



# NEWSLETTER

RHODE ISLAND JEWISH HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Volume XXVIII July 2015 Number 2

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Ruth L. Breindel

Happy Summer!

I'm very excited to be your new President, and to work with Mel Topf and the others on the Board. It's a big responsibility to be the second woman President, to follow in the footsteps of Jerry Foster, a scholar and author. Thanks also go to Michael Schwartz, for his leadership over the past 3 years, and thank you also to Anne Sherman, our office manager and institutional memory, who has worked with me on our project of putting the oral history tapes onto CDs so they can be listened to easily. This project has now been completed.

Our mission statement:

to procure, collect, and preserve books, records, pamphlets, letters, manuscripts, prints, photographs, paintings, and any other historical material relating to the history of the Jews of RI; to encourage and promote the study of such history by lectures and otherwise; and to publish and diffuse information as to such history.

In keeping with this, here are some ideas of what I'd like to accomplish, and in the spirit of the Providence Journal's "Promise Kept" ranking, here are a few plans:

1. put an article in the Jewish Voice once a month that is aimed at elementary and middle school age children, and is based on pictures and information in our archives. The Voice has agreed to publish these articles, and I hope to have the first article in the Back to School issue.

2. develop teaching packets for the various religious schools, about the Jewish experience in Rhode Island. I will discuss this with several administrators and see if they are interested. These packets would be given out for free. This might require a grant in order to pay someone to write the packets.

3. keep moving the fall meeting around the state, so that we can be as inclusive as possible. We want to show that we are here for all the Jews of Rhode Island.

4. membership recruitment remains an important piece; through the first 3 ideas, I hope to raise the profile of our organization and show people why they should join.

Those are my ideas so far, but I truly want to hear your ideas! Feel free to email me – my email address is [rbreindel@yahoo.com](mailto:rbreindel@yahoo.com) – or write, tell Anne or choose any other way in order to help us move forward. Thank you for entrusting this organization to me.

Ruth L. Breindel, President

130 Sessions Street  
Providence, RI 02906  
401-331-1360  
[info@rijha.org](mailto:info@rijha.org)  
Anne Sherman, Office Manager

We are looking for a graphic designer to help with the Newsletter. If you are interested in volunteering, please let Anne Sherman know.

DONATIONS FROM JANUARY 2015 - JULY 2015

IN MEMORY OF	FROM
Milton Aron	Beverly & Bernard Goldberg
Dr Stanley Aronson	Maxine Goldin
Edward Bender	Sally Soren
Jeannette Bernstein	Annette Hockman
Audrey Bieder	Bernard Bieder
David Botvin	Erwin Summer
David Brandt	Susan Brown
Jerry Corwin	Ruth Samdperil
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Burton Fain	Janet & Harold Gadon
Burton Fain	Betty & Robert Kotlen
Burton Fain	Erwin Summer
Jacob L. Feiner	Patti Kaplan
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Betty Fink	Michael & Michael Fink
Wini Galkin	Eugene Weinberg
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Joan Goldstein	Deborah & Sanford Fern
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Melba Kaplan	Maxine Goldin
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Bernard Klemer	Estelle Klemer
Shirley Levin	Betty & Robert Kotlen
Shirley Levin	Dr and Mrs. Robert Luber
Arlene Luber	Maxine Goldin
Arlene Luber	Betty & Robert Kotlen
Arlene Luber	Beverly & Banice Bazar
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Gertrude Pansey	Ann Molod & Arnold Cohen
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Marcus Rand	Erwin Summer
Faye Rosen	Anne & Gerald Sherman
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Ann Schwartz	Maxine Goldin
Dr Edward Spindell	Eugene Weinberg
Dr Edward Spindell	Maxine Goldin
Milton Stanzler	Selma Stanzler
Lloyd Taub	Erwin Summer
Max Tetelbaum	Betty & Robert Kotlen
Max Tetelbaum	Dr and Mrs. Robert Luber
Norman Tilles	Florence Tilles
Gloria Udis	Ruth Samdperil
Florence Nadien	
Weintraub	Michael & Michael Fink
Jack Wilkes	Phyllis Brown
Betsy Yetra	Beverly & Bernard Goldberg
Betsy Yetra	Betty & Robert Kotlen

In memory of Maurice Cohen:  
A. Gail Borod, Jean & Steven Cohen, Lois Cohen, Geraldine Foster, Betsey & George Goodwin, Betty & Robert Kotlen, Josephine Messina, Marilyn Myrow, Nancy & Samuel Riffle, Anne & Gerald Sherman,

In memory of Dr. Abraham Horvitz:  
Phyllis Brown, Marie Clarke, Zelda & Edward Feldman, Geraldine Foster, Thomas Gleckman, Louis and Phebe Goodman Fund, Richard Horvitz, Anne Krause, Ruth Samdperil, Hinda Semonoff, Anne & Gerald Sherman, The Silver Family, Louise, Paul, Susan & Joe Skorupa, Beverly Sugerman, Marjorie Lee Sundlun, Dr Banice Webber

