

## San Antonio 2019

### Celebrating the Wonder of American Stained Glass



*by Troy Moody*

The very first joint conference between the American Glass Guild (AGG) and the Stained Glass Association of America (SGAA), held in San Antonio, Texas, was a truly unique event celebrating the art, craft, culture, and business of American stained glass. Over the course of five days, attendees were treated to various educational, community building, and networking opportunities while enjoying the local sights and flavors of this jewel of a city.

One of the many highlights of this historic gathering was the celebration of three individuals recognized for their outstanding and continued merit serving the American stained glass community through the presentation of the 2019 Joseph Barnes Award, the Nicholas Parrendo Lifetime Achievement Award, and the first ever AGG/SGAA Joint Presidents' Award.

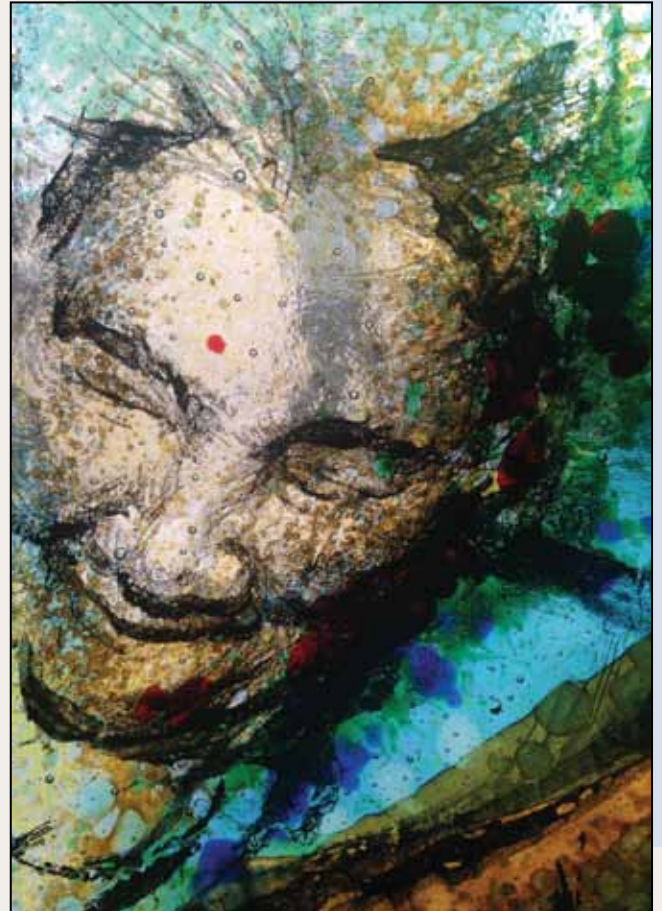
#### **The 2019 Joseph Barnes Award**

Kathy Jordan was presented with the Joseph Barnes Award. This award was established specifically to celebrate individuals who serve the glass community with a kindness toward others and an enthusiasm for the glass industry. Anyone who's had the pleasure of spending even the briefest of moments with Kathy can attest that her enthusiasm for all things art glass is evident and palpable. Her career has spanned thirty-plus years. During that time, she has been fabricating, conserving, and restoring stained glass projects of all sizes across the country.

Jordan is an established glass painter and instructor who specializes in historic vitreous paint replication. She has trained with internationally respected glass artisans for more than a quarter of a century while exploring and acquiring both traditional and contemporary approaches and techniques. The artist has committed decades of her professional life to acquiring a specialized and nuanced art glass education. In recent years, she has been sharing that acquired knowledge with leagues of glass friends and colleagues through casual mentorship and intimate workshops. Sincere in her willingness to pass on this specialized knowledge, she continues to develop a pathway for the future of the art glass industry.

Involved with the AGG since its inception, Kathy has served as a volunteer, an effervescent auction chair, and previous board member. Her hardworking, generous spirit, coupled with kindness and enthusiasm, continues to impact the American glass industry.

Joseph Barnes was beloved for his extensive knowledge of and enthusiasm for glass. He recognized the charm and beauty of glass as a design material and cherished his role in the greater American glass community. Kathy Jordan is an excellent choice for the award bearing his name and honoring his legacy.



*Kathy Jordan's 2017 AGN exhibition panel*

#### **The 2019 Nicholas Parrendo Lifetime Achievement Award**

Vic Rothman is the recipient of the 2019 Nicholas Parrendo Lifetime Achievement Award. With more than four decades of active involvement in the stained glass field, Rothman has developed a reputation for unwavering commitment, craftsmanship, intelligence, and integrity. The artist is a reluctantly venerable character, a gritty and romantic figure representing a unique time and place in the New York City stained glass subculture.

After graduating with a degree in marketing and management, Vic was happily entrenched in the Greenwich folk music scene when he discovered stained glass at a craft show demonstration. He was more than intrigued and immediately began exploring the craft. His new "hobby" quickly spun out of control, and his transition into the odd world of colored glass and architectural installations was swift and complete.



Judith Schaechter, *Lo, the Cow Faced Maiden*



Vic Rothman posing with Kathy Barnard

Rothman took an entry level position at legendary Greenland Studio after a stint managing the Glass Masters Guild, and within a couple of years he was shop foreman. When Greenland closed in 1991, Vic launched his own studio, where he continues to approach the business of stained glass on his own terms with the same dogged authenticity he exhibits in each of his life encounters.

Vic has been awarded three Lucy G. Moses preservation awards by The New York Landmarks Conservancy and is one of the founding directors of the American Glass Guild. His life experience, passion, vocabulary, and communicative style make him an invaluable resource for our expanding stained glass community.

Nick Parrendo was an inspiration to countless members of the American stained glass community. He was fearless in his humility, and his approach to lifework was intentionally joy based. Nick's relentless work ethic and a genuine love for his fellow man are traits to which we should all aspire. Vic Rothman is a deserving recipient of an award celebrating these ideals.



Judith Schaechter

### The Inaugural AGG/SGAA Joint Presidents' Award

San Antonio 2019 was the first joint conference between these two distinguished organizations, and as such, the directors of both the AGG and the SGAA felt it appropriate to initiate a Joint Presidents' Award. One name kept surfacing among those considered for this inaugural award.

Judith Schaechter is a larger-than-life figure on the American stained glass scene. Her

awards and accolades are far too copious to list here. She has been granted numerous prestigious fellowships and has been featured in countless publications. Her work has also been exhibited and collected worldwide. The artist has served on the faculty of the Rhode Island School of Design as well as the New York Academy of Art, and she is currently an adjunct professor in the Crafts Department at The University of the Arts in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Judith's storied wit and towering intellect combined with an unwavering pursuit of perfection make her a force to be reckoned with, not only in the stained glass world but in the greater fine art realm. Her ferocious approach to art is disciplined and innovative, and the attention she brings to the field of stained glass and her sincere ambassadorship benefits us all. While Judith so rightly deserves to occupy the uppermost echelon of her profession, she maintains a refreshing approachability and delightful demeanor. Her enormous talent, coupled with an unyielding curiosity and persistent humanity, have resulted in a life less ordinary, a life worthy of examination, and a lifetime of achievements most certainly worthy of this premier joint award.

The American Glass Guild and the Stained Glass Association of America are organizations built through the shared experiences of hundreds of individual members working in the varied facets of our global stained glass community. Whether the future holds more joint conferences is yet to be seen, but the examples set by these three stellar artists will surely continue to provide inspiration and encouragement to our noble field as each organization pursues its own stained glass realities.

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Visit [www.americanglassguild.org](http://www.americanglassguild.org) for more information on upcoming AGG events and becoming a member.

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