

Winter 2026

Glass Art Guild of Utah News

By Sheena Wolfe

LUCILLE TRANSTRUM, GLASS GUILD PRESIDENT

Lucille Transtrum (Luci) took over the role of Guild President starting Jan. 1 from past president Takara Scheid. She has been a glass artist for only four years but has been married (for the past 14 years) to Guild founder and artist extraordinaire Kerry Transtrum.

"For years, my spouse, Kerry, had asked if I was interested in learning fused glass, but I always declined, saying 'that's your thing.' Then, at a guild meeting, Mary Young gave me the nudge I needed. She said, 'You need to do glass. Do you realize you have a great resource? Kerry is a great teacher, and you'll have a supply of glass at your fingertips.' That conversation was the turning point. When Kerry and I got home, I told him I wanted to learn to fuse glass. Within days, he made a little studio for me in an extra room (of our home)," Luci added.

"I'm very excited to serve as Guild President," Luci said, noting that her goals include getting more member participation and updating the Guild's bylaws. In addition, she said that she'd like to find more ways to fund scholarships and member education.

"Finding ways to fund scholarships and education is the key to nurturing our members whether they are seeking formal education or exploring independent study. We want to help them achieve their goals," she said. "I would also like to sustain and grow our membership and find ways to be



more active in the community.”



Luci's art contributions are sometimes whimsical and sometimes thought provoking or both. Pictured is Luci holding her piece “Multicultural Friends.” Also pictured is a piece she created called “First Nation” that is a tribute to her heritage as an American Indian from the Pascua Yaqui Tribe.



Kerry and Luci have a blended family with five children, nine grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Before retiring in 2021 Luci worked for Ogden School District for 30 years in the federal grants department, where she assisted homeless, Native American, and migrant farm worker students and their families. She served as president of the Utah School Education Association for six years and for five years as a Multicultural Representative (representing Native American) for Ogden City's mayor. She has also volunteered extensively in her

community to address “food insecurity for our most vulnerable citizens—seniors, the homeless, and children.”

When not volunteering, Luci enjoys crocheting with her grandchildren and cooking. “I love to feed people,” she said, and served as the Guild Hospitality Chair prior to becoming Guild President.

Luci and her other officers - Kevin Scott, Vice President; Doug Wolfe, Secretary; and Laura Bernhardt, Treasurer – will serve for a two-year term.

A GLASS MENAGERIE, CONTINUES THROUGH MARCH 18 AT THE UTAH CULTURAL CELEBRATION CENTER

Twenty-two artists are participating in the first Glass Guild show and sale of 2026, *A Glass Menagerie*, at the Utah Cultural Celebration Center (UCCC) in West Valley City in the Pilar Pobal Celebration Gallery that opened with an artist's reception on Jan. 15 and runs through March 18.



The award winners of this juried show are as follows: **Best of Show: Overall - "Splash" (pictured below) by Greg Schlesinger; Best of Show: Fused Glass - "Park City Autumn #2" by Barbara Busche; Best of Show: Blown/Lampwork - "Cloud" by Andrew Shaffer; Award of Excellence: Wall Art - "Harlequin's Hula" by Stephen Teuscher; Award of Excellence: Mixed Media - "Working Order" by Linda Stout; Award of Excellence: Fused Glass - "Birth of Venus" by Tara Foster; Honorable Mention - "I'll Never Forget the Sweet Taste of Your Kiss" by Dan Cummings; Honorable Mention - "Alien Eggs Nested" by Cher Corcoran; and Honorable Mention - "Fusion Weave" by Kathy Watt.** (The award winners and their art will be posted on the Guild's website glassartguild.org.)

"Congratulations to the award winners and those who have already sold art in the show. If you have not seen the show yet, please make sure that you drop by," said Michael Christensen, CCC Visual & Performing Arts Manager, noting that "when artists started arriving with their submissions we knew we were going to have a great show. The quality of the pieces is outstanding, and the way they play off each other is just what we were hoping for. And the public has really responded. Weekly we hear 'I didn't know you could do that with glass!' It has been a great exhibit for the Cultural Center, and we hope for the Guild, too."