In memory of Roslyn Markoff:  
Lois Cohen, Marilyn & Benjamin Eisenberg, Maxine Goldin, Betty & Robert Kotlen, Barbara & Morris Schwartz, Lillian N. & Harold Schwartz, Eugene Weinberg

DONATIONS

Victor and Gussie Baxt Fund (2), Ann & Joseph Bazar, Neil Benharris, Rosalea Cohn, Michael Dwyer, Dr Nathan Epstein, Jeanne & George Feldman, Barbara & Walter Feldman, Wini & Robert Galkin, Ira S and Anna Galkin Family Endowment Fund, Bridget & James Gershman, (3) Gertrude and Seebert Goldowsky Foundation, Bess Lindenbaum, Pearl Nathan, Jane S. Nelson, Susette & Warren Rabinowitz, Howard Rosenberg, Frances Sadler, Edith & Jerome Sapolsky, Mark Schupack, Hinda Semonoff

DONATIONS IN HONOR OF

FROM

Betty Adler's birthday	Betty & Robert Kotlen
Pat & Mel Blake's 50th anniversary	Betsey & George Goodwin
Jack Cleff's military retirement	Betsey & George Goodwin
Paul Fradin's special birthday	Beverly & Banice Bazar
Paul Fradin's special birthday	Maxine Goldin
George Goodwin	Norman Shack
Alvin Rubin's special birthday	Goldie Gitlin
Alvin Rubin's special birthday	Barbara & David Green
Alvin Rubin's special birthday	Mark & Marilynn Gitlin
Alvin Rubin's special birthday	Rebecca & Marty Eisenberg
Anne Sherman	Geraldine Foster
Anne Sherman	Anne Krause

## IN OUR OFFICE AND ARCHIVES – Anne Sherman

It goes without saying that RIJHA welcomes major acquisitions of papers, photos, and other ephemera. Equally important are the individual items that tell us so much about our history in Rhode Island. A few acquisitions have come into the office that fall into this category. Ruth Tepper had a Candy Stripper pin from the Miriam Hospital. Does anyone remember when teen volunteers helped on Saturdays? Sheila Nelson Greenbaum, daughter of the late Dorothy Markoff Nelson, brought in the certificate for Dr. Shapsal Aaron Markoff from the Health Department dated January 1, 1892. Gloria Winston brought in a poster size retirement card given to James Winston from the employees of Paramount Cards. Arline Ten Eck brought in post cards written by servicemen during World War II and a hankie made from parachute fabric. Harriet Samors brought in a cookbook from Hadassah, "What's Cooking" dated 1956.

Alice Eichenbum brought in five oral history tapes made by her late husband, Ray Eichenbum, in 1956. Ray was a Holocaust survivor who wrote and spoke frequently about his experiences. We thank Alice for having RIJHA be the repository for all of Raymond Eichenbaum's important papers.

Requests large and small come into our office.

Sometimes it is a question about a date or an obituary and sometimes a caller will have a question that takes time to research. Articles from the notes are requested by students, researchers and lawyers. Our archives provide answers.

Some of you must wonder how the office has such a large store of newspaper articles and obituaries in our archives. Every night after the Providence Journal has been read in my house, I get out the scissors and cut up the paper. I look to see if there are any articles that have a Jewish reference. It may be a person, an organization, a Temple, or even a building. I look at what Mark Partinkin, Bob Kerr or other columnists have written. Is it about something or someone Jewish? My husband, Jerry, reads the sports section and lets me know if there is something to be cut. The page I look at the closest is the obituary page. Today, many Jewish obituaries are not put in the newspaper, so I rely on The Jewish Voice. I save one copy of each issue of The Jewish Voice INTACT. It is put in an archival box with the year on the outside. I cut The Jewish Voice the same way I do the Providence Journal. In order to cut The Jewish Voice, I need at least three copies. One editor asked why I need three copies. The answer is "Why do you print the paper on both sides." Sometimes one article needs to be filed in two places. After the articles and obituaries have been cut, they are put away. The obituaries are put in alphabetical order. The articles are put under the person's name, the organization's box, the Temple's box or where it might fit best.

Two writers have contacted me for information. One was looking for information on Rhode Island Jewish Delis. He was writing a series on delis for the Jewish Forward. The other was a writer from Vermont who was writing an article for Rhode Island Roots (we have a subscription) He was looking for information on Congregation Ahavath Achim, a Newport Synagogue from 1917 to 1981.

In the May 2015 issue of The Jewish Voice, Jerry Foster's article "Remember the Past" called "Annual Meeting Endures" had a photo that showed the Sisterhood of Congregation AHAVATH Shalom (The Howell Street Shul). I received a phone call, "My grandmother is in that photo!" Can I get a copy of it?

As you can see, the office is a very important source of information. Please keep RIJHA in mind when you see anything Rhode Island and Jewish.