



NEXT MEETING

When: December 4, 2021

Where: VIA BELLA

5412 S. LaGrange Rd.

Countryside, IL

AGENDA:

11:00 a.m. Social/Meeting

11:45 Luncheon

PARK/ENTER in REAR

ENCLOSED:

2022 Membership Form

Dec. 4 Luncheon Reservation Form

Inside this issue:

President's Comments	1-2
Vice-President's Corner	1-3
Meeting Recap	4
Meeting Photos	7
North to Milwaukee	8
Remembering Charles Lotton	9
Club Calendar	13



The Society Prepares to Prepare the

FEAST

President's Comments ...



Hopefully, members have received their Covid-19 and regular flu vaccines and all of your families are doing well. This is very important for you and your families.

We held our second in-person meeting on Oct. 9. We had 25 members attending in-person and 3 on Zoom. This was our

second use of Zoom at the meeting. Once again, our thanks to **Walter Kreitling** who handled the camera for the meeting itself, Joanne's presentation, and the What's It by **Eddie and Neil**, and last but not least, the election of our officers for 2022. The officers are: **Jackie Alton**, President; Vice President, **Joanne Donovan**; **Angela McEntee**, Secretary; **Bev Kennett**, Treasurer; and **Sally Cousineau**, Membership Chairman. We did not do the Zoom for the raffle/auction. I will be firming up our Committee Chairmanships before the end of the year.

Speaking of the raffle/auction, we had spectacular participation by members who donated great glass items and various others, as well as many books that had been donated by the families of **Jean Ostendorp** and **Ed Petrowski**. This was a lot of fun

continued on page 2 ...

Vice-President's Corner ...



From the first frost on the pumpkin through the shorter days of the year that are filled with many celebrations, Holiday Greetings to all of you!

Looking back towards the October meeting, I almost have no words. The annual "Bag Raffle" was a tremendous success. Words such as stupendous and humongous come to mind also. Suffice it to say, there were 6 8' tables full of treasures that enticed us all. Thank you so much to everyone who contributed items, bought tickets, helped set up and were patient as we drew the names of the many winners. I'd like to give a special shout out to **Karen Smit**, **David Taylor** and **Silvano Brugioni**, whose help ensured the raffle process proceeded smoothly. Without their assistance, we would have been challenged to leave the American Legion by our 3 p.m. deadline!

continued on page 3 ...

... President's comments continues

and members went home with many pieces to enjoy and many excellent reference books. Raffle ticket sales went rather well.

Once again, I would like to thank **Walter Kreitling** for handling Zoom, and **Joanne Donovan** for her wonderful program, which will be detailed in **Bev Kennett's** minutes.

For our December 4 meeting at Via Bella in LaGrange, please see Joanne Donovan's comments and please note that the reservation form for the luncheon is enclosed with this newsletter. Remember, there isn't a presentation at this meeting – it is filled with fun and socializing and, of course, food. You will also be permitted to bring cookies.

Also enclosed is the membership renewal form for 2022. Please complete this form and send it in as instructed.

At present, Governor Pritzker is maintaining the mask mandate and social distancing protocol. Please heed the requirements that will be in force at the time of the Dec. 4 luncheon. Remember, safety first.

News about our show: **Silvano Brugioni** reported that all is going along well and he was able to possibly add a few dealers he spoke to at the Fostoria show. He also had post cards with him for promoting our show in March for members to distribute.

Flea Market/Collectors' Market: This is still planned for **Nov. 7** at the Legion Hall. Hopefully, you will join us and take tables to sell items you no longer need/want. Contact **Alice Ewert** to see if tables are still available. There will be a minimum of two tables per member but, 2 members can share two adjoining tables, if you only need one table. If the newsletter arrives after Nov. 7, I hope you were able to participate in the Flea Market.

I hope that many of you were able to attend the Milwaukee club show on the weekend of October 16 and 17, and that you found some special items for your collections. Or, something to start a new collection.

Unfortunately, I was just informed a few days before our October meeting that the Tiffin Glass Show in Tiffin, OH, Nov. 13-14, 2021, was cancelled. Hopefully, they will be able to reschedule for next June, their usual time for the show.

Stay well and stay safe.

That's it for now. I look forward to seeing you at the December meeting!

Jackie Alton,
President



Vice-President's Corner continued

It was a pleasure to give a short presentation on Petal by Federal Glass. Yes, it was very limited in the number of items made, but it certainly was used creatively to make a variety of serving options. I imagine most of us have come across Petal in the wild and now you know a little more about it.

Our next gathering will be the Holiday Luncheon. We will meet at Via Bella in Countryside on Saturday, December 4th. Please see the reservation form for details. **I must have a guest count by November 26th**. If you plan to attend, please drop your reservation in the mail or get in touch with **Bette Bruce** or myself (Joanne Donovan). Our holiday party will feature:

continued on page 3 ...

