

Featuring the latest from the American Glass Guild

# Treasures of the American Glass Guild

by Tony Glander, Nancy Gong, and Kathy Jordan

The American Glass Guild (AGG) has been very fortunate to have members who contribute not only to the organization, but also to the industry of stained glass. This dedication rises out of a generous and selfless nature. Early on, the AGG recognized that these efforts, whether short or long term, have major effects on the stained glass community. The AGG has been awarding leadership and excellence in the industry since 2008. This year, the AGG is awarding the 2018 Nicholas Parrendo Lifetime Achievement Award to Robert Jayson and the AGG 2018 Inspiration Award to Sam Halsted.

## Nicholas Parrendo Lifetime Achievement Award

Robert Jayson is the third generation president of S.A. Bendheim Ltd, just outside New York City. As a supplier of art glass materials, he has had a profound effect on the world of architectural art glass in North America. This is not only due to his knowledge and background but also because of his support for the studios doing the work.

“Every member of the American Glass Guild should take time to thank Robert Jayson for all he has done to embrace the organization. He is the type of person and businessman everyone should strive to be, always ready to help out or share a kind word. I consider him a friend and note that my day goes better after each time I talk with him on the phone. He is a very deserving recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award!” said AGG member Scott Oderkirk.

## The Inspiration behind Bendheim

In Jayson’s earlier days, he found himself working as a member of the glassblowing team at Glashütte Lamberts in Waldsassen, Germany. It was there that he learned the art and craft of blowing sheet glass. He is the only American to have worked at the foundry. Jayson currently spearheads Bendheim’s Wall Systems division and has done so since its founding in 2001. This division is presently the leader in channel glass wall systems and decorative glass rain screens in North America.

Jayson and his brothers share a keen insight into the stained and architectural art glass market and its future. In the early 1980s, the inspiration for Bendheim’s expansion into architectural glass was the development and introduction to the U.S. market of Restoration Glass. Following the successful development of the product, Bendheim discovered that architects and designers are the best audience for this type of specialty glass.



Ludwig Schaffrath, *St. Maria Heimsuchung window, Alsdorf*. Photo by Sam Halstead.

Not long after becoming Bendheim’s President, Jayson founded the Architectural Glass division. This new department pioneered tempering and lamination processes that transformed glass varieties into first-of-their-kind, safety architectural glass products.

Jayson has presented at several glass industry events, which includes sponsorship and attendance at the AGG conferences over the years. He has also contributed to educational articles published in *The New York Times*, *Old House Journal*, *Modern Woodworking*, *Faith & Form*, and *Stained Glass Quarterly*.

The importance of the success of the work performed by North American glass artists, designers, and studios in North America is recognized by Jayson who, with the support of his family, contributes to that success as the sole North American Distributor of the coveted Lamberts Glas. These products provide a truly extraordinary art glass for art and architecture.

## Bringing Lamberts Glass to America

In 2011, recognizing that the fabrication of large laminated contemporary projects were being exported out of the United States, Bendheim again partnered with Lamberts and organized the first workshops in the U. S. to introduce the laminating process to studios large and small. More recently in 2016, Jayson led the Bendheim partnership, again with Lamberts Glass, to organize and host the First Transatlantic Symposium in Germany. There they demonstrated extraordinary projects, which pushed the bounds of stained glass windows. With foresight, dedication and determination, Jayson and his family have kept the use of mouth-blown sheet glass in the United States alive and robust.

The stained and architectural art glass industries in North America have certainly benefitted because of Jayson and the support of his family. The AGG thanks Robert for his leadership and contribution to the world of stained and architectural art glass.



*Schreiter's first commission, 1960.  
Photo by Sam Halstead.*

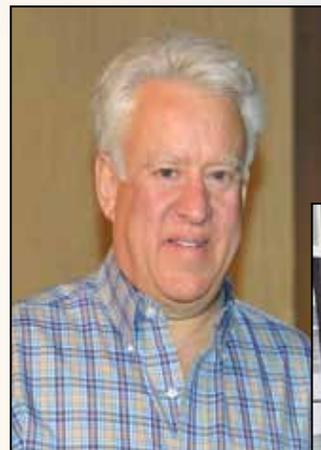
### **The 2018 AGG Inspiration Award**

Sam Halstead is being awarded the AGG 2018 Inspiration Award due to his hard work and incredible generosity. Halstead has a history of producing excellent video and audio productions, as well as instructional design. He is a New Zealand stained glass artist now living in Southern California. Halstead's primary project in recent years has been the creation of a feature-length documentary, *Lighting The Way: The German Pioneers of Contemporary Stained Glass*. His overall goal was to demystify the work of the German masters and encourage better understanding of their creativity.

Halstead was able to bring together his love of video production and instruction for the production of his documentary. To simply call this film a documentary is to underestimate its meaningful teaching aspects. Halstead strives to educate viewer as to how the design and color selections were masterfully carried out by dissecting the windows. He shows how the design would suffer by removing lines or changing color elements, which provides the insight into these masters' designs.

The film analyzes the work of Johan Thorn Prikker, Anton Wendling, Heinrich Campendonk, Georg Meistermann, Ludwig Schaffrath, Wilhelm Buschulte, Hubert Spierling, Joachim Klos, Johannes Schreiter, and Jochem Poensgen. As Halstead shared, "Meistermann was inspiring and is is one of my favorite parts of the movie." After hosting it on Amazon Prime and selling a few DVDs, Halstead decided to place the movie in the Public Domain so it can be seen free of charge.

The AGG wishes to recognize Halstead's hard work and dedication in producing a film of such high caliber and at the same time recognize his generosity to gift it to the public. "He is an inspiration, not only to the industry of stained glass but to the general public as well," said Tony Glander. It is with great pride that the AGG honors Halstead with the AGG 2018 Inspiration Award.



*Robert Jayson.*



*Sam Halstead.  
Photo by Barbara Schreiter.*

*These awards were presented at the American Glass Guild's 13th annual conference in Cleveland June 23, 2018. The AGG will continue its efforts to seek out individuals and organizations that help promote the art glass industry. To learn more about the AGG, please visit [www.americanglassguild.org](http://www.americanglassguild.org).*

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