

The Vexilloid Tabloid

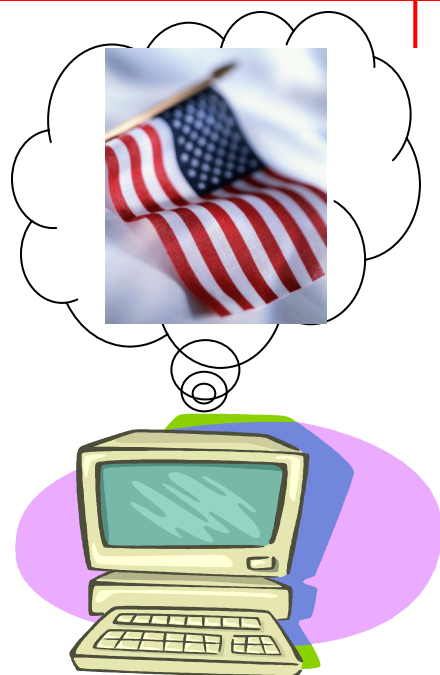
Portland Flag Association

“Free, and Worth Every Penny!”

Issue 25 March 2010

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***The whole inspiration
of our life as a nation
flows out of the wav-
ing folds of this ban-
ner.—Author Unknown***

The Agony and Ecstasy of Choosing a Flag

By John Hood

In 2007 it was decided to design a flag for our Portland Flag Association. Several designs were submitted but way led onto way and nothing came of the idea until last year when we acquired several new members as a result of the Oregon State Flag Contest.

By the October 2009 meeting we had thirty designs (see page two). At that meeting each person chose one design (there were thirteen of us) to be in the semifinals (see page two). The thirteen designs were then submitted to all sixteen active members who were asked to rate each design from one to ten. The results then allowed us to rank the designs by where the members rated each (from 2.93 to 7.2).

From this rank order, the top five were chosen for the ultimate vote. However, the top two were identical except for the reversed colors and there was debate over which way the knot design should go. At the January 2010 meeting, we took an arbitrary vote of those present on those two points and issued ballots for the final five.

As it turned out, there was not a clear mandate (6-5-4-1-0) so it was

decided to have one final vote between the top two. The final results were still very close (9-7), and there were some who called for a revote, but since most of us were fed up with the voting and, since this is a benevolent anarchy forum, we stopped there.

The final design was made by Scott Mainwaring, but David Ferriday suggested reversing the original colors so the blue was above the green. The shape and colors are from the Portland City Flag but modified so it resembles the NAVA Flag—it is distinctive, but related. The argument for the second place design was that the hypocycloid made it more distinctive to Portland and less like the NAVA Flag.



