

### NEW FUND

*Thank you to Eugene Weinberg for establishing the Arline Ruth Weinberg Memorial Fund. This Fund will support our Annual Meetings. By establishing this fund, we can continue to invited speakers who are informative and interesting.*

### INTERNSHIP

*Thank you to Melvin Zurier, trustee of the Gertrude N. and Seebert J. Goldowsky Foundation, there will be an intern in the office this summer. Hannah Zurier will help with research and cataloging material. A committee will be established to decide future interns.*

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### RIJHA ENTERS THE TWENTY FIRST CENTURY

*David Leach*

As I'm sure you know by now the RIJHA has a new website thanks to Vice President Ruth Breindel. <http://www.rijha.org> Please go to the website, look it over and let us know what you think. What would you like to see there? Please let us know. [info@rijha.org](mailto:info@rijha.org)

In addition we have a new Facebook page. If you go to our website and look to the upper right of the Home page you will see a blue and white letter "F". Click on it and it will take you to our Facebook page. Just to the right of our organization name you will see the word "Like". Click on it and it will change to "Liked" and you will be our friend forever. We hope to have occasional news and views about Jewish history of interest to our members and the community posted there.

And last but not least, we are now on Grapevine, a Jewish information and events newsletter for the Rhode Island community. Please go to [www.grape-vine.com](http://www.grape-vine.com), and sign up so we can let you know all the good things we do.

facebook



GrapeVine



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Michael Schwartz

We have had two great programs since our last membership newsletter. Our Annual Meeting featured a presentation from Chef Walter Potenza on Italian Jewish Cooking. Not only was the talk entertaining and informative, the pastry that he prepared and presented to our many attendees could not be beat. I urge you all to visit his new location at 162 Mayfield Ave., Cranston to thank him for his support of our organization.

Our Association also presented a walking tour of the Synagogue on Broad St. that was once Congregation Shaare Zedek. Due to issues with the building we were forced to limit the number of participants allowed on this tour. While I was unable to attend, all who did go have thanked us for a very worthwhile educational experience. For those members who did not have reservations, we are planning a second tour of the building in the Fall. Once again, reservations will be required. When the date for this event is announced, please contact our office as soon as possible so that you will not be shut out.

This September the Association will be co-sponsoring a program that will feature the history of Camp JORI. The program will be at the Camp and will also entail a tour of the current Camp property. I urge all past JORI campers to try to attend what promises to be a very special event. We will be

sending out more information about this meeting in the near future.

As always, the Association is happy to accept any photographs that may be in your family collections that are of historical significance to the story of the Jewish people of Rhode Island. We will scan these photographs and return them to you as quickly as possible.

If you have not already done so, please view our evolving web site and let us know your comments. We are moving forward with the our plan to add the older copies of our *Notes* to the web site and hope to have that project completed this summer. Also, for those members that use Facebook, please visit our Association's Facebook page and "like" us.

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## MEMORIES OF BROAD STREET SYNAGOGUE/TEMPLE SHAARE ZEDEK

Ruth Breindel

On Sunday, May 5, we had an exciting and informative tour of the Broad Street Synagogue, led by Nathaniel Weisenberg, a master's candidate in the Public Humanities program at Brown University (nathaniel\_weisenberg@brown.edu). Sponsored jointly by us and the Rhode Island Historical Society, 25 people attended – and we even had to turn some away at the door. Nathaniel first introduced us to two other young men, Sam Seidel and Adam Bush, who are also taking an interest in the building and the community on a volunteer basis. The building itself is owned by Temple Beth Sholom.

The first part of the presentation, held in the Talmud Torah addition, was a brief history of the building. Nathaniel then played some excerpts of oral history interviews about the Temple. Some spoke about the building itself:

*"I was married there in 1950... You had to come down the stairs in front. And the whole idea was that you would go up in the synagogue, that's why they were there. But coming down in a wedding dress is kind of tough – high heels."*

*"And the light coming in those stained glass windows and the choir loft up above – it was beautiful."*

*"This was a beautiful space."*

Some spoke about the Rabbi:

*"I remember Rabbi Braude very well. He was a very powerful speaker, and sometimes he could be quite frightening."*

*"He was a teacher, he was a scholar, he was a deep thinker, he was an intellectual. You never left any of his sermons without something to think about."*

Others spoke about the congregation:

*"My mother remembers ushers outside wearing tuxedos. She always used to talk about how impressed she was to see this. This was Beth El. This was Reform days, not Orthodox days."*

*"Joe Margolis kept the Broad Street Shul or Shaare Zedek going well into his nineties."*

Then Nathaniel led us on a tour of the synagogue itself. The building is in an incredible state of disrepair, with a leaking roof (now fixed), the floor buckled, and graffiti all around. The stained glass windows, amazingly, are still intact and quite beautiful. There were tallesim left behind, as well as many records of the Temple and various books, including some Haggadahs. We were all stunned by the appearance of the building.