The UCCC and its Pilar Pobil Celebration Gallery are open to the public Monday through Thursday from 8am to 6pm, and Friday and Saturday 9am to 4pm. Admission to the CCC and its galleries is free.

The UCCC is under the direction of West Valley City. The center is located at 1355 W. 3100 S., West Valley City.

Along with Michael and his crew, Guild members Rick and Barbara Busche coordinated this exhibit.

GLASS IN THE GARDEN EXIT SURVEY RESULTS

According to an exit survey at the Guild's 23rd annual Red Butte Garden show - which ran from Nov. 7 through Dec. 20 - 100 percent of attendees who filled out an exit survey said that the "Glass in the Garden" exhibit and sale met or exceeded their expectations.

Comments included: "So much talent and passion;" "Loved the variety;" "A wonderfully diverse selection that expanded my view of what forms glass can take;" "Fascinating displays;" "Best year ever;" "Loved it;" and "Very creative and unique."

When asked about overall selection 78 percent circled the highest rating of 5 and 22 percent selected a rating of 4. When asked about reasonableness of prices, 66 percent gave the highest rating of 5, 22 percent selected 4, and 12 percent circled 3.

Most respondents circled Red Butte Garden when asked how they found out about the glass show. However, categories of newspaper, Guild website, online calendar, and friend were also selected.

Guild Show Director Diane Whittaker said the participating artists should be very happy with these results. "Everyone did great work," she added.

In addition to providing artist income, Red Butte Garden received 30 percent of the proceeds. Well over 2,000 items were sold during the show including wall art, jewelry, and Christmas ornaments.

GLASS ART GUILD SHOWS

PROGRESSION, A GLASS GUILD EXHIBIT AT THE BRIGHAM CITY ART AND HISTORY MUSEUM, OPENS MARCH 28



The Brigham City Art and History Museum will be the host of a Glass Guild show March 28 – June 13 called "Progression."

"Progression is a vital part of life. Relationships, attitudes, and art must progress and evolve for growth to occur. Progression also involves facing risks and challenges, and therefore can be uncomfortable or even unwelcome," said Museum Director Alana Blumenthal, noting that guild artists are invited to "stretch their imaginations" by submitting pieces that explore this theme.

"In keeping with our mission to celebrate and elevate local artists, it is an honor to invite the talented Glass Art Guild of Utah's members to contribute their work to our spring exhibit. Glass art is so unique in its methods of creation and opportunities for artistic expression. After hosting a very popular exhibition from the GAGU in 2023, we are thrilled to be able to host them in our gallery again," Alana added.

This juried show is part of Brigham City's celebration of 250 years of American history and innovation and is designed to challenge artists to consider how they and/or their art have progressed over time, said Guild member Dana Worley who arranged this show invitation.

The museum, established in 1970 and located at 24 North 300 West in Brigham City, is free to the public and operates as a department of Brigham City Corporation. It is open Tuesday through Friday from 10am to 5 pm and Saturday from 1 to 5pm.

“The Brigham City Museum of Art and History provides opportunities for exhibitions showcasing fabulous Utah artists, internationally curated artworks, and historical exhibitions that illuminate the history of Utah and our place in the world,” said Alana, noting that the museum features five to six rotating contemporary art exhibits per year in its main gallery, including fiber art, photography, and plein air painting. “Interactive elements and programs aimed at all ages bring community history and artistic creativity to life,” she added.

According to its website, the mission of the museum is to collect, preserve and interpret art and materials that tell stories of human experiences and of the land. It provides opportunities to highlight Utah Artists and exhibitions that illuminate the history of Utah. It was established in 1970 and maintains a collection of over 12,000 items, including works of art, historical artifacts, natural history specimens, and oral histories.

OTHER UPCOMING GUILD SHOWS IN 2026

The Pioneer Theater will host Guild artists April 24 through May 9 during the production of the musical *Come Far Away*. And in September Guild members will show their glass art at Millcreek Common. More details about these shows will be posted soon on the Guild's social media pages and in upcoming newsletters.

GLASS CLASS INFORMATION

Glass Art Guild Fused Glass Class for Youth on May 2



The Glass Art Guild has scheduled a beginning fused glass class for youth (ages 8-18) at Red Butte Garden on May 2 from 10am to noon.

