

Event brings Edison experts to Longacre

Inventor, The Life and Times of Thomas A. Edison, will be presented by Blue Circle as a three-part series in October, in honor of the 125th birthday of the incandescent lamp.

Featuring three of the most prolific authorities on Thomas Edison, the lectures will be held October 1, 8 and 15, 7 p.m., at the Longacre House on Farmington Road in Farmington Hills.

This one-time event will never be duplicated, according to coordinator Brian Golden. William Pretzer, John Bowditch and Paul Israel, three of the most authoritative specialists on the life and inventions of Thomas Edison, have never appeared together.

Topics for each presentation are:

October 1 - William Pretzer, Edison: The Invention of the Man

Learn more about the private life of a very public man, according to a chronological history of Edison's life that details his experiences, the development of Menlo Park and the team of men who comprised the world's first "think tank."

October 8 - John Bowditch, Edison: The Man's Inventions

Explore some of the key inventions created in Edison's Menlo Park laboratory, including the incandescent lamp and the phonograph.

John Bowditch holds a BA in both history and music from Goddard College in Plainfield, Vt. Bowditch has a third-class steam engineer's license in Dearborn. He has served as the Director of the Lowell Museum

in Lowell, Massachusetts, and the Curator of Industry at the Henry Ford Museum for 21 years. His significant contributions include the restoration of the Edison Menlo Park compound at Greenfield Village; a steam engine he designed for the Drake Oil Well in Titusville, Pennsylvania; and various reproduction projects, including reproduction light bulbs he engineered for the Menlo Park project.

October 15 - Paul Israel: Edison: How His Inventions Shaped the World

Gain a new understanding of the impact Edison's inventions had on the world as we know it, which would still be in the dark had he not lived.

Paul Israel holds a Ph.D. from Rutgers University and is Managing Editor of the Book Edition, Thomas A. Edison Papers, Rutgers University, New Brunswick.

A historian of technology in the 19th century, he established himself as the preeminent authority on the life and work of Thomas Edison with the publication of *Edison: A Life of Invention* (1998), winner of the Dexter Prize of the Society for the History of Technology.

In addition to co-editing all four published volumes of *The Papers of Thomas A. Edison* (1989-98) and the first four parts of the selective microfilm edition of Edison's papers (1985-99), he has also co-authored *Edison's Electric Light: Biography of an Invention* (1986) and written a broad study of technological innovation in the telegraph industry, *From Machine Shop to Industrial Laboratory: Telegraphy and the Changing Context of American Invention, 1830-1920* (1992).

For information about the series, contact Brian Golden at (248) 701-8112 or bgolden@greatid.com, or check out the Blue Circle Web site, www.bluecircle.cc



Angela Dodd has turned a flair for decorating into a home-based business.

Woman turns decorating bug into business

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

Good decor is more than just buying a new piece of furniture, according to Angela Dodd of Farmington Hills.

Dodd completed a professional Decor Designer Training Program on the East Coast earlier this year, including the study of advanced design concepts, and the latest decorator styles and trends with internationally acclaimed designer and author Mary Gilliat.

Dodd now runs her own Decor and You franchise out of an office in Southfield.

"We pride ourselves working individually," said Dodd. "Our analogy is buying a piece of furniture is not decorating," she said. "There has to be blending and coordination of your decor. We try to make it simple for clients."

Dodd lives in Farmington Hills with her husband Jerone and their daughter Zoe, 4.

The designer started in the interior decorating business rather unexpectedly.

She spent the past 16 years with automotive supplier Delphi and among her last duties was being on the interior decorating team for the company's new facility in Troy.

"The experience sparked the decorating bug in her. 'That whetted my appetite,' she said.

Dodd decided to be her own boss and opened her own franchise business in the middle of June.

"My role here is two-fold, decorating and bringing people into the business," Dodd said. "It's an opportunity for a home-based business," she said.

So far, her young business is moving along well. Dodd is offering clients her skills in

designing everything from great rooms to kitchens to dining rooms.

"I have the capacity for commercial as well. The products we carry are very high-end quality," the designer said. "We're not trendy - things that will come and go. We focus on variety, too."

She said the company's motto is, "No job is too small - you just have to start."

"We allow the client to decorate in phases. You don't have to have a quarter million dollars to redecorate. Small things can make a huge difference."

When asked what makes good decor, Dodd said color. "The use of color makes all the difference in the world."

She also said balance is important using different textures and patterns. "You have to start with priorities of what colors, what mood do you want to create,

how does the room function. Is it going to be for kids, pets or elderly people," Dodd said.

Based on those preliminary ideas, she said she meets with the client and gives them plans that might suit their goals.

"We come back and design a decor for them. We come up with three options and ask what do you think?"

Dodd said she also can put all the elements of a room together, including picking out the furniture.

"I'm very happy with the exposure and client base here," she said.

"We help people who just don't know where to start," she said. "A lot of people are intimidated (to hire a designer), but no job is too small to get into."

Call Dodd at Decor and You at (248) 358-6916. spacepoehome.com.net | (248) 477-5450

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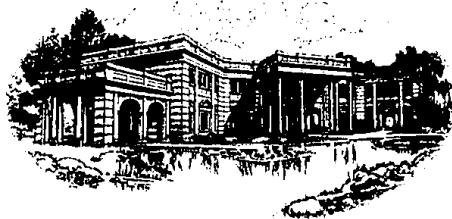
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