



President's Message

By Stephen Brown

I have enjoyed being your president for the past four years, and I believe that my most important accomplishment was not only that we were able to increase our membership, but also our increase in donations at a time when other organizations were facing losses of members and income caused by the current economy. I believe that much of the increase was a result of our having annual meetings in Florida and welcoming not only our 'snowbirds' who spend winters in Florida but also our many friends and neighbors who are Rhode Islanders at heart, but now make Florida their home.

I would also like to express my thanks and appreciation to Anne Sherman, our only full-time employee. Each year Anne receives more and more items of historical value to be recorded, stored and protected. Anne has done an excellent job in cataloging and storing these items as best she can; unfortunately, we have not only run out of storage space, but the space we have does not properly protect our items of value. Unlike most offices where the old is packed away or discarded and replaced by the new, our items increase every year and become more valuable as they get older. It is critical that they be properly protected against fire and humidity and stored in proper storage facilities. I feel that this is a high-priority item and should be resolved quickly before items are damaged by fire or flooded by a broken water pipe (which has already occurred elsewhere in the building).

I look forward to being promoted to the position of Past President, and assisting the new President with the transfer of responsibilities as needed.

NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The fifth-fifth annual meeting will be held on Sunday May 3, 2009. The following officers will be installed:

Officers for a one-year term are:

President	David H. Leach
Vice President	Jane Civins
Secretary	Maxine Goldin
Treasurer	Jack Fradin

Members of the Board – ending 2010

Melvyn Blake
Harold Gadon
David Gitlitz, Ph.D.
Kenneth Orenstein
Jay Orson, M.D.
Philip Segal

Members of Board – ending 2011

Kenneth Abrams
David Bazar
Ruth Briendel
Harris Weiner
Marlene Wolpert

Presidential Appointee

Bruce A. Leach

IN OUR OFFICE AND ARCHIVES

By Anne Sherman

The winter months have been slow months at the Association in regard to acquisitions. Many of our members winter in Florida.

Melvin Zurier brought in papers from Arthur Levy dated 1952-1955. Mr. Levy was one of the Association's founding fathers and its first treasurer. Anita Solomon sent a speech given by her mother-in-law, Eva Rabinowitz Solomon, during a Sisterhood Shabbat at Temple Emanu-El in 1932.

Ruth Fishbein Salkin, from Florida, came into the office wanting to donate three photo albums that belonged to her parents, Dr. Joseph and Beatrice Fishbein. Dr. Fishbein was president of Temple Emanu-El from 1979-1981 and the albums contain photos and newspaper clippings from his presidency. They were displayed in the Fishbein home on silver bookstands with Jewish themes. These bookstands were also donated and will be used at our meetings.

Thomas Roberts, nephew of Governor Dennis J. Roberts donated Jewish items that were given to his uncle. They include bookends that I am using in the office, a black wooden plaque with a gold metal map of Israel given to the Governor by the State of Israel Board Organization in 1953 inscribed "To his Excellency Governor Dennis J. Roberts" and signed by Rudolf G. Sonneborn and Henry Morgenthau, Jr., a Hebrew bible given by the Scouts of Israel with a list of their names handwritten in Hebrew, and a sterling silver mezzuzah on a chain in a box marked "H. Leach Machinery Co., Providence 4 RI."

Russell DeSimone came into the office looking for information on Lewis Lewissan, the first Providence Jewish merchant in 1850. He is writing a book on Lewissan. Mr. DeSimone has written two other books on Rhode Island and gave us a copy of each, *History of Lotteries and the Lottery System in Rhode Island* and *A Survey of 19th Century Rhode Island Billheads*.

Rabbi Dr. Saul Landa from New Jersey is writing a book on his travels to 18 Jewish communities in the United States with histories going back over 150 years. He was in the office looking for photographs of Jewish neighborhoods, business, institutions, cemeteries, and synagogues going back that far.

The office has received inquiries on many different subjects. Copies of articles from the *Notes* have been requested including Newport, Oakland Beach, two articles on Woonsocket, Rabbi Bick, and Rabbi Rabinovitz. Those requesting articles used our website and the cumulative index to find the information on subjects they need. Genealogy is still very popular with inquires from Arizona, Oregon, Vermont, Florida and Pennsylvania.

