

## The Stained Glass Association of America Settling In to New Headquarters



*by The SGAA Headquarters Staff*

Photos Courtesy of SGAA Headquarters

The board of the Stained Glass Association of America (SGAA) shuffled off to Buffalo, New York, in January 2020 for the organization's annual winter board meetings. While many had been to Western New York previously, this was the first time the entire board gathered in Buffalo since the SGAA headquarters relocated to the city in January 2018.

### A Great Year for SGAA

"It was fantastic for the board to be together in Buffalo, not only because of the achievements of the association itself, but also because the association members have had such a good year," SGAA Executive Administrator Megan McElfresh shared. "Coming together, we were able to celebrate everyone's accomplishments."



*SGAA Board members photographed at Trinity Buffalo, January 2020 (L to R, back to front):  
The Rev. Matt Lincoln (rector at Trinity Buffalo), David Judson, Sr. Ann Therese Kelly, James T. Piercey,  
Ed Gilbertson, Bryant J. Stanton, Jerome Durr, Ralph Mills, Tom Holdman, Kathy Barnard,  
Megan McElfresh, Courtney Nelson, Ariana Makau, and Ron Weaver.*





*A hanging fixture designed by Dard Hunter ca. 1908 seen on the SGAA board's tour of the Roycroft Inn during their winter retreat and meeting.*

"This board has now been together for several years, and we're achieving a huge synergy that we hope translates into a larger sense of community among our members. We're not afraid to throw out big ideas and dig into projects that would have seemed unattainable just a few short years ago."

## Welcome to Buffalo

Several board members arrived early to visit the Roycroft Campus, a popular pilgrimage for those in the traditional Arts and Crafts movement. They also toured Graycliff, the first of two Frank Lloyd Wright houses the board would see in Buffalo. Graycliff was the summer home of Darwin and Isabelle Martin, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright and built between 1926 and 1931.

The board met with members of the Buffalo community who have supported the work of the SGAA. Around 40 people were at an official "Welcome to Buffalo" reception held at the Western New York Book Arts Center. Among the supporters were members from Explore Buffalo, an historic tour organization, and Preservation Buffalo-Niagara, a preservation and conservation advocacy organization.

It was also an opportunity to meet with local financial sponsors, including Rigidized Metals, AMJ Insurance, Jude's Luxury Travel, Michael A. de Freitas, Techniglass, Bison Scaffolding, Ken Fisher/Edward Jones, Interior Design Association of Western New York, and Matthew Whitehead.

## Exploring the Local Arts

On Saturday, the board had the opportunity to hear from Dr. David Pye, professor emeritus of glass science at Alfred University, who is working with the International Glass Commission on a United Nations resolution to designate 2022 as the Year of Glass. The SGAA has already sent a letter of support, and Dr. Pye discussed the process for the U.N. designation and a variety of opportunities for the SGAA to be involved in events in 2022.



*John La Farge, The Sealing of the Twelve Tribes, 1889. Trinity Episcopal Church, Buffalo, New York.*

The board meeting concluded with a visit to Trinity Episcopal Church, one of only two ecclesiastical sites in the United States to house works by rivals Louis C. Tiffany and John La Farge. To round out the evening, the board took a tour of Frank Lloyd Wright's newly restored Darwin D. Martin House Complex then headed back to the heart of the city to enjoy dinner at the Hotel Lafayette, another important historical and architectural landmark for Buffalo. A French Renaissance-style building, it was designed principally by Louise Blanchard Bethune of the respected Buffalo architectural firm of Bethune, Bethune & Fuchs. She was the first professional woman architect in the country, the first female member of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), and the first woman to be made a Fellow of the AIA.

Our SGAA board members have now returned home. However, thanks to the delights of 21st-century technology, the conversation hasn't slowed at all.

**GA**

*Due to current COVID-19 restrictions, the June 2020 SGAA conference in Philadelphia has been rescheduled for June 2021. Visit [www.stainedglass.org](http://www.stainedglass.org) for more information on the upcoming conference and to learn about becoming a member of SGAA.*

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