



Volume 46 Issue 4

July-August 2025

NEXT MEETING

When: August 2, 2025

Where: Willow Springs Community Center

8156 Archer Ave. Willow Springs, IL

AGENDA: 10:30 - 2:30-ish



Remember to bring and share your favorite place settings

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The Prez and VEEP



We find it so hard to believe that it is already the Summer 2025, as of June 20!! Time really does fly the older you get and when you are having fun- we are having fun, aren't we?

The June 7, field trip to the Sanfilippo Perfume Passageway and Museum was a fabulous experience.



There were 25 of us who attended the tour, conducted by Jeffrey Sanfilippo and Rusty Hernandez, owners and collectors of the vast assortment of fragrance bottles and memorabilia housed in the museum. Jeffrey's enthusiasm for collecting glass (perfume bottles in particular) and his interest in history were very apparent as he guided us through the multiple rooms containing the collection. WOW!! If you have not been there, please take the opportunity to go, it is well worth the time and the cost.

Well, it is official, the membership voted to change the name of The 20-30-40 Glass Society of Illinois to The Midwest American Glass Society on June 7, 2025. Now, the 501c3 Committee with Mary Sue Lyon as the chairman and consisting of the members-at-large and the president, are able to proceed to file the application to incorporate the organization with the State of Illinois. "Why all the formality?", you ask.

Here is why. In order for The Society to become a 501c3 non-profit organization recognized by the State of Illinois and the IRS of the Federal Government, we need to re-incorporate under a new name. This process allows us to become tax exempt for both State and Federal taxes. An example would be as follows: if we were to pay \$15,000.00 for a show venue, the State sales tax would be \$1612.50. Additionally, The Society Show Chairman and the President receive a number of emails and phone calls about people wanting to donate their glassware to The Society. Currently, we cannot issue a tax write-off statement due to our status as a 501c7 organization. Any supplies, food, or printed materials that we use or distribute are taxed, including the newsletters

continued on page 2 ...

### ... Prez and VEEP continues

that are being mailed. All of this costs the organization several thousands of dollars per year; so, by taking this action, we are being good stewards of The Society's funds. We will keep everyone up-to-date as we complete each step of the process needed to become a 501c3 non-profit organization.

Our August meeting at the Willow Springs Community Center beginning at 11:00 AM will feature your favorite/prettiest/most spectacular/mother's/grandmother's place settings (maximum two different ones) of their favorite place settings of china or glass tableware. If you have the "complete" (as in all the stems, tumblers, plates, cup and saucer, bowls, salts, mints, bone dishes, etc.) or if you just bring the plate and cup and saucer; we want to learn about the various companies' patterns. We will have both black and white tablecloths to cover all of the display tables to accommodate the most formal or the more informal settings.

We are tentatively planning on another *Oktoberfest* celebration at the October 4 meeting. Remember that for *Oktoberfest* we have the catered meal with a distinct German flare!! After the wonderful meal, we hold our Ticket Auction for glassware brought in to benefit The Society. Last year we had twelve tables of donated glass for which members could bid. We are on the lookout for a nice place to have our December Holiday party on December 6, 2025. The December lunch is followed by several rounds of Dirty BINGO. The prizes for last year's games were fantastic, and everyone had a good time. If any of you have any suggestions on a place with 30-40-person seating capacity and good food, please let us know your thoughts. So many of the places we have used in the past are charging \$40.00 to \$50.00 per plate for a family-style luncheon meal.

Because of the changes made to the By-laws of The Society, there will not be a need for an election this year. Our By-laws state the following about the election of The Society's officers:

#### *Article IV - Officers*

***Section 1 - Number and Term of Officers: The Society shall have a minimum of five (5) Officers: President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Membership Secretary, and Treasurer, but will permit co-office holders. Term of officers will be two (2) years for all elected officers. (As amended and adopted August 3, 2024, by the General Membership of The Society)***

Kathy and I look forward to seeing all of you at the General meetings, sharing glassware and enjoying one another's company.

