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January 2015

Local news for the people, by the people



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Frankford High School Boys' Basketball Team WINS 1928 Delaware State Championship!

By Sandie Gerken

Frankford's 1928 State Champion Team: Herman Lockwood, Herman Gray, Paul Baker, Coach Rickards (back), Wilmer Lewis, Preston Williams, and Truman "Hump" Campbell.

The exact date was March 20, 1928. The event was the State Basketball Championship game. The location was the old armory building in New Castle, Delaware. The opposing teams were New Castle High School and Frankford High School. It was a date never to be forgotten by those Sussex County basketball players and fans.

The Frankford team's roster of 10 players included starting players: Herman Lockwood, Herman Gray, Wilmer Lewis, Preston Williams, Truman "Hump" Campbell, and

Paul Baker. This small, but scrappy team had fought hard to win their chance at the State Championship. Coaching the Frankford team was the high school mathematics and history teacher, Everett Hickman Rickards.

As might be expected, no one predicted a win for the small-town Frankford school, whose total enrollment was 54 students in grades 9-12 with a graduating class of 11. The much larger, up-state New Castle High School was considered to have the more powerful,

skilled team. The downstate Frankford team had to endure derogatory comments and the boasts that "We can whip those kids from the

The boys from Frankford kept their eyes on their goal of winning a championship game against a bigger, upstate team. As the anxious crown of fans watched and the suspense mounted, they defeated New Castle 39 to 35 to win the state trophy. Months of training and a desire to win had paid off as this small town team had accomplished

what had seemed an impossible task. The Frankford fans were ecstatic and some stuffed dollar bills into the waistbands of the boys' trunks as tokens of thanks and congratulations. The day after the game, there was a victory parade in Frankford to honor the team. Coach Rickards was pulled through the streets in a child's wagon while holding the State Championship trophy. The Frankford High basketball players were local heroes.

The Frankford School building was located on Thatcher Street and

now houses Melson Funeral Home. Weather permitting, Mr. Rickards coached the team practices on a dirt area, dotted with trees, next to the school (now the funeral home parking lot). Practices were for 45 minutes after school on this dirt "court". At other times, the team was allowed to practice in the theatre building in Selbyville. Coach Rickards paid all the transportation for the team to travel to Selbyville to practice. He also paid out of his own pocket to transport the entire

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DICKENS PARLOUR THEATER

Proprietor: Rich Bloch Email: blochdc@gmail.com



History

The original Dickens Parlour Theatre was in the Tropicana Hotel in Atlantic City. It was a tiny little place adjoining a magic shop owned by me and a partner and managed by Jay Read, who was a sensational magician and wonderful colleague. Jay is now the Assistant Manager at our current location. Dickens Parlour Theatre was the realization of a dream I had had for many years. Traveling around the world on cruise ships was lovely work, but I kept asking Susan (my wife of 48 years) whether there wasn't some

scenario where people could come to us. I envied the entertainers at Branson, Missouri who had their own theaters, hung up their clothes in the back room, had dinner at home and still met their audiences each night. On and off over the years, we canvased the Bethany area—we have a home there—and one day found a big old house on Route 26 with a very large garage behind it. At the time, it didn't occur to me that it would be a good place for Dickens, primarily because of the cost of construction. But the land was well located, immediately next door to Beebe Medical Center and it occurred to me it would be a good place to build doctors' offices. One day, in the course of looking to see if I could take down the garage myself, I was impressed with the



height of the ceilings—some 17 feet—and by a relatively large back room in the garage with a concrete pad. It occurred to me this might be a fun place to do magic shows on

and off in the summer (the working title at that point was "Rainy Day Magic Theatre") so I enlisted the help of a contractor buddy

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1928 State Basketball Champions, continued from page 1

team to away games, sometimes providing meals for the boys. He never asked to be reimbursed for any expenses incurred. Getting his team to New Castle County in 1928 was difficult, but Mr. Rickards provided the way for his team to have their chance. He did have strict training rules that prohibited smoking and taking dates to the ball games. But, he was able to take a bunch of rural, farm boys and mold them into a team of hustling, scrappy basketball players with a spirit and desire to win.

The team played their "home" games in the Selbyville building, where they were required to set up the folding chairs to line the walls for spectators and to clean up after practices and games. The boys' uniforms were tattered and mismatched, and they were required to wear



bulky kneepads. The rough playing floor was full of splinters that caused many injuries to knees and elbows. The boys gained a reputation of being able to dress for games and be on the court in a matter of minutes, a feat primarily due to the drafty, unheated side room that they used as a locker room.

Coach Everett Rickards was a native Sussex Countian, who grew up in Fenwick Island where his father was the lighthouse keeper. He attended school in Georgetown and went on to Millersville Normal School (now Millersville University) to become a teacher. At Millersville, he served as assistant basketball

coach. He came back to Sussex County and taught in Millsboro, Roxana, and Millville, where he introduced basketball as a sport to the school. He began his teaching stint at Frankford School about 1921, and offered to coach basketball there for little or no pay. He left school teaching in 1932 to work for the IRS. He died in Frankford in 1956 and is buried in St. George's Cemetery, Clarksville.

