

## WINTER 2019 NEWSLETTER

Winter is here and the holidays are behind us. Shorter days, cooler nights. We find ourselves indoors. This is a great time to spend creating new designs, beading left-over beads from past projects, and treating ourselves to classes and new beads. Don't let this winter pass you by without having created at least one new design. Inspirations come from attending classes, BEad TOGETHER, and BSNC monthly meetings. 'Tis the season for inspiration.



**Monthly BSNC meetings, BEad TOGETHER, and classes** continue to be popular events among Bay Area beaders. The Albany Community and Recreation Center at 1249 Marin Avenue, Albany ([map](#)) provides us with the amenities we require to present captivating and informative speaker meetings, quarterly BEad TOGETHER and classes for members to share their beading discoveries and to be inspired. Speaker meetings are on the third Tuesday monthly, except for August when we celebrate BSNC anniversary at BEad TOGETHER and not in December.

**Together we can strengthen the educational mission of the Bay area.**



### BSNC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**January 21, 2020 - Speaker: Cliff Swain-Salomon**  
**February 2, 2020 - BEad TOGETHER**  
**February 18, 2020 - Speaker: Tonya Collins**  
**February 23, 2020 - Class with Cliff Swain-Salomon**  
**March 17, 2020 - Save the Date**  
**April 21, 2020 - Sha Sha Higby**  
**May 3, 2020 - BEad TOGETHER**

Read more about past and future programs [by visiting our website...](#)



### BEad TOGETHER

**February 2, 2020**

**11:30am-3:30pm**

BEad TOGETHER is a time for BSNC members and guests to gather at our quarterly lunch potluck and social event. During this event you will make new friends, see new designs, be inspired, and enjoy great food. Bring your project and a favorite dish to share while enjoying the company of other Beader's from around the Bay Area. This is also a time to share experiences and stories.



For more information on this event, please go to: [BEad Together.](#)

Be sure to join beaders from around the Bay Area for a relaxing afternoon sharing ideas, working on projects, making new friends, and enjoying favorite foods.

Guests are welcome. This is a free event. No reservations required.

Join us for beading, snacks, great conversation, and FUN!

Come to Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Avenue, Albany, CA. Parking is free and in the back of the building.



## A CLASS YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS

**February 23, 2019**

**10:00am-5:00pm**

### **PHALAENOPSIS ORCHID EARRINGS WITH CLIFF SWAIN-SALOMON**

SPACE IS LIMITED. CLASS FILLS EARLY.

Cliff Swain-Salomon is an off-the-loom seed bead weaver known for creating nontraditional jewelry shapes and pushing the boundaries of color exploration. These orchid earrings are definitely a statement piece and were made in honor of Cliff's daughter, whose given birth middle name was Orchid, before adopting and gifting her a new name.

In ancient Greece, orchids were a symbol of virility and fertility. Due to the flower's symmetry, in China, they are considered "Lan Hua" or the epitome of human perfection. For those who are proficient in peyote stitch, these earrings are a great exploration of how to shape flower petals using different peyote techniques. Each flower is made life-sized, true to scale and can be worn as earrings (as instructed here) or adapted to make a beautiful pendant.

This class includes 12 different stitches including variations of stitches. During class we will cover Contemporary Geometric Beadwork Peyote stitching to shape the throat of the orchid, Modified Diagonal Peyote to shape the bottom sepal petals, and how to assemble the orchid. The pattern has step by step instructions that includes a variety of additional stitches. The pattern and techniques used in this class can be applied to create a pendant as well as earrings.

Be sure to register for this classes taught by renown professional bead artists. More information can be found [here](#). **Limited seating.** [Register now](#) to secure a seat. This classes are offered once.

\* \* \* \* \*

For all future classes, be sure to check the [Classes](#) page at [BeadSocietyofNorCal.org](#) periodically for upcoming class announcements. The classes are offered only once. You wouldn't want to miss them.



