

PORTLAND'S *Rain* OF GLASS, INC.

A non-profit organization formed to stimulate interest in collectible glass and to provide educational resources and events for the members and the community at large.



APRIL

WHERE: Friendship
Masonic Center
5626 NE Alameda Street
Portland, Oregon 97213
N.E. 57th & Sandy

WHEN: Tuesday, April 21, 2009,
7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
(Library open at 6:00 p.m.)

GREETERS: Trish Reading
and Barbara Coleman
(Come early to set up—6:00 p.m.)

SPEAKER: Sandra Millius
on "EAPG ERA BREAD TRAYS"

Sandra invites you to bring a Bread Tray—metal, ceramic, glass, wood—all are welcome—EAPG to modern! (Pictured at top is an 1886 McKee "Deer and Pine" EAPG bread tray. Above, middle, is a Tiara Amberina bread tray from the 1980s depicting the Last Supper. Directly above is a hammered aluminum bread tray stamped with a bamboo motif.)

PATTERN OF THE MONTH: "SPRINGTIME,"
an acid etched pattern from the 1930's
by Fostoria Glass Company,
presented by Neal Skibinski



Pictured at left is a #891 Fostoria water goblet with the Springtime etching.

HOSPITALITY: April Committee
listed on page 2

BOARD MEETING: Tuesday,
April 14, 2009, at the Friendship
Masonic Center, 7:00 p.m.
ALL MEMBERS WELCOME

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL:

- 5 – Picc-A-Dilly Flea Market, Lane County Fairgrounds, Eugene
- 5 – Polk Flea Market, Polk County Fairgrounds, Rickreall
- 4-5 – Monroe Antique Show & Sale, Monroe, WA
- 10-11 – Kiwanis Festival of Antiques, Longview, WA
- 19 – Salem Collectors Market, Salem Armory
- 24-26 – Custer's Spring Antiques & Collectors Sale, Spokane WA
- 26 – Picc-A-Dilly Flea Market, Eugene

MAY

- 2-3 – Hillsboro Glass Show, Washington Co. Fairplex (moved to May from March)

28,29,30 – PROG's Glass Convention and Auction, "For the Love of Glass," Grotto Conference Center, 8840 NE Skidmore St., Portland

Visit the Portland's Rain of Glass Website for more interesting Club news:
www.rainofglass.com

Mailing Address:
Portland's Rain of Glass
C/O Friendship Masonic Center,
5626 N.E. Alameda Street,
Portland, OR, 97213

❖INSIDE ❖

Portland's Rain of Glass, Inc.

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- ◆Membership Information
- ◆Homer Laughlin "Confetti"
- ◆New Martinsville "Moondrops"
- ◆Convention 2009 Speakers Bios



Photos by Neal Skibinski



In case of severe weather, please call Carole White's cell number, 503-901-0505 for updated information.

Portland's Rain of Glass, Inc.

publishes 12 newsletters a year.

If you would like to contribute an article, contact:

Barbara Coleman at 503-281-1823,
colelee@easystreet.net

AND Jewell Gowan at 503-510-9137,
jewellsbks@aol.com

AND Cindy Thomas at 503-481-5401,
cst@wbcable.net

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE:

April Hospitality Committee: Sandra Millius, Trish Reading, Sandra Martin, Barbara Dietz, Mavis Case and Richard Cox. Carole White will come early to start the coffee. Any other member that would like to bring snacks to share or help set-up or clean-up, please do!

If you have any questions, please contact *Jewell Gowan, 503-510-9137.*

***** Development Committee Meeting – April 7, 2009

I am planning to have another Development Committee meeting on April 7, 2009. The main topic will be to discuss the Virtual Museum. You may recall the end of last year we had a donation challenge to increase donations to PROG and we collected \$2,235.00 dollars designated for the Virtual Museum. Our goal for the Virtual Museum is \$5,000.00 dollars and last month at the board meeting the board vote to give \$2,765.00 to the Virtual Museum fund. Thanks to everyone who donated as we have reached our goal of \$5,000.00 dollars. I would like to get volunteers for a Virtual Museum Committee. The committee will be responsible for establishing the specifications for the Virtual Museum and then finding a software programmer who can develop the program. We will have a celebration dinner starting at 6:30 pm in our home in Milwaukie and we'll start the meeting about 7:00 pm. I would like to invite you to become a member of the development committee and/or Virtual Museum Committee and help us take PROG to the next level. Please email me at ensmartin@comcast.net or call (503) 659-3990 if you would like to attend.

We need your help and ideas so that PROG will continue to grow.

Ed Martin, Development Director.

***** MEMBERSHIP:

Portland's Rain of Glass Membership for one year is \$22.00 for individuals and \$8.00 for each additional member at the same address.

