

## LET'S TALK ACGA ANNUAL CONVENTION!

*by Tom and Carol McWhirter*

We have told you we are planning for “**A Really Big Show!**” We have previously informed you about the great dealers who will be bringing their best pieces of cut glass for sale in the 6,000 square foot showroom. The April *Hobstar* told you about the seven great speakers who will be sharing loads of information about our passion, American Brilliant cut glass. Now we would like to tell you about some of the opportunities and numerous extras that will be included in your registration for the July 13-16 ACGA Rockwall Convention!

### Let's Talk Workshops!

**Faux Glass** Several topics lend themselves to “hands-on” presentations in smaller, more intimate settings. Faux cut glass, which has been recognized as being in existence for over 30 years, is one of them. The faux cut glass workshop is one of the most popular and this year will include numerous pieces for a hands-on learning experience. This workshop will be presented by Peter Velez and/or Hal Gelfius, who have both served as chair of the Ethics & Authenticity Committee. We expect many people will want to attend this workshop, so we may have two back-to-back, one-hour presentations.

**Photography At Its Best** Everyone who collects American Brilliant cut glass has had a desire to photograph those very special pieces! No one does it better than Rob Smith, who will be presenting a hands-on workshop on how to use black curtain backdrops and light tables to get that perfect, professional shot! This has been a very popular workshop, but it has been over five years since Rob has made this presentation. He assures me that there are many new updates to be shared, so you will not want to miss it.

**Lights, Cabinets, Action!** After putting together a collection of American Brilliant cut glass, the next important questions are where and how to display it. This first-ever presentation will be conducted by Chris Carnahan, Phil Nicholson, and Tom McWhirter. They will discuss numerous cabinet ideas and designs as well as the pros and cons of direct and indirect lighting. Also included will be information about tape lights to illuminate those dark spots that everyone has to deal with.

**So You Want to Research Your Glass!** Well, you've come to the right place. We have an outstanding presentation on all the “how to's” when it comes to finding out more about, not only your glass, but all aspects of the history of American Brilliant cut glass. LindaJo Hare, an expert in research, will give you all her secrets and tips for learning this most interesting endeavor.

**First Timers' Orientation** “Let's talk convention and let's talk glass!” If this is your first convention, this workshop is for you! Howard Blair will give an overview on what to expect during the four days and answer questions about vetting, the dealers, Collectors Night, and much more. In the second part of the workshop, First Timers will enjoy Howard's entertaining presentation, *Cut Glass 101*. This workshop will be presented on Tuesday, July 12, at 5:00 p.m., before the official convention opening on Wednesday morning.

### **Let's Talk Rarities Exhibit and a Home Visit!**

Because of the difficulties involved in obtaining adequate cabinets, insurance, and security, it has been many years since a convention has had a rarities exhibit. This year we are putting a new twist on what we believe are some of the most outstanding pieces in the nation. We are combining a rarities exhibit with a visit to our new home just two miles from our convention hotel. You will see our collection housed in a special circular room built specifically for glass display. Across the foyer behind velvet ropes with special 5000k LED lighting will be the 2022 ACGA Rarities Exhibit.

### **Let's Talk Hospitality—With a View!**

One of the biggest challenges in planning for this convention was to be sure we could bring in our homemade cookies and have them available in our hospitality area! The pandemic that we have been facing for two years created a real problem for refreshment delivery. After negotiations, our contract now reads that we can bring in cookies, but they must be pre-sealed and put in gift bags for our members. This sounds a little silly, but it is the only way we could continue our 40-year tradition of lemonade and homemade goodies. As Rob Smith's research of unusual cut glass items was so extensive, additional oddities will be shown on a recorded continuous loop in the hospitality area for your viewing pleasure! Hospitality overlooks the lake and is located just outside the Dealers Showroom.

### **Let's Talk Silent Auction!**

The Silent Auction is a very important event which raises funds to help defray convention costs. It is even more important this year with the cost of goods and services increasing at such a rapid rate. The auction will be hosted by Dianna Norton and Shelia Gibson. Please note the Silent Auction ad on page 7465 in the April issue of *The Hobstar* to see how you can participate! Use your imagination and donate as many items as possible to help make this a very successful event! Bidders will find cut glass pieces, handmade items, wines and other spirits, books and catalogs, and the rare and unusual. The Silent Auction room will be located right outside the Dealer Showroom doors. The auction is always a fun and exciting event, especially during the final ten minutes!

### **Let's Talk Collectors Night!**

Okay sellers, it is time to dig through your boxes and pull out those pieces you are willing to part with for Collectors Night. This is the first Collectors Night in three years, so you can be assured that a lot of buying and selling will be happening during this event. Cindy and Price Chandler are hosting the Silent Auction. Please see the April ad on page 7465 of *The Hobstar*.

The number of tables for sellers is limited, so reserve your table now. First come, first served, so don't be late!

### **Let's Talk Hotel and The Harbor!**

The Hilton Hotel, under new management, has been completely refurbished over the last three years. It has all of the amenities we could ask for. Now let's talk The Harbor Rockwall! This is a combination of restaurants, boutiques, and a theatre, overlooking Lake Ray Hubbard and within 200 feet of the Hilton's back door! You will find fine Italian cuisine and dining at Campisi's, Giovanni, or The Oar House, and for great steaks look no further than Culpepper Steak House. Discover casual dining at Gloria's Restaurant (Latin cuisine), Sideways BBQ, Dodie's Cajun Diner for seafood, Rodeo Goat for a great burger, and stop at Cold Stone Creamery for your ice cream fix.

### **In Conclusion, Let's Talk You!**

We think you can all see that this is going to be the best location with the best selection of restaurants, the best speakers for our educational programs, and great dealers who will bring a multimillion-dollar inventory for your selection! We have great workshops for hands-on experience, and after three years, Collectors Night and the Silent Auction will both be amazing. We, along with our great committee chairs, are working very hard to present an outstanding convention for you. We guarantee it will be "**A REALLY BIG SHOW!**" Registration packets have been sent, and it is now time for you to make your reservations. The Yellow Rose of Texas is waiting to welcome you, as we celebrate American Brilliant cut glass!

The Lone Star Chapter is ready and waiting for YOU!!

Carol and Tom McWhirter, Co-Chairs