Herman Chandler Lockwood played center for the team. He was the tallest at 6'2". He lived in Dagsboro and ran 4 ½ miles to and from school. This regimen plus his school work, homework, and chores kept him in great athletic shape. He was born in 1909. He worked on tugboats in Philadelphia after high school, then served in the Merchant Marines. He later married, lived in Georgetown, and worked as a painter. He died in 1998 and is buried in Redmen's Cemetery in Dagsboro.

Wilmer L. Lewis, a team forward, born in 1909, served in the US Army in WWII. He worked alongside his father, Harry in his Sunoco station on Route 113, Frankford, later taking over the business. He never married, died in 1970 and is buried in Carey's Cemetery, Frankford.

Truman Layfield "Hump" Campbell, a team forward, lived in Dagsboro. He owned a restaurant in Dagsboro for some time before moving to his wife's hometown of Easley, South Carolina. Born in 1912 in Dagsboro, he died in 1981 and was buried in West View Cemetery, Easley, South Carolina.

Preston Lee Williams, a guard on the team, lived in Frankford all his life. He was born in 1912, married and had 2 children. He died in 1961 in Miami, Florida and is buried in Dags-



boro's Redmen's Cemetery. His son, Preston

Jr. "Pep" lives in Millsboro.

Herman Benjamin Gray Jr., another guard, was born in 1912 in Dagsboro and became a state trooper. When he retired, he moved to Florida where he died in Oct 1970. He is buried in the family plot in Prince George's Chapel Cemetery, Dagsboro.

Paul Edward Baker, from Dagsboro was born in 1911. After high school, he obtained a business degree from Goldey Beacom College and became an accountant for Richardson and Robbins in Dover. In 1983 he married Elinor Metheny, whom he met in church. They had 3 children. Paul died in 1998 at age 86 and is buried in Dagsboro Redmen's Cemetery.

I have not been able to learn anything about the 4 remaining members of the 1927-28 State Champion basketball team. If anyone reading this article recognizes members from the photo, please contact the paper.

Not many local people are still alive who might remember that glorious State Championship game in 1928 or the victory parade that followed in Frankford. But, we can still celebrate the spirit and determination of this winning team of boys and the pride of the community for their basketball heroes. Frankford School closed in 1933, after the

Author, Sandie Gerken lives in Dagsboro, DE. As a native Sussex Countian, local history is one of her passions.

Retired now, she devotes her time to genealogy research (her greatest passion since 1978), watercolor painting, grandchildren, soccer for kids with disabilities, books, and things creative and historical. She recently authored the book *Memories of the Clayton Theatre* as a fundraiser to help the Clayton go digital. She is now exploring her writing skills with local history articles for *High Tide News*.

new school building that consolidated the Frankford and Dagsboro schools into the John M. Clayton School, was completed. Sources:

"Frankford School Spirit Unquestionable", Bill Long, The Cryer Newspaper of John M. Clayton School, Vol. VII, No.6, January 19, 1968 Interview with Barbara Godwin, granddaughter of Coach Everett H. Rickards

Interview with Elinor Lee Baker, daughter of team player, Paul Baker



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Osher Lifelong Learning Opens Registration for Spring Semester

Partial Scholarships Available

Lewes, DE – New classes and returning favorites will be available at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Delaware in Lewes and in Ocean View for the spring semester beginning January 26, 2015. An exciting array of more than 70 classes for people 50 and over will be offered, including more than 25 brand new classes.

Would you like to create your own greeting cards? Are you planning a trip to France and would like to blend in with the locals? Osher Lifelong Learning offers a roster of classes on these topics and many others at our facilities at the Fred Thomas Building in Lewes and the Town Hall and Community Center in Ocean View. "We will have an Open House at

the Ocean View Town Hall and Community Center on January 7 from 10:00 a.m. to noon to introduce our program and our new location." says Anna Moshier, program coordinator. "Having two locations has allowed us to expand our program and give more people an opportunity for an enhanced educational experience."

In Lewes, new and potential members are invited to orientation at the Fred Thomas Building, 520 Dupont Avenue, Thursday, January 22 with a social beginning at 10 am followed by a presentation about the program.

The 10 week spring semester will run from January 26 to April 2 and will offer classes in subject areas such as literature, art, history, science, computers, music, life skills and languages.

Some examples of classes offered this spring includes: IPad Basics, Amazing Aircraft, Grape Adventure Around the Globe, Interesting Issues in Constitutional Law, Writing Poetry

Registration is underway for the spring 2015 semester and is available online at www.lifelonglearning.udel.edu/lewes, by mail or in person at the Osher Lewes office, Fred Thomas Building, 520 Dupont Avenue, Lewes, DE 19958. The deadline for priority registration for the spring is Thursday, January 8, 2015. Registrations received after January 8 will be processed on a space available basis.

Most classes are held at the Fred Thomas Building, 520 Dupont Ave, Lewes, the Rehoboth Art League and the Ocean View Town Hall and Community Center, 32 West Avenue, Ocean View. More benefits to membership include social activities, travel opportunities and other program special events. In addition to the spring classes, Osher Lewes offers a four week June session every year.

