**President’s Message from Ed Kroft**

Hello everyone. It has been a brutal winter for many of our Society members. I hope you are keeping well and perhaps you have been able to enjoy our great hobby. Some of our members were able to make the trek to Sarasota for the exhibition and the Annual General Meeting. We had a wonderful time together on Friday night and throughout the Convention. My congratulations and thanks to Howard Rotterdam and Vicki Galecki for their work in organizing and running the Convention activities. Kudos to Arthur Harris and Howard Rotterdam for their respective talks on revenues and postal dues/forced registration. Felicitations go to the exhibitors on Holy Land subjects: Bob Pildes, Mike Bass, Nathan Zankel, Dick Herman, Howard Chapman, Howard Rotterdam and Jean-Paul Danon.

2014 promises to be an exciting year for the Society. Digitization of our journals continues. Soon members will be able to research and print information from all older issues of the Israel Philatelist. Materials are still on sale from our Educational Fund which is always looking for new manuscripts to publish.  Our Society Newsletter, spearheaded by Zach Simmons, will be issued mostly every month to advise members of new developments in the Society. Please keep us advised of your philatelic pursuits. I understand that some of our members will be exhibiting in March 2014 in Cleveland. The Society continues to explore an expanded relationship with the American Philatelic Society. I hope that more of you continue to offer help to the Society as many of you already have. Keep spreading the word about the Society and its benefits!

**However, I must advise you of a resolution passed at the 2014 Annual General Meeting. The Israel Philatelist will only be available 4 times a year in digital form beginning in 2015 unless members wish to also pay for receipt of a printed copy. This new policy will extend to all classes of members including Life Members of the Society. The Society values all membership but recognizes that increased costs of mailing do not make it economic to mail journals to all members without raising dues That is something we will only do for members who want printed copies of the Israel Philatelist.  Dues will be $30 per year, and will include an on-line version of The Israel Philatelist for all members worldwide.  For those who also wish to receive a hard copy mailed to them,   annual dues will be as follows:  $50 per year for US addresses, $55 per year for Canadian addresses, and $60 per year rest of world.  Life members will be entitled to access to the on-line version of The Israel Philatelist at no charge.  For life members who also wish to have a hard copy mailed to them, the cost per year will be $20 in the US, $25 in Canada, and $30 in rest of world, representing the difference in annual dues for all members between on-line version of the Israel Philatelist only vs. receiving hard copy of the journal.**

Future SIP  Annual General Meetings are scheduled for 2015 and 2016. Please consider exhibiting at the events or at other local shows at or near where you live!  The Society wishes to also encourage new exhibitors . As such, there will be awards to encourage novices and awards in various areas. We hope to see you at:

2015:   NOJEX over Memorial Day Weekend:

2016:  New York City in conjunction with World Stamp Show May 28-June 4.

We are also considering meeting at Chicagopex in Chicago in November 2017.

In closing I wish to thank all of you for remaining members of the Society and for working to make our Society strong. I look forward to hearing from you. Please feel free to email, call or write. Remember –it is our Society- let us continue to show our pride in our hobby and the Society’s current work and interest in its future endeavours.

Regards,

Ed