

Historical Glass Museum

September 2022 Volume 6 Issue 4



Museum Location:

1157 N. Orange Street
Redlands, California
909-798-0868

Mailing Address:

P. O. Box 9195
Redlands, CA 92375-2395

www.historicalglassmuseum.com



The Museum has a page on Facebook, for those who like to indulge in social media. Search for REDLANDS HISTORICAL GLASS MUSEUM. (There is an older page without the word Redlands, but we are unable to update it.)

Please FOLLOW the Facebook post to help boost our ratings.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

We were saddened to learn that our past President and avid supporter, Joann Tortarolo, passed away on July 10. Please check out the tribute to Joann beginning on page 3.

June and July were active months for the Museum. We welcomed 92 visitors in June, including 6 from the Model A club tour on June 11th, and 10 for the Fenton seminar held on June 25th. See the article and photos later in this issue. We had an additional 86 visitors in July.

On August 28th we hosted the meeting of the Heisey Collectors of California, with six members present plus others via Zoom.

The Museum received a number of donations of glass, and sales in the Gift Shop have been brisk this summer. The Gift Shop is one of the main sources of support for our day-to-day expenses.

The Landscaping project is coming along, with trees planted recently. Not too much work is being done in 100+ temperatures.

We are open on weekends and more than ready to welcome walk-in visitors, and tour groups of eight or more. If you would like to schedule a group tour, call Bill Summers at 951-850-0915. He may be able to schedule you during the week, if you prefer.

BIG SALE IN GIFT SHOP

We have received a large number of donations of glass in recent months. After sorting through the items, we need to reduce our inventory of duplicates and sale items.

Therefore, we are offering **50% OFF for members and 30% off for non-members, from September through the end of the year in the Gift Shop.**

This is a great opportunity to stock up on Christmas and birthday gifts.



MODEL A COLLECTORS VISIT THE MUSEUM

Check out the photos on page 5

ON DISPLAY

Shown below is a shelf of Steuben glass in the Museum. Notice the figure in the foreground – the glass making technique is *Cire Perdue*, which is similar to the “lost wax” technique in brass casting .



APPLE BLOSSOM CREST

by Doreen Ward

Apple Blossom Crest was introduced by Fenton in 1960. This beautiful pattern was only produced for one year (1960-1961).



The crests can vary in color from a light pink to a vibrant shade, almost reddish/purple in appearance. By July 1961, all of the pieces were removed from the line.

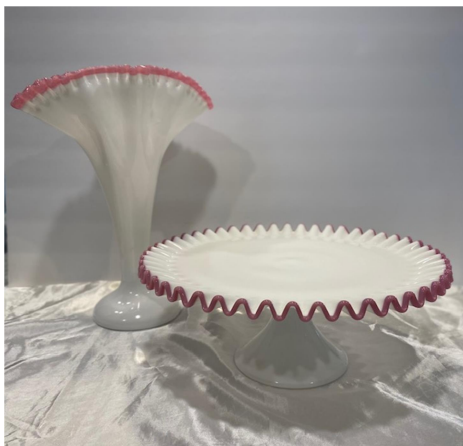


There are twelve pieces in the original line. The crest is a beautiful opaque pink. The contrast of the stark white milk glass against the stunning pink crest makes these pieces truly elegant.

The original line consisted of the following:

(source: *Fenton Art Glass Patterns 1939-1980*
by Margaret and Kenn Whitmyer)

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 4 ½" Vase | Heart shaped Relish Bowl |
| 4 piece Epergne | 8" Vase double crimped |
| 12" Vase | 6 ½" Basket with Handle |
| Footed Cake Plate | Ash tray |
| Footed Comport | 8" Bonbon |
| Candleholder | 10" Bowl |



The student lamp shown at right, while not part of the original line, has the Apple Blossom Crest and beautiful painted roses adorn the top and the bottom



THANKS TO OUR DONORS ...

We would like to acknowledge the donations of cash, glass or other items, to be used either for display at the Museum or to be sold in the Gift Shop to support the Museum's operations.

