

Volume 1, Issue 4



the *Angel* HERALD

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Ornament Series Makes its Debut!



The Eden's Angels collection is pleased to announce a special series of ornaments for the 2008 holiday season. The ornaments in this exciting series premiere are based on 12 of the most popular full-size sculptures from the first two editions of the collection. Titles include Faith, Freedom, Friendship, Happiness, Hope, Kindness, Love, Peace, Prayer, Sensitivity, Trust and Wisdom.

"Angel imagery is one of the most prevalent of the Christmas season, dating back to the messenger angel Gabriel, who came to Mary with the news that she would give birth to the Christ child," said artist Christine. "The new Eden's Angels ornament collection is a celebration of the miracle of Christmas, the love of family and the joy the season represents for so many."

The ornaments will be available in stores beginning in July, so be sure to check out this new series at your favorite Eden's Angels retailer this summer!

Log onto www.edensangels.com and click on "Angel Gallery" to see images of each new ornament in this special holiday series!



"HOPE"

Ornament close-ups



"LOVE"

MAKE-A-WISH®

Sculpture Unveiled

The wait is over...

the Eden's Angels collection has officially unveiled the much-anticipated sculpture dedicated to the Make-A-Wish Foundation! "Joy," featuring a child and mother embracing a star, will be available in stores this summer. On behalf of the Eden's Angels collection, Giftcraft will donate \$2.50 from the sale of each piece to the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

The goal of the collection's affiliation with Make-A-Wish is to help the organization's 25,000+ network of volunteers make children's dreams come true. In addition to proceeds from the "Joy" sculpture, a portion of the sale of all Eden's Angels figurines will help fund the Foundation's wish programs.

We hope you will join us as we forge an alliance with the Make-A-Wish Foundation to make children's dreams come true. Look for information in future issues of the Angel Herald to learn how you can help in the Foundation's mission:

share in the power of a wish®



"JOY"

Birthdays are very precious times

"Life is our most precious gift and the miracle of birth is renewed with each newborn. It's a celebration that goes throughout our lives and I wanted to create a series of Sculptures worthy of this very special observance."

With this explanation, artist Christine set out to create the exquisite Birthstone Angels. This inspiring new series was unveiled in January 2008, as part of the Eden's Angels 2nd Edition introduction. Christine endowed each angel with a spray of the flowers synonymous with the month. A gem the color of the birthstone is either held in a flower or nestled in the top of the left wing on each lovely angel.

"I love the soft colors of the different flowers in this series. Blue larkspur for July; golden sunflowers for May; orange-throated narcissus on December's angel. Many of us don't even know what the flower is for our birth month, so I am hopeful these pieces add more significance for recipients of the angels."

Christine says that with each sculpture, she was more and more inspired by the significance of the 'birthday' observance.

It is a universal celebration, regardless of culture or religion, she notes.

"In many cultures, age is observed as a rite of passage. It can be religious – as with First Communion or a Bar Mitzvah; it can signify civil maturity – the right to vote or legally drive a car. In more primitive societies, birthdays are observed by performing perilous feats.

"In our own culture, the birthday is celebrated each year according to the age – with gay balloons and games for the very young to sedate observances to celebrate advanced years. It's a special occasion at any age, and whether spoken aloud or not, it is a reminder of the blessing of life.

Christine transfers her inspiration into every angel she creates. The Birthstone Angels come with an uplifting message that incorporates the birthstone and flower symbolism – adding to the significance of Christine's designs.

"It is my hope that the Birthstone Angels bring joy and happiness for every birthday they represent. Whether 9 or 90, this is your day to celebrate, commemorate the anniversary of your arrival in the world; each in your own way; festively or quietly with family and friends and an Angel – each wishing you a very **Happy Birthday.**"



JANUARY



APRIL

Angel Story:

A Prayer is Answered

Ron tucked his little daughter into bed for the third time tonight.

It was unusual for Emmy to be so restless, but she had a good reason each time she poked her head around the corner of the kitchen.

