

## AMERISTAMP EXPO 2017 by John Walter

The American Philatelic Society's 60th annual winter meeting and stamp show will be held at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center on March 3-5. Admission is free. Meetings & seminars start on March 2.

The EXPO will feature 40 dealers, nearly 250 exhibit frames, and 16 participating societies, plus new stamp issues from the U.S. Postal Service (Friday at 11 a.m.) and the Marshall Islands (Friday at 1 p.m.). An APS membership meeting will be held at 9 a.m., March 4.

In addition to an alliance with the local Reno post office, and a partnership with OttLite, a major partner for this year's expo, is the National Association of Letter Carriers. A ceremony at 11 a.m., on Saturday, will help the union formally kick off its annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive. This year marks the silver anniversary for the campaign and the APS is honored to host the occasion's ceremony in the Silver State. A [PhotoStamps.com](http://PhotoStamps.com) **personalized postage souvenir sheet** is planned to be dedicated as part of this celebration. Representatives from the Food Bank of Northern Nevada will join the letter carriers union, USPS, and APS in a ceremony. Artist Jeff Keane also has been invited to participate. Keane's father, Bill Keane, created the syndicated comic strip *The Family Circus*, which has been part of the fight-hunger campaign from the beginning. Bill passed away in 2011 at the age of 89, but Jeff Keane now carries on the legacy in helping create the strip.

"Keane's drawings served as a sort of unofficial logo for each year's drive," NALC President Fredric Rolando said in a tribute to the cartoonist in 2011. "His characters were so familiar to our customers that, when you saw the image of Billy, Jeffy, Dolly or P.J. on a promotional poster, bag or T-shirt, it seemed as if a close, trusted friend was encouraging you to dig deep to help feed the hungry."

In addition to this ceremony, the National Association of Letter Carriers will have a booth and display with different artifacts on the show floor. The local Food Bank will participate. Monetary donations will be welcome, and visitors are also encouraged to bring a canned food with them for this special event to raise awareness for the silver anniversary campaign. All proceeds will directly benefit the Food Bank of Northern Nevada.

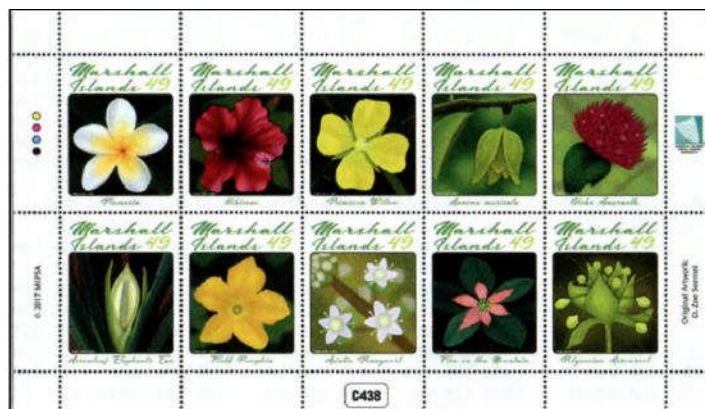
### First-Day Ceremonies, Show Cancels



The United States Postal Service will issue the Barn Swallow forever stamped envelope in various sizes on Friday, March 3. An 11 a.m. ceremony will take place and will be hosted by the American Philatelic Society.

The illustration on the imprint was created by artist Matthew Frey and shows one bird perched and the other in flight.

The Marshall Islands first-day ceremony is set for 1 p.m., Friday, for a pane of ten 49-cent Flora stamps. The flowers shown are (top row, from left): plumeria, hibiscus, primrose willow, annona muricata, and globe amaranth; (bottom row, from left) arrowleaf elephants ear, field pumpkin, Asiatic pennywort, fire on the mountain, and Polynesian arrowroot. The stamps were designed by Unicover artist D.Z. Seemel.



The APS and USPS anticipate offering a different show cancel each day. On Friday, the pictorial cancel will relate to the first day of issues; on Saturday, the cancel will feature the Stamp Out Hunger theme; Sunday's cancel will relate to the 60th anniversary of AmeriStamp Expo. The APS also will sell special cacheted and canceled show covers.

### **Exhibits**

AmeriStamp will host nearly 250 frames of exhibits, including 85 entries in the 18th annual Single Frame Champion of Champions competition (winners at World Series of Philately shows from the previous 12 months). What a great opportunity to see all these exhibits in Reno at the same time. John Hotchner will present two exhibits in the Court of Honor: "World Rarities & Uniquities" and "U.S. Postal Counterfeits from 1894 to Modern Times."

### **On-the-Road Courses**

Instructor Wayne Youngblood presents "EFOs and You: How Your Collection, Knowledge Base, and Exhibit Can All Benefit From Postal Blunders," from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 2, the day before AmeriStamp opens. The course elaborates on errors, freaks, and oddities, including the how and why they are created, printing and processing (gumming and perforating), and the skills needed for identifying them.

Another course is perfect for anyone interested in Nevada postal history, revenue stamps, and collectible stock certificates. Instructor Michael Mahler presents "Ghosts of the Glory Trail: Nevada Revenue-Stamped Documents 1863-1873, a Geographic Analysis" — from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 4. Mahler — who has a related exhibit at the show will touch on U.S. documentary revenue stamps of the Civil War era, Nevada documentary revenue stamps and their use, mining stock certificates produced by the "silver fever" of 1862-64, and nine early mining rushes by which Nevada was settled. Participants will learn to appraise revenue-stamped documents of the 1860s to 1870s and identify the locations of the now-vanished "ghosts of the glory days" on a Nevada map.

### **Seminars, Meetings, Booths**

About three dozen workshops, seminars, and society meetings are scheduled at AmeriStamp, including those focused on beginning collecting, specialized areas, and exhibits. Among those scheduled are the Beginning Collector's Series (11 a.m., 1 and 3 p.m. March 3); Auxiliary Markings Club "Show & Tell" (1 p.m. March 3) and the ABC's of Collecting U.S. Perfins (1 p.m. March 4).

Aside from the APS and U.S. Postal Service, others with booths at the show include the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors, American First Day Cover Society, Canal Zone Study Group, the Perfins Club, National Stamp Dealers Association, and Postmark Collectors Club.

### **Historical Displays**

Special historical displays will be featured on the show floor. A historic post office service window with letter boxes, circa 1898-1923, will be on loan from the Sparks Heritage Museum and Cultural Center. The window was reportedly originally installed in the town of Orca (unknown location) before being moved to Olinghouse. According to some preliminary research provided by the American Philatelic Research Library, there was a town not far from Wadsworth named Ora, Nevada, which was a gold mining town later renamed Olinghouse.

A vintage 1929 Ford mail truck will be parked on-site, courtesy of the National Automobile Museum — The Harrah Collection. This is one of 1,400 vehicles originally amassed by Bill Harrah, founder of Harrah's Hotels and Casinos. Take advantage of a discount available for AmeriStamp Expo attendees to the National Automobile Museum.

### **Other Show Details**

Ticket sales for the awards banquet, as well as course registrations for the Boy Scout Merit Badge Workshop and APS On-the-Road courses are available online. Registration closes in mid-February.