



## (WOMEN EXHIBITORS)

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***STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:*** *To provide a vehicle through which women exhibitors can encourage each other through sharing information, ideas, experience, advice, problems, and solutions.*

**Next Meeting:** *StampShow*, Aug. 9-12, Portland, OR. Sat., Aug. 11, at noon, our Program will be: ***Overcoming Intimidation***, evaluation of our progress & survey results

**Next Workshop:** *StampShow*, Aug. 9-12, Portland, OR (time, place TBD)  
Women's Beginning Exhibitor's Workshop

**Satellite Mtgs:** *ATA*, June 15-17, Irving, TX, Liz Hisey.  
*INDYPEX*, July 6-8, Indianapolis, IN, Janet Klug & Ann Triggler. (Sun.)  
*PNSE*, Sept. 7-9, King of Prussia, PA, Barb Harrison.  
*Apple Harvest*, Sept. 21-23, Spokane, WA, Ruth Caswell.  
*Sarasota Natl. Stamp Exhibition*, Feb. 1-3, 2008, Sarasota, FL, Ann Triggler & Liz Hisey.

### Keeper's Korner:

The WE buttons are a wonderful way to let others know about our group. Thanks to Liz and Janet for purchasing and suggestions. When you get your button, wear it at stamp shows and expect questions about WE.

Please put Saturday, August 11th at noon on your calendar. This is the WE meeting at StampShow in Portland, OR. A very short business meeting will precede the program on ***Overcoming Intimidation*** by Janet Klug and Denise Stotts. The topic was requested at our first meeting, and it is an issue for several exhibitors, new and current.

If you are starting or pondering an exhibit, the Beginning Exhibitor's Workshop for Women should be on your StampShow calendar. Date and time are TBD. Bring with you, if possible, an outline of your idea or topic and a variety of stamps, covers, and other philatelic items for 2 pages. (If you forget to pack these, come to the workshop. There will be extras with which

to work.) This material should not be affixed to pages. The workshop is led by Ruth, Inge, and Denise.

Consider leading a satellite meeting at a stamp show near you. At these gatherings, women share information, suggest how WE can help them, and discuss exhibiting issues. The question for the next newsletter and the idea of sharing our philatelic interests came from a satellite meeting.

Last, but never least, have fun with your exhibit(s). Exhibits require research, scholarship, and work, but they should also be enjoyable.

Your Partner in Exhibiting, **Ruth**

**THIS MONTH'S TOPIC: Have you had/do you have a mentor(s) in the hobby? Who were/are they? How did they become your mentor(s)? What makes a good hobby mentor?**

**(from Dalene Thomas) My mentor was Mary Ann Owens.** I know she must have been a mentor to literally 1,000's of topical collectors. I think she was the perfect mentor because she taught through example. She showed that a woman can be a successful exhibitor, and a topical exhibit can do well in competition. I met Mary Ann at an ATA convention where I was exhibiting for the first time. Mary Ann was one who always stressed the good points of what you were doing and recommended how you could make you exhibit better. It was with her help that I have been able to exhibit successfully. Mary Ann and I went on to work on various projects together, and I miss her a great deal, as do many others I am sure.

Having had a wonderful mentor, I think it is important to return in kind. I help as an exhibits coach with the local youth stamp club that meets at the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library. There is just one girl in the group, but I encourage her to stick with her attempts at exhibiting and not to worry that she is competing in a male dominated hobby.

**(from Denise Stotts)** I was very fortunate, as a thematic exhibitor, to be mentored by **Mary Ann Owens and George Guzzio**. Mary Ann and George took a photocopy of my exhibit (this was before the AAPE offered this service) and did a detailed written critique. Mary Ann also spent time with me at the frames - with my exhibit as well as hers. Her sharing was invaluable to my advancement as an exhibitor. I also attended her thematic seminars whenever I had a chance - I always learned something from her. My other mentor is my husband, Jay. He is always available to brain storm with me when I am thinking about an exhibit and can give me the judge's point of view when I am trying something new. I also do this for his exhibits when he (rarely!) asks for help.

**(from Barbara Harrison) Ken Martin** gave me all sorts of pointers as he was convincing me to do my first exhibit of ppc's for AmeriStamp '04. Ken referred me to a number of people for advice on the title page, how to prepare a synopsis, and various other things. I met **Jerry Kasper** (and Jean) in Norfolk, and thanks to e-mail received good answers from him to

my many questions. Right after the Norfolk show I immediately joined AAPE. As soon as I read about mentoring, I sent in my name and had the good fortune to have **Tim Bartshe** become my mentor. He was very patient in answering my many, many questions. I also immediately signed up for the APS exhibiting course, given by **Janet Klug** and **Ann Trigg**, who were also patient and kind in offering all sorts of helpful information and answering questions.

