



VOLUME XXVIII JUNE 2016 NUMBER 2

President's Message

A great deal has happened since the Fall Newsletter. We regretfully said "goodbye" to Anne Sherman, our office manager and curator of many, many years. We joyfully hired Joshua Jasper, who has several degrees – including an MA in Ancient Near Eastern Studies as well as his MLS and extensive experience as a researcher. Josh is also in charge of our invigorated website and Facebook page.

We will now have new hours in June: we will be open 5 days a week, from 9-2:30, with a closure for lunch from 12-12:30. In addition, once a month (tentatively set for the second Sunday of the month) we will be open for research from 10-3; on those weeks we will be closed one day in the week. On Wednesdays, we will be open, but not for researchers. All this will be on the website (www.rijha.org) and on our phone.

Some items of note: the grant from the Horowitz Bliss Fund, via the RI Foundation, paid for packets on Jewish History. They have been distributed to the JCC for their preschool, the Hebrew Day School for their kindergarten, Moses Brown School for the 4th grade discussion on immigration and the 10th grade religion course, and Temple Sinai's 6th grade Religious School. They were also given to Larry Katz for the Alliance's website.

We now have 2 columns per month (space permitting) in the Jewish Voice; one is Jerry Foster's inimitable articles about history, and the other I am writing for children, concerning history and life here in Rhode Island and beyond.

As the JCC is renovated, we are looking forward to our new quarters on the main floor of the building, and working with the architect to design the space. Things are still in flux, but we are excited at the prospect of being more visible to the community and our membership.

On the Board level, we have clarified the membership date: while notices will continue to go out in the end of August, our actual fiscal year is from January to December. You won't notice anything different, but we will be doing the right thing financially! We also have revived an old position, that of Second Vice President, and Harold Foster has agreed to take it on. In addition, stay tuned for our Capital Campaign.

Our Spring Meeting was a resounding success! Rachael Rosner gave a wonderful presentation on the Beck and Temkin families of Providence; quoting Rabbi Bohnen of Temple Emanue-El, the "Golden Ghetto" of Providence was home to a flourishing Jewish community. If you were unable to come to her talk, we will have the audio and PowerPoint slides available soon at the office; feel free to call and make an appointment to hear and view her lecture.

Save the date for our Fall Meeting: September 26, 2016. Judge John McConnell will talk about the Rimomim and the court case involving Touro Synagogue. It will be very interesting and informative. I hope that you will be able to come.

As always, we want to hear from you, our members, about how we can help you, whether it might be with research, donations or other questions. If you have items of historic interest that you would like to donate, especially dealing with Jewish businesses, we would love to hear about them. Contact Josh at the office (401-331-1360) or via email (info@rijha.org).

Hope to hear from you soon!

Ruth L Breindel, President

In Our Library and Archives

By Joshua Jasper

Hello! While I sometimes find it hard to believe, I know that I have not yet had the opportunity to meet every single member of our association. As I write this, I have almost reached my six month anniversary with the organization, as I began as the Office Manager and Librarian/Archivist for the RIJHA just after Thanksgiving of last year.

It has been a very busy and eventful six months. The number of researchers, donations of materials, acquisitions, collaborations with other organizations, excitement, and difficulty of research questions have dramatically increased since November. In addition, since November both our Annual Meeting in April as well as the Notes in February have successfully been planned and executed without any major hiccups.

As a result, my update on the goings-on at the Library and Archive will, by limitations of space, be largely incomplete. I invite you to stop by any time that we are open for a chat, or to see the Researcher Log or Acquisitions Log. Every day is eventful, and there are so many stories to tell. Since January (a particularly busy month), each week has had an average of three to six researchers. Sometimes there are even two unrelated researchers in the archive at the same time. Often the active researchers are evenly divided between people who want to visit the archives personally and those that are too far away to visit. Currently I am doing research for three individuals: from Kentucky, Indiana, and Vancouver, Canada. In addition, I met a professor yesterday from Providence College continuing a project on the North End Providence Jewish community. The Kentucky researcher is writing a two-volume family history for a client, and the Canadian researcher is trying to find her 80-year-old father's birth father (he was adopted). That's just the researchers for this week.

