

# It's been a long time...

**It has been over a year since the last newsletter was published, and boy did a lot happen during that time! Let's recap, shall we?**

# LBS Strung Together

Volume 13 | Issue 1 | Year in Review | 2015

**January 20, 2014** — Some of our friends from Kalmbach Publishing paid us a visit. They shared information about how the entire publishing process works, from submission to publication. Did you submit anything for publishing in 2014?



**February 10, 2014** — We had a wonderful visit from Frank Scott and his lovely wife, Judy. They shared their love for making glass beads and jewelry design. A few of you were even lucky enough to take home one of his Grand Canyon series beads. So, have you made anything with it? Did you share it with the rest of us?

**March 17, 2014** — The March meeting was the quarterly hands-on at St. Dominic's. LBS member Traci led the group in a brick stitch earring project that would hang from square frames. Thanks to the expertise of the table captains and Traci's guidance, everyone left with at least one earring done and plans to complete the set soon.



**April 21, 2014** — Melody MacDuffee shared her serendipitous route to Somanya, Ghana on the western coast of Africa. Soul of Somanya typically works with small groups of young people that lack a support system or job, teaching them skills that give them a livable wage. Remember you can support Soul of Somanya by purchasing the beautiful Krobo beads and wire work at [www.soulofsomanya.net](http://www.soulofsomanya.net)



May 19, 2014 — Jan Hubbard of Jan’s Gems shared her journey to working with vintage jewelry. Her personal preference is jewelry from the 1940s and 1950s. She finds the components more substantial and the workmanship less machine produced than modern jewelry.

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June 9, 2014 — Betsey Ventrella of Beyond Beadery joined the LBS to share her bead life story. Even as a youngster she had visions of her future. She fantasized about selling beads out of her VW Van while touring the country. In 1987, at the age of 25, with a budget of \$5,000, she opened her first bead store in Woodstock, New York.



## Jewelry at the Domes registration is closed.

For Loose Bead Society Members interested in vending at the 2015 Jewelry at the Domes show in May, registration is closed.

Registration for the November 14th show will begin at 6pm at our membership meeting on July 20, 2015.

Please contact Judy Markworth at [Judy@lightdancedesigns.com](mailto:Judy@lightdancedesigns.com)

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# It's going to 2015 be a **charming** year!



For details, go to January's summary!

July 21, 2014 — Jane Danley Cruz, Associate Editor of Bead&Button Magazine, discussed all things fiber and beads. She shared techniques for working with Soutache braid, Shibori silk, felt, lace, Wooly Wire, and thread.



**BEAD**  
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August 18, 2014 — Judy Menting lead the group in a hands-on experiment with wire and leather. She assured the group that the results would probably not be something to wear to a wedding. With everyone feeling relaxed the fun began.



September 15, 2014 — Allen Rien, founder and CEO of [Cool Tools](#) currently located in Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin and Diane Lane, his assistant and soon-to-be wife, shared the story of their company to a full contingent of LBS members. The company began with seventeen products and today has 7,000 with several of them being their own design. Cool Tools' focus continues to be on textures but the product line now includes a full line of metal clay tools and supplies and is beginning to support traditional metal smithing. The presentation ended with a number of surprises including tables packed with beads that the company gave away to everyone in attendance.



## New 2015 Members

Kristie Anderson  
Pat Brust  
Cindy Cichon  
Anne Creamer  
Debra Karius  
Fawn Pusateri  
Dawn J. Schaefer  
Donna Tews  
Kim Womber-Sanders

**October 20, 2014** — The October meeting was full of activity. We celebrated our 15th anniversary with treats, the unveiling of beautiful challenge pieces (including an opportunity to vote on your favorite), voting for open board positions and a little LBS history for the new and veteran members. Did you know that the first LBS meeting was held October 18, 1999 and there were eight members at the time? We've sure come a long way!



**November 17, 2014** — We met at St. Dominic's again for a "Bead Embroidery Basics" hands-on project led by Joellen Fritchen. Attendees learned the basic bead embroidery stitches (back stitch and top stitch) practicing on pieces of patterned fabric.



**December 15, 2014** — The last meeting of the year was busy with beading, eating and chatting. We said goodbye to some hard working Board members as we prepared for the upcoming year, renewing and welcoming the new Board members. Cookies and characters were everywhere.



**January 20, 2015** — The theme for 2015 is "It's a Charming Year" kicking off with Cindy Collins, the new Vice President of Programming, giving an overview of the year before launching into an explanation of the charm of the month (an odd-count Peyote charm with the LBS acronym embedded in the beads). A 9" chain with lobster claw clasp was provided to all paid members. Here's how Cindy's bracelet looks so far. She suggests adding your volunteer crystals to the chain and changing the lobster clasp if you like a different style.



**February 16, 2015** — This was a hands-on program. Everyone learned the new stitch 'Chenille'. Written instructions and a You Tube video were available to help guide everyone.



