

## The American Glass Guild Prepares for 2020

by Tony Glander and Kathy Jordan

As we head into winter, the American Glass Guild (AGG) is beginning a very busy time in preparation for a very busy year. AGG is reviewing all that took place at the 2019 San Antonio conference this past summer and looking forward to Baltimore, Maryland, in 2020. We are also announcing the changes in the scholarship process and are looking forward to the excitement surrounding the upcoming annual auction that supports our scholarship program.

### Celebrating the Past and Planning the Future

For the first time in history, the AGG had a joint conference with the SGAA in San Antonio in June 2019 that was an overall success. The event hosted many incredible speakers, demonstrations, displays, workshops, an amazing tour of stained glass work, and an annual auction that raised over \$20,000. Both organizations worked hard to bring the best conference they could provide their members and are open to discussing future joint conferences.

Looking forward to 2020, plans are moving quickly for our annual conference to be held in Baltimore, Maryland, May 7–9. The Maritime Conference Center, directly next to Baltimore/Washington International (BWI) airport, will be the site for the conference. Tours of historic stained glass work are already in progress as well as speakers, workshops, and demonstrations.

Speakers this year already include Michael Janis, Tim Carey, Judith Schaechter, Amy Valuck, Art Femenella, and Jon Erickson. Demonstrations will cover stone installation of stained glass plus leading tips and techniques. This year's day of workshops will focus around the design process, with top designers giving their advice and inspiration. Be sure to watch the website for further updates. Registration will open soon.

### Scholarship Awards

If you are looking for a way to help afford the conference, you can apply for a scholarship. In 2019, for the first time the AGG Scholarship had two deadlines for awards, February 28 and August 28. Eleven students received awards in February to attend the classes and workshops taught by Ralph Mills and Jules Mominee, Peter McGrain, Kathy Jordan, and Sarah Brown. The August list of award recipients consisted of nine students, who will be attending the classes of Tim Carey, Debora Coombs, Ellen Mandelbaum, Narcissus Quagliata, Kathy Jordan, Sarah Brown, and a course at Pilchuck Glass School in Washington State.



*Sofia Villamarin with her AGG donation for the 2020 Baltimore auction. Photo by Kathy Jordan.*

A total of \$13,395 in scholarships was awarded. These funds came directly from the AGG conference auction of 2018. In 2020, the organization will have the same deadlines on February 28 and August 28, so clear your calendars, make space to schedule a class or workshop, and apply at [www.americanglassguild.org/scholarship](http://www.americanglassguild.org/scholarship)! While you're attending the conference in Baltimore, remember that when you bid at the auction—and who doesn't—half of the proceeds go directly to enhancing the skills of glass artists with the help of the James C. Whitney Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Since the inception of the auction, which directly supports the scholarship fund, members have donated incredible stained glass panels to help raise a majority of the funds. This year's donations are proving to be impressive, with two panels already having been offered for the auction. Incredible work by Sofia Villamarin and Kristopher Tiffany will certainly get the bidding moving. Visit the AGG website to donate your panel for this incredible way to help educate upcoming stained glass artists.



*Kristopher Tiffany with his AGG donation for the 2020 Baltimore auction.  
Photo by Kathy Jordan.*



## Remembering a Stained Glass Icon

January 1, 2019, marked the death of Charles Z. Lawrence, an American stained glass icon and Senior Advisor to the American Glass Guild. Lawrence's career began in 1956 and extended well over six decades with countless prestigious commissions throughout his career while working with Rambusch Decorating Co., Willet Hauser, and his own studio in Mt. Airy, Pennsylvania. His bold gothic revival style and exceptional use of color was best typified in five windows at the Washington National Cathedral. Lawrence received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the SGAA in 1994 and the Lifetime Achievement Award of Excellence from the AGG in 2015.

The AGG is dedicated to encouraging and promoting the creation, conservation, and history of stained, leaded, and decorative glass as it continues to provide a community that supports one another as well as the art. We look forward to seeing you in Baltimore.

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*Visit [americanglassguild.org](http://americanglassguild.org) to find out more about the AGG's upcoming events and how to become a Guild member.*

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## AGG Awards

The life and work of Sylvia Nicolas, a longtime AGG supporter, was honored in October 2019 at the New Hampshire Governor's Arts Awards. Ninety years young, Sylvia received the Lotte Jacobi Living Treasure Award that recognizes a professional New Hampshire artist who has made a significant life contribution to her art form and to the arts community of New Hampshire.

The Nicolas family has a long and distinguished history in the field of stained glass, proudly tracing their involvement in the art form back to the Netherlands in 1855. Sylvia first learned the craft from her father, the renowned artist Joep Nicolas, and the tradition continues with her son, Diego. Embracing the freedom of the modern age, she observes: "I don't want to become set in preconceived ideas. I want to be open to the spontaneity and accidents of the medium. Very often the medium will tell me where to go." As she has noted, "Stained glass is all about the light." Sylvia studied costume design in Paris, and in addition to stained glass, she creates mosaics, sculpture, drawings, and paintings at her studio in New Hampshire.

The American Glass Guild is very proud and honored to call Sylvia Nicolas its Senior Advisor. She is an avid supporter of the AGG and the James C. Whitney Scholarship Auction, donating numerous panels since the inception of the auction. Sylvia is also the 2012 recipient of AGG's Joseph Barnes Award.

At the 2019 Annual AIA Rochester meeting, Nancy Gong, who hosted the 2017 AGG conference in Rochester, New York, was awarded Honorary Member of the AIA Rochester. Nancy received the award "in recognition of outstanding accomplishments and distinguished service to the profession of architecture and the arts and science allied therein." The artist believes that there is no line between art and architecture.

*Sylvia Nicolas's Panel. Photo by Kathy Jordan.*

