



# 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.

## MARCH

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



**WHEN:** Tuesday,  
March 18, 2008,  
6:00 to 9:00 p.m.  
(Library open at 6:00 p.m.)

**GREETERS:** Sue Frye and Barbara Dietz  
(Come early to set up—6:00 p.m.)

**SPEAKER: SANDRA MILLIUS**  
On "Celery Vases and Celery Trays"

*Bring Your Favorite "Celery" piece to share!*

*Pictured at top is an EAPG celery vase in the Paneled Nightshade Pattern c. 1870.*

*Pictured above is a Daisy and Button Crossbar celery vase c. 1885, also known as "Mikado." Pictured at left is a Cambridge celery and relish tray in the Elaine pattern.*



**SPECIAL: Speaker from**  
**"The Oregon Cultural Trust"**

The speaker will provide information to Rain of Glass Members regarding donations and benefits available as a result of those donations.

**HOSPITALITY:** March Committee  
listed on page 2

**BOARD MEETING:** Tuesday, March 11, 2008,  
At the Friendship Masonic Center, 7:00 p.m.  
**ALL MEMBERS WELCOME**

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### MARCH

1-2 – Palmer/Wirfs EXPO Show,  
Portland EXPO Center  
**PROG Members Glass Display**

2 – Medford Giant Flea Market

2 – Picc-A-Dilly Flea Market,  
Eugene

2 – Polk Flea Market

8 – Umpqua Flea Market,  
Roseburg

8-9 – So. Ore. Antiques &  
Collectibles Show, Medford

16 – Rose City Collectors Market,  
Airport Holiday Inn, Portland

22 – Umpqua Flea Market,  
Roseburg

30 – Salem Collectors Market

#### APRIL

5 – Umpqua Flea Market,  
Roseburg

6 – Picc-A-Dilly Flea Market,  
Eugene

Visit the Portland's Rain of  
Glass Website for more  
interesting Club news:

[www.rainofglass.com](http://www.rainofglass.com)

Mailing Address:

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

# MEMBERSHIP NEWS

## HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE:

The Hospitality Committee for the March Meeting includes **Sue Frye, Trish Reading, Colleen Wilcox, and Sandra Martin** These people will furnish refreshments and help Chairpeople Michele and John Kemp with set-up and clean-up. **If you have questions call Michele at (503-649-5823) or E-mail: [mjkemp1@verizon.net](mailto:mjkemp1@verizon.net)**

*by Jewell Gowan*

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## CONVENTION COMMITTEE MEETS

**Glass Convention Planning Meeting**  
Tuesday March 5th 6:30 pm for light supper, 7:00 pm for meeting. Jeff and Sandra's, 17306 NE Irving St. Portland, 503.282.3838. Please join us!

*Sandra Millius*

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## DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETS

I am planning to have our second **Development Committee meeting on Mar 13, 2008 at 6:30 pm** in our home in Milwaukie; a light dinner will be served. I would like to invite you to become a member of the development committee and join us as we recap our ideas from the last meeting and make plans to execute some of the ideas. **Please email me at [ensmartin@comcast.net](mailto:ensmartin@comcast.net) or call (503) 659-3990 if you would like to attend.**

We need your ideas so that PROG will continue to grow. *Ed Martin*, Development Director.

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## LIBRARY NEWS

**We're planning to do a book order in April and want to let everyone know so they can think about books they might want to get.**

We'll be ordering from Collector Books and, if we have enough interest, L W Books (they require 20 books to get the discount.) People can check online for book listings and descriptions-- [www.collectorbooks.com](http://www.collectorbooks.com) and [www.lwbooks.com](http://www.lwbooks.com) -- and I will have information at the March meeting for everyone to look at if they don't use the computer.

The discount to members will be 20% off listed price and they will have to pay shipping.

I will take any orders at the April meeting and I must have their payment at that time. Checks should be made to me, Kate Fuller.

