



Baltimore Antique Bottle Club, Inc

BALTIMORE BOTTLE DIGGER

February 2026

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Just got a tip about a possible bottle dump .
Gotta go



I have found memories of looking for old bottles in the winter months. The ground vegetation and overgrowth is gone. You can walk in places you would not want to go in summer. There are no snakes or bugs.

While I was dating my wife, I thought it would be a good idea to take her digging when there was six inches of snow on the ground at the Frederick dump.

I thought it was not bad once we got through the permafrost. That was the first and last time she went digging with me, even though I found an olive-green cone ink and she found a brown syringe.

I loved digging at the Frederick dump in the winter. I would lay clear plastic sheets over my digging spots; and this seemed to stop some of the permafrost in the ash dump.

One never knows what you will find in the winter months. I have been very lucky to step on rare bottles under the leaves and not break them. I have exposed many dump sites this way. One time, I was out with my digging buddies, Paul Fite and Nick Queen, and hit it big. A drug store around 1920 must have cleaned out old stock. We dug hundreds of medicine bottles. Each of us went home with lots of the same medicine bottles.

On a side note, the second edition of my book, Baltimore Blob Top Sodas, will be available at February's meeting and the bottle show. A special thanks to Micah Dolina for his assistance on this.

Happy digging ~ Tom

CLUB WEBSITES

<https://www.baltimorebottleclub.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/baltimorebottleclub>

MEETINGS & SPEAKERS

All meetings held at:
Towson Presbyterian Church
400 West Chesapeake Ave
Towson, MD 21204

February 13, 2026
COME EARLY & HELP:
Stamp/label
volunteers needed.
Show volunteer signups

March 13, 2026

Rick Lease, Bottle Cleaning 101

April 10, 2026

Bill Thomas, The Gillinder Glass
Company

May 8, 2026

Karen Lease, Perfumes

June 12, 2026

TBD

July 10, 2026

TBD

August 14, 2026

Club Picnic

This newsletter of the Baltimore Antique Bottle Club, Inc. is published monthly January through December. It is sent to all members who are in good standing, the Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors and other clubs on an exchange basis. Permission is granted to quote or reprint any article or matter published herein provided proper credit is given and rights are not otherwise prohibited. Items for inclusion in future issues are welcome and should be forwarded to the editor, John Lowry, at jlowryxp@gmail.com or mailed to 4116 Queen Mary Drive, Olney, MD 20832 by the 20th of each month. Submitted material may be edited for content spelling and grammar.

1/9/26 MEETING MINUTES

Submitted by Rita Miller, Secretary

The regular meeting of the Antique Bottle Club, Inc., was called to order at 7 pm by President Tom Robusto. It was followed by the Pledge to the Flag. We met at Towson Presbyterian Church on West Chesapeake Avenue. There were 27 people in attendance. Sean gave the Show Report.

We are looking for a new security service because the one we contacted wants \$4,000. Sign-up sheets will be at the next meeting for the different committees. **We will also be addressing post cards at the next meeting, so please come early.** We will also be paying \$3,150 for the use of the Howard County Fairgrounds with a \$500 deposit. There are show cards at the front table. Please take some and distribute them around the area.

Karen Lease gave tonight's Treasurer's Report. Christmas Party expenses are being paid tonight. The treasury is healthy now because some table money for the show has been deposited. There will be a brief Board Meeting after this meeting.

Andy Agnew announced tonight's program, including "Best Baltimore Bottle," "Best Acquired Bottle," "Best Dug Bottle" and "Best Go-With." The Raffle Bottle is a Summer/Winter quart whiskey flask (with bird) - Probably 1880s - Maker unknown and the Badge Bottle is a Small Bunker Hill pickle bottle from the 1890's.

Theme Bottles were announced:

- Doug Campbell – January 4, 1907, Colt sold its first pistol to the US Government
- Sam Checho- Auld Lang Syne Bottle
- Andy Agnew – Sample/Giveaway Whiskey Bottle from Gardenville – a neighborhood inside the beltway along Belair Road that got absorbed by Baltimore County

February 1st is a Bottle Show in Manville New Jersey. President Tom Robusto will be exhibiting.