Vice-President's Corner continued

- A Prize Guy Raffle – and he never disappoints (no pressure Ken)
- A Find of the Year competition in the following categories:
 - Hand Made or Elegant
 - Adam to Windsor
 - Best Find under \$10.00
 - Rare (items that are hard to find and are rarely seen)
 - You may enter glass in more than one category
 - Winners in each category receive a free Bingo card.
- **BINGO and DIRTY BINGO** where we try to capture and keep the great prizes provided by the Prize Guy.
- **We can bring cookies** for a cookie exchange and small take home containers will be provided, unless all the goodies are consumed on site!



Looking forward to 2022 and the February 12th meeting, I would like to have presentation(s) on Naughty and Nude Glassware. I'm also arranging for an Estate Sale company owner to give a presentation on their business. Further details will be provided in the next newsletter.

I do hope to see all of you in December at the luncheon. Stay safe and may peace be with you throughout the holiday season.

Joanne Donovan, Vice President

At Via Bella ... Park in the rear, use Banquet Entrance



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRIZE GUY

We went most of the summer virtually without a drop of rain. Now, here it is early October and we got rain and green leaves. Fortunately not stormy rains, but we got rain. It's difficult to think in terms of a holiday raffle and Dirty Bingo under these circumstances, but think we must and think we shall.

In my last article I noted that I was already working on the October and December events! Well, that was and is true. Actually, I already have four or five items cleaned and tagged and ready to be won. That's all good news. I have also added a few interesting prize candidates since my last article. One

of those items is a spectacular Fostoria brocaded console set, which I feel was a GREAT find.

My plan this year isn't much different than it's been over the last several years. The December raffle will consist of six prizes. Each raffle prize will be packed and wrapped in a fashion suggesting holiday gift giving. Kinda' like a gift exchange, except that you can't take it back for a different size or color. Although my prize list isn't firm, some of the candidates are: glass animals, carnival glass, and any of several vases.

And now we come to the Dirty Bingo. Again, no big change. The usual dozen prizes plus a SURPRISE PRIZE for a total of 13 opportunities. As you will recall, while the prize pool lasts, the winner of each bingo game selects one of the remaining 13 prizes. When all 13 prizes have been dispensed, the fun and stealing begin. Stealing? This is when we learn what the term "DIRTY BINGO" really means.

Oh by the way, remember the SURPRISE PRIZE? Well, it is subject to one and only one rule: the prize could be something great or it could be something horrible. It will be discreetly and unattractively wrapped. If you pick it as your DIRTY BINGO prize, it is yours to keep - IT CANNOT BE STOLEN. If it's good, or bad, or somewhere in between it's yours and yours only to keep for eternity.

Happy junkin', see you in December.

Ken Pakula, THE PRIZE GUY





October 9th MEETING

Submitted by Beverly Kennett, Secretary

Jackie Alton welcomed everyone and called the meeting at the American Legion Hall at 11:19 a.m.

Three members joined on our Zoom call and there were 25 people in attendance at the meeting, with an additional 2 who joined in the middle of the auction.

The minutes from the August 7th meeting were posted in the society page. They were accepted as published.

The following announcements were made . . .

Lorraine Campione, a club member, was killed while walking when she was hit by a car 2 years ago. A newspaper reports that he recently hit 3 more people while drunk.

Committee Reports:

Nominating: Jackie Alton announced the uncontested slate of officers as follows . . .

President: Jackie Alton
 Vice-president: Joanne Donovan
 Treasurer: Beverly Kennett
 Secretary: Angela McEntee
 Membership Secretary: Sally Cousineau

Lana Larsen, Beverly Kennett and Judy O'Brien served as the nominating committee. Alice Ewert moved that the proposed slate be accepted as is. Mary Losew provided a second. The motion was passed. Alice Ewert moved to accept the slate due to no alternate candidates and Jay Smit seconded the motion. The slate was approved for 2021.

Treasurer's Report: Bette Bruce thanked everyone for the sympathy cards on the loss of her husband. She reported disbursements of \$700.83 bringing the balance in the General Fund to \$2,888.91. She also reported the Money Market fund balance of \$17,082.53.

Membership Report: N/A

Vice President's Report: Joanne Donovan thanked everyone who brought items for the auction and for those who helped set up the items. There was a plethora of great auction items to bid on!

Joanne reported that our holiday party will be held at Via Bella restaurant in Countryside. For current safety reasons, we will be served individual plated meals instead of the traditional family style. Check the newsletter for the reservation insert for meal menu and prices. During the party, we will hold our "Best Find" contests again. Check the newsletter for details. We WILL be allowed to bring treats to share them for dessert. Ken Pakula will bring a variety of raffle prizes again.

