



## Charting a Luminary Path to an Enriched Future



Greene Memorial Window: The Resurrection, in Broad Street Presbyterian Church, created by the Louis Comfort Tiffany Studios. The rectangular panes each 12' high x 4' wide, Photo courtesy of Megan McElfresh.

Judith Schaechter next to her stained glass work Human Nature installed at the On The Shoulders of Giants exhibition. 30" x 32" x 3" 2016. Photo courtesy of SGAA Staff

by SGAA Staff

Reflecting on the accomplishments of recent years, we have overcome various challenges to achieve significant milestones, marked by the creation of impactful exhibitions and the notable expansion of our organization. As we advance into a new year, our focus remains on fostering innovation and mentorship.

Following the 2023 conference, the momentum has only persisted and progressed. Commemorating the Stained Glass Association of America's 120th anniversary, the collaborative creation of the *On the Shoulders of Giants: Innovation in Stained Glass* exhibition with Judson Studios marked a significant milestone. This exhibition stood out as a noteworthy event during the conference, culminating in our closing party, a fitting end to a week of engaging programming.

One of the many pieces that this exhibition features is Judith Schaechter's work titled *Human Nature*. The exhibition also features works by Indre Bile-ris, Quentin Blackman, Shay Bredimus, Amir H. Fallah, James Jean, El Mac, Narcissus Quagliata, and Dani Tull.

The SGAA was delighted to present an engaging evening with renowned stained glass artist Judith Schaechter on November 8th, 2023, alongside her work in the exhibition. During the event, she delved into her innovative techniques and various methods utilized in her craft, including sandblasting, hand engraving, diamond filing, layering, and painting. She shared insight to her artistic perspective and how that is applied in her work. Schaechter is currently working on the Biophilic Dome Project which is meant to be a sacred space for an individual person. It will be constructed from over three dozen panels!

You can read more about her previous and current work on her blog, [www.judithshaechterglass.blogspot.com](http://www.judithshaechterglass.blogspot.com).





*Details of the Goodspeed Memorial Window: Christ Blessing Little Children, in Broad Street Presbyterian Church created by the Louis Comfort Tiffany Studios. The rectangular panes in total 12' high x 20' wide. Photo. courtesy of Megan McElfresh*

Following Judith's presentation, we brought exploration and education to Columbus, Ohio, a city with a significant legacy in the American stained glass industry. The SGAA co-hosted Stained Glass: The Language of Light, offering a valuable chance to explore the history, science, and progression of stained glass, gain understanding into window restoration techniques, and discuss in-depth case studies of finished projects.

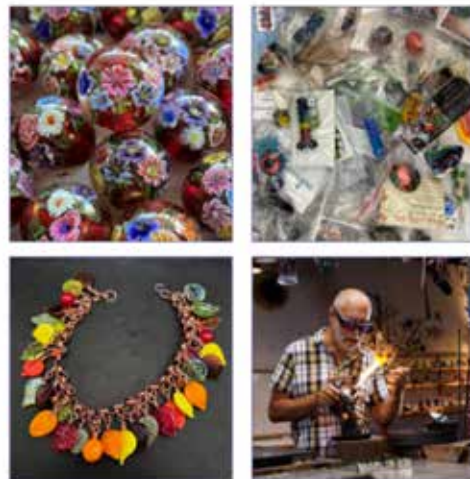
Featured speaker Megan McElfresh, Executive Director of the SGAA and a respected third-generation stained glass artisan, presented at the historic Garden Manor. After the conclusion of her presentation, she led attendees on guided tours of Green Lawn Abbey and two stunning downtown churches, The First Congregational Church and Broad Street Presbyterian Church.

Stained glass transcends being solely an artform; it embodies service to others, a communal philosophy. Sharing is intrinsic to our craft—it's in the generosity woven into our daily work. By focusing on expansion and introducing online programming, we aim to increase opportunities and enrich member benefits for a stronger, more connected community. Our longstanding dreams of apprenticeships, education programs, and enhanced accessibility are now within reach, signaling a promising future. To inspire architects, embolden stewards, and uplift the next generation, the establishment of diverse learning paths becomes crucial. Together, through collaboration, we can overcome any obstacle. **GA**

Visit [www.stainedglass.org](http://www.stainedglass.org) for more information about how to become a member of the Stained Glass Association of America.

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