There was a pause for pizza and soda.

The group voted on the Best of entries: Andrew Agnew won Best Bottle with Bob Ford in second. Dave Davenport won Best Dug. The Raffle Bottle was won by Tom Koluch; and the Badge Bottle was won by Doug Campbell.





BEST DUG BOTTLE



THE BEST OF 2025

BEST DUG

Dave Davenport – Cobalt Blue Charles Wolf & Son Apothecary

BEST ACQUIRED

(It's A Tie)

Andy Agnew – L.M. & Co. New York Seal, Magnum Cone Pontilled Whiskey, Amber

Bob Ford – Saphire Blue John Clark F.P. Baltimore Iron Pontil Soda

BEST BALTIMORE

1st Place: Andy Agnew – Prussian Blue Chapman Soldier/Dancer Flask

2nd Place: Bob Ford – Berger Panelled Beer, Amber Blob

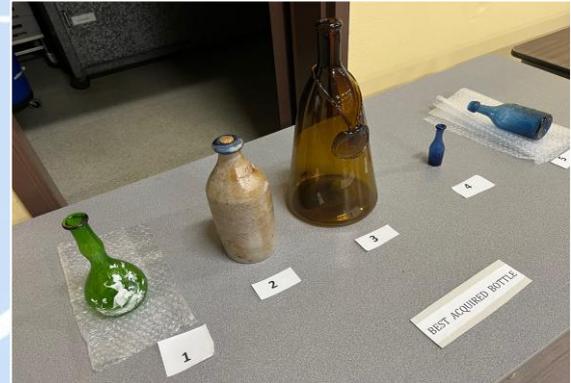
BEST GO-WITH

(3-Way Tie)

Andy Agnew – Vitrolite Sign For I.W. Harper Whiskey

Rick Lease – Cardboard Stand-Up Sign For Bromo Seltzer

Shawn Peters – Sherwood Distillery Whiskey Bottle & Crate



BEST ACQUIRED BOTTLE



BEST BALTIMORE BOTTLE



BEST GO-WITH





BOTTLE BRAIN

Why the variety of colors for the same bottle? What made some bottlers go from clear to aqua to amber glass? Why are there so few green or blue/green bottles?

Answer: Color changed because of raw materials, manufacturing technique, cost, and what the bottle was meant to protect. Here's the breakdown:

1. Raw materials & “accidental” color.

Early glassmakers weren't aiming for specific colors most of the time.

Aqua / blue-green glass is the most common early color because it comes naturally from iron impurities in sand. If a glasshouse used sand with more iron → greener glass, less iron → paler aqua or nearly clear. So, two bottles from the *same maker* could look different just because the sand source changed.

2. Clear glass = extra work (and money).

Clear glass didn't just “happen.”

To make glass truly clear, manufacturers added decolorizer manganese in the 19th century. Later selenium and other chemicals were used. These neutralized the green tint—but it cost more and required better control. Result: Clear bottles were more expensive, seen as more “modern” or “refined” that are often used for products where appearance mattered (perfume, medicine, soda).

Some bottlers switched to clear when competition increased and branding became important.

3. Amber = protection, not style.

Amber wasn't a fashion choice—it was functional. Amber glass blocks UV light. UV degrades: Beer, whiskey, medicine, bitters and tonics.

As bottlers learned this (late 1800s–early 1900s), many switched from clear or aqua to amber—especially for alcohol and pharmaceuticals. This is why beer bottles go amber and mostly stay amber.

4. Recycling & cullet changed everything.

Glasshouses reused old glass (called cullet) to save fuel, whatever color went into the furnace affected the next batch. Mixed cullet = unpredictable color. During shortages (e.g. wars, depressions, etc.), color consistency mattered less than output. That's why you sometimes see the *same bottle mold* in multiple colors.

