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Filatellic Fiesta 2024

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Club Website

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Club Blog

www.sjscblog.net

Filatellic Fiesta Website

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the San Jose Stamp
Club on Facebook

A New Chapter

11/1/2024

A New Chapter

After nearly 10 years with the American Philatelic Society and the American Philatelic Research Library, I've made the difficult decision to move on to the next chapter in life. As many of you may know, I concluded in 2023 that it was time to move on, but after discussions with the APS Board, I agreed to stay on to complete some much-needed work through 2026. I appreciate the Board's faith in me to stay for two more years. As we complete those projects in the months ahead, it is time for me to step aside for new leadership prepared to lead the organization, growing our community of collectors for the next decade.

It's not the end, but the beginning of the end of my time with the APS. I plan to stay with the APS while the Board searches for the next Executive Director. This can be a challenging process that should be carefully conducted, so it could take a year to successfully transition from one Executive Director to another. In the meantime, I will work with the APS Board and our team in Bellefonte to ensure this can be concluded with a smooth handoff.

Over the months ahead, I'll connect with and share with the APS members about my time as the Executive Director. For now, I want to share a few thoughts with you.

With Gratitude

The APS is for members by members. From my first day on the job, I've met enthusiastic collectors who believe in this great hobby and the APS. The selflessness of your time to contribute your thoughts, actions, and passion is beyond words. The stamp-collecting community is warm and welcoming. Every interaction has been a learning experience, and I'm grateful for your kindness and hospitality.

Wherever you serve the hobby, please know you're making a difference in the lives of others. Members have shared thousands of stories with me over the years, and the thing they remember most is who helped them along the way and why they gave their time in return.

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Club Blog & Website

Blog Updates: No Activity

Website Updates: No Updates

President's Message

Wow, it's been a pretty good 2025. Our meetings have had some absolutely wonderful presentations and started adding tutorial elements for our less experienced collectors. I'd love to see more attendance at the meetings as I think they are worth the time. If there is a reason anyone doesn't think meetings are a good use of your time, please speak up – call or email me with what's on your mind.

I'd like to make the #1 priority for 2025 to be membership growth. We had a good year in 2024 with adding several new members, but we need to keep going. I'm hopeful that we can recruit some new members at the March stamp show. We can also try some new things. At the show, we have some "goodies" we could use for attention getters. Another option is to use our mailing list and send a snail mail appeal to visit a meeting to those within a reasonable distance from our meetings.

Let's be a fun club and get back to having some fun/social events. Have a picnic? A trip to some place fun? A BBQ? Perhaps including one of the other local clubs?

Of course, another key reason to stay involved is the opportunity to enhance your collecting. Please feel free and encouraged to bring any questions or challenges to the club. Perhaps a member can help you or knows someone who can help. Depending on the issue/question, perhaps someone can present about it at a meeting so everyone can benefit.

There are a variety of ways we can contribute to our local community by helping out with the existing programs we do and adding new ones. For example, in exchange for continuing to have our meetings free at the library, we owe them a presentation. Let's get that done soon. We could also educate people about the fun of collecting by doing programs at senior centers, other libraries, and community clubs like Rotary Club and Kiwanis Club meetings.

What do you want from the club? We have tremendous potential if we pull together and make it happen if we collectively engage. The goal is to build a club that will keep both experienced and newer collectors engaged.

Brian

Philatelic Calander:

Jan 8; 7:00 – 8:30pm; Club Meeting

Pearl Ave Branch of the San Jose Library, in the Community Room
Presentation: Everyone is asked to bring their favorite philatelic ephemera. I'm betting most of us have some type "stamp thing" you picked up or received as a gift.

Feb 5; 7:00 – 8:30pm; Club Meeting

Pearl Ave Branch of the San Jose Library, in the Community Room
Presentation: TBD

March 8 – 9; Sat: 10:00 – 6pm; Sun: 10:00 – 4:00pm. **Local Stamp Show**

Hosted by Tom Kinberg at Napredak Hall

16 dealers are confirmed to be part of the bourse

SJSC is requested to staff the registration booth and a 8' sales table

April 25 – 27: Fri & Sat: 10am to 6pm; Sun 10am to 3pm. **WESTPEX Stamp Show**

SF Airport Marriott Waterfront Hotel; \$5 admission good for all 3 days

The biggest stamp show in the western US.

Repeated question: who is going to step-up and serve as club Vice President?

San Jose Stamp Club

APS Chapter 0264-025791

Founded 1927, Club show since 1928

January 2025

DUES: A big thank you to those who've sent in their dues! For those who lost track of this during the busy holiday season, it's time to get this checked off your "To Do" list.

Dues remain at only \$12 per year. Sharing time with a group of people who share your interest in stamps is worth it. If all you do is take advantage of our inventory of stamps and discount on mounts, you'd save more than the dues. There are plenty of activities planned for the coming year that will make this a wonderful investment. Do you have some ideas on what you'd like the club to do in 2025? Speak up!

Please send a check by January 31st made out to: "San Jose Stamp Club"

Brian Jones
981 Shadow Brook Dr.
San Jose, CA 95120

Finger Prints: To host the program planned at the SJ Library, anyone working with youth must be fingerprinted by the San Jose Police. We need to follow the rules to keep everyone safe. It won't cost you anything, so don't worry about that. It is essential that a few of us get this done. Please contact me ASAP if you're willing to help and, consequently, get fingerprinted.

Exhibit Frames: There is an opportunity to get rid of our unused exhibit frames. We are currently paying \$100 a month to store them and it's time to change that. A club in New Mexico has expressed interest in them, but no deal has been made. A big issue is that we don't know the exact number we have and what condition they're in. The club will need to have a work session to unpack the frames and count and assess their condition.

