

On the Docket for the
General Meetings

Thursday, November 16, 2006

**B&H Digital Photography
Holiday Buying Guide**

Thursday, December 14, 2006

Managing Your E-Mail

Comparison of Various Approaches/Applications

Guide for Digital Shopping - November

B&H is coming again on November 16...just in time for the holiday shopping season. They are a great source for consumer and professional cameras, videos, TVs, and audio gear. Many people on their staff have professional experience. Their prices are some of the best you will find anywhere, and they will offer special discounts at the meeting.

There are a lot of gifts you can buy for someone who is engrossed in digital photography. There is a great selection of all sorts of accessories and gear which will really be used and appreciated. And—Shh—here is a secret tip: you are allowed to buy stuff for yourself, which is always appreciated, and seldom returned.

There are all sorts of add-ons one can get for a digital photographer on virtually any level: perhaps another memory card, an extra battery, cases, lenses, photo printers, and all sorts of

accessories. But here is the rub: The variety of choices, not to mention the new items, can get very confusing.

B&H sends very knowledgeable people to our meetings, and this year our speaker is Gabriel Bidderman, who was described by David Brommer, last year's speaker from B&H, as "Awesome—a real Camera Guru." That's my kind of guy! Don't be deterred by this description if you are new to the digital world.

Bidderman will talk about the whole range of goodies from inexpensive "first" cameras, including point-and-shoot cameras, to heavy duty pro SLRs. This is a very good way to learn about the ever-changing state of the art.

There will be special pricing at B&H for those who attend the meeting.

more...

Manage Your E-Mail! - December

E-mail has been termed "the killer app" of the Internet. This statement is double-edged: e-mail is so useful that it is often the compelling reason for a person of any age or gender to learn to use the Internet. It is also the source of much frustration for computer users. E-mail has changed our communication, often making it more efficient; at the same time, it has become a tremendous time waster for many of us.

How can you cope with more than 100 messages each day...deleting the

spam without neglecting the important items? A recent Google search for the very specific phrase "manage incoming email (e-mail)" gave 813 hits (most unique)! E-mail management has become a vital component of time management. In the words of Mark Hurst (<http://www.goodexperience.com/about/mark.php>), "E-mail overload is a problem that affects nearly everyone with an e-mail account."

more...

Inside NYPC



Volume 13 issue 10
November/December 2006

General Meeting

- When:** Thursday, November 16th, 2006
Thursday, December 14th, 2006
- Where:** PS 41, 116 W 11th Street,
west of 6th Avenue
- Schedule:** 6:00pm Networking in cafeteria
Q&A/Random Access
7:00 pm Presentation
- Subway:** A,B,C,D,E,F,Q,V to West 4th St
1,2,3 to 14th St ; L to 6th Ave
(check with MTA)
- PATH:** Take 33rd St line to 9th St Sta
- Hotline:** 212-643-NYPC

NYPC's General Meetings are free and open to the public. To check on the NYPC General Meeting or get up-to-the-minute details on speakers, go to our website, <http://www.nypc.org>.

Combined Issue

Note that this issue combines November and December. There will be no separate printed December issue.

B&H, Continued

B & H Photo

This famous photo/video store is conveniently located a block from NYPC at 34th Street and 9th Avenue, and online at <http://www.bhphotovideo.com>. They are one of the world's leading sources for camera and video equipment, with knowledgeable and nice salespeople.

Bring Your Questions!

Many people find the Q&A during and after the presentation to be the best

part. Having an "Awesome camera Guru" pay attention to your questions is worth the price of the meeting, which after all is free. Who says New York is an expensive town? And have you noticed NYPC is one of the best bargains in New York. Are you a member? Did you renew? Please do. You need us and we need you. *By William Ginsberg, NYPC Program Chairman, program@nypc.org*

E-Mail, Continued

This General Meeting Will Help!

A panel of expert NYPC members will describe various approaches to e-mail management, demonstrate e-mail clients, and discuss their advantages and disadvantages. They'll show the special features of different applications, emphasizing aspects that aid efficiency and save time.

Automate/Tame Your E-mail

Did you know you can configure an e-mail application so that it will automatically direct incoming e-mails to folders you set up, bypassing the Inbox altogether? Do you have an e-mail backup strategy? What's the best way to access your e-mail from both home and office? Our panel will tackle these and other questions.

They'll also deal with sending, forwarding, and adding attachments. Each e-mail application has at least one way to hide recipients' e-mails when you send to many people. The panel will show how to do this efficiently and reliably.

Among the applications to be shown are: Eudora, Thunderbird, Pegasus,

Outlook, and Outlook Express. Panelists will also discuss web-based e-mail, including Gmail and AOL.

