

Personal Histories

On October 1st **Eileen Kent** will be sharing
“Something Great You Can Do With Your Computer”.



Over the years, Eileen has been a teacher, counselor, entrepreneur and creator/developer of a number of innovative programs. She currently owns and operates “Stories of a Lifetime”.

Eileen’s passion is working with individuals and families to help them save their stories and create their gift of a lifetime for their families — their life story.

Eileen is a member of the Association of Personal Historians and has given workshops at conferences.

WEBSITE DRAWING

Each month we pose a question, the answer of which will be found on our website www.mvpcug.com. [Usually on the Newsletter page.]

You have until the day of the next meeting to send in your answer. Type the answer and your name into an email and send it to mvpcug@mvpcug.com. A drawing will be held at the main meeting. You need not be present to enter but will be responsible for picking up your prize if your name is drawn. All members are eligible so send in your entry.

This month's question — What patent led to the development of semiconductors, microprocessors and integrated circuits?

Tuesday, October 1st — 6 - 8:30 PM
New Hartford Library
Meeting Open to the Public - Free



explorer

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The MVPCUG was founded in 1981 by individuals interested in IBM compatible computers. This non-profit organization consists of volunteers whose expertise range from novice to professional.

Regular meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 6pm, usually at the New Hartford Library, 2 Library Lane, New Hartford. A typical agenda consists of discussion of business affairs and a demonstration of computer related products. Meetings are open to the public.

Membership fee for an individual is \$25.

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Meeting Agenda

- 5:30. Meet and Greet
- 6:00. Business Meeting
- 6:30. Program, Part 1
- 7:10. Break
- 7:20. Program, Part 2
- 8:15. Drawing for Prizes
- 8:30. Adjournment

Editorial notes . . .



This month's speaker is Eileen Kent, a specialist in preserving family histories – how fitting, as this is Family History Month. Those of us who are interesting in genealogy will be very interested and maybe those of you who aren't will consider what Eileen has to offer just for the immediate family. Bring a friend or relative.

Ann Burnnett sent me some info on free programs for genealogists – see the DYK column for details. Thanks Ann, hopefully other members will follow your lead and send in helpful hints or info that we can publish.

Thanks also to Bo Wozniak who continues to greet members and guests each month; and John Hunter. John has moved out of the area but he continues his membership in the club and contributes a monthly column to the newsletter. Both of them deserve a big Thank You for such faithful service.

Stay connected . . . to the MVPCUG
 Mohawk Valley PC User Group, Inc.
 \$25 for initial sign-up - or renewal

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ NY
 Zip _____ Phone _____
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Please mail this application with a check payable to MVPCUG to
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Minutes of 3 September 2013
 — Joe Penabad, Secretary

BUSINESS MEETING

The MVPCUG General Meeting, with 20 attendees, was called to order by President Jerry Finkelstein at 6:02 PM in the SAMMON Room of the New Hartford Library on 09/03/2013.

Bill Gorrell presented the Treasurer’s report for the period June 1, 2013 to August 31, 2013. The club he reported is in the “black”, details of the report may be obtained from him or the Secretary.

President Jerry Finkelstein, opened the meeting by asking the group to inform him about what is going on in the Community in the PC area, such as classes, presentations, locations, etc. Dunham Public Library (736-9734) in Whitesboro has a Microsoft Word class on 9/10 and 9/17, and will resume other classes in November. A Genealogy Group will start on Saturday, Oct. 20th at 10:00 AM. Utica Public Library (735-2279) has many days on PC topics during September during the day and evening, October lineup is being worked on at this time. The Utica Parkway Senior Center (223-3973) for a modest fee also has courses on Wednesdays, starting 9/11 thru 10/23, (fee \$10-\$15). Computer Beginning at 6:00PM and Computer Essentials at 1:00 PM

Jerry commented on the good weather during the last Computer meeting season of 2012-2013 for Tuesday nights.

Jerry F. introduced the subject of government data collection where ever you are in this digital age, such as ATT telephone conversations because of drug following, which has been going on for the last 6 years. A lively discussion followed on the role and rights of government in monitoring private conversations from all the digital devices now in use and in the role of manufacturers being able to follow their products (such as I-phones, I-pads, etc) in the possession of customers.

Bill Gorrell stated there are two sites similar to Google, www.DuckDuckGo.com and www.IXQuick.com. However, unlike Google they do not keep track of your inquires or information.

PROGRAM

The GURU Night panel consisted of Bill Gorrell and Jerry Grega. The panel and the club member audience

eagerly voiced their advice and opinions on the varied questions brought up by the attending members.

There were no questions brought up in-absentia by non-attending club members.

The club extends their gratitude to the two GURUS for sharing their expertise with the MVCPUG attendees.

