

NEWS



BREAK

MACINTOSH USERS GROUP, ONEONTA, NEW YORK

Volume 17, Number 9

December 2002

DECEMBER 2, 2002 MEETING *Hardware and Software Showcase* *and*

Our Annual Holiday Party!

Join us on **Monday, December 2** from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. in Lecture Hall 1 of Hodgdon IRC on the SUNY College at Oneonta campus (see map, back page).

MUG ONE members will demo Mac hardware, software and other goodies for your gift list. Afterwards, stay for our annual **Holiday Party**. We'll have door prizes as always, as well as a special stocking stuffer from MacAddict Magazine for everyone who attends..

Please **bring cookies or another holiday treat** to share. Need ideas? Contact Terry Helsler at 436-3518 or 638-9885. Don't miss it!

MAC OS X BUYERS' GUIDES AVAILABLE

We did a brisk trade in Macworld Magazine Mac OS X Buyers' Guides at the November meeting, but copies are still available \$7.50 each—25% off the newsstand price of \$10. The newsstand-only Buyers' Guide includes a magazine, two CDs and a booklet, "Macworld's Mac 911 Guide to Troubleshooting OS X," excerpted from Chris Breen's Peachpit Press book *Mac 911*. The content and focus of this special issue are completely different from the issue we had in the spring. Contact Elsa Travisano to get a copy, or plan to get one at the December meeting.

NEW ROOM, NEW DAY FOR 2003 MEETINGS

MUG ONE will switch to a new day and classroom for our spring semester 2003 meetings. Starting in February, we'll meet on the **first Tuesday** of the month in **IRC Lecture Hall 4**. Lecture Hall 4 located at the opposite end of the hall from our current meeting room.

Meetings have been scheduled for February 4, March 4, April 1, May 6 and possibly June 3. We will not meet in January, as SUNY Oneonta will not yet be in session.

So mark your calendars, and see you in the new year!

Visit MUG ONE's website at <http://www.mugone.com>



DIANE GALLO CREATES WINNING LOGO

MUG ONE members voted to choose a new logo for our group at the November 4 meeting. From a field of twenty-four logo designs (including our current logo), we used a variation on the ecclesiastical ballot to narrow the field until we came up with a winner: Diane Gallo's "Bulging Mug," which defeated the current logo by a single vote. Congratulations, Diane!

Diane wins a copy of Painter 7, donated by Corel/Procreate (worth \$499), a Corel keychain and a free year's membership in MUG ONE.

Thanks to Tom Travisano, Keith Robisch, John Maas and Luke Malone for helping to distribute, collect and count all those different colored slips of paper.

MUG ONE OFFICERS FOR 2002-2003

Elsa Travisano, President mugone@stny.rr.com	607/433-2569
Jake Richtsmeier, Vice President & Program Co-Chair jake73@stny.rr.com	607/547-2791
Terry Helsler, Sec. & OSC Liaison helsertl@oneonta.edu	607/638-9885
Joanne Johnston, Treasurer ejohnston@stny.rr.com	607/432-6320
John Maas, Program Co-Chair xaxat@stny.rr.com	607/437-0665
Brian Foley, SIG Coordinator foleymb@dmcom.net	607/988-7031
Johanna Koenig, Librarian email: jokoenig@dmcom.net	607/432-4975

NOVEMBER 4, 2002 MUG ONE MEETING

Hodgdon IRC, lecture hall 1, SUNY Oneonta.

President Elsa Travisano began at 7:35 pm by introducing herself and welcoming nearly forty members and guests. She announced that the Mac OS X Buyers' Guide magazines had arrived, and we could buy a copy for \$7.50. Joanne Johnston, who was unable to attend, sent word that we had \$1188.43 in the bank before tonight's meeting.

Elsa then began the Q&A, while former MUG ONE president Tom Travisano ran an ecclesiastical ballot (actually a series of ballots) to determine our new MUG ONE logo from among the 24 designs submitted. The first question concerned a Road Runner slow down at the first of the week, which was quickly explained as the result of a focused attack on servers on the Internet. Most service was slowed, so it was not unique to any one ISP. No word yet on who caused it. Lost files in iPhoto can be found by searching folders by year. Once located, folders can be brought into iPhoto by using the "import" command, or by dragging-and-dropping the iPhoto window. We agreed to get *iPhoto, The Missing Manual* for the library. A problem about being unable to print from OS 9 Classic after partitioning a drive and installing OS X is because you must install printer drivers BOTH in the X and 9 operating systems. Elsa praised Mac Help in OS X, which uses keywords and offers "tell me more" links with additional information.

