



Volume XXV, Number 1

June, 2012

Presidents Message

By Michael Schwartz

I am pleased to write my first President's Message for our Newsletter. I look forward to meeting and working with many members during the next year. A special thank you is extended to our immediate past President, David Leach, for his help, guidance and willingness to assist me in understanding challenges that lay ahead and for his enthusiasm to continue to work on key projects during the upcoming year.

As many of you know, this position would be impossible without the assistance of Anne Sherman. Anne has just completed her twentieth year as our office manager. In my brief time as president, I have already learned that she is the engine that keeps our Association running. Thank you Anne for your support.

Our biggest challenge as an organization is the fact that we have an aging membership. In order for the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association to survive, we must get new members. This challenge may be difficult, but it is not impossible. Two months ago, I asked our Treasurer, David Bazar, to spearhead an effort to recruit new members. In a four-week period, over 14 new members were added.

This is not a job that David or the Board or I can do by ourselves. We need your help. It is likely that almost every member of the Association knows someone who should be and could be a new member. I ask that each of you speak with at least one person and urge them to join. I have found

that, most often, potential members do not even know that the Association exists. Once they learn what we do, they are happy to consider membership. We will continue to provide updates on our progress recruiting new members. This year, it may be our most important task.

Another goal for the coming year is to develop a web site that will enable us to add content and permit you to access much of our archives. Our web site did not even allow us to update the information so that members could learn the date or time of our recent Annual Meeting. Ruth Breindel, our 1st Vice President and David Leach have agreed to spearhead this effort. Hopefully we will be able to detail all of the new site's features and benefits in one of our next newsletters.

We want to hear your suggestions for improvements or programs. Please write or speak to Anne, an Officer or a Board Member with your comments. The Board will be meeting on a regular basis in an attempt to make this a year of accomplishments. Thank you for your support.

NEW MEMBERS

Steven Abrams, Shai Afsai, Joseph and Ann Bazar, Neil Benharis, Neil Beranbaum, Alan and Karen Bergel, Barbara Binder and David Katzen, Florette and Marvin Brill, Barbara and Jeffrey Brown, Mr and Mrs Fred J. Franklin, Sara-Ann and Harold Foster, Steven D. Lasser, Jamie and Brock Manville, Marjorie Moskol, Joel R. Orleck, Patricia O'Sullivan, Manuel Pena, Sara and Steven Rosenbaum, Mindy and Rob Sherwin, William Simmons, Karen and Bernard Trinkle, Vince Watchorn, Lew and Raylah Weinstein

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Melvin Zurier award at Classical HS

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Melvin Zurier's Bar Mitzvah
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