



The Great Lakes Beadworkers Guild – a brief history compiled from archived newsletters by Jeanette J. Isenhour -

Known today as Michigan's premier organization for education and promotion of beadwork, The Great Lakes Beadworkers Guild began life May 21, 1992 in the Royal Oak Library with *Chris Reilly* as Organizing President of 30 members.

Four months later, the group elected *Page Kaczinski* (photo to the right) as the first President. Other founding officers included Treasurer *Cindy Menlen*, Corresponding Secretary *Diane Palmer*, and Recording Secretary *Susie Oswald*. Chairs included Historian *Jo Miller*, Newsletter *Catherine Brewster*, Publicity *Page Kaczynski*, Programs *Posy Macedonia*, Displays *Pattee Goodman*, Librarian *Lorriane Alston*, Historian/Archives *Jeanne Lewis*.



The group met every other month for the first year at the library and then moved in 1994 to the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Royal Oak until January, 2006 when First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham became its new home.



Grown to about 300 members in 2011, back in December 1992 there were only 95 members but many of those are still active in the Guild today. In March 1994, *Gail Frederickson* wrote in the **Bead Reader** newsletter about a new magazine called "Bead & Button" to be published six times a year at \$3.95 per issue – and without advertising!

Originally organized as a fundraiser for the Guild, the first **Bead Bonanza** was October 8, 1995 at the Southfield Plaza Hotel with 30 vendors. *Posy Macedonia* chaired the event and managed subsequent annual sales at the Van Dyke Motel in Warren until 1999 when two Bead Bonanzas per year began. The Bead Bonanza moved to the Southfield Civic Center Pavilion in October, 2001 chaired by *Pat Cavanagh*, *Shirley Ballentine* and *Barb Machesney*. Since 2005, *Helena Hatten* has produced the Bead Bonanzas and, with approximately 70 vendors per show, it has become the primary funder of Guild programs.





Bead Daze, an annual four day workshop of classes, with four or five visiting teachers, began in 1998. Other workshops throughout the year focus on various forms of beadwork which have also incorporated fiber, polymer clay and wire. Many nationally recognized teachers who have visited the Guild through the years for classes include:

Carol Wilcox Wells, Robin Atkins, Carol Cypher, Ann Benson, Janice Berkebile, Nancy Cain, Diane Fitzgerald, Valerie Hector, Dallas Lovett, Huib Peterson, Maggie Meister, Stephanie Eddy, Christie Friesen, Gail Crossman Moore, Tracy Stanley, Margie Deeb, Leslee Frumin, NanC Meinhart, David Dean, Nancy Eha, Margo Field, Valerie Hector, Alice Korach, Liz Smith, Mary Hettzmanberger, Carol Horn, Lisa Niven Kelly, Laura McCabe, Kate McKinnon, Anne Mitchell, Carol Perrenoud, Melanie Potter, Rachel Nelson Smith (pictured), Marcia DeCoster, and Maria Rypan and many others.

The website – www.GreatLakesBeadworkersGuild.org – began in 1996 with Judy Sullivan until 2001 when *Liz Thompson* took over as webmaster. The **Beader Reader**, bi-monthly newsletter, compiled by *Christine Wilson*, is transferred primarily via e-mail, a long step from the early mimeographed pages that were mailed to members.



One annual bead challenge became a Memorial Bead Quilt in 2007 under direction of *Pat Wiley*. Dedicated to the memory of *Barb Davis*, a long-time member and Program Chair, it was one of 64 works of art selected from 400 submissions state-wide to be on display at the Governor's official residence for a year. Eighty two Guild members contributed 84 individual squares of beadwork to make the 22" by 40" quilt. It was exhibited at the Downriver Council of Arts in Trenton and the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center (BBAC) and illustrated in several national and local publications and on a blog by *Robin Atkins*, nationally recognized as a bead embroidery authority. Proceeds from its sale

were donated to the Royal Oak chapter of Gilda's Club.

Following the purpose of education, the Guild has participated in numerous outreach programs over the years. There have been Make-It-And-Take-It booths for children at Noel Night and Detroit Festival of Arts, as well as shows and exhibits at the Royal Oak Clay/Glass Invitational, the Farmington Costick Center, the Detroit Institute of Arts, the Maker's Faire at Greenfield Village (pictured) and the BBAC. Numerous libraries in the metro area have hosted exhibits of members' works and presentations by Guild members.



To celebrate the Guild's 20th anniversary in 2012, members of the GLBG will collaborate with members of the Southeastern Michigan Glass Beadmakers to showcase design expertise and lampworking talents of the two groups. The two-person teams' works will be at the City Gallery in the Farmington Costick Center September 24 through November 11, 2012 and will be judged by Ruth Hart, associate curator of contemporary art for the Detroit Institute of Arts. The two organizations previously joined in 2009 for works which were exhibited at the Lawrence Street Gallery in Ferndale.

The GLBG has an extensive library of books on all types of beadwork available free for use by members. The Guild currently meets the third Tuesday of the month, except December, at the First Presbyterian Church in Birmingham. Further information is available at www.GreatLakesBeadworkersGuild.org or by calling 586-997-7043.

Guild Presidents and their service include:

- 1992-94 – Page Kaczinski
- 1994-96 – Pattee Goodman Baker
- 1996-98 – Lisa Grix
- 1998-00 – Sue Hinshon
- 2000-02 – Barb Machesney
- 2002-04 – Joanne Hague
- 2004-08 – Jeanette Isenhour
- 2008-10 – Diane Dininsky
- 2010-12 – Kate Dunn

