



Women Exhibitors
APS Affiliate #260

WE EXPRESSIONS



Supported by AAPE

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Ed., *WE Exp.*: Barbara Harrison, barbandwill@comcast.net Dirs. at Large: Pat Stilwell-Walker, psw123@comcast.net
Chair: Ruth Caswell, ruthandlyman@earthlink.net Denise Stotts, stottsjd@swbell.net
Secretary: Vesma Grinfelds, dzvesma@sprintmail.com Ed., *WE Think*: Janet Klug, tongajan@aol.com
Treasurer: Liz Hisey, lizhisey@comcast.net Web Site: <http://www.aaape.org/weweb.asp>

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: AMERISTAMP, Feb. 20-22, 2009; Arlington, TX. Sat., Feb. 21, 12 noon: Title & Synopsis Pages, by Pat Stilwell-Walker.

Satellite Mtgs: *Hudson-Fulton Stamp Expo*, Sept. 25-27, 2009, Albany, NY; will include mini-seminar on The Basics of Exhibiting, by Barb Harrison.

Keeper's Korner: Thinking ahead! That's the focus for KK this month.

It's almost time for our meeting at AmeriStampExpo 2009. Pat Stilwell-Walker has graciously consented to be our speaker, and her topic is *Title and Synopsis Pages*. We all want to better our exhibit submissions through these pages. Pat will enlighten us on what we need to do.

The *Festival*, also known as the *Festival for Philatelic Women*, will be an event you don't want to miss. Mark it own your calendars now and make plans for getting to the APS Center at Bellefonte. Cheryl Ganz will be our keynote speaker. Her subject is *Women in Philately: Where We've Been; and Where We're Going*. Lots of other great workshops, seminars, social events, and others to tantalize you. APS is going all out for WE with this event. Don't forget to make your plans to attend, and, yes, do send in your registration form.

The hardworking *Festival Team* is Chair, Pat Stilwell-Walker; Events and Speakers, Janet Klug; Registration and Treasurer, Liz Hisey; Publicity, Denise Stotts; and Exhibits, Joann Lenz.

Looking farther ahead, start your exhibits now for RMSS in spring 2010. Remember that WE committed to filling 120 frames, so think about how you can help. Tim Bartshe has told us that each exhibitor can have 22 frames and 4 exhibits (translated, you could have 2 10-frame exhibits and 2 single-frames exhibits). Doesn't that sound exciting! Start thinking what you can do with your 22 frames.

Remember to support your local shows. They are where many of us got started, and they always need our help. Your Keeper is exhibits chair for the local-area show this coming weekend. Many WE members, along with new local-area exhibitors, have entered exhibits to support SEAPEX. Thanks to all for their support, both for this local area and across the nation.

Ruth

THIS MONTH'S TOPIC: Tell us about your “spending habits” for your stamp hobby/exhibiting. Do you have a “budget”?

(from Carol Edholm): Yes, we have a stamp budget. My husband works full-time and earns a decent wage, and I'm on Social Security Disability. We are buying our home and still make an automobile payment. AFTER all the monthly bills are paid and something has been put into savings, we look at what's left from the paychecks and decide on our philatelic budget, split evenly between the two of us. We then take our budget to the next stamp show in CASH and stretch it as far as we can. If we have any budget left over in our briefcases from the previous show/budget, then more money for that person to spend.

A budget helps, but sometimes it is a losing battle when you see something really, really, really, really nice that you need for your exhibit! Such as, back in August, my husband found a cover he's been searching for for months. He had already spent most of his budget for that show. The cover was \$150.00. We knew the dealer; he allowed us to make three payments until it was paid off. Guess who doesn't get a budget until it's paid off? (Sometimes we can pay it off the next month, sometimes not.) Of course, I've done the same thing, but it has to be a really special item to break the budget "rules."

Since we both exhibit, most of our philatelic budget goes toward exhibitable items. If we cannot find anything for the exhibits, then we start looking for our specialty "fetters" -- mine are India, progressive color proofs and specimens; his are different modes of transportation. Yes, our stamp collecting interests cross paths, and we have to buy two copies of the same stamp so we each have them in our collections. Fortunately, it doesn't happen that often!

Periodically, we sell duplicates on internet auction sites. That money goes into our Paypal account. When we see something we need on an internet auction site, as long as there is money in Paypal, we can bid. Happy Stampin'!