Thanks so much, *Kate*



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

## **FEBRUARY MEETING TOPIC:**

### **TIFFIN'S DECORATED SATIN GLASS WITH CAROLE BESS WHITE**

Satin glass was made by dipping glass into acid, usually hydrofluoric, to give it a texture and render it opaque. "Was" is the operative word here. Because of disposing of the effluent, using acid to treat glass is a thing of the past, at least in America. Nowadays glass is satinized by sandblasting, but that's another topic for another program!

The glass pieces used to make satin glass came in all colors from crystal clear to black, and everything in between. Satinizing did not change the base color; it just roughened the surface texture and made it opaque. In other words, a piece of transparent green glass that was dipped into the acid would remain green, but it would no longer be shiny or transparent.

Most of the glass factories operating in the United States in the 1920's made satin glass, but the quality of the treatment varied from company to company. The U.S. Glass Company was a conglomerate of several midwestern glass factories. In the 1920's they announced that all of their products would be called "Tiffin" regardless of which of their factories produced them. Tiffin was actually Factory "R" of the U.S. Glass Company in Tiffin, Ohio. Satin glass produced by Tiffin is considered by collectors to be the finest in texture. Its surface is consistently soft and satin-like, and it really does fit the old cliché "smooth as a baby's bottom."

Glass with enamel decoration was quite the fashion in the 1920's, but like all fashions, its popularity waned and by the 1940's it was rarely found. Another reason for this is that decorated pieces were expensive to produce because they required lots of hand labor by skilled craftsmen. The influx of glass school-trained craftsmen from Czecho-Slovakia and the apprentice system in American factory resulted in a skilled American labor force able to produce the finest decorations. But when their skills were no longer required, many of their techniques died away. Today, the only American factory producing enamel decoration is the Fenton Art Glass Company, and they are facing financial challenges and are in danger of closing. Gold and silver decorations were also popular in the '20's, and that type of decoration continued in popularity into the later 20th century in the form of bands, stripes and decorated rims and feet.

The best decorations are fired on, or in the case of silver, overlaid, but glass factories and decorating shops also used cold painting and glue.

The latter treatments are prone to flaking.

Undecorated Tiffin satin glass is plentiful in all colors, but decorated is hard to find, especially in good condition.

Silver overlay is electroplated onto the glass, where silver deposit (encrustation) uses wax resist. Overlay if done correctly is thick and doesn't wear away, but encrustation is more fragile. Al and Carol Carder brought an example of reflex green Tiffin satin glass decorated with an Asian motif in silver overlay. Carole brought the large, blue, cupped dahlia vase with the same decoration. Although it books higher, these vases usually sell for around \$100.

Carole brought several examples of enamel decoration on different colors of satin glass including different florals and pheasants, as well as the Diamond Glass Company set with concentric circle decoration that people frequently mistake for Tiffin. The texture on the Diamond pieces can be just as smooth as Tiffin's—or not. Two of the pieces shown were very smooth, while the other two were a bit rougher. Satin glass pieces with good enamel decorations usually sell for \$50 to \$100.

Coralene decoration is tiny beads of ground-up colored glass (frit) fused onto the glass piece. If fired on, it is sturdy and will withstand washing; if glued on, it is fragile and will flake off easily. Coralene decoration on Tiffin is found only on the pieces with molded, "blown-out" flowers. The Carders brought a nice example of the medium Tiffin poppy vase with coralene decoration, and Carole brought the small iris vase. Tiffin's coralene vases have been found with stickers for "Peacock Products—McCourt Studios—Minneapolis Minnesota," leading us to guess that this decoration was not done at the Tiffin factory. Good coralene pieces sell for \$35 to \$100, depending on size.

At least in Portland, undecorated satin glass is not that popular and usually sells for less than \$25.

If you decide to invest in a piece of decorated satin glass, examine it closely to make sure there are no scratched, worn or missing areas in the decoration. This is especially important when you are shopping online because sellers will frequently say "no damage," not realizing that condition of the decoration is just as important as condition of the glass itself.

