

# Philatelic Society of Lancaster County



An Affiliate of the American Philatelic Society: James Buchanan Chapter, # 173

## Club Meeting: Wednesday, 13 January 2010

Bourse opens at 6:30 PM and Meeting starts at 7:00 PM

The Garden Café / Woodcrest Villa. **Tonight's host:** John R. Ahlfeld

## Message from the President

John R. Ahlfeld

As we begin the new year, I would like to once again thank Bill Snyder for the excellent job he did as president in 2009. I also want to thank all the others who help with other offices, the newsletter, membership, Lancopex, the traveling exhibit, club auctions, meeting presentations, trips, and everything else that makes the PSLC so enjoyable for us.

I think everyone had a good time at the December meeting. Fifty members and guests attended. Thanks to Lucy Eyster for making the arrangements, to John Bray for providing the music and karaoke, and to everyone for the delicious desserts and the items

for the gift exchange.

Our January 13th meeting will include one of our three auctions for 2010. Everyone is encouraged to take items to be auctioned; please make sure the items are well identified and described. You may set a minimum bid if you like.

I plan to provide a few minutes during the first part of each meeting for show, tell, and questions. A few people will have a chance to take just a couple of minutes to show something they think would be of interest, or to ask about something where they'd like more information.

As you probably know, we lost one of our members, Mike Matusko, shortly

after the November meeting. The PSLC will make a donation in his memory to APS, but at the January 13 meeting everyone will have an opportunity to contribute to a special donation to the Diabetes Association.

Looking ahead, I am going to ask at the January meeting if anyone would be interested in being in charge of public relations. This would include getting our events listed in local papers and perhaps an occasional article in the media. Also, does anyone know of some young volunteers, perhaps scouts, who would like to help set up and take down the display frames?

(See President Pg.-2)

## January Program: Club Auction

The first 2010 auction is now upon us. It's a time to buy and a time to sell.

The rules remain the same as in previous auctions. The minimum bid is \$1.00. The minimum increment when bidding is 50¢. Each club member is limited to 10 lots. You will be assigned a number when you arrive. Please place this number

on all your lots. When possible, please attach an item/lot description including catalogue number, value if appropriate, and minimum bid accepted. This will speed things up, prevent any misconceptions, and insure a smooth and enjoyable wintertime auction.

So, do yourself a favor and share your treasures.



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PSLC Meets the second Wednesday of the month (except August) at The Garden Café / Wood crest Villa at 7:00 PM

President:

John R. Ahlfeld

Vice President:

John Bray

Secretary:

Joy Bouchard

Treasurer:

Clair Smith

Newsletter Editor:

Paul Petersen; 717.299.5640



### Mike Matusko

On 14 November the club lost member and stamp dealer Mike M. who passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on his 59th Birthday while visiting Lesley.

Many stamp collectors around the region knew Mike as dealer, club member, and friend. He began stamp dealing in the mid 1980s and had a reputation for expertise in U.S. issues. His philatelic reference library was considerable, and he put this information to use helping collectors refine their stamp holdings and grow in knowledge.

A 1973 Drexel grad in accounting, Mike worked for the IRS in Internal Audit for 25 years, but his first love was philately.

Mike's stamp business was featured in the August 2008 newsletter where he sold U.S. and possessions. Personally he collected meters, and more recently, plate number singles as far back as the Bureau Issues. His other great interest was visiting and bargaining at the local antique markets.

Club members were saddened by this news. Truylde Greiner commented that Mike's death was like the loss of a family member. Lou DiFelice found that even when Michael was not feeling well, he was always pleasant and engaging. At the Christmas dinner last month, club president Wm. P. Snyder asked the membership to stand for a minute of silence in Mike Matusko's memory.

The executive committee agreed to take up a collection during the January meeting to donate to the American Diabetes Association in Mike's name.

### Temporary Meeting Site

Starting with the Winter Event last month, the stamp club will be meeting temporarily in the beautiful Garden Café through late spring, perhaps May or June.

According to club liaison, Lucy Eyster, our return to Bluebird Commons depends on the duration of the remodeling project.

The Garden Café is a wonderful spot to hold a meeting. It is well lit with comfortable tables and chairs. Parking is easy and restrooms are readily accessible.

The only drawback is lack of PowerPoint projection; a screen and slide projector are available.

### 2010 Club Officers New Member to the Team

John R. Ahlfeld rises to the club presidency for 2010 and Joy Bouchard and Clair Smith will remain as secretary and treasurer respectively for the second year in their two year terms. The new member of the executive committee is John Bray who was recently elected to serve a year as vice president in 2010 and then take over as club president in 2011.

All members have been profiled in the newsletter, but briefly: **John R. Ahlfeld** is a lifelong collector specializing in U.S. and back of the book. He is currently a Lancaster-wide consultant in architectural planning. He and his wife collect

early American pattern glass.

**Clair Smith** started with coins and switched to stamps because they were lighter many years ago. He has compiled and sold several country collections and currently specializes in Åland Islands and Great Britain.

