



## Presidents Message

By David H. Leach

My second president's message and Anne Sherman, who runs things around here, stole my thunder. I commend to you her article elsewhere in this newsletter. The life blood of an organization such as ours [besides dollars and active, interested members] is our collection which must continue to grow or die. Our Collection's committee is working on revised guidelines as I write this. In the meantime you, our members are our eyes and ears. If you are cleaning out your Aunt Etta's attic or cellar and come across something of interest and are in doubt of its historical significance don't throw it out. Let Anne know and she can give you guidance. If your temple, civic or religious organization has old records, programs, or photographs it wishes to give us for safe keeping then please contact us. The items could relate to the history of a particular family or business. Of course, it helps if the subjects are Jewish or at least have a connection to the history of the Jewish community in our area.

As you all know we suffer from a lack of space in general and especially to show off what we have. I hope that, short of one of you donating enough for us to name a building after you, we might reach a point where we can scan or otherwise digitize portions of our collection and make them available for view on the web. We are not there yet, but stay tuned.

Recently the RIJHA in partnership with the Rhode Island Historical Society held a two session genealogy workshop at the RIHS library. The attendees were novices such as me and some who have done extensive genealogy research already. We were approached by an attendee with much experience to ask if we might want to have a group interested in genealogy meet on an occasional basis.

If you are a novice or a pro and would be interested in such a group please contact Anne and we will pursue it further.

If you missed our well attended Fall/Midyear meeting hosted by Temple Beth El then you missed a very interesting talk by Dr. Maud Mandel about the relationship of the Jews and Muslims of France since 1948. We await the publication of her book and hope she gives us a copy for our library. That's just a hint not a requirement.

By the time you receive this the BJE Renaissance Evening will have taken place when our member Ruth Breindel will have presented We Were Here In The Beginning, stories of famous and not-so-famous Jews in Rhode Island. And in spite of what the program said I was not one of the presenters. That honor went to Ruth and Anne Sherman so thank you to them for a delightful program.

Also, don't forget the RIJHA and former president Steve Brown will be hosting all our members living in or visiting Florida on Sunday, January 24, 2010 at Temple Shaarei Shalom, Boynton Beach, Florida.

We are still looking for volunteers to be part of our committees. Please let Anne know of your interests. See a committee synopsis elsewhere in the newsletter.

Please feel free to contact me at [dhl196@aol.com](mailto:dhl196@aol.com) with suggestions or your concerns. Contact Anne Sherman at [rijha@aol.com](mailto:rijha@aol.com) if you wish to join a committee or have questions about items for our collection. By way of ending, please pay your dues, and make sure we have your email address. Remember that we accept donations in honor of or memory of and we would welcome larger donations as well to help us further our work.

## IN OUR OFFICE AND ARCHIVES

By Anne Sherman

**WHO CARES? WE CARE!** We care about events and programs and meetings in our community. We care because we know how important our archives are not only to the Jewish community of Rhode Island but also to other parts of the country. The information in our archives is important to genealogists, to members of synagogues and organizations who need material for their events and to people seeking information about relatives. If RIJHA does not have the material, it is because the material was never brought into the office.

Some of the acquisitions we have received in the last couple of months have been interesting and important. Stephen Gross found in the RI State Archives a photocopy of the incorporation papers of the Russian Congregation of Israel better known as the South Providence Hebrew Congregation dated 1886.

Flo Tilles came in with material on her twin brother, Bernard (Buddy) Trinkle who was killed at Iwo Jima. It included letters he wrote to her and his family, the Western Union telegram telling of his death, and a book called "Our Buddy" with poems written by his father, Benjamin. Mrs. Tilles had an article from the Providence Journal dated 1961 on the retirement of her father from the Outlet Company, and two legal agreements between Benjamin Trinkel and the Samuel Brothers. An audio tape of her husband, Norman was also included.

