



BSNM Bead Blast

December 2020

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

Greetings Artisans,

The BSNM Board members and I want to tell you how grateful we are for you and say **“Thank you” for your memberships, participation, patience, support, and positive feedback** during the strangest year I have ever experienced in my 74 years with these vicious COVID-19 attacks and ongoing quarantines. **You are wonderfully resilient!!!** There is not a general membership meeting in December; just a Bead Time on Wed., Dec. 2nd at 2:00 pm where we will bead together on Zoom. We will send you your link on Mon., Nov. 30th. We are wishing you Happy Holidays!

We had a ball listening and seeing Fran Hahn's presentation about her manufacturing process of making those gorgeous lampwork beads at the Nov. 16th general membership Zoom meeting! **Jan McComas of Taos (BSNM's new secretary) won some of Fran's lampwork beads.**

Congratulations to Susan Hager for winning the raffle basket at the November meeting. **(Be sure to buy your raffle tickets early on the BSNM website for the January raffle.) Liz Sands**, who taught the “Birds of a Feather” and “Pumpkin Patch” earring classes, won the bead books door prize and **Teresa Kenyon**, BSNM's Webmaster, won the Kazuri beaded bracelet and earrings door prize.

Something look forward to: MariaElena Baca, Rio Grande-CSC Jewelry Tech Training Specialist-Jewelry Product/Process Knowledge Specialist, will be recommending videos that Rio Grande Jewelry Supply has available for BSNM members to watch. This will be accomplished by placing a link on the BSNM website. All our members need to do is click on the link to view and learn at no cost. MariaElena tells us that there are many topics that Rio Grande has covered over the years and she can send video links and articles to us that will keep members going during this time of COVID lockdown. So, members, keep checking the website for this information as we will post the links and articles as soon as we receive them from Rio Grande.

Good News!! Ashes to Beauty Adornments owners Rene and Len Chock have a catalog that you can order from. The catalog is \$15. I just received my catalog and it is filled with wonderful items. Established in 1989, Rene & Len provide reproductions of old, ancient, and ethnic pieces such as clasps, charms, pendants, and buttons. All pieces are cast in white and yellow bronze and sterling silver (.925). All the items in the catalog are photographed at actual size. Method of payment: Visa, MasterCard, Discover, check, or cashier's check. There is a \$50 minimum for mail orders, so combine your order with your bead buddies. They sell wholesale if you have your license and you must send them a copy of your license for their records in order to receive wholesale prices. If you do not have a resale license, you can purchase at retail prices plus NM State Tax. Their address is: Rene & Len Chock, 115 Camino de las Huertas, Placitas, NM 87043, Phone & Fax 505-867-4244, ashestobeaauty@comcast.net.

A friendly reminder to renew your annual membership. We especially need your support this year for the future of BSNM. As a bonus you can roam around our new website, designed by Teresa Kenyon. Let us know if there is anything that we can do to make it easier to find your favorite items.

Instructions to renew your membership:

- Click on the Membership menu item
- In the yellow box, click on “Edit your membership profile”
- Click on the green button “Renew to 01 Jan 2022”

Let us know if you have any questions.

Stay well to bead another day!

Best regards from all of us at BSNM, Pat Verrelle, BSNM President, beadsocietynm@gmail.com, 505-980-6401



Upcoming Events

December 2	<p>Bead Time</p> <p>Wednesday, December 2, 2020 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm</p> <p>Zoom Meeting</p>
	<p>Join other BSNM members on Zoom and work on your own beading project. Please watch your email for the Zoom meeting invitation from Barbara Rosen.</p> <p>Instructions on how to join a Zoom Meeting from an email link: In order to use Zoom, it is recommended that you access the meeting from a desktop computer or laptop. Your computer needs to have a microphone and a camera. You may join the meeting using your phone, but it will be an audio only presentation...you will hear the entire meeting and we will be able to hear you...just no video.</p> <p>You will receive an email from Barbara 2 days prior to the meeting. (Please check your spam folder if you do not see the email.) In the email, you will see an invitation to the Zoom Meeting.</p> <p>On the day of the meeting, 30 minutes before the meeting, click on the Zoom meeting link in your email. This will open a browser window and load Zoom. Barbara will allow you access to the meeting after you click the link.</p>
December 9	<p>Board Meeting</p> <p>Wednesday, December 9, 2020 11:30 am</p> <p>Zoom meeting</p>
	<p>The Board will meet via Zoom to conduct the business of the bead society. Board members, please watch your messages for any additional details and information.</p>
December	<p>General Meeting</p> <p>There is no general meeting in December due to the holidays.</p>
	<p>The Bead Society of New Mexico wishes all its members and their families a happy and safe Holiday Season and a wonderful New Year. See you all in January!</p>

Reminder to Board Members

The Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church (on the corner of Academy and Moon) and North Domingo Baca Multigenerational Center are both still closed to group meetings. Therefore, **the BSNM Board will be meeting on the second Wednesday of the month via Zoom meeting for the foreseeable future.** Reminders will be sent out. This situation will be re-evaluated monthly.

Raffle Items Needed for January Meeting

We are on the hunt for items to raffle off at the party. If you know of a business or individual who might be willing to donate, please contact them (we have donation letters that you can give them) or contact Pat Verrelle and let her know. We are hoping for a good variety of items for the raffle (such as jewelry and accessories [such as scarves], gift certificates [for bead stores, restaurants, etc.], and home décor).

New BSNM Secretary

Due to health issues, our 2020 Secretary, Indea Sanchez, has resigned as of November 12, 2020. Therefore, our newly elected 2021 Secretary, Jan McComas, will take office immediately and continue through the end of 2021.

Newsletter to Be Published Monthly

The BSNM Board voted to suspend publication of the Bead Blast and to publish the Newsletter every month beginning in January 2021. (Previously, the Newsletter was published in the odd months – January, March, May, July, September, and November – and the Bead Blast was published in the even months – February, April, June, August, October, and December.) This decision was made because the Bead Blast has outgrown its original purpose of being a short, informational document meant to supplement the Newsletter between publications.



Door Prize Winners

Congratulations to Teresa Kenyon for winning the drawing for the Kazuri bead bracelet and earrings. The set was donated by Cael Chappelle of Baskets of Africa. He bought the set (and other bracelets and earrings) when he was in Kenya in January 2020.



And congratulations to Liz Sands for winning the drawing for four beadwork books: *Bead Weaving with Treasure Beads-Book 1*, *Bead Weaving with Treasure Beads-Book 2*, *Shaped Beadwork & Beyond* (by Diane Fitzgerald), and *The Complete Guide to Traditional Native American Beadwork*. These books were donated by Charlie Brinkman and are from the estate of Kenny Halstead. Liz was thrilled.



Fiber Arts Fiesta 2021 Cancelled

The Albuquerque Fiber Arts Council announced recently that it is cancelling the Fiber Arts Fiesta scheduled for May 2021.

The Council Board has reviewed the overall COVID-19 situation locally as well nationally and internationally, noting that many arts & crafts events such as the major quilt shows are being cancelled due to the uncertainty of state of the pandemic. Consequently, the Council has decided to postpone the 2021 Fiesta until 2022. The Council will be working with New Mexico Expo (State Fair Grounds) for an appropriate new date in 2022. Depending on feasibility, we will also consider the possibility of an online exhibit (much like the cancelled 2020 spring show) for some time in 2021, possibly later in the year.

Meanwhile, please DO NOT abandon your "Color Fantasy" display plan! We plan to use the same Fiesta theme, "Fiber Fantasy," along with all the other plans we have made – we are simply moving the date from 2021 to 2022.