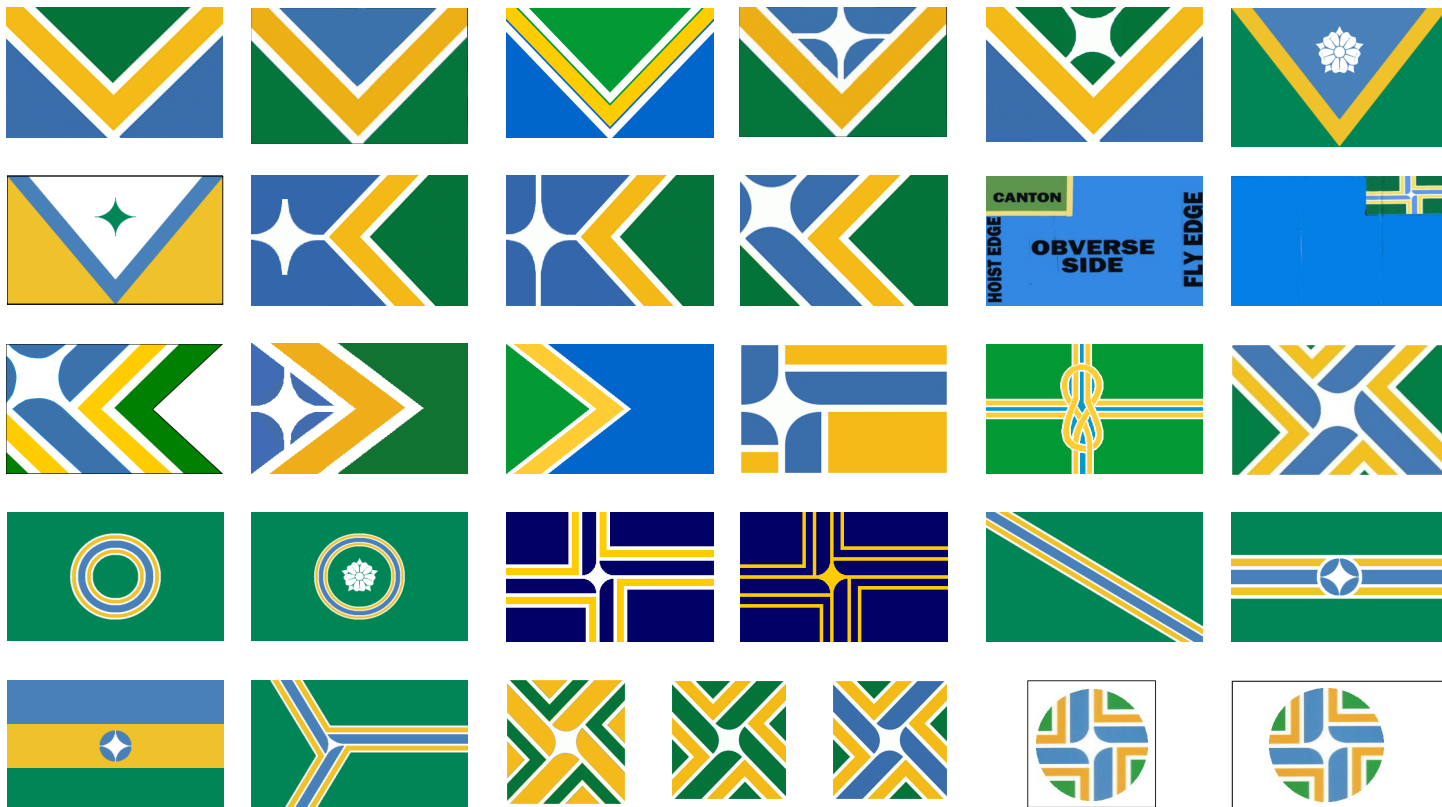
The Portland Flag Association Flag

Now that we have our primary colors, Max Liberman is in the process of designing the ensigns and, being ex-army, Michael Orelove wants military insignia. And so it goes.

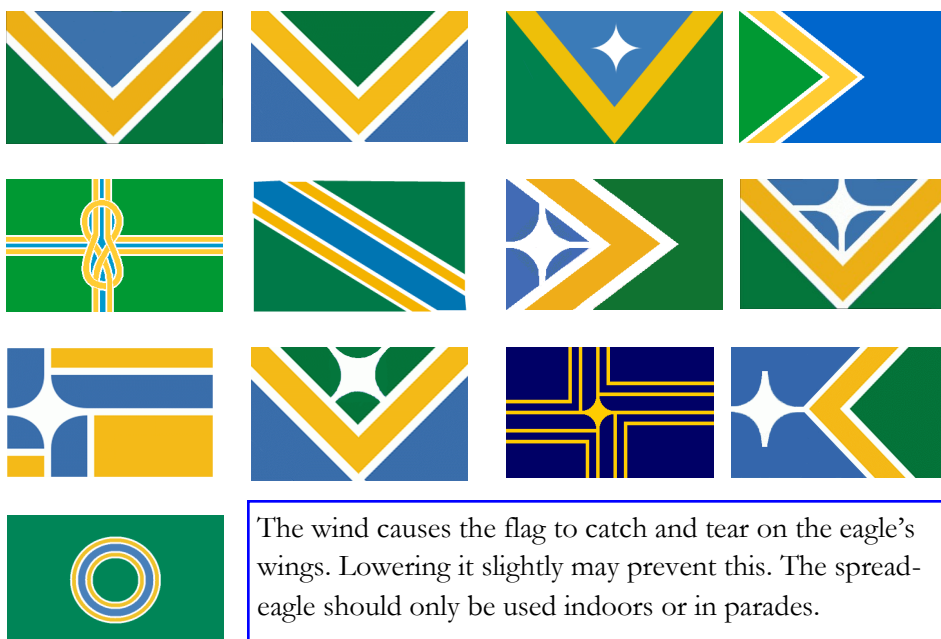
If you wish to compliment the editor, or to contribute in the future, contact John Hood at 503-238-7666 or vivijohn@comcast.net. If you wish to complain, call your mother.

