

NEWSLETTER  
RHODE ISLAND JEWISH HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION  
Volume XXVIII    November 2015    Number 3

From the President:

Greetings to all of you, and thank you for your continued support of the Association.

We have just finished a very successful Fall Meeting, the Bonnie and Seebert Goldowsky lecture on Sunday, October 18, at Temple Habonim in Barrington. The lecture, by Keren Weiner, "From Ship to Citizenship – Finding our Immigrant Ancestors" was very informative, using both original sources and a narrative tying one family together. Rabbi Andrew Klein was a most gracious host, and for many, it was the first time they had been to the Temple. This venue is part of our ongoing efforts to explore the many Jewish places in Rhode Island.

Our two new initiatives this year are both geared to school age children: the first is a children's page in the Jewish Voice, which brings our organization to the notice of the readership. We hope that this will spur membership and interest in the history of the Jews in Rhode Island.

The other initiative is a grant from the Rhode Island Foundation, through the Bliss, Gross Horowitz Fund, to write history packets about the Jewish experience in Rhode Island for students ranging in age from kindergarten to high school. We have commitments from several schools to test the packets.

In addition, Mel Topf, our vice-president, and I went to a workshop at the Rhode Island Foundation on Grant Writing. This was an excellent experience, and gave us many ideas of how to enhance our Association through programs and outside funding sources.

I know that I speak for all of us when I express my dismay that Anne Sherman is retiring at the end of the year. She has been the backbone of the office and archives, always ready to offer advice to the public and to me! Anne's knowledge of Rhode Island Jewish history is astounding and encyclopedic, and she has promised to continue to help us when people need research. Personally, I can't imagine anyone else doing her job as well, but there is a committee carefully reading resumes and we should have someone new for Anne to train in December.

Happy Channukah and I hope you have a wonderful winter.

Ruth L. Breindel, President

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From Anne Sherman:

As most of you know, I am retiring at the end of the year. It seems impossible that 25 years have passed. I have worked with and met wonderful people through the years, both members and researchers. I would like to acknowledge the late Stanley Abrams, who hired me, and the late Eleanor Horvitz, who taught me everything I know about the archives.

Helping researchers and genealogists has been the best part of this job. My favorite story is the lady from Alaska who wanted to know if we had any information on her great-uncle Dr. Max Gomberg. She did not know that he was one of the first Jewish doctors in Providence. When students come into the office wanting to write a paper on Jewish Rhode Island, I tell them that Jewish Rhode Island is too broad of a subject, and they will have to narrow it down. I do not think anyone realizes all the resources that are in our archives.

After all these years of helping others find their families, I am looking forward to finding where my relatives came from. It's time to do my genealogy.

Thank you all for a wonderful 25 years and I look forward to seeing you at meetings and on the street.

Fondly, Anne Sherman

## IN OUR OFFICE AND ARCHIVES

By Anne Sherman

Since the last newsletter, we have received two interesting books. Kenneth Proudfoot of Westerly wrote a biography on Austin Levy "The Life and Business Philosophy of Austin T. Levy – Visionary Entrepreneur." Austin T. Levy (1880-1951) opened a small mill in Greenville called Stillwater Worsted Mills. He soon owned 11 textile mills and employed more than 2,000 workers in three states. He was socially-conscious and a business visionary.

Rabbi Samuel Gup's grandson, Ted Gup, wrote a book "A Secret Gift, How one man's kindness – a trove of letters – revealed the hidden history of the great depression." Rabbi Samuel Gup was Rabbi at Temple Beth-El from 1919 to 1932, but Rabbi Gup is not the subject of the book. The letters belong to Ted Gup's maternal grandfather, Samuel Stone, who lived in Canton, Ohio. Mr. Stone advertised in the local newspaper that he wanted to give \$5.00 to needy families. All the families had to do was write a letter explaining their hardship. The story follows the families receiving the money and how it affected them for generations to come.

Also of interest - Michael Dwyer wrote an article for the journal *Rhode Island Roots* "A Shtetl transplanted: The Adelson, Kusinitz and Ginsburg Families of Dorshitz, Russia and Newport, RI." All these families settled in Newport. Bernard Kusinitz was the historian for the Touro Synagogue and the Jews of Newport. He wrote many articles for the NOTES. RIJHA is a subscriber to this journal.

Bess Lindenbaum, a Life Member, wrote her autobiography "How I came to live in Chepachet." This story will be reprinted in the next issue of the NOTES. The Providence Hebrew Free Loan Association used a portion of her autobiography in an article published in the *Jewish Voice*.

We received from Norman Jay Bolotow a panoramic picture of Roosevelt Lodge #42, dated July 11, 1923. Maxine Goldin donated her late husband, Edward's, Constable Badge.

Providence College will be celebrating their 100th anniversary in 2017. Dr. Urbano has asked for our assistance in finding Jewish alumni who graduated prior to 1950. From a list he supplied, I was able to locate an early alumnus, who agreed to be interviewed. If you graduated from Providence College in the 20's, 30's or 40's and would like to be interviewed, please let me know and I will give you the contact information.

Remember: if you are cleaning out the basement or at a flea market, think of us. We are always looking for interesting material.