## "Talking About Tassels....." by Diane Whiting

Four years before Diane was appointed as an Ambassador with Swarovski and began teaching for them, she entered their design contest and was named a finalist. The second time it happened ~ she placed FIRST!! She won a trip to Austria to the headquarters of Swarovski. She has been teaching for the last nine years at Bead and Button, writes books and has a passion for tassels.



September 17, 2019 was a magical night as Diane Whiting came to give her presentation to BSNC.

"TASSAU" is Latin means a clasp ~ and was used in the neck of a garment as a weaving knot used to tie off garments preventing unraveling. By the 1300's it was a mantle fastener from old French; tassel, fringe, hem. A fastening, clasp. Tassels have been found in the tombs in Egypt but on the javelins to help in their retrieval. In Hebrew, they are: tzitzit and in the Bible Numbers 15: 37-40. Constantine mentioned them 330-540AD. They were on the fabrics in Arab and Nomadic tribes on the corners of their fabrics. Byzantium carvings shown them on the reins of

their horses. The 16

<sup>th</sup> Century in France showed them used in passementerie trim where they were first regulated by the art Guilds. The world's aristocracy and royalty has used tassels throughout history. Paintings of European families show them on garments as well as on household items. Napoleon had them in his 1880 bed chamber and made of real gold, silver and stones....

Tassels were a big part of holding the curtains together to make the famous dress worn by Scarlett in Gone with the Wind. In modern times tassels were the BIG décor from 1950-1980's. They rather fell out of fashion over the next 35 years but are back again big time over the last five years. Now days you can find tassels in jewelry, fashion accessories and in big favor at the New York Fashion Week.



There are three main types of tassels: Fold Over/French, Top Tied, and Header. Fold Over or Wrapped tassels have a wooden bead tucked inside of the top part, then a bound neck which can have a button or knot at the girdle, and then the long flowing skirt. The Header Tassel is also a manner of making a skirt that has fibers folded over a cord where they are back-stitched into place, then wrapped around a center piece by being sewn or glued around a piece of leather and rolled into fullness. This is a good technique for beaded tassels. Header Tassels often have crystal beads, buttons, wood, or even plastic caps through which the skirt flows. Bead tubes are even used at the top.



Anything can be used to make a tassel ~ any thread, cord, even feathers. Be careful of choosing silk thread as it picks up static electricity and puffs out. Pearle Cotton is often used for door pulls and for on armoire handles as it doesn't move well and just sits there. Diane sells tassels made of Rayon which is her favorite.

These are the tools you need to make tassels: a FORM made of card stock, wood, metal plastic or even a book, or commercially made winders (Tassel Magic.com). You can even put two combs on the sides of a block of wood held into place with thick rubber bands. TOPPER made of bead caps, wood, metal, plastic, beads. LOOP at the top. You can also glue the topper inside adding a peyote strip or finding at the top. Your CORDING....which is most important and limited only to YOUR IMAGINATION....



Today, tassels are a HOT item! They are being featured on lampshades, wind chimes, macramé, drapery side ties, accessories, key chains, and in all forms of jewelry. There are tons of pictures on Pinterest and all over the internet as well as in book stores ~ The Art of Tassel Making by Susan Dickens, Tassel Making by Anna Crutchley, and in magazines such as Threads Magazine March 2002.

Contact out Diane Whiting at [dwhitingdesigns@cox.net](mailto:dwhitingdesigns@cox.net) and [www.dianewhitingdesigns.com](http://www.dianewhitingdesigns.com)

By marilyn peters



## From Then to Now - A Wander Though Our History with Beads" by Paul Ellis ~ Attire's Mind

On October 15, 2019 the Bead Society of Northern California was taken through the history of beads from olden times to now and how it affects what we wear and how the embellishment is facilitated through society and the arts.



Beads have meanings and our daily attire, as well as what we wear for special occasions, are affected by society and the times. Mankind first exchanged items through trading then by using coinage money ~ beads are in there strongly.

