



# The Westfield Philatelist

Newsletter of the Westfield Stamp Club

American Philatelic Society Chapter #540

American Topical Association Chapter #113

Volume 11 Number 3 January/February 2018

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

January 25, 2018 - "Show & Tell"



February 22, 2018-

"Chess on Stamps"

By Jon Edwards

Jon Edwards is editor of *Chesstamp Review*, the quarterly journal of the Chess on Stamps Study Unit (COSSU) of the American Topical Association.



Chess Moves: Castle.  
Nicaragua 1983 (Scott 1279)



## PRELIMINARY PROGRAM 2018

March 3, 2018 - Westfield Annual Stamp Show  
Theme -  
"75th Anniversary of the Guadalcanal Campaign  
in World War II"

March 22, 2018 - Technology in Expertization  
By Robert Rose

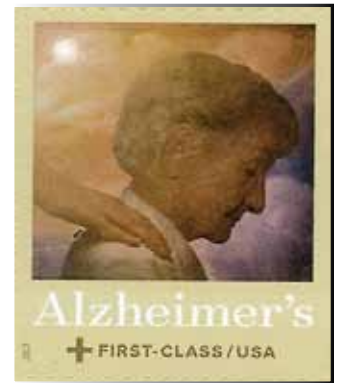
April 26, 2018 - Mexican Airmails  
By Steven Reinhard

May 24, 2018 - Transatlantic Mail  
By Carol Bommarito

June 28, 2018 - South Africa  
By Eddie Bridges

## 2017 ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AWARENESS

On November 30 the USPS issued a single, semipostal, self-adhesive stamp to raise funds for Alzheimer research. The first-class stamp sold for 60 cents which is 11 cents over the first-class one ounce rate of 49 cents on the day of issue. The surcharge will go to the National Institutes of Health which is part of the United States Department of Health and Human Services. The design is



2017 (Scott B6) similar to the 2008 Alzheimer's Disease Awareness stamp with an older woman, who faced left in 2008, but now faces right. On both stamps, a caregiver's hand rests on the woman's shoulder. Interestingly, the 2008 stamp was issued as a regular commemorative at the then first class rate of 42¢ (see pg. 8), but the 2017 stamp was issued as a semipostal (Scott B6)

(cont. on pgs. 2 & 8)



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### The Westfield Stamp Club

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Meetings are held at 8:00PM 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 website

[www.westfieldstampclub.org](http://www.westfieldstampclub.org)

or call  
Nick Lombardi  
908-233-3045

## ARTICLES WRITTEN BY MEMBERS

**Roger Brody** - (1) "And the Band Played On — America's Centenarian Enterprises — R.H. Macy & Co. Company". *The United States Philatelist* 2017; 88(11):497-499. (2) "And the Band Played On — America's Centenarian Enterprises — The Sherwin-Williams Co. *The United States Philatelist*. 2018;88(12):535-538. (3) "And the Band Played On — America's Centenarian Enterprises — Abbott Laboratories". *The United States Philatelist*. 2018;89(1):9-12.

**Jack André Denys** - "Collecting Postal Stationery II". *Topical Time*. 2017;68(6):38-40

**Frederick C. Skvara** - (1) "William Williams Keen". *Scalpel & Tongs: American Journal of Medical Philately*. 2017;61(4):87-88. (2) "Carl Djerassi (1923–2015)". *Scalpel & Tongs: American Journal of Medical Philately*. 2017;61(4):89-90. (3) "Chapter Chatter". *Topical Time*. 2017;68(6):68-78.



## ALZHEIMER'S (cont. from pg. 1)

Alzheimer's, the most common form of dementia in older people, affects more than five million Americans. The disease is named after Alois Alzheimer, a German psychiatrist and neuropathologist, who was born in Markbreit am Main in Bavaria, Germany in 1864. He studied medicine at several universities, receiving his M.D. from the University of Würzburg in 1887. At the state asylum in Frankfurt am Main he studied psychiatry and neuropathology and began work on *Histologic and Histopathologic Studies of the Cerebral Cortex* which wasn't finally published until 1918, three years after his death. In 1903 he moved to Munich Medical School (now the Ludwig-Maximilian University of Munich) and created a new laboratory for brain research. At a lecture he gave in 1906, he presented the case of a woman in her fifties with an 'unusual disease of the cerebral cortex.' Examination of her brain postmortem showed a thin cerebral cortex, senile plaques and neurofibrillary tangles. These tangles had not previously been described and Emil Kraepelin (1856–1926), Professor of Clinical Psychiatry at Munich, named the disease after Alzheimer. His histological description of this disease is still correct and the pathological diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease is still based on the methods he used in 1906.

In 1913 he caught a cold complicated by endocarditis and died in 1915 at the age of 51.