"I'm thirsty, Daddy!" "There's a bug under the cover, Daddy!" "Daddy, I heard a noise!"

The nighttime concerns of a five-year-old could not be ignored. Not these days, for sure. Not with her Mother thousands of miles away on military duty.

Ron and Liz were both military. They had met shortly after basic training and were married the following year. When Emmy was born, they talked about Liz resigning, but life was good: they were stationed in Florida, enjoyed the benefits, and world conflicts seemed not to really affect their lives.

By the time little Sam was born two years later, however, it was a different story. When the baby was two months old, Ron was deployed to the Gulf for more than a year.

With two young children, neither thought that Liz would be sent into conflict. Six months ago everything changed. Just as Liz was considering leaving active duty, she received orders to head overseas into the war zone. There was no recourse: she had to go.

It was at night that he felt most ALONE

With the help of friends and day care, Ron was handling the single dad roll fairly well. It was at night that he felt most alone. The kids asleep and another long lonely evening facing him, it was TV, a good book or occasionally, a pal stopping in for a beer.

Not tonight. A light rain was falling and Ron sat listening to the rhythm against the roof and thinking of Liz.

Earlier today, he had found a special gift for Liz. It was a beautiful angel called Prayer. Liz loved angels and he remembered that she had started collecting these Eden's Angels before she left.

He was holding the angel and reading the inspiring words on its tag when the phone rang. The sound startled him and considering the lateness of the hour, he knew it could be bad news.

A silent prayer was on his lips as he reached for the phone. There was relief when he heard Liz's voice.

"I wanted you to hear this from me. We had a bad incident today and I was hurt – not terribly – but I'm out of commission for a few days. Some of the others weren't so lucky. I guess my guardian angel was looking out for me."

Ron felt tears of relief on his cheeks as he listened; answered questions about the kids; exchanged more small talk.

"Oh, and I bought you a new angel today. I'm pretty sure that she's the one who was taking care of you – in fact, I'm positive. Her title is Prayer and your being safe is the answer to our prayers. Take care, I love you, and miss you."

Emmy was back again, and this time, Ron lifted her onto his lap as he read the words aloud:

"Prayer must be spoken from the heart, in selflessness and humility, knowing that it will be answered in ways we may not see, in time we may not recognize".



"PRAYER"

See Eden's Angels™ on the web

Be sure to visit edensangels.com, our new interactive website devoted to the Eden's Angels collection! Filled with photos, a guide to the collection, profile of artist Christine, stories from angel aficionados and more, edensangels.com is sure to be among your favorite sites to surf! You can even share your own angel experiences, play games, locate your nearest Eden's Angels retailer and be the first to learn the latest news about the collection!



Meet Retailer

- Irene Bolger



CHESHIRE CAT
PARIS, ONTARIO
in-store display

"Mother's Love" figurine

It didn't take much convincing for Irene Bolger to make the decision to carry the Eden's Angels™ collection in her gift shop, The Cheshire Cat, located in Paris, Ontario. The veteran retailer thought the collection was "absolutely beautiful" and loved the sculptures' titles and inspirational stories.

"I like what the collection stands for and the emotions it evokes," explains Bolger. **"It just appeals to a lot of people."**

Her customers immediately took to the collection, many of whom now consider themselves Eden's Angels™ collectors. Others are drawn to the collection as an ideal gift to mark special occasions or to bring comfort to a loved one.

Bolger says the Birthstone Angels series is doing particularly well for customers looking for a birthday gift or to celebrate a milestone such as graduation. She also notes that the monthly pieces, with their smaller size, make a perfect "add-on" gift.



The gift shop owner attributes part of the collection's popularity to the stories that accompany each piece. These inspirational verses, Bolger says, help her customers make the perfect gift choice.

Customers searching for a gift for new mothers have been especially drawn to "Mother's Love," which has become one of Bolger's best-selling pieces. "Customers just love the story that goes with this piece," she says, referring to the verse's reference to the "strong bond of a mother's love."