The Osher Lifelong Learning

Institutes at the University of Delaware are membership organizations that provide opportunities for adults 50 and over to learn, teach, and travel with their peers. The only requirements for admission are interest in a continuing educational experience, support of the program through participation, and a modest membership fee of \$130 a semester. Tuition assistance scholarships are available. Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Delaware also has programs in Dover and Wilmington. For more information about Osher Lewes visit www.lifelonglearning. udel.edu/lewes or call (302) 645-4111. Submitted by Anna Moshier.

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Bethany Beach Architect Receives Top Award

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS (AIA)

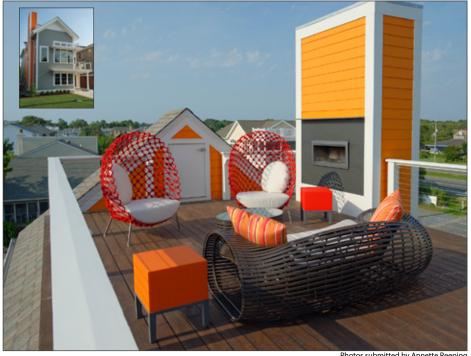
Submitted by Annette Reeping



Scott Edmonston, AIA, LEED AP

As the president and principal architect of the Scott Edmonston Architecture Studio (SEA Studio), Scott is responsible for the design and management of all of the firm's projects. He is passionate about green design and working with the local climate to create vibrant, healthy places to live and work. Scott received his Bachelor of Architecture degree from the Virginia Tech College of Architecture and Urban Studies. He is licensed in Delaware and Maryland and he is certified by the National Council of Architecture Registration Boards. He has been an accredited professional with the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design program since 2004 and he is a member of the American Institute of Architects. As a project architect and principal, he has overseen the successful design and completion of new homes, additions and renovations in Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, the District of Columbia, and North Carolina.

SEA STUDIO, LLC is a full service architecture firm based in Bethany Beach, Delaware with expertise in residential and light commercial projects. At SEA, we are committed to designing green spaces throughout Delaware and Maryland that meet our clients' needs and budgets. We aim to significantly reduce the environmental impact, carbon footprint and life cycle cost of every building we design by selecting local, sustainable materials and by employing passive and active design strategies that help make our buildings and spaces more comfortable, beautiful and energy efficient places to live and work. (www.seagreenstudio.com. Used with permission.)



Photos submitted by Annette Reeping



RCHITECTS

- SEA Studio (Scott Edmondson) was the recipient of the AIA Delaware 2014 Merit Award for design excellence for the Williamson Residence in Bethany Beach.
- The house was designed to balance modern design while belonging to and enhancing the established neighborhood.
- The gabled front facade and Cape Cod proportions help the home fit in with the neighborhood while the juxtaposed sloping roofs, stainless steel cable railings and bold color scheme help the home feel modern and fun.
- To meet the owners' desire for sustainability, the design takes advantage of day-lighting, passive heating through solar gain and passive cooling through cross ventilation. The home's power consumption is partially offset by a five kilowatt solar array that is mounted on the south facing roof which is hidden for the street.
- The 2014 Merit Award recognizes projects that "clearly demonstrate a level of design that
 exemplifies superior achievements. An award winning project demonstrates a high level of
 design resolution and/or advances the contemporary understanding of design by proposing a
 new approach to the development of architectural form."
- The home was noted for its well-proportioned facade, street presence, bold color scheme and fantastic roof deck with ocean views.
- SEA Studio Architects is committed to designing green spaces with the goal of significantly reducing environmental impact, carbon footprint and life cycle cost. They select local, sustainable materials and use passive and active design strategies to make their buildings comfortable, beautiful and energy efficient.
- For more information contact Scott Edmonston at (302-364-0821);
 email scott@seagreenstudio.com or website www.seagreenstudio.com.

Scott Edmondson, of SEA Studio, is the recipient of the AIA Delaware 2014 Merit Award for Design Excellence.







How to Heat Your Home and Save Money in Sussex County, DE

The first thing to know about heating your home in Sussex County is that heating with electricity costs a lot less than heating with propane as much as 4 times less. This makes Sussex County very different from most areas in the country. In most areas electricity is the most expensive way to heat a home. That is because most areas have natural gas. Sussex County is mainly propane. Natural gas is coming to Sussex County. But that may take decades.

If you have a propane furnace with an air conditioner you can easily cut your heating bill in half. The way to do this is to replace your air conditioner with a heat pump.

This is called a hybrid or duel fuel system it's been around since the eighty's. In places that have natural gas it doesn't pay but in Sussex County a hybrid heating system does pay by cutting heating bills in half. How does it work? The heat pump heats the home until the outside temperature drops into the thirty's at that point the furnace takes over to heat the home. In Sussex County heaters run for about 6 months. Most of the winter is over forty degrees which means the heat pump is heating the home at least half the time for up to four times less.

