

The Brewster Society

# NEWS & SCOPE



A newsletter for designers, collectors and lovers of kaleidoscopes

Vol. 19, No. 3  
Summer 2004

## Brewster Highlands Rendezvous

submitted by Bob and Peg Sabath

On June 3-6, Brewster members and friends attended a wonderful weekend of warmth, friendship, giddiness, conversation, festivity and kaleidoscopes. More than 230 people from the United States, Europe, Japan and New Zealand enjoyed the festivities amid the lush surroundings of The Resort at the Mountain, beautifully situated at the foot of Oregon's Mount Hood.

As always, the program began with the unveiling of new kaleidoscopes, including the introduction of many new and gifted artists. In addition, we were treated to excellent presentations, panel discussions and classes. A high point of the convention came in **Mary Margaret Gibson's** presentation on "The Future of the Kaleidoscope Market", which justifiably earned a standing ovation in response to Mary Margaret's vivid description of the evolution of markets, the current positioning of the Kaleidoscope market, and the resulting responsibilities that each of us has - leading to her call for us to take the lead in growing awareness and appreciation of scopes in our communities.

The Highland Fling Banquet paid special "tribute" to all the plaids worn by everyone who attended (these included kilts, shirts, ties, skirts, jackets, and pajamas). Between the music, the dancing, the food, the door prizes, and the comradery, everyone had a wonderful time.

Finally, an extremely well lit and open salesroom provided just the perfect opportunity for adding to our collections, viewing beautiful images, and simply enjoying each others' company. It was a grand weekend.



collage compiled by Carolyn Bennett

*A special place in one's heart is touched when something old feels like something new. That was my experience of this year's convention. Although Cozy's physical presence was sincerely missed, her vision formed many years ago was in clear focus--a place where collectors, artists, and retailers could all meet to share in their love of color, craftsmanship, and camaraderie. Mary Margaret's keynote speech provided a tremendous perspective on the future of the kaleidoscope world. On a personal level, she motivated me to look at my collection with fresh eyes and interest. Finally, Cozy could not have selected a better "three-some" to carry her vision into the 21st century. Many thanks to each of you for handling the Brewster Society with such care, experience and knowledge.*

**Cheryl Leppla**, Collector  
Seattle, WA

## The Brewster Society Mission Statement:

The Brewster Society is a unique organization which provides a forum for artists, collectors, and retailers to promote and perpetuate kaleidoscopes as an art form.

### Call for Nominations for the Cozette Award.

The Cozette Award was introduced as an award of recognition for the person though passion and dedication does the most to share our group's love and appreciation of kaleidoscopes. For the first two awards, selection of the winner was done by the steering committee. We did not present a Cozette award this year as we would like to have the membership share in this decision. If you would like to nominate someone you feel is deserving of this award, please submit a short paragraph on why you think your nominee is deserving of the award. Nominations will be printed in the newsletter and ballots will be cast before the convention so that we can present the next Cozette award in Nashville.

### "Music City, USA" here we come in 2005

Our host city for next year's convention is Nashville TN where music and mandalas will be the order of the day. While Nashville's country roots are deep, this city is center stage for music lovers of all persuasions. The Grand Ole Opry was born there and still broadcasts nationally live each week. Located near the Grand Ole Opry is our host hotel, the Gaylord Opryland Hotel. The hotel has soaring atriums under glass with lush gardens and cascading waterfalls. Come aboard for a lazy Delta river flatboat ride along an indoor winding river. Five restaurants plus five lounges and pubs, twenty five specialty shops, 2 pools and a fitness center are only a few of the amenities of our hotel. We will be in the Magnolia Section where guestrooms and meetings rooms are within steps of each other, creating a more intimate environment that is ideal for us. Check out the hotel at [www.gaylordhotels.com](http://www.gaylordhotels.com). Convention dates are June 2-5, 2005. See you there!

