

Trash into treasure

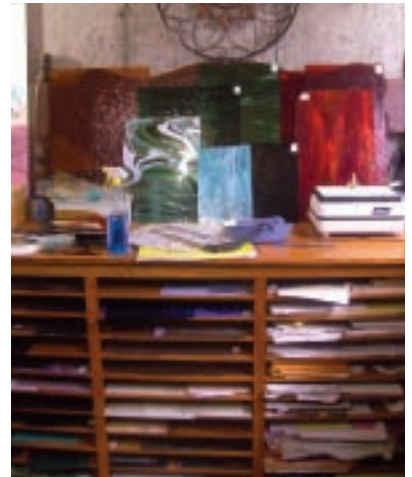
It's just the lid to a mason jar — but to Veronica Schubert, a stained glass artist from Newbury, it's an idea. She used it as the centerpiece of a stained glass window hanging, surrounding it with all different types (and colors) of textured, cathedral and wavy glass.

"I love to make use of old things as best as I can," Schubert says. "I think about what it used to be and what I can make with it." She stands in her basement workshop, surrounded by bits and pieces of recycled materials: Vases, lamp tops, chandelier glass, jar lids, plates and glasses which she finds at the Newbury Dump Shop, yard sales and antique stores. She is inspired by the old, finding beauty in what others might consider trash. "Look at how beautiful these are," says Schubert as she runs her fingers through a bin of crystal chandelier teardrops and beads. "I'm not sure what they'll go into, but I'll find some-

thing." Case in point: in Schubert's living room, a wood-framed glass top of an old coffee table was turned into a stunning depiction of the tree of life.

A few of Schubert's pieces can be seen at the Tatewell Gallery in New London, but what she really enjoys is creating stained glass for clients. She recently completed a custom stained glass window for a new house in Wilmot, meeting with the homeowners to get a feel of the house and their design ideas. "I would rather have someone say, 'This is what we want — can we do it?' than create something for retail sale. Everyone's style is different," she says.

Schubert learned the art of stained glass seven years ago from a friend juried by the League of N.H. Craftsmen, and hasn't stopped since. She makes two types of stained glass: the traditional method of cutting, assembling and soldering glass items and painted glass.



Painting can be a less expensive alternative; with high quality paints and rubber "leading" outlining the design, only those in the know will be able to tell that it isn't a traditional stained glass piece.

Glass isn't the only thing Schubert scoops up on her trips around town; she'll also collect old books — from drawing books to bird books — flyers, magazines, calendars, "anything to inspire or provide detail," she says. Her workspace is an old ad file desk that the *Argus-Champion* discarded as it moved from Newbury to New London. "I like to turn old things into something someone wants — a treasured piece that makes you feel a certain way when you look at it."

WHO: Newbury resident and artist Veronica Schubert

WHAT: Custom stained glass for your home

HOW MUCH: Price ranges from \$50 to \$300, depending on the intensity of the project

WHY: Add a little sparkle to your home

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Veronica Schubert transforms a mason jar lid into a work of art.