

Apply for an AGG Scholarship

by Patrice Schelkun

Have you ever wanted to expand your knowledge about glass art in a new way but found the cost of a workshop or attendance at conference to be simply too expensive? Well, the American Glass Guild (AGG), a leading educational organization dedicated to stained glass and other “flat glass” art, has some good news.

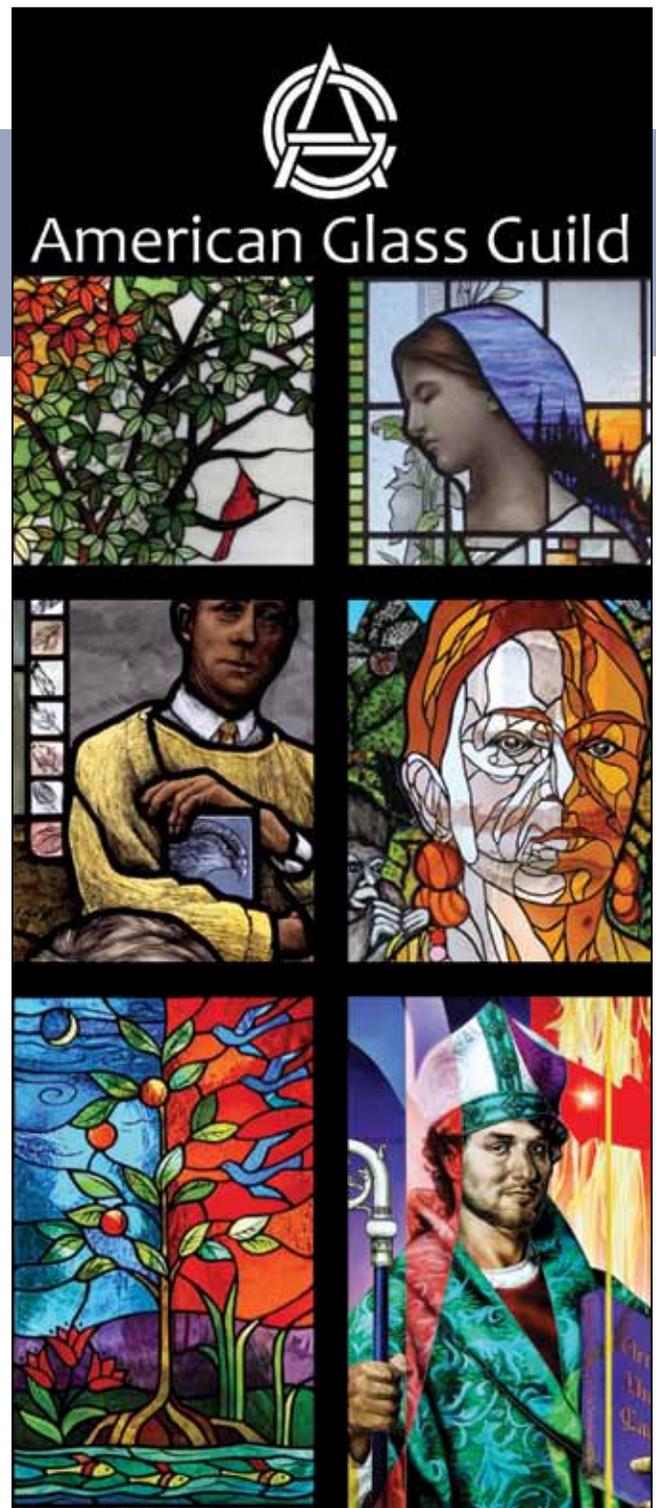
Each year since 2007, the AGG has offered scholarship money to individuals interested in pursuing educational opportunities both here and abroad. That money can certainly be helpful when funds are tight, and it may just give you the incentive you need to broaden your skill set and improve your craft.

The Continuing Influence of Jim Whitney

How about a workshop in contemporary stained glass painting or screen printing? A workshop on lamination techniques, working with lead came, or a class in designing for large-scale architectural projects? Or perhaps you’d just like the opportunity to absorb all the great information and networking opportunities that our annual conference has to offer. Whatever you’re interested in studying, the AGG’s James C. Whitney Scholarship Fund may be able to help you “just do it.”