Bolger reinforces the collection's popularity by incorporating it into her window displays, which she changes regularly to showcase seasonal and special occasion gifts. Her recent display focusing on Mother's Day, which showcased several Eden's Angels™ pieces, was a bit hit with customers looking for the perfect gift for Mom!

Eden's Angels™ in Collector Editions

Collector Editions, a leading magazine devoted to introducing the latest in giftware, décor, fine art and contemporary collectibles, recently featured the Eden's Angels™ collection in its Spring issue! The two-page story detailed the collection's premiere in 2007, previewed the newest additions to the line and profiled artist Christine and her inspiration behind the collection. The issue also featured a full-color ad showcasing the new Eden's Angels Birthstone Angels series.

Be sure to check out this exciting issue today! For more information, visit www.collector-editions.com!

Angel Quote

Angels descending, bring from above,
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

~ Fanny J. Crosby

Angel Anecdotes

- The Bible refers to angels using many different terms, including Sons of God, Heavenly Host, Holy Ones, Holy Angels, Ministers, Hosts, Chariots, Stars and Watchers.
- Archangel Raphael is said to be the angel of healing and is the friendliest and merriest of all angels. An archangel and chief among the guardian angels, Raphael has the special charge of protecting the young, the innocent and travelers. He is the angel of prayer, love, joy, light, providence and healing. He is often shown carrying a pilgrim's staff. Many identify the color green with Raphael, perhaps to associate the healing of the earth.

Mark of Distinction

What do the writings appearing on the bottom of your Eden's Angels pieces mean? These inscriptions are a way to signify the piece's authenticity and also help to symbolize the edition it represents within the collection.

First edition sculptures, for instance, feature the Eden's Angels logo, the item number, name of the piece and copyright line.

The second edition sculptures, introduced in 2008, feature the same markings, as well as a stamp to denote their place in the collection – a "2" followed by an image of an angel's wing and the year 2008.

By including these special bottom stamps, the Eden's Angels collection helps consumers identify the collection and keep track of each piece's year of introduction.



Recipe Corner

On the menu this month is the perfect comfort food – chicken soup! When you are sick, eating this hearty soup is like getting a visit from a guardian angel whose mission is to help you get on the road to recovery! Our tasters deemed it the “feel good” food of the flu season!

Directions:

Heat oil over medium-high heat in a large soup kettle. Add half of chopped onions and all chicken pieces (reserve breast). Saute until chicken is no longer pink, 5 to 7 minutes. Reduce heat to low, cover and simmer until chicken releases its juices, about 20 minutes. Increase heat to high; add 2 quarts water along with whole chicken breast, 1 teaspoon salt and bay leaves. Bring to a simmer, then cover, reduce heat to low and barely simmer until chicken breast is cooked and broth is rich and flavorful, 20 minutes longer.

Remove chicken breast from kettle; set aside. When cool enough to handle, remove skin from breast, then remove meat from bones and shred into bite-size pieces; discard skin and bones. Strain broth into a large bowl and discard any remaining chicken pieces and bones. Skim fat from broth and reserve 2 tablespoons. (Broth and meat can be covered and refrigerated for up to 2 days.)

Return soup kettle to medium-high heat. Add reserved chicken fat. Add remaining onion, along with carrot and celery, Saute until softened, about 5 minutes. Add thyme, broth and shredded chicken. Simmer until vegetables are tender and flavors meld, 10 to 15 minutes. Add noodles and cook until just tender, about 5 minutes. Adjust seasonings, adding salt, if necessary, and pepper, stir in parsley and serve.

Yield: about 3 quarts; 6 to 8 servings

Credit: *The Perfect Recipe*, Pam Anderson (Houghton Mifflin)

Do you have a recipe for an angel-themed dish ... a dessert that is simply heavenly or perhaps a dinner dish your family thinks was sent from the angels? We would love to hear from you! Send us your angel-inspired recipes to:

Angel Herald, Giftcraft Ltd., 8550 Airport Road, Brampton, ON L6T 5A3.

We'll publish submissions as often as possible.