DOOR PRIZES

[furnished with club funds]

- 16 GB Flash Drive..... Rod St. Clair
- Pental Pens. Steve Gorrell
- Photo Paper..... Jerry Finkelstein
- Copy Paper..... Stu Culp
- Memo cube..... Don Jennings

[Donated by Rod St. Clair]

- USB cable..... Ben Dreidel

[Donated by Richard Eades]

- USB IDE adapter kit..... Jim Pease

[Donated by Bill Wilson]

- Ream of paper..... Steve Gorrell

[Donated by Jerry Grega]

- Laptop case..... Don Pianka

[Donated by Jerry Finkelstein]

- CD cases..... Rod St. Clair

Website Contest Winner

- MVPCUG T-shirt. no entries

The meeting was adjourned by Jerry F. at 7:40 PM

Respectfully submitted, J. Penabad, Secretary ♦

THINGS THAT HAPPENED ON OCTOBER 1ST

- 1886 US mint at Carson City, Nevada closes
- 1890 Yosemite National Park established
- 1903 1st baseball World Series, Pitts Pirates vs Boston Pilgrims [now Red Sox]
- 1908 Henry Ford introduces the Model T car [costs \$825]
- 1940 Pennsylvania Turnpike, pioneer toll thruway, opens
- 1949 Republic of China [Taiwan] forms on the island of Formosa
- 1952 1st ultra high frequency [UHF] television station, Portland OR
- 1955 “Honeymooners” premieres
- 1962 Johnny Carson hosts his 1st Tonight Show
- 1962 The Lucy Show premieres
- 1971 Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida opens
- 1982 EPCOT Center opens in Orlando Florida

BIRTHS

- 1920 Walter Matthau, actor
- 1921 James Whitmore, actor
- 1924 Jimmy Earl Carter, 39th Pres (1977-1981)
- 1927 Tom Bosley, actor
- 1935 Julie Andrews, actress/singer

Sites to Visit on the 'Net

— by John Hunter

Is College Worth the Expense?

One commonly accepted idea is that college graduates always make more money than individuals without college degrees. Recently, however, *Salary.Com* posted an article entitled “8 College Degrees with the Worst Return On Investment.” Click on www.salary.com/8-college-degrees-with-the-worst-return-on-investment/ to read the whole article.

To determine the ROI for a specific degree, the site first determined the overall cost of the degree earned over four years. Data from the College Board assigned a four-year average cost for a public liberal arts degree of \$37,343. This figure compares to an average cost of \$121,930 for a liberal arts degree earned at a private college. The figures include tuition, room and board and books. These costs represent an average of all school costs for public and private schools by type.

The median cash compensation over the course of 30 years was computed for typical jobs requiring that degree with an additional 4.3% added per year to compensate for cost of living increases.

The site then divided total cash compensation by degree costs to achieve the Return On Investment percentage. Public college graduates achieved a higher ROI than did private college graduates.

As expected, all eight degree categories focused on careers dealing with people and/or people issues. The degree types include sociology, fine arts, education, religious studies/theology, hospitality/tourism, nutrition, psychology and communications.

Sample careers in each category include the following. **Social Worker:** median salary \$47,121; ROI public college 73%; ROI private college 21%. **Graphic designer:** median salary \$47,753; public college 74%; private college 22%. **Elementary School Teacher:** \$52,241; ROI public college 82%; ROI private college 24%. **Chaplain-Healthcare:** median salary \$51,127; ROI public college 80%; private college 24%. **Hotel Resident Manager:** median salary: \$65,076. ROI for public college 102%; ROI for private college 30%. **Human Services Worker:** median salary \$22,738; ROI public college 35%; private college 10%. **News Reporter:** median salary \$37,393; public college ROI 58%; private college 17%. Only the hotel resident manager with

public college training realized a ROI greater than 100% over a 30-year career. Other trades or careers that require less than four-year post secondary training or four-year STEM training (science, technology, engineering, math) may provide higher ROI percentages as attractive alternatives.

It is unusual for one website to receive this amount of column space, but with the cost of college rising higher than a full- moon- tide, these data encourage informed decisions.

Repurpose Your Garbage

Save money. Reduce landfill garbage. The Sierra Club recently listed a number of ways consumers can reduce their garbage stream by repurposing some simple household items. Click on <http://tinyurl.com/mep2ubw> to get these unique ideas such as using used dryer sheets to serve as a lint brush. Dryer sheets also make handy anti-static wipes on windshields or television screens as well. See, unlike Kermit, it's easy to be green.

Increased Costs of Raising a Child

The US Department of Agriculture released its annual report on the costs of raising a child. The report reveals that a child born in 2013 in a middle-income family will cost \$241,080 (adjusted to \$301,970 for projected inflation) to feed, shelter and provide other necessities related to child raising over the next 17 years. To read the complete report click on www.cnpp.usda.gov/ then click on the calculator.