### The Brewster Society PO Box 95 Damascus MD 20872

The NEWS SCOPE©  
is published quarterly  
Membership & Yearly Subscription  
U.S. \$45; International \$50  
Renewal date is January 1

#### Directors:

Carolyn Bennett  
Charles Karadimos  
Sherry Moser

706-348-6950; fax 706-348-6951

[admin@brewstersociety.com](mailto:admin@brewstersociety.com)

[www.brewstersociety.com](http://www.brewstersociety.com)

webmaster: Kevin Kohler

#### President Emerita:

Cozy Baker: 301-365-1855

Sir Brewster logo by Jan Haber

**A limited amount of ad space is now  
being made available.**

**For more information contact:**

**Carolyn Bennett at 610-565-3532 or  
[info@cbennettsscopes.com](mailto:info@cbennettsscopes.com)**



*The last bio of the new Brewster Society directors to be featured is that of Charles Karadimos.*

I was born and raised in the suburbs of Washington DC in Maryland, where I received all my schooling, graduating from the University of Maryland with a Bachelor of Arts in Economics in 1976. Throughout my education, my academic strengths were centered around mathematics and science. While in college I began working in stained glass, primarily creating 3-D objects, which included boxes, all kinds of boxes, hundreds of boxes, terrariums, lamps, clocks and windows. I had no formal training, limited severely by the amount of art classes available to me in school (most of the art classes were restricted to art majors at the time), so I learned from whatever books were available and through trial and error. After graduating, I turned down a research position with the World Bank and began a "lucrative" career driving a school bus for about a year and a half while I perfected my craft, traveling around the area, selling my work at arts and crafts shows, doing a few commissions, and some repair and restoration work. I also attended numerous glass conferences and seminars, primarily on the west coast (Portland, San Diego, Las Vegas) absorbing any useful information that would help me with my work. In 1980 I bought and restored an old farmhouse in Damascus MD, too far from the school bus lots (that was a good thing), and began making kaleidoscopes, using the information I found in an Encyclopedia Britannica and the scrap mirror from all those boxes. That was ultimately the beginning of my real life's work, 50-60 hours a week, producing just enough work to be sold almost every weekend, only to turn around the next week and do the same thing all over again. (Maybe I should have taken the job at the World Bank ... or maybe not) I phased out all my other glass work and set out to be a kaleidoscope specialist and attempt to sell a kaleidoscope to every one in the world. I wonder how close I am to that goal.

A couple of years later, Cozy Baker found some of my work in a gallery in Annapolis Maryland and our long standing friendship began. I spent many hours talking, viewing, examining, laughing, driving back and forth from many of the conventions and exhibitions, and watching her develop and grow this unique family. This relationship with Cozy and all the other artists and enthusiasts has brought real personality to the kaleidoscope as it developed into a real art form. I am very proud to continue to have the opportunity to actively contribute to the growth of this extraordinary group as part of the new management team with Sherry and Carolyn.

## COZY'S COLUMN

I was very disappointed and frustrated to have to cancel at the very last minute my trip to the convention this year (due to a mild and brief, but untimely dizzy spell), but after reading all the signatures on my souvenir tote-bag, along with many messages, calls, and gifts from well-wishers, and looking through the dozens of pictures taken by Carolyn Bennett, I feel like I actually attended -- the picturesque processional parade, the extraordinary unveiling, the colorful "plaid" dinner party and dance, the interesting programs, the golf tournament, and even hilarious unscheduled shenanigans. I deeply appreciate and want to sincerely thank each and every member for your caring concern, kind thoughts, and remembrances.



Most historians think that Sir David Brewster would be disappointed to be remembered and best known in the 21st century for his kaleidoscope, being a brilliant man with so many notable accomplishments. But I feel otherwise - I think he would be exhilarated to witness the wondrous culmination of his invention in the magnificent artistry of today's scopes, to see the extraordinary group of kaleidoscope enthusiasts - the Brewster Society - and to realize that kaleidoscopes are irresistible to so many around the world! Webster's definition of the adjective "irresistible" sums up the reason for their fascination to all of us - "interesting, alluring, and tempting to possess." Yes, they are filled with wonder, which Webster defines as: "astonishment at something awesomely mysterious and beautiful or new to one's experience."