If you've ever felt overwhelmed when you open your INBOX, this meeting will help. If a friend has ever complained that you exposed his address to fifteen other people, this discussion will prevent future gaffes. Come to this free meeting, and bring your friends and colleagues.

We will have a drawing for a copy of Jeff Duntemann's book, *Degunking Your Email*. We also will have CDs available with downloads of a variety of e-mail clients and utilities. *By Mary Ginsburg, Treasurer, treasurer@nypceducation.org*

Special for Beginners

There will be a separate meeting in the cafeteria for beginning e-mail users. This will start at 6:30. At 7:00, participants may choose to join the main meeting, or not.

NYPC Officers

President

Leftonred Atanycorner
pres@nypc.org

Vice-President

Robert Behm
vicepres@nypc.org

Corresponding Secretary

Mary Fanelli
csnypc@att.net

Membership Secretary

Kathy Petruzzi
Michael Horowitz
members@nypc.org

Treasurer

Mary Ginsburg
treasurer@nypceducation.org

Other NYPC Board Members & Volunteers

Past President/ Volunteer Coordinator

Len Ginsburg
leonardginsburg@earthlink.net

Program Chair

William Ginsburg
program@nypc.org

Publications

Inside NYPC - Kathy Petruzzi
Kathypetruzzi@hotmail.com

Webmaster

Leftonred Atanycorner
nypc@nypc.org

Education

Marge Earthlife
Fred Kahn
Chair@nypceducation.org

Marketing

Murray Strelitz
Grace Lee
Marketing@nypc.org

Hotline Sysop

Stan Silver
ssilver@nyc.rr.com

SIG Chair Representatives

Laura Balsam (Photoshop)
laura@hookbuilt.com
Dario Castellanos (Linux)
jdcnyc@compuserve.com
Ashod Kassabian (Streaming Media)
streaming@earthlink.net

This newsletter produced in Ventura. Design by Allison Moore/Database recipes by Robert Leuze.

Learn about New Voting Machines

Teresa Hommel's presentation at the October General meeting—about the decision on new voting machines facing New York County Election Commissioners—was both informative and alarming.

It is urgent that every citizen study the issues and contact Commissioners

and County and District Leaders. Please go to one or more of the following sites to learn what's at stake:

- www.wheresthepaper.org/ny.html
- www.nyvv.org
- League of Women Voters: www.lwvny.org
- Daily Voting News: www.VotersUnite.org
- www.VoteTrustUSA.org

For more information, [see page 9](#).

NYPC Classes

To register or to request specific classes, phone 212 643-7005,x2, e-mail classes@nypceducation.org, or register online using PayPal at www.nypceducation.org

For complete descriptions, click on class name at <http://www.nypceducation.org>

Unless otherwise specified, classes are hands-on. We welcome walk-ins for seminars, but please phone to confirm that the class is being held. One advantage of NYPC computer training is our flexibility. If there's a topic you want to learn, let us know. If we have at least three students, we'll try to tailor a class to your needs. Non-members of NYPC: add \$10 registration fee to prices below.

⇒ eBay: The World's Largest Market Place

Learn how to use eBay, the world's largest market place. This class will concentrate on the selling side of online auctions, with particular emphasis on eBay. The instructor will show you how to register with eBay and Paypal, how to search, list, sell, and get paid—all in the safety and comfort of your home. You will learn how to find items to sell, write an eye-catching description, take and edit a photograph, and upload it all to eBay. You will learn what items sell best, the most effective way of presenting your items, and what do to after the auction is over. This is definitely a fun course.... For additional info e-mail instructor Fred Kahn: misteretail@yahoo.com Sunday, November 12, 10:00am-3:00pm
Intensive seminar, \$75.00 if pre-registered (and pre-paid), \$99.00 at the door (walk-ins welcomed). There is a \$12.50 fee for the course manual payable in cash to the instructor at class time.

⇒ Getting Started with Picasa - Anniversary Special

Picasa is a free downloadable application for the digital photographer. It has a superb photo organizer, used by some photographers who employ much more powerful image editing programs. It has an array of simple photoediting tools, which may be all that the casual photographer needs. This class will help you start using Picasa, from uploading photos from your camera, to enhancing and e-mailing them.
Monday, November 13, 6:00-9:00pm
Hands-on, \$25



Wouldn't you like to make your own Holiday cards—with your own photos and poetry? Learn how in this workshop. Prerequisite: Familiarity with Word and any image enhancement program. We'll also spend a few minutes on e-cards: sites with attractive cards; ones where you can use your own photos.
Wednesday, November 15, 6:00-9:00pm
Hands-on, \$34; \$10 materials fee includes 2 blank cards with envelopes, CD with software, resources, and royalty-free photos

⇒ Buying and Owning a Laptop

A laptop computer is not simply a small desktop. It differs from a full-sized machine in many important ways. This class teaches both what to look for when purchasing a laptop computer and ownership tips and guidelines. It begins with the question, "Should you buy a laptop?" and continues through how to care for one after you get it.
Sunday, November 19, 1:00-5:00pm
Seminar, \$49

⇒ The ANTI Course! (Anti-Virus, Anti-Spyware...more!)