Choices for the Portland Flag Association Flag

These are the thirty designs proposed by the active members of the group. Some modifications were made before choosing the semifinal thirteen. The heraldic rose was replaced with the hypocycloid and the bendy was widened.



Here are the thirteen designs that were chosen from the thirty, in the order they were ultimately ranked after each person rated them. The top five were then voted on, but because of the close similarity of one and two, it was unanimously decided to drop number two and add the bendy to the mix.



The wind causes the flag to catch and tear on the eagle's wings. Lowering it slightly may prevent this. The spread-eagle should only be used indoors or in parades.

Some Flag Related Websites

NAVA <http://www.nava.org>

Flag Institute (United Kingdom)
<http://www.flaginstitute.org>

Flags of the World <http://www.fotw.net>

Elmer's Flag & Banner <http://www.elmersflag.com>

Darwin, Northern Territory (Australia) <http://www.nationalflags.com.au>

Flag Society of Australia <http://www.flagsaustralia.com.au>

Flag Research Center <http://www.flagresearchcenter.com>

Southern African Vexillological Assoc. <http://www.savaflags.org.za>

Michael Orelove is at it Again

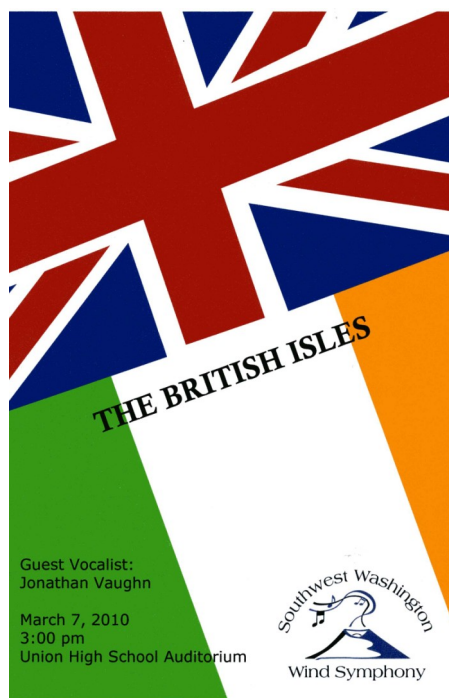
Michael Orelove has 20 year time capsules. He started in 1980 by putting some items in a shoebox and wrote on the top, "Do not open until the year 2000." He has been doing this every year since then and the boxes have grown considerably larger. The 1990 box weighed about 75 pounds and took two people to carry it. He had to wait 20 years to open the first one, and now can open one every year. The 1990 box was just opened and inside was a tabletop flag from the city of Whitehorse in the Yukon Territory of Canada. There also was a 3' x5' Texas state flag in the box.



Michael Orelove opening his 1990 time capsule.

Michael Orelove and Kathleen Forrest went to the Southwest Washington Symphony concert on March 7th in Camas, WN. The title of the program was "The British Isles". The program brochure

had the Union Jack on the cover and small flags throughout the program, including flags of Scotland, England, Northern Ireland, Wales and the Isle of Man.



In addition to opening time capsule and going to symphonies, Michael also sends the editor miscellaneous pictures and jokes from time to time.

Does anyone else see a similarity in these pictures?



Utah Polygamist Prisoners (1895)



Pageant at a Girls Orphanage (1918)

Joke Time

Michael Orelove contributed these:

Teacher: "How did the Founding Fathers decide on our country's flag?"

Student: "I guess they took a pole!"

Teacher: "Jenny, what do you know that has stars and stripes?"

Jenny: "A movie about a zebra!"

How is a flag like Santa Claus?
They both hang out at the pole!

Where is there an American flag that is never lowered, never raised and never saluted?

Support What You Value

Help the Southwest Washington Wind Symphony continue these concerts by making a tax-deductible contribution to the wind symphony's 501c3 nonprofit corporation. Our musicians and administrative staff volunteer their time so that funds are used for music charts, printing, insurance, advertising, recording expenses, and auditorium fees. Your gift may be given to the ushers at the end of the concert or mailed to: SW Washington Wind Symphony; 12706 NE 11th Street; Vancouver WA 98684.