BOTTLE BRAIN (continued)

5. Fashion & consumer trust

Believe it or not, color influenced trust. Clear glass = “pure,” “clean,” “honest,” Aqua = “traditional,” “utilitarian.” Amber = “serious,” “medicinal,” “durable.”

As marketing matured, companies deliberately chose colors that matched how they wanted customers to feel.

6. Technology got better.

As glassmaking became more industrialized, color became more consistent. Switching colors became intentional, not accidental.

Why are there so few green or blue/green bottles?

Short answer: they *used* to be everywhere—then industry, chemistry, and standardization wiped them out.

- Green & blue are actually harder to make than they look.

Strong green or blue glass isn't free; it requires specific metal oxides (chromium, cobalt, copper). Those additives cost more, complicate recycling, and require tighter furnace control.

If you're mass-producing millions of bottles, you don't pick the color that makes life harder unless it gives a clear payoff.

Recycling killed color variety. Once glass recycling became widespread, clear glass must stay clear and amber must stay amber. Green and blue contaminate both.

Green/aqua became the worst possible contaminant, so factories avoided it unless absolutely necessary. Industry standards locked colors in. Whole industries standardized Beer → amber (or brown). Soda → clear. Medicine → amber or clear. Wine → dark green (UV + tradition).

You still see green/blue-green when there's a reason: Wine & champagne (tradition + UV protection), mineral water (European branding) and decorative or premium bottles.

Collectors notice these because they're from that brief overlap when: color was controllable but not yet standardized. The collector's irony: What was once cheap, accidental, everywhere is now uncommon, deliberate and collectible. If you've got a blue-green bottle, chances are it's either early, transitional, or purposefully non-standard.

February's CLUB MEMBER PROFILE

Cathy Robusto



* How do you grow your collection(s)?

Tom and I like to go "treasure hunting" at flea markets and antique malls. I have also been able to find some at bottle shows. I am a member of ACIF (American Collectors of Infant Feeders) and sometimes I can acquire bottles at their annual show and auction.

* What is your favorite find?

A nursing bottle shaped like a papoose that Tom found at a bottle show. It was made around 1984.

* How long have you been a member?

I officially became a member about 20 years ago when memberships changed to family memberships.

* What do you collect?

My main interest is infant nursing bottles, but I also have a small collection of baby doll bottles, Carter's Cathedral Inks, cup plates, and Wheaton Glass Miniature bottles. I first became interested in the 1980's when I saw a set of pewter infant bottles. They were beautiful but way beyond my reach. Around the same time, I saw a set of the nursery rhyme bottles that diaper laundering services gave out as advertising. They were still in the original box. They were \$45.00 dollars and more than I wanted to spend.

After this I began picking up nursing bottles at antique shops and flea markets. While going to the antique shops and flea markets, I began noticing the Wheaton Glass miniature bottles. They were cute and inexpensive, so I began picking them up. Later, Tom acquired a bottle collection with almost a complete set of the Wheaton miniature bottles. I was so excited!



I would see the cup plates at bottle shows and antique stores. If they were \$5.00 or less, I would buy them. I prefer the colored ones although the ones that are old were clear. The clear ones that are old can be very valuable. My love for the Carter's Cathedral Inks began when I saw them at shows. Tom had a few and we were able to acquire some more.



INCLEMENT WEATHER? We will follow Baltimore County Public School's policy. If schools are closed due to bad weather or dismiss early on the day of the club meeting, we will not meet.

**** All meetings are being held on the second Friday of the month at 6:30 pm in our new location! Towson Presbyterian Church 400 West Chesapeake Ave**

- ❖ All members are encouraged to bring in a bottle that corresponds to an event that happened in the month of the current MEETING. Events in history for the month are included at the end of each newsletter to provide ideas. The bottle does not have to be spot-on, but should somehow relate to the events outlined.
- ❖ Suggestions for topics in upcoming newsletters? Email John Lowry, at jlowryrxp@gmail.com.

