After the holiday hoopla has quieted down, and you’ve worn yourself out thinking of everyone else in your life, enjoy making a fun stained glass project (or two) just for yourself. We’ve got some great ideas to usher in a breath of fresh spring air…no matter what the weather outside!

3-D Flower Boxes
As functional as they are beautiful, three dimensional flower boxes can be used to display real plants, straw flowers, or silk plants. We love the simple appeal of the Picket Fence pattern in Terra Parma’s “Garden Delight” pattern book (Stained Glass Images). The original pattern houses two 4-inch flowerpots, but, if you feel comfortable enough with your skills, you might try adding or subtracting a few fence “boards” to accommodate other sized planters or pot arrangements. (If you’re enlarging the pattern, you may want to add reinforcements such as zinc rail on the inside of the four walls — for added stability). You can also build multiple boxes, and display them side-by-side creating the illusion of a single long flower box and avoid the need to make any pattern modifications. Throughout the book, Terra offers many great ideas for decorative, and functional projects that will help you feel like spring is near.

Suncatchers!
In keeping with the “spring is coming” theme of this issue, we’ve provided you with a couple of easy glass options to help chase away the winter blahs. Make a pair of the Iris Corners on page 8 to visually frame a window, as though it were built in. The two-tone Waterglass® used in the design adds subtle movement and realism. We also designed the cute little Potted Primrose on page 6, which you can choose to hang as a suncatcher, or brighten a windowsill using several pots in a row on wooden stands. The glass used in the project was chosen for color as well as a balanced translucency — to insure that it looks bright and cheery in any lighting. (This is an outstanding characteristic of our Pearl Opal and Crystal Opal families, by the way.)

Dimensional Hanging Flower Baskets
Teny Nudson offers some fun and clever patterns in her book, “Hanging Gardens” (CKE). She’s created a wide range of charming flower baskets with dimensional overhanging blossoms and draping leaves. Because these projects are constructed in a layered fashion they are very forgiving to work with and the results are very lifelike — but no watering required! She uses lead came in the patterns for flexibility and strength, and encourages personal creativity in working with the designs.

The days may still be short and the nights long and cold, but spring will be here — we promise! In the meantime, you might as well enjoy yourself as you prepare your heart and your home for its arrival. Get some glass, get creative and lift your spirits.
April is right around the corner and, of course, with that comes the Annual Glass Craft & Bead Expo! The Expo will be held April 1-5, 2009 at the beautiful South Point Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas.

The folks putting the 2009 extravaganza together are promising the most exciting show yet! The show floor has been expanded to accommodate even more of the newest and innovative technologies the glass art industry has to offer. Educational and fun live demonstrations will give attendees a first-hand look into the very hottest and coolest products and techniques.

Over 250 workshops and classes are being offered in just about every field of glass art—and all are taught by the industry’s leading professionals. Take a look online to see the entire list of learning opportunities. The world renowned Peter McGrain is scheduled to host a special seminar on Thursday evening titled: Spectacular Stained Glass: Rebirth of the Illuminated Window.

As if the expanded show floor, the latest in live demonstrations and educational courses, aren’t enough to draw you to Vegas this April—the 1st Ever International Hot Glass Invitational is absolutely guaranteed to dazzle and awe anyone with a passion for glass. Skilled Glass artists from around the world will come to show off their talents at this judged event.

The competition will be held in the Equestrian Center located next to the exhibition hall. This is a huge arena with four gigantic flat screen monitors that face all sides of the seating area. The goal is to provide the audience with the largest most dramatic glass sculptures and vessels that the timed sessions will allow. Some of the most renowned hot glass flamework and furnace work artists from around the world have been invited to compete. For more information, and to purchase tickets for this amazing event, go to: www.internationalglassinvitational.com

As always some of the most beautiful works of glass art at the show will be on display at the juried Gallery of Excellence. All are encouraged to submit pieces to be in the field of their expertise in either amateur or professional categories.

For information on class registration and additional information regarding the Glass Craft & Bead Expo 2009 visit www.glasscraftexpo.com. We hope to see you all there!
Everything Old is New Again!

Ted Wolff loves working with stained glass. He also loves collecting and restoring antique radios. About seven years ago, he found a way to combine these two passions, creating a unique product and a new customer base.

Ted knew that back in the 1930’s, some radio cabinets incorporated mirrored glass. Utilizing Spectrum SilverCoats™ he was able to develop a similar effect that would give new life to forgotten old radios. Some of Ted’s chassis designs are based on historic original cabinets, but others are from his own imagination. Either way, the results are always the same…radios that sing again with style and flair.

The radios are fully functional, but the artist recommends only keeping the radios on for short periods of time since heat can build up inside the chassis. Ted takes care to construct the cabinets so that they look great even from the back (which is held in place with magnets allowing access to the inside chassis). He even utilizes genuine speaker cloth for the speaker grills.

When Ted completes a radio, he places it for sale on eBay® along with a detailed explanation of the original chassis, how the cabinet was constructed, and any special care that’s necessary. As you might expect, Ted is developing a loyal audience for these one-of-a-kind novelties!

