



COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA PHILATELIC SOCIETIES  
1110 Hillcrest Dr, Lafayette, CA 94549-3113

CNCPS

# COUNCIL COURIER

Jan 2021

[www.norcalstamps.org](http://www.norcalstamps.org)

Vol. 19 #1

## Western Philatelic Library

by David McNamee

Anyone who has visited the WPL, especially since the move to our own building in Redwood City, will remember the crowded aisles with boxes and boxes of "stuff" everywhere. The lighting was poor, the workspaces nonexistent, and in general the space did not feel like a place a visitor would ever want to come back.

Now it has changed. Excess duplicate journal copies are used to fill in runs for other philatelic libraries, or they are recycled. Aisles are clear so that we can actually find things. Lighting has improved and furniture acquired so that visitors using the Library can sit at a table and read or take notes. The electrical system has been audited and brought up to Code, and safety signs and push bars on the doors make emergency exits possible. The parking lot has been re-fenced and additional parking spaces made by dumping an old shipping container. It is beginning to look like a place you might want to visit now.

The new Board prioritized the construction projects to make the best use of money raised for that purpose. There is still a number of worthwhile projects, but these have lower priority than funding the mortgage. Most of our capital improvements have been paid for by one or two individual donors specifically funding the projects.

The WPL is seeing some volunteers and support from stamp clubs in the Bay Area, but the Board

continued on next page



*Call for Exhibits*

## WESTPEX 2021\*

April 23-25, 2021



*Hosting*

**American Helvetia Philatelic Society  
The Nepal and Tibet Philatelic Study Circle  
Collectors Club  
Philatelic Foundation**

San Francisco Airport Marriott Waterfront Hotel  
1800 Old Bayshore Highway, Burlingame, CA

**A World Series of Philately Exhibition  
with 4,400+ Pages in 280+ Frames**

**Prospectus & Entry Forms  
Available from Ross Towle  
400 Clayton Street, San Francisco, CA 94117**

[www.westpex.org](http://www.westpex.org)

\* will follow recommendations of health authorities

from Daryl Reiber, "We are currently moving forward with plans for the WESTPEX 2021 show and keeping our fingers crossed that the pandemic will be history by then."

Download the prospectus at <http://westpex.com/html/exhibits.html>

\* \* \* \* \*

**Council of Northern California Philatelic Societies**

Officers - President: Nigel Moriarty  
Vice-President: Kristin Patterson  
Secretary: Robert Pope  
Treasurer: David McNamee

## Western Philatelic Library - from p. 1

recognizes that more effort to recruit both people and funds if the Library's vision is ever achieved.

### **The Vision: a Philatelic Center**

The present Board has a vision for the future of philately in the area and the central role that WPL could play. Elements of the vision include:

- The Library becomes a year-round focal point for philatelic meetings and a center for philatelic learning, much like the meetings at WESTPEX in April each year.
- The Library is a clean well-lit place for quiet study as well as a comfortable place for informal gatherings around a cup of coffee.
- Digital access to much of the Library's vast store of knowledge is available from anywhere by anyone.
- Operational support is provided by volunteers and area stamp clubs.

This vision is achievable, but it will take concerted effort of many volunteers as well as general financial stability. For examples of how stamp clubs in the past have supported the Library, have a look at the write-up of the WPL history at [www.fwpl.org/history](http://www.fwpl.org/history). The Library is made up of a number of key mergers and acquisitions. You can trace the provenance of the collection through the bookplates in many of the Library's books.

### **The Library is at a Crossroads**

In order to achieve this vision or anything close to it requires the WPL to remain "in business." That is not a sure thing.

The Council is very lucky indeed to have within its borders the Western Philatelic Library. The WPL has endured since 1969. The challenges facing the present Board of Directors are literally life or death of the WPL as we know it. Putting some of the best minds in our area together, they have painted the future of WPL pretty grim. For 90% of the time the WPL has been operating, the Library

received substantial assistance (free space and utilities) from the City of Sunnyvale. Finally, Sunnyvale had an offer for commercial development on the space they had granted the Library, and WPL was asked to find other quarters.

For the past 5 years, the WPL has been housed in a warehouse purchased with a mortgage that is due in the next year or two – it doesn't matter exactly when it is due, because the WPL bank account will run out of money sometime in late spring of next year. This Year of COVID-19 has made it even harder than usual to engage area philatelists, to showcase the great changes the Board has made, and to raise money to keep the Library afloat.

