

American Glass Guild Conference Highlights



*Exterior of the Visual Arts Center of Richmond.
Photo courtesy of the Center.*

by Kathy Jordan

The American Glass Guild (AGG) members met during July 2022 for their 16th annual conference in Corning, New York, at The Corning Museum of Glass. This was a special gathering with record attendance to reconnect and celebrate the International Year of Glass. With a strong mission built around education, the organization feels it is important to recognize the people who encourage us to keep this noble industry moving forward.

Art Femenella, Recipient of the 2022 AGG Joseph Barnes Award

Established in 2008, the AGG Board of Directors set the wheels in motion to create an award for an outstanding member of the stained glass community. The AGG wanted this award to reflect our goals and our mission and to acknowledge a person for service to the profession of stained glass. Thus, the Joseph Barnes Award was instituted. The guidelines for the Joseph Barnes Lifetime Achievement Award are based on its namesake's love of working with glass, his friendliness toward others, and his desire to help others succeed.

During the June 2022 Conference in Corning, New York, the American Glass Guild had planned to present the Joseph Barnes Award to Arthur J. Femenella, Sr., to recognize the passion, dedication, and mentoring that he has provided to the glass community at large. More important than his exemplary resume and curriculum vitae, this award focused on his good nature, generosity, and willingness to help others. However, Arthur became ill, could not be at the conference, and passed away during the midst of the event. With sad hearts, the award was given posthumously.



*Art Femenella presented Barnes with the inaugural award from the American Glass Guild in 2008, honoring his love of helping others in the stained glass industry. His career spanned over 60 years, of which almost 40 had been with Bendheim.
Photo courtesy of AGG.*

"Art was a gifted teacher and incredibly generous with his time and knowledge, continuously encouraging me to strive for excellence in stained glass conservation. I will be forever grateful for the positive input and effect he had on my career as a stained glass conservator, and I am honored to have called him a friend," said Roberto Rosa.

"I started as an apprentice at The Art of Glass, Inc., in 1998, and the studio frequently collaborated with Art Femenella on restoration and conservation projects. It was always clear that Art valued all the members of a studio team and their individual contributions at every level of experience. His patience and humor combined with an encyclopedic level of knowledge provided an invaluable resource for the over two decades that I worked with him. I have gotten to know many other stained glass colleagues through him, thanks to his contributions as a founding member of the American Glass Guild," said Amy Valuck.

The American Glass Guild is proud to recognize Arthur Femenella's contribution to the glass art industry. Most importantly, he has impacted the lives of others through his generosity, good nature, and mentoring. You can find more about Art's life and work at www.chubenkofh.com/obituary/arthur-j-femenella-sr.

Save The Date for June 2023!

The AGG is excited to announce that the 2023 AGG Conference will be held in Richmond, Virginia! Pull your calendars out and be sure to mark the week of June 5 through June 11 for an interactive hands-on conference! The Visual Arts Center of Richmond will be hosting AGG's *Meet the Glass Makers* conference with workshops, demonstrations, and design circuits featuring talented glass artists throughout the United States and abroad. Each segment will explore the creative inspiration and practices of the featured artists who will be teaching, discussing, and demonstrating work.

"We were so excited at this idea! We know there is an eager community in our space and in the larger Richmond area, and we'd love to have a part in supporting this event. Plus, we think that our space could lend itself well to workshops, receptions, and lectures," says Stefanie Fedor, Executive Director of VisArts.

Immerse yourself in Richmond's cultural experiences with art galleries, world-class museums, and glorious Tiffany stained glass. The Virginia Fine Arts Museum houses an exceptional collection of over 30,000 artworks from nearly all of the major world cultures. The VCU Contemporary Art Institute brings contemporary art to Virginia's capital. You'll also come across exemplary art around almost every street corner, where the walls are decorated with over 100 murals. Richmond is gaining a reputation as an emerging "foodie" destination with many wonderful restaurants and also boasts intriguing galleries, distinctive architecture, history tours, and activities for nature enthusiasts.

We are energized to begin planning for the 2023 conference and are taking full advantage of all that the great city of Richmond has to offer. As we move forward, the AGG encourages its members to nominate someone they admire and feel would be a good candidate for the Joseph Barnes Award in 2023.

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Visit www.americanglassguild.org for more information on the AGG's upcoming GlassZoom events and how to become a member.



Portraying Patrick Henry at St. John's Church.
Photo courtesy of Richmond Regional Tourism.

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