A heat pump delivers very hot air to the home when the outside temperature is forty degrees or above. Sussex County is the perfect place

for a hybrid heating system because of the price of electricity vs. propane and the winter temperatures.

Think of this... if you buy a home in Sussex County when you're thirty years old and heat your home with propane only for thirty years you would have spent between \$40,000 to \$100,000 dollars too much. The bigger the home the bigger the savings. Even if you don't do it now make sure when it is time to replace your air conditioner do it with a heat pump.

If you would like more information on converting to a hybrid heating system you can call me, Ron Ferrell, at Ferrell Cooling And Heating 302.436.2922.



Elks Continue to Prepare Share and Care

Cape Henlopen Elks Lodge # 2540 prepares and wraps Santa Gifts and Food Baskets for Families in need in our area. Cape Henlopen Elks Lodge continues to have outstretched arms for our community and the needs of our neighbors. Exalted Ruler Eileen Loftus stated, "This Elks Lodge has had a long tradition of preparing food baskets for the families in



Pictured: Joann Frye, Doris Becraft, Jay Strong, Karen Strong, Eileen Loftus-Exalted Ruler-Cape Henlopen Elks Lodge #2540, John Loftus, BJ Young.

need and assisting these family's to provide Christmas gifts for their children, and we want to continue with this worthy cause." Our motto is Elks care and Elks share! In keeping with the Elks commitment to serving our community, the Lodge has undertaken a variety of activities over the last year. We have hosted several Veterans Luncheons, conducted Youth Activities, including a hoop shoot and soccer shoot competitions, and more. Soon they will be looking for eligible children who desire to attend Elks Camp Barrett located near Annapolis, Maryland. Elks Camp Barrett is an American Camping Association accredited camp, designed to help young people develop problem solving skills and build selfconfidence. It is operated by the Maryland, Delaware and the District of Columbia Elks

Submitted by BJ Young

Association. Campers, sponsored by local Elks Lodges, attend at no expense to their family. While most children sponsored by the Lodge are referred to the Lodge, any youth between the ages of 9 and 13 (or completed 3rd grade) is eligible. Elks invest in their communities through programs that help children grow up healthy and drug-free, by undertaking projects that address unmet need, and by honoring the service and sacrifice of our veterans.

If you are interested in joining a Delaware Lodge or desire information on their projects contact Cape Henlopen Elks Lodge #2540 at 302-645-7016 for more information.

BJ Young, Public Relations, Cape Henlopen Elks Lodge #2540, Lewes, Delaware 19958; 302-945-1936; 33393 Hartford Ct, Lewes, De 19958

Winter **SAD**ness

How
Season
Affective
Disorder
Affects the
Elderly

Does your aging loved one have a case of the "winter blues?"

This mood change could be attributed to seasonal affective disorder (SAD), a form of depression that cycles with the seasons and typically hits people during the winter months. Health professionals believe SAD is caused by lack of sunlight, changes in body temperature and hormone fluctuations. People affected will generally begin to feel symptoms of depression, loss of energy, an increased appetite, daytime sleepiness and decreased interest in activities.

The good news is SAD can be treated with medication and other forms of treatment such as light therapy. Light therapy involves the use of a piece of equipment called a light box which is a fluorescent lamp that gives off light similar to natural sunlight. There are also simple ways to shed more light on your loved one. Look for ways to welcome light into spaces where they spend most of their time. Move their bed closer to a window and open the blinds and curtains or add plants or bright colored decorations to their room.

Exercise and diet are important too. Consider taking them to a mall nearby for a walk or low impact water aerobics at the local YMCA indoor pool. Since some research shows that SAD may result from

vitamin deficiencies, make sure your loved one is on a well-balanced diet packed with nutrients, adding supplements as recommended by your physician. And even though it's chilly outdoors during the winter months, it doesn't hurt to take them outside for a brief walk around the block. You may end up running into neighbors and friends that can help lift their spirits with a simple smile and "Hello!"

Submitted by Therese Ganster, MPM, ACSW Community Liaison
Peninsula Home Care
Home Office: 302-436-5155
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Phone: 302-629-4914
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"Getting Better All the Time"



A designated area is set up in the Information Center on Coastal Highway in Fenwick Island which contains all *Primed for Maturity* members' information, making it a "one stop shop" for visitors who may be thinking about retiring to The Quiet Resorts, or find themselves caring for an elderly resident here. If you would like to learn more about *Primed for Maturity*, contact Sue Nilsson at the Bethany-Fenwick Chamber of Commerce: (302) 539-2100 x116.

The Lewes Historical Society Houses a Copy of the Delaware Newspaper Project

Lewes, Delaware – One of four complete copies of the Delaware Newspaper Project was recently transferred from Delaware Technical & Community College to the resource facilities in the Hiram Rodney Burton House in Lewes at The Lewes Historical Society, where a microfilm reader allows for easy accessibility and in-house printing. In addition to the Delaware Newspaper Project, The Lewes Historical Society also holds editions from two former Lewes newspapers, The Breakwater Light and Delaware Pilot, going back to the 1870s. Under the United States Newspaper Program, the Delaware Newspaper Project is a cooperative newspaper preservation project consisting of a catalog of Delaware newspapers saved on microfilm.