Learn how to protect your computer! As some of our most careful members can tell you, a computer infection can make you feel as though you're lost in Oz! Viruses, worms, and spyware and, more recently, phishing, have become an ever-present danger for anyone who uses e-mail or the Web. Many computer users report that com-

puting's just not a pleasant experience anymore, as they are constantly fighting these threats. Come to the Anti course and gain the knowledge and tools to bring back the pleasure into your computing day. With more and more threats written, there are now more ways to help combat these computer vandals and information thieves. This class will have two part: Part one, in the morning, consists of initial defenses and prevention; Part two, in the afternoon, will delve into advanced techniques to recover from attacks.
Saturday, November 18, 10:00am-3:00pm
Mostly hands-on, \$69

⇒ Backing Up Your Computer

Hard disk failure/data loss/file corruption—these are not possibilities; they are certainties if you use your computer for any length of time. The only way to avoid losing your precious data and your important settings is to back them up...and to store the backups in a safe place, away from the original files. If you know that backups are important but don't know where to begin, or find the process too tedious to perform regularly, this class is for you.
Sunday, December 3, 1:00-5:00pm
Seminar, \$49

⇒ Get Your Own Internet Domain Name Anniversary Special!

You need not have a website of your own to benefit from having your own domain. Learn all about why you need one and how to register it. (A domain name is the name, such as nypc.org, which substitutes for the numeric address Internet Protocol (IP) address.)
Tuesday, December 5, 6:30-8:30pm
Seminar, \$25

⇒ Photoshop/Photoshop Elements for Digital Photographers

Adobe's two imaging applications, Photoshop and Photoshop Elements, have many features in common. Because of its lower cost and its easier learning curve, many digital photographers have found that Photoshop Elements is a good way to get started with image enhancement. For some, this is sufficient and enjoyable. Others find that they eventually need the power and precision afforded by Photoshop. This six-session course introduces the photographer to the digital darkroom via Photoshop Elements and continues on to Photoshop for those who wish. The first three sessions will teach the basic concepts which are common to both applications, including use of layers, tonal corrections through levels and blend modes, basic color adjustment, and selections. The student may then remain with Photoshop Elements and end the course. For those who wish to continue, using Photoshop, the next three sessions focus on aspects unique to the more complex program, such as curves and masking. Full syllabus is posted at nypceducation.org
Wednesdays & Mondays, November 22, 29, December 4, 6, 11, 13, 1:30-4:30pm
Hands-on: Elements only, \$99; Full course, \$199

⇒ Mastering Your Digital Camera Controls

With their wealth of controls and menu options, digital cameras can bewilder even the most experienced photographer. The user can change not only aperture and shutter speed, but also ISO, white balance, automatic program, and more. In this class we'll learn how to take advantage of these many camera options to take better photos.

- Please tell registrar your camera model when you register
- Plan to bring your manual to class

Two Mondays, November 20, 27, 1:00pm-4:00pm
Hands-on with your camera, \$59

more....on page 6

NYPC Meetings, Seminars/Classes & Other Events November/December 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
October 29	October 30	October 31	November 1 Palm	2 Education Comm Java Cert SG Enterprise Windows	3 Marketing Comm	4
5 A+	6 Access TechTips	7 Genealogy	8 Photoshop Alpha DB Visual Basic A+ Lab	9 DeLUGE MetaStock	10	11
12 A+ EBAY Marketplace	13 QuickBooks PICASA	14 Excel Exchange Hardware A+ Lab	15 Speech Recog Greeting CARDS	16 NYPC General Mtg	17	18 ANTI- Course
19 A+ LAPTOP: Buy & Use	20 CAMERA CONTROLS Ventura	21 Photog/Graphics Perl Investment	22 P'SHOP/Elements, 1(D)	23 HAPPY THANKSGIVING	24	25
26	27 CAMERA CONTROLS Adv Tech & Tech Java Cert SG	28 Wireless/Cell Phone NYPC Board	29 P'SHOP/Elements, 2(D) Web Design	30 Internet	December 1	December 2 <i>Volunteer Day/ Saturday Night Movie</i>
December 3 Computer BACKUP	4 P'SHOP/Elements, 3(D) Access TechTips	5 Genealogy DOMAIN NAME	6 P'SHOP/Elements, 4(D) Visual Basic Palm	7 Education Committee Java Cert SG Enterprise Windows	8	9
10	11 P'SHOP/Elements, 5(D) Simple WEBSITE QuickBooks	12 Photoshop Exchange Excel Hardware	13 P'SHOP/Elements, 6(D) HTML BASICS AlphaDB	14 NYPC General Mtg MetaStock	15	16
17	18 Adv Tech & Tech	19 Photog/ Graphics Perl Investment	20 Speech Recog	21 DeLUGE	22	23
24	25 Merry Christmas!	26 NYPC Board Wireless/Cell Phone	27	28	29	30