## Further thoughts about our wonderful trip, from the editor

A visit to the Sanfilippo Estate is almost overwhelming. I can't imagine how much time it would take to see everything. Our group concentrated on the Perfume Passage and had an unexpected opportunity to hear the organ play. Other parts of the building that we were in had vast areas of "music machines" that are too incredible for me to attempt to describe. I had never dreamed that such things existed until I saw them there.

There is at least one other building on the property that houses treasures, including a European Carousel built in 1890, as well as other magnificent machines that create music.

Those of us who were able to visit in June were fully satisfied with the experience yet surely felt more than a little curiosity about what we could see "over there in the distance". The editor has tried to choose photos that give a glimmer of what our group saw, but it is impossible to fully cover it all – there was just so much to see!

For club members who weren't able to go in June, and also for those of us who did ... I strongly encourage you to go online to see videos and photos that will delight you.

A good overview can be found by searching [sanfilippofoundation.org](http://sanfilippofoundation.org)

YouTube has numerous videos of varied length that show the wonders of the museum. Many of them show the organ and other music machines on action.

On [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com), search things like [Sanfilippo Estate](#), [Sanfilippo Foundation](#), and [Sanfilippo organ](#).

I found fewer [YouTube](#) videos specifically for [Perfume Passage](#), but there were a few and it is worth looking to see what you can find.

However, doing an "image search" for [Perfume Passage](#) will find you lots of wonderful photos to enjoy.

Douse yourself with a favorite scent, grab a snack and a favorite beverage and start looking around the internet.



## June 7th MEETING RECAP

Submitted by, Angela McEntee, Secretary

This meeting was a field trip to the Perfume Passage in Barrington, IL.

Our tour started in the large room with the vintage organ. Jeffery Sanfilippo, our tour guide, had us introduce ourselves and give a short description of our collections.

We had approximately 25 members at the event.

The perfume passage is broken into several rooms all added on to accommodate the collections.

The first section is a street in Paris with vintage store front windows representing old perfumeries of France. Caron – Bain De Champagne was one of the stores, there was a reproduction of a Barber’s Shop with a collection of many Old Spice pieces.

One of the rooms opened up into a vintage drug store dating back to 1882 the original store was in Haverhill, MA. In this room there were many sections showing how perfume was made including a little area where you could experiment with scents and create your own fragrance. There were many old perfume bottles in this section made of glass and ceramics.

There was another room that housed DeVilbiss perfumes and a vanity table that belonged to Bette Davis, some **Elgin** (the old watch maker) compacts, and Czechoslovakian Glass. [\(see editor’s nerdy comment below\)](#)

We then went into the “Vault” which was a collection over time from 300AD to the present. The room started out with Egyptian perfumes, Greek perfumes and Roman and African perfumes. A new acquisition of a Tombstone with figures etched into it. The woman had a perfume on her to let us know that she was a female. The tombstone was from 300 AD.

*Continued on next page*



Your editor, an admitted watch nerd and native son of the proud manufacturing city of Elgin, gently offers a little information to clarify something that we saw in the exhibit. Bear with me, or feel free to turn the page. Nobody would blame you.

Actually, the beautiful compacts that we saw were not made by the **Elgin National Watch Co.** They were made a few miles away by a different company. This has always caused confusion. The north end of Elgin was the location of **Illinois Watch Case Co.** This factory initially produced only the cases for pocket watches, and later wristwatches. The case is the decorative metal part that houses the watch movement (gears, jewels, etc.) **IWCC** sold their cases to watch movement makers such as Elgin, Waltham, Hamilton, etc.

Confusion, and legal trouble, arose when **IWCC** used the word “Elgin” very prominently inside their products. Elgin Watch Co. protested and claimed that the case company was trying to ride the coattails of their success and reputation. They were likely correct in this. The confusion between the two companies and their relationship continues to this day for people who don’t understand that there were two different companies.

Fast-forwarding a little ... **IWCC** later diversified to produce items like metal lighters, cigarette cases, and perhaps most successfully ... beautiful compacts. These are very popular with collectors today. The company made sure to keep the public’s confusion alive by branding these items under names like “Elgin American”, and “American Beauty by Elgin American”.