Ruth Samdperil gave us the original bricks from Congregation Sons of Zion that her husband, Charles had picked up the day the building was demolished. They go beautifully with the cornerstone from Sons of Zion that is at the entrance to the building. She gave us four albums containing Charles's involvement as campaign chairmanship of JFRI, his Mission of Israel in 1983, annual meeting material from Temple Emanu-El 1979-81 and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Temple in 1975.

Denis Roch who sends Jewish material from West Warwick, sent a map of 40 Lincoln Park graves that were purchased by Congregation Avahath Shalom in West Warwick. He sent material on six prominent families of that town including pictures from their high school yearbooks, death notices, and the City family records.

Herbert Meister sent the newspaper clippings from the *Newport Daily News* on the opening of the Loeb Center at Touro Synagogue and material on his work with Jewish Eldercare. Richard Coren brought in his pictorial genealogy "The Korenbaum Images – A Family in Photographs," a beautiful work of art.

Jeanne Feldman gave us material on her daughter, Ruth who has introduced Descriptive Audio at the Yale Repertory Theatre. It enables the blind to attend a play. She has been honored by the Board of education and services for the blind in New Haven. And thank you to Alice Goldstein for donating her latest book *Ordinary People, Turbulent Times*.

Last October a woman from Florida called looking for the graves of her great grandparents and great, great aunt and uncle who were buried in Lincoln Park Cemetery. She wanted to get in touch with the cemetery. This August I received an e-mail from her stating that she was in Rhode Island and visited the graves. I quote from the e-mail, "I cannot begin to tell you how emotional this was for me as I am named after my great grandmother. Not only were my great grandparents there, I found my great, great aunt and uncle. It was just wonderful. Thank you for giving me some great info and helping me to accomplish my goal!!"

From California, a relative of Rabbi Jacob Sonderling was looking for the article in the NOTES on Temple Beth Israel and from St. Louis a relative of Arthur and Essie Einstein was looking for the article on Cantor Hohensemser and information on Arthur and Essie Einstein.

Sam Pincus from Virginia e-mailed looking for a copy of Jeremiah Goren's oral history in Volume 12 of the NOTES. He thought that his father, a chaplain in the Army stationed in Panama, married Jerry and Rosalind. Between the article and material in Mr. Gorin's file, I proved he was correct.

Rabbi Saul Landa, who was in the office looking for photos of the Orthodox community for a book he is writing, informed me that he just signed a contract with Genfen Publishing, one of the largest publishers in Israel. The story is in the last issue of the newsletter.

We also help Jewish organizations in the area. Beth Vetri from Lincoln Park Cemetery called looking for information on the organization Jewish People Fraternal Organization. Beverly Bazar from Hadassah was looking for old photos and newspaper clippings for a donor event. Amy Olson from URI

Hillel was looking for information on three people whose names are on the portable ark and two Torah covers at Hillel. Nancy Kirsch from the *Jewish Voice and Herald* is frequently downstairs looking for photos or information. Remember to read our articles **Remember the Past** monthly in the *Jewish Voice and Herald*.

**WHO CARES? WE CARE.** That invitation, that photo (identified), those minutes or papers – they are important for our archives. Please share them with us.

## SAVE THE DATE FLORIDA MEETING

Are you going to be in Florida this winter? Are you friends or family going to be there? Spread the word!

**DATE:** Sunday, January 24, 2010

**TIME:** 2:00 PM

**PLACE:** Temple Shaarei Shalom  
Hagen Ranch Road, Boynton Beach, FL

**SPEAKER:** To be announced

## COMMITTEES

The Executive Committee has met and decided that to better carry out our mission, we will be reconstituting and starting several new committees to carry out the goals of the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association.

The committees are described below. If you are interested in joining any of the committees, please call or email Anne at 331-1360 or [rjhist@aol.com](mailto:rjhist@aol.com) or David at [dhl196@aol.com](mailto:dhl196@aol.com). If you have any questions, please feel free to contact one of us. We hope you will join one of the committees and help move the Association forward.

**Membership:** Acquiring new members and retaining existing members. Working with other committees to determine what types of activities or services will attract new members. The committee will also work to increase donations made in honor or in memory of persons or events.