The AGG’s Scholarship Fund was named for the late Jim Whitney of Whitney Stained Glass Studio in Cleveland, Ohio. Whitney was a strong supporter of the American Glass Guild during its inception and approached his life, art, and craft with great passion and a high level of integrity. The AGG honors him in this way and hopes his zest for life and pursuit of excellence will inspire the recipients of this memorial scholarship in their stained glass careers.

Since 2007, the Scholarship Fund has awarded 78 scholarships in various amounts for a host of different events. Generous supporters of stained glass and glass art in general have made this Fund possible. Each year, in conjunction with our annual conference, the AGG holds a Silent and Live Auction of valuable artwork and other items donated by its members, the proceeds from which provide the primary source of support for our Scholarship Fund.



(Top) The AGG brochure cover featuring recent works by AGG members. Photo by J. Kenneth Leap. (Bottom) Samples of work from an acid etching workshop by Tom Krepcio at the AGG 2014 conference. Photo by Serena Sutton.



Students attend a glass painting workshop with Williams & Byrne. Photo by Serena Sutton.

Invaluable Educational Experiences

Mary Chuduk of Tempe, Arizona, shared, “As an artist using enamel on metal for many years, I am very new to glass. The crossover between the two media is challenging, enlightening, and amazing to me.” Chuduk received scholarship funds to attend a 2015 summer workshop at Bryn Athyn College outside Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where artist/designer J. Kenneth Leap teaches traditional and contemporary stained glass painting to beginners and advanced students alike. Her hope was to learn about contemporary painting techniques that can be applied to kiln formed glass.

Jennifer Swett, an artist working in New York City, was able to attend the 2015 American Glass Guild Conference in Washington, D.C., thanks to the scholarship money she received. The grant also allowed her to take part in a workshop offered at the conference on The Clear Palette with Sasha Zhitneva. “When I discover a beautiful historic stained glass window, I am not only inspired by its incredible technique and artistry, but I often feel a sense of awe when considering others who have gazed at it throughout time,” said Swett, who works with stained glass imagery in her jewelry making. She said she was thrilled to be granted a scholarship that allowed her an opportunity to learn new skills and develop her work further.

Amber Wingerson of Ipswich, Massachusetts, attended her first AGG conference in 2013 in St. Augustine, Florida. She found it to be an invaluable experience and was encouraged to apply for

scholarship money so she could more easily attend the conference in Philadelphia the next year. “My studies have greatly benefited from this experience thanks to the great number of artists and historians who spoke at the conference,” said Wingerson, “My technical understanding of stained glass styles and processes improved more in a week than I can convey.” Many who attend an AGG conference for the first time, like Wingerson, say the benefit of networking with and learning from others working in the field is empowering.

Whether you are just starting out in glass art or are someone who has had a lifelong career in the field, you can expand your horizons, become inspired to develop new work, or simply improve and update your technical knowledge and skill set by furthering your education in glass. And the AGG is here to help make that possible with scholarship funding.

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Visit www.americanglassguild.org for information on the AGG's Whitney Scholarship program and Auction fundraiser, their upcoming July 2016 Conference in Chicago, Illinois, and becoming a member.

The American Glass Guild offers scholarships for persons interested in pursuing professional education in stained, leaded, and decorative glass, mosaic glass art, and other cold or warm glass skills applicable to flat glass. Applicants from countries other than the U.S. must be applying for studies in the United States. U.S. applicants may apply for scholarship money for educational opportunities worldwide. Monies can be used toward attending the AGG's yearly conference and workshops, outside workshops, or degree study at accredited educational institutions.

The AGG is a leading nonprofit group dedicated to education in the history and creation of stained and flat glass art and in promoting its appreciation and application. Visit the AGG website at www.americanglassguild.org/the-james-c-whitney-memorial-scholarship for scholarship guidelines and to download an application. ***The deadline for submitting applications is February 29, 2016.*** Awards will be announced on March 31, 2016.

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