SOME UPCOMING BOTTLE SHOWS

Check out the
Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors' website
for additional upcoming bottle shows <https://fohbc.org/events/>

February 1, 2026 @ 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Milwaukee Antique Bottle and Advertising Show -
Waukesha County Expo Center 1000 Northview
Road, Waukesha, WI

February 1, 2026 @ 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

New Jersey Antique Bottle Club's 31st Annual
Antique Bottle Show & Sale - VFW of Manville 600
Washington Ave, Manville, NJ

February 13, 2026 - February 14, 2026

Phoenix Antiques, Bottles & Collectibles Club's 2026
Antique Show & Sale - El Saribah Shriner Auditorium
552 N. 40th St., Phoenix, AZ

February 13, 2026 - February 14, 2026

Suncoast Antique Bottle Collectors Show & Sale -
Sons of Italy Hall 3315 W. Lemon Street, Tampa, FL

February 27, 2026 - February 28, 2026

Washington Bottle & Collectors Assn's Antiques,
Bottle & Collectibles 2 Day Show & Sale - Kent
Commons 525 4th Ave N, Kent, WA

February 28, 2026 @ 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Central Texas Bottle, Jar, Insulator,
Pottery/Stoneware, Breweriana, Advertising and
Collectibles Show - Old Settlers Park Events Center
3300 E. Palm Valley Blvd (E. US 79), Round Rock, TX

February 28, 2026 @ 9:30 am - 2:00 pm

West Michigan Antique Bottle Club's 35th Annual
Antique Bottle Show & Sale - Fonger American
Legion Post 2327 Wilson, S.W., Grand Rapids, MI -
Free admission. No early admission. Dealer set
up: 8:00 - 9:30 am.

March 1, 2026 @ 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Central Ohio Bottle Club's 55th Annual Columbus
Bottle Show - Franklin County Fairgrounds,
Edwards Building 5035 Northwest Parkway,
Hilliard, OH, United States

March 14 @ 8:00 am - 3:00 pm

San Gabriel Valley Vintage Market & Bottle Show
- Duarte Elk's Lodge 2436 Huntington Drive,
Duarte, CA, United States

March 19, 2026 - March 21, 2026

Pepsi-Cola Collectors Club's 40th Annual Pepsi
Fest - Griffin Gate Marriott Resort & Spa 1800
Newton Pike, Lexington, KY, United States

March 20, 2026 - March 21, 2026

Oregon Bottle Collectors Association's Bottle,
Antique & Collectibles Show & Sale - American
Legion Hall 21510 Main Street NE, Aurora, OR,
United States



Officers 2025-2026

President.....Tom Robusto
Vice President.....Rick Lease
Secretary.....Rita Miller
Treasurer.....Karen Lease
Membership.....Chuck Meyer

Board Members 2025-2026

Alex Hertzman
Bob Ford
Andy Agnew
John Lowry

Show Chairman.....Shawn Peters
Co-Show Chairman.....Micah Dolina
Sargeant at Arms.....Dave Davenport

BALTIMORE ANTIQUE BOTTLE CLUB

45th Annual Show & Sale

Sunday, March 29, 2026

HOWARD COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

-MAIN EXHIBITION HALL-

2210 Fairgrounds Rd. West Friendship, MD 21794

Exit 80 on Interstate 70

Doors Open 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

**Food Vendors on site*

*Bottles, Jars, Insulators, Stoneware, Advertising, Breweriana, Small
Antiques, Etc.*

The Largest one-day Bottle show in the world! — over 300 tables

Donation \$5 - Children Under 12 Free

NO DOGS PERMITTED IN BUILDING

For Information Contact:

Shawn Peters - Show Director

Telephone: (240)508-1032 Email: baltimorebottleshow.babc@gmail.com

For Contracts: Micah Dolina

Email: mdolina@hotmail.com



@baltimorebottleshow.babc

For More Information see:

www.baltimorebottleclub.org



FEBRUARY BOTTLES



RAFFLE

Quart sized, open pontil Washington & Taylor historical whiskey flask probably from the 1850s.