**Programs:** To investigate potential programs such as genealogical training, field trips, speakers at board meetings, or other events beyond the Fall and annual meeting and anything else that might educate and engage present members and increase membership.

**Education:** Working with other organizations or partners to develop program educational material, teacher guides, or pamphlets using our resources to reach other groups such as Hebrew schools, Day schools, Midrasha, adult learning programs or the general community.

**Technology:** To work with other committees to upgrade our ability to better preserve, and communicate our collection through the use of a scanner, CD's, DVD's, email newsletters, pamphlets and a more comprehensive database and website.

**Collection:** To work with other committees to assess our collection, preserve it, archive it and increase it by acquisition while making use of technology to make it more easily available and accessible to scholars, researchers and the general public.

## DONATIONS

### IN MEMORY OF

Rose & Harold Alberts  
Lisa Aronson  
Lisa Aronson  
Robert F. Bell  
Bob Bernstein  
Leo Cohen  
Ernest Einhorn  
Robert Fain  
Mitzi and Jack Feiner  
Charlotte Feital  
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Louis Shectman  
Thelma Shaffer  
Norman Tilles

### FROM

Brenda & David Korn  
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Lillian Bernstein  
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Sally Soren  
Lois & Burton Fain  
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Maxine Goldin  
Erwin Summer  
Estelle & Jack Fradin  
Anne & Gerald Sherman  
Betty & Robert Kotlen  
Flo Tilles

**IN MEMORY OF HERMAN GADON**

Sandra & Stanley Abrams, Carol & Edwin Brooklyn, Marilyn & Benjamin Eisenberg, Maxine Goldin, Betty & Robert Kotlen, Roslyn Markoff, Lillian N & Harold Schwartz, Erwin Summer, Arline & Eugene Weinberg

**IN MEMORY OF SAM STEPAK**

Maurice Cohen, Bernice & Gerald Cohen, Anita & Mike Fine, Geraldine & Warren Foster, Betsey & George Goodwin, Betty & Robert Kotlen, Anne & Gerald Sherman

**IN RECOGNITION**

David H. Leach                      Herman H. Rose  
George Goodwin                    Herman H. Rose

**DONATIONS:** Summer Alpert, Malcolm Bromberg, Goldie Cohen, Maurice Cohen, Beverly Einstein, Marilyn & Benjamin Eisenberg, Barbara & Nathan Epstein, Joyce & Warren Galkin, Ira S. and Anna Galkin Charitable Trust, Arnold T. and Alice Axelrod Galkin Fund, Ira S. and Anna Galkin Family Fund, Ellen Kleinman, Bruce Leach, David Leach, Greta & Bernard LaBush, Linda & Leonard Levin, Mindy & Larry Levine, The Ruth and Samuel Markoff Foundation, Samuel Pincus, Ruth Rosen.

**IN HONOR OF**

Phyllis Berry's special birthday  
Ruth Breindel's special birthday  
Sylvia & Herbert Brown's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
Sylvia & Herbert Brown's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
Ethel Cort's 95<sup>th</sup> birthday  
Ethel Cort's 95<sup>th</sup> birthday  
Adele Espo's special birthday  
Jeanne & George Feldman's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
Jeanne & George Feldman's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
Jeanne & George Feldman's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
Geraldine & Warren Foster's great grandson  
Estelle & Jack Fradin's grandson's Bar Mitzvah  
Estelle Fradin's special birthday  
Estelle Fradin's special birthday  
Sam Usher's Bar Mitzvah

**FROM**

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Sally Soren  
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Charlotte Penn  
Donald & Dorothy Horowitz  
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Renee & Alan Flink  
Anne & Gerald Sherman  
Anne & Gerald Sherman  
Jeanne & George Feldman  
Anita & Mike Fine  
Joseph Zendlovitz

**NEW MEMBERS**

Genealogical Society of Utah  
David Coken  
Meredith Hoffman

**NEW LIFE MEMBER**

Ruth Fishbein Salkin

**RI JEWISH HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION**  
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**NEWSLETTER**

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