

CALENDAR OF EVENTS Feb-May, 2011

ART HOPS 5-9 p.m.
(Volunteers needed - call us!)

March 4 – “Pots of Gold”
Watch glassblowers create vessels incorporating many shades of gold!



April 1 – (see ‘Michigan Glass Month’ article inside)

May 6 – “Splendor in the Glass”



Members can exhibit and sell their artwork with an emphasis on a “garden-theme.” Let your imagination run wild!

Mark your calendar -

EXPLORE GLASS ART DAY
Saturday, May 14 10am-4:30pm



Come and explore glass art. Choose from different projects including a hot glass paperweight, bead making, lampworking, kiln

fused art, and sandblasting. Projects start every hour, so when you finish one you can start another! Register early. Classes fill up fast!



Volunteers needed to instruct, assist, register guests, and more!

Looking back on 2010 and forward to 2011

Equipment and Facilities Committee Year in Review: 2010

Wow! What a year! Last year at this time we were in four small disjointed studios spread out over two floors; busting at the seams with our classes and programs. And now, WMGAC is a cornerstone of the Park Trades Center, downtown Kalamazoo. *Please come visit us soon!*

Our studios and offices are in one cohesive space and are flexible enough to accommodate a small private classroom environment or expand to handle large workshops or parties now and into the future. We have a hot shop to die for and a spectator seating for demonstrations, not to mention our new *Reflections* Gallery where our members’ best glass artwork is displayed for sale.

We have hot and cold running water in three studios, plenty of bench space, storage, lockers for members, a kitchen area, our reference library, reception and office areas. With safety in mind, our ventilation system is state-of-the-art and we now have an emergency shower. ***All this, and our own bathrooms!***

I would like to thank my team and all of the multitudes of volunteers that made this happen. Without their help we wouldn’t have completed the project on time and within budget! They literally gave their blood, sweat and tears to get this job done. It is very exciting to see what great work we are now doing in the Center.

- Dave Boslar, Committee Chair

Equipment and Facilities Team members: Marty Detwiler (project manger), Larry Galdes, Frank Meints, Mike Fortin and Judy Konesni.

More good news on the following pages.

Check out our New Website!

Our new website has all the information you need about WMGAC in one convenient location.

Register on our site to receive emails about upcoming events. As a member, register to access special opportunities.



Same location: wmglass.org -- new identity!

Fire Works! - Updates from *Jennifer DiGiuseppe*, Community Ed. Coord.

Fifty-seven seniors, that's the record for last year. WMGAC hosted a lot of classes, parties and school programs in 2010 but 57 seniors creating fused glass tiles holds the record for the most participants working in our studios at one time. Four hundred thirty-nine is the record for Kalamazoo Public School students served in a single project. Of course we spread them out to 30 at a time over four days. And then there was the beginning bead class we taught with only one student. He was visiting from out of town for the holidays and had always wanted to try working with glass. Making that happen for him was extremely satisfying.

The FireWorks! and Education programming for 2010 expanded as we moved into our new studios in June. We held our breath as they finished hooking up the flame studio gas only minutes before our first program on June 25th. The studios and kilns have been filled ever since.

2010 brought a host of new programs. A Kalamazoo Communities in Schools grant took us to three middle schools to present a "Fused Glass Art Club". We offered a six-week program combining science, math and the art of glass. Bronco Bash and K-Fest provided a connection to college students who then attended special nights exploring sandblasting, lampworking and bead making. We were excited when Kalamazoo College brought their Resident Assistants for a team building event this fall.

We ran a successful Summer 2010 Glass Camp. Having adjoining studios gave the students a sense of community. They could view and encourage each other as they worked. I thought we'd miss the exercise on the stairs between the hot shop, fusing and flame studios but no, I still logged nine miles on my pedometer the first day of camp!

In February, we hosted visiting artist Gloria Badiner for a 3-day workshop on Kiln Formed Tiles. She also did a public presentation during the Art Hop on sand casting. March brought world renown glass artist Loren Stump for a 5-day workshop called "Stump I".