Someone at some point gave me **Ruth Caswell's** address since she had a friend interested in postcards and was also an experienced display exhibitor, and I soon found myself asking lots of exhibiting questions of Ruth, who also patiently provided many answers. The point is, just about everyone involved in exhibiting is willing and eager to share what they have learned in order to help the newbie. All of my unofficial mentors have sort of evolved, through referral and networking. *What makes a good mentor?* Exhibitors with experience who are willing to take the time to offer guidance and advice to the new exhibitor, with patience and kindness, not with criticism, but in a constructive, friendly manner. Since so much of my mentoring was done via the internet, I also appreciated prompt answers to my many (sometimes dumb) questions via e-mail!

**QUESTION FOR YOU TO ANSWER FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER: What process do you go through mentally as you begin a new exhibit?**

### **COMMENTS ON OUR SATELLITE MEETINGS:**

Having completed the first few of our satellite meetings, here is what has been happening.

**From Vesma Grinfelds (WESTPEX):** There were 4 of us at the meeting: Kristin Patterson, Cheryl Ganz, Jeanette Banfield (from New Zealand), and me. I had brought my shoe box of "stuff" thinking that there would be novices there who needed help on how to get started. But I ditched that idea when it turned out that the 4 of us are all experienced. So, we chatted about how to develop potential exhibitors. The discussion focused on how judges tend to be too critical of beginners and end up discouraging them. At the entry level, the critiques should be 90% encouragement, with positive statements. Jeanette told us about shows in New Zealand -- there is 1 a year (that's it). She spoke of interesting ways to get new exhibitors started. Those of us involved in local shows talked about how we try to attract new blood. We had a nice chat for 45 minutes. As for meeting time, I think that Friday at 1:00 PM was not a particularly good time. It should have been on Saturday but it's not possible for me to do that. Maybe as we become better known, more will attend. There would have been one potential exhibitor who would have attended, but she couldn't get away from other duties. But, as I think about it . . . had she been there, I'm not sure how the other 4 of us would have handled the meeting. I think it would have been easy for the newby to be totally overwhelmed. We need to pay attention to that possibility.

**From Liz Hisey (Philatelic Show, Boston):** Only one woman came to the meeting, who enjoyed it but didn't feel she has time at present to exhibit. One woman exhibitor felt

that **WE** was the wrong way to go! Another factor for the low turnout could have been that Philatelic Show charged for admission, which may have cut down on wives attending with their husbands.

**From Liz Hisey (RMSS, Denver):** Seven attended the meeting and three joined **WE**. We spoke about our mission and what we want to achieve. There was a lot of discussion about exhibiting and what the process involved. Each attendee was asked how **WE** could help or what they expected from **WE**. One idea emerging from the conversation is the process exhibitors go through when preparing an exhibit. The idea generated so much interest that it will be the question in the next newsletter.

Another idea that was a consensus of all is to list both the philatelic and exhibiting interests of each member on the membership list. There was also some interest from the men as to whether they could attend the meeting. **WE** meetings are open to all. Men are welcome to attend, but the atmosphere is one of sharing among women exhibitors. During the rest of the show two others joined, thanks to Ruth's involvement. I put flyers in the ladies room, but could have put out more. It really comes down to word of mouth. I placed extra copies of the newsletter out on the pamphlet table afterwards – they all went.

**From Barb Harrison (NOJEX, Secaucus, NJ):** Before the show opened, I placed a number of posters in obvious places, and left piles of handouts on the pamphlet table and in the ladies room (in addition to a poster on the mirror and entry door). The handouts were removed from the ladies room, but all the posters remained where I placed them on the corridor walls. Some handouts were picked up from the table. I only saw about 4 other ladies at the show – wives of dealers. Two ladies came to the meeting, shared their experiences, shared how **WE** could help them, and joined **WE**. Both were also interested in **AAPE** membership. Both look forward to networking opportunities through **WE**, encouragement, sharing information, help in locating needed material, info about venues and shows, and help on critiquing exhibits. After the meeting, I removed all the posters and was thanked for doing so since most people apparently leave their signs and posters behind for someone else to remove.

**EXPLANATION OF MEDALS and AWARDS:** The medal levels at shows are Gold, Vermeil, Silver, Silver Bronze, Bronze, Honorable Mention/Certificate. Special Awards come from **APS** and **AAPE**. Furthermore, each show selects a Grand and Reserve Grand from the competitive multiframe General Class exhibits as well as frequently a Grand Award for the best One Frame Class exhibit and Youth Class exhibit.

