



Society of Israel Philatelists, Inc.

E-Newsletter: December 2013



Election Day Has Not Yet Passed! The current issue of The Israel Philatelist contains the new proposed Constitution and By-Laws, as well as descriptions of candidates for SIP offices. We encourage you to review this information and to VOTE using the card that is enclosed in that issue of the IP. You can mail it in, or scan it and e-mail as an attachment to Howard Chapman: stampsareme@aol.com

A Presidential Message Without the Politics: SIP President Ed Kroft's latest message is attached, and will also appear in *The Israel Philatelist*.

Join us in Sarasota for the Annual Meeting: The annual meeting of the SIP will take place during the Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition in Sarasota, Florida, February 7-9, 2014. This is a wonderful chance to see old friends, meet new ones, and share your enthusiasm for Holyland Philately. Information is available at <http://www.sarasotastampclub.com/sarasotastampexhibition.htm> Mark your calendars and please plan to attend.

Search the IP Archives and Provide Feedback: Don Chafetz, the talented editor of *The Israel Philatelist*, is looking for feedback on the IP's searchable on-line database. Go to the Society's home page at www.israelstamps.com and then click on IP Archives Library. You'll then see a link labeled "Journal Search" at the top of this web page.

Click on it and give it a try. Then, please provide Don with some feedback at sipeditor@gmail.com

Become a Life Member! By doing so, you'll be supporting the Society in a meaningful way. And, after paying the necessary fee, you'll receive Society benefits and *The Israel Philatelist* for Life. Such a deal, as my grandmother would say! Details are available on the SIP website (www.israelstamps.com) or by contacting the chair of our Membership Committee, Ben Wallace, at bwallace@israelstamps.com

We Need Your Help – Really! There are many ways to share your talents and energies with the SIP:

--Join A Committee: Contact Ed Kroft, our President, at ed.kroft@blakes.com

--Share your technological savvy: We are in need of members to help with our website, help us make effective use of social media, and to assist with the development of web-based seminars. The future of our Society and of philately in general will depend on effective use of technology to extend our worldwide reach.

--Put your thoughts on paper (or on a computer screen): 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

SIP on the World Stage: We may not have quite the recognition or clout of the UN or NATO, but the articles in this newsletter make it clear that our organization is international in scope. In addition to news from Canada and Argentina, you may recall that last month we featured news from South Africa. Philately truly is an international language.

Achievements of Note

--A wonderful article appeared in *The Canadian Jewish News* on November 28 about our SIP President **Ed Kroft** under the banner: "Postal historian wins SIP award." The full article is attached for your reading pleasure.

--**Michael Madesker**, a past President of the SIP and internationally recognized philatelist, was recently honored by being invited to become a member of McMaster University's Alumni Gallery. According to the University, this honor is bestowed on McMaster graduates "who have made significant contributions to society on a local, national or global level." Michael is a fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society London and The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. He is also a signatory of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, a recipient of the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal and the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada's President Medal for Outstanding Philatelic Achievement. Congratulations on another in a long string of well-deserved awards!

--SIP member **Roberto Brzostowski** of Buenos Aires, Argentina, and the CEFAI (Centro Filatelico Argentino Israeli) were featured in Mundo Israelita, an Argentine Jewish weekly, on October 25.

--The November/December 2013 issue of The Canadian Philatelist features an article by SIP President **Ed Kroft** titled "Canada-Israel Postal History and Rates: 1948-1952."

Educate Yourself and Others You are never too old or too smart to learn something! The SIP has many publications available through the Education Fund. Consider purchasing an item. Or, you can share your knowledge with the rest of us by submitting a manuscript.

I'm an Amateur. You Can Improve Our Newsletter! This Newsletter is a new undertaking. If you have news you wish to share with the membership via the Newsletter, or you have suggestions for how we can improve it, please contact Zach Simmons at zsimmons101@gmail.com

THANK YOU!

Over the last few weeks since taking office, I have been so pleased and touched to receive calls or emails from members asking how they could assist our Society. That's right- OUR SOCIETY. WE all can do something- Show people how proud you are to be collectors of Holyland material and members of our Society. Show your friends some of your collection. Consider writing for the Israel Philatelist- YOUR journal. Please donate whatever you can to YOUR Society funds . Try a small exhibit or talk at a local stamp show or club. Attend the Society convention in Sarasota in early February if you are able. Please keep your emails and communications coming- the Society needs your feedback, ideas, criticisms and your passion.

NEWSLETTER AND EMAIL

Our monthly newsletter spearheaded by Zach Simmons can keep you informed about Society happenings- but the Society can only tell you our members about what we know or learn from you!

We want to praise our members and tell everyone about talks or events they can attend. We want to learn about or admire the exhibits which our members have assembled. Please send me a note, call or write to me by email or by post! The Society wants your email addresses so you can receive our newsletter and you can take advantage of our Website and its research capabilities! Sadly the Society also wants to hear about members who are ill or who have passed away. Many of our members want and need to strengthen the community in our Society by sharing information about our members with our members. We all become better collectors if we share information, experience and passion about what we love to collect. It is hard to find people with like interests.

RESEARCH, BOOKS and KNOWLEDGE

The late fall and winter are ideal times to pay attention to our collections. If you have questions about research, consider contacting one of the Holyland dealers or consider contacting a member of the Society's Research Committee. Perhaps you need to borrow a book from the Society's library? Do you wish to buy one of many books from the Educational Fund? There is a sale! Hurry! Can you really pass up a bargain?

WEBSITE

I am still looking for people who can volunteer to assist us in upgrading our website . If your children, grandkids or nephews or nieces can ably help please let me know.

GRANT OR ENDOWMENT FUNDING

I am also hoping that one or more of you are aware of organizations which provide funding for various projects by way of grant or endowment . Perhaps the Society can apply to such organizations to obtain funding for some of Society projects.

VOTE -AGM 2014

In the last edition of the journal there was a card to complete regarding the annual general meeting to be held at Sarasota in early February and your desire to receive a paper or electronic copy of the journal in future. Perhaps you missed seeing the card. If so please retrieve it and vote ! There is still time!

PLEASE KEEP IN TOUCH

Hope to hear from you soon. Perhaps I will see you at a stamp show, a club meeting or our convention in 2014.

Good health to all of you and keep well. Happy 2014 !! Ed