



President's Message

by Michael Schwartz

I am happy to report that our Association is rapidly moving into the digital age. Thanks to the efforts of Ruth Breindel, we finally have a new website which may be found at www.rijha.org. While the site is still a work in progress, we do have the ability to easily update our membership on our programs and events. In addition, we have begun to upload our Notes, and other publications. Each week more pages are added so please bookmark this page and visit it often.

David Leach, past President, has created a Facebook page for RIJHA. If you are a user of Facebook, I urge you to search for our Association's page and "like" us. We are also planning to create a Paypal account to make it easier for our members to pay dues or make contributions when desired.

Our yearly edition of the Notes will be published shortly and at your mailbox in the near future. Editor George Goodwin and the Publications Committee headed by Mel Topf have put together another outstanding volume to read and treasure. Highlights will include an article about Jewish Scouting in RI, a photographic essay featuring Lost Jewish Organizations and George's article studying

triple-decker houses. In addition, Michael Fink has profiled "Seven Eccentrics" and we will be able to read the second part of Jerry Foster's article of Korean War stories.

Please mark your calendar to save the date of April 28 at 2PM for our Annual Meeting. Our program chair, Lee Teverow, has arranged for a special presentation by Walter Potenza on the topic of Jewish Cooking that promises to be a special treat. I hope to see and speak with many of you at that time.

SAVE THE DATE

ANNUAL MEETING
SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2013
TEMPLE BETH EL
2:00 PM

SPEAKER: WALTER POTENZA

Food Historian, Owner of Potenza
Ristorante, Founder of Chef
Walter's Cooking School

Topic: The History of Jewish
Cuisine in Italy

IN OUR OFFICE AND ARCHIVES

By Anne Sherman

Although most requests for information come from individuals working on research projects of various kinds, The Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association also receives calls from other Jewish agencies looking for information or photographs. The Jewish Senior Agency celebrated their 100th anniversary this past November. They published a program with a timeline and needed old photos of the Jewish Home for the Aged, its founders and its residents. Our archives have many photos of the Home, so they had their choice of pictures. The Holocaust Education and Resource Center of Rhode Island will be celebrating their 25th anniversary and came to us for information on Rhode Island Self-Help, founded in 1944. It was one of the first organizations that helped immigrants after the Holocaust. It performed vital services to help Jewish refugees settle in RI. Nancy Kirsch, editor of the *Jewish Voice and Herald*, is always in the office or e-mailing looking for information or photos for articles going into the newspaper. 95% of the time, I am able to find what she needs. Beth Vettri, Executive Director of Lincoln Park Cemetery, frequently calls looking for old obituaries.

There is always one inquiry that stands out every time I write this column. Francesca Cumerio from Redway, California called looking for Arthur Cohen, who served in the Navy during World War II. He enlisted in Providence in September of 1942. Francesca is a member of an organization that tries to unite lost dog-tags with their owners. Cohen's dog-tags were found in Nice, France. I located an Arthur Cohen but he was in the Army. Francesca later called to tell me that a son was found in California and the tags returned.. The web site for her organization is <http://www.ww2tags.org/>.

A member of Temple Beth El in Rockford, Illinois called. The Temple is celebrating their 100th anniversary and wanted to know if we had a picture of Rabbi William Braude. It turns out that Rabbi Braude's first pulpit was Temple Beth El in Rockford.

There were requests for information about a rabbi and cantor who served the Providence Jewish community many years ago. A student from New York e-mailed looking for information on Cantor Baruch Goldenberg, cantor at Machzekas Hadas Synagogue from 1907 – 1910. A Rabbi from Hong Kong e-mailed looking for information on Rabbi Israel Rubinstein, rabbi at Congregation Sons of Zion from 1904 – 1926.

We have received letters from World War I and a doll in the full costume of the Jewish War Veterans

Women's Auxiliary. Florence Markoff has given us another oral history – Sharon Gleckman on the Providence School System. We have also received photos, books, and family memorabilia and some organization materials. Sadly, we do not receive information from most organizations.

We want to thank everyone who has contributed material for the archives.

Coming Soon: New Issue of *The Notes*

By George M. Goodwin, Editor

The 2012 issue of our journal, which has already gone to press, will include 16 articles on numerous facets of Rhode Island Jewish history. Natives and newcomers to the Ocean State will revive fading memories and gain fresh insights.

Perhaps the new issue is unusual because it does not have an article about Roger Williams or Touro Synagogue. But it does have articles about war, including the Civil War, the Korean Conflict, and the Cold War. There will be articles about growing up in faraway places, such as Hungary, Canada, and North Attleboro. One article sheds light on a century of Boy Scouting in Rhode Island, and another recalls a robust era of Brown University Hillel.

Readers may ask why an article about eccentric members of our Jewish community is limited to only seven people. They may also wonder how an abandoned synagogue could be transformed into a swim center.

The new issue's photo essay, drawn from our Association's extraordinary archives, will resurrect several lost and forgotten Jewish organizations. Nearly 100 additional photos of families and friends, streets and structures, campgrounds and cemeteries will stir memories as well as imaginations. The issue's colorful front and back covers may also astonish you.

I can't wait to share the new issue with you.

NEW MEMBERS

Arthur Fixler, Shlomo Gewirtz, Peter and Arline Ten Eyck, Deborah and Ellis Waldman

SAVE THE DATE

SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2013 2:00 PM

Congregation Shaare Zedek
688 Broad St. Prov.

Memories of Broad Street Synagogue

Home to Reform and Orthodox Jewish congregations since 1911, empty since 2006, and now the focus of a revitalization project, the synagogue at 688 Broad Street in Providence has been a community anchor in a century of change. Neighbors and former members recently shared their memories of the building and perspectives on its role as a center for community. A tour of the building will follow a presentation of excerpts from these oral history interviews.

Nate Weisenberg is a master's candidate in the Public Humanities program at Brown University, with a focus on oral history and Jewish history. In the summer of

2012, he began an oral history project on the Broad Street Synagogue.

Please note: The building is under renovation so please wear comfortable closed footwear. The space may be difficult to negotiate for people with impaired mobility

This program is presented by RIJHA and the RI Historical Society.

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NEWSLETTER

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DONATIONS: October 1, 2012 – January 25, 2013

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 Brier, Anne & Gerald Sherman, Betsey
 Sally and Lou Abbey
 Reesa Belin's birthday
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 Ruth Breindel's new granddaughter

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 Alice Goldstein receiving the JCDS award

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 George Goodwin – speaker

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Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association
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