



Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association

NEWSLETTER

March 2019 | Number 1

Letter from the President

Our Director, Kate-Lynne Laroche, now in her second year as our Director, maintains a remarkably busy schedule, responding to a steady stream of research requests, working on development of new programs, and at the same time managing the operation of the office. Major current projects include the digitization of our large collection of Jewish newspapers, which is progressing on schedule and on budget. When that project is completed, we plan to undertake digitization of a large part of RIJHA documents and other records. We hope to eventually have a fully digitized collection available worldwide. Along those lines, we are updating our website, making it more user-friendly and more sophisticated. We also recently completed an independent audit of our finances, which was excellent.

One of the most innovative projects the RIJHA has taken on in years is a collaboration with the R.I. Council for the Humanities Committee on Rhode Tours. The “Rhode Tours” are planned digital apps that will allow users to take digital “tours” of sites of significance to different ethnic groups in Rhode Island. The RIJHA is developing a “tour” of sites in the state with Jewish historical and cultural significance. The RIJHA committee developing the app is chaired by past-president Ruth Breindel and includes Jerry Foster, Linda Levin, Lowell Lisker, Anne Sherman, and Kate-Lynne Laroche. The members have been scouting various regions of Rhode Island for sites.

Kate-Lynne’s service has been so successful that I’m planning to propose to the Board that we fill a position authorized several years ago, for a part-time office secretary. This will permit Kate-Lynne to spend more time on what I hope will become a regular RIJHA initiative—developing fruitful contacts with historical, religious, and cultural organizations, both Jewish and non-Jewish, as we have begun to do with the R.I. Historical Society, the R.I. Council for the Humanities, and the R.I. Jewish Museum.

Mel Topf
President

Director Letter

In the months since our last Newsletter, our beloved Association has continued to blossom. At the end of the summer, we ran our program with the Rhode Island Historical Society on rest and relaxation, which focused on Ledgemont Country Club, Jewish Summer Camps, and other fun leisure activities that Jews in Rhode Island have participated in for decades. In November, we held our Annual Fall Meeting at the Dwares JCC where Keith Stokes told a riveting tale of his ancestors, Catherine and Slowey Hays, who were connected to some of the most of the prestigious Jews of the 18th-19th centuries. This fall, we also held our first ever Membership Drive, which thus far has been very successful. However, we are still waiting on a lot of renewals. Those of you who also received a dues reminder letter, please send your membership in!

Continuing with the trend of being more active, we have had a busy start to 2019. Last spring we were invited to collaborate with the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities on their Rhode Tour App Project. Since then, we have gotten a group of nine individuals together to research and write about specific areas pertinent to Jewish history in Rhode Island. The app or website, however you choose to navigate it, will give users the opportunity to read the stories written by our historians, and browse through photos of what neighborhoods and places in RI used to look like, or see what they've become today. The app will take some time to launch, so keep an eye on our website for any updates.

Additionally, our Annual Meeting will be held Sunday May 5th 2-4pm, here at the JCC Social Hall. Our guest speaker will be our very own Notes editor, Dr. George Goodwin, who in 2018 celebrated his fifteenth year as editor. Quite an accomplishment! At the spring meeting, we will also be electing officers for the Executive Committee, and electing new Board members. Please join us!

We are also continuing to work together with the Rhode Island Historical Society to put on a yearly event, and this years will be at the end of the summer, and will focus on the Jewish communities involvement in sports. We plan to discuss the RI Bowling League, baseball, and swimming. If you would like to volunteer as a speaker for this event, please contact me in the office.

Another exciting ongoing project, has been adding digitized materials from the archive to our ever changing website. Within the past two weeks, I have added another twenty years' worth of *RI Jewish Heralds* to the Periodicals section of our website, and reorganized the *Notes* volumes under the Publications tab to make them easier to view. Right now, we have the Heralds from 1933-1979 available for viewing on the site! The rest of the *Heralds* that then became *The Jewish Voice*, and so on, will be added to the website sometime this spring. If you visit www.rijha.org you will see we now have a Google search bar at the top right of the website's homepage. To use it, simply type in a subject, name, etc. and the results that show will specifically be from the content on our website.