This catalog holds images of newspapers dating back to the late 1700s from towns throughout Delaware including Bethany Beach, Bridgeville, Claymont, Clayton, Delaware City, Delmar, Dover, Faulkland, Georgetown, Grubbs, Harrington, Holly Oak, Laurel, Middletown, Milford, New Castle, Newark, Odessa, Rehoboth Beach, Seaford, Selbyville, Smyrna, and Wilmington.Lewes Historical Society volunteer, Sally Corbishley, has been busy sorting and inventorying the microfilms received from Del Tech. Sally moved to Lewes from Chadds Ford a little over a year ago. She was active with the Chadds Ford Historical Society, so when she moved to Lewes, she was excited to join The Lewes Historical Society and get involved as a volunteer. "I see the importance of the Society as an advocate for historic preservation, so I enjoy spending my time helping out," says Sally. "Archiving is right up my alley. I really like organizing and filing the films." "The Society is honored to house a copy of the Delaware Newspaper Project," says Society Executive Director Mike DiPaolo. "Newspapers serve as windows to what occurred in the past. They are current of the day." Plans for digitizing the microfilm are in motion. Researchers will be able to access the newspapers from the Society's website www.HistoricLewes.org. In the meantime, members of the public are welcome to schedule an appointment to view and or print portions of the Delaware Newspaper Project. There is no fee for the utilization or copying of the microfilms; however donations are appreciated. For an appointment or for more information, contact The Lewes Historical Society at 302-645-7670. To access



Lewes Historical Society volunteer, Sally Corbishley, files the Delaware Newspaper Project microfilms that were transferred to the Society from Del Tech. The microfilms are housed in the resource facility in the Hiram Rodney Burton House at 110 Shipcarpenter Street in Lewes. To make an appointment to view the newspapers, call 302-645-7670.

a full list of newspapers represented in the Delaware Newspaper Project, visit http://www2.lib.udel.edu/delnews/list.htm.



Get ready for Season Five of Downton Abbey with Tea Served at The Rehoboth Beach Museum

Rehoboth Beach – Members and friends of the Rehoboth Beach Historical Society who are fans of the television series Downtown Abbey are invited for tea and sweets on Sunday, January 4th from 3-4:30 at the museum. This event precedes by just a few hours the season premiere of Season Five of the series. Guests are encouraged to bring their own teacup and saucer and a story to go

along with them. Guests are also encouraged to bring any memorabilia or other items related to the television series to share, begin topics of conversation and make predictions for the coming season. On the menu will be Earl Grey Tea, lemon curd, shortbread and other cookies. There will be a prize for best vintage outfit, but modern dress is perfectly acceptable.

The museum is located at 511 Rehoboth Avenue, next door to the Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center and Grove Park. Parking is available and the museum is handicap accessible.

Reservations are required as the downstairs house staff has to have notice to prepare. Please ring (302) 227-7310 and leave your name and telephone number.

Annual Men's Day at Antioch A.M.E. Church

Everyone is invited to a day of spiritual uplifting at Antioch A.M.E. Church, 194 Clayton Avenue, Frankford, Delaware on Sunday, February 8, 2015 hosted by the Men of Antioch. Services are at 11:00 A.M. and 3:30 P.M., and we will be blessed with messages by inspirational guest ministers and dynamic song ministry. For more information call 302-934-0151.church directory. Submitted by: Lenny Brittingham, Antioch AME Church, 194 Clayton Avenue, Frankford, DE 19945, 302-732-1005.



Dickens Parlour Theater

continued from page 1

of mine from DC, Joe Motherway, and we started turning the garage into a performance venue. There came a moment one day when, sitting in the seats we had just installed (I bought them from high school auditorium) I had a "goose bumps moment". As I watched Joe hammering in the proscenium, I realized this was going to be more than a little stage in a black box: This was going to be a real mini-Broadway theater, with lights and curtains, entrances and exits, music, magic, comedy and drama.

We opened the doors on the evening of June 16, 2010. I was thrilled to be able to welcome a full house opening night group, and enjoyed performing in my own place—until the lights went 0ut halfway through the show and I heard Cheryl DeBois, our manager, scampering backstage to reset the circuit breakers. Five years later, with a power grid that matches our state of the art sound and light system, Cheryl doesn't have to run for the breakers anymore.

Past Experience

My experience in magic, and in show business, has been notably varied and always great fun. I suppose my first brush with the big time came in 1946. My mother took me from our little apartment in New Jersey to Los Angeles, where we stayed with relatives for some months. One day, the folks took me to the Abbott and Costello radio show. For some reason, Costello came into the audience and asked me – all of three years old - to join him and the cast on stage. I have no idea what I did, but after the show, Abbott and Costello proposed to my mother that we stay on the west coast and that they sponsor me in acting school. Mom thought about it for three or four seconds and gave an emphatic "No," at which point I was whisked back to the safety of the east coast. After landing a job in a magic shop at age seven, I was, after a few years, recruited to join the cast (briefly) of "The Magic Clown" show on the DuPont Television Network in New York. "The Magic Clown" was a lovely man by the name of Dick DuBois, who became a true friend and mentor to me. I worked my way through college and graduate school doing magic, then began to develop new effects and illusions for other professional magicians.