February programs are being chosen. If you have something you would like to share, contact Joanne to make arrangements.

Newsletter: David Taylor would like to receive reports in just over a week, after the Milwaukee Show. He would also like someone who attends the show to submit a short report. There will be inserts for membership renewals and sign-up forms for the holiday party in the upcoming newsletter.

March Show Report: Silvano Brugioni reported that he has been in contact with the Concord Plaza to confirm that we can still hold the March Show and Sale. He says everything is good to go. All but three dealers have submitted deposits and some dealers have already paid in full. Three dealers have had to drop out, so Silvano would like at least one more dealer to be in a better financial position, but he can add two more if we find them. He distributed show cards. Contact him if you would like more cards to distribute.

continued ...

Publicity: N/A

Flea Market report: Alice Ewert reported that the flea market is still on for November. There are 30 tables rented and she needs 34 to pay for the room. She is confident that she will find people to rent a few more tables. Alice will have advertising cards to put out. Karen suggested selling raffle tickets at the flea market instead of just giving every attendant one chance to win. It could potentially bring us some income.

Since Fall flea markets are more active than those in the Spring, Karen Smit suggested that we switch the dates of our October meeting and our November flea market to take advantage of buyers who are out shopping before it gets cold. She would also like to see us selling outside spaces in the parking lot, where the dealers provide their own tables. We could potentially have “No parking” in the lot to make room for more booth rentals. We could also stop charging admission, and solely ask for donations instead. In order for non-club members to participate as dealers, we can grant dealers the one-time membership, as we do for the March Show and Sale. Possibly members can be charged one fee for rental spaces and non-members charged more. Jackie has a copy of Karen’s notes, which will be brought up at the next board meeting.

Acquisition: N/A

Audit: N/A

Historian: N/A

Fundraising: N/A

Librarian’s Report: N/A

Old Business: The library display will be stocked on November 1st at the Indian Prairie library. Joanne asked for place settings in pink or blue to round out the display of all the colors. If anyone has any they would like to loan for display, let her know.

New Business: The meeting dates are slated for February 12th, April 9th, August 6th, October 8th. The June and December (potentially the 3rd) meetings will be determined at a later date.

President’s Report: N/A

Bette Bruce moved to close the meeting and Karen Smit seconded the motion. The meeting was closed at 11:52 pm.

Presentation #1:

Joanne Donovan presented her collection of Federal’s Petal pattern. Joanne made sure to explain to us that this is named Petal, not Petalware. The two names are often confused, yet they are different patterns. Joanne began her collection when she was helping a friend clean out a basement. There were plates that her friend let her keep, in their original Montgomery Wards box. Joanne is sorry now that she didn’t save the box.

In 1900, Federal was founded by 2 brothers, George and Robert Beady. They began by producing tumblers only, and later branched out into making bottles and jars. Then, they began producing a full range of pressed glass in crystal. They also made glass for restaurants, etc. The trademark for the Federal company is an “F” inside a shield, but not all pieces carry the mark. After World War II, Federal continued to produce table settings and some heat-proof glass in competition with Corning. In 1979, Federal discontinued making Petal and closed the company.

Joanne taught us that there is a distinct seam that runs through the middle star of the pattern. Reproductions do not have this seam. Typically, Petal is easily recognized. There are mainly serving pieces: three sizes of plates and bowls, candlesticks, and a hurricane lamp. The pieces were transformed into many different forms, such as a variety of leveled tidbit trays and a vase inside a bowl. Eventually, Federal produced the pattern in colors, including some flashed and iridescent versions, but it can primarily be found in crystal. Other than the iridescent ones, Joanne has not seen pieces made in color, so she will be looking for some of those to finish out her collection.

What’s It Table: The “What’s It” team attempted to identify an elegant Amethyst bowl, possibly from the depression era, but no one could identify it exactly, some thought it was from Cambridge. There was a Ruby vase, maybe Morgantown because of the crystal foot, a pink Champagne flute, listed as Fostoria Colony, but the stem was a dove. One of the flutes had a label that said “Made in Hungary,” proving the flutes were not made in America. Neil brought a piece, he thought was an inkwell. He thought the glass looked like Alacite. Some members thought it might be Akro Agate. Yes, members though it was, indeed, an inkwell.

Lana Larsen shared a beautiful iridescent tumbler she found that was made by Ron Hinkle. She was happy that Bev and Silvano shared info about him and his museum display during the August meeting, when they gave their report on their Fostoria Show experience.