If your employer provides matching funds to support nonprofit corporations, please remember the wind symphony. For more information, see our website: www.swwindsymphony.org.



Northern Ireland



Isle of Man

Beacock Music
Founding sponsor of the Southwest Washington Wind Symphony

Instruments ♪ Rentals ♪ Instruction ♪ Repairs
1420 SE 163rd Ave., Vancouver, WA ph. 360.694.7134
www.beacockmusic.com



Wales



Scotland

March 2010 Flutterings You Need to Know

It was only two months since the last meeting, but there was still enough to talk about so we decided to try the shorter interval for a while longer.

Ted Kaye brought his collection of lapel pin flags from around the world. It is becoming quite extensive through all the FIAV conferences he attends. I know of no one else with a lapel pin from the Islas Malvinas! He also had seconds (flawed copies) of the latest issue of *Raven: Russian Regional Flags* for those who are not currently members of NAVA. In addition, he showed the German vexillological association's journal, *Der Flaggenkurer*, and Alfred Znamierowski's *World Encyclopedia of Flags*, translated into Russian; a gift from Annie Plattoff after they finished work on her *Russian Regional Flags*.

Robert Stephens just got back from a month in Argentina where he found that the sun, which is the device on the national flag, plays an important role in many things Argentinean. Not only is it used in many ways to get people's attention, but in military insignia the size and number of suns denote importance and rank. He also described a "Tea Party" flag made from a Betsy Ross flag with the Roman numeral "II" in the circlet of stars to denote "the second time around" or the "second revolution".

Marshall Goldberg once was a doctor in the Public Health Service and has now acquired that flag. Of



Marshall Goldberg with his Public Health Service Flag.

course it is yellow, from when the yellow flag was used to indicate a quarantine condition, usually yellow fever. He also showed an Italian rainbow peace flag that a friend gave him. It has been very popular in Italy, Austria and Germany in demonstrations against the war in Iraq.



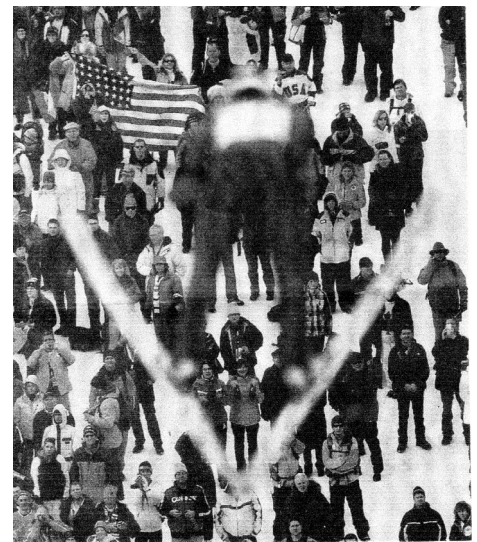
Patrick Genna has spent too much time listening to "Click and Clack: The Tappet Brothers" and has started creating "puzzlers" of his own. Here is what he presented to us:

There are two standard metal flagpoles in front of MacDonald's flying the U.S.A. and the Oregon flags. The first has a spread-eagle finial and the second has a round ball. Recently the U.S.A. flag was replaced by a new flag while the Oregon flag was not. The U.S.A. flag, which is on the eagle-tipped pole, now flies 15-20 inches below the eagle while

the Oregon flag is still at the normal position. The U.S.A. flag is not at half-mast. Question: Why is the U.S.A. flag hoisted 15-20 inches lower than usual?

The answer is elsewhere in this newsletter.

Patrick also had a picture with an anomaly in it and asked us to identify it. It was a photo from the Olympics and showed a ski jumper in mid-flight. Everyone saw the "V" formed by the skis but only a few saw the 48 star U.S. flag in the background. The winners of these contests (John Hood and Ted Kaye) won flags that Patrick had purchased at Goodwill.



