STAMP & TONGS

AUGUST, 2025 DALLAS-PARK CITIES PHILATELIC SOCIETY VOL. 64, NO. 4

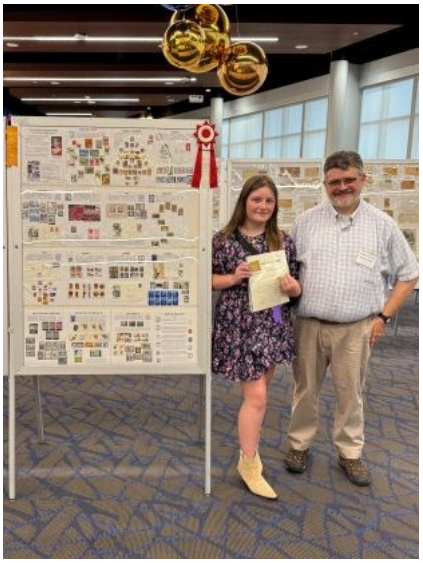
ELLIE TATE EARNS SINGLE FRAME YOUTH GRAND AWARD AT OKPEX

By Stan Bartnikowski

DPCPS Junior member Ellie Tate earned the Single Frame Youth Grand Award at OKPEX, June 13-14, for her exhibit, "Swiftie Stamps: Philatelic Tribute to the Eras of Taylor Swift". She also won the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors Youth Grand Award, the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors Creativity Award and the American Topical Association Youth Award. Congratulations, Ellie!

Her exhibit proceeds to the Great American Stamp Show (GASS) in Chicago this month to compete for the Youth Champion of Champions award.

Ellie and her brother Charlie recently earned the Stamp Collecting merit badge from Scouting America working with DPCPS member Paul Witthoeft as their merit badge counselor.



Ellie Tate, with her father Josh Tate, at her "Swiftie Stamps" exhibit and her OKPEX Gold ribbon, AAPE ribbon, AAPE creativity pin and ATA Youth Award.

Note: Ellie Tate received a Youth Prix d'honneur at GASS.

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USPS OPENS VOTING ON FAVORITE STAMP TO BE REISSUED IN 2026

From the USPS Newsroom

On 7/24, the U.S. Postal Service announced the Stamp Encore Contest. To celebrate the organization's 250th anniversary, and gear up to celebrate the country's 250th anniversary, the public is invited to select a stamp pane from the past for re-printing as part of the 2026 Stamp program.

The Postal Service chose 25 stamp panes from some of its bestselling and most popular stamp issuances of the recent past. Voting is open through Sept. 30, both online and by mail. You can view the official rules and vote online at https://www.stampsforever.com/vote or print a paper ballot from the website and mail it in.

This is an open invitation — everyone is welcome, and you can vote as many times as you want.

The Postal Service plans to announce the winning stamp design in May 2026 at the Boston 2026 World Expo to coincide with America's 250th anniversary celebrations.

Until then, the results will be a secret.

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DPCPS July 9 auction totals $757.50 ! Probably a record.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DPCPS meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays January through October and on the second Wednesday in November and December, at the Edgemere Retirement Community, 8523 Thackery Street in Dallas, Texas. Call to order is 7:30 p.m., but most members arrive by 7:00 p.m. for socializing and trading.

August 13	**DPCPS MEETING**, Program: *Ask the experts.*
Aug. 14-17	**GASS 2025,** Great American Stamp Show (Annual APS event), Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center, 1551 North Thoreau Dr., Schaumburg, IL 60173. (Thursday -Saturday 10 6, Sunday 10 to 4).. Free admission.
Augus 27	**DPCPS MEETING**, Program: *Plate Number Coils*, by Fernando Torres .
Aug 22-23	**DALLAS TSDA**, Holiday Inn and Suites, 3220 Craig Drive, McKinney, TX 75070 - (Friday 10-5, Saturday 9-4) .
Sept 10	**DPCPS MEETING**, Program: *Importance of Conditioning in Valuing Stamps* by Tom Cunningham.
Sept 19-21	**GREATER HOUSTON STAMP SHOW**, Humble Civic Center, 8233 Will Clayton Road, Humble TX 77338. (Friday/ Saturday 10-6, Sunday 10-4)
Sept 24	**DPCPS MEETING**, Program: *To be announced.*

STAMP & TONGS

Newsletter of the Dallas-Park Cities Philatelic Society

Stan Bartnikowski, Editor (stan.bartnikowski@gmail.com)

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2024 DPCPS OFFICERS

President – Fernando Torres (*president.dpcps@gmail.com*)
Vice President – Rick Hosler
Secretary – Jerry Madden
Treasurer – Rod Gabel
Past President – Bill Laupus