You may mail dues to: Cindy Thomas, Membership Chairman at 795 Corby St., Woodburn, OR 97071 or Friendship Masonic Center, 5626 NE Alameda, Portland, OR 97213 or bring payment to the next meeting.

Thank you, *Cindy,*

503-481-5401, cst.wbcable.net

Homer Laughlin China Company's "Confetti"

presented by Cindy Thomas



Photo by Neal Skibinski

You might recall that I have talked about other Homer Laughlin dinnerware patterns such as Burgundy and Jaderose. In fact member Dwayne Cole kindly provided me a chance to buy a similar pattern called Turquoise. Here's yet another Homer Laughlin pattern that really started it all for me! This is the dinnerware that my mom got out for our family on special occasions.

Homer Laughlin China Company has a long history of china dinnerware production dating to 1871 when Homer and his brother Shakespeare set up their enterprise in East Liverpool, Ohio.

The 1955-56 Fall and Winter Montgomery Wards catalog pictures "Confetti" above the heading "Colorful Semi-Porcelain...Ovenproof and Crazeproof..." The ad goes on to say "Underglaze patterns are also impervious to harsh dishwasher detergents. The clays are fired at high temperatures and the ware remains slightly porous, but with the application of the glaze, semi-porcelain become hard, nonporous, impervious to moisture. All Wards dinnerware is triple selected – your assurance of First Quality." Under the listing for "Confetti" the ad reads "Makes an interesting table setting by itself or combines with other services. Confetti polka dots of shining black; hollow pieces sold black." Holloware are dishes with raised sides and sometimes covers and generally are intended to contain liquids. Known by the company as the Charm House shape these include bowls, creamer and sugar bowl with lid, gravy boat, casserole and teapot and teacups.

Joanne Jasper, author of *The Collector's Encyclopedia of Homer Laughlin China*, Copyright 1995 writes about the Duraprint process which consisted of printing designs on the bisque china instead of painting or applying decals. This process allows the design to be placed under the glaze, which would provide a longer life. This process was probably faster to mass produce. With "Confetti" the pattern consists of a regular pattern of black dots on a white background and is one of the patterns that was applied by stamping with an inflated bladder.

To quote Joanne, "Basically, the process made use of an inflatable balloon or bladder which pressed against the piece to be decorated when air pressure was applied to it. The design itself was contained in a thin metal plate which was punctured with tiny holes in the form of the design. The colors to be applied bled through these holes in the form of the design." Of course this method could not be applied on curved pieces, therefore the hollowware was a matching or complimentary color for flatware patterns such as in the Charm House shape. The backstamp on this dinnerware has the words Duraprint by Homer Laughlin Made in U.S.A. and indicate the location of the plant, month and year made, 1954.

A 16 piece service for 4 was \$4.95. A 32 piece set for 6 is listed for \$9.75. For \$18.95 a 53 piece set for 8 could be ordered. Open stock pieces and prices are listed on page 536 if extra cups (4 for \$2.19) or saucers (2 for \$.60) are needed. Ashtrays came 2 for \$1.79 complete with black enameled metal stands. The tidbit tray (\$3.49) was made from three sizes of plates and secured with the metal center handle. Joanne mentions in her book a general problem with the tidbit trays. Some hobbyists could buy open stock plates, drill holes and assemble the metal fittings with a handy kit. A serious collector may not be interested in one of these examples. The Wards catalog confirms this example as one sold to go with the dinnerware sets. Joanne's example shows a gold tone metal fitting. In my opinion this could be the hobbyists' workmanship.

Today's prices should be reasonable for collectors but finding pieces may be a challenge. Joanne's book lists platters in the \$10-\$18 range, plates \$4-\$10, bowls \$2-\$6. The tidbit tray might be \$30-\$40, covered casserole \$24-\$30, covered sugar \$10-\$18, creamer \$7-\$14, salt and pepper shakers \$10-\$15, sauceboat \$8-\$12 and teapot \$30-\$40.

MOONDROPS with RON MILLER



Photos by Neal Skibinski

In current times when hand blown glass companies are fighting for their existence or fading into obscurity, we are reminded of the Great Depression years when now long-gone glass companies were finding ways to succeed.

One such company was New Martinsville, which had been founded in 1901 in the town in West Virginia for which it was named.

They were noted as an innovative company from the very beginning, but they were still cast into receivership after the crash of Wall Street in 1929. One of their patterns created in 1931-32, the #37 line called Moondrops, helped pull them out of receivership and kept them profitable for years.

Moondrops made full use of color and gave the buying public a new and exciting product to keep their minds off the sad economy. It was reported that “the magic of its public allure may have been the most significant and profitable venture in the history of the company.”