Raffle Basket Winner

submitted by Pat Verrelle

That fabulous "Comfort and Joy" raffle basket designed by Jill Bartel, BSNM's Newsletter Editor, was won by oh-so-deserving Susan Hager at the November meeting. Susan was the very first person to buy her raffle tickets on the BSNM website for the November meeting, and she renewed her membership at the same time! She said she never wins anything, but BSNM changed her luck! Susan Hager and her bead buddy Susan Ryan provided refreshments for BSNM general meetings for years out of their own pockets. These are the two Susans that the "Susans' Club" was named for.



Membership Renewal

Now is the time to renew your BSNM membership (\$35 for individual membership, \$45 for household membership, \$55 to \$200 for business membership). You can renew with a credit card on our website, <https://beadsocietyofnewmexico.wildapricot.org/> or by sending a check to Bead Society of New Mexico, P.O. Box 91655, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87199.

Beaded Necklace Class

Liz Sands will be teaching the "Betsy's Song" necklace class for BSNM members in February. We don't know yet if this will be an in-person class or a Zoom class. More details to come!



Is it Time to Replace Your Face Mask?

from

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/reviewedcom/2020/11/16/covid-19-when-should-you-replace-your-cloth-face-mask/6311717002/>

Most recently, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has announced that face masks also protect the wearer, and more states and cities are issuing mask mandates as COVID-19 cases begin to rise again.

While you're supposed to wash your cloth face mask after every use, the wear and tear from daily use on these masks has many people wondering whether or not they should just replace them.

"Since the basic principle of masks works by blocking the distance droplets travel, cloth masks will become less effective the more they get washed as they become more threadbare," says Jon Chan, the Lab Manager of Testing at Reviewed.

To know when you should replace your face mask, Christopher Sulmonte, the project administrator for the Biocontainment Unit at John Hopkins Medical, explains you should think of them like a pair of underwear.

"Obviously the single cleaning aspect is important, but the other piece is that if it starts to tatter or there are holes, it might be time to replace it," he says. "We want the material to minimize those aerosolized droplets that come out of your mouth."

While there's no exact timeline for how long before a cloth mask will need to be replaced, Chan explains that the quality of the mask and the harshness of your washing machine are the main factors in deterioration.

Sulmonte also recommends having several face masks, especially if you're going out every day or tend to sweat more, as moisture can impact the integrity of the mask. This way, you won't need to do laundry as frequently.

To see if your mask needs to be replaced, Sulmonte says to hold the mask up to a light and check for any visible fading or see-through spots.

According to Chan, in colder weather, you can check if your mask is still effective by going outside and seeing how far your breath travels through your mask. If it's further than an inch or so, that's a good sign it's time to replace it.

Christmas and New Year's Won't Be 'Any Different' than Thanksgiving

from <https://www.yahoo.com/huffpost/fauci-christmas-new-years-wont-be-any-different-185042485.html>

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, has warned Americans to hunker down for a tough holiday season, as Christmas and New Year's are likely to be just as muted by the coronavirus as Thanksgiving was. He warned of surging COVID-19 cases throughout December.

Latest NM COVID-19 Information

from <https://www.governor.state.nm.us/2020/11/27/state-announces-tiered-red-to-green-system-for-n-m-counties-in-next-phase-of-covid-19-response/>

In an effort designed to provide local communities the flexibility to operate more day-to-day activities, the state of New Mexico will transition to a tiered county-by-county COVID-19 risk system on Dec. 2, enabling local communities to shed burdensome restrictions as soon as public health data show the virus is retreating within their borders.

The county-by-county framework will permit counties – and the businesses and nonprofit entities within their borders – to operate under less restrictive public health measures when health metrics demonstrating the extent of the virus' spread and test positivity within those counties are met.

In order to prevent and mitigate the effects of the spread of the virus, and to ameliorate the unsustainable resultant strain placed upon the state's health care system and personnel, counties where the virus is more prevalent will operate under more restrictive public health measures.

Likewise, counties where the virus has been or is being suppressed will operate under less restrictive measures. **Counties will operate under one of three levels: Red, signifying very high risk; Yellow, signifying high risk; and Green, signifying medium risk.**

When a county fails to meet the specified metrics for a given level upon the biweekly update of the map, it will begin operating at the next most restrictive level within 48 hours. When a county meets the specific metrics for a less restrictive level, the county may begin operating at that level of restrictions upon immediate effect of the department's biweekly update of the map.

The two key health metrics that will be used to determine where a county sits within the tiered framework are identified within the [state's gating criteria](#), the set of public health data points tracked and measured by the state Medical Advisory Team and others: the **per-capita incidence of new COVID-19 cases** and **average COVID-19 test positivity** over a statistically meaningful period of time.

As of Friday, Nov. 27, 32 of the state's 33 counties are at the Red Level. At this level, almost every category of business or nonprofit entity may operate – but with limited capacity and reduced operations, owing to the very high risk of viral spread. The map will be updated Wed., Dec. 2, and every other Wednesday thereafter.

The public health requirements for each level – and reminders about definitions of businesses and other entities within the state's emergency public health order – [can be found here](#).

Yvel to Present the World's Most Valuable COVID-19 Protective Face Mask

from <https://www.yvel.com/2020/08/12/face-mask/>

Yvel, the Israeli luxury jewelry brand most recognized for its work with rare, organic pearls, has designed a fully functional \$1.5 million mask. Designed by Isaac Levy, founder, and owner of Yvel, the mask is made of 250 grams of pure 18k gold and is set with 3,608 natural black and white diamonds, with a total weight of about 210 carats – making it the most expensive mask in the world. The mask, designed to be wearable, features a slot to insert a disposable N-99 mask, which provides protection from COVID-19.



The mask was commissioned by a Los Angeles-based businessman. As a keen art collector, he has been an Yvel customer for many years and placed his initial order as an act to help support Israeli industry as well as Yvel's 150 employees in Israel and the United States during the pandemic. The order required an intensive production process resulting in a mask which is a one-of-a-kind work of art and at the same time compliant to safety regulations. This project was entrusted to 25 of the company's top artisans and diamond setters who were carefully selected to carry out the extraordinary assignment.

“Stay positive. Test negative.”

– Nora O'Donnell,
CBS Evening News

From Our Business Members

A Few of My Favorite Beads: I hope that everyone is safe and healthy. Wanted to let you know that we received another shipment of the new 2020 dura coat galvanized delicat colors. We also received a larger selection of 30mm bugle beads in 27 colors. These are great for fringe and Christmas ornaments.

Just as a quick reminder, we will gladly ship, do curbside pickup, or deliver your order. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call – (505) 974-1645. Hope to see you soon, and as always happy beading!

Baskets of Africa: At this time our shop is only open by appointment, and only while it's approved to do so. Appointments are available Mon. through Fri. 10am to 3pm. To set a day and time, call 505-323-2315 or go to info@basketsofafrica.com.

The Beaded Iris: Current store hours are Mon. through Sat. 10am to 3pm. We will be glad to make an appointment if these hours do not accommodate your schedule or special needs. To schedule an appointment, call 505-299-1856 or email us at beadedirisstore@aol.com.

We have in-store services, as allowed by the Governor's safety rules. Bead groups are still unfortunately suspended.

Mama's Minerals: Phone orders welcome. Free curbside pickup. Free shipping on orders over \$49 (within the U.S.; excludes equipment). For the latest store information, sign up for our email at www.MamasMinerals.com.