Continuing the Q&A, we heard a horror story of iTV crashing OS X such that the user had to boot off OS 9 and clear up space on the hard drive. Bob Matousek announced that he has a Scanmaker, Centris 650, 145B laptop, external CD drive, etc. available to a good home. Brian Foley reported on the Basic Computing SIG, which met in October in his home. They plan to meet once a month. Interested members could contact Brian for information. Finally, UCCA has a public access Road Runner account, if you need it.

After narrowing the logo contest field down to seven, then four, then two, the winner was Diane Gallo's design, which I assume will show up on our publications henceforth. Congratulations, Diane!

Program: *Digital Video - Yes, It's That Easy*, with Sven Anderson.

After many cabling and adaptor modifications, Sven Anderson introduced us to the current "killer app" for Macs: video editing. The beginner is well served by Apple's free iMovie, but for more complex and professional editing there is Final Cut Pro (excellent, but pricey at \$999) or Adobe's Premiere (<\$300 with student or educator's discount). Sven showed us how video editing in Premiere works. You need a Firewire-equipped Mac and video camera for video capture. Sven demonstrated how to insert video clips and overlap them with transitions. We saw demos of several of the 76 available transitions between clips, which, aside from a few standards,

range from absurd to really bad according to Sven. Premiere offers 99 video channels and 99 audio channels, which almost no one would ever use. A reality check for potential video editors: if you think you have a large HD, you don't. Get the largest capacity Firewire drive you can swing. A short movie can use about 1 Gb per minute. Ouch! And you need a DVD burner to send all the files, if your recipient needs to work on your project. Otherwise, like Photoshop, you can "Export to Movie" to "flatten" the whole thing to one clip and reduce its size, but then it can't be modified.

We learned that Hollywood is now filming with linked film and digital cameras so that the video can be edited daily. When filming is done, the final version has already been edited and is ready for the final film version to be made. Sven added some sound to Premiere, but noted that you would need a sound editing program to really do it well. Then he showed us another program, "Studio Artist" which made an art rendering of one of the video clips with a charcoal drawing filter. While this was rendering each frame of the clip, we drew winners for the raffle. After the rendering finished, Sven ran the final version. All could see the potential for home movies to become (almost) works of art. Thanks, Sven! Sven then drew the rest of the winning tickets for the raffle, and several members picked software, books, T-shirts, key chain light, pens and other booty. Much more next month! The diet Coke, Sprite, Oreos and over-done [but delicious! Ed.] brownies disappeared as we all communed. A very successful evening! The next meeting will be on Monday, December 2 at 7:30 pm in Hodgdon IRC, lecture hall 1.

— TERRY L. HELSER, SECRETARY

NEW APPLE MUG STORE PASSWORDS

The Apple MUG Store has lots of specials for MUG members. To take advantage of these deals, or browse the selection of refurbished Macs and blowout specials, go to <http://www.applemugstore.com>. Password schedule:

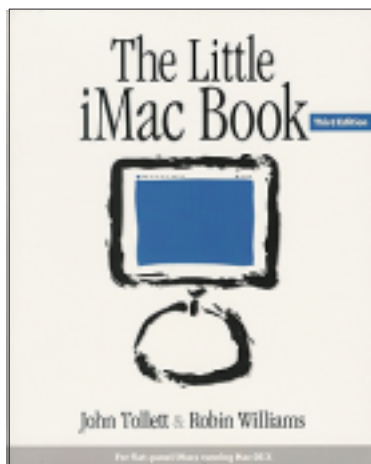
From 9/1/2002 through 12/31/2002:

From 1/1/2003 to 3/31/2003:

You can also order by calling one of the PowerMax at 800-689-8191. Don't forget to mention MUG ONE when ordering. Our group receives special awards points which can be redeemed for merchandise and Apple logo materials.