There are many national societies for various aspects of collecting. These societies usually have their annual meeting in conjunction with one of the World Series of Philately shows (**WSP**, see paragraph below). These societies have their own medals and awards. In addition, the hosting show may have other awards.

World Series of Philately (**WSP**) shows number about 30, all around the country. Grand Award winners from these shows are invited to take part in the Champion of Champions at

the APS StampShow held in August in various parts of the country; this year it is in Portland, OR, August 9-12. They are judged and the winner becomes Champion of Champions. A Grand Award winner may not compete again with the winning exhibit during the year-long cycle in which he wins the Grand beginning in July through June of the next year.

Each competitive exhibit is judged by a jury of 5 accredited APS selected judges. All exhibits will get a ribbon which then translates into a medal or a certificate at the banquet. In some shows the Honorable Mention is given a ribbon, in others there is no ribbon and they are given a certificate. Ribbons are put on frames after the judging, usually on Saturday morning before the show opens. Special Awards are not announced until the banquet, and then these are put on exhibits before the Sunday opening.

### \*\*\*\*\*BALPEX INVITATION\*\*\*\*\*

**(REMINDER) Women Exhibitors** – I know that WE has been invited to gather at Sarasota next February, and I can't claim that Baltimore over Labor Day (Aug. 31-Sept. 2) is half as attractive. Nevertheless, as Chairman of Exhibits at **BALPEX**, I am attempting to disseminate the prospectus as widely as possible to encourage exhibits from new participants. You can send me an email ([psw123@comcast.net](mailto:psw123@comcast.net)) to request a copy or go to the **BALPEX** website <http://www.balpex.org/bps.html> where there is a button for downloading. If you want to enter a One Frame exhibit, *please send me an email promptly*, as BALPEX has a limit of 15 OFEs. There is plenty of space for multi-frame exhibits. If you have any questions about the venue, hotel accommodations or travel, feel free to contact me as well. Hope to see some of you there! *Pat Walker*

### FUN IN THE SUN, SARASOTA STYLE

**(REMINDER)** All right, **Women Exhibitors**, here is our chance to **show off our treasures, encourage other women exhibitors, and soak up some rays in beautiful Sarasota**. The annual Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition is a World Series of Philately show. **WE** will have a satellite meeting there, and the show has generously set aside a number of frames just for us.....er.....**WE**. No, that's not right! Well, you know what I mean. Get a prospectus from Exhibits Chairman, Jack Seaman ([jakcman@comcast.net](mailto:jakcman@comcast.net)), and mark February 1-3, 2008, on your calendar. Escape winter and have some great fun with **WE**.....us.....oh, whatever!!! (Janet Klug)

### PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF NEW ITEMS:

**BUTTONS, BUTTONS:** Liz has begun distribution of our beautiful new **WE** buttons. They are being given to members at satellite meetings by the meeting leaders and will also be distributed at ATA and at our **WE** meetings in Portland. If you are unable to attend any of these meetings, you can e-mail Liz to request your button. **If at all possible**, please pick up your button at one of the meetings.

**COLLECTING & EXHIBITING INTERESTS:** Following up on a satellite meeting suggestion, we are asking EVERY member to submit a list ASAP of collecting interests in addition to exhibiting types (including what you've already exhibited, what you're working on, and what you're thinking about exhibiting). (Please send this info directly to Ruth at [ruthandlyman@earthlink.net](mailto:ruthandlyman@earthlink.net), who will incorporate the info into the membership list.) Just think, this will give each of us more possibilities for sharing advice, questions and answers, and possibly even a way to find that elusive piece we need for that upcoming exhibit!

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS FOR WE NEWSLETTER INPUT:** Effective immediately the editor's new e-mail address is [barbandwill@patmedia.net](mailto:barbandwill@patmedia.net). We will still receive mail at the old address for a short time longer. Attached are amended copies of the handouts and poster, reflecting this change. If you hear of anyone having trouble trying to reach Barb, please give them the new address.

**WEB SITE OPPORTUNITY:** (from Davida Kristy) The now-defunct Women on Stamps Study Unit, which was an affiliate of both APS and ATA, now communicates by email instead of using a paper newsletter. We use the Yahoo Groups site, so we don't have to maintain our own website. Any member can post messages there. We use it to ask questions and give information.

In order to receive messages from the site (so you don't have to keep checking to see if there has been activity), outsiders have to be "invited" to participate. And then they have to respond to the invitation. This does not always work. We have one poor WOS member in Italy who has tried desperately to join. I have sent him any number of "invitations", but his response has never got him onto the site. I usually forward emails to him. Our Italian member is not the only one who has had trouble with the site. If I knew more about this kind of communication, maybe I could solve the problems.