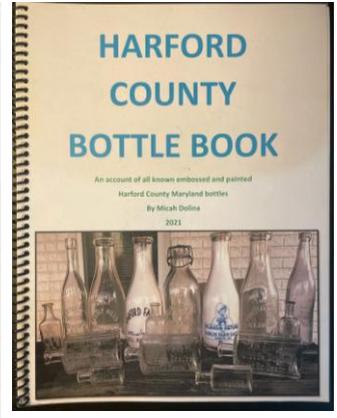
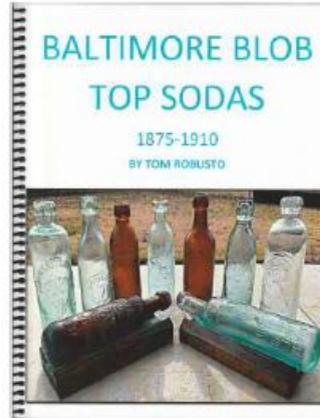


BADGE

Amber half pint strap side flask with a star, circa 1890's to 1900's.

Bottle Books

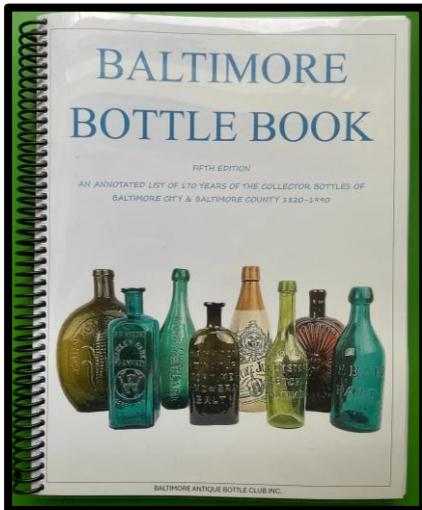
Check out these books written by BABC members, Tom Robusto and Micah Dolina



REMEMBER TO WEAR YOUR BADGE AT ALL CLUB MEETINGS

CLUB MERCHANDISE

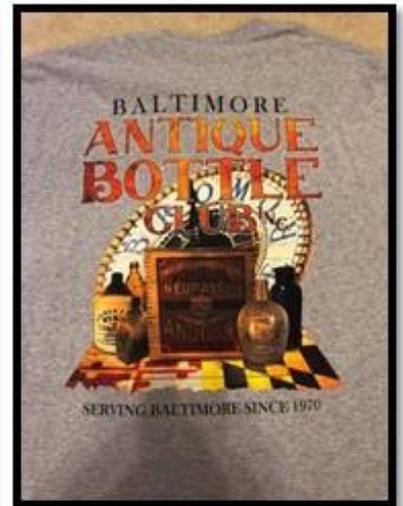
Books and shirts will be available at all club functions



Baltimore Bottle Book \$30



Baltimore Bottle Club Shirts – Sizes S-3XL Available - \$20



Hats - One size fits all \$20

Please contact Rick or Chuck with ideas to maintain and grow membership in the Club.

THINK THEME BOTTLES – THIS DAY IN HISTORY

HISTORICAL EVENTS IN FEBRUARY BY DAY (<http://holidayinsights.com/history>)

February 1 Canadian Prime Minister John A. Macdonald created the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. (1920) G. I. Joe toy action figure hits the market. It originally sold for \$2.49 by Hasbro. (1964)

February 2 The first 45 RPM vinyl record format hits the marketplace. (1949)

February 3 Rock singers Buddy Holly, Richie Valens, and the Big Bopper died in a plane crash. (1959)

February 4 Walt Disney releases Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. (1938) Ruth Handler invents the Barbie Doll. (1949) Mark Zuckerberg creates the Facebook social media platform. (2004)

February 5 The first issue of Reader's Digest is published. (1922)