The Rain of Glass library has reference books on Tiffin Glass, including Fred Bickenheuser's Tiffin Glassmasters Books 1, 2 & 3, and Tiffin Glass 1914-1940 by Leslie Pina and Jerry Gallagher. All of these were used as references for this article.

## **FEBRUARY MEETING TOPIC: COLLECTING MOVIE MEMORABILIA WITH SPECIAL GUESTS WILL SPENCER AND STEVEN STEINBOCK**

There are endless areas of collecting movie memorabilia. Some collectors concentrate on one star, or one movie, or one genre such as horror, Westerns or noir, or they collect only certain eras. Some collect props, costumes or set pieces, but they must have deep pockets because these things are extremely expensive! For instance, movie star Debbie Reynolds was one of the first to recognize the value of preserving costumes. She started buying them in 1970 when MGM sold off its costumes for pennies on the dollar, and continued when Fox did the same. Now these pieces are worth thousands of dollars.

Will Spencer, owner of Rita Deco Antique Shop in the heart of the Hollywood district at 1925 N.E. 42nd, collects movie memorabilia including autographs, magazines and posters, and Steven Steinbock collects movie star autographs.

Movie items can come from many places: garage sales, shops, shows, eBay, etc. High-end costumes and props generally are sold by better auction houses. Locally, Rita Deco has movie memorabilia both for sale and on display, and Movie Madness on Belmont has a nice museum area. Mark Lindsay's Rock & Roll Café in Hollywood has an extensive display of music memorabilia.

Will showed movie magazines signed by the featured stars, and the Architectural Digest issue featuring Academy Award-winners' homes. He has art pieces of Academy Award winners, but these stopped being made in 1962.

Movie posters come in different sizes:

One Sheet, 27" x 41"

Two Sheet, 41" x 54"

Three Sheet, 41" x 81"

Twenty-Four Sheet, 246" x 108"

Display, 22" x 28"

Insert, 14" x 36"

Window Card, 14" x 22"

Lobby Cards, 11" x 14" (but also 8" x 10" before 1930)

Lobby cards came in sets of 8 showing different scenes from the current feature. Theatres had framed shadow boxes to display them. The best art was done in the 1930's and 1940's; these have the best colors and most detail. The end of lobby cards came in the 1970's, but by then the designs were very simplistic and a lot less attractive than the older ones.

Will has a three sheet of Flower Drum Song on display at Rita Deco. It is actually two pieces—a one sheet and a two sheet. Three sheets are not that valuable because they are so large that they are difficult to display in most homes.

Steven Steinbock's business is All The Best, Autographs. He started collecting autographs about 9 years ago when he acquired a photo of Betty White. He sent it to her and she sent it back, autographed. His dad had a photo of Jane Powell, and Steven sent it to her and she sent it back signed and with a personal letter.

Writing to stars is a good way to obtain their autographs, but sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope is a must. And it doesn't hurt to send a donation to the star's favorite charity along with the autograph request! For instance, Doris Day will sign faster with a contribution to the animal league she supports, and Celeste Holm sent hers back because Steven included a contribution to her favorite charity, UNICEF.

Meeting stars who come to Portland is another way Steven has augmented his collection. He got Robert Goulet's autograph when he chanced to see him in a local restaurant. When Ann-Margaret appeared in Portland, she would sign autographs but not in person—Steven had to send his material backstage. Celebrities generally sign their own autographs, but when they use secretaries or autopen machines to do it for them, word gets out through collector magazines and newsletters, so it's easy to avoid these.

eBay is a good source for purchasing autographs, as are auction houses such as R&R Auction and Heritage Auction. Steven recommends R&R as they keep a list of their auctions clear back to the 1990's. A good online source is his company [www.allthebestautographs.com](http://www.allthebestautographs.com). Sometimes stars don't return your material, but most do, although in their own good time! Jane Wyman set a record for speed by sending hers back in one week. Sources for obtaining celebrities' mailing addresses include Pen & Quill Magazine, Autograph Collector's Magazine, and [www.startiger.com](http://www.startiger.com).