FOR SALE: POWERMAC 8500 AND EXTRAS

In a continuing effort to reduce his Mac inventory, Bob Matousek is selling his Power Mac 8500 with a 19" Mitsubishi Diamond Pro 900u Monitor, external Zip drive and HP Deskjet 1120c (prints 11x17). Must be purchased as a set. Interested? Call Bob at 607/432-4258.



BOOKS: PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS 2.0 IDEA KIT, PAUSE & EFFECT, LITTLE IMAC BOOK, 3RD ED.

Adobe Photoshop Elements 2.0 Idea Kit, by Lisa Matthews. 124 pp. plus CD-ROM. Peachpit Press, 2002. \$35.00

For under \$100, you can buy Adobe *Photoshop Elements 2.0*, the remarkable, easy-to-use image editing program that no digital camera or scanner owner should be without. For an additional \$35, the *Adobe Photoshop Elements 2.0 Idea Kit* gives you templates and instructions for nineteen fun and useful projects that yield professional-looking results, as well as instructions for fixing images to get them ready for your projects.

All the projects are designed to be done with your own photos, logos or artwork. Arts and crafts fans will enjoy projects for hand-coloring photographs, creating postcards, posters, tee shirts and tote bags, and blending multiple images to make covers for CDs, binders and videos. Designers of web sites will find projects for creating photo galleries, web banners, buttons, navigation bars and large backgrounds for web pages. Projects with more of a business slant include adding photographs to a newsletter, creating a black and white ad for publication, creating photographic backgrounds and sidebars for slides, and making PDF slide shows.

Step by step instructions and illustrations guide the reader through each project. The CD-ROM that accompanies the book includes templates, borders and textures to use with the projects. A few projects also include PageMaker templates.

Before launching one of the book's projects, a visit to the Quick Fixes chapter is in order. There you learn how to choose the correct image size and resolution for your project; crop, straighten and sharpen your image and correct for backlighting; remove red eye and enhance colors, and finally, save your enhancements so you don't overwrite your original image.

Adobe Photoshop Elements 2.0 Idea Kit is ideal for beginner and intermediate users of *Photoshop Elements 2.0*. The project

instructions are easy to follow, and don't assume prior knowledge of graphics software. Highly recommended to buy for yourself or to give as a gift.

— ELSA TRAVISANO

Pause & Effect, by Mark Stephen Meadows. 272 pp. New Riders, 2002. \$45.00

Mark Stephen Meadows has fine-tuned the art of the interactive narrative. *Pause & Effect* gives an introspective look at the roles of readers and authors as they become one through the magic of media and technology. The message of the book boils down to the credo that the artists at Pixar have made famous: "It's the story, stupid!" With a solid story, your viewers are a captive audience, or even one with the story.

Pause & Effect covers the essentials of interactive storytelling and its application to various types of media. It has the layout of a hyper-visual science text book, made for the twenty-first century reader. This book is intended for all areas of specialization in computer art, and applies to anyone who is willing to explore the foundations of storytelling. It is highly detailed in both imagery and content, and can easily prove to be rather confusing. Make sure that you are paying close attention to detail when you read it.

Meadows declares that perspective is the base of a narrative. Essentially, to go from one place to another, you have to know where you're going in order to get there. Clues in the narrative are essential so the reader knows where his place is in the context of a story. These clues allow greater levels of exploration in the areas of design and imagery.

The book is geared toward the mind of an artist, and requires a great deal of visualization. This book is also directed toward writers. As a computer artist, I found this to be an excellent

— continued on page 4

– Books, continued from page 3

resource for my work. I'm sure that most writers would agree. Future storytellers of the world, this book should be in your resource library.

–JAKE RICHTSMEIER

The Little iMac Book, 3rd edition, by John Tollett and Robin Williams. 444 pp. Peachpit Press, 2002. \$21.99

The Little iMac Book should come in the box with every new iMac sold. Beloved Mac author Robin Williams' best-seller has helped countless new iMac users learn their way around their sometimes marvelous, sometimes mystifying Macs. The second edition of the book, issued in 2000, is still the appropriate choice for users of older iMacs running OS 9. This third edition has been completely revised, and is tailored for users of the brand new flat panel iMacs running OS X.

The Little Mac Book, 3rd edition assumes that the reader is either a newcomer to OS X or a complete computer neophyte. Williams and co-author John Tollett explain each step you need to take to get up and running, starting with how to turn the computer on (not as obvious as you'd think), how to choose an internet service provider and connect to the internet, and how to fill out the initial setup screens.