A Kalamazoo Community Foundation Changemaker grant supported our first "Beads of Courage" Day. Nine glass artists and 18 Big & Little Sisters joined forces to create over 200 beads. The beads were sent to the Beads of Courage program to be distributed to children battling cancer and other serious diseases. Look for information about BOC Day 2011 on our website- it will be even bigger and we'll be counting on you to help!



Our new Glass Art Center offered us more flexibility in providing corporate team building opportunities. We hosted a variety of Kellogg teams for meetings and glass activities. The holidays brought organizations to us for fun and unique seasonal parties.

Catalog classes were well attended as our new space and gallery have brought increased exposure to WMGAC. We truly are living our mission to *teach, create and promote glass art*.

Looking forward to 2011, we have visiting artists **Emilio Santini returning Sept. 15-18** and bead artist **Margaret Zinser on Oct. 14-16**. We head back to Kalamazoo schools for "Fused Glass Art Club". High school students in the Education for the Arts program visit in February. Fifty Red Hat Gals are expected in Sept., and Nov. 10-13 brings the return of almost 200 art teachers from across Michigan

Thank you to all who participated in programming this past year and I look forward to seeing you in our studios soon. We'll keep the flame burning and the kilns on for you!

APRIL is Michigan Glass Month

**Net proceeds from our events
this month go to support our
Education Scholarships
~Call us to Volunteer or
Sponsor the events~**

"Battle of the Glassblowers"

April 1-2, 2011

A glass sporting event! The public is invited to watch talented artists from around the region demonstrate their skills in timed competitions on Fri. April 1st, 5-10pm (during the *Art Hop*) and Sat. April 2nd, noon-6pm.



"A Celebration of Glass"

April, 2011

Members of the West Michigan Glass Art Center will exhibit their glass art in our new WMGAC Reflections Gallery all month.

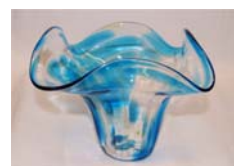


Friday: April 1st, 5-9pm
Opening reception and prizes awarded. Call us to submit your artwork!

"Glass Art Center Auction"

Friday: April 15, 6-9pm.

Items created at the "Battle of the Glassblowers" and other wonderful items/packages will be auctioned off in support of the WMGAC Education Programs and Summer Glass Camp. The event will be held at our Center!



Featured Artist: *Linda Kekic*

WMGAC's previous Executive Director, Linda Kekic, can't remember a time when she wasn't involved in creating art. Drawing held her interest in elementary school, and a high school art class exploring Pablo Picasso's art styles expanded her artistic interests. She enjoyed many art classes in college while pursuing a degree in Sociology and Psychology and a Masters in Public Administration.



After retiring in 2002 as an administrator with the Department of Human Services, Linda took a class at the Kalamazoo Institute of Art making glass ornaments. Fused glass was a new media to her and she loved it! She has spent the past 8 years taking more classes, teaching kiln fusing, learning about glass art and jewelry making.

In 2005, she met Anne Anson who encouraged her to join the West Michigan Glass Society. Her first volunteer experience was as a greeter at an Art Hop. Soon she began volunteering regularly including writing grants. In January 2006, Linda began volunteering as the organization's 'business manager' and worked to organize the office and financials. She joined the board of directors in March. In June 2006, she was hired as the organizations first part-time 'Executive Director'.



Although she stepped down from the Executive Director position in September, she continues to be involved in many aspects, including as a kiln fusing instructor. Linda is owner of "House Jewelry", which features kiln fused jewelry combined with other elements including silver, copper and found objects. Her jewelry is currently on display at the Carnegie Center for the Arts in Three Rivers, MI. Linda frequently teaches an after school arts program at Kazoo School. She's also busy with other interests including family genealogy, photography, physical fitness, gardening, and traveling. She plans to visit the Panama Canal and go on safari in southern Africa. Linda is grateful to have been a part of the WMGAC as it has grown from a small group of glass artists and students, into the state-of-the-art glass art center is has become.



By: Char Caylor, Administrative Assistant

Mark your calendars for the WMGAC ANNUAL MEETING: Wed. March 9, 5:30pm
Join us for refreshments and to meet/welcome your Board members.