A lot of years later, in my office, my secretary told me "There's a guy on the phone who says he's Orson Welles." I laughed, picked up the phone and (chuckling) asked "Okay, who the hell is this, really?" It was Orson Welles. He was interested in some of the items I had developed and invited me to join him for dinner the next time I was in LA. Feeling this was an opportunity I ought not to miss, I told him that, as luck would have it, I was going to be in LA tomorrow night, and I made it my business to get on the next plane from Washington, DC. That began a cordial and (for me) extraordinary series of colloquies and conversations

that we would hold at his favorite restaurant, "Ma Maison" in Hollywood. Over the course of several years, he and I collaborated on a number of TV scripts and stage shows.



Dickens Today

Dickens is a year-round operation that features professional magicians from all over the world appearing

weekly. During the summer, we are open seven nights a week, with one to two shows per evening. In the "off season" (that would be the other 40 weeks), we feature magicians Thursdays through Sundays as wells as full scale theatrical performances by the Bethany Area Repertory Theater (BART) which does a wide array of dramatic and musical theater offerings, including original plays by award winning local playwright Bob Davis, who was a founder of BART.

Recognition

Dickens is routinely listed in the various "Best of..." reviews for the lower Delaware area. It is an attractive venue, featuring children's matinees on most Saturdays and family style entertainment at all times. Dickens has developed a loyal and vigorous following from the year round residential community as well as tourists, some of whom have been known to book seats a year in advance, to coincide with their next year's vacation.

Dickens is a community based organization, presenting fundraisers and benefits for local groups as well as funding scholarship programs for high school and college students desiring to follow a career in the performing arts. Dickens has developed internship programs for high school and college students who stay in residence for various periods of time during the summer as well as during the academic year.

Tickets can be purchased on line at dptmagic.com or by phone at 302-829-1071.



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ISTANBUL:

Many worlds meet in one city

By Vincent Paez

Istanbul, Turkey has long been one of the most intriguing cities to visit for so many reasons. It is a center meeting-point of time, where old meets new, and of geography, where two continents meet. This meeting point gives Turkish food its unique flavor, its people a unique perspective, and its economy a real boost. The old world meets the new world in Istanbul.

Formerly known as Constantinople, this city was at the crossroads for the Christian crusaders, who invaded the Middle East from Europe and fought the Muslims on their way to Jerusalem. It was the center of the Ottoman Empire, where Sultans ruled much of Europe and Asia. One can see its history in the architecture of the buildings and mosques. Some of the most famous historic edifices are the Hagia Sophia Mosque and the Blue Mosque, where thousands of Turkish pray five times a day. Cardboard mats are handed out inside and outside by the Mosques, so that the believers may kneel and pray to Allah (God for Muslims) at the appropriate times. Istanbul has been located on the famous Silk Road, which traders used to bring silk and spices from Asia to Europe. Another famous ancient structure is the spice market, where vendors of spices, carpets and traditional Turkish goods have hawked their products



to both locals and tourists for centuries. Needless to say, the Turkish people are avid sales people.

Located on the Bosporus River, the city also boasts beautiful modern waterfront houses and discotheques. Many international brand hotels have beautiful properties throughout the city. There are also many upscale restaurants serving fine European dishes as well as local kabob dishes. The mix of old and new lifestyle is immediately obvious after spending only a few minutes in the city.

The Turkish people are very passionate. They are emotional soccer fanatics. In fact, there are four professional soccer teams and stadiums in Istanbul. They are also passionate business negotiators. I found this out in my last trip to this spectacular city.

I completed my business meetings early and decided to take a tour of the Bosporus River. I bought a ticket for the tour boat from the concierge at the Hilton Hotel, which sits atop a hill overlooking the river. I took a taxi to the bottom of the hill and got on line at the tour boat dock with my ticket in hand. There were about forty other people on line, some from the USA, some from Europe, and some from Asia. The tour was breathtaking, and we were all amazed at the sights of the old and new structures. We all made small talk amongst ourselves and shared short stories about where we were all from. I spent most of the time speaking with a sweet retired English couple, who were touring Greece and Turkey. They were lovely, and the wife was very kind and had a wonderful smile. As the tour boat returned to the dock the woman tour guide made an announcement in English.

"Ladies and Gentlemen, this concludes our tour of the Bosporus River. Just remember, the tour also includes a short ride through the city, covering some of the main city points. You can simply board the bus at the dock, when we arrive."

Most of us apparently did not realize that a short tour through the city was included. I thought that was fabulous, as I could kill two birds, the river and the city, with one stone. When the tour boat docked, about fifteen of us, including the woman tour guide, boarded the bus with great enthusiasm. As the bus started off, we were wondering which famous mosques, museums, or soccer stadiums we would see. The woman tour guide made another announcement.

"Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you for continuing your tour with us. Our first stop is a carpet shop, where you will see how a Turkish carpet is made. I'm sure you will enjoy this."

The bus stopped at the carpet shop and we all went inside a large greeting room, where there was an old loom. A woman was weaving a Turkish carpet on the old-styled loom, and a carpet shop representative entered the room to explain in English how carpets are woven. He explained with pictures how silk was drawn from the cocoons of worms while in warm water and how animal hair was loaded onto the loom. The carpets were woven with such intricacy. In fact, one-square inch of carpet may have over eight hundred knots. We tourists were all fascinated by the show and feeling glad that we had boarded the bus. After fifteen minutes of weaving school, the weave instructor led us to an adjacent room, where he was to show us all of the different kinds of carpets from Afghan carpets to Indian carpets and, of course, the many Turkish carpets in the shop. We all took seats in the open space, and he closed the door behind us.

"Thank you joining us on this exhibit of carpet weaving," the

weave instructor said. "As you can see, we have many types of carpets for you to select from."

"Select from?" I wondered.

At that point, a man in an expensive suit walked in the room. He was followed by two more well-built shop representatives. The well-dressed man spoke.

"Ladies and Gentlemen, I am the shop manager. I will be happy to take your order. As you can see, we have the best selection of carpets in all of Istanbul."

Nobody budged. Apparently, nobody on the tour was in the market to buy a carpet, and an uncomfortable silence filled the room. Naturally, the well-dressed shop manager filled the silence.

"Surely you all realize the unique opportunity you have here being in Istanbul. You can save so much money by buying here. We will even give you free shipping to your home. And you will not find a better selection."

We all looked at each other in surprise, as four well-built men stood between us and the one exit door. It was an intimidating experience, which made us feel deceived. We all started to realize that this was no city tour at all. It was a tourist trap to strong-arm us to buy carpets. Suddenly, the sweet, kind retired English lady stood up and spoke in a stern, but polite manner.

"My dear Sir, you must realize how surprised we are at all of this. As you can see, we are not in the market for any carpets. Our intention was to do some sightseeing and have some lunch; not to buy any carpets. If we wanted to buy a carpet, we would have gone out on our own to buy one." The look on her face was as serious as an army general's.

The shop manager continued, "Madam, as a proud Turkish citizen, I would not want you leave Istanbul without having the opportu-

nity to buy the best that Turkey has to offer."

"Bullocks!" she shouted. She was obviously getting hot under the collar. The shop employees, who were positioned around us like wolves, started to encroach on our space by forming a circle around us. It was time for someone to calm things down, so I stood up and attempted to put a little ice on the boiling situation.

"Sir, we have been so happy to visit your beautiful country and to learn how carpets are made. The experience has been wonderful, and we look forward to telling our friends and family all about the great experience here. However, you must understand that we are not in the market for carpets now. and to pressure us like you are doing is like pressuring an Eskimo to purchase ice. We simply will not buy from you or anyone else. If you force us to stay and continue to pressure us, we will go back home telling all of our friends and family that we had a bad experience and to never buy anything from Turkev."

"But I am not forcing you to stay, Sir," he replied with his palms facing the ceiling.

I took that as an opportunity to escape. "Well, then, thank you very much, Sir, and we will be on our way." I pushed my way through the wolves and saw that everyone was following closely. The tour guide offered to take us on the bus to the next stop, but we declined and all took taxis back to our hotels.

Despite the strong sales pitch, I still have great memories of Istanbul and Turkey in general. Last year, I saw the movie, Taken 2, which takes place in Istanbul. Please do not let the action-packed drama and danger portrayed by Liam Neeson (or my experience) deter you from visiting Turkey. If you go, you will be amazed by the meeting of old and new.

Vincent Paez is a chemist and international businessman. He has a B.S. in Chemistry from Stony Brook University and an M.B.A. from UCLA. He speaks five languages and has lived/worked on four continents for three Fortune 500 companies. He is also a passionate musician and loves the music scene, especially in the Ocean City area. He lives in Massachusetts and spends much time in Ocean City. He has two sons attending Florida State University. ... "Go 'Noles!"



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January 18, 2015, Celebration of Christian Unity

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At 4 p.m., Sunday, January 18, 2015, the churches of the Southeast Sussex Ministerium will gather together at Mariners' Bethel UM Church, Rte 26 and Central Avenue, Ocean View, for a Celebration of Christian Unity to kick-off the 2015 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Traditionally the Week of Prayer is observed from January 18 through 25, the liturgical feast days of Saints Peter and Paul. The theme for this years observance comes from the Gospel of John—"Jesus said to [the Samaritan woman], "Give me a drink." The theme was proposed by the National Council of Christian Churches of Brazil: the gesture of offering water is way of welcoming and sharing with one another. As part of the celebration at Mariners' Bethel, each participating congregation is asked to bring a pitcher of water to be poured into a larger font symbolizing our

being together.