Auction: The silent auction took up the remainder of the meeting. There were two tables full of identification guides from the collections of two previous members, as well as four more tables full of auction items. Ken's raffle pieces were intermixed with the other auction donations. A red and crystal Tiffin piece seemed to draw the most tickets in its brown bag. There were many winners throughout the meeting and even the two members, who showed up after the auction had begun and purchased tickets quickly, were winners. I think everyone went home happy, especially after enjoying our second meeting back in person.

SUNSHINE DEPARTMENT

If you know of one of our members who is ill, has had a loved one pass or just needs cheering up, please contact Christine Moran.

1. Email me at cdm1951@sbcglobal.net
2. Text me at 630 202-0129

PLEASE NOTE—Members should NOT call my home with messages as I will not receive them.

NEWSLETTER CONCERNS?

Contact the newsletter committee ...

Christine Moran -Newsletter Distribution-U.S. Mail

Bette Wittenberg-Newsletter Distribution-Email

Address Change?-Sally Cousineau

To offer content-David Taylor, Editor



A beautiful, thoughtful and prayerful card expressing our (20-30-40 Glass Society) admiration of Charles Lotton was sent to his family recently upon hearing of his passing. He will be missed by many in the world that enjoyed his glass artistry.



Bette Bruce is thankful to all who expressed their sympathy upon the passing of her husband Ken. Please remember Bette, as her son Robert, very recently passed away suddenly. A memorial will be held for Ken and Robert at a later date.



Christine and Tom Moran wish to thank everyone for their support at the loss of Tom's mother Helen, who turned 93 in August. At just 16 years of age she and four of her sisters had to leave their beloved Ireland to travel to Scotland to find jobs digging potatoes as there was no food or money in the family.



Lana Larsen appreciates the thoughts and prayers she is receiving for her surgery for lung cancer. She is holding a positive attitude and is determined to get through it. She has a stack of glass books ready for research during recuperation. We wish you a speedy recovery, Lana!

Tom wrote the following poem upon his mother's passing.

Just 'Tis

I helped my mother
down the stairs;
the same hands I once held
crossing greedy streets
stocked with hungry cars
that ate little children.
Same hands that pinned a note
on my shirt,
"Please sell Tom a pack of Newports".
I'm resigned to the reality
she won't live forever.
We conquer the stairs,
thank each other with silence.
Though we lost touch,
what falls away
can always mend.
There must be Love,
there must be,
forgiveness.
And we will wait on the day
when we return as children
to play in the garden we have made
from the life we have lived.

Tom Moran

9/14/2021

AS SEEN BY NEIL At the October meeting



Teacher, Lana, knows that if you bring treats, you need to bring enough for everybody. There was early Trick or Treating at the Larsen table



Cecil B. DeKreitling readies his camera for all the close-ups. Thanks Walt!



Some of the many beautiful donated items that found their way home with happy new owners



We had more candelabras than a Liberace concert



Hands up! Gimme ALL your glass!

A group of snack sets that ended up in Silvano's red kitchen. Some things are just meant to be



Milwaukee Vintage Glass Show, October 16 and 17

Submitted by Mary Kreitling

It's an easy drive to the Knights of Columbus Hall in South Milwaukee where the Milwaukee Glass Show was held on October 16 and 17. We used our discount card from Mor-Fab Antiques (20-30-40 member Jeff Morrow), paid our discounted fee at the entrance table, and promptly received two raffle tickets to fill out and two free pens. The pens advertised the 2022 show at the same location.

There was a table loaded with glass and glass book prizes where I deposited my raffle tickets. My husband Walt kindly gave me his ticket, as there were no model car prizes to be seen. Before we had shopped even 15 minutes, I heard my name called (and pronounced correctly!) as a winner to the raffle, held every 15 minutes. I chose a book on Art Deco glass from the prizes display.

Fifteen minutes later, I heard Alice Ewert's name called, and then Nancy Lazaris. Sounded like the 20-30-40 contingent had stuffed the raffle prize box! Member Dick Popp was also a winner. See photo #1 which shows the winners and their prize choices. My name was called again – that would've been Walt's prize - and I took a book on Fenton Glass. I don't think I had even bought anything yet and I had won twice! Each winner got a \$5 off coupon at the K of C lunch counter, so I ended up with two coupons, amounting to two free lunches! When I tasted those delicious French fries, made by the K of C chef, I decided to pay for one of the lunches anyway.



If you made a purchase at the show, you got a chance to win the Grand Prize on either Saturday or Sunday, and you didn't have to be there to win. The prizes were a huge pink opalescent Duncan swan and a large, really MCM Blenko vase with an original label. I didn't hear anything about winning, so I don't have to worry about finding a place for either of those fabulous pieces.

The show had a very nice representation of D.G., kitchenware, pottery, Fenton, Fostoria and Cambridge and other handmade glass – even a few pieces of Higgins. One booth had a fabulous display of Jadite, the most I've seen in one place in a long time. See photo #2 of the Franscella's booth loaded with Jadite pieces.