So, long story short (too late?), there were two great companies that helped put Elgin on the map and they made different products. The company that made the famous watches did not make the compacts. Both items were great!

The editor now gets off his soap box and retreats back to the keyboard. We return you to your previously scheduled reading.

The 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 17<sup>th</sup> century had items called vinaigrettes which held scents. The Victorian era had jewelry with areas to hold perfume.

The remainder of the vault brought us up to perfumes of today.

This was an exquisite museum. I would highly recommend going to it if you have not gone.

After the museum, we all attended Chessie's in Barrington for lunch.



## PART 2 .....Re-cap of June Extra General Meeting June 7, 2025:

The June 7<sup>th</sup> field trip to Sanfilippo Perfume Passage Museum was followed by an evening Zoom Business meeting.

**Attendance:** Bette Wittenberg, Jeff and Kathy Hayden, David Taylor, Jackie Alton, Nancy and Wayne Pritzel, Sally Cousineau, Barbara Miller, Gail and Jim Crossen, Jeff Morrow, Rose Roth, Karen Smit, Walt and Mary Kreitling, Mary Sue Lyon, Rose Roth, Lana Larsen, Mary O'Heron, Angela McEntee

The focus of the evening zoom meeting was to change the name of our club for the non-profit incorporation. Several names were suggested by members.

Mary Kreitling motioned: I move that we change the name of The 20-30-40 Glass Society of Illinois to: The Midwest American Glass Society.

Additionally, that we change the purpose of the organization to read as follows:

**Purpose:** The Midwest American Glass Society is dedicated to the preservation of, education about, and collecting of American glass produced from the founding of the country to the art glass of today.

The Midwest American Glass Society specializes in offering educational programs and events that emphasize the heritage of American Glass producing companies, periods of American glassware, and the artistic values of glass. The Midwest American Glass Society identifies, researches, educates, and promotes the preservation and collection of American glass through its regular membership meetings and sponsorship of its annual events for the public.

Angie McEntee seconded Mary's motion. Motion passed with 24 "Yea" and 1 "NO" votes

There was some discussion regarding the November Collectors' Market. More discussion will follow at the June Board of Director's meeting.

### SUNSHINE DEPARTMENT

If you know of one of our members who is ill, has had a loved one pass or just needs cheering up, please contact Gail Crossen.

Email: [gailcrossen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gailcrossen@sbcglobal.net)

Phone/text: (630) 220-6179

### NEWSLETTER CONCERNS?

Newsletter Distribution, U.S. Mail-Gail Crossen

Newsletter Distribution, Email-Bette Wittenberg

Address Change?-Gail Crossen

To offer content-David Taylor, Editor

#### 2025 SOCIETY CALENDAR

*General meetings at Willow Springs Community Center  
8156 Archer Ave. Willow Springs, IL*

August 2,

October 4,

November 1, Collectors' Market, First Congregational United Church of Christ, 235 S. Kenilworth Ave., Elmhurst, IL

December 6-location TBA

#### BOARD MEETING CALENDAR

2025

September 6

November 1

2026

January 3, 2026



Sad news, long time dealer and collector, John Schleinzer passed away on July 8. John was an avid Aladdin Lamp collector and many years a member of the 20-30-40 Glass Society along with being our Show Chairman from 2012 through 2018.



Our thoughts are with our dear friend Halla Kotlarz who recently lost her beloved sister.

The Society sends sunny thoughts to members who continue to deal with some issues. They have our best wishes.

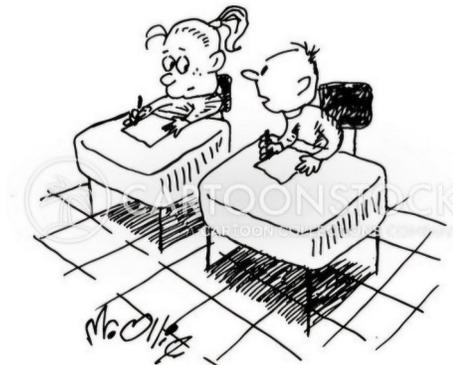
Dick and Bev Popp

Mary McEntee

Mary Losew

We hear that Alice Ewert is doing well after her recent hip "tune-up". Hoping she'll be out looking for beautiful Imperial Glass very soon.