I think Brewster would be further gratified to realize the kaleidoscope's increased therapeutic and healing influence. The following letter is a testimonial to that facet of his captivating instrument:

Dear Cozy,

When I was 16 years old I discovered in a gift shop the magic of kaleidoscopes - I could have a fireworks show any day I wanted, not just on the 4th of July. And what a blessing those "caves of colors" proved to be, since by the time I was 34 I had developed a blister on the sole of my left foot which resulted in a debilitating disease and chronic pain. I spent a lot of time in and out of hospitals until a team of physicians at Johns Hopkins diagnosed my condition as incurable Peripheral Neuropathy.

This lengthy illness took all sports activities and most other pleasures out of my life, but it accentuated opportunities as well, and I was determined to make something good come from the bad. First and foremost was the love and devotion of my wife and son, then there was my music. With a college degree in music and film, as well as a company that wrote original music for all types of media, I owned and had access to a wide variety of musical instruments and electronic devices. Also high on the list of positives was my kaleidoscope collection (since that first scope purchased at age 16, I had managed to accumulate about 400.)

When I found that looking into kaleidoscopes while having IV therapy allowed me to escape into a spiritual world of beauty, I spent more and more time scope-gazing and when the pain in my hands made it harder to hold a scope, I discovered projection kaleidoscopes that I could enjoy while lying down. I then started composing music (film-less soundtracks) and made a CD to add to my newly developing business for pain management. I am happy to have discovered a way, by transforming my pains and passions, to help myself and others find moments of relief from suffering through the use of color, music, lights and meditation. Cozy, if you know of anyone who would be interested in learning more about the benefits of projection kaleidoscopes, please have them contact me.

**John Mannes**, Germantown, MD  
email: Mmimedia@aol.com

***Dear Cozy:***

*We really missed you at this year's Brewster Convention, but we are happy to hear that you are now feeling fine. The dark cloud of not being able to see you and feel your wonderful energy this year did have one sliver lining, however. The leadership demonstrated by Carolyn, Sherry and Charles reflected itself in a truly wonderful, extremely well-organized, and very enjoyable convention - and successful continuity for the Brewster Society. We're looking forward to seeing you next year in Nashville.*  
*Love, Peg and Bob Sabath*

*When this year I finally made it to the Brewster convention, I felt like "The Ugly Duckling" in H.C. Andersen's story, when he had found his swan family. I was among my own kind, not a lone oddity, and I even realized that I too can fly with the swans, although a lot more remains to be mastered. Thank you all for your friendliness and for everything you taught me!*

*Birgitta Bengtsson, Collector  
Sweden*

**THE  
WILEY JOBE  
SCOPEWORKS,  
in addition to fine hand-crafted  
poly-angular kaleidoscopes,  
IS PLEASED TO OFFER  
ANTIQUÉ  
KALEIDOSCOPE  
RESTORATIONS**

- Broken mirrors replaced**
- Eyepiece lenses installed**
- Missing parts fabricated**