DPCPS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Al Dlhy • Sam Philippi • Tim Wallaert

Membership in the Dallas-Park Cities Philatelic Society is available to all persons of good character who are interested in philately. Dues are $12 per year (higher for mailed newsletters). For more information, check our website at ***DallasStamps.org*** or contact: Fernando Torres (president.dpcps@gmail.com). For a membership application, visit the aforementioned website or write to: Dallas-Park Cities Philatelic Society, c/o Jerry Madden, 428 Valley Glen Dr, Richardson, TX 75080.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Fernando Torres

As summer winds down, I'd like to share a bit of my philatelic adventure (and misadventure) from my travels this July. I went to Italy with my two kids, visiting Rome, Vatican City, Florence, and Venice. It was a wonderful trip filled with history, good food, and—of course—some attempts at philately.

In Rome, we toured the Coliseum and then made our way to Vatican City. I was excited not only to see St. Peter's Basilica but also to visit the Vatican post office, famous for its reputation of being more reliable than the Italian postal service. I had high hopes of finding special issues—perhaps even the "Sede Vacante" stamps. Unfortunately, the clerk informed me they weren't selling philatelic stamps that day. Instead, he sold me a €2.90 definitive featuring Pope Leo XIV, which I used to send two postcards: one to our club treasurer, Rod Gabel, in Dallas, and one to my sister in Puerto Rico. For the record, Rod received his card on August 6—my sister's card is still in postal limbo!

Encouraged at first but later discouraged, I tried searching for stamp dealers in both Rome and Florence. After following Google Maps to a couple of dead ends (apparently where stamp shops once were), I gave up chasing philately and turned to enjoying the cities, food, and even some cooking classes where I learned to make pasta and gelato. Who knows—maybe I'll open "Torres Pizzeria" one day!

In Venice, I made one last effort to find a dealer. To my delight, I discovered a shop named Degani right in Piazza San Marco. Unfortunately, my timing was never quite right—the store was closed when I first passed by, and later, when it was open, my kids were too hungry to let me linger. By the time dinner was over, the shop was closed again. My hopes of a true philatelic find in Italy were dashed, but at least I got a glimpse of the store sign!

And so, my Italian philatelic journey ended with more postcards than stamps, but plenty of memories nonetheless.

On a separate note, here at home the U.S. Postal Service has launched the Encore Stamp Contest. This is a public vote to determine which of 25 best-selling stamp panes should be reissued in 2026. Voting is open through September 30, 2025—so don't miss your chance to weigh in!

I look forward to hearing your own summer philatelic stories at our next meeting.

—Fernando Torres, President

EDITOR'S MUSINGS

By Stan Bartnikowski

I would like to comment on the publication of stamp catalogs. Except for U.S. and U.N., Scott arranges their catalogs alphabetically. This is fine for a worldwide collectors

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SPOTLIGHT ON …

PAUL WITTHOEFT

Interviewed by Stan Bartnikowski

Originally from Chicago, Paul left the U.S. Air Force and moved to Dallas in 1973 to attend SMU Law School. He was a civil-service attorney with US Environmental Protection Agency from 1975 to 2016 as a pollution prosecutor and staff expert on Grants Law.



Paul has been collecting since elementary school. His mother had encouraged it and oversaw his approvals by mail. He did his first show-and-tell about third grade with African Animals on stamps and did organize friends into a stamp club there.

He never took a break from stamp collecting. When he was in VietNam (1970-71), he bought used stamps by mail auction, but the high humidity made buying mint stamps a bad idea. Law school was so demanding that he had to limit himself to only a couple hours per week. He used the same limit when he had young toddler sons (now in their 40s), getting out stamps only late when they were asleep and little hands could not grab stamps off the table.

While he collected worldwide stamps initially, and enjoys British Commonwealth countries, his recent efforts focus on Topicals, especially Military Uniforms as well as Coats-of-Arms, Flags and Maps. He also acquires other topicals (birds, airplanes, buildings, etc.) to share with Scout collectors who often start out as topicalists. He joined Boy Scouts in 1957, earned the Stamp Collecting merit badge in 1962 and still counsels that merit badge today.

He enjoyed curating our "Club Frame" of fifteen pages from club members for TexPex and MCSC Expo, and has also displayed four-page mini-exhibits of "Warrior Poets" and slogan cancels.

In addition to the club auctions, he has bought and sold some stamps in the auction department of the Armed Forces Stamp Exchange Club (AFSEC), and also trades worldwide material in AFSEC's exchange-by-mail department.

