



## Presidents Message

By David H. Leach

In the last several weeks we have had an executive committee meeting and a board meeting. Some serious issues were discussed. Just like every other non-profit organization, Jewish or not, we are suffering the effects of the recession. Our membership has been on a downward swing for the last several years. Although we add new members each year we lose more than we gain. Some, unfortunately, pass away; others move away or just don't renew their memberships. Some who renew do so at a lower rate than previously. Our donations are down. Several of our generous donors may have forgotten us. That may be our fault for not doing a better job of reaching out. Our investments, which are handled for us by the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island, are not bringing in the returns that they were only a few years ago. And the attendance at our last program seemed a little thin. Anne runs a tight ship in the office and our expenses are held to a minimum. Unfortunately, The NOTES, of which we are justifiably proud, cost us about twenty five dollars each when you add in all the costs associated with its editing, designing, printing and mailing. Every member gets one and many pay the minimum thirty five dollars a year. Throw in the fact that our Fall and Annual Meeting are free and open to the public and you can see why we have issues. We have become arthritic and a little forgetful. We may remember what we were and where we came from but we aren't sure where we are going and how to get there.

As many of you know our long time treasurer and accountant, Jack Fradin, of blessed memory, passed away last year and the treasurer's position was not filled. Nobody wanted it. In the absence of a treasurer, I have appointed Bruce Leach to chair a Finance

Committee as we look for someone to be treasurer. The finance committee will be responsible for developing a budget, tracking our finances and coming up with ideas to improve our financial position.

Some ideas are obvious. We need your help to attract new members. We need you to talk up the importance of the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association to our community and to others who want to learn about our Jewish history. We need you to remember us when you want to make a donation in memory of or tribute to someone. The association would be pleased to set up a fund in your name to help endow the NOTES, one of our meetings, or some other activity that is near to your heart. Please contact me, [dhl196@aol.com](mailto:dhl196@aol.com), 401-421-9523 or Anne at the office.

This is our 60<sup>th</sup> year, 1951-2011, and you will be hearing more about this as time goes by. Our vice president, Jane Civins is heading a 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary committee and ideas and volunteers are welcome. Let Anne know. Call 401-331-1360.

Our Annual Meeting will be something special this year. Daryl Sherman, a native Rhode Islander will be entertaining us with songs and stories about her rise to fame from Woonsocket to the big time. Don't go to Temple Beth El, we won't be there. It will be at Lauralmead off Blackstone Boulevard this time. The invitation will be in the mail.

I want to bring to your attention a program that you might enjoy. On Sunday, March 6, 2011, the Providence Kollel is having its annual fundraiser at the Renaissance Hotel [information 401-383-2786]. Besides being a worthy organization, there will be a presentation of historic archaeological artifacts from biblical times in what is billed as a Living Torah Museum. Rabbi Shaul Shimon Deutsch will speak about the finds. You may remember that Kollel Rabbi

Raphie Schochet installed our officers and board last year. He is now our neighbor with an office across the hall from RIJHA.

## IN OUR OFFICE AND ARCHIVES

By Anne Sherman

The summer and fall have been busy with inquiries from across the country and Germany. Many people are using the cumulative index on our web site to find a relative's name or to see if we have information on a person, place or organization that they are researching.

A Rabbi from Brooklyn called looking for information of Rabbi Osher Werner and Rabbi David Werner. They both served at Congregation Sons of Zion from 1931-1936 and 1936-1954 respectively. An assistant professor at the University of Denver was looking for the original telegram sent to Ida Silverman from Rabbi Stephen Wise. A Brown University student was doing a paper on Urban Development and wanted information of Irving Jay Fain. A lady from New York was looking for information on Rabbi Abel Hirsch, who served Congregation B'Nai Israel for only one year in 1917. His name was mentioned once in the NOTES. United Brothers Synagogue in Bristol will be celebrating their 110 anniversary. Herbert Sackett sent me a list of names of the original 11 founding fathers in the hopes of finding relatives. Our board member, Bailey Silechnik, called looking for information on Rabbi Theodore Lewis. She was writing his obituary for the "Newport Daily News."

