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Filatelice Fiesta 2022

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Tremendous Loss

November 30, 2022

Written by Brian Jones

It is with the utmost sadness that I must announce our treasured club member Johnny Kochever passed away this evening. I believe he was 87 years old. It is my understanding that passed due to complications from a stomach aneurism. Johnny and his wife Marilyn had recently returned from Mexico after a visit to their property down there. Johnny called me on Monday (11/28) to ask about Filatelice Fiesta and tell me about their trip. He asked me to bring him more stamps to sort as he really enjoys working on finding stamps for his extensive worldwide collection by sorting through the disorganized stamps in so many of the donations we receive. His loss comes a real shock as he seemed to be in good health and spirits earlier this week.

Over the times I visited with Johnny, we got to be good friends. We're both natural talkers and my visits to drop-off stamps usually lasted well over an hour as we just enjoyed spending time sharing our interests and experiences. We'd talk so much that it got to be kind of joke with our respective wives having to pry us apart to keep us on track with other responsibilities. I've always enjoyed spending time with people like Johnny who are honest, interesting across wide range of topics, and listens to other ideas. I now wish I had taken notes on our conversations as I'd like to recount the many good deeds he's done over his life. It was very common for him to do things that made a big difference in people's lives.

In my time talking with Johnny, I came to learn that just about every stamp dealer west of Rockies considers him a personal friend, mentor, or father figure. It is a testament to just what a kind, gentle, caring, giving and loving sole he had.



In this photo, Johnny is holding a very nice wooden box that was part of donation. The box had no value to the club, but it made an excellent display box for his gems and arrowheads.

A lot of got started collecting stamps from all over the world. Only a few kept it up and even fewer have collections as extensive and well organized as Johnny. I forgot how many albums he has, but it has to over 200. It is an absolutely gorgeous collection.

Johnny did an invaluable service for the SJSC in that he would take boxes of mixed stamps and old albums and return to the club glassines sorted by country and topic. While this service will be greatly missed, it Johnny's friendship that will be missed the most.

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Club Blog & Website

Blog Updates No Activity

Website Updates

November 2022 Newsletter uploaded

Remember the dates!

President's Message

It's December again, so it's time for my annual retrospective of the past and setting goals for the new year.

A year ago, most of us thought the pandemic was winding down and we'd be done with it by now. Of course, that isn't the case, and we continue to struggle with infections still being passed easily. While few are dying from them now, they still represent a serious public health risk. Therefore, we've all had to be careful about our public engagements and many are avoiding meetings and gatherings. Consequently, it has been necessary to delay returning to in-person meetings, and doing the things planned to grow the club membership.

Since the club is financially secure, I'm focusing on growth and engagement. Since we meet in a branch of the library, I'm hoping we can connect into their resources to reach out to the general public. Club membership gained slightly in 2022, but while we added a few names, many who paid their dues, did little else.

Therefore, my goals for 2023 are growth and engagement. I believe membership growth continues

to be very important as this will facilitate us to be an active and viable club. Engagement is about getting the existing members active and more involved.

Growth: The central element for growth is to partner with the SJ Library system and use their resources to reach out to the public on the fun, value, and virtues of collecting stamps. It is my belief that our club's large inventory of penny stamps can help people get started (with the goal they'll graduate to buying better stamps from our dealers). We will probably need to host some presentations at library branches to encourage people to get started.

Engagement: We all want to be part of a club that is active and interesting. Right now, my goal is to continue to have our regular meeting on the first Wednesday of the month as usual and to have a speaker or some kind of program at that meeting. To make this happen, I need to members to volunteer to speak. It is also my expectation to continue to offer meetings over Zoom as we have several members who are not able to drive to meetings. The goal is that keeps our more distant and those not able to drive at night engaged with the club. It is hoped that this will be a crutch for those able to drive.

I think it would be fun and enjoyable if we had an "event" most months instead of a second traditional meeting. These can range across a variety of events like:

- Philatelic Events
 - Visit to the WPL
 - First Day Ceremonies
 - Visit regional stamp shows
- Social Events
 - Summer Picnic
 - Christmas Party
- Joint Club Activities
 - Meetings/activities with the other local stamp clubs
 - Let's get to know the members of the
 - Fremont, Pajaro Valley and Monterey Stamp Clubs

Continued on next page

- Just For Fun
 - Outings to places that have no clear philatelic connection, just go for fun.
 - Castle Air Museum
 - Blackhawk Museums
 - Steinbeck Research Center

Members: Club members, it is my hope that you'll speak up about anything I've written on your own goals and expectations. Whether you want to say you like the plan or you'd like to see things done differently, I'm listening. To keep our meetings active and vital, we need to everyone to pitch in on giving presentations – yes, everyone can present. Just talk to me about how you can contribute. It will also take members getting involved to help organize the events we choose to do. The equation for success is very simple: the more of us that get involved, the better and more vital of club we'll have.