Paul is a long-time member of DPCPS and one of its predecessors. He joined the Park Cities Philatelic Society (PCPS) circa 1975 when they met at SMU, and he could walk to club meetings from married student housing! He served as treasurer, Stamp & Tongs editor and five-term President, then served on the Dallas Philatelic Society (DPS) 'merger' team circa 2000 in the Rick Hoaglund administration to create DPCPS. Paul enjoys the fellowship of other philatelists and learning from each other at every meeting.

When Paul was stationed at Little Rock AFB, he attended meetings of the Arkansas Philatelic Society. They chatted, but had fewer programs and services for members than provided by DPCPS.

Paul is also a Life Member and former Director of the Texas Philatelic Association (TPA).

SHOW 'N TELL

By Stan Bartnikowski

Awhile back, I gave a presentation on the postal history of Warsaw. I showed (an incomplete) set of Warsaw town post (locals) stamps in use 1915-1916. I recently obtained the cover below postmarked March 3, 1916. In addition to the 5 pfennig occupation stamp, the cover contains two of these town post stamps: the 2 groszy overprint on the 10 groszy stamp and the 6 groszy overprint on the 5 groszy stamp—both issued the previous February. Presumably these two stamps paid for local delivery, in addition to the 5 pfennig stamp for the occupying government. (the Citizens' Committee of the Capital City of Warsaw had duped the German authorities into accepting use of the Polish groszy for the town post stamps.)

Curiously, there were no groszy coins at the time. German currency was scarce, and Russian currency continued to be used. The 2 groszy stamp was paid for with 1 Russian kopeck and the 6 groszy with 3 kopecks.



Hungry after a Club Meeting?

Everyone in the club is invited to meet and eat after each meeting at the El Fenix at 6811 W Northwest Highway #5, just before Hillcrest (easily reached via the North service road for Northwest Highway). Please contact Perry Denton or Stuart Barzune for details.

USPS VOTE FOR 2026 RE-ISSUE

Continued from Page 1

Here are the stamps in the vote:

1997	Bugs Bunny
2001	Peanuts
2006	DC Comics Super Heroes
2007	Art of Disney: Magic
2011	Send a Hello
2013	Emancipation Proclamation
2015	Mail a Smile
2015	Batman
2016	Classics Forever
2016	Star Trek
2016	Wonder Woman
2017	Disney Villains
2017	Have a Ball!
2017	Total Eclipse of the Sun
2018	Bioluminescent Life
2018	Flag Act of 1818
2018	Frozen Treats
2018	Mister Rogers
2019	Transcontinental Railroad
2020	Let's Celebrate
2021	Happy Birthday
2021	Heritage Breeds
2021	Message Monsters
2021	Star Wars: Droids
2022	Charles M. Schulz



A collage of 25+ past stamps for voting at stampsforever.com/vote for reissue in 2026.

Editor's Note: It is not clear whether the reissue will be identical to the original or contain minor design changes, resulting in another Scott major variety.

EDITOR'S MUSINGS, continued

Continued from Page 2

who have the money and room to accommodate the complete set, but what about those of us who collect only a few countries? For example, who specializes in countries N-Sam? There are 6 "volumes" of Scott Catalogs, each with an "A" and "B" volume, effectively 12 volumes. Why can't they be arranged geographically and politically, e.g., British Commonwealth, Continental Europe and Colonies, North America, South America, etc.? Stanley Gibbons provides a variety of country catalogs, in addition to their world-wide set, such as Poland, France, Germany & States. Similarly, Michel provides their catalogs organized by region. Why can't Scott create catalogs of popular countries and areas, in addition to their worldwide set?

While Scott lists all sorts of varieties for U.S. stamps, it simply mentions and doesn't list other varieties for other countries; for example, many of the imperforate varieties for Polish stamps. I guess I have to look at Michel or Minkus (I surely miss the latter's catalogs). Of course, the Poland specialized Fischer lists these and more, but I would expect better coverage from the world wide catalogs.