Our members are finding interesting material for the archives. Murray Gereboff found items from the Providence Hebrew Day School: a bulletin dated 1965, annual journal dated 1955, class photo 1961 and a classroom photo 1955. Lillian N. Schwartz brought the 1945 Hope High School and 1946 Pawtucket East yearbooks, as well as the cookbook from B'Nai Israel written in 1947. Bernard Bell had material from the Sousa Mendes Society. Duffy Page had the 1913 ledger from Chevra Kadisha of Providence (in Hebrew) and their gavel. Alice Eichenbaum brought in the minutes from Na'amat 1995 – 2003 when the late Esther Elkin was secretary. Erwin Summer sent us 2 large photos. I want to thank Pearl Nathan for donating Joan Nathan's latest cookbook "Quiches, Kugels, and Couscous: My Search for Jewish Cooking in France." It is a valuable addition to our collection of cookbooks

Other materials have come into the archives. A 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary photo from Congregation Sons of Jacob in 1946 was given to us by Jerome Kritz. The local office of Hadassah is moving. Sally Rottenberg brought in 6

banners from miscellaneous causes. Arlene Rome Ten Eyck gave us material on her career as a special education teacher, her family and her life. Again, M. Charles Bakst gave us material on his camp days at Camp Tel Noar. He also had a photo of Jr. Hadassah dinner dated 1935, a photo of Temple Habonim Confirmation Class 1988 and the Bat Mitzvah certificate of his daughter's Twinning.

I want to thank everyone who donated to the archives. Please remember to keep us in mind as you clean, move or go to yard sales and flea markets.

## My Private Rhode Island

The following stories are part of a longer reminiscence written by Allyn Freeman, an Association member.

I have always been a Manhattanite, subscribing to Will Rogers' proposition, "When you're outside New York City, it's just camping." However, my forbears on both sides settled in Rhode Island, and I have maintained a lifelong familiarity with the state.

While a student at Brown (Class of 1961), I made few trips downtown. Notable exceptions were visits to Smith's for pasta and red sauce, beers at the Center Café, and train departures from Union Station. During senior year, however, I witnessed an embarrassing town-and-gown incident.

I went to see the movie "Where the Boys Are," starring the handsome George Hamilton. He was attired in an ascot and a blazer whose ornate heraldic crest surpassed the House of Windsor. His opening line was: "Hi, Ryder Smith, Brown University, senior class." There was a stunned silence, and then an enraged high school girl screeched at the screen in that familiar Pawtucket patois: "There's never been a boy at Brown that *evah* looked like *thaat*."

While living in Los Angeles during the 1980s, I was shocked to see that Rhode Island had disappeared from the news map of the local CBS station, KNXT. An extended Connecticut had swallowed Little Rhody whole. This absurd error occurred again and again, and my notes of complaint achieved no correction. By chance, I met the station's general manager and protested. He was uncommonly sympathetic because his first newspaper reporter's job was at the *Fall River Herald News*. His only social life took place in Providence and on Narragansett Pier. He wrote the following memo to his staff:

"A viewer is from Rhode Island whose state motto is 'Hope' but he is losing hope that KNXT will ever

demarcate that state on our New England inset maps. The irate viewer threatens that if this geographical blunder happens again, he will contact CBS's Providence affiliate to request that it lop off Los Angeles from the next map of California."

The cautionary admonition worked; Rhode Island in all its small fullness dominated the television screen on the station's next New England map. Providently, I had restored the land of my ancestors to its rightful place.

A classic tale of native Rhode Island cheek concerned Nathanael West, Brown Class of 1924, who was the author of *Day of the Locust* and *Miss Lonelyhearts*. During his years on the Hill, he must have embellished

his sense of ridicule and irony. In Manhattan, he spied a dishy blonde reading a book—and with that smallest state chutzpah—said, "It's your lucky day; I'm the author of that book." Revealing the big white whale on the cover, she replied, "Delighted to meet you, Herman Melville."

**NEW MEMBERS**

Melanie Berson, Lois Cohen and Mitchell Cohen, Dr. Robert and Diane Ducoff, Stephen Gorin, Andrew Teitz

**New Life Member:** Madeline R. Goodwin

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**DONATIONS**

FROM AUGUST 1 TO DECEMBER 31

<b>IN MEMORY OF</b>	<b>FROM</b>
Stephen T. Armstrong	Patti Kaplan
Edith Beiner	Roslyn Markoff
Edith Beiner	Betty & Robert Kotlen
Robert Brown	
&Irma Brown Jagolinzer	Eleanor Brown
Evelyn (Berman)	
Broomfield	Marie & Arthur Strauss
Dr William F. Cooper	Be verly & Peter Rosedale
Marjorie Davis	Bernice & Gerald Cohen
Marjorie Davis	Maurice Cohen
A Lee Exter	Linda Winkleman
Bernard Feld	Sally Soren
Isadore and Helen	
Gershman	Bridget & Jim Gershman
Sylvia Greenfield	Mr. and Mrs. Bernard
	Goldberg
	Shirley Chernick
Ruth Grossman	Erwin Summer
Samuel Kolodney	Shirley Chernick
Samuel Kolodney	Mr. and Mrs. Bernard
Samuel Kolodney	Goldberg