Meltdown Studio: “Dear Friends: This year has been full of ups and downs, challenges and small victories. We've worked together and stayed apart; we've uplifted one another and supported each other in tough times. Throughout it all, please know that YOU have given me the strength and inspiration to navigate, pivot, and persevere. For this I am grateful. Thank you! Lauren

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

Stone Mountain Bead Gallery: As allowed by the governor, we're open Mon. through Sat. from 11am to 6pm; Sun. 12:30pm to 4:30pm. Call 505-385-2200 to arrange contactless pickup. **30% off on larger glass beads, magazines, and books for BSNM members. Back issues of Bead&Button magazine are also available.**

Beads (and jewelry) now for sale on Etsy: www.etsy.com/shop/TNTGarcia. Just look under the Stone Mt. Bead Gallery section in the shop!

Thomason Stone Supply: Hours are Mon. through Sat. 9:30am to 5pm. You can place an order by calling us at 888-353-9934 or 505-268-9934, or by filling out a contact form on our website.

Mama's Minerals Friday Night Silent Auction

Mama's Minerals is conducting a silent auction the first Friday of every month at 4pm MST.

Click [Mama's Minerals on Facebook](#) to like and follow us. Then visit our [Friday Night Silent Auction Album](#) the first Friday of each month for amazing auction items!

Auction Rules:

- Place bids in comment section for each item of the post
- Turn on post notifications - keep track of your bid!
- Winning bids will be notified after auction closes
- If payment is not received in 24 hours of notice bid is void
- Invoices will be sent out through PayPal
- Items will be shipped to you

Zulu Wire Baskets at Baskets of Africa



Zulu wire baskets are some of the most unusual baskets in the world today. They are woven from a small gauge wire, similar to telephone wire, in a wide variety of shapes and sizes. The Zulu people of South Africa developed a particular style of weaving, about 50 years ago, that makes these beautiful creations possible.

The wire, which is made in Durban especially for basketry, comes in an impressive array of colors. This allows the weavers to use their creativity to design unique patterns in many striking color combinations.

Our artisans in Zululand weave this wire very tightly and sometimes feature accents of bare copper. We have proudly represented their elegant work for close to 20 years.

These baskets look wonderful displayed on shelves, counters, and table tops - not to mention wall displays, personalized desk sets, and innumerable other uses.

Shop Early This Holiday Season: All the package delivery services are projecting an unusually high volume of parcels this year. The extra traffic is likely to cause delays with some deliveries. We recommend shopping early this year, to allow your gifts extra time to arrive.

The Latest from Rio Grande Jewelry Supply

Create Custom Designs with the Power of Crystal Points: Crystals continue to trend in icy pastels and warm hues said to offer healing and protection. Create custom gifts rich in both color and meaning that will resonate with customers this holiday season and bring good vibes all year long. Style them solo or create a flash of color amongst a cluster of charms on hoops, necklaces, bracelets and more. Shop the spectrum in a variety of sizes and stones to fit with every intention.

Shop crystal points and settings at [https://www.riogrande.com/searchresults?utm_term=Shop%20all%20crystal%20points.&utm_campaign=Trending%20Crystal%20Points%20Deliver%20Powerful%20Personalization&utm_content=email&utm_source=Act-On+Software&utm_medium=email#q=crystal%20points&t=products&sort=%40priceslider%20ascending&layout=card&numberOfResults=144&f:categoryfilter=\[Chains%20%26%20Findings\]](https://www.riogrande.com/searchresults?utm_term=Shop%20all%20crystal%20points.&utm_campaign=Trending%20Crystal%20Points%20Deliver%20Powerful%20Personalization&utm_content=email&utm_source=Act-On+Software&utm_medium=email#q=crystal%20points&t=products&sort=%40priceslider%20ascending&layout=card&numberOfResults=144&f:categoryfilter=[Chains%20%26%20Findings])

Complements for Crystals: Complement your custom crystal point designs with our extensive selection of findings with options for every look. From chains and charms to beads and bracelets, we offer a range of styles in the full spectrum of metals so you can create exactly what your customers are looking for. Shop now and get inspired!



Shop findings at [https://www.riogrande.com/category/chains-and-findings/silver-filled?utm_term=Shop%20all%20findings.&utm_campaign=Trending%20Crystal%20Points%20Deliver%20Powerful%20Personalization&utm_content=email&utm_source=Act-On+Software&utm_medium=email#t=products&sort=relevance&layout=card&numberOfResults=36&f:categoryfilter=\[Chains%20%26%20Findings.Silver-Filled\]](https://www.riogrande.com/category/chains-and-findings/silver-filled?utm_term=Shop%20all%20findings.&utm_campaign=Trending%20Crystal%20Points%20Deliver%20Powerful%20Personalization&utm_content=email&utm_source=Act-On+Software&utm_medium=email#t=products&sort=relevance&layout=card&numberOfResults=36&f:categoryfilter=[Chains%20%26%20Findings.Silver-Filled])

Made to Assemble: Delivering lasting durability, unmatched comfort and consistent results over decades of service, Swanstrom Tools are a top choice for assembling your designs. Shop pliers that open and close jump rings with ease, cutters that deliver a true flush cut and more, all designed to save you time and spare your hands.

Shop Swanstrom Tools at https://www.riogrande.com/category/tools-and-equipment/swanstrom?utm_term=Shop%20Swanstrom%20tools.&utm_campaign=Trending%20Crystal%20Points%20Deliver%20Powerful%20Personalization&utm_content=email&utm_source=Act-On+Software&utm_medium=email

A Thank You to BSNM Members for Their Service

On behalf of the Bead Society, Pat Verrelle and other members of the Board presented Certificates of Appreciation for Outstanding Service to BSNM members for their service to the Bead Society. Thank you to all of you supporting BSNM and for giving your time and energy.



Julie Fear, our former Membership Chair and Meeting Coordinator (and newly elected Photographer) shows off her certificate from the Bead Society.



Marty Larsen (Julie Fear's significant other) poses with his certificate from BSNM. (Marty was usually the only "bead guy" on our bus trips.)

The Board also finished presenting certificates of appreciation to our business members and other organizations that have supported BSNM. Thank you to all of you.



Claire Sweeney (left) and Deb Cole (right) present Robert Steinberg, owner of Stone Mountain Bead Gallery, with a certificate of appreciation.



Claire Sweeney (far left) and Deb Cole (far right) present Bobbie Yoakum, an instructor at The Beaded Iris, and Dannelle Grundlach, owner of The Beaded Iris, with certificates of appreciation.



Nancy Elliot, Dannelle Grundlach, and Joyce Wolfe show off the certificates they received from the Bead Society.



Pat Verrelle presents Dawn Goodrum and New Mexico Boys and Girls Ranches with certificates of appreciation for allowing BSNM to facilitate the sale of a bead estate in March to raise money for their organization. (And we got good prices as well!)

Swarovski to Cease Production of Crystal Components

Swarovski will cease, or have already ceased, production on virtually all of the Swarovski products. The company has shared their future plans with their Swarovski Authorized Retailers. Their projected plan is that from January 2021 their current direct customers will only be able to purchase a certain amount of product each, based on a previous purchase history. The sale of the products to direct customers will cease in June 2021. (from <https://wescottjewelry.com/2020/11/07/swarovski-to-stop-selling-beads/>)

According to a news story on August 21, 2020 (<https://www.web24.news/u/2020/08/the-swarovski-empire-is-supposed-to-become-nobler-and-smaller-after-cracks.html>), while Swarovski is celebrating its 125th anniversary, there is little reason to celebrate. Revenues will collapse by a third this year and will only be around 2 billion euros. The new management has announced the reduction of around 20 percent or 6,000 jobs. And the family runs the risk of losing control if the new CEO should ultimately prevail with his plans for a public company and a possible IPO or a strategic partner. Since Buchbauer started in April, no stone remains unturned.

