

## Local Residents, Visitors, Enjoy “The Hobby of The Ages”

How is it that in a fast-moving, rapidly changing world, a pastime that has attracted the interest of age groups from youngsters to seniors for more than 150 years is still going strong, with an avid following right here in the Southeast Florida area, centering around the activities of a local organization.

The forms in which stamp collecting can be enjoyed are many and varied.

- On a limited budget, youngsters can own thousands of stamps picturing famous people, scenic views, wildlife and other images from around the world, including themes of their own special interest, from art to zoology.
- At the same time, active or retired surgeons, CPAs and other professionals can specialize in themes related to their field of interest.
- Going further, those aspiring to build outstanding collections can compete for International Gold Awards.
- Still another avenue for collectors—for anyone interested in history, the possibilities range from worldwide movement of the mails going back to the 1500's or, closer to home, the postal history of Florida or even as local as the Palm Beach area.
- And—surprise, surprise—once dominated by male collectors, young girls and adult women now enjoy the hobby, with many leadership positions now the domain of female collectors.

One of the reasons given for the resurgence of stamp collecting is the increase in the number of collecting choices in the form of topical issues. Thousands of stamps with varying popular themes are now issued annually by postal administrations from around the world. This includes the United States Postal Service. Women's sports, an ongoing Black Heritage series, Bluegrass music, Webb Telescope images, Shaker design, a Hank Aaron issue, a Dungeons & Dragons set, Floral issues, and recently announced Alex Trebek/Jeopardy! and Health Care issues all are examples of U.S. postage stamp themes that are building a new base of avid collectors.

### **Keeping It Local**

The best thing about all of this is that to become a part of this worldwide hobby, Southeast Florida residents and visitors have no further to go than a meeting of the Cresthaven Stamp Club, founded in the 1970s and continuing today as the oldest and the largest stamp club in Palm Beach County. Cresthaven Club members are a lively, active group that bills itself as the Palm Beaches' Friendliest Stamp Club.

One visit to a Cresthaven Club meeting is all it will take for you to experience for yourself the pleasures of stamp collecting and the fun that club members share in their twice-monthly meetings. In addition, while club members encourage continuing a collection, area residents who have a collection to sell also can benefit from the knowledge club members have about how to value and sell a collection.

### **Club Meetings**

The Cresthaven Stamp Club meets from 1-3 p.m. the Second & Fourth Tuesdays of each month at the Barkley Villas Clubhouse, 2605 Barkley Dr., West Palm Beach, FL 33415. In addition, the Club produces two stamp shows a year, in March and October, with the next show to be held on October 19 at the Barkley Villas Auditorium in West Palm Beach.

To learn more about the Cresthaven Stamp Club and its activities, contact Richard Kaye at 631-901-4115, email [RichardWarren9753@gmail.com](mailto:RichardWarren9753@gmail.com) or visiting the website, [cresthavenstamp.club](http://cresthavenstamp.club).

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Editors: If you would like images of examples of pieces collected by club members, please contact Richard Kaye at the contact points above.