

David Nulman

Monsey, New York

In quest for the rainbow's potential and the range of music's patterns, David Nulman employs his days pursuing art and music. He writes children's stories, plays keyboard and fretted instruments, teaches music in yeshivas, does carpentry and creates stained glass art. A graduate of Queens College and a one-time rabbinic student, Nulman brings to each endeavor a vision and fervor.

Nulman's craft work began in his youth. He started with carpentry, but the texture—the stickiness—of shellac and varnish and stains annoyed him. When he later discovered the possibilities in stained glass, he was electrified at the prospect of getting such color without the mess. In his mid-20's, Nulman took a one-day course in stained glass making and augmented his knowledge through reading and experiment. He was inspired by the work of Ron Mattia who "not only broke the boundaries," says Nulman, "he *boiled beyond* the boundaries" achieving a sense of three dimensions. Pursuing greater knowledge of the art, Nulman studied with Mattia and Albinas Elksus. And then he saw Tsirl Waletsky's papercuts (see the Paper Arts section). He was captivated: "They have a wonderful energy,

Tsirl's designs, that leads you running on from one place to another and another." He contacted her. Since 1980 his stained glass has been designed in collaboration with Waletsky—except once. "And once was enough to teach me my lesson," he says.

Though Nulman uses traditional lead comes sometimes to hold the glass, he more often depends on the Tiffany technique of edging the glass with copper foil. Though usually used for small works, foil serves Nulman's determination to achieve both the



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Backlit Panel: "Tree of Life," by David Nulman, design by Tsirl Waletsky. Stained glass, foil technique, c. 3 x 4'. Inscription: "It is a tree of life" (Proverbs 3:18). Hebrew Tabernacle, New York City. Photo by Allen Rokach. Vigorous new growth rises, twined like the spiral stems of a havdalah candle.

Etrog Container, by David Nulman, design by Tsirl Waletsky. Stained glass, c. 3 x 5 x 2 1/2". Photo by Allen Rokach. Collection of the Jewish Museum, New York. A stylized etrog appears on the lid.