

# Gearing Up for Conference 2018

The Stained Glass Association of America (SGAA) will celebrate its 109th annual summer conference on June 18–20, 2018, in Long Beach, California. Our members are definitely “scaling up” for the event in everything from food to programming.

## Sharing and Learning

There will be lots of focus on the mental and physical aspects of managing a multifaceted studio and staying focused to tackle magnificent projects no matter the physical size. The conference will include all of the information and inspiration that attendees love about SGAA conference with some extra adventure for good measure. There will be a fabulous excursion for the Welcome Reception, starting off with an informative and inspiring tour of the Gamble House. Next, the tour will move on to the new Judson Studio space and finish at the Bullseye Resource Center LA, where attendees will enjoy a California-style alfresco meal.

Speakers this year include stained glass artist Judith Schaechter; James Galbraith from the Rakow Research Library at The Corning Museum of Glass; Lesley A. Elwood, Public Arts Consultant with Elwood & Associates; Matthew Day Perez; and Ariana Makau, President & Principal Conservator of Nzilani Glass Conservation, Inc. Speakers will also include Lindsay R. Parrott, Director/Curator at The NEUSTADT; J. Kenneth Leap, Head of the Building Arts Program at Bryn Athyn; David Ruth; Gordon Huether; and Ted Sawyer, Director of Research and Education for Bullseye Glass Co.

It's not too late to join us. For more information about Long Beach 2018, including hotel booking and travel information, visit the SGAA website at [www.stainedglass.org](http://www.stainedglass.org).

## Providing “Light” for the Next Generation

As SGAA continues to travel and expand its regional classes, it is thrilling to announce that the organization has partnered with ImagiLux to upgrade the Stained Glass School's lightboxes. We have lugged our wooden lightboxes all over the country, and they have served us admirably. However, studios across the country are going LED, and it is time that SGAA does too. The panels are superslim, lightweight, and dimmable. They also plug in easily, pushing us light-years into the future compared to where we were.

SGAA members first got their hands on a small ImagiLux panel almost four years ago at a Stained Glass School Silent Auction. It was Conference 2015 in Portland, Oregon, as best we can remember. That experience clearly left an impression, and although it took several years for all the stars to align, we are the stronger in our appreciation for the time and effort.



This industry is often fond of looking to its heritage and of expounding on all of the many ways that our industry hasn't changed over the years. However, there are so many little things that have changed. Auctions, for example, are a great way to get samples out into the field and get feedback from customers and end users. We encourage everyone to take part in our upcoming silent auction at the Long Beach conference, no matter how small you feel your donation may be.

When we gather as comrades, stories abound of the “good ol' days,” but everyone agrees that there's always more we can do for the next generation to encourage, inspire, and champion. As we continue developing regional classes, we continue to spend more time ruminating on the value of our classes and what it means to certify instructors, classes, and students. We are inspired by programs that have taken root at Bryn Athyn as well as the strong programs that exist at places such as the Chicago Mosaic School and various craft centers around the nation. Our news feeds show a shift in thought toward emphasizing the importance of craft education in the United States, and we're excited to play a part in that.

If you are teaching stained glass anywhere in the country, please reach out to us and let's connect! We are stronger together, and we have a lot to learn from each other.

## Grasping Our Second Century by the Horns

The SGAA marks its 115th year this summer. We've made lots of progress toward change, but we're continually challenging ourselves to push harder and find a way to give more and serve better. While we have many challenges ahead of us, there is a sense that we have turned a corner and that the future looks bright, not only for our industry but for the association as well.

The majority of SGAA's work has strategically focused on the things the association does best, including the publication of the *Stained Glass Quarterly*, the programming for the summer conference, and the production of the *Sourcebook*. Attention given to these things will strengthen their value to SGAA members, and you will soon be seeing a lot of improvements. One of our top priorities is to update our websites to better communicate what we do as an association and a school.

Love to all who work in glass. We hope to meet many new colleagues in Long Beach. GA

*If you will be joining SGAA in Long Beach, please volunteer! SGAA needs your help setting up the Silent Auction, maintaining donations, and at closing. E-mail our SGS Director, Sister Kelly, at [KellyAT@felician.edu](mailto:KellyAT@felician.edu) or call SGAA Headquarters at (800) 438-9581 for more information about participating.*



*A thank-you from Stained Glass School to ImagiLux, maker of their new LED light boxes.*

### Silent Auction Suggestions

You don't need to be an SGAA Member to help "Light the Way for the Next Generation." Ideas for Silent Auction items include books, historic articles, specialty tools, blown glass vases, an odd bag of jewels, glass bevels, gift certificates for products, and gift cards. If you teach classes, you can donate a class or workshop. We are especially seeking anything handcrafted by our members, readers, and supporters, since handcrafted items create serious competitive bidding.

Please bring your donation items to the SGAA Registration Table or pre-ship them by June 1, 2018, to:

Judson Studios  
Attn: SGS Silent Auction  
200 S. Ave. 66  
Los Angeles, CA 90042  
(800) 445-8376

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