Once you have your iMac configured, *The Little iMac Book* introduces menus, using the mouse, and the desktop. This is the best basic orientation to OS X that I've seen anywhere, and would be very helpful to anyone getting started with the latest Mac operating system.

The next section, "Things to Do with Your iMac," covers the applications that are included with the flat panel iMacs. Most of the focus is on using AppleWorks for word processing, painting, drawing, and creating databases, spreadsheets and slide show presentations, but sending and receiving faxes using FAXstf X, customizing System Preferences and copying files to and from other disks are also covered.

"The Internet and the World Wide Web" section gives the details about the the Internet that a beginner needs, including an explanation of what a modem does and what the fields in an email are all about. The reader is guided through the process of logging on to a browser, entering a web address, using Google to search for information and, perhaps most importantly, logging off the internet. The last should help reduce the number of appalling first month phone bills received by new internet users with dial-up connections.

"The iMac is Your Digital Hub" delves into all the best reasons for owning an up-to-date iMac, including iPhoto (lots of good information on iPhoto), iTunes, iMovie, Mail, Address Book and the QuickTime Player. The book went to press before OS X 10.2 Jaguar was issued, so readers should ignore references to the no-longer-available iTools. One hopes that .Mac, iChat, iSync and other Jaguar features will be covered in a future update.

The final section, "More about Your iMac," goes into detail on somewhat more advanced topics including backing up your work, using Sherlock, figuring out what ports are, and choosing and using peripherals and hubs. Relaunching the Finder, Force Quit and other basic troubleshooting techniques are covered, as is the wonderful world of creating and using aliases.

The book's plentiful screen shots and photographs, liberally annotated with circles, arrows and explanations, are perfect for beginners and for readers who can get overwhelmed by too much information.

The Little iMac Book, 3rd edition, is essential reading for all beginning users with flat panel iMacs, and is highly recommended for those migrating from older Macs.

– ELSA TRAVISANO

PEACHPIT GROUP BOOK ORDER – DEC. 2

We're assembling a group book order from Peachpit Press. If we reach the minimum order by our meeting on Dec. 2, we anticipate receiving the books in time for the holidays. All Peachpit books, including Adobe and Macromedia Press titles, will be available for 40% off list price, plus tax and 50¢ per book shipping if we order at least 11 books. Available titles include the Little Mac Book and the Macintosh Bible.

To choose your books, browse the Peachpit website at <http://www.peachpit.com> or look through your latest Peachpit catalog. John Maas will bring spare catalogs to the December meeting. Be sure to take advantage of these terrific discounts.

LIBRARY ADDS DONATIONS FROM PEACHPIT, NEW RIDERS, O'REILLY

The three top publishers of Macintosh books - Peachpit Press, O'Reilly and New Riders - regularly support MUG ONE with donations for our library and for door prizes.

Recently donated titles for the library include:

The Little iMac Book, third edition - Peachpit

Macintosh Digital Hub - Peachpit

The Little Digital Camera Book - Peachpit

Adobe Photoshop Elements 2.0 Idea Kit - Peachpit

iPhoto 1.1 for Mac OS X: VQS Guide - Peachpit

Mac OS X Disaster Relief - Peachpit

Mac OS X: the Missing Manual - O'Reilly

iPhoto: the Missing Manual - O'Reilly

Photoshop 7 Artistry - New Riders

Photoshop 7 Down & Dirty Tricks - New Riders

These books will be available for MUG ONE members to borrow as soon as they have been cataloged.

DISCOUNTS FOR USER GROUP MEMBERS

NAPP User Group Discount

Join the National Association of Photoshop Professionals (NAPP), the world's leading resource for Adobe Photoshop training, news and education, for the special MUG price of \$79.00 (normally \$99.00) and you'll get the special 32-page NAPP publication on Photoshop 7 and its features. Plus you'll receive "The Best of Photoshop User-the Fourth Year," a 60-minute video highlighting the best of Photoshop User magazine valued at \$69.95.

NAPP membership benefits include a subscription to the highly acclaimed Photoshop User magazine (8 issues); content filled members-only Web site with online help desk, product discounts, monthly newsletters and discounts on the best Photoshop books, videos and seminars on the planet.

