



For Quincy artist, the (stained) glass is always half full

BY SEBASTIAN MORAGA
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For Eva Pedersen, there's nothing but good memories in her shop.

Forget the tiny cuts, the tiny burns, the boxes upon boxes of Band-Aids and other brands. Yes, her hobby can be frustrating, and a bit ouchy at times, but she's devoted to it.

"It's the colors, when the light comes through, and it shines through it; it's breathtaking to me, and I still enjoy it as much as I did 30 years ago," she says when asked what is it about working with stained glass that does it for her.

Oddly, she began her journey as a stained-glass artist in the Puget Sound area, not exactly Sunshine Central. A resident of Quincy since her retirement from the Stanwood-Camano School District in 2014, she still treasures the memories of those rare sun-bathed days and the way her first attempts at artistry glowed in the light.

"I needed a dining room lamp, and they were too expensive," she said of her first days in the world of stained-glass arts. "So a girlfriend and I took a class in Lynnwood, and we both made ourselves a dining-room lamp and we



learned how to do stained glass. I still even use some of the same tools I purchased then."

Her pal from the early days is still her pal now, and "is one of my biggest fans," Pedersen says.

And even in the gray skies of the Puget Sound, the stained glass made things better.

"When you got a stained-glass window, it definitely improves what's going on outside," she says with a laugh.

The hobby can be frustrating at times, and projects don't have a quick turnaround or an easy path from idea to completion, she said. But it's her hobby.

"You break things and you have to handle a 700-degree soldering iron and you have to wear safety glasses and gloves. It can be challenging but it's also very rewarding," she said. "And of course, you can't do it in the living room, you can't do it on the carpet,

you can't do it where there's children. You gotta have a little place where you can walk away and lock it up."

Despite this, Pedersen insists that hers is not a solitary hobby. People are always welcome to come in to her shop, and share their impressions, and of course, listen to a story or two behind each piece.

The hobby can be expensive at times, but it's worthwhile. Grandchildren get a new Christmas ornament ev-

ery year, and it helps when friends leave behind supplies for her, like her friend Laurie from Maltby in Snohomish County did.

As attached as she is to her hobby, she is not attached to her pieces. Once they have reached the new owner's hands, and she's taken a picture for her scrapbook, she's done with it, and convinced that despite all the work, the piece is now in the right hands.

"It's just thrilling," she says. "To make something that they treasure."



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- Tuesday, November 23 at 5:30pm
- Tuesday, December 14 at 5:30pm
- Tuesday, January 11 at 5:30pm
- Tuesday, January 25 at 5:30pm



Location: Quincy Middle School Library & via Zoom
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