Youth Programs: Our club can continue to be very proud of our club's youth programs. At "Scout-O-Rama" every spring, the stamp projects continue to be very popular. Kids of all ages enjoy the challenge of completing one of the activities. An accurate count was not kept, but it is estimated that between 80 to 100 kids did a stamp project. A Scouting merit badge program was held in September with 34 Scouts participating and included 7 young women. They deeply appreciated being able to choose to collect stamps from so many different countries and topics. We also hosted a Christmas stamp program (see article on the Advent Craft Fair). It is hoped to continue to grow these programs in 2023. It is also hoped to add some senior programs into the mix.

Help Required: Filatelic Fiesta

Filatelic Fiesta was a success this year. Nevertheless, it is time for new leadership. It is just too much to lead both the club and show and make both of them the successful and engaging event we are capable of hosting. Our bourse chairman Andy Hilton is also stepping aside after several years of terrific work. He will remain as our treasurer.

Please give serious consideration to taking on being the show chairman or bourse chairman. You'll get plenty of support and coaching from Andy and I. Please give me a call to discuss either of these jobs in more detail. It is essential we fill these jobs to have a show in 2023. These are "do-able" jobs, especially when you're not busy trying to two things at once. You can do this, so please speak up.

2023 Stamp Dedication Updates

The Postal Service has updated the first-day-of-issue dates and dedication ceremony locations for the following stamps in its 2023 program:

Stamps	Release Date	City	State
Red Fox (no ceremony)	Jan. 5	Fox	AR
School Bus (additional ounce, no ceremony)	Jan. 5	High Point	NC
Lunar New Year: Year of the Rabbit	Jan. 12	San Francisco	CA
Love (Kitten and Puppy)	Jan. 19	Austin	TX
Great Smoky Mountains	Jan. 22	Gatlinburg	TN
(Priority Mail Express, no ceremony)	Jan. 22	Lahaina	HI
Sailboats (postcard rate, no ceremony)	Jan. 23	Lafayette	LA
Ernest J. Gaines (Black Heritage)			

Additional stamps and first-day-of-issue cities/ceremony locations will be announced throughout the year. Dates and locations may be subject to change.

Filatellic Fiesta 2022

We had a very nice show this year. Everyone who contributed can pat yourself on the back for helping to host the show this year. We returned to Napredak Hall and expect to continue there for the foreseeable future. Our bourse this year was organized by Andy Hilton. He worked hard as we a several confounding factors working against us this year. It was a nice surprise to see Phil and Pam Vogt this year as we thought they were going to a show in Hawaii. However, that got cancelled and benefited from their presence even we know they were coming (a communication mix-up). The Filatellic Fiesta Committee thanks all the dealers for their support of the show.

Overall, attendance was ok on Saturday and rather slow all day on Sunday. We gave out several door prizes on Saturday, and these were well received. One place for improvement next year is to have lunch service available for the dealers and guests next year. In the past, Jose at Napredak Hall has cooked hot dogs and hamburgers for us. However, he tragically passed away earlier this year and no suitable substitute could be found.

We tried hosting a panel of guest speakers and after an initial misstep, it was a modest success. The speakers can be nice incentive to encourage show attendance since exhibits have been dropped. The club offered a \$5 gift certificate to club sales table to attend a speaker's presentation but this appeared to have only modest success. A big thank-you to the Western Philatelic Library, Peter Adams, and Wayne Menuz for being speakers. The International Philippine Philatelic Society was our guest society again this year. They are good to work with and hope we can continue to be a host for their regional meeting.

On Sunday, 20 Scouts attended and got a tour of the show. They then sat down and got their collections signed off to complete the stamp collecting merit badge. The full class was 34 Scouts (including 7 young women) and the others are making other arrangements to complete the badge. The SJSC can be proud of it's support of this program.

The show program was very nicely put together with the help of Margarete Miller. Printing cost was offset by the add purchased by the SJSC's newest member Denis Norington from San Francisco.

For 2023, we need new leaders to take over as the General Chairman and Bourse Chairman. Please give serious consideration to stepping up to one of these posit

Filatellic Fiesta - 2022

Photos courtesy of Andy Hilton



San Club Jose Stamp

APS Chapter 0264-025791

Founded 1927, Club show since 1928

December 2022



Advent Craft Fair: Christmas Stamps

November 2022

At the Presbyterian Church of Los Gatos' annual "Advent Craft Fair", Brian Jones has hosted a stamp room to work on the two APS stamp Christmas stamp albums. Members and guests can also create Christmas crafts like decorative candles, tree decorations and wreaths.

Twenty youth enjoyed working on either the "Santa" or "Madonna and Child" album. Other stamp programs were made available to those who have done these albums before. Lastly, coloring projects were offered. Kids of all ages enjoyed this table as it was busy all afternoon. Tombo temporary gum dispensers are used instead of hinges as they are simpler for kids to use than hinges. Friend of the SJSC, Kristin Patterson, created the "Madonna and Child" album a few years ago as a "Santa" only stamp program doesn't really work at a church function.

The kids who try this program really enjoy the challenge of finding all the stamps to complete their album. One young lady did a "happy dance" when she found the last stamp she needed. Grumpy old curmudgeons keep saying young people won't put their phones down long enough to collect stamps, but projects like this prove them wrong. When stamp collecting is offered and made fun, youngsters will collect.



San Club Jose Stamp

APS Chapter 0264-025791

Founded 1927, Club show since 1928

December 2022

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