Annual Florida Meeting

Our 4th Annual Florida Meeting was held on Sunday January 18th at Temple Shaarei Shalom in Boynton Beach. We again had an excellent turnout with over 80 members of our Rhode Island Jewish community attending. Our guest speaker this year was our own Jerry Foster. Jerry has done considerable research, and has written numerous articles and books on the history of the Rhode Island Jewish community. She was an excellent speaker, and well received by our Florida group. Many of those attending are now year-round Florida residents while others are 'snowbirds', who summer in Rhode Island and winter in Florida.

Our annual meeting in Florida has become an important social event, attracting members, former members, and friends of the Rhode Island Jewish community from all over southern Florida, and as far as Naples on the west coast. For many, the hour and a half social period that follows our meeting is further extended as they join groups going out to dinner in neighboring restaurants. A good time was had by all.

CORRECTION: RIJHA NOTES

PLEASE NOTE:

The last issue of the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Notes should have been labeled VOLUME 15, NUMBER 2. We apologize for the error.

RI JEWISH HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

130 Sessions St. Providence, RI 02906

NEWSLETTER

Phone and Fax (401) 331-1360

E-Mail: info@rijha.org

Web Site: www.rijha.org

President: Stephen M. Brown

Office Manager: Anne Sherman

Newsletter Editor: Ken Abrams

mrabrams@aol.com

PARKS, BRIDGES AND BUILDINGS WITH JEWISH NAMES

By Anne Sherman

Getelle Apartments – Five apartment buildings, numbers 35 - 67 Thackeray Street, which runs from Melrose Street to Elmwood Avenue, Providence. The apartments were built in the early 1940's by Laurence Paolino for veterans returning from World War II. He named the buildings in honor of his wife Gertrude, whose first husband was Samuel Greenberg. Mrs. Paolino's Jewish name was Gittel. Her daughter Esther (Mrs. Samuel Chester) suggested a "fancy" spelling for the name plaque. Most of the first residents were young Jewish couples.

Lederer Building – 139 Westminster Street, corner of Clemence St, Providence. A three-story brick block built in 1903 by William Williams of Providence for the Lederer Realty Company.

Lopez Wharf – 203 Thames Street, Newport. Named for Aaron Lopez, an importer and exporter who owned many ships used in the West Indies trade. He had a store and warehouse on the wharf.

The Miriam Hospital – Summit Avenue, Providence. The original building was on Parade Street. The hospital was named for the biblical Miriam who cared for her brother Moses and guided him to maturity.

Caesar Misch Building – 398-404 Westminster Street, corner of Empire Street, Providence. The land was purchased by Caesar Misch from the Jones Estate Company in 1900. The six-story building housed a clothing store and headquarters for stores owned by Misch in ten other cities.

Morris B. and Nellie Sholes Memorial Bridge – Airport connector bridge passing over Post Road, Warwick. The bridge was dedicated on June 24, 1984, in memory of Morris B. and Nellie Sholes, who were active in religious, social and philanthropic affairs. They owned and operated roller skating rinks in Warwick. The first, in Oakland Beach, was destroyed by the 1938 Hurricane. The second, the Sholes Hillsgrove Country Club, was popular from 1940 through the 1960s. The bridge and airport connector to Route 95 were built in the side yard of the Sholes home.

Touro Park – Bellevue Avenue, Newport. It was named for the Touro Family, prominent Jewish merchants who endowed the Jewish cemetery and Synagogue. The park contains the Old Stone mill and the statues of Commodore Matthew C. Perry and William Ellery Channing.

SOURCE: "Rhode Island Places and Jewish Names." Volume 11, Number 1, November 1991 of the *Rhode Island Jewish Historical Notes* by Eleanor F. Horvitz.