I am in need of material, awards you might have won, articles you have recently written, or notes on interesting material you recently acquired. Anything having to do with your philatelic collecting interests.

## The Guadalcanal Campaign in World War II

On May 3, 1942, Japanese forces landed on the island of Tulagi in the British Solomon Islands protectorate and began construction of a small naval base as well as establishing a presence on the nearby islets of Gavutu and Tanambogo. By June re-connaisssance reports had reached the Allies that the Japanese were constructing a large aircraft runway on the grass plains of the Lunga River on the island of Guadalcanal. The Allies knew that this was a clear threat to the shipping lifeline across the South Pacific from the United States to New Zealand and Australia.

An assault force, code-named Operation Watchtower, was gathered to take Guadalcanal as well as Tulagi and the two small neighboring islets, Gavutu and Tanambogo. The force consisted of the amphibious-trained 1st Marine Division commanded by Major-General Alexander A. Vandegrift, and included the 7th Marine Regiment and battalions of the 2nd Marine Regiment. The force landed on August 7 and encountered heavy resistance on Tulagi and the islets. On Guadalcanal they landed on 'Red Beach', on the north coast of the island, where they experienced minimal resistance as the Japanese that were there were mainly laborers. Four Allied heavy cruisers were sunk during the landings – three American ships (*Quincy*, *Astoria* and *Vincennes*) and one Australian (*Canberra*).

By August 9, Tulagi and the islets, as well as the airstrip on Guadalcanal were in the control of the Allies. By August 18 the airfield that the Japanese had started was completed by the marines and ready for use. It was named Hendersen Field after a marine pilot killed in the Battle of Midway that occurred between June 4-7. Between August and December 1942, Allied air power, mainly based on Henderson Airfield, were referred to as the 'Cactus Air Force.' 'Cactus' was the code name the Allies used for Guadalcanal.



Japanese forces land on Tulagi, May 3, 1942. Solomon Islands 2005 (Scott 999a).



Grenada 1995 (Scott 423Af)



HMAS *Canberra* sinks in Iron Bound Sound off Guadalcanal. Solomon Islands 2005 (Scott 999e)



General Alexander Vandegrift. Marshall Islands 2008 (Scott 910h)

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### U.S. Forces Land on Red Beach, Guadalcanal August 7, 1942



Solomon Islands 1976 (Scott 336)



Solomon Islands 2005 (Scott 999d)



Solomon Islands 1967 (Scott 175)

### Henderson Airfield, Guadalcanal



Grenada. 1995 (Scott 2423Ag)



Solomon Islands 1967 (Scott 174)

## John Basilone (1916–1945) & The Guadalcanal Campaign *(cont.)*

The Japanese had established a major air and sea base at Rabaul on the island of New Britain in New Guinea and from there launched a number of attacks to retake the airfield on Guadalcanal. On October 9, Lieutenant-General Harukichi Hyakutake, commander of the 17th Army landed on Guadalcanal with heavy reinforcements to wrest control of the airfield from the Americans. But repeated attacks failed to penetrate the perimeter set up by Vandegrift. It was on October 24th that 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment held 2,500 yards of jungle front on a ridge known as Edson's Ridge or Bloody Ridge. It was during this battle that the actions of Sargent John Basilone led to him being award the Medal of Honor.

On December 9, 1942, General Vandegrift turned over command of the troops on Guadalcanal to Major-General Alexander M. Patch, Jr., commander of the Americal (Infantry) Division of the United States Army. The decision had been made to send the 1st Marine Division to Australia for rest and rehabilitation.

Patch's mission to drive the Japanese off Guadalcanal was aided by the decision of the Japanese in Rabaul in mid-December to abandon any further attempts to retake Guadalcanal. Japanese destroyers on February 7-8, 1943, evacuated 13,000 troops from Guadalcanal and by February 9 the battle for Guadalcanal was over. The losses in the Guadalcanal campaign amounted to 24,000 Japanese lives and 1,600 American lives.



'Cactus Air Force' from Henderson Airfield over Guadalcanal. Solomon Islands 2005 (Scott 999f)



Sgt. John Basilone. Marshall Islands 2008 (Scott 910g)



U.S. forces take control of Guadalcanal, February, 1943. Palau 1993 (Scott 316a)



### January/ February Philatelic Quiz



- Q1. Do you know the story behind the village of Christkindl?
- Q2. The first United States self-adhesive stamp was also a Christmas stamp. Which one was it and where did the design come from?
- Q3. What former United States Senator and President sponsored the first national memorial to an African-American and who is it dedicated to?
- Q4. When were the first picture postal cards issued by the United States and what do they depict?
- Q5. The largest human-made explosion, before the first atomic bomb detonation, was remembered on a recent stamp issued by Canada. What was that horrific event?



