



RIJHA NEWSLETTER

Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association



Letter from the President

Dear members,

You may recall the portraits of Solomon and Miriam Pareira that the RIJHA acquired a few years ago. We are excited to partner with Temple Beth-El in presenting these portraits to you this spring.

The portraits came to us in March of 2021 from the estate of Allen Irwin Wise, of California, great-great grandson of the Pareiras. The portraits arrived in need of a good cleaning and some repairs. Realizing the historical significance of the paintings, we looked into hiring a conservator and found Gianfranco Pocobene, who not only has his own studio in Malden, Massachusetts, but is also the head conservator at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, in Boston. Pocobene and his assistant, Corrine Long, did an excellent job in refurbishing the portraits and we are looking forward to displaying them.

In addition to the Pareiras being the first Jewish settlers in Providence, the RIJHA has documentation proving that Solomon began holding weekly minyans in his home before

Congregation Sons of Israel and David, now Temple Beth-El, was officially chartered as a congregation. The Pareiras were among the official founders of present-day Temple Beth-El. This and more about the Pareira family's historical significance to establishing Providence's Jewish community will be discussed at our Spring Meeting, on May 7.

Please join us from 2 to 4 p.m. at Temple Beth-El, where the portraits will be unveiled and given on loan to Beth-El for display in their gallery. A panel including Pocobene and Long, Temple Beth-El's historian George Goodwin, and Pareira descendant Jean Stewart Ross will discuss the Pareiras, the portraits, and their historical significance to Temple Beth-El and our community. This meeting is sure to be interesting and informative. We hope to see you there.

Harold Foster

President

IN THIS ISSUE

LETTER FROM THE
PRESIDENT

RIJHA HIRES 3 PART-
TIME WORKERS

A LITTLE PESONAL
HISTORY

MONTHLY E-NOTES

UPCOMING EVENTS

DONATIONS

RIJHA hires 3 part-time workers

The RIJHA has hired two part-time digital archives catalogers, Ilana Revkin and Rebecca Farias, to begin the painstaking job of bringing our vast archival collections into our digital cataloging system, PastPerfect.

We have also hired Sarah Greenleaf as a part-time social media consultant – a big step forward for the RIJHA. Greenleaf will take our historical content and post it to our Facebook and Instagram accounts to gain more followers, and eventually more members, for us. She will also create video reels and post our events. We are so excited to see where this new endeavor takes us!



Ilana Revkin has a bachelor's degree in music and Italian from Vassar College, a master's degree in musicology from Brandeis University, and a Master of Legal Studies degree from the University at Buffalo. She is a violist who teaches private lessons in her East Greenwich home and performs regularly throughout the state. Revkin has worked on three special archiving projects; two for the University at Buffalo Music Library, and one for the New York Public Library Performing Arts Center. Now that both her children are in elementary school, she is excited to have the time to return to the world of archives. She says she enjoys both Jewish history and the state of Rhode Island, so the RIJHA position is an excellent fit for her.

Rebecca Farias graduated from Providence College in 2022 with a master's degree in history. She works part time at the Redwood Library, in Newport and Athenaeum, in Providence, as a circulation assistant, and will be returning to school part time to pursue a master's degree in library science. Farias' research interests include disability history and mental illness.



Sarah Greenleaf is a writer and digital marketing specialist with a background in film and teaching, and an MFA in Film and Media Arts. She says she enjoys reading, history, and promoting Jewish joy!

A little personal history

Knishes in Cranston

Growing up in Cranston during the '50s and '60s, I have fond memories of a Jewish deli on the corner of Park Avenue and Rolfe Street. It was owned and run by a man named Haskell. We called it Haskell's, but I have no recollection of his last name or what the real name of the deli was.

I remember that, as a younger child, we would get up on Sunday mornings and my dad would take me with him for fresh cream cheese and lox, and deli meats, pickles and sour tomatoes for later in the day.

When I was older and attending Cranston High School, across the street, it was always a favorite stop for a knish after school.

When we would cut a class, the assistant principal always knew where to find us.

Cliff Karten
Barrington

The Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association welcomes short personal reminiscences from Rhode Island's Jewish past for publication in our newsletter. Send submissions to klaroche@rijha.org.