Our attire is a complex joining of symbols. Man has always been inquisitive and often viewed the common items found on the ground, in the sea, in the air and perceived or gave an "energy" to the item. The use of beads predates every language and every culture. They have been used, and documented, throughout 300,000 years of man. The first "computer" used beads is the abacus. This method of mathematics is over 5,000 years old.

Paul started his history with the Krobo beads of Ghana. These beads are made of recycled glass. Their knowledge in making beads has been dated to over 4,500 years ago. Today, bottles are sorted by type and color, ground down, and reheated until the particles slump into a new form with a piece of plant forming the center hole. The beads denote their social, economic, cultural, religious, and political position. In the rites of passage, it is used to show the owners birth, puberty, marriage, pregnancy, and death. The type and color of a bead gives meaning to the life of the wearer.



The people who wore beads also started to string the various items such as beads by color and type and those patterns were given a special meaning, like a love letter from a young lady to her beau. The magic of using beads is that you can turn them into something that never existed before. Hunters wore items such as the teeth and claws of what they had captured and killed, taking the spirit of that animal to gain a connection to the unseen that denoted their power. They associated all elements of their world with individual gods that they worshiped. This is still done today in many cultures.



In any tribe on earth, the various people who had power and high status wore specially designed costumes and jewelry. It became a vital part of their image and position in that culture. Often the color, shape, and form of the item gave the wearer its power such as cowrie shells resemblance to female sex organs.

The bride's special adornments on her wedding day as well as her dowry, the bride's price, and position as chattel going to the grooms family home.

A beaded Egyptian necklace, dated 3,400 years ago, was discovered in a tomb but the organic "thread" instantly disintegrated the minute that oxygen hit it. Now days, archeologists have cameras ready to take photographs as soon they open the tombs.

Apparently, gold was the first metal to be worked into jewelry as it is very soft and doesn't



tarnish. Paul discussed a necklace of gold, agates, and garnets that has been dated at over 4,000 years old. Prayer / Mala beads are used in meditation in many religions.

The user puts himself into a spiritual world with a prayer said over each bead's station. Beads are used for more than just adornment. There was a wrap of beads that fit around the wrist in the 1960-1970's that monitored human behavior. These "mood" beads showed over 900 changes per/day. It was nicknamed the "Bead Calculator". When you get a massage, they often use a hand-held object that has wooden beads on the bottom to roll over the muscles. There are also beads on the ring for curtain rings to facilitate it moving smoothly over the curtain rod.

Huichol Indians in Mexico use the placement and colors of beads in religious patterns set in wax on numerous objects. There are also many styles made for the tourist public with generic symbols, but these are getting very popular in today's beading ~ especially in jewelry. Numerous tribes of Africa create large paintings made of beads. They are on canvas and often as large as 10"x12". It was vogue to recreate the Bride's Bouquet in beads during the Victorian Period. This is being done again now.

And who can forget the beaded curtains from hippy days ~ Paul said that there were records of them being found in homes 7,000 years ago. Guess everything good comes around again. The newest beaded object is "The Kitchen" by Lisa Lew. It is life-size, contains over 50-MILLION beads and has taken her over 6 years to create.

By marilyn peters



## **TIGER ~ TIGER by Matthew Brody**



Matthew is an amazing personality who has been around the world so many times that you never know where he is emailing you from. He is most often found in the far east traveling around Hong Kong, and all the countries located to the south from Thailand to Nepal and surrounding countries.

On November 19, 2019 ~ Matthew also brought along a bunch of pretties created by Bob Burkett and a whole bunch of ancient, and not so ancient, beads that he talked about and passed around.

In his travels, he took an interest in stone beads from Asia, dZi beads, Pumtek and other decorated agate beads. Matthew spoke on the history and of the culture of the people and their beads and most importantly ~ the differences he has noticed between the OLD and the new. As he showed and discussed each category of these beads, he passed them around to those who attended that night.