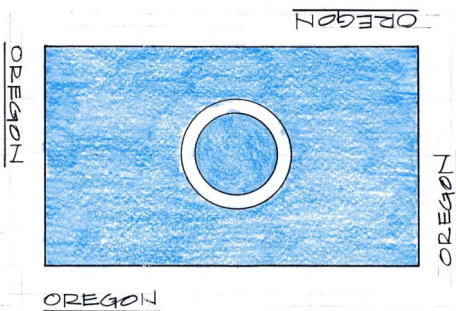
David Ferriday brought a clipping of the obituary of Robert G. Heft, "who is credited with designing and sewing the first 50-star American flag." A few years ago the Editor made a similar statement in this newsletter and Dr. Whitney Smith of the Flag Research Center pointed out that the Institute of Heraldry has complete responsibility for the design. No doubt many people submitted this design since it is the only logical way to arrange

(Continued on page 5)

March 2010 Flutterings

(Continued from page 4)

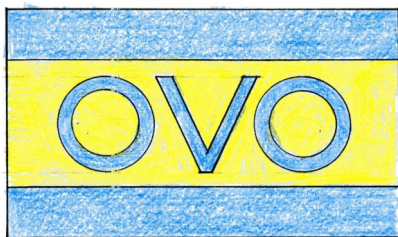
the fifty stars—Heft had the ear of his congressman and better press. David also seems to have too much time on his hands. He has been doodling with fun flag designs, particularly palindromic, and/or usable upside-down. Here are a few of the several he showed us:



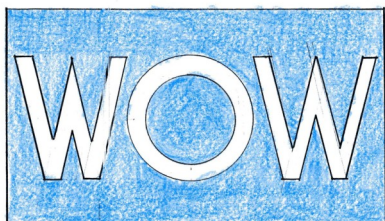
An Oregon flag that cannot be hung wrong.



- AMERICAN VEXILLOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
- AVA GARDNER



- OLD VOLVO OWNERS
- OREGON VEXILLOLOGICAL ORGANIZATION



- WORLD ORGANIZATION OF WOMEN

A dual purpose flag.

John Hood had been entering the “Name That Flag” contest for several years and had never won the random drawing of correct answers. Recently he entered it again and, lo and behold, he won. The free flag he won (The Sámi People) arrived the day after the meeting. As usual, he shared features from the various English speaking publications he receives and internet contacts. He also told about the survey and voting on the PFA Flag (see page one for results).

Flags in the News

In southern Yemen, the separatists are hoping the U.S. will help their movement against the central government.



“We love America. We are not terrorists. We only want our human rights from the regime in the north.”



The first U.S. flag Annin & Co. made had only 29 stars

Alexander Annin began making signal flags for ships in 1820 and, in 1847, he began making the Stars and Stripes with only 29 stars. Annin flags have been included in

every U.S. Presidential inauguration since 1849. They have gone with Cmdr. Peary to the North Pole, with Adm. Byrd to the South Pole and with Neil Armstrong to the moon.

Annin makes 10,000 varieties of flags by their 500 employees in New Jersey, Virginia and Ohio.

Answer to riddle: On the moon, left by the astronauts.

What's that Flag?

We have spent hours bemoaning the fact that many state flags look

alike, even to using them to represent stars in the canton of the U.S. flag. Here are twenty for you to identify that have had the rec-

ognizable words removed. Some do have unique symbols, if they could be seen high on a flag pole, but most are just complex seals.



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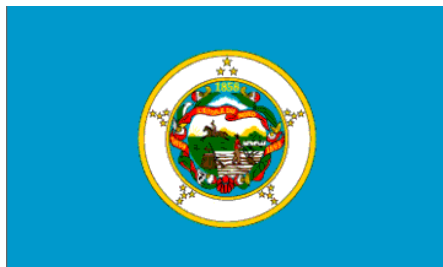
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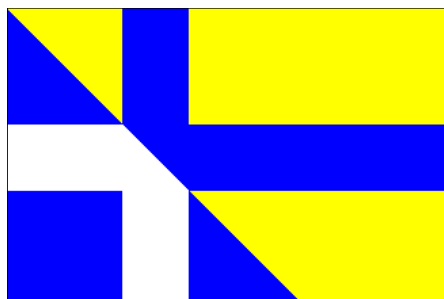
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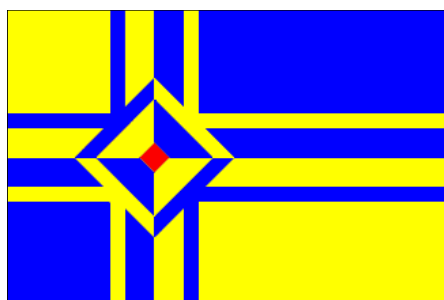
What Was that Flag? Answers to the last quiz

These counterchanged flags all come from The Netherlands. There was not much information on FOTW for most of these villages, nor was there any information about the flags on their web sites.