Please enter discount code *** when signing up online or mention the code when joining by phone. For more information visit: <http://www.photoshopuser.com>

This offer may not be combined with any other discounts and is valid for NEW members only.

This is an ongoing offer with no expiration date.

Audible.com

Listen To The New York Times Every Morning

Audible, the source for great audio information and entertainment, brings you over 20,000 great audio programs. You simply download them and listen on your computer, MP3 player, Pocket PC, iPod or on CDs you burn yourself.

Listen to the best audiobooks from top authors like Tom Clancy and Stephen King. Or listen to audio editions of Macworld, The Wall Street Journal or The New York Times.

Join Audible now and you'll get A FREE one-month subscription to the audio version of The New York Times PLUS 3 bonus gifts:

- 10 FREE blank CDs-burn and listen to Audible programs on any CD player.
- A FREE subscription to the audio version of Macworld.
- Six FREE issues of Macworld magazine--start or extend your subscription.

You'll always save up to 80% off the retail prices of most audiobooks on CD or cassette.

To start saving money on the very best audio downloads, go to:

This is an ongoing offer with no expiration date.

Recosoft Corporation User Group Special

Recosoft Corporation is offering VINC v1.2, its integrated disk navigation, file viewing and conversion utility, to user group members for \$39 (a \$10 discount off the regular price).

VINC allows one to view and convert MS Word, AppleWorks, RTF, PNG, JPEG, Photoshop etc. files and supports English, Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Central European, Western European, and Cyrillic language documents and word processing formats.

VINC solves common document exchange problems encountered as a result of cross platform environments, Intranets, and the Internet. Users can quickly view the text of word processing documents and images of graphics files without possessing the original applications the files were created in.

VINC also performs extremely accurate conversions between different word processing document types, graphics files, and e-mail attachments. To take advantage of the special offer, go to: ***

Recosoft Corporation's URL: <http://www.recosoft.com>

Offer expires on March 31, 2003.

MediaSchool

MediaSchool, the online digital training campus, has a special offer for MUG members worldwide. Register for the All-Access Annual Membership by February 12, 2003 and take \$100 off the regular membership fee.

The All-Access Annual Membership provides enrollment in more than 60 seminars currently available—and every new one introduced during your 12-month membership. Enroll in the All-Access Annual Membership and save up to 85% on courses such as: iDVD: Getting Started, 60-Minute Guide to Final Cut Pro, Using Photoshop for Web Graphics and iPhoto.

This membership is normally priced at \$198, but we're offering to MUG members for only \$98.

Enrolling for a one-year membership is fast and easy:

You can call us directly at 888-236-1284. Just have your full name and email account ready. You can also register online.

<http://www.mediaschool.com/> ***

Offer expires 3/31/03.

Mac Design Magazine MUG Offer

Special subscription rate for MUGs. Subscribe to Mac Design for just \$12.00 (normally \$19.95).

Mac Design is the only major graphics magazine that teaches users the ins and outs of fast-paced design. Each issue features the hottest design tips, hidden shortcuts, and step-by-step tutorials for working in today's graphics and multimedia applications. Mac Design also provides readers with the industry news and product reviews they need to stay current.

For more information, visit Mac Design's Web site at

<http://www.macdesignonline.com>

Use discount code *** when signing up online, or mention the code when joining by phone.

This is an ongoing offer with no expiration date.

Newsbreak is the monthly newsletter of MUG ONE
– the Macintosh User Group of Oneonta, NY