Many members and patrons are researching their ancestors, and our collections are uniquely suited for genealogy. For example, three separate members (from RI, CT, and MD) keep researching different facets of the same big family tree. Many times we get requests for a single article about an ancestor, or someone in the community who wants one article from the Notes looked up. Two cousins from MD and MI wanted a 1970s article from the RI Herald (it turned out to be from the Providence Sunday Journal in the 1980s) about their cousin who was a Holocaust survivor. A teacher from MD wanted an article from the RI Herald from the 1960s about the Civil Rights movement. In both cases, they wanted the article as part of a program to educate children about Jewish history.

If that is not eventful enough, I wanted to be sure to mention some of the ongoing initiatives that I am currently working on (with volunteer help, of course). Over the last month, our website and Facebook page have been updated more often. These two websites are now the best way to keep up with what is new with the RIJHA. In addition, we have slowly started a few digitization initiatives. Digitizing does not mean it all ends up on our website, nor does it mean we necessarily throw away any of the paper archive that we've amassed over 60 years. I would never advocate either position listed above. But an increasing number of researchers and members expect the ease and speed that digital objects offer. We have begun scanning Eleanor Horovitz's old lists and catalogs, in order to make them quickly searchable on the office computer. In addition, I am looking into the possibility of an online catalog for our website, but that is still in the early stages. Both projects are part of a larger effort to have an accurate catalog of our entire holdings, since the current one has not been updated for many years.

But most exciting for me is the recent purchase of a new printer for the office. With this purchase, the technology hardware transition that the RIJHA Office has been going through for at least five years (some could say, since the 1990s) is now complete. The mess of wires behind and around the desk has (largely) disappeared.

As President Ruth Breindel mentions elsewhere in this newsletter, we will be having new hours starting in June, and a new space upstairs eventually. As always, the archive can be opened at other

times by prior arrangement and appointment. Both the new hours and the new space should better reflect the needs of our membership and the general public. Of course, it is always better to call ahead when doing research so that I can start preparing for your research ahead of time.

It is an exciting time to be a member of the RIJHA. There is plenty of work to be done and archives in which to research. If you would like to volunteer once a week, let it be said that there is plenty to do and I would certainly welcome the help. As well, anyone who wants to chat or research RI Jewish history, remember that my door is open.

New Library Acquisitions

- *Becoming American Jews: Temple Israel of Boston* by Meaghan Dwyer-Ryan, Susan Porter, and Lisa Fagin Davis. 2009. 260 pages. Signed copy. Donation by Joshua Jasper.
- *The Biographical Cyclopeda of Representative Men of Rhode Island*. 590 pages. 1881. Original with replaced binding. Donation from the Cranston Public Library.
- *Henrietta Szold: Founder of Hadassah: 1860-1945* by Tamar de Sola Pool, President of Hadassah. 30 pages. 1980 reprint. Donation by Betty Kotlen in memory of Robert Kotlen.
- *750 Web Sites for Grant Seekers* by Richard M. Eckstein. 96 pages. 2005. Donation by Joshua Jasper.
- *The Synagogue* by Brian de Breffny. 1978. 215 pages. Donation by Joshua Jasper.
- *Tasty Treasures Cookbook* Vol. 3 by the Sisterhood of Temple Torat Yisrael. Donated by Larry Katz and the Jewish Alliance.
- Two 2015 issues from *Family Tree Magazine*. Donation by Joshua Jasper.
- *Providence Business News* (paid subscription)
- We also continually receive newsletters from local Jewish history organizations around the country (including the Texas Jewish Historical Society, Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston, the American Jewish Historical Society, and many others).



Some of the Major New Archive Acquisitions (very selective)

A complete set of Temple Emanu-El Year Books (basically scrapbooks) from 1951-1959 and 1963-1978. Kol Emanuels from 1973-1978. Temple Bulletins from 1948-1973. All bound. Donation by Tovah Reis and the Temple Emanu-El Archives.