Linne, LI, Netherlands

Linne is in the South, near Belgium. It used to be a municipality but has recently been incorporated into the municipality of Maasgouw.



Marken, NH, Netherlands

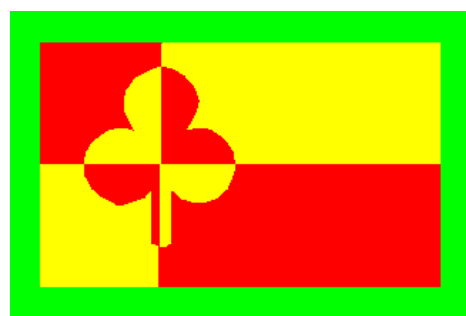
Marken is northwest of Amsterdam and became an island in the 13th century when a storm surge separated it from the mainland. It was reattached by a causeway in 1957 and has become part of Waterland (no association with *Water World*).

The municipality of Beesel has a folkloristic festival every seven years in honor of St. George, thus the dragon on the flag. The wheel

symbolizes the former water-mill. Beesel is located in the South, near Germany.

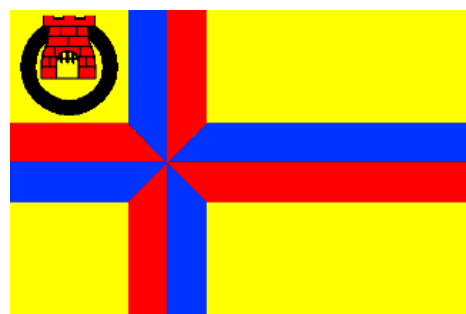


Beesel, LI, Netherlands



Easterein, FR, Netherlands

For its flag, Easterein uses a simplification of the Coat-of-Arms. The quartering represents several noble houses and the clover is for the cattle breeding in the area. The green border represents the dike surrounding the village. It is located in northern Holland.



Eelde, DR, Netherlands

Eelde is in the Northeast and formally was a municipality but is now part of Tynaarlo. This centralization seems to be very prevalent in The Netherlands in recent years.

Women in Our Early Flag History

By Marshall Goldberg

Three strong personalities interacted at a crucial point in our national history to produce our national anthem: A jailed vigilante doctor, Dr. William Beanes; a Washington, D.C. attorney, Francis Scott Key; and an industrious, widowed business woman, Mary Pickersgill of Baltimore. Although the role of Betsy Ross in our flag's development is not nearly as well documented as that of Mary Pickersgill, the following table reveals interesting similarities in these women's lives. The flag enshrined at The Smithsonian Institute was made by Mary Pickersgill.

	<u>Betsy Ross</u>	<u>Mary Pickersgill</u>
Place of Birth:	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
Years:	1752-1836	1776-1857
Family Origin:	Working Class, poor	Small Business People
Occupation:	Upholsterer	Designer and Manufacturer of Flags and Standards
Widowed:	Three times at ages 24, 30, and 65	At age 31
Flag Patron:	"Committee of Three" George Washington, George Ross, Robert Morris, 1776	Major George Armistead, Commander of Ft. McHenry (September 13- 14, 1814--Battle of Baltimore)
Flag Team:	?	With her daughter, two nieces and two African-American servants produced at 30'x42' flag in six weeks
Life Accomplishments:	Stalwart Free (Fighter) Quaker; provided flags and gunpowder pouches to U.S. Government	Philanthropist and founder of a prominent charity for women

May Meeting

The next meeting of the Portland Flag Association will be at 7 p.m., Thursday, May 20, 2010, at David Ferriday's office, 1801 NW Upshur St., room 330, telephone 503-223-9634. This is another new location for us and the date is a week later than usual because David, after volunteering, found that the second Thursday was not good. He also says to bring your cell phone because the building is locked and if you are late, he will come down to let you in. Bring any interesting books, flags, articles or stories to educate us with.