New System 96 Catalog

Have you seen the System 96 catalog yet? It’s brand new and as hot as fusing itself. The sixteen pages are brimming with over 500 products and gorgeous new works by many of the finest artists in the industry. If you don’t have a copy yet, pick one up at your favorite System 96 Retailer’s or view/download it online at system96.com.

Fuse Boxes to the Rescue!

Building a colorful collection of glass has never been easier or more affordable! In glass work, it’s important to have choices that allow your creativity to flourish. Understanding this, Spectrum has put together two great ways for you to stock up on System 96 glass and save money at the same time.

FuseBox-20
Twenty square feet of Tested Compatible Spectrum System 96 “T-Glass” in large 12 x 12in. squares. A great mix of color at an unbeatable price.

FuseBox-10
Ten 12 x 12in. squares of Tested Compatible Spectrum System 96 “T-Glass” — carefully mixed for a variety of both color and glass type. The perfect way to build your personal palette.

Do you also have a favorite collectible? Antique dolls, cars, tin-toys…no matter what the category and genre, you might find that you can develop a connection between your art glass skills and these seemingly unrelated objects. With a little imagination, planning and your unbridled passion for creativity, you might just create an original design that could create a whole new audience for your art!
Stand up and walk! With these new innovative molds from Creative Paradise, you can make fused figures that stand upright and even look like they're taking a stroll. Mr. Darwin would surely approve of this fusing evolution, as all kinds of glass creatures leave their flat, 2-dimensional destinies behind and begin to “walk” about!

How they work. Each of the four variations of the mold is constructed to allow for a project’s legs (or fins, feathers — whatever you dream up) to separate into a stable, inverted “V” shape in the slump process. One leg raises while the next one lowers. When complete, the piece will balance upright on its own!

The molds are being offered in a range of sizes and configurations (while still fitting into a hobby kiln) and each one ships with a diagram to help you plan your project. Use a pattern or draw your own design that fits the template. The manufacturer suggests tracing the outlines of the diagram directly onto a piece of Kiln Shelf Paper to insure you stay within the dimensions of the mold (a pencil works best). Also remember you must overlap glass pieces slightly as you assemble your figures so that the sections fuse together properly.

The clever folks at Creative Paradise have used the molds to make a Bride & Groom walking down the isle, a tiny Deer ornament, a tall, proud, Giraffe, a snuggling Flamingo Pair, a beautiful Parrot, and even a hungry Shark balancing on its fins! They promise that patterns will be available soon from their website. We couldn’t wait to try our hand at designing something for these molds, so we created the little Striped Cat pattern on page 5 using the GM 39.

As if they’re boarding Noah’s Ark, two-legged creations can go by pairs into the same mold, holding hands or nuzzling one another. Four legged figures require the full mold, but building families is easy with the different sized molds available.

Get ready to immortalize family members in glass — or fuse an entire menagerie of four-footed friends! Visit your supplier today and see for yourself how your fusing evolves!

**Stand Up Dimensional Mold**

**Available Sizes:**
- GM 35 Stand up #1 – 8” x 6”
- GM 39 Stand up #2 – 7 x 8.5”
- GM 40 Baby – 4.5” x 3.5”
- GM 41 Large – 12” x 8.5”

Parrot, Reindeer, and Shark by Dwayne Wentworth; Flamingos by Jon Dean; Giraffe by Creative Paradise; Bride and Groom by Stephanie O'Toole.

Note that paints were used very effectively in these examples to add detail.

At left: GM 40 Baby Stand Up mold.
1. Using a pencil, trace the outline of the pattern onto a sheet of Kiln Shelf Paper.

2. Carefully cut the cat’s body, head, tail, ears and legs out of 200SF White glass.

3. Assemble the pieces onto the Shelf Paper pattern, remembering to slightly overlap each area you want to fuse together.

4. Using nippers, nip small 1009SF Black triangles and place around cat according to design.

5. Add remaining detail in the second layer as shown or desired.

6. Contour or Tack fuse.

7. Slump using the GM 39 Stand Up Mold by Creative Paradise according to manufacturer’s directions.
See your local retailer for this free pattern.

Spectrum Glass Suggestions
A. 397-2SF Crystal Opal Pink
B. 6022-82CC Congo
C. 6067-83CC Mimosa
D. 218-71SF Stone
E. 6011-85CC Hawkwings
This Spectrum Pattern of the Month comes from the book “Gallery of Winners” published by CKE.

See your local retailer for this free pattern or to purchase the book.

**Spectrum Glass Suggestions**  
A. 100A Clear Artique®  
B. 132A Light Blue Artique  
C. 152A Ruby Red Artique  
D. 523-2A Teal Artique  
E. 533-1A Sky Blue Artique  
F. 543-2A Grape Artique  
G. 171A Orange Artique  
H. 161A Yellow Artique
This Spectrum Pattern of the Month comes from the book “Cozy Corners” by Dionē Roberts.

See your local retailer for this free pattern or to purchase the book.

Spectrum Glass Suggestions
A. 444-1W Violet/ Purple Waterglass®
B. 422-1W Olive/ Sea Green Waterglass
C. BR/308 Clear/ White Baroque™
D. 161W Yellow Waterglass