I found Fostoria to buy – surprised? Photo 3 is the #2545 Fostoria Flame ½ pound oval candy box and cover in Topaz. A really pretty piece!

The Milwaukee club sponsors a club booth, where club members can sell items. The ladies at that booth were taking names for



Milwaukee club members who wanted to join the bus trip to our show in March, 2022 and said that several of their members were planning on attending our Collectors Market in November.



We were finally finished with our show shopping. On the advice of David Taylor, we stopped at Benson's Corners Twin Antiques Shops in Bristol, WI, just a short ride from the show location. We ran into David and Nancy at these shops and had a good time wandering through the displays. No glass for me, but a model car for Walt. A great way to spend a beautiful Fall day: a glass show and a twin antique mall.



Remembering Glassmaker Charles Lotton

Submitted by Neil and Eddie Unger

Friday August 17th, 2021, was the end of an era. The glass collecting community lost the patriarch of an entire family of art glass artists and innovators. Charles Lotton had passed away. I was unaware until a fellow club member emailed the news of his passing.

A year ago, or so, he had suffered a mild heart attack or stroke. Eddie and I heard when we attended his last bi-annual glass open house and he was fighting his way back to good health. We talked with him as we always did when we visited his factory in Crete, Illinois. Eddie and I always looked forward to our visit and anticipated what new treasures we would find that he and other family members had made during the year. Yes, I said other family members. Charles had three sons, David, Daniel, and John, and yes, they all make glass today except John who stepped away from the glass. Plus, Charles taught two grandsons who today still make glass. Charles taught them all plus his very able assistant Tony working hand in hand along side Charles for many years. Charles also had a daughter, Rachel, who stepped into the huge void when Jackie Renier, the general manager and “jack of all trades” who ran the studio and everything else on the inside fell sick with breast cancer and succumbed a few years ago. To know Charles was to really step back into the past. He was old school. I experienced this firsthand when one of our first discussions wound it’s way around to religion Charles emphasizing his point with, “you have to be a good Christian”. When I told him I wasn’t Christian, but was a Jew, he paused saying, “well then you have to be a good Jew”. When we discussed politics, it was like old time fighters trying for that last knockout. We ended up agreeing to disagree.

Back when Eddie was battling breast cancer, Charles got wind of it somehow and within weeks a package arrived at our house from Crete, Illinois. Yes, you guessed it ... a gorgeous Charles Lotton vase signed by all the family including Jackie for Eddie.

When we would visit Charles, of course we all would gather round watching the magic happen. Charles creating another piece of American art glass. I would sneak away visiting all the nooks and crannies of the factory especially where the discards, mistakes and accidents lay waiting for the glass dump.

It was there, I remember, that one special day, while Charles was mesmerizing his audience, I came across a discarded Jac-in-the-Pulpit vase with a cracked foot. A light bulb went off in my head and I asked Charles how much he wanted for the jip. Then a surprised answer, “you really want that?” I answered that I did, paid his price, and took the vase home with me. You see the jip was hollow and I decided to install a Christmas tree light socket in the mouth of the jip, running wire through the jip to the base where I attached a plug and metal base. Today it rests on Eddie’s dresser ... a true one of a kind. After a bit, I brought the jip lamp back to Charles to show him what we had done. “You did this?” Why didn’t I think of this????” You know, I looked and looked every time we went there after that. I never found another hollow vase to make another lamp. Charles caught on.

There was a time the conversation drifted back to the old days when Charles had a relationship with Fenton Art Glass and Frank Fenton. He told how Frank had bought a few pieces of Charles’ Ruby iridizing and was very impressed by the high quality of the iridizing that Charles had sprayed on the glass. He invited Charles down to Fenton in Williamstown, WV to discuss his business proposal. The business was that Frank wanted to buy Charles’ iridizing formula and offered a cash buy out. Oh, how I wish I was a fly on the wall in Frank’s corner office during that get together ... the meeting of two glass giants, head to head, ... staring each other down. Who would blink first? Charles went on with a chuckle, “Frank must of thought I just fell off a turnip truck if I was to take his first offer. He upped his offer and I just let him talk.” Now Frank Fenton wasn’t a new kid on the block. He had been around the glass business for many years. He thought it was cheaper buying the old, discarded molds from other glass companies that were out of business, or about to go under, as cheaply as possible. He then re-tooled them. Put them back into use and ran glass through them. This helped Fenton stay in business the longest of the American giant glass houses. Frank finally asked, “what do you want for the formula?” Charles said, “First, I will furnish you with the iridizing spray and start to apply it myself until your workers get to know how to apply it. Next, I want a percentage of \$\$ for each and every unit you produce, and finally, I will retain the formula.” Frank said no thanks and goodbye.

