



FREDERICK C. SKVARA IS SELECTED AS ATA 2012 DISTINGUISHED TOPICAL PHILATELIST

Physician and philatelist Frederick C. Skvara of Bridgewater, New Jersey, has been selected as the American Topical Association's 2012 Distinguished Topical Philatelist, according to DTP committee chair Donald W. Smith. The award will be presented on June 23, 2012, at the ATA annual banquet in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.



Dr. Skvara has been a member of the ATA Board of Directors since 2006 and ATA Director of Chapters including author of the *Topical Time* "Chapter Chatter" column from 2006-2011. He has served since 2004 as editor of *Scalpel & Tongs*, quarterly journal of the ATA Medical Subjects Unit, as well as editor since January 2010 of the *Americana Philatelic News*, quarterly journal of the ATA Americana Unit. During the past several years, he has also edited and published several programs for the National Topical Stamp Show.

In 2008 Dr. Skvara published an article in *Topical Time* based on his many years of experience in promoting ATA at the American Stamp Dealers Association Spring and Fall MEGA Shows in New York City. This 2008 article became the genesis of the ATA Ambassadors program. Dr. Skvara's other contributions as an author include writing a column since 1998 entitled "Philatelic Sketches in Medicine" for the newsletter of the Medical History Society of New Jersey, and as editor since 2008 of *The Westfield Philatelist* published by the Westfield, New Jersey, Stamp Club.

Dr. Skvara was born April 7, 1941, in Somerville, New Jersey; married Margie Kelemen in 1968; and received an M.D. degree in 1970 from Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia. After completing an internship, residency, and fellowship, he began to practice as an attending pathologist at the JFK Medical Center in Edison, New Jersey, and as associate professor of pathology at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in Piscataway. He retired from both positions in 2005, but continues to serve as the medical director of the Department of Medical Laboratory Technology at the Middlesex County College in Edison, New Jersey.

Fred Skvara has collected worldwide stamps since childhood. As he developed an interest in a wide variety of topics, he joined more than a dozen different ATA study units. His keen interest in the literature of philately led him to compile a fairly large personal library. He is an avid gardener and gives talks before garden clubs, some illustrated with stamp images. His interest in photography has evolved into a medical photomicrography business with his images used in books, magazines, and wall decor.

The ATA Distinguished Topical Philatelist Award was established in 1952 by ATA founder Jerome Husak to recognize notable service to topical philately. This award has been presented so far to 119 persons, including residents of Canada, Great Britain, and Italy. The current selection committee chaired by Donald W. Smith includes Jack Green, George Griffenhagen, Jerome Husak, Dorothy Smith, Dalene Thomas, and Mark Winnegrad.

For additional information about ATA, call **618-985-5100**, or email **americantopical@msn.com**, or write to **ATA, PO Box 8, Carterville, IL 62918-0008 USA**.