

## James Kelly

Our April guest artist James Kelly is Oneida a descendant of the Iroquois nation (named by their enemies as Iroquo or rattlesnakes). They are Haudenosaunee (People of the long house) The Oneida is one of 6 nation of the Iroquios confederacy. The Oneida are comprised of three clans: turtle, wolf and bear. Jim is of the bear clan.

A loom beader in his younger days, Jim is a raised bead stitcher. The beadwork on much of the Iroquois beadwork is raised, a technique most likely invented by Haudenosaunee beadworkers in the early 1800s. Seed beads are placed over paper patterns that are attached on the front of a piece of fabric, often wool or velvet. More beads are threaded on the thread than are necessary to span the pattern, so the beads are arched up and over to create a raised effect.

Jim's teachers include Mindimoye (Ojibwa and Oneida), Sam Thomas and Lorna Hill, Rois Hill (Oneida, Canada), Judy Jourdan (Oneida), and Loretta Webster (Oneida). He credits our own Ann Cook for her continual encouragement.

Also a fine art and commercial photographer, Jim is the official photographer of the Indian Summer Festival and the Indian Summer Music Awards, having photographed such well known native artists as Joanna Shenandoah, Douglas Spotted Eagle, Brule, and Bill Miller. He has many other photography credits to his name, including photo volunteer work.

Born and raised in Racine, Wisconsin, Jim has resided in Milwaukee since 1992. He is approaching retirement after a 37-year career at Rockwell International (Allen Bradley). Jim owned and operated *Urban Circle Voices*, a local Native Community newspaper. When speaking of his wife, Connie, Jim shared, "The Creator has given me a help mate that is worth more than any precious metal or stone."