Anne Sherman's Retirement Party  
See article on next page  
Photos courtesy of Mel Blake



## Celebrating Anne

On Sunday, November 8, more than 40 Association members gathered in The Atrium at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Warwick, to honor our beloved Anne Sherman. After 25 wonderful years as our office manager, she will soon retire.

Three board members- Maxine Goldin, Marilyn Myrow, and Myrna Levine- organized the festive brunch. President Ruth Breindel welcomed the well-wishers, and Jerry Foster, who helped recruit Anne under Stanley Abram's presidency, offered moving words of praise and thanks. Jerry also paid tribute to Eleanor Horvitz, the Association's longtime archivist and librarian, who became Anne's mentor and office companion. Of course Jerry and Anne also became close colleagues and dear friends.

George Goodwin also spoke about Anne's devotion to and love of our organization, which have extended over ten presidents, three editors of *The Notes*, and our recent, temporary move to new quarters. Maxine presented a framed proclamation and a gift to express the Association's heartfelt appreciation. Then Anne reflected on the sources of her deeply felt pride and satisfaction in our organization.

Board member Mel Blake documented the bright and colorful occasion with many fine photos. Several will be featured in the forthcoming issue of *The Notes*. One photo, taken by an anonymous assistant, features the three Mels: Mel Blake, Mel Topf, and Mel Zurier.

A happier gathering could not have been imagined!

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New Issue of *The Notes*  
George M. Goodwin, Editor

The 2015 issue of our journal, which began publication 61 years ago, is nearing completion. It will feature 14 articles about little and well-known facets of our distant and recent history. Surprises all!

Shelley Sackett, for example, has written about her family's three-generation involvement in the greeting card business. In another article, with the assistance of her son, Kenneth, Bess Lindenbaum, 104 years of age, has reflected on her family's long association with the outpost of Chepachet, Rhode Island. Our longest-serving editor, Seebert Goldowsky, is remembered through oral history interviews about his medical training and early years of practice leading up to World War II. On a far more somber note, the new issue will include the second part of Ray Eichenbaum's harrowing tale of his childhood in Poland during the 1930s.

By contrast, Ronald Markoff joyfully reflects on delightful summers spent during the 1960s and '70s, as both a camper and a counselor, on the shores of Lake Winnepesaukee. A related article, celebrating youth, nature, and community service, is a roster of Jewish Rhode Islanders who, since 1923, became Eagle Scouts. And, in a further tribute to young people, Mike Fink profiles some notable students in his more than half-century of service to RISD.

After completing 11 elegant issues, Bobbie Friedman retired as our journal's graphic designer. Her successor will be a highly seasoned designer and a former member of our community, Stephen Logowitz, who has also written two articles for *The Notes*.

It's not too early to begin thinking about our 2016 issue. New writers and their ideas are always welcome. Meanwhile, thanks to the publications committee, our members, and the Harold A. Winstead Charitable Foundation Trust for your continuing encouragement and support.

DONATIONS FROM JULY 1, 2015 TO NOVEMBER 1, 2015

IN MEMORY OF

Emile Bernard  
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Linda Miller's mother  
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FROM

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Joseph Zendlovitz  
Ruth Saltzman  
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Albert Schaler  
Dr Edward Spindell

Ilse Schaler  
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In memory of Robert Kotlen

Sandra Abrams, Betty Adler, Judith & Arthur Bergel, Elizabeth Berger, Bernard Bieder, Zita Brier, Pat & Mel Blake, Prudence & Mars Bishop, Carol & Edwin Brooklyn, Helen & Marc Davis, Shirley Davis, George Feldman, Renee and Alan Flink, Geraldine Foster, Janice & Harold Gadon, Joyce & Warren Galkin, Trudy Galkin, Beverly Goldberg, Beverly & Robert Goldblatt, Maxine Goldin, Gerald Goldstein, Betsey & George Goodwin, Edith Grant, Laura & Stanley Jaffe, Betty Jaffe, Nancy Cyr Larson, Dr. Robert Luber, Reva & Milton Lewis, Lisa Malin, Hope Myerson, Carol Nahod, Patricia & Kenneth Naniam, Shirley Payton, Barbara & Morris Schwartz, Lillian N & Harold Schwartz, Anne & Gerald Sherman, Rosella Schwartz & Myer Jarcho, Carol Idlis & Marshall Silverman, Judith Spindell, Eugene Weinberg,

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IN HONOR OF

Betty Adler's special birthday  
Pat and Mel Blake's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
Jack Cleff's military retirement  
Rosalyn Gereboff's retirement  
Rose Gergel's special birthday  
George Goodwin's dedication  
Leona Malkin  
Barbara Morgan's 95<sup>th</sup> birthday  
Anne Sherman's retirement  
Anne Sherman's retirement  
Anne Sherman's retirement

FROM

Jill & Jim Tobak  
Jill & Jim Tobak  
Betsey & George Goodwin  
Anne & Gerald Sherman  
Betty & Robert Kotlen  
Jill & Jim Tobak  
Edith Grant  
Ellee Goldenberg  
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Lois Cohen  
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The National Library of Israel

Nathaniel and Pauline Breindel  
Shelley and Larry Parness