### As the Society prepares to re-incorporate



"What's the answer to 'name'?"



**Our GRAND TOUR  
of a GRAND LOCATION**



*Sanfilippo*  
Foundation



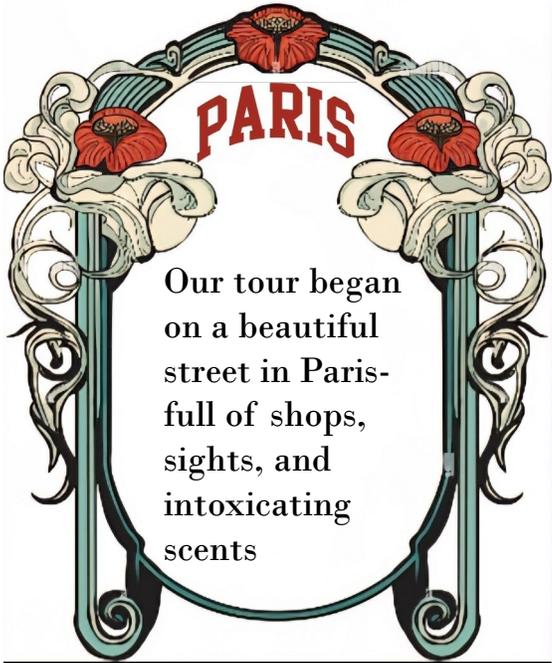
[www.sanfilippofoundation.org](http://www.sanfilippofoundation.org)



Jeffrey Sanfilippo, our gracious host, welcomed us to his fantastic museum and home in Barrington.

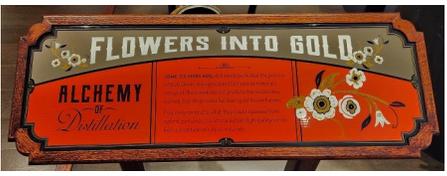
We were surrounded by splendor from the moment we arrived!







Next, we found ourselves in an authentic 1882 drug store that was originally in Haverhill, MA. It was dismantled and has been reconstructed here. It was LOADED with awesome examples of yesteryear's grooming products used by both men and women. You can experience exotic materials used to make scents, and design your own customized perfume. Multiple drawers displayed little wonders associated with grooming and style.



## THE ART DECO ROOM

We were already excited when we entered The Art Deco Room. This room was the closest thing to Heaven for people who like Hollywood, Art Deco style, and of course ... GLASS! The room was designed to evoke the look of the famous *Exposition Internationale des Arts Decoratifs et Industriels Modernes* that was held in Paris in 1925. This is where “Art Deco” got it’s name. There was a LOT of Fry glass to be savored here.