(from Barb Harrison) I must confess I do not stick to a stamp budget. I'm fortunate to be retired, with enough discretionary income to support my two worst habits: stamps and all related philatelic material, and picture postcards. I try to spread out my spending between several stamp shows yearly, two APS stamp circuits, and small purchases at stamp and postcard club meetings. During 2004-2007, I was making a lot of large purchases at stamp shows and in auctions since I was gathering large amounts of specific material for a number of exhibits. Now that I have the bulk of needed material already purchased for several new exhibits, and am working hard at making improvements to existing exhibits, my needs are much smaller, so I am spending much less. I sort of keep rough spending limits in my head, but when I see things I need, I buy them. We all know it could take years to find the item again. (No, I'm not rationalizing.) I pretty much spend what I need to in order to do my exhibits. And my husband is very understanding and doesn't complain (MUCH!).

QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO ANSWER FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER: (NOTE: Since our membership has grown so much since our inception, we will repeat some of the questions used in earlier newsletters. If you missed your chance to answer at that time, you now have a second chance!) **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?**

HELP!! SUGGESTIONS FOR MONTHLY QUESTIONS ARE NEEDED FROM YOU, in addition to your answers!! PLEASE SUBMIT QUESTIONS OR TOPICS FOR UPCOMING NEWSLETTERS, AND ALSO SEND IN YOUR RESPONSES –THIS IS AN EASY WAY THAT WE CAN HELP EACH OTHER!!

SOME FOLLOW-UP: (Editor's note) After last month's highlighting of the conditions of our various stamp dens, my husband once again commented that he felt like he lives in a warehouse, since two of our three bedrooms are now "stamp/postcard rooms," and there are the inevitable piles of cardboard boxes holding paper, supplies, etc. Trust me, this is NOT the first time I've heard this! So it was no surprise to receive Vesma's follow-up this month, along with more pictures. I think she's just trying to make me (and perhaps some of you, too) feel better! Be sure to look at the attached pictures. Thank you, Vesma – you're a woman after my own heart! **(If anyone else would like to submit stamp den pictures, please send them to your editor for use in future newsletters.)**

THE WORK AREA -- aka "The WAREHOUSE"! (See photos attached.) Continuing on last month's display of my "Stamp Haven," my husband notes that other rooms in our house look like a "warehouse." The photos reflect an organized state as we had company recently which required "tidying up." There are boxes of stamps to be sorted and organized -- then, hopefully distributed/sold somehow. There are albums, pages, glassines, covers -- all in the "things to do" category! I think that everything is organized in some fashion. I tend to blame this portion of our home on my husband. After all, he is the world wide stamp collector/accumulator. It can't be just me - right? **(Vesma Grinfelds)**

Another follow-up item:

MY FIRST EXHIBIT: THE ALAMO **by Jane Fohn**

In one of the last *WE Newsletters* the question was about our first exhibit. I made a couple of poor starts with my 9-Cent Alamo (#1043). At one show it was disqualified because of my title page--the wording was such that the jury felt the material was not mine, but belonged to an archive. This problem was straightened out when I wrote to the judges clarifying that I did not want to exhibit the Alamo under suspicion in the future and reassuring them that the material was mine.

My father, Gillis King, was chairman of the Texas Heritage Foundation, Inc. stamp committee, and he organized the first-day ceremony for the Alamo stamp that was held in San Antonio on June 14, 1956. "The 9-Cent Alamo and Its First Day Covers" was conceived from the nucleus of memorabilia that my father put away after the event.

I continue to research and search for material. Needed are first-day covers prepared by well-known cachet makers, lesser known individuals, and unknown artists. Also sought are commercial materials with the 9-cent Alamo stamp used for the purpose it was intended, to

make up various postage rates. The one piece that eludes me is a cover cancelled on the first day in a town other than San Antonio.

All through my beginning process I have listened to the judges and Liberty Series specialists. Most of the information has been excellent, and I have incorporated it into my Alamo exhibit. Whenever I can, I attend the AAPE meetings and judges' critiques--there is always an idea that I can use.

The Alamo exhibit progressed from the disqualification at HOUPEX 81, to an AUSPEX 82 (Austin, TX) third, to a local gold in the Austin 2001 exhibition. Then I received the first national gold at TEXPEX 2001, a reserve grand at AMERICOVER 2001, and it continues to receive golds today. My average score the last three shows is 92 points--my next project is a redo to try for more points.