"Dive into the world of glass art, gaining hands-on experience and insider tips from skilled artists. Then put your knowledge to the test as you craft your own personalized sun catcher (see photo)," said organizer Kathy Watt, noting that those youth wanting to take this class can register at the following link: [Glass Art Workshop for ages 8-18 at Red Butte Garden - Red Butte Garden](#).

Registration (\$40 for Red Butte Garden members, \$50 for nonmembers) includes admission and materials for one child to make a suncatcher. Parents can purchase a ticket for themselves to accompany their child and make their own suncatcher.

Intermediate Glass Fusing Thursdays Feb. 12 – March 5 from 6:30 – 9pm

A few spots are still open for this intermediate class (that starts this Thursday) taught by Jodi McRaney Russo at her "Glass with a Past" studio. Students with some experience (such as taking a beginning glass fusing class) can continue their education with more complicated projects, including silk-screening on glass and strip cut vessels. The first two weeks will be fusing with recycled glass, the last two weeks will be using fusible glass. Students are encouraged to flex their design skills and create their own ideas within the framework of their projects. Past students have been ready to buy kilns and begin to independently produce glass art after this class. Kiln firing schedules and kiln programming will also be discussed. The cost is \$375 per person, supplies included. See more and register at: GlassWithaPast.com/classes/

Beginning Bead Making May 1 from 5-8:30pm

Learn the basics of melting glass using a torch while creating glass beads in this 3.5-hour introductory class. Students will focus on studio safety, torch setup, and a variety of techniques for forming and decorating wearable glass pieces.

Lampworking is an ancient art form that uses flame to shape molten glass, and this class provides a solid foundation in its tools and processes. Instruction is by Guild artist and international award-winner Jodie McDougall, who has over 25 years of experience melting glass and teaches workshops nationwide. The cost is \$180 and includes all supplies. To learn more, register and see other available glass classes go to: Youngglasshopper.com.



GLASS GUILD SCHOLARSHIPS TO BE AWARDED

The Glass Art Guild Scholarship Committee has received 22 scholarship applications (from 14 Guild members and eight nonmembers) for glass education opportunities of up to \$1,000 for 2026. **Winners will be notified by March 1.**

There is currently more than \$17,000 in the Scholarship Fund and the Scholarship Committee, chaired by founding guild member Kerry Transtrum, has said they plan to give out approximately 60 percent of that amount in scholarships for this year.

"Every scholarship application represents an artist investing in their voice and in the future of our glass community," said Kerry.

In addition to the Guild Scholarship funds, a Guild partnership with Bullseye Glass provides for two people annually to receive 50 percent-off any Bullseye class taught by Bullseye staff and five people to receive one-year access to Bullseye online training videos which are geared to beginning and intermediate skill levels. In addition to these education opportunities, there are glass conferences and classes across the nation including the Glass Craft and Bead Expo in Las Vegas April 15-19 where hundreds of classes are offered and the Glass Art Society Conference in Corning June 3-6 where more than 800 glass makers, curators, educators and suppliers gather from around the globe.

The Guild also partners annually with the Pilchuck School of Glass to provide one person annually to receive 50 percent off a one to three-week on-campus glass class.

Kerry got the idea to start the scholarship program after attending a scholarship fundraiser at the National Glass Association. Since then, money has come into the scholarship fund through individual donations and through fundraisers. In addition, Guild members donate glass art or a percentage of sales from the annual show and sale at Red Butte Garden.

In addition to Kerry, the Scholarship Committee also includes guild members Luci Transtrum, Dan Cummings, Suzanne Larson, and Kaleen Knight.

NEXT GLASS GUILD MEMBERSHIP MEETING MARCH 15, 2026

The next Glass Guild Membership Meeting will be held March 15 at *studio-de-Verre*, 2312 S. West Temple, at 10 am. At this meeting, along with Guild committee reports, long-time Red Butte Garden volunteer Andrea Berman – who has been named as the Guild's Glass Ambassador - will be honored for her outstanding service. A glass education program, coordinated by Kerry Collette, will follow the general meeting.
