



The Westfield Philatelist

Newsletter of the Westfield Stamp Club
 American Philatelic Society Chapter #540
 American Topical Association Chapter #113

Volume 3 Number 2 November/December 2009

Calendar of Events

November 19 Westfield Stamp Club Meeting.
 Program - "The Life of a Postal Inspector" by Nicholas Lombardi



A Philatelic Quiz

1. What United States postage stamps show:

- a. A President of the United States who was the father of a President.
- b. A President of the United States who was the grandfather of a President.
- c. A President of the United States who was the cousin of a President.
- d. A President of the United States who was the father-in-law of a President.

2. On January 15, 1955, the United States Post Office issued a 3¢ commemorative stamp for the 150th Anniversary of the founding of the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia (*Scott 1064*). It shows Charles Willson Peale in his museum. At the lower left of the stamp there is an open fancy case. **What is depicted in that case?**

Answers will be available at the November meeting!

Congratulations

Roger Brody has been selected to serve as President of the American Philatelic Research Library Board of Trustees.

At StampExpo 400, held from September 25-27 in Albany, New York, **Jack Denys** was awarded a Gold and the American Topical Association First Place Award for his exhibit "Bayeux Tapestry". **Your editor** received a Vermeil in the literature competition for *Scalpel & Tongs, The American Journal of Medical Philately*, the journal of the Medical Subjects Unit of the American Topical Association.

Free Album Pages

With the financial support of Mystic Stamp Company, the American Philatelic Society has made available a series of beautifully designed album pages illustrated with stamps and containing background information on the subjects of the illustrated stamps. If you haven't seen these pages you are missing a real treat.

Free Album Pages Currently Available*	
Oregon	2008 Stamp Album
Abraham Lincoln	Alaska
Arizona	Black Heritage Series
Connecticut	Flags of Our Nation I
Flags of Our Nation II	Flags of Our Nation III
Hawaii	North Carolina
Pennsylvania	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Switzerland - by the American Helvetica Phil. Soc.	Texas
U.S. Baseball Stamps	U.S. Stamps Designed by Chris Calle
Women on U.S. Stamps 1958-2008 with a separate list of Women and Women-Related Topics on U.S. Stamps, 1958-2008)	
* Downloadable from www.stamps.org	

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Meetings are held at 8:00 PM on the fourth Thursday of the month except for November (third Thursday) and July and August (summer recess). The club meets in the Community Room of the Westfield Town Hall located in the center of Westfield at 425 East Broad Street.

Dues are \$8.00 per membership year which runs from September 1 to August 31.

The club newsletter will be published every two months from September to June.

For information visit our web site:

www.westfieldstampclub.org



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The Story of Thanksgiving in Stamps

The first Thanksgiving celebration in America was observed in the summer of 1621, less than a year after the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock. The first winter had been dreadful and nearly half of the colonists had died, but the summer and corn harvest brought new hope and Governor William Bradford (1588-1657) decreed that a three day feast be held. Pilgrims and their Native American friends participated in the feast held outdoors at big tables laden with dishes of fish, deer, duck, geese and wild turkey, as well as johnny cake, corn meal bread with nuts and succotash.

The first Thanksgiving Day set aside for prayer as well as celebration was held on July 30, 1623. The custom spread to other New England colonies and special days of thanks were held during the Revolutionary War. On November 26, 1789, President George Washington issued a proclamation for a day of thanks.

Some states held a yearly Thanksgiving holiday and others did not. In 1830 New York became the first state to have an official Thanksgiving Day and in 1855, Virginia became the first southern state to adopt the custom. Following many years of effort by Mrs. Sarah Joseph Hale to make Thanksgiving a national holiday, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday in November, 1863, as "a day of thanksgiving..."

For the next 75 years it was celebrated on the last Thursday in November, but in 1939, President Franklin D. Roosevelt set it one week earlier. Finally, Congress ruled that after 1941, the fourth Thursday of November would be observed as Thanksgiving Day and would be a legal federal holiday.

Perhaps the homiest image of Thanksgiving as a day of family reunion and thanks is a painting by Norman Rockwell, one of the Four Freedoms' paintings that he completed in 1943. In 1994 the United States Postal Service issued a souvenir pane of four fifty-cent stamps (i.e. the international airmail rate at the time) based on those paintings and designed by Richard Scheaff.

[Editor's note: The above article was submitted by member Alan Fisk. He believes it was originally published in the *Minkus Stamp Journal*, but is unsure of the date of publication. It has been slightly modified for publication here.]



United States 1970



United States 1977



United States 1956



United States 1988



United States 1954



United States 1982



United States 1994