Filatellic Fiesta 2024

Our club's show was a nice success. We had a nice mix of dealers representing a nice array of philatelic materials. There were over 20 collectors clamoring to get in on Saturday morning and a nice steady flow of traffic all day. As usual, headcount on Sunday was low, but it did seem to be serious collectors.

Many of the dealers reported having a good show while a few did report only modest sales. We missed several of our favorite dealers this year. Long time club member Richard Clever has retired from hosting booths at shows, so we gave his spot to fellow club member Ron Biell. We also missed dealer and club member Gary Morris due to a health issue. LONG time show dealer Vogt Stamps was also missing due to Phil having taken a bad fall.

A trademark of our show for many years now is our hospitality table. Once again, the free coffee, water, donuts and other snacks was very popular. The free-will donation jar has collected enough cash to greatly defer expenses. Several door prizes were given out and graciously appreciated by the winners. The raffle for a 6 volume Mystic American Heirloom set of albums raised \$124. A big thank-you to Mystic for donating these. They also donated two single volume US albums that were given to our Scouts who earned the stamp collecting merit badge.

It is a recent goal to build the show with support from the other local clubs who do not sponsor their own show. While participation has been modest, it is enough to keep building these relationships. Another goal is to have meetings and programs to support the overall philatelic community and also inspire guests to attend. The International Philippine Society and the American Helvetia Society held meetings this year. It is hoped we can add other groups or speakers in 2025. Everyone is encouraged to invite any philatelic organization you're a member of to host a meeting. Do you have a special knowledge about any philatelic topic? How about sharing it by giving a talk at Fiesta?

Goals for 2025:

1. Explore ways to grow attendance
 - a. Find ways to reach existing collectors and entice them to attend
 - b. Host resources for beginning collectors
2. Increase the number of presentations and speakers
3. Grow participation by other regional clubs
4. Grow the dealer participation
 - a. Convince more dealers to participate

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With Pride

In my time here, we've celebrated some great wins:

- Construction of a state-of-the-art research library
- Recovering and sale of Position 76 of the McCoy Block of the Inverted Jenny
- Thrived during the pandemic, adapting to the changing circumstances
- Retiring the \$5.4 million mortgage debt on the Match Factory
- Replacing the Tiffany Dinner with the Stamp Soiree, which annually raises more than \$100,000 for important APS and APRL missions
- Recovering from the COVID-era tenant loss, going from 40 percent occupancy at the end of 2021 to more than 90 percent this year
- Partnering with the American Topical Association and the American First Day Cover Society to form the Great American Stamp Show, North America's largest annual stamp show
- Launching Stamp Chats and StampEd, which are accessible online resources for collectors to learn about stamps and their hobby

These are just a few examples of how we've transformed the APS and the hobby. Each one took the hard work of many people in the hobby, including you. Thank you for your support, enthusiasm, and faith.

With Optimism

The APS and APRL are in better financial shape than in decades. We are debt-free and generate income from our third-party tenants to support the library. Our investments are paying great dividends, and we are building our cash reserves to prepare for future needs.

Thanks to the kindness of Al and Dottie Kugel, we've secured more than \$2.2 million to date for a website replacement and replacing the roof on a portion of the Match Factory. There will be more news on the Kugel Estate sale in the coming months, and we'll share those updates with you. I've been working with Dottie to find the proper way to honor Al, and we will do so before I leave.

Thanks to Karen Campbell, who pledged \$100,000 to start the Stephen Campbell Home of Online Learning (Stamp SCHOOL). Her pledge launched a campaign to raise \$250,000 to build an education program for collectors of all levels. I pledge to complete this campaign in the months ahead to offer members a full menu of options worldwide.

Thanks to Bob Mason, whose estate helped us complete the mortgage debt payments in 2020, we launched the current digital library project, now known as the Robert A. Mason Digital Library (RAMDL). We've hired a grant writer to help boost the mission even more, allowing us to improve the user experience, increase the number of objects available to search, and begin to develop preservation policies for orphaned digital projects. We'll have more exciting news to share soon on additional content housed in the RAMDL.

Thanks to the APS and APRL boards for providing vigilant and thoughtful leadership over the years. Members only occasionally see the work involved in developing our strategies, managing the finances, and looking toward the future. Still, our boards have worked effectively to resolve some of our time's greatest challenges and opportunities. They are all volunteers who give their time, so the reward for hard work is often more hard work.

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Thanks to the dedicated APS and APRL staff and volunteers. Our staff and volunteers in Bellefonte work enthusiastically daily to serve the members and our community. They are more than just staff; they've become like family to me. My routine joke is, "If something goes well, good job! If something goes wrong, it's my fault." I would like to single out Leonard and Darlene Bloom, our extraordinary volunteers, who show up every day to manage donations, sell through the Stamp and Cover shop, and help in more ways than I can count.

Thanks to my wife, Kendra. She's supported the long hours, the travel, and the time spent with me at stamp shows and stamp clubs around the country. While I would meet with members, she picked up an interest in collecting stamps, covers, and postcards, recruiting new members for the APS, and meeting and talking with collectors at any hour of the day or night. I could not have possibly done any of this without her support. We've made friendships that will last beyond my time as Executive Director.

This is not goodbye since I will still be around, at least through the Great American Stamp Show. In the meantime, I will continue to work on your behalf and for the hobby I've come to love. Thank you for all you do for the APS, APRL, and the hobby!



Scott English

San Jose Stamp Club

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January 2025

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