Welcome New Members (since September 1, 2010)

Martha Alway, Robert Alway, Dawn Artwick, Denise Black, Tracy Brown, Daniel Davis, Joseph Fette, Dan Foster, Joylynn Gerow, Eric Greenfield, Katherine Hammond, Julie Harris, Eric Harrington, Marilyn Higgins, David Howard, Janette Johnson, Douglas S Jones, Roy Kapp, Brad Kooiker, Chris Kosik, Karen Kujawa, Cindy Lee, Randy Lester, Micki Maxwell, Dana Noble, Gina Noble, Jack Noble, Stephen Noble, Karla Norstrom, Freddy Ouding, Mike Ouding, Lauren Stark, Barbara Palkowski, Diane Petro, Cindy Price, Jay Price, Kathleen Smothers, Lauren Stark, Carmen Tanis, Sherry Trautman, Kevin Trayer, Judy Uminn, Cara Washington, Lissa Weaver, Margie Weaver, Shelly Weaver, Steve Weaver, Annette White

Celebrating Volunteers (who helped at Art Hops, Explore Glass Art Day, Kalamazoo Museum and administrative/office support)

Lucy Asbury, Joanna Barnes, Steve Baxter, Tracy Bell, Dawn Bennett-Dailey, Denise Black, Rebecca Boase, Sam Boase-Miller, Susan Bombardt, Judy Borden, Terry Borden, Sam Brown, Becky Chadwell, Craig Chadwell, Pauline Cox, Jodi Detwiler, Marty Detwiler, Jennifer DiGiuseppe, Laurie Donnette, David Fening, Michael Fortin, Larry Hewartson, Linda Kekic, Ellen Kohler, Judith Konesni, Karen Kujawa, Ian Lane, Tim Lane, Bobbie Larkin-Lane, Josh Marr, Casey McCoy, Megan McCoy, Shawn McComb, Frank Meints, Diann Morris, Michael Morris, Sally Pritko, Nancy Rowlett, RSVP group from Senior. Services, Donna-Grace Schwenter, Jacob Shaff, Tiffany Speet, Allison Sturm, Julie Taborn

Our Mission Statement:

The West Michigan Glass Art Center is a non-profit organization dedicated to *teaching, creating and promoting glass art.*

We provide resources, facilities and opportunities for new and established artists to develop and enhance their skills and network with others.

Our Vision:

A nationally recognized, state-of-the-art, public-access glass art center emphasizing hands-on learning and creating glass art with all mediums including stained glass, mosaic, lampworking, kiln-forming, casting and glass blowing.

Board of Directors

Michael S. Morris, President
Larry Galdes, Vice President
Frank Meints, Treasurer
Linda Kekic, Secretary
Samuel Brown, At-Large
Dawn Bennett-Dailey
Susan Bombardt
Dave Boslar
Rebecca Chadwell
Ellen Kohler
Ian Lane
Jason Martin
Casey McCoy
Julie Taborn

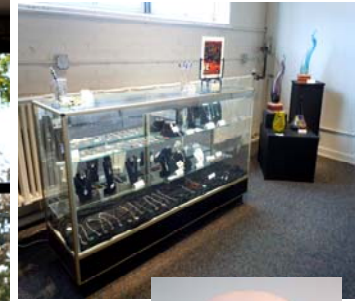
*"The glass is magic. It's addictive.
You've got to love it and if you love it,
it will allow you to do things to it."*

Elio Quarisa
Italian Master Glassblower

Reflections Gallery

MEMBERS WANTED! To display and sell your glass artwork at *your* gallery. Since opening the gallery in September - December 2010, 261 items were sold by member artists resulting in \$4,395 for the artists and \$1,659 for the Glass Art Center! Please be sure to submit a piece or two for the member's Gallery Exhibit running throughout the month of April = Michigan Glass Month.

You could win a fabulous prize!



Gallery Hours:
Mon-Thur. 9am-4:30pm
Fri. 9am-3:30pm
Sat. noon-5pm



326 W. Kalamazoo Ave. Suite 100
Kalamazoo, MI 49007-3300



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