What pushed me to step out with the Alamo after a period of dormancy, was the new Illustrated Mail Division included in the APS's fifth edition of the *Manual of Philatelic Judging*. I followed the guidelines exactly. I jumped into competition when AMERICOVER 2000 was held in Houston and received a gold.

I read about my subject and about exhibiting. I am a founding member of the AAPE, and have read every issue of *The Philatelic Exhibitor* cover to cover. I have read Randy Neil's *The Philatelic Exhibitors Handbook*, *The New Philatelic Exhibitors Handbook*; and his newest *Handbook* edited by Ada Prill. The APS's 1999 fourth edition of the *Manual of Philatelic Judging: How Exhibits Are Judged* (8 1/2 x 11-inches) has been extremely useful.

Writing about the Alamo stamp was a significant step toward the gold. I have written the following articles:

"9-Cent Alamo First Day Of Issue." *First Days*, October 15, 1989, part I, pp. 859-861; and December 1, 1989, part II, pp.1019-1024.

"The 9-Cent Alamo." *The Philatelic Exhibitor*, April 2001, pp. front page,11-15.

"The 9-Cent Alamo Stamp: The Development of an Award Winning Exhibit." *First Days*, January 15, 2003, pp. 9-18.

Read about your subject. Doing these steps is responsible for my success. My advice for the first time out is to read about exhibiting, and follow the established guidelines. Later you can deviate from the guidelines and try your own thing.

HOLD THE DATE: Festival for Philatelic Women

Save these dates: May 28 – 31, 2009.

PLEASE: If you are planning to attend, SEND AN E-MAIL TO FESTIVAL ADDRESS BELOW STATING YOUR INTENTION, even if you will be sending your registration fee in later. A headcount is needed. For those who can: Please send in your registration fee as soon as possible as expenses are already being incurred which must be paid. The Festival Committee needs to know that you are coming!

There will be ample time to make use of the American Philatelic Center and all it has to offer stamp collectors. The cost to attend the Festival for Philatelic Women is \$85 and covers daily lunch, dinner, and all activities. Hotel and travel expenses are on

your own. For more information contact Women Exhibitors, 7277 Sparta Road, Sebring, FL 33875. Email: WEfestival@comcast.net.

WE (Women Exhibitors) is open to all, but philately is explored from a woman's point of view.

SPECIAL NOTE TO ALL WE MEMBERS: WE Festival is looking for exhibits: If you are planning to attend the festival in Bellefonte in 2009, please also consider bringing an exhibit for other attendees to see. Exhibits will NOT be judged, but will be used for discussion and learning. WE hopes to have a variety of exhibits displayed which will provide opportunities to share ideas and to ask questions about the various types of exhibits and exhibiting in general. Exhibits do NOT have to be complete, but can be "under construction." Please contact me if you have questions or want to volunteer an exhibit. (Joann Lenz; joann@stampsjoann.net)

WE FESTIVAL SEMINARS: The Festival Committee is working very hard to put together an enjoyable and helpful learning experience for all who attend. To whet your appetite, here is a partial list of seminars that are already included:

Cheryl Ganz – Women in Philately: Where We've Been, Where We're Going

Charles Verge -- Family correspondence & research

Denise Lazaroff -- Scrapbooking

Barb Boal – Photoshop Elements

Barb Boal -- Exhibit Page Layouts

Cheryl Edgcomb -- Creative 3-D Exhibits

Sue Dempsey -- How to get what you want from a dealer

Gretchen Moody -- Stamp Saturday (introduction to stamp collecting)

Barb Harrison – Collecting & Exhibiting Picture Post Cards 101

In addition, APS will provide a Stamps by the Bucket booth. We need volunteers to help staff it and collect money for the stamps bought by the bucketful. Lots of fun for little money!

HUDSON-FULTON: Exhibit Entry Forms are now available from their website: [Http://www.stampExpo400.org](http://www.stampExpo400.org). They advise early entry – entry fees can be sent after the first of 2009. Show date is Sept. 25-27, 2009. WE will have a table and a satellite meeting. If you can help by spending a few hours at the table, please e-mail your editor. So far we have 2 people: Maureen Lynch & Barb Harrison.