## Answers to November/December Philatelic Quiz



Prepared by Frederick C. Skvara

Q1. *Who was the Revolutionary War heroine that was honored by the U.S.P.O, not with a stamp, but with an overprint?*

Ans. **Molly Pitcher**

On October 20, 1928, the United States Post Office Department issued the 1926 two-cent George Washington regular issue stamp (Scott 634) overprinted “Molly Pitcher” (the stamp was not listed in the *Scott Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers* until 1998). The stamp was issued for the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Monmouth that took place on June 28, 1778, in Monmouth County, New Jersey and was one of the largest battles of the American Revolution. British troops under the command of Sir Henry Clinton and loyalists were moving from Philadelphia to New York City when they were interrupted by the Continental Army led by General George Washington and General Anthony Wayne at the Monmouth Courthouse. The bulk of the battle was fought around the bridge over the Spotswood Middle Brook. Eventually, the Continental Army forced the British to retreat.



1928 (Scott 646)

The legend of “Molly Pitcher” refers to a Revolutionary War heroine who carried canteens of water to the soldiers in that battle. Most historians have concluded that that woman was Mary Hays (October 13, 1754–January 22, 1832) who was married to William Hays, a gunner in the Pennsylvania-based artillery regiment of Colonel Thomas Proctor. Since William Hays was neither wounded nor killed during the battle, it is doubtful if she took part in the fighting by loading the cannons. In 1788 William Hays died and Mary married a man named McCauley. In 1822 she was awarded a military pension from the state of Pennsylvania based on her own service as a “revolutionary heroine”. [Ref: *Encyclopedia of New Jersey*, Ed. by Maxine N. Laurie and Marc Mappen. Rutgers University Press 2004]



Q2. *A line from one of this poet’s poems “Hope died as I was led/ Unto my marriage bed” referred to how her artistic ambitions were thwarted by her husband, a renowned doctor and philanthropist. Who is this American poet whose literary highpoint came with a single poem that was sung to the tune of “John Brown’s Body”?*

Ans. **Julia Ward Howe**

Julia Ward Howe (1819–1910) was a United States author and lecturer who worked for equal education, professional and business opportunities for women, especially for Civil War widows. She was the daughter of a prominent New York banker who ensured that she was exposed to the finest tutors for her education, but, at the same time, he was a dominating person and kept her closely confined. Even so, she was able to engage in a number of creative activities – organizing meetings and chairing committees.

On a trip to Boston, after her father died, she met Samuel Gridley Howe (1801–1876), a United States educator and director of the Perkins School for the Blind. He graduated from Harvard Medical School, but did not practice, instead took part in the Greek War of Independence (1821–1832) as both a fighter and surgeon. He returned to the United States in 1831 and in 1832 set up what would become the Perkins School for the Blind. Julia married Samuel Gridley Howe in 1843, a man twenty years her senior. Unfortunately she went from a dominating father to an overbearing husband who had “deeply conservative attitudes about a woman’s domestic responsibilities”. It was on her honeymoon that she composed the poem that included the line in the above question. The marriage was not a happy one. Her first book of poems, *Passion Flowers*, was published in 1853 and in it she wrote about her frustrations with marital and domestic life.



## Answers to November/December Philatelic Quiz



Prepared by Frederick C. Skvara

### Q2 (cont.)

Her husband was an official of the Sanitary Commission and on one of his supervising trips to review the Union troops in Virginia, Julia was invited to go along. When they heard that Confederate forces were moving toward them, they returned to Washington and Julia, who was trained as an opera singer led the party she was with in singing “John Brown’s Body”, a hymn written for camp meetings by William Steffe, a South Carolina-born Philadelphia bookkeeper. Julia composed a patriotic poem for that song at the Willard Hotel in Washington on November 20, 1861. It was first published in the *Atlantic Monthly* in February 1862.



1987 (Scott 2176)

The “Battle Hymn of the Republic” became the anthem of the Union cause and gave Julia some independence from her husband. Following her husband’s death in 1876, she was able to fully engage in a number of causes that she cared deeply about, especially women’s rights, and although she continued to publish, nothing she wrote later would match the popularity of “Battle Hymn of the Republic”.

The 14¢ crimson stamp was issued by the USPS on February 12, 1987, part of the Great American Series, on the 125th anniversary of the publication of the “Battle Hymn of the Republic”. February 12 is also Abraham Lincoln’s birthday and Lincoln was a great fan of the hymn. The stamp was designed by Ward Brackett of Westport, Connecticut. He created a pencil sketch based on a photo of Julia Howe taken around the time she wrote the poem. [Refs : 1) A book review in *The Wall Street Journal*, April 11, 2016, of *The Civil Wars of Julia Ward Howe* by Elaine Showalter. Simon & Schuster 2016 and 2) *Linn’s U.S. Stamp Yearbook 1987* by Fred Boughner. Amos Press 1988.