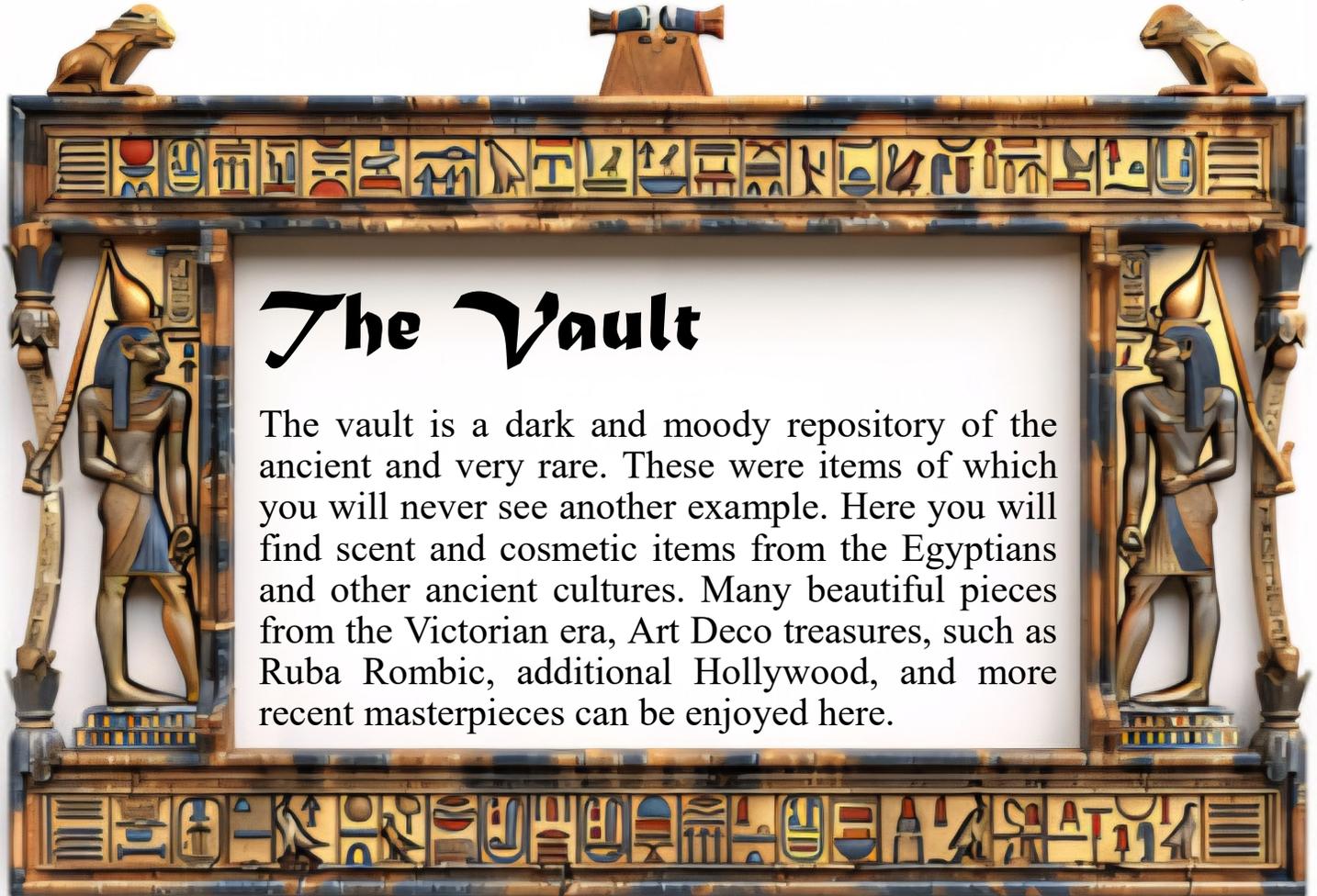
**HOLLYWOOD!** At this point film-loving Mary Kreitling and your editor needed some smelling salts, and had to be pulled away from the exhibit.



# Bette Davis's Vanity Table

*Fit for a Hollywood Queen*

This 1920s mirrored vanity table belonged to renowned actress Bette Davis. Purchased from the final place she would call home — The Colonial House, an illustrious celebrity residence in Hollywood — the item remains in its original condition. Though she described herself as a “legendary terror,” Davis led an uncompromising acting career, blazing a trail for women on the stage, in film, and on TV.



## The Vault

The vault is a dark and moody repository of the ancient and very rare. These were items of which you will never see another example. Here you will find scent and cosmetic items from the Egyptians and other ancient cultures. Many beautiful pieces from the Victorian era, Art Deco treasures, such as Ruba Rombic, additional Hollywood, and more recent masterpieces can be enjoyed here.



### *Emperor Napoleon I Cologne Bottle*

*French*

*1804 – 1815*

*Glass, silver, leather*

*Princely Palace of Monaco, Napoleon Bonaparte Collection*

**TRAVELING WITH NAPOLEON BONAPARTE (1769 – 1821)**, this cologne bottle bore witness to one of the most tumultuous periods of European history — the portrait and imperial crown engraved on either side date it to Napoleon's reign as self-appointed Emperor of France. Napoleon was a great lover of perfume throughout his life, and near-singlehandedly revived the perfume industry during his reign.