Monthly E-Notes

In January, the RIJHA began sending out monthly emails, called E-Notes, to our members whom we have email addresses for. To be sure to receive these monthly emails, send an email to office@rijha.org with the subject line "E-Notes." Once we have your email address, you'll see our E-Notes pop up in your inbox monthly. The E-Notes are in addition to our quarterly mailed newsletters.

Kate-Lynne Laroche
Executive Director

Upcoming events

Mark your calendar

- Sunday, May 7, 2-4 p.m.: RIJHA Annual Meeting, at Temple Beth-El
- Sunday, May 21, 12-4 p.m.: 75th Israel Anniversary Celebration, at Farm Fresh R.I.
- Sunday, June 18: Lecture by Gary Zola, at Touro Synagogue, details TBA
- Sunday, June 25, 12-2 p.m.: Book talk on "South Providence Girls," by Marian Knapp, details TBA

Donations

General

Anonymous
Harriet Adelberg
Victor and Gussie Baxt Fund
(Recommendation of Jonathan Fain)
Norman Jay Bolotow
Sally and Harris Chorney
Robin and James Engle
Barbara Feibelman and Ken Orenstein
Ira S. and Anna Galkin Family Endowment Fund
Larry Ginsberg
George and Betsey Goodwin
Kane Barrengos Foundation
(Recommendation of Diana Cohen)
Arnold Kaufman
Bernard Labush
Bruce Leach
Joan Lorber
Ruth and Samuel Markoff Fund
(Recommendation of Ted Winston)
Senator Joshua Miller
Marilyn Myrow
Sanford Neuschatz
Sandra Oster
Ruth and Larry Page
Nancy Rachman
Ress Family Foundation
(Recommendation of Joan Ress Reeves)
Arthur and Judith Robbins
Sally and Fred Rotenberg
Herbert E. Sackett Charitable Trust
Michael Schwartz
Anne and Gerald Sherman
Brett Smiley and James DeRentis
Philip Weinstein
Naida Weisberg Family Foundation
Howard and Elaine Weiss

In Honor Of

Ruth Breindel, from Louise Bayer
Harold Foster, from Rabbi Naftali Karp
Jill Goldstein's Birthday,
(from "The Ladies Who Lunch")
George Goodwin, from Harold and Sara Foster
George Goodwin, from Rabbi Irvin Wise
Lois and Bob Kemp, from Lisa Hartmann
Bob Kemp, from Lisa Hartmann
Abraham Josephine Reisman, from Marcia Riesman

In Memory Of

Erwin Summer from:
Virginia Roberts
Stacy Emanuel
Todd Insler
Donald Dwares
Mara and John Scoliard
Ina and Bernard Wasserman
Audrey and Gary Licht
Linda and Harvey Feldman
Melvin and Patty Alperin
Ronnee Wasserman
Andy and Judy Matt
Elaine and Howard Weiss
Mr. Michael Chase and Mr. Samuel Chase
Karen Warner
Maybeth and Jacob Lichaa
Reva and Milton Lewis
Lori Lowinger
Merle Goldstein
Michael and Robin Prescott
Karen Del Ponte
Stephen M. Brown, Past President from Susan Brown
Family Members from Leonard and Linda Levin
Walter Feldman from Barbara D. Feldman
Rose and Morris Fishman from Marlene and Bruce Wolpert
Janice Gadon from Anne and Gerald Sherman
Robert Galkin from Nancy Munzert Carriuolo
Rita and David Gisherman from Erin Minior
Jeremiah Gorin from Stephen Gorin and Cynthia Moniz
Maureen and Howie Krasnow, and Estelle and Bernard Klemer
(from Herbert and Deborah Katz)
Edward and Doris Levine from Mathew Millen
Steven J. Losben, M.D. from Andrea Finkelstein Losben
Milton Lewis from Beverly Goldberg
Dorothy Nelson from Gloria Winston
Rose Evelyn Penn from Michael Penn
Harris Rosen from Jocelyn and Carl Feldman
Herbert Rosen from Dr. Max Rosen
Jonathan B. Weiss from Elaine and Howard Weiss
Marilyn Winoker from Mel Topf
Janet Zurier, Janice Gadon, and Beth Orson
(from Eugene Weinberg)
Janet Zurier from Geraldine Foster

Grants

Anonymous
Helene and Bertram Bernhardt Foundation
Gertrude N. and Seebert Goldowsky Foundation
The Edwin S. Soforenko Foundation
Harold A. Winstead Charitable Foundation Trust