CASH DONATIONS:

JUNE

\$100.00 Martha Thomason
\$100.00 Gerald & Robin Grube
\$70.00 J. Giles Waines

JULY

\$100.00 Barbara Jenks
\$90.00 Camille Sanders & Tom Powell
in honor of Will Kleese's 90th Birthday
\$50.00 Cheryl Bryan in memory of Joann Tortarolo
\$165.00 David & Linda Adams
\$300.00 Wendy Steelhammer
in memory of Joann Tortarolo
\$50.00 Heisey Club of California
in memory of Joann Tortarolo

AUGUST

\$300.00 Wendy Steelhammer

NON-MONETARY DONATIONS:

John Tortarolo (Joann's glass)
Ann Klein
Jacque Rocha
Thomas Roy & Harold Cheyne III
Shirley Talbot
Marti Noyes
Bill Summers
Laura & Richard Beall
Gary Hart
Connie Wheeler
Calvin Breed
Wendy Steelhammer
Barbara Soelter (on loan)
Ronnie & Ruth Dennis

The Board of Directors would like to thank each of these donors for their generosity. Of course, we must also acknowledge the donation of TIME from those who maintain our collection, serve as docents and participate in the general cleaning days (third Thursday of each month). Thanks to all!

JOANN TORTAROLO – A TRIBUTE



Joann Tortarolo

Joann Tortarolo, a Life Member of the Museum and long-time member of the Board of Directors of the Historical Glass Museum Foundation, and past President (2013-2018), passed away on Sunday, July 10th, due to the effects of a stroke several years ago, from which she never fully recovered.

Joann was a Los Angeles native who grew up in San Pedro. She earned a Doctorate in Education from University of California Riverside, and worked for San Bernardino City School District for over 30 years, first as Director of Secondary Instruction, then as Director of Alternative Programs.

After she retired, she devoted much of her time to serving as President of the Historical Glass Museum Foundation. As President, she "wore many hats," handling multiple aspects of Museum "business." One of Joann's most effective skills was her ability to recruit talented and devoted members to serve on the Board of Directors.

In 2019, Joann donated \$22,645.84 to the HGMF's Restoration Fund as part of an annual minimum required distribution from her IRA account. This is *by far* the largest donation the Museum has received to date for the Restoration Fund, and enabled us to undertake much-needed restorations to the exterior of the 1903 home that houses the Museum.

(continued on page 6)

Group Tours of the Museum



Weekday group tours for groups of 8 or more visitors are available by appointment. The charge is \$5.00 per person, with a minimum charge of \$40.00. For information and bookings, call Bill Summers at **951-850-0915**.

Tour bus parking and a handicap ramp are available. The museum entrance and wheelchair ramp are located at the rear parking lot. There is also parking along the street curb on Western at Orange.

In June, we were visited by a group from the Orange Blossom Model A Club. See page 5 for photos.

RESTORATION FUND

The Board of Directors established a Restoration Fund designated to set aside funds for restoration and maintenance of our century-old building.

The next phase of restoration will be a new roof, but it seems like the current roof is still fairly sound, so we have time to raise additional funds towards its eventual replacement.

The fund's balance stands at: \$22,947. The Board welcomes cash donations designated for the Restoration Fund. You may designate "in Memory of " or "in Honor of " with your donation.

Checks should be made out to the Museum, with a note designating the Restoration Fund. Send to:

Historical Glass Museum
P. O. Box 9195
Redlands, CA 92375-2395

SEPTEMBER 2021 FROM THE PRESIDENT

The passing of Joann Tortarolo, our immediate past president, was very sad news. She was a stern taskmaster and had a great smile that was real and true. She will be missed. Thank you to all who sent donations in her memory. She donated her lifetime collection of elegant glass and glass books to the Museum. It will take us quite some time to go through her entire collection and we plan to have some of her glass on display soon.

We enjoyed hosting the Heisey Club of California on August 28th for their monthly meeting. They did a virtual tour of the Museum for those unable to attend the meeting in person.

As fall is approaching, we hope you will come and take advantage of the 50% off discount in appreciation of our members over the next couple of months. It's a good time to start your holiday shopping early!

Steve

RECENTLY FEATURED ON FACEBOOK

As a way to promote interest in the Museum, we have been posting photos featuring interesting pieces from the Museum collection on our Facebook page.