**John Bray**, also a coin collector, started with the scouts. He collects U.S., Germany, and South America. He is retired from management and uses free time in volunteer pursuits.

**Joy Bouchard**, from E-town collects Great Britain and colonies, and has added Disney to her list to encourage her son to join the hobby. She is a preschool teacher in Mount Joy.

### Ben Heller

After a brief illness, club member Ben Heller passed away on 11 December at Homestead Village. A biography of Ben is contained in the September 2009 issue of this stamp club newsletter.

A familiar face at meetings, Ben was also the Snack-man at Lancopex until last year. He loved auctions, always adding to his Vatican and Spain collections.

Ben was one of the "Greatest generation," serving overseas in WWII with the U. S. Navy after graduating F&M.

### President

(Continued from Pg.-1)

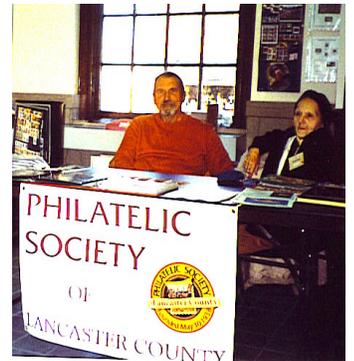
Finally, we'll be circulating a list for members to sign up to provide refreshments for one meeting later in the year.

I look forward to working with all of you during the coming year. I will welcome any suggestions you have. Feel free to talk to me at any meeting, give me a call at 397-7313, or send me an email at [HYPERLINK](mailto:HYPERLINK) "mailto: AHLFELD@aol.com" AHLFELD@aol.com.

Happy 2010 *John*

### PO Volunteers

Club members Vern Marten and Truylde Greiner host a promotional table at the Lititz Post Office in December during the holiday mailing rush. Many showed an interest in the hobby..



✂.....

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please clip this notice, complete it, and turn in with \$10 to Lucy Eyster at the January club meeting. You may also mail it to Lucy at 2001 Harrisburg Pk, B503, Lancaster, PA 17601

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please encourage your non-member stamp collector friends to join and enjoy the benefits of membership. Make this your New Year's resolution: "Every member get a member."



## Miscellaneous Club Notes: Programs/Hosts, Membership, & Shows

- 2010 Programs (Tentative) and Hosts**
- 13th January:** *Club Auction.* John R. Ahlfeld, Host
- 10 February:** *Stamp Technology Basics*, an APS slide show. Paul Petersen, Host
- 10 March:** 1.) *APS Preparation;* 2.) *Philatelic Quiz*, Wm. P. Snyder. Clair Smith, Host
- 14 April:** *APS speaker on estate/taxes.* John Bray, Host.
- 12 May:** *Club Auction.* James G. Boyles, Host
- 9 June:** *King George V and the Royal Collection:* Paul Petersen. Host-TBA
- 14 July:** *World's Columbian Exposition*, an APS Slide Show. Host-TBA
- 11 August:** *Summer Picnic.* No Host
- 8 September:** *Club Auction.* Host-TBA
- 13 October:** *Club member "Show 'n tell."* John Ahlfeld. Lucy Eyster, Host.
- 11 November:** TBA
- 08 December:** *Christmas Party.* No Host
- Snack Hosts:** A sign-up sheet will be passed around at the meeting to provide snacks. Remember some low carb and sugar free drinks & munchies
- '10 York Stamp Show:** Fairgrounds, F/S: 22-23 January
- Upcoming show reminders:** *Some 1st Sunday Stamp Shows*, Farm & Home Center:  
 • 7 Mar 2010, • 6 June, • 1 August, • 3 October, • 5 Dec.  
 (Please verify: 394-5118)

## Club Staffs Table at Lititz PO

On 12 December club members staffed a table at the busy post office lobby in Lititz. The event was arranged by the club's community organizer, Vern Marten. Other volunteers that day included Truyst Greiner and Paul Petersen.

This was a captive audience because it was a very busy day at the PO. We decorated the walls with posters and had displays and freebies.

The line moved slowly, and all customers passed by the table. This allowed the opportunity to talk to them about the stamp hobby. Many used to collect.

One shopper remarked that he only collected two stamps, Bill Haley and Elvis Presley. This gentleman turned out to be Joey Welz, the writer of "Rock around the clock" (at age 15!) and piano player for the Comets since the mid-1950s.

Another customer was a

kindergarten teacher who already uses stamps in her teaching and would like consultation from the club.

On hand were packets with stamps (and hinges and instructions) that match the eight topics in the ASDA starter album. These include animals, transportation, space, and several others. In addition were small stamp posters designed by Dianne Meek and many recent copies of *American Philatelist* donated by Dick Colberg.

A one-page handout was available for general distribution to those who showed an interest in the hobby.

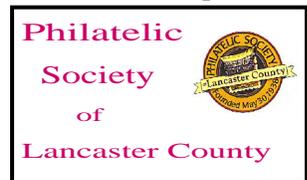
This handout describes the benefits of stamp collecting and of belonging to a stamp club, PSLC in particular. Information about the club, its meeting site and times, and contact information is prominent.