The cracks in the crystal kingdom also reveal a deep fissure in the Swarovski family. It now consists of more than 200 members, most of whom live in Austria and Switzerland. The company is run from the shores of Lake Zurich.

The new CEO Robert Buchbauer, who is himself a member of the dynasty, is pushing for a radical reorganization of the company. For his critics in the family and among the locals in Wattens, he has a clear message: face the necessities or risk getting trapped

in the market. Swarovski ignored the dynamic here for too long.

"It's very painful for everyone, but we have to take the steps we should have taken years ago," said Buchbauer, 54, in an interview with Bloomberg News. In the future, Swarovski will focus on higher quality products with a distinctive design instead of trying to offer everything for everyone. "Swarovski crystals on a 10-euro T-shirt do not contribute to our profitability and damage our brand image," said Buchbauer.

If Swarovski wants to prosper in the long term, the CEO is certain, the company will have to offer fewer items, but make them more exclusive and mainly offer them under its own name. The products would have to be curated more carefully, more tailored to the tastes of the consumers. "The conversion will take two to three years and is only just beginning," said Buchbauer.

Buchbauer's restructuring plan has met with fierce resistance from many family members. You accuse him of causing irreversible damage to the components business run from Wattens. Although the critics admit the need for change, they consider the cuts to be too deep, as they would decimate the historic core business forever.

"The Swarovski family is shocked by the plans for the headquarters," said Paul Swarovski, who belongs to one of the Austrian branches of the family, in an interview. "There are still many ways to sell billions of high-quality crystal components around the world. Robert Buchbauer just has to come up with ideas on how to win these customers back instead of closing down and laying off skilled workers." Buchbauer still has to get the approval of all shareholders and there will be resistance.

"If Swarovski has a future and wants to retain its status as a globally recognized brand, the company must now make painful cuts," said Buchbauer. He's not afraid of an alpine family feud. "Bad news always creates a lot of emotion," says the manager. "In the end it is about the long-term survival of this company."

According to a news story on October 30, 2020 (<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-10-30/swarovski-shareholders-approve-job-cuts-upmarket-brand-strategy>), Swarovski shareholders approved the biggest overhaul in the crystal maker's 125-year history, including 6,000 job cuts, after years of heated discussions among factions of the founding family.

Chief Executive Officer Robert Buchbauer had been battling with family opposition over his plan to shrink the lower-margin mass-market business [such as beads and other components] and focus on more expensive and higher-margin jewelry, including rings and bracelets.

Family members who opposed the plan said that they would legally challenge the vote and push for nullification of the result, arguing that any decision about major corporate shifts need to be unanimous.

About 80% of shareholders of the closely held company sided with Buchbauer, meaning the CEO will push ahead with the changes.

"The new strategy for our core business, the efficiency measures and the long-term health of the company remain our goals," Buchbauer said in a statement after the vote.

Opposing shareholders said in a statement that there are "options and ways on how to finance" the company's biggest plant, which has been struggling. That family branch, which has offered to buy out the historic production site, wants Buchbauer to "make way and stop trying to cement his power."

The following is from Jean Power, jewelry designer (<https://mailchi.mp/jeanpower.com/importantswarovskinews>): "I know many of you will have seen the rumors circulating on social media about Swarovski, and as a direct customer of theirs, I had a meeting with them yesterday where they confirmed that they will indeed be ceasing production on all of what they call their 'DIY' segment.

"Sadly that is all the lovely sparkly things we all adore and use in our beadwork.

"Many of these items have already ceased production and all the others will stop by the end of June 2021.

"As a direct customer, at the moment I am still able to order with them and am busy making sure I will have all I need to teach the classes and sell the kits I had planned in 2021. But, this will begin to change from the start of the new year as they limit what we can spend and buy (and obviously as stocks run low)."

Apparently, Jean met with the Swarovski reps and specifically asked them about rivolis, bicones, pearls, round beads, and fancy stones: they confirmed these were all to cease production.

On October 31st, Jill Wiseman, author and jewelry designer, shared the following with people belonging to her Facebook groups:

"Here's fact: Australia and New Zealand HAVE been told they will no longer receive beads (and fancy stones) from Swarovski by the end of the year. According to a MAJOR bead store owner in Perth, Swarovski then intends to look at other markets and decide. I trust what she says.

"Swarovski IS going through a major reorganization with an eye to cutting areas so they are thought of as a luxury brand again. There have been many layoffs within the company under its new management, and it's not over yet. It is unclear at this time where the beads and components line falls within this.

"Here's my personal speculation: I think it's possible that they are closing down the beads and components market region-by-region. I hope I'm wrong. But it makes no business sense to keep making the product, but then exclude a large territory like Australia/New Zealand from purchasing it from them. It seems more like the first step in a process.

"Here's my personal plan: I will continue to stock Swarovski. Right now, there are no significant

limitations on obtaining it here (other than COVID-related.) But I also will be looking to add Preciosa into our crystal lineup. It will take a while, as U.S. distributors are terrible about carrying the full product line. Example: one distributor I looked at yesterday carries THREE 3mm bicone colors, and about 20 of the 4mm bicones. Preciosa has 42 base colors and an additional 17 color effects for reference. I'll have to hunt and search, and then I'll have to afford it too – so it will be a process.

I also plan to look for good-quality Chinese bicones as another price level option for my customers.

"What I think you should do: Carry on as usual for now. If there's a Swarovski color you adore with all your heart, you might gradually lay in a little stock for just in case. As always, I will keep you posted with any new developments as soon as I know them.

"What about prices: Some folks have asked if the price will go up. I don't know right now, but probably. At Jill Wiseman Designs, I have not increased Swarovski prices in 5 years – I've absorbed 5 years of annual cost increases and currency adjustments. It's something I'll look at in 2021, or sooner if there indeed is another cost increase."

An email that Liz Reisinger received from Fire Mountain Gems provided the following information: "We do know Swarovski is streamlining the global distribution of their components division. The good news is Swarovski plans to maintain a limited number of affiliate distributors resulting in much closer partnerships. What this means for all of us is that Swarovski will be discontinuing a large amount of their product offerings by the end of 2020. Once we know the discontinued items, we'll share this information with you right away.

"They have assured us we will be able to purchase and supply Swarovski crystals to you through September 2021. On a brighter note, we are working on creating a gorgeous line of European crystals. This line will be available sometime in 2021."

[Editor's Note: There is very little information online about Swarovski's decision to stop production of crystal beads and components. This article contains most of the information I was able to find. Apparently Swarovski is only communicating its plans with its Authorized Retailers and not with the general beading community. The company's official website only sells jewelry and other crystal items, such as figurines, and has no information about Swarovski's plans to shut down production of beads and components, which are only available through dealers and retailers.]



What Have You Been Doing While Staying at Home? Part 8

Here are some more creative endeavors by our members while staying at home during the COVID-19 restrictions. To share your work in the newsletter, please send a photo and description by the 20th of the month to beadsocietynm@gmail.com.

As mentioned in the November/December Newsletter, member Sandy Vicari (a nurse working on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic) has been on a jewelry-making marathon lately. Following is more of Sandy's work.



Black onyx necklace with a bear pendant and matching earrings



Freshwater pearls and turquoise necklace and earrings



Pink Czech glass necklace, bracelet, and earrings



Turquoise necklace with a silver buffalo pendant and matching earrings (left)
Turquoise and pearls necklace and earrings (right)



Member Sally Moore sent an update on what she's been doing lately: "I finished up an Art Deco necklace, bracelet and earring set in silver and midnight blue goldstone. In addition, I've been crafting Christmas gifts for family and friends. I got going early so I won't have to worry about the Christmas Post Office rush this year."



