

# 2017 American Glass Guild Awards

by Tony Glander

The American Glass Guild (AGG) met during May 2017 in Rochester, New York, for its 12th annual conference. The AGG has a strong mission built around education, but the organization also feels it is important to recognize the people who keep this incredible industry on its feet and moving forward. The AGG presented two awards this year to some very special leaders in the stained glass community.

## The AGG Joseph Barnes Award

Established by the American Glass Guild in 2008, the AGG Joseph Barnes Award was and is a service award presented to individuals who serve the glass community with a kindness toward others and an enthusiasm for the glass industry. The award was established to honor Joseph Barnes himself for his many years of service to the field of stained glass. Barnes received this inaugural award from the American Glass Guild, honoring his love of helping others in the stained glass industry. His career has spanned over 60 years, of which almost 40 have been with Bendheim.

“Joe’s love of people and deeply rooted work ethic have made him a great asset to Bendheim and the stained glass industry,” said Robert Jayson, president of Bendheim. “He is known to be the first man in to work, one of the last to leave, and is one of the few who can always be relied upon to do the job, no matter what the task.” Customers could always count on a smile and friendly service when it came to Barnes.

This year’s recipient of The 2017 AGG Joseph Barnes Award was Dennis Dailey of DHD Metals, Conyers, Georgia. “Dennis has extensive knowledge of the industry such that he is able to explain its history and give guidance to us about the nature of the lead used in older windows” said Rick Prigg.

Dailey and his wife Janice acquired DHD Metals from White Metals Corp. in 1990. “Our plan was to use Janice’s customer service and my engineering skills to provide the trade with high-quality



*Dennis Dailey, AGG Joseph Barnes Award recipient.*

products and good service” said Dailey, and they have acquired just that reputation. He has worked with many restoration artists to reproduce the unusual dies necessary to restore the work of innovators such as John La Farge and Louis Comfort Tiffany, always with a smile and positive attitude. Dailey is a humble man who would never presume to deserve to be honored with such an award, but he was adamant that he could not accept it without including Janice, his wife of 35 years.



*Rick Prigg, Selenium Path panel for American Glass Now 2017 made with lead from DHD Metals.*

## The AGG Nicholas Parrendo Lifetime Achievement Award

To acknowledge distinguished accomplishments and service over the whole of a career by those in stained glass, the AGG Lifetime Achievement Award was established in 2013. Recipients are known to inspire others with their vision, achievement, standards, and leadership. In 2017 the board of the AGG voted to rename the award The AGG Nicholas Parrendo Lifetime Achievement Award in honor of Nick Parrendo, whose lifetime of service to the stained glass industry was exemplary. Parrendo was an incredible artist, designer, painter, and businessman, but he also lived his ideals and treated others with warmth and respect. Following in his footsteps, Mary Clerkin Higgins received the award for her vast contributions and her dedication to improving stained glass works and the community.

Higgins moved to New York City to attend Fordham University at Lincoln Center. Immediately after graduating in 1976, she began an apprenticeship at the renowned Greenland Studio in Manhattan, where she learned the craft and conservation of stained glass. Interested in both the creation of new work and the conservation of masterworks from the past, she studied glass painting and chemistry to augment her many years of work at the bench.

After ten years at Greenland, Higgins opened her own studio in Brooklyn in 1986. She continues to work on a full range of projects, which this past year included two panels from the North Rose of Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, France, and a new window for a chapel in North Carolina.

The artist's new work has been selected for the *New Glass Review 36* by The Corning Museum of Glass and received a 2014 AGNX award from the jurors of *American Glass Now*. Her contemporary stained glass designs have been created for secular and religious settings from apartments on Central Park West in New York City to the Chapel at the Cloister at Sea Island, Georgia. She also worked closely with artist Rowan LeCompte on a number of projects and participated in the film *Let There Be Light* about LeCompte's last window created for the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.

Higgins has presented at numerous conferences in the states and abroad as well as giving workshops on stained glass conservation. In addition, her conservation work on stained glass from the 12th to the 21st centuries may be seen in public and private collections across North America.

One of the five founders of the American Glass Guild, Higgins was its president for two terms, program chair for three conferences, and editor of the five published conference proceedings. She is also founder and has served as organizer for five years of the juried show *American Glass Now*. Higgins takes great satisfaction in knowing that the AGG has made a positive difference in the field of stained glass and that she has been a part of that project from its inception.

### Looking Forward to AGG 2018

The AGG is proud to acknowledge the exceptional careers of these outstanding and dedicated glass artists. It believes that the examples of service and leadership offered by these exceptional individuals will prove to be an inspiration to others.

As the American Glass Guild looks forward to next year's conference in Cleveland, Ohio, its members are encouraged to nominate someone they admire for the 2018 awards. Visit [www.americanglassguild.org](http://www.americanglassguild.org) for more information on the AGG's upcoming events and how to become a member.



Mary Clerkin Higgins,  
AGG 2017 Nicholas Parrendo  
Lifetime Achievement Award  
recipient.



Mary Clerkin Higgins panel  
proposal, *Shield Me*, for  
*American Glass Now 2017*.

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