

Oh, The Things You Can Learn Stamp Collecting

Hanukkah by Mike Schumacher

An important event took place on October 16, 2018!

The USPS issued a new Hanukkah Stamp. What makes the event important is that it was a joint issue with Israel Post (USPS 50 cent forever stamp and a companion 8.30 shekel stamp); the ceremony was held at the Touro Synagogue in Rhode Island, and was streamed live on Facebook with a group of dignitaries at the American Center in Israel. It is also meant to celebrate 70 years of diplomatic relations between Israel and the United States said the Israel Post.



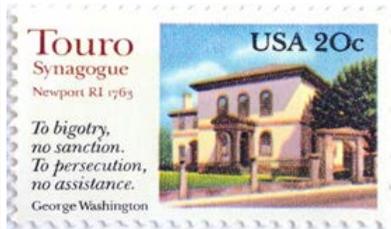
The new Hanukkah stamp features a menorah created using the techniques of the traditional Folk art of papercutting. The stamp was designed by artist Ethel Kessler & Tamar Fishman created the original art for the stamp. The artist made a pencil sketch of the design & then with a fine blade, cut the two-dimensional image on white paper. She used blue-purple & green paper for the background to highlight the central design. Behind the menorah is a shape reminiscent of an ancient oil jug that represents the heart of Hanukkah. Additional design elements include:

dreidels – spinning tops used to play a children’s game during the holiday – and a pomegranate plant with fruit and flowers.

Touro synagogue is the oldest synagogue in the United States. It was dedicated on Jewish Hanukkah December 2, 1763; and was featured on a U.S stamp in 1983 and on a stamp in Israel in 1988.

Touro Synagogue is:

- an historic site;
- designed by Newport resident James Harrison;
- named after Issac Touro the Hazzan (prayer leader) of the Congregation.



During the American Revolution it served as a hospital for the British. In 1790 when Rhode Island ratified the U.S. Constitution, President George Washington visited & was greeted by Congregation President Moses Mendes Seixas with a speech focused on the issues of religious freedom & separation of church & state. Washington’s response letter quotes Seixas’ thoughts & is the key to our rights in the First Amendment. The letter can be seen at the synagogue!

The new Hanukkah stamps are the second U.S. & Israel joint issued Hanukkah stamps. The first Hanukkah joint issue was in 1996. (images shown left & right) Again the stamps depict a Menorah which is the oldest Jewish symbol.



Hanukkah means “dedication” & is thus named to celebrate the rededication of the holy temple.

It is the Jewish eight-day “festival of lights” celebrated with a nightly lighting of the Menorah, special prayers and fried food. The oil used to fry the food reminds us of the oil needed to relight the lamp in the holy temple.

Hanukkah begins on December 2, 2018.

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FLOREX 2018



FLOREX 2018 told in pictures. Row 1; David Z., Newt K. & Scot Cornwall doing greeting table duty, FLOREX cachets for 2018, exhibitors enjoying some light food and snacks after the rigors of competition. Row 2; The dapper, Roy Houtby one of our dealer stalwarts, crowds at each table, FLOREX Grand & Reserve Grand on display. Row 3; Francis F., A. Stephen Patrick and two frequent FLOREX attendees discussing something

philatelic, crowds hunting for a treasure or two. The show went as well as can be expected for moving to a new location. The philatelic community did find us; even though there were a couple of misfires!

Phil Fettig was presented with the Chairman's Service Award that is given out annually to that one person who has gone over and above the call of duty to further the aims of the philatelic community. **Gene Perry** was the recipient of the Outstanding Achievement Award that is to acknowledge relative new comers to the philatelic scene for their contributions to the show. Congratulations to both individuals are roundly deserved and appreciated.

Thank you to one and all for everything that was done to make the show a success. It is truly the work of the few that benefit the vast philatelic community that attends a show of this nature. Give yourself a round of applause. FLOREX 2019 will be in the same location December 13, 14 & 15, 2019. Pencil it in on your calendar – now.