"And after Cael Chappell's exciting presentation on African Kazuri beads during our November Zoom meeting, I ordered a few from a stateside Etsy site. Below is a photo of the result for my first effort. The kit I used comes complete with cord, wire, fittings, clasp, and directions."



Sally showed off the following Kazuri necklace and earring set at the general meeting on Monday, Nov. 16. "I purchased a set of 12 discounted beads from the Etsy shop KazuriBeads, as well as fixings, cord, crimps, etc., and directions to complete the set."



Member Nan Card had some adventures making herself a fall bracelet: "I saw this bracelet – called 'Pumpkin Patch' – in the very last issue of *Bead&Button* magazine and just had to do it. So I made it, but was not happy with three shades of brown I used for the bottom of the pumpkins. But it was done and I wasn't about to re-do it since it's such a wide bracelet. I used a long slide clasp that certainly seemed very secure."

"The first time I wore it I went to COSTCO, it was a short walk into the store since I was just looking for printer ink. On my way home, I glanced at my wrist ... and the bracelet was GONE! I didn't cry but I did scream. I pulled off the main road, parked, and searched my car floor and handbag but, nothing. So I went back to COSTCO, retraced all my steps, found nothing, and went to the main desk. I asked if the bracelet had been turned in; the woman said nothing had been but she used an internal store PA that goes out only to the floor workers. No one had been given the bracelet. She said to wait a couple of days and check back, people usually always turn things in."

"So after I got home and calmed down, I started gathering beads for a second bracelet. Two days later I called COSTCO but no bracelet was turned in after all. Someone got a very nice bracelet for Thanksgiving. Then it was back to peyote stitching! This time I changed the three browns to two colors and extended the dark orange, then I used three snaps to close the bracelet, if one fails there are two backups! I like the changes I made this time around; I like to think the whole rigmarole was just meant to be. I finished the pico edge while the November Zoom meeting got going and then showed it during the Show-and-Tell portion of the meeting!"



The Beaded Iris owner Dannelle Grundlach shows off her custom embroidered and beaded mask featuring her store's logo.



Volunteer Coordinator Fran Hahn showed off some of her handmade lampwork glass beads at the November general meeting via Zoom.



Newsletter Editor Jill Bartel made flowers using plastic gift cards, bottle caps, and epoxy clay as the basic components. "I had an idea to make flowers using pieces of plastic gift cards for the petals for a while, but hadn't quite figured out how to put them together. After watching Heidi Kumli's Ornament video (thanks to Pam Troutman for posting it on the BSNM Facebook page), I knew how I would make the flowers. The 'petals' are made from plastic gift cards using a guitar pick punch. The bezel is a bottle cap and the flower centers are made with various seed beads, bugle beads, and crystal chatons. Everything is held in place with epoxy clay. I'll be adding a stem made of florist wire to each flower."

After browsing Pinterest for Christmas ornament ideas, Jill made these ornaments with a wine cork as a base. The corks are threaded on wire and decorated with paper (scrapbook paper and old foreign-language book pages), glitter paint, and various beads, crystal spacers, bead caps, charms, and connectors.



Gem of the Month – Labradorite

Labradorite is named after its location of discovery on the Isle of Paul, near Nain, Labrador, Canada. It was discovered there in 1770 by a Moravian missionary.

According to native Canadian tribal lore, labradorite is said to contain the Northern Lights, also known as the Aurora Borealis. In the myth, it is believed that the lights were “set free” by one of their ancestors who broke through the rocks with his spear. The lights that remained were set into stone, and thus labradorite was born.

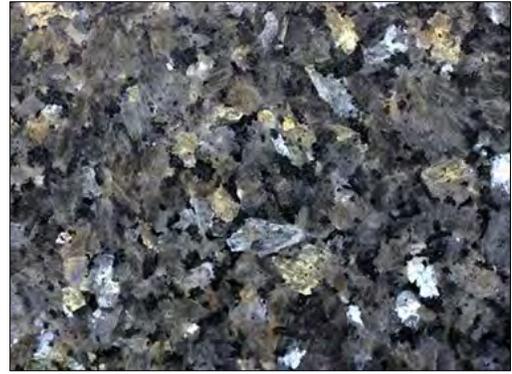
Labradorite is a feldspar mineral of the plagioclase series that is most often found in mafic igneous rocks such as basalt, gabbro, and norite. It is also found in anorthosite, an igneous rock in which labradorite can be the most abundant mineral. The stone, usually gray-green, dark gray, black, or grayish-white, is composed in aggregate layers that refract light as iridescent flashes of peacock blue, gold, pale green, or coppery red. The predominant blue varies within the light, displaying hues from deepest blue to various shades of pale, almost blue-green. Labradorite is so well known for these spectacular displays of color that the phenomenon is known as “labradorescence.” Specimens with the highest quality labradorescence are often selected for use as gemstones.

Labradorescence is not a display of colors reflected from the surface of a specimen. Instead, light enters the stone, strikes a twinning surface within the stone, and reflects from it. The color seen by the observer is the color of light reflected from that twinning surface. Different twinning surfaces within the stone reflect different colors of light. Light reflecting from different twinning surfaces in various parts of the stone can give the stone a multi-colored appearance. However, not all specimens of labradorite exhibit this phenomenon.

Labradorite has become a popular gemstone because of the unique iridescent play-of-color that many specimens exhibit. The quality, hue, and brilliance of the labradorescence vary from one specimen to another and within a single specimen. Stones with exceptional color are often given the name “spectrolite.”



Translucent labradorite with the best exhibit of spectral color is known in the gemstone trade as “spectrolite.”



Anorthosite, a rock rich in labradorite, is often cut, polished, and used as an architectural stone. It is sold under a variety of names such as “blue granite” or “labradorite granite.” It is used as countertops, tiles, window sills, and facing stone.

Labradorite is one of the gemstones for the zodiac sign of Capricorn. Wearing it is said to nurture the mind, heighten intellectual thought, encourage introspection, and promote peace.

The crystal properties of labradorite provide us a link to the spirit world, a dimension where anything is possible. This stone encourages you to keep your head in the clouds and inspires you to reach for the stars. Labradorite is said to encourage the recall of dreams.

Labradorite is a useful companion through change, imparting strength and perseverance. It balances and protects the aura, raises consciousness and grounds spiritual energies. It is excellent for strengthening intuition and promoting psychic abilities. As a workplace stone, labradorite brings out the best in people, making work life more congenial.

Labradorite is also the most powerful protector of the mineral kingdom, creating a shielding force throughout the aura and strengthening natural energies from within. It protects against the negativity and misfortunes of this world, and provides safe exploration into alternate levels of consciousness and in facilitating visionary experiences from the past or the future.

This mineral is found in many countries, including Canada, Finland, Norway, Mexico, and the USA. In the 19th century, discoveries of deposits in Russia increased its popularity in jewelry. Labradorite with superb labradorescence is produced from a few deposits in Finland. A significant amount of gray to black labradorite with good labradorescence is produced from locations in Madagascar and Russia. Small amounts of transparent labradorite with internal color flash are produced in India. Several mines in Oregon produce transparent orange, yellow, red, blue, green, and clear labradorite without labradorescence.