In 2006, during the time Eddie was battling the breast cancer, we visited Charles. We used to sit and relax ... trading "lies" and ideas of what was selling in the market and what was not. So naturally, I gave him my opinion on what was hot at the time and still is today ... fairy lights. Charles didn't know what exactly fairy lights were and their use. So, after explaining the usage, he said he might take a look (meaning he might have an interest in producing them). Well, a few weeks later, a box came from Crete with Charles' first attempt at a 2 piece fairy light in his famous multi flora pattern, pink iris, along with his blue print drawings. It was, and still, is gorgeous and is in our closet of glass. The only problem was that he got mixed up and did the flowers upside down. When we thanked him for the thoughtfulness and told him ... he roared with laughter. He later made about 7 or 8 more in the general line, and we bought four of them. We still have three left.



In the years Eddie and I have traveled down this highway of life ... especially the glass trail and you meet some of the nicest and most interesting people. We have formed memories that we will never forget. I've enjoyed sharing some of them with you. Charles Lotton will retain a prominent leadership spot in our memories. He was truly one of a kind ... a genius self-taught glassman, fine husband, father, and grandfather. Rest in peace, Charles.

GLASS SHOW AND TELL



David's bounty from the Milwaukee show. A wonderfully quirky lamp with a man in a sombrero enjoying his siesta against a cactus. Didn't need this, but couldn't pass. Now to find a place to put it!?
Likely L.E. Smith



David's other Milwaukee treasure ... Topaz Fostoria Versailles cheese and cracker set. After many years of collecting this pattern ... SCORE !!!

When Silvano and Bev told us about the Fostoria show, they mentioned that *Swung Vases* were selling like mad. Our **Gail Crossen** has been far ahead of the trend and sent a photo of her beautiful collection. It looks like we may not have a scenic fall this year, so please refer to the glorious autumnal shades shown here when you need a burst of brilliant color. Thanks Gail!



Gobbling Up Thanksgiving with Pittsburgh Flare

Thank you to the Senator John Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh, Pa for their permission to reprint this 2018 entry on their online blog.

Thanksgiving Day is a time for celebrating with friends and family, but it's also a national holiday where Americans can feast on delicious food. Stuffing, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, and the ever-present apple and pumpkin pies adorn tables across the nation. However, it is the quintessential turkey that is synonymous with the yearly meal, often residing at the center of dinner tables.

To commemorate the holiday, a Westmoreland County glassware company produced a serving bowl in the shape of the iconic fowl. On display in the [Glass: Shattering Notions](#) exhibit at the Heinz History Center is a colorless, seven-inch glass turkey that attracted the attention of an iconic American businesswoman.

In 1907, investors rented a Jeannette factory to use for glass production. The McKee-Jeannette Glass Company rebranded itself under manager Louis E. Smith and changed its name to the L.E. Smith Glass Company, and two years later, moved to a permanent location in Mount Pleasant.^[1] For about 100 years, L.E. Smith produced glassware including punch bowls, platters, ladles, and vases that appealed to both local and national customers. While the intricate designs and colors for each piece were enticing, customers raved about a glass turkey released for the holidays.



In 1943, L.E. Smith produced the first glass turkey dish capable of holding soups as well as gravy – the perfect accompaniment for a Thanksgiving feast. Offered in a variety of colors, customers had the option to purchase a turkey "...in amber, ruby, clear and a new bicolor version called 'amberina,' with a ruby body and amber tail feathers..."^[2] When the turkey entered production, it quickly became one of the company's most popular items, and Americans soon found themselves in possession of the famous fowl. For more than 30 years, glass turkeys dominated the holiday market, until the company noticed a decrease in sales that prompted manufacturers to limit its production. Yet, after being featured on multiple lifestyle programs, coupled with an endorsement on a late-night talk show, the popularity of the glass turkeys grew exponentially.

Critically acclaimed businesswoman, television personality, and food aficionado Martha Stewart graced American broadcasting stations throughout the 1980s and '90s. From home decor tips to comforting recipes, Stewart provided aspirational, yet accessible lifestyle guides for entertainment. During the holiday seasons, Stewart created specialized programs that featured unique foods as well as arts and crafts from businesses across the nation. In 1986, Boston-run WGBH Educational Foundation hosted "Holiday Entertaining with Martha Stewart," where she prominently displayed several glass turkeys as a centerpiece on the table.^[3] While this appearance boosted publicity for L.E.

In 2009, Martha Stewart featured one of the glass turkeys on a table set for holiday dinner as part of a Thanksgiving Day special program. Stewart's use of the dish created great visibility for the piece and resulted in an exponential increase in sales for L.E. Smith. Courtesy of marthastewart.com.

Smith.