February 6 The first doughnut machine is sold. (1926) The board game Monopoly first went on sale. (1935) Frank Sinatra makes his singing debut on the radio show "Your Hit Parade". (1943) Astronaut Alan Shepard hits three golf balls on the moon. (1971)

February 7 The Beatles arrive in the U.S. for the first time. (1964)

February 8 In Slovakia, gunpowder is used for mining for the first time. (1627) The Boy Scouts of America is founded. (1910)

February 9 The U.S. Congress passes an act authorizing the US Weather Bureau. (1861) The Beatles appear on the Ed Sullivan Show. (1964)

February 10 France cedes Canada to England, ending the French and Indian War. (1763) Glenn Miller receives the first-ever gold record for selling a million copies of a song. And the song is....."The Chattanooga Choo Choo". (1942)

February 11 Robert Fulton patents the steamboat. (1809) The Vatican becomes a sovereign nation. (1929) Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin sign the Yalta Agreement. (1945)

February 12 James Oglethorpe founds Savannah, Georgia. It is the first settlement in the Georgia Colony. (1733) Women in the Utah Territory win the right to vote. (1870)

February 13 U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Marshall declares that any act of Congress that conflicts with the Constitution is void. (1826) The American Temperance Society forms in Boston, MA. (1826) President John Knox Polk becomes the first sitting president to have his photograph taken. (1849) Jesse James robs his first (of many) banks. (1866) French authorities arrest Dutch exotic dancer Mata Haron suspicion of being a German spy. (1947) The last original "Peanuts" comic strip appears in newspapers one day after the death of Charles M. Schulz, its creator. (2000)

February 14 The Saint Valentine's Day Massacre occurred. Mobsters, dressed as policemen, gunned down seven members of a rival gang. (1929) The original film "Dracula" starring Bela Lugosi is released. (1931) Presper Eckert and John W. Mauchly demonstrate the first computer, called the Electronic Numerical Integrator and Computer (ENIAC) at the University of Pennsylvania. (1946) Sugar Ray Robinson becomes the world middleweight champion by defeating Jake LaMotta. (1951) President Richard M. Nixon installs a secret taping system in the White House. (1971)

February 15 Philosopher Socrates is sentenced to death in Athens for corrupting the minds of the youth in the city. (399 B.C.) The Post Office uses adhesive postage stamps for the first time. (1842) Adolph Hitler announces the construction of the Volkswagen Beetle. (1936) Asteroid "2012 DA14" at 150 feet across, is the closest approach to Earth of any object its size in history, passing less than 18,000 miles from Earth, within the orbit of geostationary satellites. (2013)

HISTORICAL EVENTS IN FEBRUARY BY DAY (continued)

February 16 Pope Gregory the Great declares “God Bless You” is the proper response to a sneeze. (600) Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks is formed. (1868) The “Ladies Home Journal” is first published. (1883) Nylon is patented. But it won’t become popular for a few more decades. (1937) NBC TV begins its first nightly newscast. (1948)

February 17 Myles Standish is elected the first commander of Plymouth Colony. (1621) President James Madison signs the Treaty of Ghent, ending the War of 1812. (1815)

February 18 Jefferson Davis is inaugurated as President of the Confederate States of America. (1861) Mark Twain’s *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* is published. (1885) A ninth planet is discovered in the solar system and is named Pluto. The discoverer is Clyde Tombaugh. Note: To the dismay of many, in 2006, scientists reclassified Pluto as a “dwarf planet”. (1930) A prize is inserted into a Crackerjacks box for the first time. (1913) Snow falls in the Sahara Desert. (1979)

February 19 Thomas Edison is granted a patent for his Gramophone (Phonograph). (1878) Prizes begin to be inserted into Cracker Jack boxes. (1913) *Mister Rogers Neighborhood* debuts on television. (1968)