**“Grenouille et Nénuphars”  
Perfume Bottle**

Émile Gallé (1846–1904, French)  
1900  
Glass, foil inclusions

**INSPIRED BY NATURE** and exquisitely detailed, the glass masterworks of Émile Gallé helped define Art Nouveau style. The “Grenouille et Nénuphars,” meaning “Frog and Water Lilies,” flacon was a highlight of the 1900 Exposition Universelle. Created with techniques such as internal mottling and engraving, it is a sublime example of Gallé’s fearless experimentation.



**Tombstone For Husband and Wife**

Roman, Imperial period, Eastern Empire, probably Phrygia (present day Turkey), ca. 3rd century CE.

A tombstone for a husband and wife displaying the bust of each beneath an archway with an ancient Greek inscription and objects that serve as attributes for their idealized identities as a farmer and a woman of beauty. The couple stands between 2 pillars of scrolling motifs, gazing forth from sizable almond-shaped eyes. The inscription on the archway above them indicates the year they passed – 241/4 – while below states that this gravestone is in memory of Lukianos Tatianis and his wife.

A mirror, perfume bottle, and comb are placed beneath the wife, serving as symbols of her beauty. Alternatively, a vine knife is shown near the husband, indicating he was a farmer. Note how their placement beneath an archway indicates that the couple is breaching a threshold, perhaps passing through the gates of Hades and entering the afterlife.

Size: 17.1" W x 33.5" H (43.4 cm x 85.1 cm)



Once again, D. Taylor and M. Kreitling were mesmerized by this wonderful film artifact from the golden age of Hollywood. W. Kreitling expressed no opinion, but presumably thought it would make a very nice hood ornament.



**Original Summer Rain Perfume Bottle**

H.G. Curt Schlevogt (1904–1984, Czech)  
1939  
Czech Glass  
1970s MGM Studio Auction

**THE PERFUME** Summer Rain plays a key role in the 1939 movie *The Women* starring Norma Shearer, Rosalind Russell, and Joan Crawford as the perfume counter girl (but not for long!). Its distinctive bottle was one of the last Schlevogt designs to make it out of Czechoslovakia before German occupation.

**Les Sirenes Cire Perdue Scent Bottle**

Rene Lalique (1860–1945, French)  
Glass, opals, diamonds

**THIS ONE-OF-A-KIND BOTTLE** is the gem of our collection. Artist René Lalique made only three scent bottles using his famous cire perdue, or “lost wax,” technique, each one a unique masterpiece. The other two are at museums in Paris and Tokyo.



*Finishing with Flourishes on the Organ*

As we exited our tour, that had so wonderfully enriched our senses of sight and smell, we again entered the enormous room where we had started. In our absence, a group had gathered there and a concert featuring the magnificent organ that anchors the room was in progress. We were invited to join. Naturally, we did not decline, for this was an opportunity to nourish our sense of hearing.

The Sanfilippo Estate is home to a stunning 1927 Wurlitzer Organ that was built for the Riviera Theatre in Omaha. It is mounted on the original Peter Clark lift from the Granada Theatre. In addition to producing an AMAZING sound, the organ is able to pivot from side to side and lower below the floor. The final composition played was the theme from “The Phantom of the Opera”. It was the perfect piece paired with the perfect instrument.



The wondrous Wurlitzer. It spins left and right, and sinks into the floor. It also can play without a person at the keyboard. So ... the Phantom???



## ABOUT US from the old files of Bette Wittenberg

In May 1972, several glass collectors met at the home of Ed Trindle; in Joliet, Illinois, to share their common interest in glass collecting, specifically "Depression Glass". At the conclusion of this meeting, the 20-30-40 Society was formed and in 1973 an election named the following to office: Ed Trindle - President, Mrs. Jean Thomann - Secretary, Mrs. Ruth Martin - Membership Secretary, and Mrs. Jean Ostendorp - treasurer. A committee formed the By-Laws and purpose of the Society. "The purpose of the SOCIETY is to gain more knowledge of glassware of the 1920's, 30's and 40's and to further the enjoyment and pleasure of collecting glass." By the end of 1973, 105 members were listed in the membership book. Members came from Indiana, Iowa, Michigan and southern Illinois to meetings held every other month in Joliet. Early hunting for Depression Glass was very intriguing, as most antique dealers had the glass "under tables" and at flea markets you could buy a "bushel" of glass for a few dollars.