Most movie star autographs are worth \$15--\$20, although some stars go much higher. Lucille Ball's autograph on a photo is \$300-\$400, Judy Garland's is \$2000-\$3000, and now the late Heath Ledger's is \$200-\$300. Autographs on photos are more valuable than those on plain cards or paper, but if you don't have a photo, use an index card. Personalized autographs take away from the value, although not to Steven. Steven recently acquired his most sought-after autograph: Lucille Ball. He bought it on eBay.

There are many other areas of autograph collecting besides movie stars. One of the most popular right now is the space program because so few folks have been in space. Space program collectors hold a convention every year at Cape Canaveral. Like any other area of collecting, it is important to do your research before buying autographs. Look online or in the magazines for information on how to authenticate the autograph you are considering purchasing. A little study in the beginning will avoid a lot of disappointment in the end!

*Reported by Carole Bess White*

**THREE DAYS OF FUN, FRIENDSHIP & SEMINARS ON GLASS**

**All registrations received and paid in full by April 30, 2008, receive a \$10 EARLYBIRD DISCOUNT**

**AND**

**Portland's Rain of Glass members with paid-up dues receive a \$10 DISCOUNT**

Refunds are allowable for all prepaid amounts in excess of a \$20 per person non-refundable registration fee up to two weeks prior to the Rally. Refunds within two weeks of the Rally will not be allowed except for illness or family emergency and will be subject to the non-refundable \$20 fee.

**Reserve hotel rooms directly with the Rodeway Inn**

**503-652-1515**

**Mention Portland's Rain of Glass for discounted room rental**

**CONVENTION INFORMATION**  
**SANDRA MILLIUS 503-282-3838**

**www.rainofglass.com**  
**SandraMillius@comcast.net**

**THIS YEAR'S CONVENTION THEME:**

**DECADES OF GLASS**

**DISPLAYS WILL REFLECT THIS THEME**

**www.rainofglass.com**

**Portland's Rain of Glass 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention and Auction**

**Auction**

**MAY 29-30-31, 2008**



**FREE AUCTION ADMISSION**

- ◆ **NO BUYERS PREMIUM**
- ◆ **PREVIEW MAY 30, 5:00 PM**
- ◆ **SILENT AUCTION May 30, 5:30 – 6:45 PM**
- ◆ **LIVE AUCTION MAY 30, 7:00 PM**

Rodeway Inn, Portland, OR  
 9723 NE Sandy Blvd - 503-652-1515  
**Two Blocks from the I-205 Sandy Blvd Exit**

**2008 RALLY REGISTRATION**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ADDR \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
 EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

◆ **TWO-DAY REGISTRATION \$125.00**  
 \_\_\_\_\_ person(s) @ \$125 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

◆ **ONE-DAY REGISTRATION \$75.00**  
 \_\_\_\_\_ person(s) @ \$75 Fri. \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ person(s) @ \$75 Sat. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

◆ **DINNER THURSDAY 6 P.M. \$20.00**  
 \_\_\_\_\_ person(s) @ \$20 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

◆ **SPEAKERS ONLY \$10.00 EACH SESSION**  
 \_\_\_\_\_ person(s) X \_\_\_\_\_ sessions \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 @ \$10 each session

**REGISTRATION TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

PROG. MEMBER DISCOUNT  
 \_\_\_\_\_ member(s) @ -\$10 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**EARLY REGISTRATION BEFORE 4/30/07**  
 \_\_\_\_\_ person(s) @ -\$10 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

◆ **ALA CARTE PRICING** ◆  
**FRIDAY OR SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER, \$25**  
 \_\_\_\_\_ person(s) @ \$25 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Other ala carte prices available on request  
 \_\_\_\_\_ please indicate if vegetarian or special diet

**(AUCTION NO CHARGE)**

**TOTAL PAID \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Total to be paid in full at time of registration**



# **“Decades of Glass” CONVENTION 2008**

Convention time is coming up soon! We will gather for our 16<sup>th</sup> annual celebration the last weekend in May at the Rodeway/Quality Airport Inn (9727 NE Sandy Blvd). Expect an evening and two full days of fun, fellowship and food — and interesting seminars.

