3 - 29**
- Sept 16 - Oct 12**
- Dec 2 - Dec 21**

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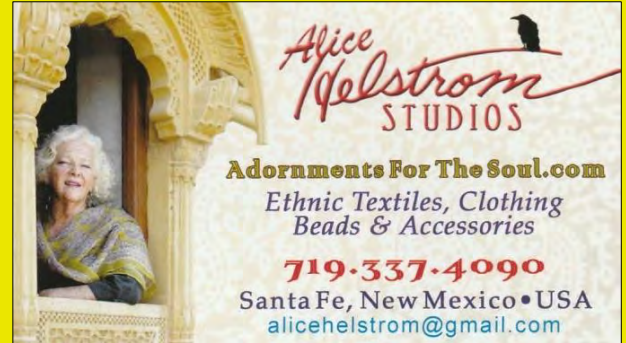
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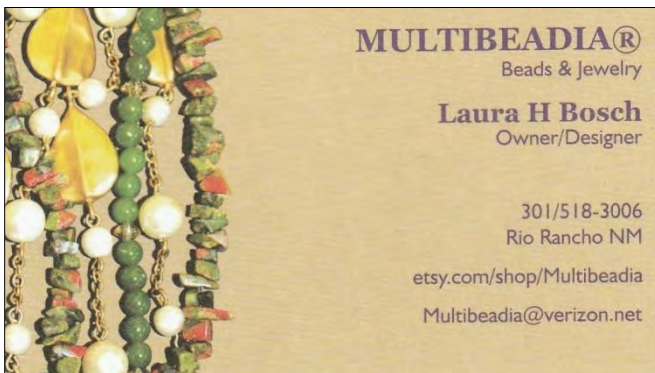
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To get your BSNM discount at our business members' stores, you must show your current membership card. They won't accept expired cards or membership renewal emails or a letter from your mom!

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## Procedure for Submitting Articles for Publication

Producing a quality monthly publication as well as maintaining an up-to-date website and Facebook page is not an easy task. We have several people who work hard to ensure that our members have the most timely and accurate **information possible. But these tasks take lots of time and can't be done properly** without the assistance of our members. Please remember to follow these procedures when submitting information to be shared with the general membership:

- Send all information to [beadsocietynm@gmail.com](mailto:beadsocietynm@gmail.com)
- Please send just one topic per email and be sure to include the topic in the subject line and indicate that the topic is for publication.
- Do not send articles or information as a response to another email; send a new, separate email.
- Be sure that any artwork, etc., you send is copy-ready in a format that can easily be downloaded and copied – preferably as an attachment (JPG, TIF, or PNG, or incorporated into a Word document).
- Please send complete information. The members of the Communications Committee are not mind readers. ☺ Please provide full names of persons, full addresses and contact information, dates and times, etc.
- Information to be included in the Newsletter MUST be received no later than the 20th of the prior month. Information received after that date will be shared via social media and on the BSNM website, and used for **the following month's publication if appropriate.**

## 2024 Board of Directors

The Board of Directors currently meets in person on the second Tuesday of the month at 12:30 pm at the Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 8600 Academy Rd. NE, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

*Members are welcome to attend.*

President .....	Helen Yackel
First Vice President - Special Events and Workshops.....	
Second Vice President – Programs.....	Pat Verrelle
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Secretary .....	Barbara Marcus
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Volunteer Coordinator.....	
Member-at-Large .....	Laurye Tanner
Past President.....	Barbara Rosen
Webmaster.....	Amanda Archuleta
Social Media Manager .....	Laura Bosch
Photographer.....	Laura Bosch and Pam Troutman
Historian .....	
Meeting Coordinator .....	Claudette Jaramillo
Membership Recruiter.....	Twyla Caudill
Fiber Arts Council Representative.....	Twyla Caudill
Fiber Arts Education Committee Representative .....	

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Address: Bead Society of New Mexico, P.O. Box 91655, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87199

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