

FENTON FINDERS OF GREATER KANSAS CITY

We missed all of our Fenton friends and were thinking of you as we would normally have seen you all this past weekend at the Gala. But, that will make seeing you in 2021 even better. Some of you were able to join us on a Zoom meeting held on a Saturday evening this past month. It was a small group, but quite fun to catch up with each other, take care of a bit of business, and of course share some of our glass finds. Now for the really exciting news, we have a meeting space for our October club meeting! One of our members was gracious enough to reach out to their church and confirmed that the space was available for our use on **Saturday, October 10th**. We realize not everyone may feel comfortable meeting and we understand and acknowledge that. **For those that are ready to get together, we will meet at 7pm at Sterling Full Gospel Church located at 3007 S. Sterling Ave., Independence, MO.** We will have a business meeting and Show and Tell. Voting for the two officer positions will continue by mail as planned. We look forward to seeing those that can make it.

Jason Herman, President

Thank you, Jason.



Finds from the Road

Tuning in an Exceptional Find

By Anne Blackmore

Our anniversary falls during the time of the Fenton Glass conventions in Marietta, Ohio. We planned it that way. We even got married in Marietta during the convention so an overwhelming majority of our friends would not have to make a special trip in order to celebrate with us. But, like everything else in 2020, all the conventions were cancelled. Now what do

we do to celebrate our anniversary? Of course! Go antiquing! [Saw that coming, didn't you?]

So, we planned a route to get to some places we had not been to in a while and decided to start with the largest mall first. We found a lot of nice things, but nothing extraordinary. The next mall was quite small and really off the beaten path. It was a place that every great once in a while we have found something extra nice, but those times have been few and far between. I was not really all that psyched up to go there, but Max wanted to go, so I acquiesced.

Upon arrival at the remote, small mall, we were not really finding anything except a couple of doilies. First room, second room, third room, and now we are down to the very last room. Max paused to look at something in a jewelry case, and I slowly moved forward. Ahead of me was a large showcase with sliding glass doors, neither of which was locked. There was colorful glass inside, but it was all contemporary, import pieces that all likely rode here in a container from Asia. Then my eye fell downward, and I saw a mostly white vase with a jade green foot and pale green loops.

No, it could not be, not in this case of cheap imports! I opened the showcase door and carefully removed it. Beautiful ground and polished pontil mark, not a flaw in it. The white glass had a stunning opalescence when it was held up to the light. It was a Fry Glass 6-7/8-inch Foval vase with rolled edge and festooning (called Radiowave by collectors). The loops were thought to look like how radio waves were artistically depicted when the vase was originally produced back in 1920. Almost all the Radiowave pieces were made by Aaron Bloom, one of the most skilled glassworkers employed by Fry. Radiowave can also be found with Delft Blue and Rose festooning. It is some of the most desirable American art glass forms out there, and rarely found. And here I was holding a piece.

I turned the vase round and round until the price tag showed, and I thought at first it read \$160.00. Not too shabby! Then I read it again, and realized it said \$16.00. Six-teen dol-lars. I started to tremble and quietly got Max's attention. He looked up and I held up the vase. His eyes got big and he mouthed, "How much?" I told him, and he came over quickly and looked over the vase. He smiled the classic "ear to ear" smile and handed it back to me. Oh, yes. This bad boy was going home with us!

The rest of the time in the mall, I clung to the vase and would not just set it up at the counter as we had the handful of other items and books we had found after it. When it was time to check out, I was still holding it tightly.

The very nice man at the register said, "That must be a pretty special vase, the way you are clutching it like a newborn infant." I told him it was and slid a book over. I asked him that when he set it down, to please set it on the book rather than the glass countertop.

He looked at the price and said, "So can I assume there really should be a zero added to this?" I laughed and said, "Add two." He blanched and asked me to please tell him what it was. So, I did, and shared how truly rare pieces in this line are. Max brought in our own wrap from the truck and wrapped the vase.

Once we were out in our truck, we could hardly stop laughing and giggling; we were like little kids, we were so happy! Max said he had been searching for a Radiowave piece for about 30 years and he was so happy about this. Personally, I had wanted one since 2011, when I saw a display of the line at a glass show in Indianapolis. What a great anniversary present from the universe!

Happy hunting, dear friends! We miss you all! Stay safe.

Thank you, Anne,

Now is the time to consider our candidates for President and Treasurer. It is important that everyone who can vote and please keep in mind that there is an option to write in your own candidate. This is a difficult time for all clubs, and we need good people as our leaders to help us through this time. To have good people lead us we must be the ones to take the time and make the effort to vote. We want to give everyone plenty of time to get their vote in so this information is going out this month's newsletter instead of November's.

We are glad to report that we have two exceptionally good candidates for the office of President and Treasurer. Dan Madura for the office of president and Janet Wilke for the office of Treasurer. Dan has been an active member of our club for many years and has worked very hard at the Gala taking over glass sales as well as doing the big glass display for us. Most of our members know Janet Wilke very well, she has been our treasurer for 18 years and does a wonderful job of keeping our finances in order. She has saved the club lots of money by reviewing the billing from the hotel at the Gala as well as reviewing the contracts to make sure that everything is correct. Both Dan and Janet were able to provide information about themselves and tell us what they could do for the club.