<b>IN MEMORY OF</b>	<b>FROM</b>
Eleanor Krasner	Maurice Cohen
Larry Kulman	Sally Soren
Dr Henry Litchman	Lois & Burton Fain
Gertrude J. and Samuel	
Rosen	Myrna& Harris
	N.Rosen
Beverly Rosen	Shirley Chernick
Mildred Schuster	Bernard Engel
Milton Scribner	Reva & Milton Lewis
Abraham Shapiro's mother	Anne & Gerald Sherman
Pearl Shein	Arline & Eugene Weinberg
Pearl Shein	Sandra & Stanley Abrams
William Sherman	Anita & Mike Fine
William Sherman	Erwin Summer
Mollie Sklut	Edward Kaplan
Marvin Tesler	Lois & Burton Fain
Noah Temkin	Janet & Melvin Zurier
Noah Temkin	Jerome Spunt
Ruth Harris Wolf	Adele Espo
Ruth Wolf	Dorothy Nelson
Rochelle Wolf	Allan Wolf

**IN MEMORY OF EUGENE GOODWIN**

Sandra and Stanley Abrams, Pat and Mel Blake, Susan and Stephen Brown, Maurice Cohen, Geraldine and Warren Foster, Bobbie and Brian Friedman, Janice and Harold Gadon, Maxine Goldin, Betsey and George Goodwin, Betty and Robert Kotlen, David H. Leach, Charlotte Penn, Lillian N. and Harold Schwartz, Anne and Gerald Sherman, Arline and Eugene Weinberg, Janet and Mel Zurier,

**IN HONOR OF FROM**

Sandra & Stanley Abrams's 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	Hope Mellion
Reesa Belin's birthday	Mathew Millen
Susan & Stephen Brown's 50 <sup>th</sup> anniversary	Eleanor Brown
Susan & Stephen Brown's 50 <sup>th</sup> anniversary	Anne & Gerald Sherman
Burton Fain's special birthday	Mish & Stanley Blacher
Burton Fain's special birthday	Brenda & David Korn
Alfred Fine's 90 <sup>th</sup> birthday	Anita & Mike Fine
Anita Fine's special birthday	Mish & Stanley Blacher
Wini Galkin's special birthday	Janice & Harold Gadon
Goldie Greene	Marcia Woolf Hicks & Bob Hicks
Harold Kerzner's 90 <sup>th</sup> birthday	Lillian Berstein
Allison Levine becoming president of NERUSY	Mindy & Larry Levine

Lila & John Sapinsley's 68th anniversary	Jane S. Nelson
Lillian N. & Harold Schwartz's new home	Jeanne & George Feldman
Gertrude Sharp's special birthday	Annette & Jack Hockman

**SPEEDY RECOVERY FROM**

Stanley Abrams	Lillian N. and Harold Schwartz, Hope Mellion, Janice & Harold Gadon, Arline & Eugene Weinberg, Anne & Gerald Sherman
Melvin Zurier	Janice & Harold Gadon

**DONATIONS**

Rabbi Robert Alper, Estate of Claire Ernstof, Ira S and Anna Galkin Family Fund, Gertrude N. and Seebert J. Goldowsky Foundation, Madeline R. Goodwin, Dr. Abraham Horvitz, Rabbi Abraham Jacoby, Kane Barrengos Foundation, David H. Leach, The Ruth and Samuel Markoff Foundation, Dr. Murray Miller, Simon and Jacqueline Newzow Fund, Robert Norkin, Shirley & Victor Palestine, Herbert Sackett

**DONATIONS FROM DUES**

Sumner Alpert, Sidney Beshunsky, Malcolm Bromberg, Jane Civins and Michael Malardo, Maurice Cohen, Linda Davidson and David Gitlitz, Saul Fern, Irene and Alexander Hanna, Vivien and Alan Hassenfeld, Judge Richard and Lana Israel, Ellen Kleinman, Brenda and David Korn, Greta and Bernard Labush, David H. Leach, Linda and Leonard Levin, Lowell Lisker, Marilyn Myrow, Simon Nemzow, Shirley and Victor Palestine, Carol and Julian Sugarman, Polly Wachtenheim

**Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association**

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