



Society of Israel Philatelists, Inc.

Minutes

WELCOME

The Society of Israel Philatelists held its Annual General Meeting on Sunday, May 31, 2015 at NOJEX in the Emerald Room of the Empire Meadowlands Clarion Hotel. President Ed Kroft presided over the meeting. Those present were Ed Kroft, Michael Bass, Bob Pildes, Zach Simmons, Howard Chapman, Sid Morginstin, Gene Eisen, Joel Weiner, Steve Olson, David Ball, Sam Adicoff, Albert Kahn, Stuart Freiman, Brian Gruzd, David Kaplan, Arthur Biderman, Howard Rotterdam, Martin Borsky, Zvi Aloni, Yakov Tsachor and Becky Dean.

Ed Kroft welcomed all attendees, called the meeting to order, and announced the quorum with sixteen members currently in the meeting. He asked that all rise as he read the listing of deceased members' tribute. Howard Chapman made a motion to dispense reading all individual Executive and Committee reports during the meeting, Sid Morginstin seconded it and it passed unanimously.

NEW ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/THANKS

Ed began with his President's report by introducing and welcoming Becky Dean, new executive assistant for the SIP. He also took a moment to pay tribute to Vicki Galecki for her years of hard work and dedication to the Society, and her volunteer work as she will continue to remain active in the society. We offer Vicki our deepest thanks.

Ed continued with heartfelt thanks to all of the SIP members who actively volunteer via writing for *The Israel Philatelist*, judging, small administrative tasks and more. It is appreciated and he hopes it will continue. Also mentioned were Zach Simmons and the fantastic SIP newsletter. Ed reminded all that any contributions are welcome and appreciated.

2015 NEW YORK SHOW

2016 International Stamp Show in New York City will be the location of our next Annual General Meeting. It will be held on Sunday, May 29, 2016 at the Javits Convention Center. Don Chafetz, who sends his regrets for not attending NOJEX, will man the SIP table. Any volunteers are welcome! Howard Rotterdam reminded members that the Exhibit Application Form must be returned to your National Commissioner no later than August 15, 2015 if you are hoping to exhibit.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Howard Chapman made his presentation of his treasurer's report. Sam Adicoff questioned how much money actually was realized from dues. Howard discussed sending most 2016 dues renewal reminders via email accounts to save money and Sid Morginstin offered to include a notice in Negev's next auction catalog with a rate chart for the different payment options and asked Howard Chapman to send him something in a PDF or JPEG format.

INVESTMENTS

Bob Pildes covered his report by saying he was very happy with the results of the Society investments. He went on to thank Michael Bass for his years of service and for the wonderful growth the investments have produced, as Michael is stepping down from the financial trustees. Sid Morginstin asked what stock/bond funds

we currently had and it was answered as mutual funds of both treasury and stock bonds. Bob Pildes nominated Howard Chapman to replace Michael as a financial trustee, Sid Morginstin seconded it, and it was passed unanimously.

ENDOWMENT FUND

Mike Bass briefly discussed the Endowment report and told the group that it was important to have a core asset base. He stated that his goal for the remainder of 2015 and 2016 was to complete and send grant requests to foundations that promote education of Holy Land Philately. Ed thanked both Mike and Vicki Galecki for their continued hard work with the Endowment fund.

EDUCATION FUND

David Kaplin presented a condensed version of the Education fund report. He explained that the expenses are front loaded; the only way to sell books is to print them. The Education fund is self sustaining and doesn't use any dues money. Discussed was the absurd cost of international shipping rates, the new books being written and published, the suggestion of both color and black/white options, and books on CD. Ed Kroft personally thanked David for running the Education fund with thanks to Vicki Galecki as well for all of her help.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Becky Dean presented the membership report, and David Kaplin stated he picked up a reinstatement at the SIP table at NOJEX. It was mentioned that it was difficult to learn of a member's passing and possibly their *Israel Philatelist* continues to be mailed to them at a cost to the society. We will continue to encourage our membership to provide email addresses to us at bdean@israelstamps.com. Mike Bass stated that 95% of new members are joining online via the website and PayPal. We are hoping that the APS affiliation with the Society and Becky will help catch new members with Israel, Holy Land and Judaica interests, and we are learning relationship building with non-members while working to try and reach new members. Ed suggested speaking in your community about stamp events; people will listen and possibly join. Also mention *The Isrel Philatelist* for advertising as it doesn't need to be a stamp related ad to be included.

DATA BASE & WEB SITE

Mike Bass began the discussion of the website and archives. The archives are completed from 1949 through 1987. Currently, Vicki and Don Chafetz are working with volume 43, year 1992. Becky is helping with editing and will spend time in the future helping as well. Ed and Mike expressed many thanks to all involved.

NEW MEMBER

David Ball, one of our newest members spoke to say the way we communicate with our members is wonderful. 'The website is fantastic and it's why I joined the Society.' He states it is very clear, clean and useful. We all agreed it was good information to know and very nice to hear.

JOURNAL ADS

Steve Olson spoke in regards to advertising in *The Israel Philatelist*. He suggested that each of the members has a dealer they like to work with and he requested they email him the dealer's information at olsonsteveh@gmail.com and he will contact them as potential advertisers. He also asked for the possibility of a survey of the membership in regards to collecting interests. Lastly, advertising rate sheets were passed out to members present asking for small personal ads as Howard Rotterdam recently submitted. Heartfelt thanks to Sam Adicoff for the check we received from the sale of donated materials.

BUDGET

The discussion moved to the 2015/2016 proposed budget. Howard Chapman stated that the donation line used a minimal amount and that amount may rise. He also hopes to lower the bottom line of a deficit. Sid Morginstin motioned that the budget be accepted, Steve Olson seconded it and it was passed.

AWARDS

Ed discussed the Leslie Reggel award winners, Leslie Bard and Steve Rothman, and The Leopold Dickstein award winner, Dick Herman, for the best article in *The Israel Philatelist*. He offered hearty congratulations and thanks for all of their service and commitment to our society.

JOURNAL NAME

The final item on the agenda to be addressed is the possible name change of *The Israel Philatelist*. Don Chafetz suggested the change and Ed said the constitution states the membership must vote to change. Howard Chapman stated he received the most votes for 'leaving the name alone.' Other votes were received for *Holy Land Judaica Philatelist* and *Israel Judaica Philatelist*. There wasn't much interest or more people would have responded. Howard Rotterdam voiced the opinion from a few members stating that the main title should remain the same with the byline altered by adding Judaica. David Kaplin played devil's advocate for Don Chafetz and said nobody reads the byline and that we are trying to attract a larger membership. Ed motioned for the name to stay the same, Sid Morginstin and Bob Pildes seconded it and it was passed. Howard Rotterdam motioned for the byline to add 'and Judaica', it was seconded by Sid Morginstin and passed. Howard Chapman wanted to discuss and offered the option to leave it up to Don. Ed stated that the membership wants to vote and it's up to them as a society. It was so carried.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15am. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Sunday, May 29, 2016 at the Javits Convention Center in New York City.

Respectfully Submitted,
Becky Dean
Executive Assistant