



ISGB Scholarships Creating Inspiration and Opportunities

by Karyn Sweezy

The ISGB has been a leader in sharing educational knowledge for over thirty years, breaking boundaries and creating opportunities for professionals and individual beadmakers. *The Gathering* conference has always been a valuable resource for skill sharing, networking, and experiencing new techniques. Our members and our dedicated Board have always found ways to bring funds to those in need to attend our conference or to encourage those who need the push to go to the next step in their glass education. Gathering scholarships has been the foundation, but then came the need to meet the membership outside of the conference. With the generous donation from Viyada and Alexx Cheng, we developed an educational scholarship that brought beadmakers to the next level by letting them design their own scholarship. This was met with great excitement and created amazing opportunities.

Dreams do come true!



Top: Laura Bowker
Bottom: Janice Peacock

Lynleigh is a geologist by trade. Her work has included environmental clean-up consulting, a profession that appreciates the natural form of art, rather than the kind you make with your own two hands but does not offer the fulfillment of handling all that beautiful glass. When she was forced to take a humanities credit for her degree in geology, she decided to try her hand at stained glass. That class opened a door for her and led her to a lifelong hobby of creating with glass. When her kids were little and she was seeking to make more stained glass, she turned to a local community college. Yes, they offered a stained glass class, but they also required students to make a fused glass project. What a life-altering project it was! She loved it. It was revolutionary for her because she no longer had to worry about the constraints of canes or lines or leading. "Fused glass became my everything!" Lynleigh explained. "It became my every weekend, my every night, my every vacation ... hobby." She purchased a kiln six months later and never looked back.