Smith, an interview on the “Late Show with David Letterman” transformed the glass turkey into a best-selling national product.

In an article by the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review, former plant manager Forrest Kastner explained the phenomenon, noting that production and sales exceeded expectations.

“We went from selling 1,000 a year of that item to selling a couple hundred thousand a year,” said Forrest Kastner, 74, of Mt. Pleasant Township, the plant’s manager from 1978 until his retirement in 2000. “Martha Stewart was buying our products from us for four or five years before I retired.”^[4] As other glass factories capitalized on the popularity, L.E. Smith chose to brand their unique turkeys with an “S” on the bottom of each piece. While older models did not share this feature, modern renditions utilized the “S” to differentiate themselves from the competition.

Despite the renewed interest, as well as a national recognition for the piece in catalogs such as Williams Sonoma and Crate and Barrel, the L.E. Smith Glass Company officially ceased production on all items and closed its doors in 2005, though the factory operated briefly under new owner William Kelman. However, for those who wish to own a piece of Pittsburgh history and decorate their holiday tables in the style of Martha Stewart, the infamous glass turkey can still be found in antique shops and for sale online.

[1] Tom Felt, *L.E. Smith Glass Company: The First One Hundred Years* (Kentucky: Collector Books, 2007), 6.

[2] Patricia Lowry, “Born in W. Pa., glass gobblers hold tradition.” *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* (Pittsburgh, PA) Nov. 8, 2007.

[3] APicozzi, *Holiday Entertaining with Martha Stewart*, Youtube video, 57:40, Oct. 14, 2016.

[4] A.J. Panian, “National magazine recognizes L.E. Smith Glass Co.” *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review* (Pittsburgh, PA), Oct. 30, 2010.

HOLLYWOOD GLASS

Not willing to be upstaged by upstart Martha Stewart, Bette Davis and Joan Crawford show that they were the original Thanksgiving Divas. Bette set her table with **Fostoria American** stems, while Joan chose a **Fostoria #4020** stem ... presumably for her Pepsi and Vodka.



2021 SOCIETY CALENDAR

December 4 ... *Holiday Luncheon*

VIA BELLA

5412 S. LaGrange Rd.

Countryside, IL

11:00 Social, 11:45 Luncheon

2022 SOCIETY CALENDAR

February 12.....Meeting at American Legion

April 9.....Meeting at American Legion

June TBA

August 6..... Meeting at American Legion

October 8.....Meeting at American Legion

December TBA

At this time, we are optimistic that in-person meetings will continue in 2022. This is the planned calendar at this time. We will monitor the situation and inform members of any needed changes as they occur.

BOARD MEETING CALENDAR

January 15, 2022

March 19, 2022

May 7, 2022

September 17, 2022

October 29, 2022

Location planned for ZOOM at this time



Whispers from the Library



Your librarians thank all the members who helped move the boxes for our library during the past year. We also remind you that books need to be returned at the Dec. or Feb. meetings so that we have them for the March show. Thanks!



Wishing everyone a serene holiday season filled with wonderment, beauty and light



Thankful for Dorcas Reilly... a tribute by David Taylor

Dorcas Reilly in Campbell Test Kitchen circa 1948

When you sit down to enjoy your Thanksgiving meal, have you ever taken a moment to think about how and when your favorite dishes made their way to the table? One side dish that seems to have become a traditional offering at Thanksgiving is the Green Bean Casserole. So, is there a story behind this? Indeed, there is.

After WWII, the availability of frozen packaged foods had increased. Rations had been lifted for canned goods. This was a great help to homemakers when it came time to prepare meals for the family.

In 1955, Dorcas Reilly was working in the Campbell's Home Economics' Test Kitchen in New Jersey. Campbells hoped to develop recipes that would incorporate their products and thereby increase sales. Their Cream of Mushroom Soup had been introduced in 1934 and was mostly used as a filler in casseroles. Most homes frequently had frozen or canned green beans at hand. Dorcas Reilly had the idea to mix the soup and beans with a couple of other common ingredients. Fried onions were added to the top for color and texture. Dorcas originally named the dish Green Bean Bake.

Dorcas Reilly had developed hundreds of recipes and had no special feelings that this one would take off. But take off it did. People tried it and liked it. The fact that it used easily available ingredients and was easy to make was a bonus.

Campbell put the recipe on the label of Cream of Mushroom Soup in 1955. It steadily increased in popularity until it became the holiday staple it is today. Campbell Soup states that about 40% of Cream of Mushroom sales end up in this casserole and mostly around Thanksgiving time.



Dorcas Reilly left Campbell in 1961 to be a full-time mom and then returned in 1981 as the manager of the Test Kitchen and kept the position until she retired in 1988. She passed away in 2018 at the age of 92.