Why a Medieval Woman Had Lapis Lazuli Hidden in Her Teeth

by Sarah Zhang, The Atlantic

https://getpocket.com/explore/item/why-a-medieval-woman-had-lapis-lazuli-hidden-in-her-teeth?utm_source=pocket-newtab

An analysis of dental plaque illuminates the forgotten history of female scribes.

What Anita Radini noticed under the microscope was the blue—a brilliant blue that seemed so unnatural, so out of place in the 1,000-year-old dental tartar she was gently dissolving in weak acid.



This set of teeth had a secret hidden in the tartar.
(photo by Christina Warinner)

It was ultramarine, she would later learn, a pigment that a millennium ago could only have come from lapis lazuli originating in a single region of Afghanistan. This blue was once worth its weight in gold. It was used, most notably, to give the Virgin Mary's robes their striking color in centuries of artwork. And the teeth that were embedded with this blue likely belonged to a scribe or painter of medieval manuscripts.

Who was that person? A woman, first of all. According to radiocarbon dating, she lived around 997 to 1162, and she was buried at a women's monastery in Dalheim, Germany. And so these embedded blue particles in her teeth illuminate a forgotten history of medieval manuscripts: Not just monks made them. In the medieval ages, nuns also produced the famously laborious and beautiful books. And some of these women must have been very good, if they were using pigment as precious and rare as ultramarine.

If pigments can be preserved in tartar—the gunky yellow stuff on teeth that dental plaque hardens into—that means that fibers, metals, and other dyes could be, too. “This is genuinely a big deal,” says Mark Clarke, a technical art historian at Nova University Lisbon who was not involved in the new study. You could imagine identifying metalworkers, carpenters, and other artisans from the particles embedded in tartar, Clarke says. “It's opening up a new avenue in archaeology.”

Radini and her co-author, Christina Warinner, did not set out to study the production of illuminated manuscripts. Radini, now at the University of York, was initially interested in starch granules in tartar as a

proxy for diet, and Warinner, a microbiome researcher at the Max Planck Institute, wanted to study the DNA of ancient oral bacteria. But the blue particles were too striking to ignore.



The semiprecious rock lapis lazuli is ground up to create a pigment called ultramarine, tiny particles of which can be found in dental tartar.
(photo by Christina Warinner)

“Can you imagine the kind of cold calls we had to make in the beginning?” says Warinner. “‘Hi, I'm working with this thing on teeth, and it's about 1,000 years old, and it has blue stuff in it. Can you help me?’ People thought we were crazy. We tried reaching out to physicists, and they were like, ‘I don't know what you're talking about.’ We tried reaching out to people working in art restoration, and they were like, ‘Why are you working with plaque?’” She eventually reached physicists at the University of York who helped confirm the blue did indeed come from the mineral lazurite, derived from lapis lazuli.

But art experts were still skeptical. Some dismissed the idea that a woman could have been a painter skilled enough to work with ultramarine. One suggested to Warinner that this woman came into contact with ultramarine because she was simply the cleaning lady.

Warinner eventually reached out to Alison Beach, a historian at Ohio State University who studies female scribes in 12th-century Germany. Over the past couple of decades, Beach and other scholars have cataloged the overlooked contributions of women to medieval book production. The challenge, Beach says, is that while most manuscripts with signatures are signed by men, the vast majority of manuscripts are unsigned. But a small number of surviving manuscripts are signed by women, and scholars have found correspondence between monks and nuns about book production.

Beach even came across a letter dated to the year 1168, in which a bookkeeper of a men's monastery commissions sister “N” to produce a deluxe manuscript using luxury materials such as parchment, leather, and silk. The monastery where sister “N” lived is only 40 miles from Dalheim, where the teeth with lapis lazuli were found. Beach also identified a book using lapis lazuli that was written by a female scribe in

Germany around A.D. 1200. The pigment would have traveled nearly 4,000 miles from Afghanistan to Europe via the Silk Road. All the evidence suggests that female scribes were indeed making books that used lapis lazuli pigment in the same area and around the same time this woman was alive.



An illuminated page from the Scivias, a 12th-century book written by the nun Hildegard of Bingen and painted by two anonymous artists. The blue pigment comes from lapis lazuli. (Photo from the Heidelberg University Library / Cod. Sal. X,16 / page 2r)

The team considered a number of alternative ways lapis lazuli could have gotten into the woman's dental plaque. Could the particles have come from repeated kissing of an illuminated manuscript? This practice didn't become popular until three centuries after this woman likely died. Could it have come from lapis ingested as medicine, as suggested in Greek and Islamic medical texts? There's little evidence that prescription was followed in 12th-century Germany. The lapis lazuli particles were also especially fine, which requires a laborious grinding process. This detail in particular suggests that the stones were purposefully made into pigment.

The team concluded that two scenarios are most likely: The woman was a painter who could have ingested ultramarine paint while licking her brush to a point, or she breathed in the powder while preparing pigment for herself or someone else. You can almost begin to picture her, Beach says, sitting by herself laboring over

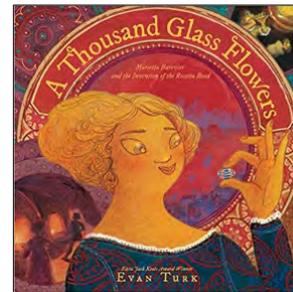
a manuscript day after day. "For a medieval historian," she adds, "this kind of clear material evidence of something from the life of an individual person is so extraordinary."

Cynthia Cyrus, a professor at Vanderbilt who has also studied medieval scribes, told me that reading the paper was "the highlight of my day." Like many monasteries, she noted, the one where this woman was buried was eventually destroyed in a medieval fire. There's little evidence of what life was like there. But the woman's teeth suggest that it could have been a site of highly skilled book production.

Warinner is continuing to study the particles embedded in old tartar. She and others have found everything from insect parts and the pollen of exotic ornamental flowers to opium, bits of wool, and milk proteins—all of which tell stories about what people ate and how they lived. The detritus of everyday life accumulates in the gunk that modern dentists are so vigilant about scrubbing off. "They aren't thinking of future archaeologists," Warinner jokes.

Bead Story Book

A Thousand Glass Flowers: Marietta Barovier and Invention of the Rosetta Bead
by Evan Turk



This gorgeous and empowering children's picture book from award-winning author-illustrator Evan Turk paints the portrait of Marietta Barovier, the groundbreaking Renaissance artisan who helped shape the future of Venetian glassmaking.

Marietta and her family lived on the island of Murano, near Venice, as all glassmakers did in the early Renaissance. Marietta longed to create gorgeous glass too, but glass was men's work. One day her father showed her how to shape the hot glass into a work of art, and Marietta was mesmerized. Marietta worked until she created her own unique glass bead: the rosetta (also known as the chevron bead). Small but precious, the beautiful beads grew popular around the world and became as valuable as gold. The young girl who was once told she could not create art was now the woman who would leave her mark on glasswork for centuries to come.

This hardcover, 11" x 0.5" x 11" book was published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers in August 2020. It has 48 pages. List price is \$17.99 (\$14.86 on Amazon).

Donna Chambers: Fashion to Fabrication

from

https://www.riogrande.com/article?name=DonnaChambersInterview&utm_term=Learn%20more%20about%20jeweler%20Donna%20Chambers.&utm_campaign=Meet%20Donna%20Chambers%20A%20Creative%20Triple%20Threat&utm_content=email&utm_source=Act-On+Software&utm_medium=email

Donna Chambers built a successful career reinvigorating the classics, from pearls and cameos to art quilts.

