



Looking Forwards

NEXT ZOOM MEETING

Cassirer and Family at 3:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada) on March 7, 2021

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82160454610>

Meeting ID: 821 6045 4610

Dial +1 929 205 6099 (New York) Or worldwide find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82160454610>

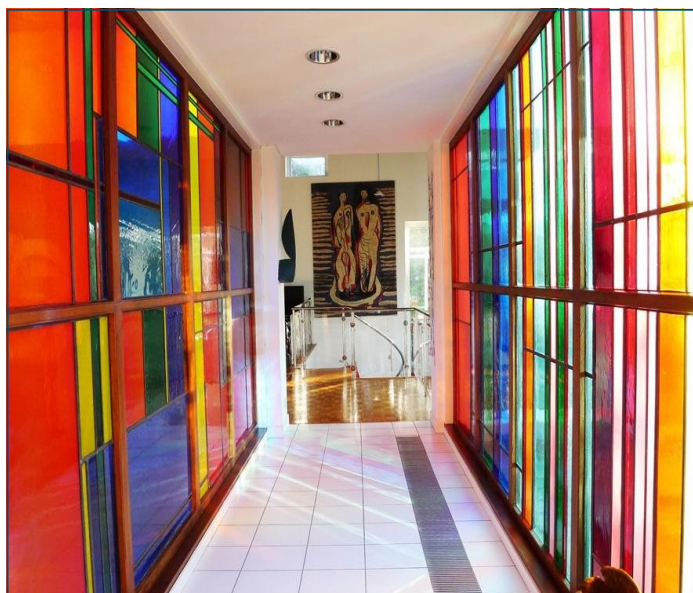
* Design by Bronwen Bender

Cass Family

Nikki Cass

"My artmaking and the fight against injustice began young and continues as a core part of my life. I carried a torch for fighting injustice early. I joined Amnesty International in my 20s and wrote letters to governments, prisoners and people facing persecution around the world. I have continued to campaign against injustice and currently support asylum seekers here in Swansea." In 1986, Nikki's life took a new direction when Uncle and Aunt, Eric and Jean Cass commissioned her to make a twelve-square metre 'Corridor of Coloured Light' for an extension to their home. This work was a catalyst for over 30 years of glassmaking. Recently, involvement with counselling young people and safeguarding children led her to return to University in 2018 to undertake an MA in Art Psychotherapy. This work has enabled her to

support and celebrate core humanistic values; emphasising the personal worth of the individual, the centrality of human values, and the creative, active nature of human beings. Her daughters Bronwen and Ruby Bender are both artists.



Corridor of Coloured Light, Bleep, Surrey. 1986 by Nikki Cass.

"There is a conceptual depth as well as a purely visual depth. The first is discovered by science; the second is revealed in art. The first aids us in understanding the reasons of things; the second in seeing their forms." - Ernst Cassirer

Waller Family

Dennis Waller

"I am absolutely certain that when Julie (Cassirer) Bondi gave birth to her fifth child, Edith, in 1893 she could not imagine that in less than fifty years. Edith, her husband Max Waller and their two sons, Robert Klaus and Hans, would flee their home in Austria forever, that Klaus would become a physician not in Vienna but in the United States, and his two children Dennis and Candi would grow up not thinking of themselves as Jewish." Such are the unpredictable events of history! Being only nine when Klaus died in a freak automobile accident in 1952 (six weeks after completing his residency in pathology), Dennis has only a few vague memories of Klaus. Candi has no memory of him at all being only ten weeks old when he died.

Consequently, Dennis' and Candi's personalities, views and values were formed chiefly by their mother, Marion (Van

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Cass Family (Con't)

Bronwen Bender

Bronwen Bender was born in Wales, UK in 1991. Having creative parents as well as visits to Grandfather Wilfred Cass, and Great Uncle and Aunt Eric and Jean Cass' homes and gardens, which were full of contemporary art, were no doubt a catalyst for creativity and a future in the Arts. Bronwen studied illustration at Edinburgh University <<https://brwnb.tumblr.com>> and spent six years living in Australia working in creative roles that supported diverse communities and travelled widely. She also experienced an inspirational month travelling around Japan before returning to the UK. She is currently working at Tate Modern on the volunteer team. Her art is highlighted on page one.

Ruby Bender

Ruby's childhood was full of art and creativity. Ruby studied Fine Art and Art History at Goldsmith's University in London. She currently lives in London and has a studio where she continues her creative practice making artwork, sculpture, and furniture. Ruby's art work is highlighted below and at <<https://rubybender.cargo.site>>.



Waller Family (con't)

Nostrand) Waller, who suddenly became a single parent at 34. She recovered from this profound shock by committing herself to obtaining first an MS and then a PhD degree while working full-time and running the research lab on blood grouping that Klaus had established as a medical student. She ultimately became a professor of medicine in addition to raising two young children! Quite frankly, no one knows how she did it!

Nonetheless, as a result, the opinions and values that Marion instilled in Dennis and Candi were (1) to be frugal because unpredictable tragic events can occur; (2) believe that science is the only reliable guide to truth and knowledge; (3) respect and educate women because they are the most effective agents to improve society; (4) always help those who are less fortunate; and (5) never miss an opportunity to denounce and vote against conservatives and republicans.

Dennis' wife, Kathy, grew up in modest circumstances in the rough and tumble mining town of Butte, Montana, where she became a materials engineer in the late 1970s. Needless to say, hard work, determination, and grit are part of her makeup, too, because they were a key addition for passing the required engineering courses. Many engineering professors of the day (and too many still) thought that women should not be engineers. Kathy's strong, liberal mother was completely supportive of Kathy, although she quietly worried that a

school teacher might be a better choice for her daughter. Quite sadly, Kathy's mother did not live long enough to see Kathy become a professor.

Kathy's mother arranged early on for Kathy's paternal grandfather to teach her the clarinet and inspired within her a deep love of music. Kathy has always said the most influential person in her youth was her mother who helped shape Kathy into the very woman her mother always wanted to be. Kathy spent most of her career at Western Washington University in Bellingham, Washington, and there lived a completely predictable academic life. She rose through the various ranks and retired as Dean of the Graduate School and Vice Provost for Research. In short, she published enough to put anyone to sleep quickly. While she was Chair, Kathy realized that devoting every waking hour to a career and her students was not enough for her. Little did Kathy know that a man named Dennis was turning a new chapter in his life, too. Kathy and Dennis met for a long walk around Lake Padden in 2000. That was followed by an electric bicycle race at Western, then a long, long chat at a local brewpub. Something magical happened - each met their soul mate. Dennis wonderfully brought Mika and Sarah and then Andrew and Sophia to Kathy for which she is grateful and deeply thankful.

Kathy and Dennis quite literally saved each other, and the twenty years since they met have been the happiest of their adult lives. They also check all three boxes of progressive thought: they are Prius driving liberal vegans!