Calendar Legend

Plain = SIG Meeting
Bold = NYPC Class

Italic = Other Meetings
 Black background = General Meeting

The calendar shows the events that were scheduled at press time. Check online calendar at www.calsplus.com/nypcmeetings.

SIG Directory

You can find detailed information about most SIG meetings by going to *Meeting & Class Calendar* via the NYPC website, www.nypc.org, and clicking on the SIG of interest. Details will appear in a pop-up. Updates—changes, cancellations, specific topics—are announced here. If we have your e-mail address, we will send you occasional meeting updates and reminders. If the SIG meeting you want to attend is not listed, contact SIG chair, or check web page.

AXS Access

Linda Ewen, LindaEwen@nyc.rr.com
 Monday, November 6th, December 4th, 6:30 PM
 Location: MS
 11/6: Barry Cunningham: Preparing Your Application for Deployment

ATT Advanced Technologies and Techniques

Jessie Shereff, shereff@cs.nyu.edu
 Monday, November 27th, December 18th, 6:30 PM
 Location: MS
 General discussion of PC technology

ADB Alpha Database

Barry Rochford, brochford1@comcast.net
 Wednesday, November 8th, December 13th, 6:00 PM
 Location: NYPC
 11/8: Jay Talbott on successfully matching up Microsoft Excel with ALPHA Five Ver 7. He made both start jumping through Hoops.

BEG Beginners SIG

Mary Ginsburg, lm_ginsburg@earthlink.net
 On hiatus. Contact Mary if interested.

CSG C++/Java Gen'l Mtg

<http://www.cppsig.org>. Gary Russo, garyrusso@hotmail.com
 Supplanted by Java Certification Study Group for November-December. See below.

CSG C++/Java: Java Cert SG

<http://www.nycjava.net>
 Dario Laverde, dario@nycjava.net
 Thursdays, November 2nd, December 7th, Monday, November 27th, 6:00 PM
 Additional dates TBA
 Location: NYPC
 Also join us at our yahoo group: nycjava.org

ODK C++/JAVA: Object Data Knowledge Management

Carlos Jerome, cjinterf@panix.com
 Contact Carlos for times and places
 Continuing development of constituent directory & communication systems

LUG DeLUGE (Desktop Linux UG)

<http://www.delugeny.org>. Mark Halegua, phantom21@mindspring.com
 Thursday, November 9th, December 21st, 6:30 PM
 Location: NYPC
 11/9: GnuCash for your personal finances

EDU Education Committee

Marge Earthlife & Fred Kahn, chair@nypceducation.org
 Thursday, November 2nd, December 7th, 6:30 PM
 Help plan and market NYPC's great classes.

EMB Embedded Systems

On hiatus. Contact Lee Thalblum, lee_t@bigfoot.com

EWN Enterprise Windows

<http://www.nyewin.org/>
 Stephen Goodwin, srg@winnyc.com; Tony Iams, tony@dhbrown.com
 Thursday, November 2nd, December 7th, 6:00 PM
 Location: MS
 11/2: Exchange 2007 and Unified Messaging Preview

EXC Excel

Al Vachris, alfred.vachris@gmail.com
 Tuesday, November 14th, December 12th, 6:00 PM
 Location: MS
 Topic TBA

EXG Microsoft Exchange

<http://www.nyexug.com/>. Ben Serebin, exchangeug@reefsolutions.com
 Tuesday, November 14th, December 12th, 6:00 PM
 Location: MS
 11/14: Intro to SAN Solutions, Exchange Best Practices, and EqualLogic Demo of their SAN Solution

FLA Flash

Jeffrey Frankel, webjff1967@aol.com
 On hiatus. E-mail Jeff for info

GFH Genealogy & Family History

<http://homepages.rootsweb.com/~metrony/>
 David Kleiman, roots@heritagemuse.com
 Tuesday, November 7th, December 5th, 6:00 PM
 Location: NYPC
 11/7: Producing OVERSIZE Family Charts

Check the Online Calendar!

