



Volume XXV, Number 2

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Presidents Message

By Michael Swartz

I would like to recognize our committee chairs for the work that they have agreed to undertake for the Association. In our June Newsletter, I heralded the efforts that our Treasurer, David Bazar, has made to increase our membership. As she describes in this issue of the Newsletter, First Vice President, Ruth Breindel, has made fantastic progress developing our new website and digitalizing our Notes.

Mel Topf has agreed to be the Chair of the Publications Committee. In this capacity he and his committee review the articles that are submitted by George Goodwin, the editor of our yearly Notes. In addition, Mel has chaired a committee that recommended revisions to our policy regarding appropriate charges to individuals and organizations that request access to our archives and/or the assistance of our office manager, Anne Sherman.

Lee Teverow has been the Chair of our Program Committee. I urge you to attend our Fall event on November 4th featuring Mel and Sarah Zurier's virtual tour of Providence's historic Jewish Neighborhoods. Lee has been working on an exciting program for our Annual Spring meeting. If you enjoy Jewish food, you will not want to miss this event, scheduled for April 14th.

Our Collections Committee is headed by Marilyn Myrow. She has agreed to work with her group to review and revise our Acquisitions Policy. This Committee will also consider new items brought

to the Association for its archives, as well as review our current collection to make sure that those items remain appropriate for our mission.

I would like to encourage all members to see if they may possess any items that they believe would be a significant addition to our collection. I have been advised that we are still in need of City Directories, especially for communities other than Providence. Also, please remember that we now have the ability to make a digital copy of a historical item that you may not wish to donate. If you have a personal record, letter, publication, photograph or oral history that contributes to the story of the Jewish people of Rhode Island, we will be happy to obtain a digital copy of that item so that you may retain the original.

Website – www.rijha.org

We are in the process of redesigning our website. We will be adding many features, such as:

- **up-to-date announcements of events**
- **back copies of the Notes for you to read**
- **a simple way to donate money via the Internet**
- **new informative files, such as a tour of Moshassuck Cemetery**
- **short videos**
- **research and genealogy**

Our designer, Mary Codd, is working diligently and we hope to unveil it in late autumn. If you have any suggestions for what might be added to the site, please contact Ruth Breindel (rbreindel@gmail.com).

IN OUR OFFICE AND ARCHIVES

By Anne Sherman

Helping people with their research is an important part of my work. For a book she is writing, a Professor of Theater at the University of Maryland came into the office looking for information on Jewish Theatre from 1760-1861. A student from the JFK School of Government at Harvard requested the article on the Providence Hebrew Day School for a research paper on RI education tax credit and its effect on Jewish schools. Andrew Corburn and four of his students from the Met School came in for information on Congregation Shaare Zedek for their project "Living History". A graduate student from Philadelphia, studying Russian history, needed Beryl Segal's article on Orinin, and a member needed photographs for an article on the Redwood Lodge for the RI Historical Society Journal.

The articles written in the *Notes* are often requested. A woman from Australia wanted four articles on the Washington letter and the Touro Synagogue. A researcher from the Cleveland Jewish Historical Society was also looking for an article on the Washington letter. Articles on the North End and South Providence are very popular. Copies of Geraldine Foster's articles in the *Jewish Voice and Herald* are requested. Calls come in when a picture under "Can You Help Us?" is in the paper.

Two of our members from California wanted help with their genealogy. One was looking for his great-grandfather and the other sought any information on his family. Someone at Hasbro was looking for Hillel and Helel Hassenfeld's first business. Other members called or e-mailed looking for help: information on Dr. Tischler of Newport, Congregation Ahavath Sholom in West Warwick, Rabbi Samuel Belkin and Jews who served in the War of 1812.

Many interesting items have come into the office. Maxine Goldin brought in paddles, photos and the Roster from URI Fraternity Alpha Epsilon Pi and yearbooks from Hope High and Classical High schools. Terry Schuster had a very large framed collage of JFRI events during her father, Charles Samdperil's presidency. The Blistein family had a family reunion this summer and Aaron Hurwitz sent in the family tree and a T-shirt from the event. Harvey Michaels gave a speech at the Jewish War Veterans' annual meeting regarding Jews participating in the War of 1812 on the War's 200th anniversary. Florence Markoff continues to do oral histories for our oral history archives. Dr Barry Herman sent a DVD of the history of the Touro Synagogue and his grandfather, Morris Kravetz's part in the break-in at Touro Synagogue in 1902. From Stephen and Amy Lynn Silverman we received three

silver pieces all engraved with Archibald Silverman's name. Photos of Judge Irving Winograd and Max Winograd were donated by Richard Zacks.

I wish I could list all the wonderful items we receive, but space will not allow it. I thank all of you who have donated your family treasures to the archives. Without you we would not have archives.

If you have or find city directories, especially from outside the Providence area, or have Rhode Island high school yearbooks, please think of us.

ORAL HISTORY TAPES

We are the proud possessors of over 400 oral history tapes, recorded from the 1950's up to today. These interviews cover many topics: the experiences of Jews in Rhode Island, life in the military, emigration from their homeland and family history. We are converting them to CD format, and they will soon be available for research purposes.

In order to pay for the digitizing process, we have received generous grants from the Helene and Bertrum Bernhardt Foundation. However, we are also asking for contributions from the membership. Perhaps one or more of the tapes have your family's history recorded – a wonderful chance for you to keep it alive for future generations and to receive a copy for yourself! If you would like to donate, for \$25 a tape, you can contribute to the digitizing program and also receive a copy. If your family is not on a tape, we will still accept a contribution!

To find out whether a family member is on a tape, contact Anne Sherman at the RIJHA office.

NEW MEMBERS

Karen and Alan Bergel, Honorable and Mrs Theodore S. Goodwin, Joan Goralnik, Marcy and Rick Granoff, Mr and Mrs. Keith A. Klevan, Kathleen and Marc Port, Myra Shays, Steven Sholes

RI JEWISH HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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IN HONOR OF

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 Goldie Greene's 94th birthday
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 Dorothy Horowitz's special birthday
 Evelyn Kagan's 105th birthday
 Rabbi Emily, Joshua, Samantha
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 Madalyn Victoria Sholes 2nd birthday
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