Originally called Georgian, more than 70 different Moondrops items were produced from 1932 until 1936-37, and at least the candlesticks continued as long as 1944. Moondrops features a distinctive pattern of “bumps on bumps,” the moondrops, as well as concentric rings that make it easily recognizable. Except, of course, for the pieces that were made to “go with” that did not have either the moondrops, the rings, or both. That just adds to the fun of collecting.

The Moondrops line included both pressed and mould-blown pieces consisting of dinner and luncheon sets as well as numerous serving and accessory pieces. The decanters have either

plume or beehive stoppers, and the cocktail shaker has a metal lid. The sugar shaker is the most expensive piece, booking for \$900. The “rocket” vase goes for about \$595, and the butter dish is also expensive.



Colors included: Amber, Jade (opaque) or Evergreen, Amethyst, Ritz Blue, Black, Rose, Crystal, Ruby, Green (transparent in two different shades), Smoke and Ice Blue.

By 1944 New Martinsville was sold and reorganized as Viking, and in 1986 it became Dalzell Viking and operated until the late 1990's.

Ron began his collection of Moondrops before he even knew the name of the pattern. He was collecting everything he could find in red glass, and he came to notice that many of the pieces matched. He did his research and found that he had quite a collection of Moondrops, which he has been adding to ever since.

Ron went to the Glass Gathering one year and dug 25 pounds of shards from every factory Dean Six could find, including the site of the New Martinsville factory. The shards from there could have been from New Martinsville, Viking or Dalzell Viking.

*Written by Ron Miller
Edited by Carole White*



FOR THE LOVE OF GLASS ~ PORTLAND'S RAIN OF GLASS CONVENTION

MAY 28, 29, 30, 2009
FEATURING THESE SPEAKERS

BARBARA AND JIM MAUZY

Barbara and Jim Mauzy (pronounced Moe-ZEE) are dealers, collectors, and enthusiasts in Depression Glass, Fire-King, Bakelite, and anything related to kitchens from the 1920s –1950s. They have been addicted to vintage kitchen-related subjects for about two decades, but all of this selling, researching, and writing is a second career for them.

Barbara is a certified elementary teacher, principal, and K-12 reading specialist. An honors graduate from Moravian College with a double major in education and art, she continued her studies in a number of Pennsylvania universities including Millersville and Temple, and taught for almost twenty-five years. Barbara is an enthusiastic scrapbooker who engages in a number of other crafts including sewing and jewelry making. Jim is a retired executive from a large construction company in south central Pennsylvania. He is an avid waterfowler who collects, sells, carves, and paints decoys.

They enjoy fishing, kayaking, hiking, hunting, and other outdoor activities since relocating from Pennsylvania to North Carolina and Maine.

Barbara and Jim have four children, three grandchildren, and two Westies: Little Miss Moxie, the World's Most Loveable Dog and Maggie, the World's Most Adorable Dog.

Barbara has authored the following titles: *African-Americana, Peanut Butter Glasses, 2nd edition; Sour Cream Glasses; Bakelite in the Kitchen, 2nd edition; PYREX The Unauthorized Collector's Guide, 4th edition; The Complete Book of Kitchen Collecting, 2nd printing; Gay & Gifty Pot Holders; Depression Era Kitchen Shakers; and McKee Kitchen Glass of the Depression Years.* Barbara and Jim have co-written the following titles: *Mauzy's Rare, Unusual, and Unique Depression Glass, Mauzy's Depression Glass, 6th edition; Mauzy's Kitchen Glass, Mauzy's Depression Era Kitchen Glass, Mauzy's Cake Plates, Mauzy's Kitchen Collectibles, Mauzy's Comprehensive Handbook of Depression Glass Prices, 8th edition, and Mauzy's Depression Glass Postcards.*

Barbara also has begun publishing children's books. Her first book, *Murphy Dive*, was released March 2009.

BEA AND TERRY MARTIN

Bea and Terry are Washingtonians; she was born and raised in Seattle, he was born in Yakima and lived in the Tri Cities until the 1960's when he moved to Seattle. They will celebrate 39 years of marriage in May. They were active members of Portland Rain of Glass. Many PROG members will remember their 25th Anniversary when they were totally surprised with a shotgun wedding right in the middle of that year's Glass Rally! They still talk about how everyone did such a great job surprising them. It is to this day one of their favorite memories.

Bea started collecting glass over 40 years ago. Her Aunt gave her some Green Cameo pattern dishes by Hocking glass and she was hooked. Her collections now consist of children's tea sets and accessories, perfume bottles, and vanity items. The perfume sets started with Fenton, Cambridge, Heisey, Fostoria, and Westmoreland. She then added items from France, Germany, Japan, and Czechoslovakia. The major part of her collection is American-made. She has also been collecting vintage purses, Fenton, and Lenox china for many years.