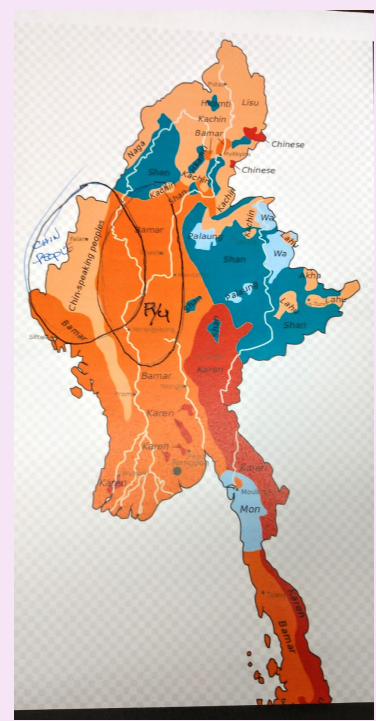
It was amazing to be holding the actual beads that he had discovered and studied from foreign counties and people who are long deceased. Matthew discussed what to look for in the old beads and how they are different from the new beads ~ you actually held history in your hands and could SEE the differences.

Matthew is the first to admit that he is "Not a Scholar of Beads, but he has seen a lot, were it has been taken right out of the ground, as well as stuff directly from the tribes". To gain his expertise and to try to understand what he has collected over the years, he studies the people involved in creating these beads thousands of years ago. He has traced the cultures, languages and their migrations and especially where the cultures have joined. People interacted

1,000 years ago but many are still isolated and speak the original languages. This interaction makes it difficult to verify which group created which beads but that is why Matthew is so interested in this field.

The Chinese have written history back as far as 200 BCE to 1100 CE. Beads from this location have been carbon dated back to 2000BCE.

Burma is known for rubies, sapphire\* and spinel, the Pumtek from 1,000-2,000 years ago dealt in agate, jade and quartz. There were examples of the etched flowers and animals as well as those of 30 years ago and he showed us the examples and explained them as he handed them around. The early animal beads were done really well in a primitive manner. The new copies are good and the villagers have had the time to use the old methods. Then the Pyu and Pumtek exchanged designs ~ well, that makes things a little more difficult now doesn't it. The Pumtek have always use methods of production where areas of "wear" on the design show as if being used for 60-100 years. This alone makes certification difficult. In the 1800's they made good beads, but by 1980, the copies became really poor. Now when you buy a strand, you may actually get some of the old mixed in with some of the new ~ but never really GOOD old beads.



Jade is classified in Asia as ANY stone that is green in color ~ Gee, that doesn't help at all! Technically when people say "jade" they are referring to jadeite or nephrite, which occur in MANY colors. So, any green green rock might be called "jade".



Materials can be scientifically analyzed but it runs \$100 per/test. The machinery alone can cost \$35,000. Sometimes you can find graduate students to help out ~ but not always. One way that is easier to determine the age is to be able to actually SEE the inside of the bead but you don't want to go around breaking beads just to check their age. Pumtek old beads are a dirty white and the lines are whiter in color. The new beads show where the design is masked off so the lines are cleaner, not as soft. The Pumtek also honor their beads, have not buried them, and have continued to use them down through history showing evidence of wear. Taipei is now making Pumtek copies which are being done so well that even the experts are being fooled.

Beads that Matthew used to be able to purchase for \$20 are now priced at \$4,000 and 75% of what is being offered for sale is garbage IF you can find the beads at all. As we are finding in a lot of things, the Chinese are faking a LOT of products.

The ancient bead that most people are familiar with are dZi Beads. There are gorgeous new ones in the market in Taiwan. The problem that has surfaced is that the original markings "could" have been created by the use of urine and feces but the exact method is undocumented ....there are NO records. It is of upmost importance to approach the study of these ancient beads scientifically but not having most of the details sure makes this difficult.