This is the crossroads we find ourselves as of this moment.

There are two options: 1) Find a way to get the Library on a stable financial footing, or 2) close.

There are many paths the Library can take, and various WPL Boards have wrestled with how to get the Library on a stable financial footing. Financial stability in the short term can be achieved with the sale of the building and relocating elsewhere. The key to long term viability means finding ways to appeal to more collectors to broaden support (the Vision). The evaluations of the short term plans have not indicated any path to success unless the long term goal of a Philatelic Center is also met.

Otherwise, a small group of collectors will do what they can for as long as they can. We have managed to keep the Library open and grow the collections for the past 50 years. To see such a valuable asset and source of information underutilized is a shame.

### **How You Can Help**

There are currently a handful of key individuals that are providing work to maintain the Library, led by Roy Teixeira, and including:

- Roy Teixeira and Dave Moore – General sorting and cleanup, disposal of unwanted material.

Richard Clever – helping with the sorting and filing of show brochures, catalogues etc.

continued on next page

- Gregory Mirsky - has been very helpful in sorting and organizing our Russian material.
- Ken Lewetzow and Wally Jolliff – sorting of incoming donations, auction sales, etc.
- Ed Jarvis – Very supportive in advising and his help with the general cleanup.
- Steve Schumann – Very helpful in advising and general cleanup.
- Judy Jarvis and Sigrid Teixeira for their ideas on the enhancement of our library with a “WELCOME” banner.

Over the past five years, a number of individuals have donated substantial funds to support the Library and advance the vision. WESTPEX has been a steady source of funds for Library operations. Recognition is also due for Nestor Nunez’ critical contribution of his services to re-file the lapsed non-profit status with the IRS and the three years of financial reports that had to be constructed in support of the filing.

Bob Gordon, Editor of the FWPL journal, *The Bay Phil*, has established a “GoFundMe” page where you can donate funds to keep the Library fully operational next year:

<https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/friends-of-western-philatelic-library-inc/>

After the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, you can volunteer in person to help out the Library. Meanwhile, keep promoting the Library at stamp club meetings, virtual or otherwise.

## Shows (hopefully)

The actual happening is these show is not certain. Thus, all are tentative.

Apr 23-25	WESTPEX - Burlingame, CA
May 7-9	PIPEX - Portland, OR
June 5-6	SOPEX - Medford, OR
July 24-5	Greater Reno S/C Show - Reno, NV
Aug 12-16	Great American S Show - Chicago, IL
Sep 10-12	SEAPEX - Tukwila, WA
Oct 1-3	WINEPEX, San Rafael, CA
Oct	East Bay CC, Walnut Creek, CA
Nov	SACAPEX - Sacramento, CA
Nov	FILATELIC FIESTA - San Jose, CA
Dec	PENPEX - Redwood City, CA

## Around the Council

[Information is taken from the clubs’ newsletter and submissions to [larry.crain@gmail.com](mailto:larry.crain@gmail.com)]

Collectors Club of San Francisco has held monthly Zoom meetings with over 40 attendees from many corners of the world. The club is grateful for Behruz Nassre, Past President and well-known exhibitor of material from Iran, for organizing the meetings and providing the link for any and all philatelists. Lately, collectors from Australia have even joined-in to attend the meetings! A future presenter is from Great Britain. The virtual meetings have now led way for the Club to be able to invite presenters from other parts of the world to educate us. All philatelists are encouraged to join the meetings!

Past presentations and future schedule can be accessed by going to the CCSF website: [www.collectorsclubsf.org](http://www.collectorsclubsf.org) from Vesma Grinfelds

Nevada Stamp Society has had large newsletter, online auction (sales \$369.50), zoom meetings, and, sadly, covid-19 cases. from John Walter

Redding Stamp Club has not met since March from Bob Grosch

Sacramento Philatelic Society has had well-attended zoom meetings every Wednesday since June. from Robert Pope

San Jose Stamp Club December newsletter was 17 pages, and it complements their Zoom meetings. from Jim Steinwinder

Southern Oregon Philatelic Society has had only informal get-togethers. It is currently disposing of its 900 item library (lack of use).

from Larry Crain

U.S.S. Saginaw Chapter 59 has been having zoom meetings. from Steve Shay

\* \* \* \* \*

Other Council Positions: Council Courier Editor - Larry Crain. Webmaster - Robert Pope. Judges Coordinator - David McNamee. Speakers Bureau - Kristin Patterson