Over 260 digital pictures of Sheppie Dressler as soldier in WWII. Donated by Reuven Dressler of Israel.

Digitized by Yad Vashem in Israel for Mr. Dressler.

A box of minute books and the "Golden Book of Life" (listing donations made by living members) from Hebrew Free Loan. Donated by the Providence Hebrew Free Loan.

Two photocopied legal documents. One from Anshe Kovna in 1944 and one from the Roumanian Avath Sholom in 1937. Donated by Lincoln Park Cemetery via Jerry Foster.

Two plaques, a large framed photograph, Children's education materials from the old BJE Library, and current construction blueprints donated by the Jewish Alliance.



New Members and Donations
FROM November 1, 2015 to May 2, 2016

NEW MEMBERS

Dr. Farrel and Barbara Klein
Allan Martin
Rachael Rosner and Lawrence Denenberg
Noel Rubinton and Amy Cohen
Karen and David Steinfeld
Michael and Jill Thaler

DONATIONS

General Donations:

Kane Barrengos Foundation, The Victor & Gussie Baxt Fund, Rosalie Beloff, Richard and Sandra Bornstein, Ruth Breindel, Rosalea Cohn, Barbara and Walter Feldman (two donations), Robert Galkin, George Goodwin, Laurie Goldman, Betty Jaffe, Rabbi Alvan and Marcia Kaunfer, Leonard and Linda Levin, Dorothy Licht, Bess Lindenbaum, Dr. Robert Luber, Rona and Milton Nachbar, Simon Nemzow, Patricia and Daniel O'Sullivan, Barbie Prince, Howard Rosenberg, Jay and Judith Rosenstein, Rachael Rosner, Leon Rubin, Bailey Silechnik, The Edwin S Soforenko Foundation, David Talan, Elaine and Howard Weiss (two donations)

In Memory of:

Stanley Abrams:
Stephen T. Armstrong:
Phyllis Brown
Anne-Marie Dansicker:
Herbert Emers:
Burton Fain and Debra Fain:
Dr. Laura Fixman:
Murray Goldberg:
Annette Hockman:

Abraham and Eleanor Horvitz:
Charlotte Jagolinzer:
Norman Jagolinzer:
Robert Kotlen:
Dr. Howard Lampel:
Helene Markoff:
Rhoda Warenback Martin:
Sylvia Myrow:
Alan Pavlow:
Merrill Percelay:
Hilda Salmanson:
Nathan Shwartz:
Miriam (Berman) and Charles A. Strauss:

From:

Evelyn and Alan Brier, Jerome Spunt
Ms. Patricia Kaplan
Marcia Woolf Hicks and Bob Hicks
Joshua and Jessi Jasper
Jill Brody, Jerome Spunt
Marcia Woolf Hicks and Bob Hicks
Kenath Shamir
Mrs. Edith Grant, Sylvia Strauss
Ruth Albert, Maxine Goldin,
Anne and Gerald Sherman
Dr. Santina Siena (their neighbor)
Edith Grant
Marion J. Goldsmith
Dolly Misch, Jerome Spunt
Bridget and Jim Gershman, Maxine Goldin
Erwin Summer
Allan Martin
Anne and Jerry Sherman
Beverly Goldberg
Maxine Goldin, Eugene Weinberg
Erwin Summer
Lois Cohen, Jack and Linda Winkleman
Arthur and Marie Strauss

In Memory of (Cont.):

Dr. S. Fred Slafsky:
Herbert Triedman:
Hayvis, Lillian, and Meryl Woolf:

From:

Maxine Goldin
Ronald and Karen Markoff
Marcia Woolf Hicks and Bob Hicks

In Memory of William Guttin:

