



E-Newsletter: April 2015 - May 2015



The SIP Has A New Home and New Executive Assistant: We are thrilled to announce that the SIP now has an administrative office in the American Philatelic Society building in Bellefonte. We extend a heartfelt welcome to our new Executive Assistant, **Becky Dean**, who will be in the office on Tuesday, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. She may be reached at 814-933-3803, extension 212, or via e-mail at on Sunday, May 31st and look forward to meeting some of the Society's

Thank you Vicki Galecki: Our longtime executive assistant, **Vicki Galecki**, is stepping down after 10 years. We are deeply indebted to her for her untiring efforts on behalf of the Society. She writes: "It's been my privilege to assist the SIP in all the communication, administrative, organizational, etc., matters over the last 10 years. I got involved with the Society as **Michael Bass**' Executive Assistant shortly after he became President. My pre-conceived notion of "stamp collectors" went right out the window when I met and worked with the officers, committee chairs and awesome members of the Society beginning at the Washington 2006 Stamp Show. I'm proud of the innovative work accomplished: 1.) the updating of all systems/procedures; 2.) creating the membership database; 3.) digitizing books and monographs and instituting the Education Fund Bookstore; 4.) digitizing 60+ years of journals to create the digital library archive; and, 5.) working with **Don Chafetz** to get a new, improved, user-friendly and informative website into our philatelic

world...I feel good about leaving the Executive Assistant job of the SIP in Becky's very capable hands....I treasure the friendships and relationships forged through the SIP. Special thanks to my friend, **Don Chafetz**, the heart of the Society, to **David Kaplin** for taking over the Education Fund duties and expanding our offerings, and to **Michael Bass** for bringing me into the world of the SIP.

SIP Annual General Meeting: This will take place at NOJEX this year at 9 am on Sunday May 31. Come and make your voice heard!

Other Events of Note at NOJEX 2015:

Friday 5/29/2015

- 6:30 pm: Services
- 7:30 pm: Society Banquet

Sunday 5/31/2015

- 10:00 am – 12 noon: Lectures
 - Israel 1948 - 1956: The Layout of the Printers Sheets and Stamp Quantities - **Yacov Tsachor**
 - Overview of Ottoman Empire - Palestine Postal History - Palestine Study Group

Also, make sure to visit the many exhibits by SIP members.

<http://www.nojex.org/Exhibits.htm>

Looking Ahead 2016.... The 2016 SIP Annual General meeting will take place in New York City in conjunction with the World Stamp Show May 28 – June 4. For those considering exhibiting, the application form deadline is August 15, 2015. Please see attached instruction form and applications or go to: [NY2016 exhibitapplication](#)

Member Achievements: SIP President **Ed Kroft** spoke on "Palestine Aerophilately" at the meeting of the Philatelic Specialists Society of Canada on April 15, 2015. He also gave a talk on April 14 to the CAFIP Stamp Club on "Postal Rates, Postmarks and Stamps of 3 Governments During 1948 – British Mandate, Minhelet Ha'am and State of Israel," and will present Part 2 of this talk on May 12. Ed will be a judge at PIPEX in Portland on May 8 and at the upcoming NOJEX meeting.

Check Out The Israel Philatelist: All members can access issues of the IP from April 2013 through the Winter issue of 2015, and can

search back issues from 1949 to 1987. We expect that all issues of the IP will be searchable in our data base in the near future, thanks to the hard work of IP Editor **Don Chafetz**, **Vicki Galecki** and former SIP President **Mike Bass**.

Visit our Website: It's Better Than Ever! There is a wonderful video of SIP life member **Bob Pildes** speaking about his international award-winning exhibit of the Do'Ar Ivri issue to the Collector's Club of New York on February 18, 2015. This is available to all SIP members. Simply log into the website, go to the Members Only section, and view #121 under Slide Shows. There are a variety of other excellent slide shows you may wish to view as well, all available to members. You are encouraged to explore the website at www.israelstamps.com and let us know what you think. Interested in helping? Do you have suggestions? We welcome your participation. Just contact any of the SIP officers or Board Members. Their contact information is on the website.

Many Thanks to Our Volunteers: The SIP remains an organization dependent on the efforts of YOU, the members. We are grateful for the many individuals who have donated their time and expertise. We encourage others to consider doing the same. Whatever your availability and capacity to help, you will be received enthusiastically. To discuss opportunities, please contact our President, **Ed Kroft** (ed.kroft@blakes.com)

Support Your Society: Please show your support for the SIP by participating in the 2015 Fundraising Campaign. Go to the fund Raising page on the SIP website (www.israelstamps.com) and click on the Archive Library Fund, Endowment Fund, or Education Fund. Your contributions to the Archive Library Fund campaign are needed to finish the Digital Web Archive Library project which is our most urgent need at this time. For the long-term support of the Society, please consider a gift to the Endowment Fund or the Education Fund.

Share Your Philatelic Knowledge: Consider writing an article for The Israel Philatelist. **Editor Don Chafetz**, would love to hear from you, and can provide you with guidance and feedback:
sipeditor@gmail.com

Expand Your Personal Library: There are many discounted or even free items available through the Educational Fund Bookstore, ranging from classic material on Palestine and Forerunners to recent publications on the Holocaust, Hatemail, and Triangular Military Handstamps. See what's available at the SIP website: www.IsraelStamps.com/bookstore/. A list of publications also appears at the back of The Israel Philatelist.

Visit the SIP Library: The library is open for use by all SIP members, who are encouraged to make use of this fantastic resource. The catalog is on the SIP website, in the "members only" section. The listings are organized by topics. Within each topic, the user can sort the items by author, title, year, or publisher by clicking on the column heading. All new SIP publications will automatically be sent to the library. All members are asked to send recommendations for new acquisitions, new policies and new ideas to librarian David Dubin (ddubin@israelstamps.com).

Write Us! We Welcome News and Information: We'll be glad to include achievements of SIP members, announcements related to the SIP, and information about local club meetings. Also, if you have written an article about your collection or philatelic activities for a non-philatelic publication such as a community paper or newsletter, or if you have spoken about Holyland philately at a local event, please let us know so we can share the news. Please send information to **Zach Simmons** at zsimmons101@gmail.com

Dr. Zach Simmons, editor
Zsimmons101@gmail.com