108 North Main Street  
Honeoye Falls, NY 14472  
**(585) 624-2648**  
usjober@aol.com

# 2004 UNVEILED KALEIDOSCOPIES



Bob & Grace Ade  
*Bouquet*



Henry Bergeson  
*Wind Dancer*



Hunter Cheng  
*Mini Angel*



Randy & Shelly Knapp  
*Gizgo Series:  
Internal Combustion*



David Kalish  
*Double Feature:  
(Wedding Scope IV)*



Jim & Janette Kirkwood  
*Flight of Color*



Scott Cole/ Sheryl Koch  
*Priceless*



Motohiro Sato  
*Mountain Wind*



Marc Tickle & Susan Lundgren  
*Brunelleschi*



Renee Anderson  
*Bits of Beauty*



Phil Coghill  
*Nature's Secrets  
Revealed*



David Collier  
*Kaleidobird*



Dixie & Steve  
Hopkins  
*Excess*



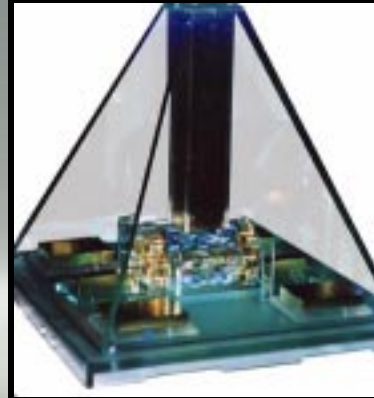
Deborah & Kevin Healy  
*Sol Hunter*



Howard Smith  
*Visual Bagpipe*



Marcia Clark  
*The Dream  
Chamber*



Yuriko & Mitsura Yoda  
*Nature*



Arny Weinstein  
*Into the Void*



Nobuko Sakaguchi  
*Ogtura Hyakunin-Issu*



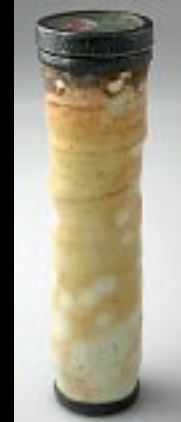
Anne & Don Ballwey  
*Water Lily*



Mike & Joanne Jacobs  
*La Vie en Rose*



David Rosenfeldt  
*Shooting Star*



Mizoguchi



Erin Rose  
Gardner  
*Bead Necklace*



Koji Yamami  
*Arita Porcelain Scope*



Kazuko Ogata/  
Soukou Ohshita  
Massimo Strino  
*Maki-e Dragon*



Laura Wilde  
*Masquerade*



Massimo Strino  
*Excalibur*



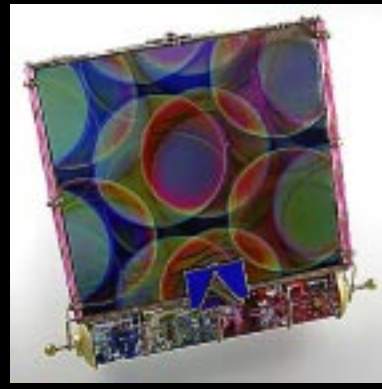
Sue Ross  
*Persephone*



Paul & Susan Knox  
*Sizzle*



Joan Bazzel  
*Chiapas*



Bob & Sue Rioux  
*Sunspots*



Sally Dryer  
*Super Deluxe "Crusin'  
thru the Carwash"*



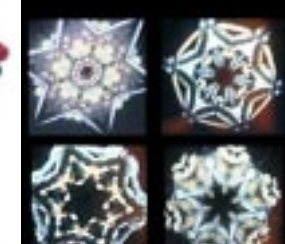
Yoshio Takase  
*Kaleidos-  
Flowering-Scope*



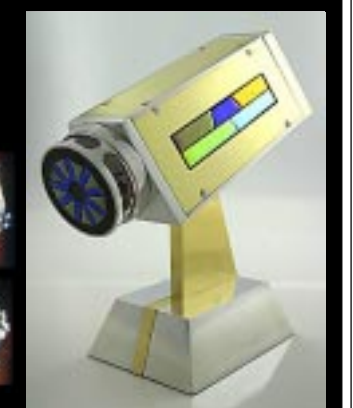
Dr. Hirotoomo Ochi  
*Moonlight*



David Sugich  
*2 Quads*



Andrew Leary  
*Light Opera*



Ken and Dore Wilhoite  
*Angles and Mirrors*

# The 2004 People's Choice Awards

As selected by the attendees of the Highlands Rendezvous



**J.R. Beall** won with "Clockworks #2". This is a floor model scope that stands 5' tall. The turned Bubinga body sits on a tripod with a clockworks mechanism that turns the object case of the polyangular kaleidoscope. The object case is a dry cell with hand lampworked glass and filled ampules.



**Luc and Sally Durette** created "Retreat at Mirror Pond," a bamboo table fountain with a pool in the top of the table. The kaleidoscope is mounted over the pool, with a small motor that circulates water in a clockwise motion. Flowers or blown glass objects float in the water and pass under the mirrors of the kaleidoscope as the water moves them.