CLUB MEETING MINUTES

by Jerry Madden

May 28, 2025

Rick Hosler called to order the meeting of the Dallas Park Cities Philatelic Society for 5/28/2025 at the Edgemere Senior Living Facility at 7:30 PM. We suspended with the reading of the minutes of the prior meeting. Rick announced that the subject for the next meeting would be for new members to discuss how and when they became interested in collecting and what areas they collected. He also announced that Jerry would give the presentation for the second meeting in June and the subject would be the Papal Conclaves and their relation to stamps. A visitor Riasat Tufail was present at the meeting and paid dues. He will be accepted into the club at the next meeting he attends. 25 members and a guest were present at the meeting

The subject of the meeting was stamp items starting with the letter E. Jerry lead off the meeting by discussing a person born just north of our area in Texas , Dwight Eisenhower. Jerry talked about things that were stamp related to Eisenhower besides the many stamps that depicted him on the stamps. They included Rockne, West Point, D day, Normandy, the Presidency, and Gettysburg. Bill then presented about the Empire Express Railroad Train and showed in on the early US 2 Cent stamp. He pointed out how long it had been in existence and Jerry added that Eisenhower probably road that train to West Point from New York city and certainly heard it go by West Point hundreds of times. Jack also talked about Eisenhower's cross country car trip after WW1 and the difficulties of that trip in the 1920 time period.

We then ad a discussion about Egypt under British Occupation by Don. We also discussed Palestine and the Trans Jordan area at this time. George talked about Eisenhower covers he had and Nikita talked about Ephemera. He brought up the Turkish Empire and views of Constantinople. And he also had a Yellowstone item. Rick brought up 1976 Egypt and the UAR with Syria which Syria left in 1971.

Geoff conducted the auction and raised about 160 dollars for the club and Jack presented his books. The meeting adjourned at 8:52 PM.

Continued on Page 5 (next page).

Respectfully submitted,
Jerry Madden Secretry.

June 11, 2025

The meeting of the Dallas Park Cities Philatelic Society for 6/11/2025 at the Edgemere Senior Living Facility was called to order at 7:31 PM by Rick Hosler , club Vice President. Soon thereafter the meeting was turned over to President Fernando Torres who arrived just as the meeting was called to order by the Vice President. President Torres announced that the board meeting which was usually scheduled for the evening of the 1st meeting of each quarter instead would be help on the evening of our June 25th meeting at 6:30 PM. There were no minutes of the prior meeting. The Treasurer gave his report which showed the club with a little over $13,796 dollars in our treasury. We had a visitor Keyi Yin who indicated her interest in joining the club and we hope to have her join us next meeting. Riasat Tufail was in attendance for his second meeting. Keyi talked about her collection which consists of topicals and New Zealand as an area of her interest. On a motion by Geoff Owens and a second from many of the club members Riasat was welcomed to club membership.

The program consisted of newer members talking about how and when they became interested in stamp collecting. Among those speaking were Nikita, Bill Davis, Jerry, Paul and Jack. Most started when they were young with interesting help from either their parents or other relatives. Geoff then conducted the auction and raised quite a bit of money for the club. George brought up his interest in Kennedy stamps. And we had Jacks books as the closing item. The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 PM

June 25, 2025

The June 25, 2025, meeting of the Dallas Park Cities Philatelic Society was called to order at 7:37 PM by President Torres at the Edgemere Senior Living Facility in Dallas Texas. The President reported we had 46 paid members and several people who had paid dues but not yet attended the second meeting required to become actual club members. No treasurer's report and we moved to not read the minutes of the last meeting. Jerry Madden gave the presentation for the meet. Since the Secretary gave the presentation, he does not have great minutes of the presentation, but I will try to reconstruct the presentation. The subject was the recent Papal Conclave and the history of Papal Conclaves. There have been 266 official popes according to the Catholic Church and a few not official popes. The shortest serving pope served 12 days and the longest was 30 some years. The shortest one is not memorable, but the longest one was named Peter and of course he is very consequential. He was the very first pope and was not selected by a conclave but was anointed by Christ himself. The cardinals and bishops started selecting popes somewhere in the 11th century and the rules were set up by instructions called Papal Bulls. The second longest serving pope was Leo the thirteenth about the beginning of the 20th century and the third longest serving pope was John Paul the Second.

I tried to tie the importance to stamp collect of the Papal Conclaves first by showing that there were no stamps I could find that directly talked about the Conclaves. But I then tried to show how the actions of a conclave could affect our hobby showing the impact on the world the selection of influential popes could have on world history. My example was John Paul the Second and the countries that were issuing stamps when he was selected versus the stamp issuing countries after his time of service. How many of our countries that issued many stamps like the DDR, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia etc. were no longer existing countries and how many more countries like many of the Soviet states were now independent stamp issuing countries and how that had changed many of the stamp collecting habits. We also discussed the Vatican City Post Office and the making they did when there was no chosen Pope.