As the popularity and appreciation of Depression Glass grew, so did the club. In 1979 the Society received its' Non-for-profit charter from the State of Illinois. In the 1980's the Club had approximately 230 members. The 20-30-40 Society incorporated as a not-for-profit 501 C (7) on May 20, 2005 and expanded its' name to The 20-30-40 Glass Society of Illinois. Every year since the beginning the Society has sponsored a Chicagoland Depression Era Glass Show & Sale that had always maintained the highest standards of quality and best selection of dealers from across the nation. Throughout the years, the 20-30-40 Society shows have included seminars, a glass grinder, beautiful glass displays (showing off some of the rarest and hard to find glass treasures), an extensive reference library and hospitality greeters. Through the years guests have included Hazel Marie Weatherman, Frances Bones, Tom Smith, Gene Florence, Dean Six, Carolyn Grace Dahlberg, Chicago Tribune Antique Columnist - Anita Gold, and Charles Lotton to mention a few. The bi-monthly meetings started with a main program, on Elegant table service and/or an A to Z table service. The meetings now include a main program on glass and two shorter programs comprising of several areas of collecting, possibly Silver service, china, Depression era jewelry or rolling pins, etc. To tempt your inquisitive mind, we also have the "what's it table". A fun part of our meetings is introducing new members and guests as they are called upon to confess how they got started collecting. Over the years we have heard many interesting stories. Some of the guests, who did not collect, somehow became collectors after attending a meeting. The displays are so beautiful it is hard to resist joining the collecting ranks. We take great pride in guest speakers, to name a few; we have enjoyed Howard Seuffer, Dave Fetty, Delmer Stowasser (from the Fenton Art Glass Co.), Kelsey Murphy and Robert Bomkamp (from Studios of Heaven Cameo Glass, formerly from Pilgrim Glass Co.). The meetings also include a buffet of fried chicken provided by the club with a dish pass provided by the members. Members bring their own table settings thereby showing off the patterns they collect. If we must say so - they are all beautiful and take pride in showing them off. A small door charge is collected to help cover the cost of the meeting room. It is impossible to attend a meeting and not become educated or compelled to join and share your collection.

### A note from our historian, Lana Larsen

Fair Warning!!

Start brushing up on your 20-30-40 club history because there might be a fun quiz at the August club meeting.

Hint ... Your newsletters from the past will have the answers to the quiz. And it's time to be sure that we all know our members first and last names.

Hint ... study your club address list.





20-30-40 Glass Society of Illinois  
The Society Page  
David Taylor, Editor  
P. O. Box 856  
LaGrange, IL. 60525  
Email: 203040GlassSocietyIllinois@gmail.com

Website: [WWW.20-30-40glassociety.org](http://WWW.20-30-40glassociety.org)  
Library: [WWW.librarything.com/catalog/20s30s40s](http://WWW.librarything.com/catalog/20s30s40s)  
Facebook: [WWW.facebook.com/groups/893374548783733](http://WWW.facebook.com/groups/893374548783733)

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

The purpose of the society is to gain more knowledge of the American glassware of the 1920's, 30's, and 40's and to further the preservation and pleasure of collecting glassware

TO -

We're on the web!

[20-30-40Glassociety.org](http://20-30-40Glassociety.org)

**Dazzle us with your best place settings in August. Ya got it ... so FLAUNT IT!**



**Northwood's 'Tree of Life' Stretch**  
is the topic of our stretch out discussion on  
**Thursday, September 11, 2025**  
at 8 pm Eastern, 7 Central, 6 Mountain & 5 Pacific Time.

Join us to learn about this interesting pattern and share your TOL pieces.

You're also welcome to share new finds or pieces you'd like help identifying

Information is available on our website, [stretchglassociety.org](http://stretchglassociety.org) And also available by email:  
[info@stretchglassociety.org](mailto:info@stretchglassociety.org)