This is followed by sample collection types such as

country and topical collections with examples provided for each.

Several online sites are listed which contain collecting and education information.

Lastly there is information about sources to purchase stamps and supplies from online, mail order, and local dealers including the *Some First Sunday Stamp Shows* and **Lancopex**.



The club now has a 2'x 3' all-weather banner including our color logo (see above). This item will be available for display at all future club events that promote the hobby/club. It is anticipated that 2010 will provide many promotional opportunities for the club.

### January Bio: Roy Baardsen

One day at age five back in Brooklyn, Roy's mother wanted him out of the house. So his ten year old brother took him to his stamp club meeting. From that time Roy has been a lifelong collector.

Roy started with U.S. and branched into several country collections, particularly the Scandinavian Big-Four, the Åland & Faroe Islands, and Greenland. His philatelic goals: 1) To complete his collections as financially feasible and 2) To plan the next PSLC stamp club trip.

While Roy would like to own Norway 17a and Sweden 1a, he had a great find with Haiti 857a, a 1993 souvenir sheet of the Organization of American States.

Active in his Reading stamp club and knowing several members and dealers from Lancaster, Roy joined PSLC. Shortly thereafter, he recruited five other members.

Roy loves sports, particularly baseball which he enjoys more on TV than in person. While a diehard NY Yankees fan, he has taken to the Phillies, but he had dual allegiances during the 2009 NY-Phila. World Series.

From 1965 until his retirement in 1997, Roy worked for NY Telephone (now Lucent) in NYC. His wife, Astrid, passed away eight years ago. His daughter is at home.



# Musings from the editor

## Those darned stamp albums

Before I knew it I was on the floor, but nothing was hurt except my pride. I had carefully placed the pile of stamp albums in the hallway so that I would remember to take them the next day to a stamp event. Hurrying in the dark hall later on, I had forgotten that I left them there.

What has this to do with philately you ask. Well, the fewer falls you have the better your health and the longer you live to enjoy your collecting. At the October meeting, a club member shared with me about the nasty fall he had recently taken.

Let's look at falls in normal development: How do they happen, and are they preventable?

We fall more as we age. Some of this has to do with changes in sensation, balance, reaction time, and memory. Let's explore.

**Sensation:** This declines over time. It is not just our vision, hearing, taste, and smell but also our movement sensation that ebbs. Two fancy words describe these processes: proprioception and kinesthesia. When you touch your nose with your eyes closed, you use these processes. It is the same when negotiating the stairs in the dark. Your muscles remember where the top (or bot-

tom) step is, and your legs adjust automatically. When the lights go out, you have an idea how far to reach and in what direction to find the switch or the flashlight. It is the same when you go to the freezer in the dark garage?

**Balance:** With my eyes open I can stand on one foot for a while. But when closed, this is much harder to do. Years ago this was not a problem. Those little chambers, stones, hair cells, and canal systems in my inner ears are not as sharp and responsive as they once were. They are getting tired just like my hearing. Balance helps us regain our position when we stumble.

**Reaction time:** This determines how fast we get our arms out to protect ourselves if we fall. When we fall and don't react, we lead with our head, and this has its own set of problems. When we get our hands out in front of us in time, we can limit the fall, but we can also fracture a bone.

**Memory:** I wish I had a dollar for every time I said "I sure miss my memory the most." This was true when I forgot that I left the pile of stamp albums on the hall

floor before falling.

So given the normal aging process and diminution of these skills, what can we do to reduce the risk of falling?

One of my favorite t-shirts that I first saw in the 1980s stated "*Old age and treachery always overcome youth and skill.*" What this means is that as we age, we have to do things smarter. We must compensate in order to forestall problems and accomplish the original mission.

1.) **Lighting:** Always turn on the light when using the stairs, even if you have used them for over 50 years in the dark. You may have forgotten that you left something on the stairs. Or perhaps your black cat is napping halfway up the staircase.

Keep a flashlight by the bed. If you do not turn on the lamp, then use the flashlight if you decide to get up for a drink of water.

Use a flashlight in a motel while on vacation. Use it at night on the sidewalk when visiting someone's house. You don't want a wet leaf or twig to catch under your foot. (Even if you don't fall

down, just the bodily compensation can send your back into painful spasms).

2.) **Support:** If you are at risk for falls and have a walker or cane, use it! Recall that old verse: "*Pride commeth before a fall.*"

3 **Memory:** There are many books on the market that provide brain exercises. They are designed to keep the mind sharp, and they may work. But just as important, when you place something somewhere, make a mental picture of your action as you do it. Burn it into your memory. Not only won't you fall over it, you may even remember where you placed it when needed.

The above information addresses only changes during normal aging. There are many other reasons for falls due to medical conditions such as diabetes, osteoporosis, little strokes, and heart disease, to name a few.

So a fall may be more than the fault of your stamp albums. Books have been written on the causes, consequences, and prevention of falls. Seek appropriate attention when warranted. Ed □



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