The Church Unity Octave, a forerunner of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, was developed by Father Paul Wattson, SA, a Delmarva native, at Graymoor in Garrison, New York, and was first observed at Graymoor from January 18-25, 1908. Today, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity invites the whole Christian community throughout the world to pray in communion with the prayer of Jesus "that they all may be one" (John 17:21).

First celebrated in the chapel of a small Atonement Franciscan Convent of the Protestant Episcopal Church, on a remote hillside fifty miles from New York City, this new prayer movement caught the imagination of others beyond the Franciscan Friars and Sisters of the Atonement to become an energetic movement that gradually blossomed into a worldwide observance involving many nations and millions of people.

The South East Sussex Ministerium was organized 26 years ago to foment cooperation, under-

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standing and acceptance among the various Christian churches and denominations in the area. Through A.C.T.S. and other church-related thrift shops, a recently opened shelter for the homeless, the annual CROP Walk, joint Lenten services, the Easter Sunrise service in Bethany Beach, and the recent Christmas caroling at the Manger in Bethany, the Ministerium has tried to bring Christians in Sussex County to work together for the welfare

and betterment of our communities. The January 18 Celebration of Christian Unity, which is open to all, is but another step in promoting this process.

*Consisting of the following Christian groups SE Sussex County: St Martha's Episcopal, Bethel UMC, Beth'el Tabernacle, High Tide, Frankford Presbyterian, Frankford UMC, Bethany Beach Christian, Mariners' Bethel UMC, Millville UMC, Blackwater Fellowship, Union Wesley, The River Wesleyan, St Ann's RC, Ocean View Presbyterian, St George's UMC, Community Lutheran, Sound UMC, Roxana UMC, Salem UMC, Antioch AME, Dagsboro Church of God, The Father's House, The Odyssey, and A.C.T.S.





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"...we are here to make a difference on this planet, one day at a time, to focus on making what's possible happen"

Christmastime Business

By Hal Alpiar

Watch where you're going, but think about where you are.

I watched a blind man's golden retriever thread his master through the parking lot and into the giant retail outlet, through electronic doors and deftly around an oblivious woman who appeared cast in stone, at one with her shopping cart ... surely not about to move.

The man and his companion worked their way around obstacles, displays, counters, other shoppers. They passed so briskly and so seemingly self-assured that only a few passersby even noticed just one pair of color-blind canine eyes leading three pair of legs.

But I did. And in a mere matter of seconds after the man's best friend and the man were devoured by store traffic, my mind snapped to attention from its visual tracking trance and realized I had been witness to a man with no eyes. Mine began to fill with tears. Maybe it was being sad for him, or grateful for me, or simply the season, but ...

All my weaknesses, complaints and woes went quickly off into space as I closed my eyes and considered for just a moment what my life would be like without ever or ever again seeing a crepe myrtle in full bloom, the ocean, a blue heron following with its body its spindly silent legs as it creeps along the shore, a laughing toddler, deep woods, a frolicking litter of puppies, snow-topped mountains, my family, a book, works of art, lightening, swooping seagulls, my toothbrush, a roaring fireplace, faces, a Christmas tree...

Who could possibly want a Christmas present who has full use of vision after seeing someone who does not?

So, I am left to conclude that Christmas is truly not about either giving or receiving.

Christmas is instead about consciousness-raising, celebration, self-renewal, and setting out once again on our annual trek to make the most of what we do already have, to better ourselves and the lives of those around us. Christmas is a gentle wake-up call to remember we are here to make a difference on this planet, one day at a time, to focus on making what's possible happen.

Christmas is a time for melancholy, yes, but also for introspection. We remember that we have within each of us the ability to choose the pathways that make existence on Earth as worthy as what lives in the riches of our souls.

Here's what I've learned (often the hard way, mind you) ...so here's what I have to share: In both business and in life, watch where you're going, but always think about where you are. Be grateful for all that is yours, and continue your work to grow your business so you can help others from a position of strength ... because the greatest gift of all is love wrapped up in charity.

Hal@Businessworks.US Visit Hal's entrepreneurial leadership blog at www.BusinessWorks.us Open Minds Open Doors Make today a GREAT day for someone!



oid you know?

Delaware's official state song is "Our Delaware". It was adopted under Delaware General Code, Title 29, Chapter 3, Section 303 affirming the state seal, song and symbols. The lyrics were taken from a poem written by George B. Hynson, consisting of three verses, one about each county, and a "chorus". The musical score was written by Will M. S. Brown. The song has a 4th stanza, written by Donn Devine which is in praise of the state and pledges the loyalty of all Delawareans. For lyrics, see www.statesymbolsusa.org.

ξ

The state insect is the ladybug.

The legislature adopted the ladybug as the official state insect on 25 April, 1974 after intensive lobbying by Lulu M. Ross Elementary School, Milford 2nd graders and their teacher Mrs. Mollie Brown-Rust.

§

The Blue Hen Chicken is
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April 1939 by Delaware Legislature.
The name came from the nickname
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reputation for its fighting prowess.
This regiment's 2nd Company, led
by Capt. John Caldwell, amused
themselves by watching cockfights
of this breed of chicken, known for its
ferocious fighting ability.