Teen Art Contest

The Smithsonian Portrait Gallery and the Pearson Foundation are sponsoring an art contest for teens between the ages of 13 and 17 on the date of entry. Submissions are accepted only via digital submission and entry is free. A grand prize will display two winning portraits in the National Portrait Gallery during the spring of 2014 and winners will receive a \$300 Visa gift card.

Honorable mention prizes will showcase winning portraits in the online exhibition and winners will receive a \$50 Visa gift card. For more information click on www.npgteenportrait.org.

Ready for Some Good News?

Click on www.goodstuffhappenedtoday.tumblr.com At my visit there was a story about a teen who developed an app to assist students in finding scholarships. The app is called Scholly and sells for \$0.99 at the Apple app store and Google Play. The database is updated monthly. Until next time . . . ♦

Did You Know . . . — Donna Gorrell

. . . that there are several free programs that Kim Komando recommends; three for genealogy records and one for learning a new language using an android or iOS?

GEDCOM validator can be found at

<http://chronoplexsoftware.com/index.htm>

My Family Tree can be found at

<http://chronoplexsoftware.com/myfamilytree/index.htm>

Ahnenblatt can be found at

<http://www.ahnenblatt.com/>

Family Tree Legends can be found at

<http://www.familytreelegends.com/>

Learn languages free with an app for android or iOS. Duolingo can be found at

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.duolingo>

Thanks to Ann Burnnett for the above info.

. . . that there is a website that shows how easy it is to delete your accounts on various programs?

<http://justdelete.me/> is a directory of links for deleting your accounts from web services. It shows accounts at *Facebook* as easy to delete, but no further info is available. Accounts at *Evernote*, *Netflix*, *Pinterest*, and *GoDaddy* are impossible to delete. It might be a good idea just to look over the list before you sign up for any of the services. Click on “show info” to learn more. Click on the title of the program to sign up.

. . . that WindowsXP creates thumbs.db cache files in every folder? To prevent Windows XP from creating the Cache Files and turn this feature off: Open My Computer, Click on Tools, Click on Folder Options, then Click on the View Tab. Place a check in the option “Do not cache thumbnails”, click OK, close My Computer. To remove the thumbs.db files from your hard drive: Click on Start, Click on Search, Click on All Files and Folders, then type the following in the section called “all or part of the file name” *thumbs.db*. In the Look in box, make sure Local Hard Drives is chosen. Click Search. A long list of thumbs.db files should appear, click on Edit, Select All, Click on File, and choose Delete. Close the Search Results window.

Although this tip isn't for everyone, if you are low on disk space and don't use the Thumbnail view to show your files, this could save you some valuable disk space. ◆

Byting Remarks — Jerry Finkelstein

By the time you read this you know Apple introduced their new iPhones, the two of them. You'll know too that one of them is a “cheaper” model, targeted for oversea markets. Ironically, although the product is made in China it is considered too expensive for its citizens. So, how does a company (Apple) take the lead in iPhones in a country where the model is far out of reach of the average citizen? Not to worry, Apple will think of something. Discounts? Coupon exchanges? What do you think?

The cheaper model contains lots of plastic, it's colorful, it is altogether not as classy a product compared with the more expensive version. It's being called a diminished product. According to talk on the internet this “diminished” aspect of the product may cause some harm to the premium status of Apple. A concern: how does Apple keep its terrific reputation when it is offering less expensive, “diminished” products? Not to worry. I'm sure Apple will clear up everybody's concerns and come out smelling like a rose, I mean apple.



You are probably aware too that reports of the new iPhones were underwhelming. I don't think people will be crashing the gates to get their updates or be hot to get in on the latest iPhone available. It turns out the new iPhone needs work, some serious flaws have to be corrected. Reviews say don't be in a hurry to upgrade to the new iPhone, it's got “buggy apps that crash all the time.” Apps just don't work properly. But they are fixing it all as I speak (write). “The app problems won't last long, maybe a few weeks.” So if you can manage holding off upgrading for awhile “you might be thankful.”

Privacy issues remain in the news all over the internet, in the business sections and editorials of major newspapers. Facebook keeps changing its privacy policy, the latest is the subject of a F.T.C. inquiry. It seems that users are required to grant the company wide permission to use their personal information in advertising as a condition of using the service. Is there a problem here? ◆

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Sharing Personal Histories
Tuesday ♦ October 1 ♦ 6:00 PM ♦ New Hartford Library



what's.com/ing ~ Family History Month ~ October 2013						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Monthly General Meeting 6 PM N Hartford Library	2	3	4	5
Oct 14-18 - School Lunch Week Oct 19 - Sweetest Day Oct 27 - Mother-in-law Day						
6	7	8 Board of Directors Meeting 6:30 PM	9	10	11	12
13	14 Columbus Day	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 United Nations Day	25	26
27	28	29	30	31 HALLOWEEN		