**Judith Paul's and Tom Durden's** winner is a kaleidoscope sculpture called "Invitation to the Garden". This 3 part glass and wrought iron screen holds 6 different kaleidoscopes. It is 6 feet tall x 5 feet wide. The water proof powder coating allows it to reside in the outdoors as a beautiful addition to any garden.



*As first-timers at a Brewster Convention, my wife and I were wondering what it would be like to meet a group of "serious" artists. To meet as many Kaleidoscopians as possible, I took on the challenge of the Scavenger Hunt. The people I met were as colorful as their scopes. It was a ton of fun digging up all the items on the list from various people at the convention. I want to thank the folks that loaned me "impossible to get" items. Winning the event felt terrific!*

*My wife, Celeste, and I took a wonderful class from Scott Cole. Thank you, Scott! What can I say – the event was fantastic, the resort was beautiful, the people were terrific. Thanks for making us feel so welcome at our first Brewster Convention. It's definitely on our calendar from now on!*

*It was great meeting you and the other Brewsters. Can't wait til next year.*

**Donald Spangler**, Collector  
San Diego, CA

*"From all corners of our world, being part of the Brewster Society and attending the annual convention is like coming HOME.*

*H - We are happy to see one another - artists, collectors, and gallery owners alike come together to celebrate one another and the art of kaleidoscopes.*

*O - There is an openness and sharing that is truly unique.*

*M - Mentors abound. Artists share techniques, processes and more. Collectors share their delight. Gallery owners share how to market our art.*

*E - We all strive for excellence, extend our experiences and expertise to raise and grow this special art form.*

*Thanks to each of you for creating this special place called HOME."*

**Marcia Clark**, Kaleidoscope Artist  
McMurray, PA

## Japan and the Kaleidoscope

(a continuing story by David Kalish)

For several years, myself and other American 'scopies' have wondered why kaleidoscopes have found such remarkable popularity among the people of Japan. The following is an excerpt of the letter I sent to [most all of] the Japanese who are directly involved with the importation and marketing of kaleidoscopes in their country:

"I find Japan's desire for kaleidoscopes to be quite extraordinary. Your country has about one half the population of the US. Yet, more than half of my orders now come from Japan. Other American scope makers I've spoken with report similar numbers. I think it is accurate to say that, at present, Japan is the leading consumer of kaleidoscopes IN THE WORLD!

Curiosity causes me to wonder "why?". What is it about the Japanese people and Japanese culture that makes you so responsive to kaleidoscopes? I have wondered about this for some time. On a few occasions I have discussed it with other Americans, which has led to some interesting speculation. But we are only guessing.

I've decided to go to 'the source' and ask you this question. This is the reason for this letter. I would like to know your thoughts and ideas on this subject. After all, who would know better than you?"

Here is the response from **Junko Aragane** and the staff of Kaleidoscope Mukashi-kan:

"Most Japanese people have known Mangekyou, (Japanese word for kaleidoscope), since childhood. What they knew as mangekyou is a simple paper tube with colorful paper objects at the end. There was only one type, so when people saw modern kaleidoscopes we were all shocked and surprised, and then were charmed. Kaleidoscopes are something very nostalgic but quite new. We have known mangekyou for a long time, but modern kaleidoscopes were unknown to us until recently. So it is quite natural for us to be excited with the wonder of modern kaleidoscopes.

Japanese people like kaleidoscopes as a healing tool. There are many kinds of healing goods available in Japan. People need these things in their stressful lives. In Japanese society people are supposed to cope with others. Japanese people tend to act as members of a group. Kaleidoscopes provide an opportunity to be alone and compose oneself. By looking at unlimited images, people can feel free from their usual lives.

Kaleidoscopes have many aspects that attract different peoples interest. There are many choices and variations. This is one of the reasons why kaleidoscopes are loved and collected by people. Being featured by mass media is another reason for their popularity. Japanese people tend to be interested in new items and trendy things.