If Donna Chambers were to depict her colorful career in one of her prize-winning story quilts, she might include iconic designers Vera Neumann and Oleg Cassini. She could juxtapose her inventive pearl jewelry with her pioneering cameo designs featuring black women. And show the venues that carried her creations, with Helena Fortunoff as her first customer: Saks, Bloomingdale's and premier specialty shops. One of the first black women to design her own fine jewelry collections, Donna's reinterpretations of classics continue to resonate.



Jeweler Donna Chambers, wearing one of her signature cameos depicting a woman of color paired with a necklace featuring an antique Chinese gaming chip.

Fashion: Linens & Leather

Donna started her creative career with an enviable after-school job: In the studio of textile designer Vera Neumann's modernist mansion in Ossining, New York (designed by Bauhaus trailblazer Marcel Breuer). She recalls that Dr. Hill, an African-American physician and plant doctor for Vera Industries, helped her get the job. She performed color separations for Neumann's signature scarves, many of which served as the launch point for larger collections. Neumann's aesthetic ranged from bold shapes to stylized watercolor sketches that were also reproduced on clothing and linens. Her textiles still have a loyal collector base, and the Museum of Arts and Design staged a retrospective of her work.

Working with Neumann was transformative. A runway show at New York's Plaza Hotel offered an insider's view into the dynamics of the fashion industry. Neumann travelled and would bring back objects to

show her design staff. An artifact from a trip to Finland influenced a collection reminiscent of Marimekko. Donna says, "All of it inspired me to pursue a career as an artist. And she taught me the importance of designing themed and seasonal collections."

When Donna graduated from high school, the Vera Industries George Neumann Scholarship supplemented her parents' support when she enrolled at Pratt Institute. She jokes that besides the jewelry classes she took to meet requirements, her class ring and a pair of pearl earrings comprised the only jewelry in her life back then. After earning a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Fashion Design, Donna immersed herself in New York's garment industry. Her first job was at Simplicity Patterns on Fifth and Madison. She says, "It took me to the next step. You always learn something along the way that's unforgettable." One of her "next steps" was working as an assistant to Oleg Cassini, selecting the right leathers to bring his designs to life. She also cultivated a diverse freelance clientele.

Fabrication: Pearls & Gaming Chips

Collage of Donna Chambers' jewelry designs with a ceramic, gold, lapis, and cameo pendant, and sterling, pearl, and mother-of-pearl pieces from her antique gaming chip series.



Classics, re-imagined: 14K gold, pearls and lapis surround a cameo depicting a woman of color. Pairing pearls with antique mother-of-pearl gaming chips elevates both materials.

Years into her fashion career, Donna revisited jewelry-making when she married the owner of a wholesale repair shop. The business handled a high volume with a large local retail chain as a key customer. Donna worked at the bench soldering chains, resizing rings and polishing. As she had when doing technical work for Vera Neumann, she started to think about design.

After her husband died, an opportunity arose for Donna to share the shop space with a master jeweler. Donna says, "He could fabricate anything. And anything I needed to know, I could ask him." His son, who had apprenticed with him, later joined the team

along with Donna's sister Gail and brother David. The team would work together for decades.

To grow her business, Donna set a new goal: Enter the New Designer section of the Jewelers of America (JA) show. Inspired by designers Kristin Moore and Sandy Baker, she chose pearls and abalone as her media. She says, "I was trying to work within my finances and my technical skills. An 18" strand of pearls could take me a long way. And everybody has a strand of pearls—it's one of the first gems known to man. I felt that my line would enhance the stores' showcases."

Donna recalls her meeting with industry leader Mort Abelson during the application process. Abelson scouted promising talent for the "New Designer Gallery" in JA's show, which offered access to the lucrative fall fashion market. She says, "He told me to give the business my own name, so I did. And when I got into the JA show I called my friend and cried." Donna Chambers Designs was established in 1981. After Abelson's death, JA established an award honoring him and Donna was a recipient for her longevity in the industry.

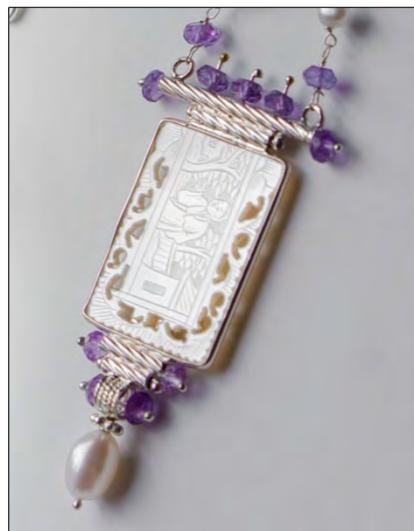
She was one of only two women of color at the JA show. Donna says, "At that time it was Sandy [Baker] and I. You had to look good and be on your post to be noticed." It worked. Her first jewelry order came from Fortunoff, whose tagline "The Source" attests to the brand's integration into New York life. She adapted her designs to the store's demand for color, integrating onyx and malachite into her pieces. Her use of pearls expanded to include mabé [pearls] and mother-of-pearl in gray and white. She says, "I listened to Helene Fortunoff and that allowed me to explore new creative directions. You have to be open to possibilities."

Nearly all of the components in Donna's jewelry designs were hand-fabricated, except for the cast bails and enhancers. She made all of the samples herself at the bench. Donna says, "It took a while to get the technique right, and it was a painstaking process." In 1992, she won the National Women's Jewelry Association Award for Manufacturing Excellence.

A trip to the Tucson Gem & Mineral Show reinvigorated her aesthetic. Donna came across a bowl of antique mother-of-pearl gaming chips from China's Ching Dynasty (1720–1840) and was smitten. She says, "They fit perfectly into what I was doing at the time."

Her inventive repurposing of the chips soon became her signature. Her new collections were carried by The Sultan Co., a Hawaii-based fine jewelry chain with 30 stores; the national Museum Shop chain, and dozens of specialty jewelry boutiques. She had a successful run on ShopNBC Network, was a guest designer on the Silversea cruise line, and appeared in multiple high-end catalogs. In addition to her production team, she credits her daughter with helping her to meet growing demand. Donna says, "She'd sit at the bench and string pearls, or shape chains with pearls and half-round wire. Later on, she worked on

PowerPoint presentations. She always there to help pick up the pieces."



A mother-of-pearl Chinese gaming chip set in silver with amethyst and pearls.

The finite supply of gambling chips required her to be creative with design and merchandising. Donna says, "Each chip is an intricate work of art, and the rarity drove a line of one-of-a-kind pieces." On the opening day of shows, there would be a rush to her booth to scoop up her creations. Each piece included a certificate of authenticity with the chips' provenance. And a 6mm disc displayed her trademark and the metal's purity.

Fabrication & Fabric



Today, Donna Chambers channels her creativity and passion for handwork into her prize-winning quilts.

Business began to slow down in the late 1980s and Donna wanted to keep her team working. So she launched a second business in 1990: A shop offering African-American gifts, greeting cards, art, and books. These passions intersected in two ceramic cameo designs featuring different portraits of women of color. Donna says, "I wanted to offer something that would appeal to all women of color." And in 2016, while she

was semi-retired, the Smithsonian's National Museum of African-American History contacted her about carrying her cameos in their museum shop. Donna says, "My jewelry has always been a marriage of history and style."

These days Donna makes jewelry to order—and jokes about her sizable stash of antique gambling chips—when she's not creating art quilts. Her vivid, award-winning textile art celebrates the layers of African American experience and brings attention to human rights issues. She says, "Working with your hands is a gift that brings joy and a sense of accomplishment. Nobody can take that away from you. It comes from your spirit."

