

## FEATURED COLLECTOR: STEVE PAKIZ

Steve Pakiz, a dentist who practices in Long Beach, California, has been collecting Ephraim pottery since 2002. Attending the Pasadena Heritage Craftsman Weekend, Steve was drawn to the organic forms and glazes of the pottery in Ephraim's booth. Six years and many pieces of Ephraim later, Steve says, "I like the fact that no two pieces are exactly alike, and that there appears to be so much thought behind each and every design and glaze combination."

Steve still enjoys shopping for Ephraim at shows. In June, he traveled to Wisconsin to attend the first annual Ephraim Pottery Collectors Society convention. Steve says, "I have enjoyed meeting the talented people who create the pottery. Hearing the behind-the-scenes stories of pottery development adds depth to collecting. Everyone I have encountered at Ephraim is so passionate about what they create. It's wonderful."

Steve says that his collection doesn't have a theme *per se*, but his taste tends to run toward blues, greens and animal forms. He displays

parts of his collection both at home and in his dental office.

He has several nooks in his office where he displays pieces of Ephraim.

There is also always a piece of Ephraim next to the sign-in sheet to greet patients. "At home," Steve says, "I rotate pots for the seasons. At Halloween all the bats, beetles and scorpions come out."

When asked which of his Ephraim pieces is his favorite, Steve cites the Sea Otter showpiece from 2006. An experimental poppy vase that he purchased last year is a close second. The vase was thrown in 2002 but was not glazed until last year. "Kevin [Hicks, EFP potter] told me that they waited to glaze it until they had perfected just the right color orange," Steve notes. It's these types of unusual

pieces with stories behind them that Steve comes to show hoping to find.

Steve observes, "I think what I enjoy most about collecting is watching the evolution of the pottery, along with the wonderful people I've met and become friends with." He also collects antique pottery and American antiques. "I gravitate towards pieces that are unique and well-crafted like

Ephraim," Steve notes. "I think that's why Ephraim blends so well with antiques—it's made to last."

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Steve Pakiz with part of his collection.



Part of Steve's collection. His runner-up favorite, the experimental poppy vase mentioned in the article, is on the right.



Some of the blues and greens that Steve tends to favor.