DONATIONS

IN MEMORY OF

Arline G. Alpert
Arline G. Alpert
Shirley Bellin
Shirley Bellin
Annette Rosenstein Cohen
Dr. Morris Ducoff
Freda Dworkis
Joseph Fogel
Irving Gabrilowitz
Dr. Isadore and Helen Gershman
Hoover Goffin
Hoover Goffin
Evelyn Goldstein
Evelyn Block Goldstein
Evelyn Block Goldstein
Departed Family
Nathan Kaye
Morris and Ida Rachel Kravetz
Dennis Krieger
Owen Kwasha
Owen Kwasha
Leo Marks
Morton Narva
Parents - Harry and Mae Norman
Richard Oster
Mildred Sax
Mildred Sax
Robert Singer
Robert Singer

FROM

Janice & Harold Gadon
Betty & Robert Kotlen
Shirley Chernick
Carolyn & David Brodsky
Steven D. White
Lillian N. & Harold Schwartz
Sandra & Stanley Abrams
Geraldine & Warren Foster
Roslyn Gabrilowitz
Bridget & James Gershman
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Shapiro
Gloria & Max Kolodoff
Eleanor Brown
Harriett & Moses Baskin
Susan & Stephen Brown
Linda & Leonard Levin
Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Goldberg
Dr. Barry Herman
Maxine Goldin
Jane Nelson
Erwin Summer
Lillian Golden
Beverly & Morris Satloff
Beatrice Brown
Erwin Summer
Bernice & Gerald Cohen
Maurice Cohen
Gloria & Max Kolodoff
Sandra & Stanley Abrams

Norma Gladstone Solorenko
Phyllis Strauss Stanzler
Joseph Stein
Rose Unger
Woolf and Wexler Families
Ruth Formal Wagner

Betty & Robert Kotlen
Janice & Harold Gadon
Lillian N. & Harold Schwartz
Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Goldberg
Marcia & Robert Hicks
Betty & Robert Kotlen

IN HONOR OF

Sandra & Stanley Abrams's grandson
Sandra & Stanley Abrams's grandson
Their new great niece, Brooke Falk
Theresa Hasseler & Ken Abrams's son Joshua
Neal Bromley
Geraldine & Warren Foster's great granddaughter
Geraldine Foster's talk in Florida
Dr. Abraham Horvitz's birthday
Dr. Abraham Horvitz's birthday
Dr. Abraham Horvitz's birthday
Dr. Abraham Horvitz's birthday
Ruth Kahn's birthday
Cynthia & Milton Levin's granddaughter
Mollie Sandelowski's birthday
Dr. Jason Siegel's birthday
Judge Michael Silverstein's birthday
Arline & Eugene Weinberg's great granddaughter
Arline & Eugene Weinberg's great granddaughter
Arline & Eugene Weinberg's great granddaughter
Arline & Eugene Weinberg's great granddaughter
Dorothy Weinstein's 100th birthday

FROM

Jeanne & George Feldman
Anne & Gerald Sherman
Judith Foster & Mark Andres
Anne & Gerald Sherman
Estelle Klemer
Anne & Gerald Sherman
Bess Lindenbaum
Dr. Banice Webber
Geraldine & Warren Foster
Judith Meiselman
Anne & Gerald Sherman
Shirley Chernick
Marcia & Stanley Blacher
Bernard Engel
Doris Hirsch
Honey Silverstein
Lillian N. & Harold Schwartz
Anne & Gerald Sherman
Janine & Harold Gadon
Maxine Goldin
Judy Salzman

SPEEDY RECOVERY

Jane Nelson

Anita & Mike Fine

DONATIONS: Robert Avner, Sophia Blistein, David Cohen, Wini and Robert Galkin, Ira S. and Anna Galkin Charitable Trust, Gertrude N. Goldowsky and Seebert J. Goldowsky Foundation, Betsey and George Goodwin, David Leach, Beverly and Herbert Malin, Ruth and Samuel Markoff Foundation, Rita & Julius Michaelson, Dr. Lawrence and Duffy Page, Susette and Warren Rabinowitz, Marcia Riesman, Milton Scribner, Norman Shack, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Weisberg

Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association

130 Sessions Street
Providence, RI 02906

Address Service Requested