Each year we have featured speakers from near and far – authors, museum curators, researchers and advanced collectors – to share their passion and knowledge! This year is no exception. Subjects range from the elegant and beautiful American Brilliant Cut Glass to the colorful, whimsical world of Blenko; a look from across “the pond” of British Art Deco patterns and colors to American 20’s & 30’s explosion of color in glass! Dean Six, author, collector, and founder of the WVA Museum of Glass will take us back in time to the great age of marbles & marble memorabilia! Marcia “Sparkles” Brown, author of several books, leads a seminar on glass in jewelry. Just let your mind run on that last one.... rhinestones? Swarovski crystals? Beads? “Jet?” Won’t this be fun!

Thursday kicks off with a “Get Acquainted Dinner” at the Rodeway/Quality Inn. Traditionally, this event is a chance to meet the speakers, visit and enjoy a nice meal. This year we are featuring a “Key Note Speaker!” Stay tuned for more about that.

The Convention proper continues through Friday and Saturday. We will have three seminars each day. Friday’s events include the “Author’s Fair” and our Annual Glass and Collectibles Auction. In addition to three seminars, Saturday events include the Banquet and could include a shopping trip the Hollywood District antique malls (there are three, plus some other specialty shops). On both days you will have the opportunity to view some wonderful displays from our members’ extensive glass collections. With a theme of “Decades of Glass”, the possibilities for display are wide ranging. Display Chair, Jack Bookwalter, wants to hear from you (you can display even if you cannot attend the convention).

You can register for two full days, one day only, for the seminars, for Thursday’s Dinner or any of the other meals! There is no charge to come and shop or to come to Author’s Fair. You can choose a special seminar, attend that and stay for lunch! Possibilities are many. Our registrar, Sally Cole, will be able to help you with any questions.

The Auction is a free event and is open to the public. You are invited to come and you are invited to bring others you think would enjoy a great auction experience. We have the services of an experienced and entertaining auctioneer and we’ll have lots of great glass and “goodies” on silent bid and in the oral auction.

A registration form is printed with this newsletter. You will notice that PROG members get a \$10 member discount. There is also an early bird discount for members and non-members to take advantage of.

PROG supports this annual event largely through registration fees and auction proceeds. We also sell ads in the convention program – business card size. You may know someone who would like to advertise in our program. Or, perhaps you know someone who would like to make a contribution to this educational event. Ed Martin, Development Director can be of assistance with that. Perhaps you know of a website or a publication or a collector group that should hear about the auction and convention. Give Karen Young, Marketing Chair, the information and she can get it done!

Also, you or someone you know can make a contribution to the auction. It’s not just for glass anymore! We take pottery, silver, furniture, jewelry, and other goods and services – in addition to glass! Auction Chair, Bob Carlson, is in charge. In an article elsewhere in this newsletter, Bob explains more about auction donations.

Well, that’s it for now. Stay tuned for more information about speakers, events and more! And, it is not too soon to get your early bird special!

*Sandra Millius, Convention Chair*

# Portland's Rain of Glass, Inc.

Friendship Masonic Center

5626 N.E. Alameda

Portland, OR 97213



## ❖ INSIDE ❖ *Portland's Rain of Glass, Inc.*

- ◆ Calendar of Events
- ◆ Tiffin's Decorated Satin Glass
- Collecting Movie Memorabilia
- ◆ Convention Registration Form & Information
- ◆ Expo Display
- ◆ Membership Information

### CONVENTION AUCTION Donations Needed

The auction now includes  
Antiques & Collectibles,  
American & Foreign

Clean, undamaged items only,  
such as

**Glass, Pottery, China, Silver,  
Books (A&C), and Furniture**

Also General Merchandise,  
Gift Certificates, etc.

Thank you,  
**Bob Carlson**  
**503-238-4327**

[robertpcarlson@comcast.net](mailto:robertpcarlson@comcast.net)