As some of the oral history participants said:

*continues inside*

## IN OUR OFFICE AND ARCHIVES

Anne Sherman

*The articles that appear in the Rhode Island Jewish Historical NOTES, as always are a very valuable source of information and allow me to answer many of the requests for information that come across my desk. Other than the articles on South Providence and the North End of Providence, the next most requested article is the story by Beryl Segal "Orinin, My Shtetl in the Ukraine." Researchers and families doing genealogy want to know what life was like in a Shtetl.*

A lady who lives at 191 Orms Street, the old Jewish Home for the Aged, called and wanted to know the history of her house. I sent her the article on the Home from the NOTES and photos.

A student at Brown University called looking for information on Browntown for a Master's thesis. Browntown was located at the corner of Elmgrove Avenue and Sessions Street. The apartment buildings were built to house married students attending Brown after World War II. I sent her Aaron Cohen's article.

A genealogist from Vermont called looking for information on Frances Mary Fanning, Maurice Adelman's housekeeper. I did not have any information, but sent her the obituary of Mr. Adelman and his picture.

The archives contain all the Jewish Heralds and calls come in regarding articles from back issues. An article was sent to Los Angeles. Since 2008, Geraldine Foster starting writing a column called "Memories From

*the Past."* Which are based mainly on materials in our archives. These articles contain stories about people, places and events of the past. If you have an idea for an article that you would like to write please contact the office.

Some of the acquisitions that we have received include the last material from Na'Amat, sent by Marilyn Kagan. The organization has disbanded and she was the last president. Selma Stanzler gave us a CD "A Tribute to Milton Stanzler" and Greta Kessler gave us an autobiographical book by her late husband "Irving Kessler Pathfinder." Reva Lewis had the photo of the 1948 Confirmation Class of Temple Emanu-El. All the Confirmants were identified, which is very important. Without this identification we can not use the photo. If the Jewish Voice and Herald is looking for a picture, they only can use identified ones.

On Sunday, May 5th RIJHA sponsored a tour to Congregation Shaare Zedek. I want to thank Mel Blake, Mitch Cohen and Lowell Lisker for taking hundreds of pictures of the inside and outside of the building. More information about the tour appears in Ruth Breindel's article.

*I am more than happy to help anyone looking for information. If you find material Rhode Island and Jewish, please think of the archives.*

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### DONATIONS FROM FEBRUARY 1 – JUNE 1, 2013

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Stanley Abrams' birthday  
Stanley Abrams' birthday  
Rosalie Adelman Beloff's birthday  
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Dr. Abraham Horvitz's birthday  
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Bess Lindenbaum's 102 birthday

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## MEMORIES OF BROAD STREET *continued*

*"When the original building was built, most of the people lived in the Elmwood section or in some of the streets around the building."*

*"Eventually the neighborhood just kept on deteriorating, and as people, children, grew older, they moved in the suburbs. I guess it was another Diaspora; they just moved out."*

*"The old people stayed right to the end."*

*"This is more than just a building and bricks and stones. It was really, for a long time, one of the centers of Jewish life in Rhode Island."*

*"This is vast damage and degradation of a very important historical and cultural-religious structure in my neighborhood. And I've always maintained, whatever happens with the building, I think there needs to be some kind of a statement made within the building itself... to really talk about the importance of that building to the community and the history and the place that the building has had."*

*"You know the Hallel service? There's a clause in there: 'Open the gates of righteousness.' Shaare Zedek is right in that paragraph. And every time I read that, I see the words Shaare Zedek. And I – it brings back memories."*

## NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

At the 59th annual meeting of RIJHA on Sunday April 28th, a new Board of Directors was installed. The Nominating Committee consisted of Eugene Weinberg, Ruth Breindel, George Goodwin and Mel Blake. Robert Berkelhammer was the installing officer.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2013-2014

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## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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## NEWSLETTER

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## IN APPRECIATION OF GEORGE GOODWIN SPEAKING

Epoch Assisted Living, Sisterhood Temple Beth-El, Temple Emanuel Leisure Club