I would like to introduce you to Dorothy Maddy. It is important that people know who she was and what she did to merit having a Scholarship Fund established in her name by the Stained Glass Association of America.

To begin with, I know that you would find it easy to be friends with Dot. She was bright and had a quiet, sparkly personality all her own. When you talked with her, she listened intently to what you had to say. At heart, she was basically a teacher; she always wanted to learn every technical and artistic nuance of stained glass. Her intention was always to pass on what she knew to anyone who might want to learn.

When The Stained Glass School was first established in North Adams, MA, she attended classes from 1977 to 1979. Dot studied the art of stained glass painting with Richard Millard and Albinas Elskus. It was also then that she became a member of the Education Committee of the SGAA. She moved her Tree Top Studio from St. Louis to New Jersey and then to Scottsdale, AZ, in 1980. In Scottsdale, she established her credentials with a steady stream of articles on glass paints and painting that were published in The Stained Glass Quarterly, Glass Art, Glass Craft News and Professional Stained Glass.

Dot demonstrated stained glass painting at all of the stained glass shows from 1983 through 1990. During the many hours that she spent teaching, she was ever the attentive and friendly teacher; she was never too busy to answer a question or to demonstrate a different technique. Dorothy became a teacher with a national classroom, holding classes at the major retail dealers throughout the country.

When the SGAA decided that a Reference and Technical Manual was needed as a basis of reference for the teacher-certification program, Dot was in charge of the chapters on painting and silk-screening. With the help of experts she selected, Dot was able to put together a lucid and encyclopedic reference chapter; her efforts are still a real service to the stained glass family. When a second edition of the Reference and Technical Manual was undertaken two years later, Dot again — as her last major SGAA project — improved and polished all the information to bring forth an even more complete work.

Mindful as she was of the power of teaching to elevate an art, Dot always remained true to her vision of making stained glass painting more accessible to all who desired her help. Dorothy Maddy knew that education will always help the artist create finer work; that is the basic reason for the Dorothy Maddy Scholarship Fund.

For more information

For information about the Dorothy L. Maddy Scholarship Fund, visit stainedglassschool.org or call 800-438-9581.

For information about other SGAA scholarships, visit stainedglassschool.org.

For information about the SGAA’s annual silent auction, call SGAA headquarters at 800-438-9881.

To learn more about Dorothy L. Maddy’s writing and teaching, see the article “Silver Staining,” available online at stainedglassquarterly.com. It is reprinted from the Fall 1984 issue of Stained Glass Quarterly magazine.