February 20 Congress bans dueling in the District of Columbia. (1869) Golfers in South Carolina are arrested for violating the Sabbath. (1927) *Batman and Robin* comic strip premieres in newspapers. (1944) John Glenn becomes the first U.S. astronaut to orbit the Earth. (1962)

February 21 S. patent for the sewing machine. (1842) Alka Seltzer is first sold. (1931) Richard Nixon becomes the first U.S. President to visit China. (1972)

February 22 Frank Woolworth opens the first “Five Cent Store in Utica, N.Y. (1879) John Reid, the “Father of American Golf”, demonstrates golf in a cow pasture in Yonkers, NY. (1888) Inaugural Daytona 500 race is run. (1959)

February 23 The Battle of the Alamo begins. It lasts 13 days. (1836) Walter Wingfield of Pimlico, England, patented the game of lawn tennis. (1874) Rudolf Diesel receives a patent in Germany for the oil-burning diesel engine. (1893) Tootsie Rolls roll into stores across America. Created by Leo Hirshfield. (1896) Walt Disney releases *Pinocchio* to movie theaters. (1940) U.S. marines raise the American flag over the Pacific island of Iwo Jima. (1945)

February 24 William Otis of Philadelphia, PA patents the steam shovel. (1839) The first parade with floats is held for Mardi Gras in Mobile, AL. (1868) The Hudson Motor Company is founded. (1909) Britain’s Prince Charles announces his engagement to Lady Diana. (1981) Elton John is knighted by Queen Elizabeth II. (1998) Final launch of the Space Shuttle *Discovery*. (2011)

February 25 The 1st Bank of the United States is chartered. (1791) Samuel Colt patents the revolver. (1836) Thomas Davenport patents the first electric printing press. (1837) The first tunnel under the Hudson River opens. (1908) Glacier Bay National Monument in Alaska is established. (1925) Muhammad Ali (Cassius Clay) wins his first World Heavyweight Title, defeating Sonny Liston. (1964)

February 26 Congress creates the Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona. (1919) Michael Jackson’s “Thriller” album is #1 on the charts and stays there for 37 weeks. (1983) A bomb explodes at the World Trade Center killing 6 people. (1993)

February 27 Ludwig van Beethoven’s 8th Symphony in F premieres. (1814) Mardi Gras is celebrated in New Orleans for the first time. (1827) The U.S. Men’s Olympic hockey team defeats the U.S.S.R. to win Olympic Gold. (1960) Paul McCartney and Stevie Wonder record “Ebony and Ivory”. (1981)

February 28 The Han dynasty begins a four-hundred-year rule with the coronation of Liu Bang as Emperor Gaozu of Han. (202 B.C.) The Salem Witch Hunts begin. (1692) Evangelist John Wesley charts the Methodist church. (1784) The California Gold Rush begins as the first boatload of prospectors arrive in San Francisco. (1849) The final episode of *M.A.S.H.* is aired. (1983)



Baltimore Antique Bottle Club, Inc.



www.baltimorebottleclub.org

2026 MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME _____

- RENEWAL NEW MEMBER
 INDIVIDUAL FAMILY

SPOUSE'S NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____ (for email notifications and newsletter)

PHONE NUMBER: _____

WHAT TYPE(S) OF BOTTLES DO YOU COLLECT? _____

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

Meetings are held on the second Friday of each month at the Towson Presbyterian Church, 400 W. Chesapeake Ave., Towson, MD 21204. The meetings will take place from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. but attendees are encouraged to arrive as early as 6:00 p.m.

Dues are \$20 for an Individual or a Family Dues Enclosed: _____

PLEASE SEND FORM AND CHECK TO ADDRESS BELOW.

Make checks payable to: Baltimore Antique Bottle Club, Inc.

Mail check to:
Chuck Meyer
BABC Membership Chair
P.O. Box 36061
Towson, MD 21280-6061

OR bring this form and payment to a meeting and give to Chuck Meyer or Karen Lease, Treasurer

To be completed by Membership Chair:

Date Received: _____ Cash: \$ _____ Check: \$ _____ # _____