Because we're combining the November and December newsletters into a single issue, it is vital to check the online calendar for updates, especially in December. Many SIGs do not yet have their December topics, so check regularly at <http://www.calsplus.com/nypcmeetings>

HRD Hardware

<http://www.smartgroups.com/groups/hugnypc>
 Kevin Raguette, Rags6600@hotmail.com
 Tuesday, November 14th, December 12th, 6:30 PM
 Location: NYPC
 Hands-on hardware

NET Internet

Tony Holley, tholley@citytech.cuny.edu; Mary Ginsburg, lm_ginsburg@earthlink.net
 Thursday, November 30th, 6:30 PM
 Location: NYPC
 Browsers! A look at IE 7 & Firefox 2

INV Investment

Phyllis Pawlovsky, PGP106@cs.com. SIG follows the investment principles of the National Association of Investment Corp.
 Tuesday, November 21st, December 19th, 6:15 PM
 Location: MS
 11/21: When to Sell the Turkeys
 12/19: How to Profit in 2007

LNK LINUX

On hiatus. If you are interested, contact Mark Halegua, phantom21@mindspring.com

MAK Adventures with Make Magazine

Mary Ginsburg, treasurer@nypceducation.org
 On hiatus

MKT Marketing Committee

Murray Strelitz & Grace Lee, marketing@nypc.org
 Friday, December 1st, 6:30 PM

MTA MetaStock

Al Kinzinger, Jr, bigaljr@attglobal.net
 Thursday, November 9th, December 14th, 7:00 PM
 Location: NYPC
 Topic TBA

BRD NYPC Board Meeting

Tuesday, November 28th, 6:30 PM
 Members are welcome to attend, but we'd like to know ahead. Please e-mail pres@nypc.org.

Location Legend

PS41 116 West 11th Street, west of 6th Avenue MS Microsoft, 1290 6th Ave. (51st/52nd Str), 6th Floor
 NYPC NYPC Office, Hotel New Yorker, 481 8th Ave., Suite 550/1

Sig Directory...

GEN NYPC GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, November 16th, December 14th,
6:30 PM
Location: PS 41
11/16: B&H Holiday Shopping Guide
12/14: Managing Your E-mail

PDA Palm Pilot

<http://nypc.org/palm.htm>. Ted Cohn and
Grace Lee, nypcpalmpilot@gmail.com
Wednesday, November 1st, December 6th,
6:30 PM
Location: NYPC
Discuss the joys and gripes of using the Palm!

PRL Perl Seminar NY

James E. Keenan, jkean@verizon.net; Alex
Gill, alexgill@nyc.rr.com
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/perlsemny>
Thursday, November 21st, December 19th,
6:00 PM
Location: NYPC
Topics TBA

PHT Photography & Digital Graphics

Mary Ginsburg, lm_ginsburg@earthlink.net;
Tony Holley, tholley@citytech.cuny.edu
Tuesday, November 21st, December 19th,
6:30 PM
Location: NYPC
11/21: Report from PhotoPlus Expo plus a
look at useful freeware/shareware apps
12/19: More freeware/shareware

PHO Photoshop

http://www.hookbuilt.com/nypc/photoshop_sig.html;
Laura Balsam, nypc@hookbuilt.com
Wednesday, November 8th, Tuesday,
December 12th, 1:00 PM
Location: NYPC
11/8: Camera RAW in CS2 & Photo
Restoration Clinic
Join us at 11:45 AM in the Tick Tock Diner for
socializing prior to the 1 PM meeting.

ACC QuickBooks

Len Ginsburg, LeonardGinsburg@earthlink.net
Monday, November 13th, December 11th,
6:30 PM
11/13: QuickBooks 2007: New Features

SPR Speech Recognition

<http://www.out-loud.com>. Laura Miner,
76233.3413@compuserve.com; Leftonred
Atanycorner, pres@nypc.org
Wednesday, November 15th, December 20th,
6:30 PM
Location: NYPC
11/15: Hardware and Software: What's
"Under the Hood"

STR Streaming Media Plus

Sonia Thompson, soniathp@verizon.net
On hiatus till January

PAS TechTips

Kathy Petruzzi, kathypetruzzi@hotmail.com;
Michael Ostrowe, mjostrowe@earthlink.net
Monday, November 6th, December 4th, 6:30
PM
Location: NYPC
Topics TBA

VPI Ventura

Allison Moore, amoore@nyc.rr.com
Monday, November 20th 7:00 PM
Location: NYPC
More on frame tags

BAS Visual Basic

<http://72.229.163.212/nypcvb/>
David Kulick, dgkulick@hotmail.com
Wednesday, November 8th, December 6th,
6:00 PM
Location: MS
Peter Ward: SQL Server Automation and
Server Management Objects (SMZXO) using
Visual Basic .Net