In my brief examination, it seems that the old dZi beads were high in silicon - 40%, as well as containing phosphorus and calcium. The new beads contain 50-60% silicon and zinc. However this is from a small sampling.

Matthew then discussed faience beads such as have been found in Egyptian tombs. The newer beads are low fired but the new colors are different than the old colors due to a difference in ingredients.

The faceted quartz beads that he had in a strand was a mixture of old and new. The old quartz was made in Burma over 2,000 years ago. Anyone can only guess as to what is new and what is old. But if you know the family that owned it, you may be able to judge just by their history.

The oldest profession in the world is prostitution, the second oldest is trade, and the third is making antiques.

Even ancient glass is a tradable product. The really old ignots of raw glass were formed to exactly

it into the crucible where it was made. The old glass was also specialized to certain areas due to the ingredients available.

The old market places where you used to be able to find beads, stones, and glass are themselves dying out. Five years ago, the Chinese started buying up everything OLD. Today, when Matthew is overseas, he looks at what people on the street are wearing.

Bob Burkett was supposed to be with Matthew at the meeting, but health issues and traffic prevented his appearance. Bob's items were amazing and a number of them went to new homes. He is having production problems as well. Silver used to be at \$4 an oz. but now is at \$17 an oz. Bronze is easier to work in and is cheaper. They have over 100 styles in production and hope to continue to offer his styles to the adoring public. Contact Matthew Brody at: [info@tiger-tiger.com](mailto:info@tiger-tiger.com)

By marilyn peters

\*Both ruby and sapphire are chemically the same, corundum, it is the impurities that give them colors.



## MONTHLY BSNC MEETINGS

Come one, come all beaders to our monthly meetings held on the third Tuesday, except not in August or December. These meetings are open to both members and non-members, all experience and beading talents welcome. Each meeting focuses on a different topic and you may be surprised by the wealth of information.

Each meeting includes a 30 minute social time, 7:00-7:30pm, followed by a speaker, and closing with a question/answer session.

Meetings are held at Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Street, Albany, CA. [Map and directions.](#)

If you are interested in speaking or would like to hear a favorite artist speak, please contact the [Program Chair](#).

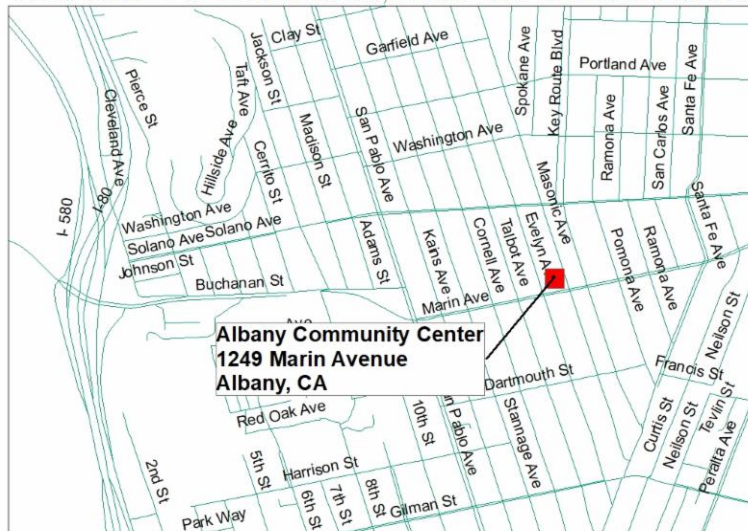
The **Bead Society of Northern California** is a non-profit, independent, educational organization for people interested in the collection, history, design, production, and exhibition of beads. The Bead Society is accepting donations at [Membership Bead Society of Northern California](#).

For more information and to read additional articles, go to [Bead Society of Northern California](#).

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

**BSNC MEMBERSHIP**  
Become a member of the Bead Society or if your membership expires in soon, please go to [Membership](#), Bead Society of Northern California and learn about the benefits to BSNC Members.