In addition to all these wonderful projects, the office is still as busy as ever. The continuous research requests, and donations to the archive are always welcome, and needed! If you have anything of historical value, family photos that are labeled, or anything you feel is relevant and important to preserve Jewish life in Rhode Island, please give me a call! As always, we thank you for the generous support of the RIJHA, and want to remind you that without you, our members, we wouldn't exist.

Sincerely,

Kate-Lynne Laroche
Director

Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association

Annual Spring Meeting

Please join us as we welcome guest speaker, Dr. George Goodwin, for his lecture titled:

“An Extraordinary Privilege and Opportunity:

My 15 Years as Editor of ‘The Notes’ “

When: **Sunday May 5, 2019**

Where: The Dwares JCC Social Hall

Time: 2:00pm-4:00pm

Light refreshments will be served

RIJH Notes

As you know, the most recent issue of the RI Jewish Historical Notes has been printed. If you need any additional copies, please let the office know, and we will send them to you.

Research Services

Research your family’s history in Rhode Island using our extensive archive and research services! We are happy to assist with genealogy and any other research request you may have pertaining to RI Jewish history. Send us an email at info@rijha.org or call the office at 401-331-1360.

RIJHA Website

Please feel free to check out our website! www.rijha.org has gone through a major new web design over the past few years, and we want to hear your feedback on how it’s working for you. Check out the complete collection of our *Notes* publications via PDF, or look into our recently digitized historical newspapers: *The Jewish Voice & Herald* and *The Providence Passover Journal*.

Membership Reminder

As a general reminder, if you have not sent in your dues for 2019, please do so as soon as possible. Because of the Membership Drive we completed this past fall, we have had a significant influx in new members which is very exciting! If you are a new member, and want to know a little bit more about what the RIJHA has to offer, please reach out to me and I will arrange for you to come in and see our beautiful office and archive!

Donations and New Members

New Members

Roy & Judith Aaron, Allan Altman, Alexandra Broches, Howard & Susan Bromberg, Allison Oster Dessel, Alex & Mira Eides, Adele Espo, Jonathan & Ruth Fain, Steven & Linn Freedman, Ethel Friedman, Elaine Glick, Freda Goldman, Jeffrey Goldstein, Stanley & Merle Goldstein, Burton Goldstein, Jeffrey Goldwasser, Joseph & Rochelle Goodman, Sanford Gorodetsky, Adam Greenman, Alan & Harriet Halsband, Barry & Elaine Jagolinzer, Kevin & Lila Kane, David Kaplan, Ellen Kasale, Lois Kemp, James Krasnow, Bernard Labush, Karen Rasnick Labush, Robert & Sara Leach, Leslie Marks Hershey, Charlene Mastrostefano, Louise Moss, Martin & Dianne Newman, James & Sandra Rosenberg, Alan Salk, Adam Smith, Charles Soloveitzik, Michael Thaler, Alan Wartenberg, Sam Zwetchkenbaum & Deborah Carr, and the Sandra Bornstein Holocaust Center.

General Donations

Alan & Karen Bergel	Joan Lorber	Milton & Rona Nachbar
Alan Wartenberg	Joan Ress Reeves	Naida Weisberg
Avram & Maxine Cohen	Joel Chase	Nathan Epstein
Bruce Leach	Jonathan & Ruth Fain	Norman Jay Bolotow, Esq.
Charles Kahn	Judith Litchman	Patricia & Mel Blake
David & Susan Bazar	Judy & Sam Greenblatt	Peter Silverman
Ethel Friedman	June Poses	Rabbi Wayne & Anne Franklin
Fred Franklin	Larry Bergen	Rhoda Zaidman
Harold Gadon	Lee Golden	Ronald Markoff
Helaine Schupack	Lawrence Katz	Sanford Gorodetsky
Helene Gates	Leonard & Linda Levin	Saul Martin
Ilya Vinarskiy	Lon Kopit	Selma Stanzler
Jane Nelson	Marilyn Myrow	Steven Sholes
Janice & Marc Adler	Maxine Goldin	
Jay & Judith Rosenstein	Michael & Michael Fink	

In Memory

Harold & Ellen Schein—in Memory of Irving Schein
Harold & Janice Gadon—in Memory of Beverly Sugerman
Judith Litchman—in Memory of Henry M. Litchman, MD.
Marlene Wolpert—in Memory of Rose & Morris Fishman
Harold Gadon—in Memory of Marilyn Eisenberg

In Honor

Maxine Goldin—Banice Bazar's 90th Birthday