WMM Web Design for the 21st Century

Melody Reed, Melodysmiamix@gmail.com
Wednesday, November 29th, 6:30 PM
Location: NYPC
More on Photoblogging

WFI Wireless/Cell Phones

Ted Cohn, TedCohn@earthlink.net
Tuesday, November 28th, December 26th,
6:30 PM
Location: NYPC
Topic TBA

XML XML/Web Services

Mahesh Chhatlani, nypcxml@hotmail.com
On hiatus. E-mail Mahesh if interested

Other Organizations

NPC Non-Profit Computing

John L. German, 212-759-2368
Includes:

JOB Career Development Group

Tuesdays, November 14, 28, December 12,
5:00 PM, at Church of St. Paul & St. Andrew,
263 West 86th Street at West End Avenue
Facilitators include:
Susan Werbin, 212-799-6111
Mort Trachtenberg, 212-769-TRAC

Classes, continued

⇒ Your Own Simple Website

It's great to learn Dreamweaver, GoLive, or
NetObjects to develop your own website,
but perhaps all you want is a simple page or
two. There are many ways to put up a few
pages without a steep learning curve. Most
ISPs provide free webspace, along with a
template-based program to guide you. You
can also purchase space from a host and
then find and use an inexpensive template.
Or you can use free space provided by a
community portal. In this course, we'll
explore several options and put up a simple
website— nothing elaborate, but a nice start.
(It helps if you've taken the Domain Name
course on December 5.)

Monday, December 11, 6:00-9:00pm
Hands-on, \$39

⇒ Basics of HTML

Sometimes it's important to know some of
the basic tags of HTML, the hypertext
markup language that is the basis for most
websites. You may need to make simple
updates to a site designed by someone
else, or understand how to tweak the con-
tents of an online calendar or blog. This
course will gently introduce you to the
most useful HTML concepts and code for
these simple uses. Prerequisite: experience
surfing the web.
Wednesday, December 13, 6:00-9:00pm
Hands-on, \$39

Thanks to Our Hosts!

The following company provides
space for many of our meetings.

We would like to take this
opportunity to thank them.

Microsoft



Check the Online Calendar!

Because of combining the
November and December newslet-
ters into a single issue, we did not
fully schedule classes for December.
Classes which we hope to offer this
month or next include Knoppix and
Open Office. Please check our class
listing regularly:

<http://www.nypceducation.org>

And watch for our course catalog,
which is coming later this year.



The New York Personal
Computer User Group
<http://www.nypc.org>

Directory of NYPC Supporters

Please support these merchants who have chosen to support NYPC! Dollar signs (\$) indicate supporters offering discounts or extras to NYPC members. Present your membership card (or newsletter with membership number) to exercise these discounts.

CONSULTING SERVICES

❖ ACCOUNTING

LHG Consulting: Leonard Ginsburg
718-828-9547; LeonardGinsburg@earthlink.net
QuickBooks consulting: set-up, training, maintenance. Help with accounting-related problems in computerized bookkeeping. A QuickBooks ProAdvisor.

Metis Group LLC Certified Public Accountants: Steven Fromer, CPA
14 Penn Plaza, Ste 1800, NYC 10122;
212-643-0099x137; fax: 646-304-6312;
SFromer@metisgrouppllc.com;
www.metisgrouppllc.com
•keeping your taxes to a minimum
•satisfying recordkeeping requirements
•using financial reports for business decisions
•maximizing success in your business \$

❖ COMPUTING SERVICES

Farsight Data Systems: Mark Halegua
718-360-1712; info@farsight-data.com
Providing general computer services for businesses and individuals including repair, network design & setup, hardware & software recommendations, malware eradication, and more.

mister-retail, eBay Education Specialist:

Fred Kahn
misteretail@yahoo.com; 718 263-2041
eBay Trading Assistant trained by eBay. I sell for you or teach you how to do it. Together we can set up your eBay Store. Digital Imaging Specialist: I teach photography too.\$

Middle Earth Media: Leftonred
Atanycorner
631-793-0930; middleearthmedia@yahoo.com
•Computer Service & Training
•Wired & Wireless Networks
•Spyware & Virus Removal
•Data Backup & Recovery
Windows, Mac & All Other OS's. Serving large & small businesses & individuals. \$

❖ DATABASE

Software Pundits, Inc: Mahesh Chhatlani
516-205-4709;
Mahesh@SoftwarePundits.com;
www.SoftwarePundits.com
Over 20 years' experience helping businesses achieve success through technology. Clients range from small business owners to Fortune 500 companies. No-obligation consultation.\$