Terry collects ceramic items from the Disney animated movies, and has many older pieces from Fantasia, Snow White, Cinderella, and many of the older movies.

They have belonged to many glass clubs over the years. They have been members of the Green River Depression Era Glass club for over 30 years. Bea is the current vice president. They have been members of Fenton Finders of Puget Sound for 25 plus years. Terry is the current President. They also belong to the national Fenton Art Glass Collectors of America.

Over the years Bea has been speaker at PROG's American Glass Rally (Convention), the Fenton Jamboree, The National Toothpick Convention, Green River Depression glass club and various women's clubs in the area.

AL CARDER

PROG member Al Carder is well known to Rain of Glass Members. He and his wife Carol operate Carder Country Antiques and have been a fixture at our shows for many years. Additionally, Al has served as auctioneer at many of our past Glass Conventions (formerly Rally). This year, Al returns as auctioneer bringing to that role his own special blend of enthusiasm and humor.

Al is formerly from West Virginia and grew up in the midst of glass country USA. At first glance, Modern Italian glass might seem a world away from Al's West Virginia roots. But think about all those sleek Euro-Modern blown glass pieces by Blenko, Bluebird and other West Virginia firms in the mid-century period. Their Italian influence is unmistakable. Italy was the center of innovative glass design for much of the mid-to-late 20th Century. It is no more surprising that Italian-inspired designs took root in Scandanaiva or in many other parts of the world. Al and Carol have an extensive collection of mid-century modern glass -- much of it from West Virginia but also from Italy and points beyond.

For some years at the end of the 20th Century, mid-century design fell out of favor with many collectors. But the first years of this new Century have seen a dramatic revival of interest in all things Modern. This is as true for modern glass as it is for furniture, industrial design, and architecture. A few years ago, Al realized the tables had turned when he put on EBAY an Italian Venini item that Carol had purchased at a thrift store for under \$1. It sold for \$150!...Similarly, many of us remember when Al bought another Venini at a local estate sale for \$85 and sold it on EBAY for \$15,000 !!! So please, Al, teach us at the seminar how to recognize a good Venini when we see it!...and maybe along the way we can also learn and come to appreciate this beautiful glass that is once again taking the world by storm.

RAY BRUNEAU

Ray originally hails from the Boston Area. Antiques have always been a part of his life. His father was a heating/plumbing contractor who often purchased antiques and collectibles from homeowner clients who had their family keepsakes stored away for years in attics, basements, and crawl spaces (just the kind of spaces heating/plumbing contractors get to explore). In a city as old as Boston, there are many objects of historical interest squirreled away in seldom-visited, often long-forgotten storage spaces. For many years, Ray's father would take his finds to auction houses, but he eventually decided to eliminate the middle-man and he opened an antique store himself!

Ray's first big collecting interest was in late 19th/early 20th Century art glass -- particularly iridescent glass from Steuben, Loetz and others. He also collected pottery and art glass from the Art Nouveau through Art Deco periods. But he feels that it has become more difficult and expensive to collect these historical objects as serious collectors have already filled out their collections.

Ray feels that Modern glass, particularly Italian Modern glass, is now the next-big-thing in glass collecting. It still is somewhat plentiful and relatively inexpensive for the novice to enter the market. Ray also points out that the time frame for collectors has changed as well. For those of us baby-boomers for instance, all things Victorian were the rage when we became young adults. Now, young adult collectors look back on the Mid-20th Century era as being the "old" era -- an almost mythical time filled with much mystery and wonder. And you know what? The young collectors are right. It was a very special time in our nation's (and the world's) history. Modern glass -- and all things Modern -- are finally getting their well-deserved respect in the world of collecting.

Ray and his partner Kim Yeo operate Distinctive Antiques and have sold at Rain of Glass shows in the past.



Photos by
Neal Skibinski



DON'T FORGET!!
BRING YOUR AUCTION ITEMS
FOR THE 2009 CONVENTION
TO THE APRIL 21 CLUB MEETING
INFO: CAROLE WHITE
503-282-0608 or cbessw@aol.com



HAVE YOU SEEN THESE ITEMS?

Sally Cole accidentally left a celery tray (similar to this one but with a flat rim) and a spoon behind at the November meeting. If you happened to pick up either of these items at the January general meeting or know where they might be hiding, please call Sally at 503-358-1410 or bring them to the April 21st meeting.

Thank you!



Celery Tray

Photos provided by Sally Cole and Carole White