Editor: Elsa Travisano

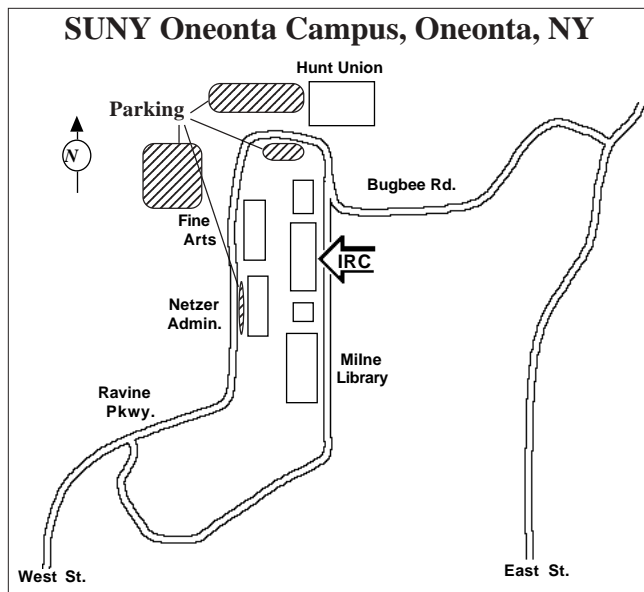
Contact *Newsbreak* at

mugone@stny.rr.com
http://www.mugone.com

Newsbreak
28 State Street
Oneonta, NY 13820

607/433-2569
Fax: 607/433-0909

Newsbreak is an independent publication not affiliated or otherwise associated with or sponsored or sanctioned by Apple Computer, Inc. *Newsbreak* received an award for excellence at the January 2001 User Group University.



NOVEMBER 15, 2002 BOARD MEETING

President and Newsbreak editor Elsa Travisano, Treasurer Joanne Johnston, who arrived first, Secretary Terry L. Helsler, and SIG leader Brian Foley attended the meeting of the MUG ONE board meeting at Ruffino's pizzeria at 6:30 on November 15, 2002. Jo was traveling in Europe, Jake was at the opening of an art show at SUCO, and John was multitasking elsewhere.

Joanne reported that we have 60 new or renewed members at present, with several more we expect to renew soon. She reported our current balance of \$1455.43 before paying for the pizza.

Elsa reported that Apple User Group Program Manager Garr Reynolds has left Apple and that user groups now have a new program manager. In other news, Elsa will not send Newsbreak to non-renewed members after this month, but will keep them on the email list for now. Drop Elsa a note if you just want a PDF copy of Newsbreak, rather than a printed copy. A useful tip if you get a disc stuck in a drive is to restart and hold the mouse button down. That will eject all media from drives. Also we need to ask everyone to sign out of the old Yahoo! list, since everyone that joined is now on the new one.

Terry noted that our usual meeting room on the SUCO campus, IRC Lecture Hall 1, was booked for spring semester. After exploring alternatives, Terry has reserved IRC Lecture Hall 4, located at the opposite end of the building. The room has hookups but no Mac, so Elsa or Terry will have to provide a Powerbook or iBook for meeting presentations.

Pizza arrived. Silence.

We then talked about Brian's efforts with the Beginners SIG (Special Interest Group), which have been productive and well received. More to come. A Yahoo! survey is needed to decide if we have a picnic in June or another time, but first Elsa needs a survey to give the Albany Apple Store manager

guidance on what workshops to offer in their theater. We should go to <http://www.apple.com/retail/theater/> to see what other stores are doing. A good suggestion was to show a "quick tip" at the next meeting on how to navigate through groups.yahoo.com. Joanne and Brian will get together on this.

For the December meeting, with no program chairs in attendance, we talked about who could give 5-10 min. on gift choices. Elsa put out an email request for members to participate. Brian said he could do a bit on "Click Books," a \$40 program with a small download. I had no suggestions, other than to show off the Toyota Matrix I bought today (11/20). Elsa will also put out a call for Peachpit Press book orders, which Joanne will handle.

Elsa announced that she will not be going to San Francisco this January, since Tom has a trip to France. (Way to go, Tom!) So that cuts back on the swag for raffles. I put my inventory at 5 packs of 10 each Apple folders, 13 Apple T-shirts, several luggage tags, pens, dogs, mouse pads, and a "Handpicked Software for OS X" book. A couple suggestions were to give folders to everyone not getting a raffle prize in December, and putting one of the magazines in the raffle later, if they aren't all sold by, say, February.

Meeting ideas included a Back to Basics for April in hopes of good weather and turnout. Elsa can ask Dave Marra to do a return show. All agreed. Audible.com was suggested as a source for books for the iPod, and Amazon.com for CDs. Elsa talked about using iTunes to digitize your entire CD collection to MP3 format, then transferring it to your iPod. Kid's programs are fine for the December meeting since parents and grandparents buy for kids. By this time we were full of eggplant pizza and soda or water, so we adjourned until December 2 at 7:30 pm in IRC 1.

–TERRY L. HELSER, SECRETARY