❖ INTERNET

Progressive Internet Action, "The Ben & Jerry's of Internet Services"
215 W 91st Street, Suite 57, New York, NY
10024-1336; 212-787-0700;
DickJones@pia.net; <http://www.pia.net>
Full service web solutions. Affordable rates. First-class service. Site design & development, web hosting & e-commerce. Web marketing strategy, Search Engine Marketing, content development. Discounts for Non-profits. \$

❖ PROOFREADING/EDITING

Professional Editing Services
631-422-6804; fax: 631-422-1170;
Claire-M@att.net
Are your Web sites and print materials compromised by poor grammar and spelling errors? Let me make your work successful. Call today for free estimate. \$

❖ TRAINING

Mary Ginsburg
718-828-9547; MaryGinsburg@earthlink.net
Patient training in computing basics, digital imaging (Photoshop and more), and Internet use. Help with advanced Internet searching; specialty: medical/health topics. \$



I Want to Join NYPC

Name: _____ Company: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____ E-mail: _____

Phone: (day) _____ (eve) _____

Membership: One Year - \$45 Two Years - \$80 Three Years - \$120 Student - \$35

Family One Year - \$60 Two Years - \$105 Three Years - \$160

Add'l Name: _____ E-mail: _____

New membership Renewal - Member number _____

Additional donation to assist in NYPC's work: _____

NYPC is a 501(c)3 not-for profit organization, and gratefully accept contributions of any size.

Payment: Check enclosed (payable to Gotham NYPC) Visa, Mastercard, Discover, AMEX

Card number _____ Exp date _____

Billing address (if different from above) _____

Computing Interests: _____

Please send completed application with payment to **NYPC Membership, 481 Eighth Avenue - B25, New York, NY 10001.**

November/December 2006

First Class Mail

Volunteer to Help NYPC

E-mail LeonardGinsburg@earthlink.net if you can help.



*Gift-Wrap at Barnes & Noble

This is one of NYPC's most popular volunteer opportunities! In addition to helping NYPC by telling people about us, volunteers are able to:

- Make purchases at a 30% discount the day they wrap
- Get to know fellow wrappers—a nice chance to socialize
- Improve wrapping skills & learn about popular new books

Dates this season are:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ▶ Fri., Nov. 24, 3-10 PM | ▶ Tues., Dec. 5, 10 AM-7 PM |
| ▶ Sun., Nov. 26, 5-10 PM | ▶ Tues., Dec. 12, 9 AM-5:30 PM |
| ▶ Mon., Nov. 27, 10 AM-4 PM | ▶ Tues., Dec. 26, 4-10 PM |
| ▶ Fri., Dec. 1, 3-10 PM | |

*Volunteer Day/Saturday night at the movies

Saturday, December 2: Work starts at 3 PM, movie at 7:30. Help out in the NYPC office in the afternoon and/or socialize in the evening with a movie and refreshments.

The Perfect Gift: An NYPC Membership

Do you have friends, colleagues, or family members who have "adopted" you as their computer guru? Consider giving them a membership in NYPC! Here they'll find networking, technical information, classes, meetings, and more.

Please use the membership form on page 7.

coming attractions

Great general meetings coming up:

Thursday, January 18 Education Sampler
Our popular mini-courses

Let us know what you'd like to see! Tell us on the evaluation forms we pass out at the General Meeting, or send an e-mail to Bill Ginsberg, program@nypc.org.



The Future of WHOIS Policy

A Panel Discussion presented by
the Internet Society of New York
<http://www.isoc-ny.org>

on

How much personal information should be available
in the WHOIS database of owners of Internet domains?

Wednesday, November 8, 6-8 PM

Jefferson Market Branch Library, 425 6th Ave @ 10th St

Free & Open to the public

New York City To Get New Voting Machines

by Shera M. Katz

Technology to be Decided this December

This December, the NYC Board of Election Commissioners is choosing what type of voting machines we will be using for many years to come.

Why are they making this decision? The *Federal Help America Vote Act* (HAVA) requires one voting device per poll site to assist voters with disabilities to cast a private, independent vote. New York's *Election Reform and Modernization Act* (ERMA) bans mechanical lever machines as of September 1, 2007 and requires each county to choose a new voting technology. (New York City has five counties and will be choosing a new voting technology as a unit.)

What are the choices?

There are two: PBOS (Paper Ballot Optical Scanners) and DRE (Direct Recording Electronic) voting machines. (Click on the links to see examples of a PBOS and DRE voting machine. These are examples only, they are not the exact models that the BOE is choosing from this December; I did not have those jpeg files available to me.)

PBOS uses a paper ballot that is hand marked by the voter in a booth. It's hand marked the same way a high school student would mark their SAT test, or the way voters in New York State currently mark their absentee or affidavit paper ballots. The paper ballot is then walked over by the voter to the PBOS machine. After the ballot is scanned, it's dropped into a locked box where it remains available in the event that the election results are audited.