### Q3. Who was the first non-native American who settled Eschikagou or “Land of the Wild Onions” and what is that area known as now?

Ans. **Jean Baptiste Pointe Du Sable (1745–1818)**

Although little is known of his early life, Jean Baptiste Pointe Du Sable is purported to have been born in Haiti in 1745, the son of a French sea captain and an ex-African slave, and educated in France. While working in the Gulf of Mexico in 1773 on one of his father’s ships, the ship sank and he went ashore at New Orleans. He traveled up the Mississippi River settling for several years in what is now Peoria, Illinois, marrying a Potawatomi woman, Kihihawa (later called Catherine) with whom he had two children.



1987 (Scott 2249)

Several years later he left to explore the area farther north settling on the north shore of the river, later to be named the Chicago River, where it empties into Lake Michigan. The Chicago River runs into the Des Plaines River which then runs into the Illinois River and then empties into the Mississippi River. Long before Du Sable had settled there, traders and Indians used these waterways to connect Lake Michigan to the Mississippi River and the south. In 1779 he built the first permanent home as well as a trading post in the area. After the American Revolutionary War ended, his trading operation expanded to include a dairy, mill, bakery, poultry house and a number of other structures. He traded goods for furs from trappers, woodsmen and Indian merchants in Wisconsin, Michigan and lower Canada and became very wealthy.

The area in which he settled was called “Eschikagou” or “Land of the Wild Onions” by the Indians. The anglicized Indian name is Chicago and in 1968, Du Sable was officially recognized by the state of Illinois as the founder of Chicago.



## Answers to November/December Philatelic Quiz



Prepared by Frederick C. Skvara

Q3 (cont.)

The 22¢ stamp for Du Sable was issued by the USPS on February 20, 1987, in Chicago, Illinois, and commemorates, not only Du Sable, but also the 150th anniversary of the incorporation of the city of Chicago in 1837. It is the tenth stamp in the Black Heritage Series that began in 1978 with the stamp for Harriet Tubman. As no contemporary portrait exists of Du Sable or what his house actually looked like, the designer, Thomas Blackshear of California, used artists' conceptions of Du Sable from Chicago's Du Sable Museum of African-American History and the Chicago Historical Society. [Ref: 1)Class Cover Connection #41, July 2004 and 2) *Linn's U.S. Stamp Yearbook 1987* by Fred Boughner. Amos Press 1988].



Q4. *What country's capital was originally built on water and was known as the "Venice of the Orient"?*

Ans. **Brunei**

Brunei is an independent sultanate in the northeast part of the island of Bornea in the Malay Archipelago. Development of the current capital, Bandar Seri Begawan, began in 1906 on land on the west bank of the Brunei River. But for hundreds of years the capital was Kampong Ayer (Water Village or Brunei Town), a village almost entirely built on stilts over saltwater in Brunei Bay and was dubbed the "Venice of the Orient". Kampong Ayer is now part of Bandar Seri Begawan which is mostly built on land.



Dwellings in Kampong Ayer.  
Brunei 1947 (Scott 64)



Q5. *There have been a number of joint issues over the years. Recently a joint issue from two countries showed the highest and lowest places on earth. Who are the two countries and what do these stamps depict ?*

Ans. **Nepal (Mt. Everest) & Israel (The Dead Sea)**

On September 4, 2012 Nepal and Israel each issued a single stamp showing both the highest and lowest places on earth, as well as the flags of both countries. The upper half of each stamp shows a photograph of Mt. Everest and the figure +8,848 representing 8,848 meters or 29,028 feet, the highest place on earth. A photograph of the Dead Sea is shown in the lower half of each stamp along with the figure -422, representing 422 meters or 1,384 feet below the level of the Mediterranean Sea, the lowest spot on earth. The tab on the Israeli stamp shows a map with two dots representing the locations of Mt. Everest and the Dead Sea. Nepal also issued a souvenir sheet with its stamp.

Mt. Everest lies in the Himalayas between Nepal and Tibet, China. The summit was first reached on May 29, 1953, by members of a British expedition led by Sir John Hunt (1910–1998), a British Army officer. The Dead Sea (Salt Sea) is a salt lake that lies on the boundary between Israel and Jordan and is 51 miles long and 11 miles wide at its greatest width. It receives nearly all its water from the Jordan River which arises on the slopes of Mt. Hermon, on the border between Syria and Lebanon, and flows to the Sea of Galilee and then ending in the Dead Sea which has no outlet.



# Answers to November/December Philatelic Quiz



Prepared by Frederick C. Skvara



Israel 2012 (Scott 1944)



Nepal 2012 (Scott 875)



Nepal 2012 (Scott 874)



## ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AWARENESS (cont. from pg. 1)



Alzheimer's Disease Awareness. U.S. 2008 (Scott 4358)  
[First Day Cover with Colorano "Silk" cachet.]