After the presentation Jack presented his books and the meeting adjourned at 8:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted.
Jerry Madden Secretary

July 9, 2025

The 7/9/2025 meeting of the Dallas Park Cities Philatelic Society was called to order at 7:41 PM by President Torres at the Edgemere Senior Living Facility. Rick Hosler announced our next meeting would cover Philatelic items with the letter F as the subject matters. President Torres announced the recent philatelic sale in McKinney was well attended and seemed to have been very successful and that many of the club members had been in attendance. There was some discussion of the show. We did not have the minutes of the last meeting read. The Treasurer gave the treasurers report. Tim had a show and tell item.

The club then held its quarterly auction. Al ran rhe auction and there were many interesting items in the auction with several contested bids. I know I purchased over $200 in items. After the auction we had Jack's books . The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jerry Madden Secretary.

July 23, 2025

The 7/23/2025 meeting of the Dallas Park Cities Philatelic Society was called to order by President Torres at the Edgemere Senior Living Facility at 7:32 PM. President told us he had just returned from Italy. We suspended with the reading of the minutes and had our treasurer's report. George had an announcement about his son in law and Don Wolman led a discussion of the greatest loss of life in world history which is commemorated in stamps by an

Continued on Page 6 (next page).

2025 U.S. NEW ISSUES CALENDAR

This is a list of U.S. new issues expected to debut in the next few months.

August 1 **SpongeBob SquarePants**. Four (78¢) forever commemorative stamps: Bikini Bottom characters Sandy Cheeks, Patrick Star, Plankton, Mr. Krabs, SpongeBob, Gary, and Squidward Tentacles; SpongeBob face with mouth open; SpongeBob face with mouth closed; and SpongeBob and Patrick; pane of 16; BCA; New York, NY 10199.



August 14 **Boston 2026**. Two (78¢) forever commemorative stamps: Old North Church, midnight rider; pane of 20; Schaumburg, IL 60194.

August 16 **Luna Moth.** One ($1.27) nonmachineable-surcharge rate definitive stamp, pane of 20; Schaumburg, IL 60194.

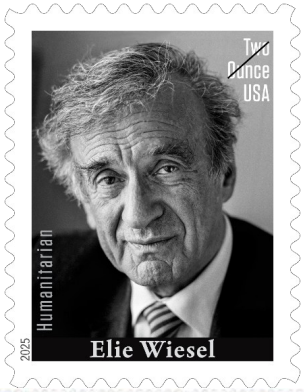
Sept 9 **William F. Buckley Jr.** Single (78¢) forever commemorative stamp; pane of 20; New Haven, CT 06511.





Sept 13 **Holiday Cheer**. Four (78¢) forever special stamps: amaryllis flowers, holly wreath, evergreen branch, and cardinals; Washington, DC 20066.

Sept 17 **Elie Wiesel**. Single ($1.07) 2-ounce stamp, pane of 20; Distinguished Americans series; BCA; New York, NY 10199.



Sept 19 **Winter Landscapes**. Five (78¢) forever special stamps, double-sided pane of 20; Danville, IN 46122.



CLASSIFIED ADS

One classified ad of up to 50 words, not counting name and address information, is available to members per issue on a space available basis. Submissions should arrive no later than the twentieth of the month preceding the issue date. Ads run for four consecutive issues, unless canceled before then. Submissions can be emailed to stan.bartnikowski@gmail.com or mailed to 1413 Elizabeth Dr., Carrolton, TX 75007-2828.

MEETING MINUTES, continued

Continued from Page 5

1960's stamp of Chile. The event was a cathedral fire in Santiago Chile ion September 8, 1863 at the Church of the Immaculate Conception. The event is commemorated by a stamp as a memorial for the over 2,000 people who died in the fire. The stamp is a 1963 stamp Chile Scott number 344.

We then continued the regular program which was philatelic items starting with the letter F. The discussion was led by Bill Davis who showed some forgeries he had and showed at least a few ways you would be able to detect forgery. Most of his items shown were from Fiume. We then had Jack on the program and he showed items from his trip to the Alaskan Pipeline and Prudhoe Bay where he visited his son in late June and early July. He showed some very interesting pictures of his son and the facilities at the head of the pipeline. It was summer so the days are almost 24 hours long at the Arctic Circle. Jack had some interesting pictures showing moose and caribou near the pipeline and showed that animals collect near the pipeline since the temperature is warm at the pipeline. The facility there has many of the conveniences of home. He also showed pictures of the Arctic Ocean and some ocean going barges that looked very cold. One interesting point is mail from Prudhomme is sent to Anchorage for post marking and delivery.

We then proceeded to Jack's books. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jerry Madden, Secretary.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

by Jerry Madden

We have a new member, Riasat Tufail. Please extend a warm welcome to Riasat. Paid membership is now 46 with 5 candidates.