

Dear Readers,

Jen and I just got back from the Art Glass Invitational. What a great venue in which to learn about hot glass, set in the rural hills of Pennsylvania. It reminded us that one of the greatest factors in the present renaissance of glassblowing is the sharing of information. We are very lucky to have an unprecedented number of educational opportunities within our industry. That's why in this issue we have attempted to touch upon a few of the abundant choices we have to hone our craft. We must thank Tom and Elaine Doner for reopening our eyes with six days of fun, learning, and delicious food in the most comfortable arena we have experienced. The theme for this magical summer camp for lampworkers really described everyone's attitude there: "We are all teachers, and we are all students." No matter how good you are, there's always something you can learn from someone else.

We are presently sitting at the World Flame Off/Fall Best Bead Show that is hosted by one of the greatest glass educators of our time, Mr. Lewis Wilson. When it comes to education, few have done as much as "Dirty Looie." Lewis has produced twenty-four instructional videos, hosted over fifteen Best Bead shows, and taught over a thousand students. I have often heard, "We stand on the shoulders of giants." When it comes to our opportunities, it has never been more true.

That leads us to mention another great educator to our community. Tommy Licata, owner of the Glasscraft & Bead Expo, passed on August 24, 2008. For those who did not have the pleasure of knowing him, Tommy has been a dedicated supporter of glass education for the past fifteen years by providing an information-sharing event that is unparalleled in the number of classes and workshops available. Glasscraft & Bead Expo was Tommy's baby, and he truly loved the energy created by our community. Tommy was a board member for several nonprofit organizations and worked tirelessly to educate. The Expo will go on to grow as it has over the last fifteen years, as Tommy's vision will continue to inspire us to better ourselves and help others. To Lee Ann, Patty, and the entire Las Vegas Management crew, we send our deepest sympathies. It is with heavy hearts that we dedicate this educational issue to the memory of Mr. Tommy Licata.



As always . . . keep you light shining and your torches lit!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Menzies".

William "Boxfan" Menzies
Founding Editor

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Fourth Annual Women in Glass Issue

Spring 2009 December 1, 2008
Sculptural Issue

Summer 2009 March 1, 2009
Thinking Outside the Box

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