The original recipe card written by Dorcas was donated to the National Inventor's Hall of Fame in Akron, Ohio in 2002.

Please take a minute to remember Dorcas Reilly when you sit down and look at that delicious mess in your workhorse 9 X 13 Pyrex or oval white Corningware dish. Of course, if you are a devotee of Fry ovenware (you know who you are), you have no doubt discovered the beautiful interplay of the opalescent glass with that "unique" color of the soup. Magic!



Campbell's
CREAM of MUSHROOM



LOOK FOR THE RED-AND-WHITE LABEL
Campbell's Ad, 1934

Thanks to Christine Moran for bringing this information about a stunning piece of glass to the attention of *The Society Page*. She also contacted the museum to gain their permission to reprint this article. She has visited the museum and found it very enjoyable. It has been on the Editor's list of things to do for a while now. The Halim Museum appears to be temporarily closed for installation and expansion. Please confirm their status before planning a visit.

The Ascension Window

The Ascension window, one of L.C. Tiffany's masterpiece windows, was installed in the Trinity Episcopal Church in Newark Ohio in 1896. The window is made of 27,000 individual glass pieces, 5 layers of glass, and weighs over 3 tons. In 2012, after more than one hundred and fifty years in existence, the church received word it needed to raise \$1.2 million dollars to replace massive rotting timbers above the sanctuary that supported the large slate roof. The Church raised half of the money but estimated it would take another decade to raise the full amount, and by that time, the roof would have collapsed. The church had to make the heartbreaking decision to close its doors, and the building is now in the process of being demolished. The contractor who is dismantling the building called Cameel Halim of Halim Time and Glass Museum, who decided to rescue the window on short notice.

Halim only had two hours to wire transfer a strikingly large sum of money to the contractor, or the window would otherwise be sold off to stained glass brokers. Stained glass brokers often break apart glass masterpieces into multiple non-religious pieces to maximize their profits, destroying the original work of art. Halim could not risk this result, and decided to save the window so that the public could enjoy the window in its integrity as the artist intended.

The town of Newark, Ohio had been wealthy when the church was first built. Affluent citizens such as the Heisey family who operated the **A. H. Heisey Company**, a producer of fine quality glass tableware and decorative glass figurines among other items, could afford to make large contributions to their churches. The town also had high paying manufacturing jobs that came from large factories like **Corning Glass Works**, a factory that still exists today. However, due to widespread industrial automation, many of those high paying manufacturing jobs have disappeared for the working families of Newark. The story of Newark, Ohio, is just one saddening example of the decay of small industrial American towns that were once prosperous.

The Halim Time and Glass Museum has been able to save many other unique and magnificent windows that would have otherwise been lost to stained glass brokers who buy the window and take them apart, selling bits and pieces

here and there. You can now see some of these windows on display at the Halim Museum of Time and Glass located at 1560 Oak Avenue in Evanston, Illinois. Visit the museum's website at www.HalimMuseum.org for hours and information on exhibits and events. The spectacular Ascension window by Tiffany Studios is now undergoing a full restoration and will be installed in the museum within the coming months.





20-30-40 Glass Society of Illinois
The Society Page
David Taylor, Editor
P. O. Box 856
LaGrange, IL. 60525
Email: 203040GlassSocietyIllinois@gmail.com

Website: WWW.20-30-40glassociety.org
Library: WWW.librarything.com/catalog/20s30s40s
Facebook: WWW.facebook.com/203040gsofil

FIRST CLASS MAIL

The purpose of the society is to gain more knowledge of the American glassware of the 1920's, 30's, and 40's and to further the preservation and pleasure of collecting glassware

TO -

We're on the web!

20-30-40Glassociety.org

ENCLOSED:

2022 Membership Form

Dec 4 Luncheon Reservation Form



2022 STRETCH OUT DISCUSSIONS

Discussions will begin at 8 pm Eastern, 7 Central, 6 Mountain & 5 Pacific Time.

All are welcome to join the Zoom meetings

The Discussions will now be conducted on the interactive Zoom platform.

The Zoom invitation and photos of the stretch glass being discussed will be available at

www.stretchglassociety.org

Come share in the discussion and show your stretch glass.

The speakers for our discussions are Kitty and Russell Umbraco, Dave Shetlar, Cal Hackeman, and Sarah Plummer.

January 13, 2022 Unique and special Purpose Items

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9196004533?pwd=aFJ5WkppcF16SXZDTU10a3ZjTzk4QT09>

March 10, 2022 Show and Tell - Candlesticks

May 12, 2022 Colors of stretch glass in late Period

September 8, 2022 Show and Tell - Wisteria, purple & amethyst stretch glass

November 10, 2022 Overall Enamel Decorated Pieces

Further information is available on our email: info@stretchglassociety.org