DRE voting machines operate with a touch screen. ERMA requires that DRE print a voter verified paper trail, which is suppose to provide a paper trail for each of the voters' choices. However, the machine being considered by the BOE has its printer located in an awkward position and the print is small. There have been documented cases where voters in mock trials have not caught the discrepancies between their actual selections and the selection recorded by the machine on the machine generated paper tape. Also there have been documented cases where up to ten percent of the machine-generated tapes were not readable when an attempt was made to audit the election results.

Does it matter what machine the Board of Elections Commissioners choose? Many organizations and individuals think so including: The League of Women Voters, The New York Times, New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer, Representatives Carolyn Maloney and Jerrold L. Nadler, and NYC Council Member Gale A. Brewer. They are endorsing PBOS technology over DRE.

Here are some reasons why PBOS is the superior choice over DRE:

- PBOS have been successfully used in about 30% of the counties in the United States and have been successfully used for about 20 years. (New Yorkers for Verified

Voting, <http://nyvv.org/doc/OptScanAdvantages.pdf>)

New York currently uses PBOS technology to count absentee and affidavit ballots. Conversely, election precincts that use DRE have encountered many serious documented problems. Votes reported by a DRE system may not accurately reflect the votes actually entered. In addition, most DRE have wireless technology, and are more subject to tampering, fraud and hacking than PBOS systems. DRE voting machines in Holland were hacked into this past October.

- PBOS legal ballots are voter-generated and available in the event that the election results needs to be audited. DRE legal ballots are machine-generated and reside in memory. The results cannot be audited.
- In precincts with a PBOS system the election can continue if a machine breaks down; the ballots can be stored in a locked box and counted later. If a machine breaks down in precincts with a DRE system, the election cannot be continued.
- DRE technology is more expensive to install and maintain than PBOS systems. It's estimated that every four mechanical lever machines in current use could be replaced by one PBOS machine for a cost of \$3,000 versus being replaced by twelve DRE machines for a cost of \$96,000. Real-world maintenance fees have been higher than suggested by the vendors; Maryland faced cost overruns of 1,000%.
- PBOS technology is simpler to implement and maintain than DRE technology. Local Boards of Elections can and do maintain control over the election process. With DRE technology the election process is outsourced to private vendors who have successfully maintained their right to code secrecy over the public's right to know and observe election results.

And who owns those technology companies running our local elections? Sequoia, the largest DRE supplier in the US, is owned by a Venezuelan company, Smartmatic. Smartmatic has partnered with another company, Bizta, which is partially owned by the Venezuelan government. (Source: http://www.votetrustusa.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=73&Itemid=162).

Would you rather have your election monitored by officials appointed by local elected politicians, or by technicians hired by a foreign government?

For more information

- Subscribe to Daily Voting News from www.VotersUnite.org
- Weekly Election Integrity News from www.VoteTrustUSA.org
- New Yorkers for Verified Voting www.nyvv.org
- Teresa Hommel's website: www.wheresthepaper.org

more...

Voting Machines, continued

View a demonstration of the new voting machines for yourself and then attend a public hearing on the subject before the Election Commissioners. The dates are:

Demonstrations of New Voting Equipment:

Wednesday, Nov. 15, 5:00 PM

Little Theatre, LaGuardia Community College
31-10 Thomson Avenue, Long Island City
718-482-7200

For directions, see www.lagcc.cuny.edu/visit/

Friday, Nov. 17, 5:00 PM

Savoy Multipurpose Room, Hostos Community College
120 Walton Avenue, Bronx
718-518-4444

For directions, see www.hostos.cuny.edu

**Public Hearing Before the Election
Commissioners on the New Voting Machines:**

Tuesday, Nov. 21, 4:00 PM

New York City Board of Elections
42 Broadway (near Exchange Place), 6th floor
212-487-5300

Remarks by the public who have tested the machines will probably be limited to two minutes.

Training to Speak at the Hearings

Teresa Hommel will provide training sessions for the public hearing on Saturday, Nov. 11, 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Location: the Gallery at the Community Church of New York, 28 East 35th Street (between Madison and Park Avenues)

For information or to RSVP, call Connie Dondore at 212-777-5533 or email her at cdondore@msn.com.

If you don't already have a strong opinion on the subject, after looking further into the matter for yourself you undoubtedly will. Attending one of Teresa Hommel's sessions is an excellent way to learn how to get your opinion across to our elected officials and to the Board of Elections Commissioners, who will be choosing our new voting machines this December. *The source for most of the information in this article is from www.wheresthepaper.org.*