BEAD SOCIETY OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA NEW MEETING LOCATION





## DISCOUNTS FOR BSNC MEMBERS!

The following stores offer discounts - show your current membership card

### ALAMEDA

Bead Inspirations [www.BeadInspirations.com](http://www.BeadInspirations.com)  
1544 Park Street Tel: 510-337-1203  
10% discount except class fees, books, consignment jewelry & instructor material kits.

### BROWNS VALLEY

Wild Things Beads [www.WildThingsBeads.com](http://www.WildThingsBeads.com)  
PO Box 356 Tel: 530-743-1339  
20% discount on Czech pressed beads and fire polish.

### CONCORD

Just Bead It! [www.JustBeadItConcord.com](http://www.JustBeadItConcord.com)  
2051 Harrison Street, Suite C Tel:925-682-6943

### DANVILLE

Cottage Jewel [www.CottageJewel.com](http://www.CottageJewel.com)  
100 Prospect Avenue Tel: 925-837-2664  
10-15% off everything not marked net.

### GARBERVILLE

Garden of Beadin' [www.GardenofBeadin.com](http://www.GardenofBeadin.com)  
752 Redwood Drive Tel: 800-232-3588  
Fax: 707-923-9160 Email: [Beads@asis.com](mailto:Beads@asis.com)  
10% off for all BSNC members, in our store or at any of our shows. Does not apply to already discounted merchandise.

### OAKLAND

Blue Door Beads [www.BlueDoorBeads.com](http://www.BlueDoorBeads.com)  
4167 Piedmont Ave Tel: 510-652-2583  
10% discount on classes. 15% discount on all full price loose beads & strands. Sign up for our E-Newsletter to receive exclusive links to our TrueBlue loyalty program, offering discounts and coupons.

### SAN JOSE

Sew Bedazzled  
1068 Lincoln Avenue Tel: 408-293-2232  
10% discount except on classes.

### SANTA CRUZ

Kiss My Glass  
660A 7th Avenue Tel: 831-462-3077  
15% Discount

### VALLEJO

Beads in Pomegranate Seeds  
538 C Florida Street Tel: 707-557-3337  
10% Discount

### INTERNET STORES

Beads On Main. At shows, will offer a 10% discount to BSNC members.

Beadshaper [www.Beadshaper.com](http://www.Beadshaper.com)  
coupon code is: BSNC58713coupon  
10% discount on handcrafted items bought directly from Beadshaper through the Beadshaper web site and at the Beadshaper booth at shows in Northern California. This does not apply to Beadshaper items sold at art galleries, boutiques, or through another vender. The discount only applies to items created by the Beadshaper. It does not apply to Beadshaper classes or items purchased by the Beadshaper for resale. It cannot be applied together with any other discount.

Natural Touch [www.NaturalTouchBeads.com](http://www.NaturalTouchBeads.com)  
Tel: 707-781-0808. BSNC members receive 10% off their Resin Bead Purchases. Put note in comments section of checkout or call 707.781.0808 Discount does not apply to sale items or markdowns.



## Contact Information

**Bead Society Of Northern California**  
**info@Bead Society of Northern California**

Bead Society of Northern California  
A nonprofit organization whose purpose is to  
promote the study of beads and share information about beads.  
[www.BeadSocietyofNorCal.org](http://www.BeadSocietyofNorCal.org)

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**Monthly Program Meetings**

are held on the third Tuesday of each month (except December). Meetings are free to members. Guests are welcome for a \$5 donation.

**Annual Membership Dues**

which include digital mailings and meetings are \$25 per year. The year begins on the month you join. Dues are accepted at monthly meetings or can be paid online using PayPal or a credit card, or with a Membership Application printed from our website.

**Newsletter Advertising, Community Bulletin Board items and other Contributions** are welcome and should be sent to the Newsletter Editor, newsletter@BeadSocietyofNorCal.org. For more information, refer to **Submission Deadlines & Advertising Rates**.