Hawkes cut glass bowl



Tiffany "Favrile" items



Model A's in the parking lot

FENTON WORKSHOP

Vice president Bill Summers led a workshop on June 25th on the topic "Victorian Era and Fenton Rarities." Below are pictures of the door prize winners at the workshop.



Workshop attendees with their door prizes



Workshop attendees with their door prizes



Workshop attendees with their door prizes



Six members of the Orange Blossom Model A Club visited the Museum on June 11. Here they are together with our vice president Bill Summers.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

The June 25th workshop was the last one before we took a break due to the summer heat. We will resume our presentations in the fall, beginning with:

Bill Summers will do a seminar on Saturday, October 15th titled "Victorian Hobnail Glass through the Fenton Hobnail Years 1885-1965 - plus Fenton Rarities."

Thomas Rigali Roy, the donor of the Verlys glass, and his partner Harold Cheyne III will give a presentation about this company on Sunday, November 13th.

Both sessions begin at 11:00am. Light refreshments will be served, and we will have an interactive session after the presentation, when visitors can ask questions and bring items for ID. There will be door prizes awarded. Come and join us.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

New Members since last newsletter:

Christine & Jim Stancil
 Susan & Dan Padilla
 Sandra Martin
 Mary Burrows
 Damien Elkington

New Lifetime Memberships

Donna Curtis
 William (Bill) Line
 Dr. Brandi Roth

(JOANN - continued from page 3)

If you've seen the Museum lately, or at least pictures of it, you will see that we were able to pay for significant wood repairs and painting, and shore up the ornate Victorian front porch, due to the generosity of donors like Joann.



Like most members, Joann was an enthusiastic glass collector – and a studious one, too. When Joann encountered a “glass mystery,” she pulled out all the stops and utilized every reference resource available to her to identify the piece’s maker and/or pattern. Joann was also passionately active on many Facebook glass identification and study groups, including the Early American Pressed Glass Study Group and groups devoted to carnival glass.

Joann was also a member of several national and local glass clubs, including the Heisey Collectors of California, and the Elegant Glass Collectors. She served on the informal “board” that organizes the Elegant Glass Collectors glass gatherings, and helped brainstorm ideas for programs. She hosted many club meetings at her home, and was famous for her pumpkin chili.

After her stroke, Joann was upset that her health would prevent her from enjoying a long life in retirement, and deny her the opportunity to be involved in the Historical Glass Museum for many years to come, as she had planned. That is indeed a tragedy, both for her and for the Museum.

The Museum and all its members owe Joann a debt of gratitude, both for her service to the organization, and for her financial support. We will remember her always.

REMINISCENCES OF JOANN BY OUR BOARD MEMBERS

Museum Vice President **Bill Summers** states, “Joann Tortarolo convinced me 6 or 7 years ago to begin giving the seminars on Fenton glass and Victorian glass. She always complemented me on my presentations after attending, and never forgot to thank me for giving them. I am grateful for her encouragement, and gratified by how many participants have been drawn to the Museum through simply by me sharing a little of my knowledge.”

Board Member and Museum Collections Manager **Barbara Jenks** says, “I really don't know how to put into words how badly I will miss Joann's friendship. She had a way of encouraging people to do and learn new things.

I remember the time she accepted the first invitation to decorate the local Kimberly Crest mansion in Redlands for Christmas, then decided to pick ME to help do the decorating. We selected mostly American Brilliant period cut glass from the Museum to put on display at Kimberly Crest that year, went shopping for decorative materials, and then got to work setting up.

Just when we thought we were close to finishing, I decided to sneak a look at the decorating in the room next to us, which was being done by a professional florist. When Joann saw the look on my face, she immediately said, “Do we need to go back to the craft stores?” which we did. Kimberly Crest liked what we did with the library room so much, they invited us to come back again the next year and decorate a different room.

She really, really pushed me out of my comfort zone on that one.”

NEW PROJECT

We are embarking on a project to update and photograph the inventory of the museum's collection. **Kathi Jablonsky**, a retired appraiser, will be the project coordinator.

We are seeking volunteers to assist with this, a few times a month. The next opportunity is October 5th. This is an opportunity to learn skills applicable to appraising and museum practices.

If you are interested in assisting, please contact Kathi at KJ@jablonskyconsulting.com