Bobbie and Paul Davis, Lotte and Ross Feinberg, Geraldine Foster, Laurie Goldman, Betty Jaffe, Barbara and Richard Lefkowitz, Fred and Rhoda London, The Sack family, Roberta and Paul Segal, Aaron Weintraub, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Weintraub, Karen Chaiken (Weintraub)

In Memory of Harold Schwartz:

Ruth Albert, Donna and Gary Backalek, Banice and Beverly Bazar, Mrs. Joan Bergel, Mel and Pat Blake, Ruth Breindel, Jeffrey Brier, Zita Brier, Florett and Marvin Brill, Joanne Carlino, Susan Dressler, Marilyn and Ben Eisenberg, Pamela Nelson Erskine, Bud and Ellie Frank, George Feldman, Geraldine Foster, Jacqueline Fradin, Harold and Janice Gadon, Helen Ginsberg, Diane and Bob Glashow, Robert and Beverly Goldblatt, Gloria Golden, The Goldin Girls, Dorothy and Donald Horowitz, Jan and Sonia Koppel, Carrie and Marc Levine, Lowell Lisker, Mark Mandell and Yvette Boisclair, Pamela Nadell, Leon and Phyllis Rubin, Ruth Samdperil, Morris and Barbara Schwartz, Audrey Shapiro, Larry Singband, Anne and Jerry Sherman, Rob and Mindy Sherwin, Eugene Weinberg, Marlene and Bruce Wolpert, Marilyn Wolfson, Do Younger and Ron Wilson, Yaras, Kaplan, Santilli, and Moran Ltd., Janet and Mel Zurier

In honor of:

Reesa Belin's birthday:
Ruth Briendel:
Cantor Rennie Brown and Margie Brown on their anniversary:
Maxine Goldin:
George Goodwin:
Samantha Melanie-Anne Losben and Rabbi Emily Losben-Osehov:
The artistic team for his play "This is My Story":
Judy Schwartz-Flaxman for local Hadassah honor:
Leonard Sholes' 101 birthday:
Beverly Sugarman's special birthday:

From:

Mathew Millen
Larry and Shelley Parness
Mrs. Edith Grant
Mr. and Mrs. Alan Frank
Norman Shack
Dr Stephen and Andrea Losben
Kevin Olson
Barbara and Morris Schwartz
Janet Friedman
Harold and Janice Gadon

In honor of Anne Sherman:

Mish and Stanley Blacher, Roslyn, Murray and Michael Gereboff, Jane Nelson, Joan Ress Reeves

RHODE ISLAND JEWISH HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION

130 Sessions Street
Providence, RI 02906

(401) 331-1360
info@rijha.org
www.rijha.org

President: Ruth Breindel
Librarian/Archivist: Joshua Jasper
Editor of Notes: George Goodwin

Office and Library Hours:

New Hours!

Monday through Friday

9:00 AM to 12 PM

12:30 PM to 2:30 PM

and

The second Sunday of the month

10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

The Library is closed to researchers
on Wednesdays.

Open at other times by appointment.
Contact the office for details.

SAVE THE DATE
 The Fall Meeting will be September 25, 2016,
 at Congregation Beth Shalom
 275 Camp Street
 Providence, RI
 Judge John McConnell will speak about the
 Touro court case.

New Board of Directors
 At the 62st Annual Meeting of the Rhode Island Jewish
 Historical Association held April 17, 2016, the following
 officers were elected:

Officers for a 1 year term

President: Ruth L. Breindel

First Vice President: Mel Topf

Second Vice President: Harold Foster

Secretary: Maxine Goldin

Treasurer: David Bazar

Members of the Board:

ending 2017

ending 2018

Michael Fink

Shai Afsai

Myrna Levine

Mel Blake

Lowell Lisker

Harold Foster

Bailey Silechnik

Rabbi Barry Dolinger

Marilyn Myrow Ruby Shalansky

Presidential Appointments:

Susan Brown

Larry Parness

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

R I Jewish Historical Association
 130 Sessions Street
 Providence, RI 02906



Non-Profit Org.
 US
 Postage
 PAID
 Permit No. 1013
 Providence, RI