Dan Madura President



Dan Madura is a graduate of Purdue University where he majored in theatrical lighting design. He has designed lighting for Interlochen Center for the Arts, Northwest Asian American Theater, Lafayette Civic Theater, Seattle Civic Light Opera, Olympic Ballet Theater, Cincinnati Ballet Company, Whitewater Opera Company, and many others. He was the resident lighting designer for the Seattle Pacific University Theater Department as well as an adjunct professor. He transitioned these talents and bridged over to working for DTC Stage & Studio Supply consulting and selling theatrical and television installations in their Seattle and San Francisco markets as Director of Sales and Marketing. After moving to Kansas City, he furthered his retail scope and is now General Manager of Bed, Bath & Beyond in Olathe, KS. Still longing for an artistic outlet, Dan was very intrigued with the organ at church. This led him to be the lead vocal liturgical cantor at King of Kings Lutheran Church and is currently a member of their choir. He was also on their board of directors as treasurer. Because of Dan's love of the organ, he found out the American Guild of Organists was looking for a housing director for their 2018 convention. After a highly successful convention, he joined the board of directors of the Kansas City chapter of the AGO as registrar and is now currently treasurer. So, how does this all relate to Fenton glass? Dan still longed for a further artistic outlet. He remembered, as a child, going to the gift shops lining route 6 on the way down to Cape Cod. He always saw all those wonderful lamps in the windows of these gift shops lit up at night. Well, the seed was set. Cape Cod was a treasure trove for Fenton cranberry glass because of the many cranberry bogs around the area. He used to go into those shops with his mother and was completely awestruck. He was always a collector of cranberry glass until he found out about Fenton Finders. He then branched out into other types of Fenton glass, especially the lamps. Currently, Dan is a member of the Gala committee and puts together and hosts the large display and runs glass sales. He looks forward to the Gala every year because of all the wonderful people on the committee that help to put it together and seeing collectors from all over the country. He loves to hear their stories. His only Fenton regret is that he never got to tour the Fenton factory and gift shop. The company closed shortly before Dan joined Fenton Finders. His goal as president is to propel Fenton Finders into the future so it can continue to be a source for the continued education of collectors of Fenton art glass as well as other art glass forms and to nurture new talent wanting to learn about the art of making glass as well as the history of art glass in America.

Thank you, Dan.

Janet Wilke Treasurer



I am Janet Wilke. I have collected glass, mainly Fenton Art Glass, since about 1994. I have been a member of Fenton Finders of Greater Kansas City since 1995, have been the Treasurer and on the Gala Committee since spring of 2002.

According to the Bylaws: The Treasurer shall keep such financial records and logs as required by the corporation; shall be responsible for the post office box of the corporation; shall be responsible for expensing all monies via check and will report current financial status of the corporation to the board.

The duties include keeping track of dues paid in order to provide the Membership list to the Secretary in order for her to send out the newsletters.

Paying the club's bills, depositing the club's incoming monies, providing a Balance Sheet to the Secretary and Vice President each month, keeping a spreadsheet of all payments to the club for dues, Gala registrations, luncheons, banquets, hospitality donations, and glass sold. Consult with the accountant to keep club compliant with Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) Corporation.

Review new hotel contracts to keep on file to confirm that hotel has billed after the Gala according to their contract.

Duties specific to the Gala:

Attend Gala Committee meetings in order for the Committee to plan the Gala. Many of the duties are specific to being on the Gala Committee and are most appropriately done by the Treasurer.

Create new Registration & Gala Information yearly to mail them out to the Mailing List.

Track Registrations, luncheons, banquets, and presold glass paid on Master Spreadsheet of Gala and providing the meal counts to the hotel just prior to the Gala.

Provide a letter to the hotel regarding authorized signers for hotel services and yearly completion of Direct Bill Application for Atrium Hospitality.

Provide list of Sellers at the Gala to Jason for room assignment.

Bring credit card machine, cash for change, office supplies, Banner, and Copies of Glass for Sale List.

In Registration Packets provide name badges, Agenda, Auction list, Auction Bid Card, Menu, Information on Past Galas, etc.

Work the Registration Desk at the Gala and Clerk at the Auction & Whimsey Auction.

Keep the credit card machine which includes yearly documentation of PCI Validation required by ControlScan for credit card security.

Extra services performed include:

Past Gala information including Big Display theme, Speakers, and number of Registrations etc.

Thank you, Janet.

President

Dan Madura _____

Write in candidate _____

Treasurer

Janet Wilke _____

Write in candidate _____

Name_____

Address_____

Signature_____

Please either cut this out the ballot or make a copy with all needed information and mail to Janet Wilke, Treasurer, FFOGKC PO Box 67071 Topeka KS 66667-0071

There will be two ways to vote for the candidate that you prefer and yes you can write in a candidate of your choice. Please mail the ballot to **Janet Wilke**, at the above address. Since Janet is our candidate for Treasurer, please mark "**attention ballot**" on the envelope so she will not open it. Envelopes will be open when the board or the club meets to count the votes.

You can also send your vote electronically to Jason Herman at **jherm007@aol.com** and Connie Duncan at **Fenton123@aol.com**. To be counted all electronic votes must be sent to both Jason and Connie to verify your vote, please include your name and address and contact information with your vote or it will not be counted. **Both mail and electronic votes must be received by October 31st, 2020** before 7 PM to be counted and the results will be posted on our website, Facebook page as well as the newsletter. Thank you.

Just a quick reminder, it is time to renew your membership if you have not already done so. Please send a check or money order (no cash or credit cards) for \$7.50 for a family membership or \$5.00 for an individual membership to:

Janet Wilke Treasurer

Fenton Finders of Greater Kansas City

PO Box 67071

Topeka KS 66667-0071

Thank you, remember to take care of yourself as we enter this somewhat strange holiday season, find ways to connect with friends and family and don't forget to keep hunting for that wonderful piece of Fenton that somehow remains just out of reach. And good news our program for October will be Pandemic Finds or show and tell if you prefer. Everyone who is able please bring in the great finds you have discovered during the time we have not been able to meet. There will be no treats at this meeting and to be safe masks are suggested but not mandatory.

Jackie Oglesby

Secretary