

# QUARTERLY

AUGUST 2007

## Big Turnout for Convention

By Pam Steinbach, Director

I'm very happy to announce that we had one of the largest turnouts in recent convention history this year. Not since the SGS 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary convention in 1999, have we had such a well-attended event. The bright, sunny display room once again really shed a beautiful light on all the stretch glass.

Our five club display tables, representing Diamond, Fenton, Imperial, Northwood and US Glass—as well as a few pieces from Central, Lancaster and Jeannette--were set up to look like someone was coming to dinner, complete with napkins and silverware. A special center-piece was created for each table consisting of contemporary stretch glass made by Fenton and filled with silk flowers and/or fruit. It was amazing to see all the different ways our stretch glass could be put together for real or imagined utilitarian uses.

IMPERIAL



NORTHWOOD



Many members used this opportunity to also set up their personal displays using the same theme. There were some really impressive tables complete with beautiful tablecloths, stretch glass place settings, vases filled with flowers and even some with edible goodies being displayed. Kudos to our members for another year of great efforts!

Jim & Marilyn Farr's goodies in stretch glass

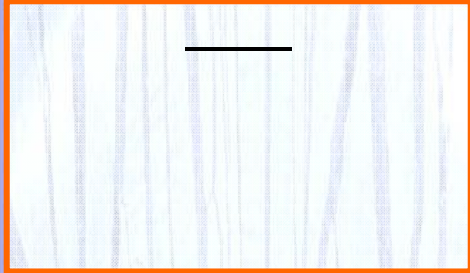


Stephanie Leonard Bennett's 'vision in blue'



We also had fun socializing, getting reacquainted and discussing our latest finds at the opening night's Wine and Cheese Welcome party. Thanks to

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Stephanie Bennett for organizing such a wonderful spread—including her vintage tablecloths and blue stretch glass serving pieces. What a great way to wind down that first evening.



The always popular Sales Stampede was a huge success and I think everyone got, at least, one piece they had their eye on. Dave Shetlar gave us



great insight into identifying “tricky” pieces of stretch glass and pointed out some rare and unusual items in the club display. We always learn so much from listening to Dave.

The live and silent auctions were successful with some pieces being won again this year by absentee bidders. An absentee member was also the lucky winner of one of the raffle pieces. The results of both the auctions and the raffle are in Jim’s report elsewhere in this issue. So, just because you can’t attend convention, it doesn’t mean that you can’t be a part of the excitement!



Our banquet speaker was Kelsey Murphy, assisted by her Studios of Heaven partner Bob Bomkamp. They made a



fascinating presentation about the process of carving cameo glass. The most impressive aspect of the talk was actually viewing several examples of their work up close. You realized when you got a close look, these pieces are meticulously and intricately carved and, in some cases, with as many as seven layers of different colored glass. When they refer to “carving” it’s not with a knife, but with the process of sand-blasting. You just have to see these pieces in person to totally appreciate their amazing quality.

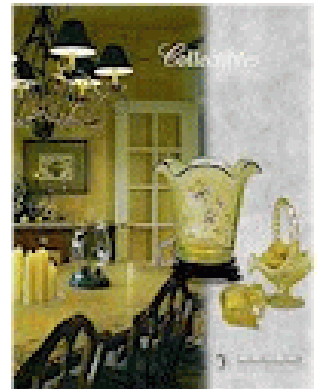
As a special treat for SGS members, Kelsey had created two pieces from some contemporary stretch glass using her carving technique.

When she announced that these stretch glass pieces could be purchased, several members jumped at the chance and rushed to grab them up (much to the disappointment of us more slowly-moving members). She hinted, however, that there just might be some similar pieces available to buy in the, not-too-distant, future!

The speaker on Friday afternoon was Shelley Fenton Ash. Shelley delivered a talk about the history of the Fenton company catalogs—a real time capsule look at the methods used for assembling the catalogs. In the earlier years, the process was



very time-consuming and labor intensive. With the aid of a computer assisted Power Point, Shelley shared images of the processes from those early years to the present day product. It was amusing to hear some of the behind-the-scenes stories, too. Did you realize that she was the little girl pictured in some of the early catalogs? Or that some family member’s homes were used for some of the set-up shots illustrating some of the offerings of Fenton glass? Or that various other children of family members have been used as subjects—some even controversial? Well, after all, it has been a family-run company for 100 years. Shelley also described how the collaboration between the Fenton Art Glass Company and QVC developed.



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L-R clock-wise from back: Cyndi & Mike Getchius, Mary Lynn Padovano, Jim & Marilyn Farr and Lynda Randolph

Apparently offering free lunch is the key to attendance at the annual, and official, SGS business meeting. A fairly large group of members participated in the luncheon and in the ensuing discussion. The officers and directors are very appreciative for the contributions of the members in attendance during the discussions and their suggestions. Members sometimes don't realize how important such feedback—whether positive or negative—is to those of us in leadership roles.

Hope to see even more of you next year in Marietta—the dates are:

## July 30 to August 1!



Kelsey's Ginger Jar listed in recent Fenton Catalog

### STUDIOS OF HEAVEN RECOGNIZES MILLIE COTY

According to Kelsey Murphy and Bob Bomkamp, cameo glass carvers of the West Virginia glass studio, Studios of Heaven, they would likely never have had the opportunity of working with the Fenton Art Glass Company this past year, if it weren't for Millie Coty's invitation for Kelsey to speak to the National Fenton Glass Society in 2006.

Kelsey's association with the company began after Millie introduced her to Nancy Fenton, product development director. Nancy was impressed and gave Kelsey the task of creating designs using Fenton blanks and her carving techniques and to train company decorators to continue those techniques adding her designs to the company line.

Following Kelsey's SGS talk, a surprise presentation was made to Millie Coty in recognition of her efforts at bringing the glass artists to the attention of the glass company. Sometimes it's serendipity that brings two talents together and sometimes it's due to people who have a love of glass.

Thanks to Millie for also suggesting that the SGS contact Kelsey for this year's banquet talk!



### WVA MUSEUM OF AMERICAN GLASS DEVELOPING SPECIAL HOLIDAY EXHIBIT

Dean Six, Managing Editor of All About Glass, the official publication of the WVMAG, happened to stop by the SGS convention to take a look around and to ask a number of questions regarding our club display—Iridescent Stretch Glass Place Settings.

It just so happens that the Museum is planning the same type of exhibit for the holiday season – American glass place settings. Six didn't have a lot of details other than they would be looking for people to offer, at least, two pieces representing a place setting (or a portion of a place setting). The stipulation, according to Dean, was that one piece has to be horizontal (such as a plate or bowl) and the second piece has to be vertical (such as a tumbler or sherbet).

The exhibit is supposedly planned to run for three months beginning in November. Please contact the Museum if you are interested in offering any of your iridescent stretch glass items for the exhibit and to ask for more details about deadlines for sending or delivering your items. The Museum's telephone number is **304-269-5006**.



If you'd like to visit the Museum, they are located 1/2 block from the corner of Main Avenue & 2nd Street in downtown Weston, West Virginia. Open to the public Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday, Noon to 4PM.