Tucson Show Guide

by Tammy Honaman, Director of Content, Interweave

As publishers of the Tucson Show Guide for nearly 35 years, Interweave is pleased and proud to be such a key part of this singular and worldwide event, and appreciate the support that promoters, vendors, and attendees give us each year. Amid the health concerns relating to COVID-19 and the continuing uncertainty about the status of the shows, however, after much consideration we have decided to provide information about the 2021 Tucson shows only online at [TucsonShowGuide.com](https://www.tucsonshowguide.com). We will, therefore, not be producing a print version of the 2021 Tucson Show Guide. TucsonShowGuide.com is available free to everyone.

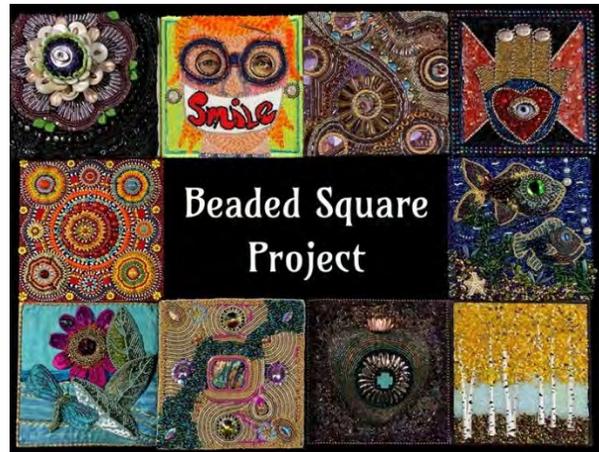
Online we will provide as much information about all of the gem, mineral, fossil, bead, jewelry, and equipment shows as we can, as soon as we can. We will also make quick and frequent online updates as new information becomes available to us, so that TucsonShowGuide.com will be current through February, and far more timely and accurate than any print version could be. We are also working now on introducing a number of new features to the site.

Among these features will be continuous access to the searchable, digital version of *Lapidary Journal Jewelry Artist's* upcoming Annual Buyers' Directory. Via this directory, any vendor will be able to share details of the products and services they offer, as well as their business locations including online sites, permanent physical locations, and event locations. The Directory will also be published in the print and digital versions of *Lapidary Journal Jewelry Artist* January/February 2021, available by January. Included with all versions of the Directory will be a special Tucson Showcase featuring Tucson show display ads.

Thank you all for your patience and understanding as we work through this challenge. We welcome suggestions and feedback on our efforts, and will be back soon with more about our plans.

With best wishes for everyone's health and safety.

Beaded Square Project



The Museum of Beadwork invites you – no matter your experience, style, or technique – to make a square of beadwork and send it to them and be part of this group installation. Click on the following link to learn the details about this project:

<https://www.museumofbeadwork.org/pages/beaded-square-project>

The Museum of Beadwork announced the official extension of the Beaded Square Project to March 19, 2021. This date, the one-year anniversary of the first U.S. shelter in place decree, will mark an entire year of change to ourselves and to our communities, both local and global, due to COVID-19.

The virus first started in key hotspots and spread with varying degrees of notice and acceptance into other places. Now, the entire world is grappling with it, which makes this project more poignant as the situation continues.

The one-year mark gives the project a distinct end point rather than an arbitrary date. It will be one year since we started this project. It is a discreet measure of time. Where we will be then is a mystery, but we will all need to look back and take stock of what this year has meant.

We want this project to be open to whatever it needs to be for people: grief, struggle, hope, relief, anxiety, beauty... all of it. The politics that have surfaced should also have a place in this project if people feel so inclined. The point of this project has always been to create together while sheltering separately something that signifies our experiences in this bizarre time. Every experience is valid and we want you to share them.

We are also hoping that by extending the project through the winter we can offer a creative outlet for those feeling isolated by public safety measures. Please continue to use our Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/285077762509242/>) as a place to confer and communicate. We may be separated, but we are not alone. Be safe, be well, and bead on.

Keep in Your Thoughts

Indea Sanchez, who will be undergoing treatments for gall bladder cancer

Pamela Armas, owner of Gypsy Raven, who recently had double cataract surgery

Barbara Butcher, former owner of Beading Heart of Santa Fe, who is undergoing heavy chemotherapy and is having a difficult time

Bobbie Yockum, an instructor at The Beaded Iris, who is a caregiver to a family member

Patti Farley, who is in a wheelchair while she awaits hip replacement surgery in February

Teri Lawson, who is undergoing chemo and radiation treatments for breast cancer

Pat Verrelle, whose husband will be receiving additional cancer treatments in December, and whose brother-in-law has COVID-19

Happy Birthday

Anita Collins – November 2 (belated)

Linda Reyes-Alicea – December 7

Pam Troutman – December 11

Jill Bartel – December 26

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

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>. Also, if you have an art show you are participating in, don't forget to send Teresa Kenyon (at beadsocietynm@gmail.com) the information and event link so we can include your event.

Donations Requested

Member Mary Ellen Merrigan is requesting donations of necklaces, bracelets, and earrings to benefit the charity Pursonalities Plus. You can donate new jewelry that you've made. Or you can donate old or broken jewelry you no longer want. Mary Ellen takes the old and broken jewelry and makes new necklaces, bracelets, and earrings! Thanks in advance for your support.

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. Go to www.beadsocietynm.org and log in to the website (click on "Log In" in the upper right corner of the homepage; you may 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).

New Look for BSNM Website

The Bead Society of New Mexico website has a new look! A big thank you to Webmaster Teresa Kenyon for all her hard work on creating the new look and adding new content (such as the financials). It looks great; however, it is a work in progress. If you notice anything that needs to be changed or tweaked, please let Teresa know at beadsocietynm@gmail.com.





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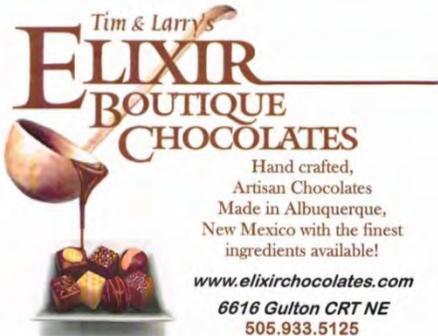
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Procedure for Submitting Articles for Publication

Producing a quality monthly publication as well as maintaining an up-to-date website and Facebook page is not an easy task. We have three 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
- 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 photos, artwork, etc., you send is print-ready in a format that can easily be downloaded and copied – preferably as an attachment (jpg, tif, or png, or incorporated into a Word doc).
- 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 monthly publication, either the Newsletter or Bead Blast, 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.

2020 Board of Directors

Due to the New Mexico governor's COVID-19 restrictions, The Board of Directors has been meeting on the second Wednesday of the month at Pat Verrelle's house, and as of October 2020 has been meeting via Zoom. (Normally, the Board of Directors meets on the second Monday of the month from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at the North Domingo Baca Multigenerational Center.)

All members are welcome to attend.

President	Pat Verrelle
First Vice President - Special Events and Workshops	Claire Sweeney
Second Vice President – Programs	
Treasurer	Deb Cole
Secretary	Jan McComas
Membership Chair	Barbara Rosen
Newsletter Editor	Jill Bartel
Volunteer Coordinator	Fran Hahn
Member-at-Large	
Past President	
Webmaster	Teresa Kenyon
Social Media Manager	Pam Troutman
Photographer	
Historian	Susan Hostettler
Meeting Coordinator	Elizabeth (Liz) Reisinger
Membership Recruiter	
Fiber Arts Council Representative	Jamie Welles
Fiber Arts Education Committee Representative	Elizabeth (Liz) Reisinger

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

Website: www.beadsocietynm.org

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