

## 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