

2006 OGG President's Letter

This year has been an extremely busy one for Oregon Glass Guild. We started with a full Board and also ended with one. This was noteworthy in itself. I find that volunteering for any position with OGG can lead you in directions that you don't expect. I personally would like to thank each and every one of the OGG Board members who had any part of this year's leadership. Thank you so much for your time and dedication to a great cause. Without you, we wouldn't be where we are.

Well, where are we?

With a lot of help from people who have been paying attention, I have received a wonderful list of accomplishments which OGG has done this year.

The beginning event was the largest Glass Gallery held at the Expo Center in Portland. The Pavilion highlighted every vendor who wished to display a sampling of their wares. This was a particularly beautiful display of co-operative work from our guild members. Lots of great glass was sold and coffers were filled. There was even voting on the BEST BOOTH this year and Sue Moir received this award. Way to go, Sue. Demonstrations had a section of the room all to themselves and what I was able to see was very informative. Thank you.

Bob Heath with help from numerous people has successfully gotten our web-site up and running. This site includes free individual web pages for members. If you haven't visited this site, now would be a great time to do so. www.oregonglassguild.org. To Bob, and all who helped, thank you. And yes, you may have a gallery page – just ask Bob.

We then participated in the Empty Bowls Project which helps food banks. Our participation in this event has broadened over the years and we actually were able to expand into the Eugene area with one. What an act of commitment to the community in which we live to host this event and be part of it. Thank you.

A very large sigh of relief escaped our minds and lips when we were awarded our IRS non-profit status. We are now officially a 501 (c) (4). The dedication of everyone who participated in this event was staggering. This has been a project that has spanned several years. Thank you.

The Gorge Chapter has initiated the Gorge Glass Month. This event was in concert with the opening of the new Columbia Arts Center and members of the glass guild were able to capitalize on this with an entire month of glass in the community. There were about 11 people who enjoyed having their art displayed in local businesses for the entire month. The opening gala was a chance for people to get to know the Masters who then taught various classes at the Art Center. Our well known Masters also had their work showcased for the whole month. Numerous Gorge members opened their studios to tours and demonstrations. This was such a successful event that the Gorge Chapter has been invited to take the whole month of June next year also. Thank you.

The OGG hosted a reception for Italian/Argentinian artist Miriam Di Fiore in August. Miriam presented her work via slides and wonderful stories during the event at Portland's Contemporary Crafts Museum & Gallery. Miriam traveled to Portland to teach a class that was organized by two OGG members.

The Eugene Chapter hosted their annual Flame Fest and I heard it was successful. The second annual mask-making competition was lots of fun. This chapter has some great events going for them. Thank you.

The Portland Chapter sponsored an introduction to glassblowing class. Many people who had never blown glass were able to try it. The Chapter has also hosted some great speakers. Thank you.

Connie Trapp was once again instrumental in getting OGG members into the Oregon Justice Center window display. Anyone walking by the windows was treated to magnificent glass art. The organizing of this event is huge and for your effort Connie, we send our thanks. Thank you.

We had a highly successful Annual Meeting at White Salmon Glassworks. The Gorge Chapter's membership provided events such as Glass Blowing by Dennis Mullen and Jack Lorengel, Pate de vere by Linda Steider, Precious Metal Clay by Cathy McCullough, Freeze & Form by Dave Cutler, Torchwork by Serena Smith and Harry Horn, Painting on glass by Richard de la Tour, and etching by Terri Johanson. This event was such a success because Robin and Ellen Knoke opened their doors to OGG to play for the day. Thank you.

Membership has climbed to over 210 !!!!! This shows the increasing interest in glass and the OGG.

Where are we going?

In 2007 we have a new list of officers: Charlene Fort/President, Mary Caldwell/Vice President, Vicki Joslyn/Secretary, Roy Marshall/Treasurer, Jim Simmons/ Director (Communication), Kate Saunders/ Director (Membership), Bob Heath/ Director (Web-site), Candace Thurman / Director (Sponsorship), while the new presidents of the local chapters are Jo-Anne Morrison for the Eugene Chapter, Karen Stoltz, Barbara Bader and Sharon Dunham for the Portland Chapter, and Robin Knoke will take over the presidency for the Gorge Chapter. Thank you.

We are looking at expanding corporate sponsorships, renewing current sponsors and patrons. Our current sponsors which are the backbone of value for us can be found on the web-site.

Jim Callantine has already gotten another group buy of fiberboard organized and we are initiating group purchases of dichro etc.

All the chapters are working on planning new and exciting activities for 2007. Please talk to your chapter representatives to see what part you can play in making your desires and needs known and bring them to reality.

We are always, always, always trying to find and promote opportunities to put glass art in front of the public. Once again, if you know something that is happening in the field of glass, contact one of the leaders for the chapter or guild.

If you think this has been a fun year and looks like the next one will be just as exciting, please remember that it only happens because YOU make it happen. Without all the people who stepped up to the plate this year, we would have been a very boring guild. Because YOU did step up, we are an active and exciting guild.

This is obviously a shameless time to do this....but, don't forget to renew...now would be a great time. It is so very easy to forget and let time slip by without renewing – so fill out the attached form and mail it back with your dues. **Your guild needs YOU.**

Thank you once again and I've certainly enjoyed this year.

Charlene Fort