



Dear Member of the Society of Israel Philatelists,

This is the first in a series of monthly e-newsletters we intend to send out in an effort to regularly update as many of you as possible about events relating to the Society. We welcome feedback from you about this effort, or about any Society-related issues.

Change at the Top: Ed Kroft has succeeded Howard Rotterdam as SIP President. Please see Ed's message, which is attached.

Your Vote Counts! SIP Constitution and Elections: The next issue of The Israel Philatelist contains important information about an update to our Constitution, including changes in the governance of the organization. You are encouraged to read it carefully. The issue also will contain information on our upcoming election for officers and Board members, with biographies of those running for these positions. Please review the information, and please VOTE using the card that will be in that issue of the IP.

Advertising Manager Wanted: Here's a great opportunity to help your fellow philatelists! We are in need of someone to act as advertising manager for the SIP. This would be a great service to the Society, because advertising revenues are an important source of support for us. If you have an interest in taking this on, please contact Ed Kroft at ed.kroft@blakes.com

Upcoming Annual Meeting: Does Florida in the winter sound nice? It could be even better if you combine your visit with a chance to meet old friends, make new ones, and expand your knowledge of Holyland philately. The annual meeting of the SIP will take place during the Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition in Sarasota, Florida. Dates are February 7-9, 2014. Mark your calendars and please plan to attend!

We Need Exhibitors: Stamp shows are a wonderful opportunity to display the fruits of your labor and to share your expertise and experience with others. PLEASE consider exhibiting Holyland material in Sarasota. The deadline is December 1, 2013. Information is available at <http://www.sarasotastampclub.com/sarasotastampexhibition.htm>

Endowment Fund: At the moment, neither the Gates Foundation nor Warren Buffett has offered to underwrite SIP costs. In their place, you can help! Your support of the Endowment Fund can make an enormous difference to the SIP as we move to upgrade our website, continue electronic indexing of the IP, and work to make increasing amounts of content related to Holyland philately available on-line. If you are financially able, please consider a contribution beyond the standard yearly dues. Or, if you are already a Life Member, please consider an additional contribution at <http://www.israelstamps.com/subcat-endowment.php>

Unleash Your Inner Hemingway: We are always in need of articles for The Israel Philatelist. If you have some ideas about areas of interest to you, even for a short article, please contact the IP Editor, Don Chafetz, at Sipeditor@gmail.com

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Officers and Chairpersons

Society of Israel Philatelists

Message from the SIP President

Hi everyone-

Our friend Howard Rotterdam has resigned from his post as President of the SIP for personal reasons. We all wish him the very best and hope he will continue to work with us in the society. Given Howard's resignation, I, as first vice president, have assumed the role of the presidency. At the urging of others, I have also agreed to run for president of the SIP at our convention in Sarasota in February 2014 and to then serve the three year term as president.

I cannot do this alone. I need your help to do the jobs we do as volunteers in the society and to get others enthused and involved. We need to do many things. Each of us can do something small and it will count. Vicki Galecki, Don Chafetz, Howard Chapman, Stuart Freiman and Mike Bass have openly pledged their support. Howard Rotterdam will be spearheading the organization of our convention in Sarasota in February 2014. I will be an apprentice judge there. I hope you might attend at some point and possibly even exhibit one frame or perhaps just show up and meet colleagues with like interests. Overall I ask all of you to volunteer to do some small task for the society in the year to come – it will be appreciated!!!

We also will be trying to raise funds for the Endowment Fund and any amount is appreciated from you and others – especially those whom you know benefit from the publications of our Society. We love **The Israel Philatelist** under the remarkable editorship of Don Chafetz. Our Educational Fund proudly produces monographs written by generous volunteers who unselfishly share their knowledge.

You are our ambassadors in the philatelic world, and in the Jewish and non Jewish communities so please spread the word about our society. Yet in this world of social networking and technology, the society wants to stop being a well hidden secret. To add new "friends" I would like to get the Society featured on Facebook and LinkedIn. I will also circulate a short e-mail burst to the membership from time to time to let those with internet access know what is going on. **The Israel Philatelist** will still feature a president's column for those without computer savvy.

However, all these efforts take time and dedication. For example, Don Chafetz, Vicki Galecki, Mike Bass and Jean-Paul Danon have been busy with trying to link the SIP with other Holy Land societies and creation of a permanent collection of SIP literature in electronic form. It is and will be a magnificent tool for collectors. Some of us contribute articles or letters to **The Israel Philatelist**. No contribution is too small or too big!!

Zach Simmons is working on stamp materials for children and his idea and handiwork is to be encouraged.

We are beginning discussions with the APS about locating the SIP permanently in Pennsylvania at APS headquarters with a part time assistant. Until that is done, Vicki has agreed to help us out as have others. We are blessed to have good colleagues who care about the SIP but we need more. Our society wants to remain fiscally responsible with its budget and our members want increases in membership dues kept to a minimum without a significant compromise to the benefits derived from the society.

After many years we have finally created a new and modern constitution for the SIP. Howard Chapman is to be congratulated for spearheading the project and it will guide us once approved by the membership in February.

I urge you to e-mail or call me with suggestions. I will also try to reach out to you and others for support, assistance and inspiration. This is my second go around as President and I know from 10 years ago that the job takes a lot of time and dedication. A handful of people cannot do it all.

I look forward to working cooperatively and effectively with all members of the society.

I love this society and I am passionate about it being successful. If you each equally spread your passion about the society and its bright future then the good health of the SIP will continue for years to come.

Best regards,

Ed Kroft