Infinitely changing images have relevance to Japanese traditional teaching in the Tea Ceremony: "Treasure every meeting, for it will never recur".

The beauty of kaleidoscopic images is universally accepted. However, we sometimes find something Japanese in these images, like kimono patterns, fireworks, temari balls or traditional needle works. They all have something in common. Thank you for the opportunity to think about kaleidoscopes being accepted by Japanese people at this time. It is an interesting question for us too."

## San Diego Show

We recently had a "Kaleidoscope Event" here in San Diego. It was the brainchild of **Frank Casciani** (of Designs In Shell) and he did 99% of organizing and getting it on the road.

A kaleidoscope exhibit was held in San Diego, CA April 1 - 14, 2004 at the Spanish Village Art Center in Balboa Park. The exhibit "Kaleidoscope Explosion 2004" was organized and set up by Frank Casciani of "Designs In Shell" for the purpose of introducing people to modern day kaleidoscopes.

The exhibit featured kaleidoscopes from well known artists: **Janice & Ray Chesnik, Jon Greene, Dore & Ken Wilhoite, Don Ballwey, Corki Weeks, Judith Paul & Tom Durden, Paul Knox, Sheryl Koch, David Rosenfeldt, Debra Davis, Gene Gatewood, Dixie & Steve Hopkins, Henry Bergeson, David Kalish, and Frank Casciani** in addition to kaleidoscopes from a private collection.

Over 2,500 people attended, most of who were not familiar with the modern kaleidoscopes. Comments like "I haven't seen any thing like this since I was a child", "Oh, my golly", "I didn't know there were things like this", "I didn't realize there were so many different types of kaleidoscopes", and "WOW!!!" were commonplace.

As private collectors, we feel Frank Casciani and the artists who participated did an excellent job of presenting and introducing kaleidoscopes to new (and hopefully) future collectors.

**Arline & Bob Hopkins**

A limited number of the Highlands Rendezvous Convention favors, a very nice kaleidoscope made by **David Collier**, are available for purchase. The cost is \$60, which includes shipping. Send a check to The Brewster Society.

## Charles Bush Screensaver



Brewster Society member **Jim Bumgardner** has written what is possibly the first computer screensaver to simulate a specific kaleidoscope from the real world. His "Charles Bush Kaleidoscope" employs photographs of the glasswork from an actual Bush kaleidoscope, and has very realistic movement. Can't afford the real thing? The screensaver is free.

Check it out at: <http://www.krazydad.com>

# Schedule of Events

## August 6 - September 6, 2004

Davlins Fourteenth Annual National Kaleidoscope Exhibit. Opening Night Reception on Friday, August 6th with Featured Artists, **Paul & Susan Knox**, 6:00 - 8:00 PM.  
For more information, visit [www.kaleido.com/nke.htm](http://www.kaleido.com/nke.htm), or call Davlins at 888-838-4067.

## September 11, 2004

NW Regional Meeting at the home of Carol Else, Lakewood, WA (south of Seattle). For details contact Carol at [l.else@comcast.net](mailto:l.else@comcast.net) or 253-584-2603. The meeting will be from 10 AM-- 4 PM

## September 10-12, 2004

Arts Afire Glass Gallery in Alexandria VA is hosting it's 7th Annual Kaleidoscope Weekend. A host of internationally recognized artist, including **Charles Karadimos, Peggy & Steve Kittleson, Sherry Moser, Judith Paul & Tom Durden, Marc Tickle & Susan Lundgren, Kathleen Hunt and Corki Weeks** and others. There will be special kaleidoscopes available during the weekend only. For more info call 703-838-9785.

## June 2-5, 2005

The 17th Annual Brewster Society Convention at the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center in Nashville Tennessee.

## September 15-October 15, 2005

20th Anniversary Juried Kaleidoscope Exhibit at the Strathmore Hall Arts Center in Bethesda MD  
More details and entry information will be available in the next newsletter.

## THE BREWSTER SOCIETY

[www.brewstersociety.com](http://www.brewstersociety.com)  
P.O. Box 95  
Damascus MD 20872