## Beading for a purpose!



As a non-profit organization, BeadforLife fights extreme poverty by creating opportunities not handouts, for African women living on less than a dollar a day. We empower these women to earn money by teaching them to create beautiful jewelry from rolling beads with recycled paper. We pay them fair trade wages up front for their hard work. Rather than stopping there like a typical Fair Trade organization, BeadforLife takes it beyond the beads by providing women with entrepreneurial training in an innovative 18-month program. We give them the education and tools to create businesses in the local economy before they graduate from the bead making program. This creates long term sustainability for their families, and the women become small-scale entrepreneurs, many employing even more people.

We've also evolved from buying beads to purchasing Shea nuts through our program in Northern Uganda. Currently, we partner with more than 760 women to purchase their Shea nuts during the harvest. BeadforLife has created opportunities for women which translate to school fees, medicine or an investment in their farms. Because Northern Uganda is such a devastated area, we are diversifying our programs so these resilient women can earn income on a regular basis. Our new Ox-Plow Program has increased farming capacity tenfold, and there are more programs being piloted even as you read this! For additional information, go to:

[www.beadforlife.org](http://www.beadforlife.org)

## *Cinderella Project*

Channel your inner fairy godmother and donate to the Cinderella Project, a Gadzuric Foundation program that collects and distributes prom dresses (and jewelry donated by the Loose Bead Society) to local girls who can't afford all the costs associated with prom. Donations are always accepted. Contact Sue Stachelski at [sjstach@att.net](mailto:sjstach@att.net) for additional information.



## **Loose Bead Society 2015 Board Members**

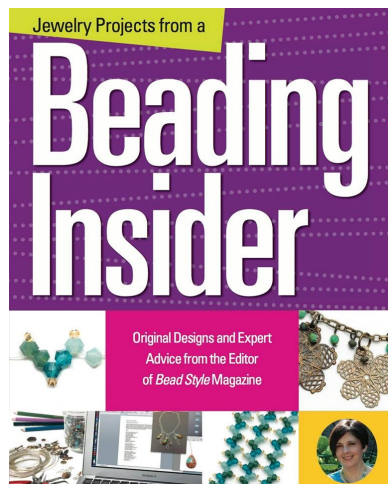
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**Carol Haiar**, VP-Special Events  
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**Pam McCreary**, Newsletter Coordinator  
**Carol Surges**, Website Coordinator/Photographer  
**Kathy Willmering**, Past President

## Book Review: Jewelry Projects from a Beading Insider

*Jewelry Projects from a Beading Insider: Original Designs and Expert Advice from the Editor of BeadStyle Magazine* was written by Cathy Jakicic and published by Kalmbach Publishing. Cathy was the Editor of BeadStyle magazine until just before this book was released in 2013. She also writes movie reviews for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. How cool is that?

This is a great book on a great many topics, and it will be great to have on hand for techniques, inspiration, tips, and more! Yes, I just said "great" three times in one sentence. Read on, and you'll see why.

The title of the book intrigued me, and on the cover "Beading Insider" is in very large, bold letters. If that doesn't catch your eye, I don't know what will! You can carry this book around, and folks will immediately think you know what you're doing. After reading this book (and with a little practice), you will.



Once I got past that fabulous cover and looked at the "What's Inside" (Table of Contents) section, I knew that this book would be perfect for not just beginner beaders but for intermediate and advanced beaders, too.

The first section is called "Skill-Building Workshops" and covers beginner techniques such as plain loops, crimping, wrapped loops, and measuring for multi-strand necklaces all while explaining how to make beautiful necklaces or bracelets. Each technique is described in "Learn!" sections for each project (as well as in the "Techniques Review" at the end of the book), but there are also tips to help you master the technique and to help you plan your components for a flawless design. This section also includes a number of techniques I

wouldn't have expected, including wire crochet, adding color to metal using Gilder's Paste, wire wrapping, simple beadweaving, and dyeing beads to get just the color you want. There are tips galore and plenty of full-color pictures.

When you're comfortable with the techniques, it's time to create your own masterpieces. The next section, "Designing with..." showcases a variety of materials: gemstones, river stone, art beads, charms, lucite, crystals, chain, ribbon, and more. A number of the projects in this section have alternatives so you can see how the same technique looks with different materials. The tips in this section cover designing, facts about the materials, what to look for when shopping, beading wire facts, and more.

Are you a beginning beader? Get this book. It has everything you need to know to get started. Have you been beading for years, off and on, and are comfortable with what you've been doing? Get this book. It'll help you refine your techniques and inspire you to try something new. Are you a professional who sells your jewelry? Still get this book. At the very least, you'll remember things you'd forgotten and will give you ideas on different techniques to try and different materials to work with.

Ask for *Jewelry Projects from a Beading Insider* at your local bead store, or you can order it directly through Kalmbach's website or through Amazon.

(I originally wrote this book review for my blog and had to cut it down for the newsletter. If you'd like to read the whole thing, visit <http://mix-me-up.blogspot.com/2013/08/book-review-jewelry-projects-from.html>.)

~Traci Otte

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