The nice thing about the site is that it stores all postings. So if you want to check a fact, or if you remember that something was written about, you can go back through all the postings until you find what you want. Otherwise we might just as well do group e-mailings. If any WE members are interested: Email me at [dkristy@sprintmail.com](mailto:dkristy@sprintmail.com) and ask to join womenstamps. I will send an invitation, and we'll see if we can make it work.

### **WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:**

- Maria Rodriguez, of New York City, is a former member of the ATA Women on Stamps group, and was referred to WE by Davida Kristy. Maria is hoping to learn how to begin her first exhibit through joining WE.
- Sangeetha Rao, of Waxhaw, NC, has just joined and was wondering if we have local chapters or a WE website! Only time will tell!
- Welcome to several new members from the Rocky Mountain Stamp Show: Janice Weinstock, Portland, OR; Jan Marie Belle, from Denver, CO; Sherri

Jennings, Longmont, CO; Ingeburg L. Fisher, Spokane, WA; and Marge Faber; Bloomington, IN.

- Terri Edwards has just joined, having been referred by Vesma and receiving info from Barb. Terri collects and exhibits penguins and has recently branched out to creating a ppc exhibit of New Orleans, ca 1900-1910, shown locally – but she hopes to show it nationally.
- Cathie Osborne has just joined after reading about WE in various publications. She has done some exhibiting, and will be showing at VANPEX in June. She says she's not very competitive but just likes to show her stuff!
- Pat Moeser, from Kinnelon, NJ, joined at NOJEX, considers herself a “novice” although she has exhibited (Martha Washington), and is working on Ceres (France), in addition to collecting Germany.
- Maureen Lynch, from Glens Falls, NY, also joined at NOJEX. She is a “part-time” dealer and exhibits balloon mail.
- Dorothy Winter, from Ann Arbor, MI, has just joined, having been recruited by Denise Stotts.

### **THIS 'N THAT**

- If you're planning to enter an exhibit at Sarasota next Feb., keep in mind that frames for WE entries will only be held until **Oct. 1. Best to submit your entry early.**
- One suggestion has been received for a name for our newsletter. Janet Klug says how about **WE EXPRESSIONS**. Does this give you any ideas? If so, send them in.
- **AAPE:** If you are not already a member of the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors, we highly recommend you join (\$20/yr.). Benefits are: 4 very informative issues per/yr. of TPE (The Philatelic Exhibitor); critique service; mentoring. Contact AAPE Secy., our own Liz Hisey, for membership info.
- Anyone who did not already contribute \$5 toward start-up expenses at the first meeting and would like to do so, please send it to Liz Hisey, either directly or [paypal](#) through [lizhisey@comcast.net](mailto:lizhisey@comcast.net). (**Youth members send only \$3 ea.**)
- Feel free to tell other women philatelists about WE, even if they have only the slightest interest in the possibility of exhibiting.
- **Write Letters to the Editor** of **philatelic publications**, including local societies, to publicize our group. Various hobby publications, including stamp club newsletters, have been very receptive to carrying letters/articles about WE. We've had tremendous response from letters to Linn's and The American Philatelist, resulting in several new members. If you have the opportunity, request that your local club newsletter include a small “blurb” about WE, such as was published recently in Stamp Clubs Newsletter (Rocky Mt. Stamp Clubs). WE also had a nice mention in the NOJEX news release in Linn's and also in the APS mailout from Ken Martin to those in the NOJEX area.
- **REMINDER: Please do NOT forward the membership list to anyone.** When a new member joins they will receive a dated copy of the membership list, which will now be

kept current by Ruth. If there are changes during a given month, everyone will receive a new list, with the current date. (If anyone would like a **membership list on an Excel spreadsheet**, contact Kristin Patterson, who will keep that version up to date.)

- If someone would like to join **WE**, refer them to Barb or to Liz (Liz will receive their \$5 start-up contribution). Either one can receive the membership information, and then Barb will send a welcome e-mail, the current newsletter, membership list, and back issues.
- **IMPORTANT** – If your membership information is incorrect or NOT complete on the Membership List, please forward corrections to Barb ASAP. IF you have a cell phone, please include it since this is a great way to keep in touch with each other at shows.

**In Conclusion:** It has been an extremely busy month for your editor, with so many new members and dozens of e-mails. (If you were new this month and I overlooked including your name in the above “welcome,” please forgive – I was overwhelmed with correspondence.) But it has also been great to “talk” with so many **WE** ladies and “meet” new members. I hope you are all planning to attend several stamp shows this year. And just in case you haven’t already counted the names on the membership list, **WE** are now up to 45!

Barb, Editor