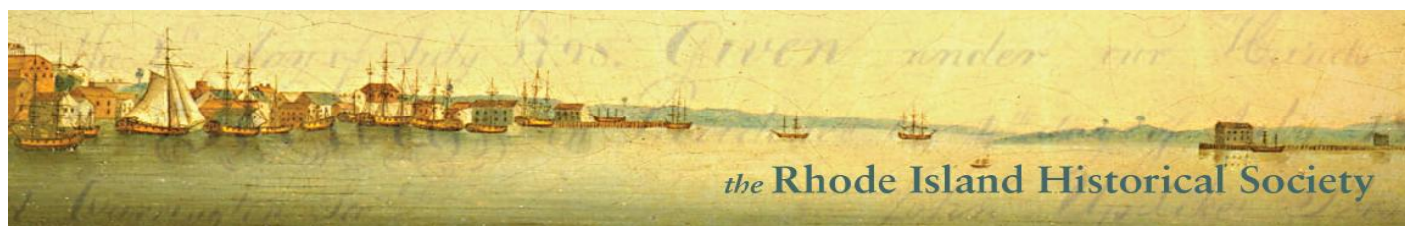


Rhode Island Historical Society

189th Annual Meeting
November 10, 2010

Report for the Fiscal Year
2009-2010



Message from the President



Greetings and welcome to your Historical Society's 2010 Annual Meeting. We have had a very productive year, with several signal accomplishments:

Your Trustees, together with the Staff, completed an update to the Strategic Plan of the Society. This 18 month effort, very ably lead by Vice President Barbara Thornton, is our core guidance document for the next five years.

Importantly, the plan sets out five key goal areas, and defines a scope of activities for the Society which will place us at the very center of historical collection, preservation, and presentation in the state for the foreseeable future. Several new board committees have already been launched to support the objectives of the plan. I urge members to familiarize themselves with the plan and its features.

We received a great vote of confidence in our activities with the announcement from the American Association of Museums that our accreditation had been reaffirmed and its scope widened. The AAM accredits less that 5% of the museums and historical collection groups nationally, so this is a strong endorsement of our continuing progress. The staff and Bernard did a huge amount of work to secure this accreditation and are to be congratulated for the successful outcome.

We were able to complete the year with a budget that was balanced in all its essential features. We remain debt free, and we have achieved a substantial growth in our endowment over the last few years. Additionally, we have a large committed challenge gift in place which will support our capital raising efforts over the next few years. A number of important grants were won which will support our activities in several key areas.

Overall, your Society is in very good condition, with many active programs, excellent museums, a great library, and superb educational activities. We have started outreach efforts to many of the different communities which form the fabric of Rhode Island to help them save their history, and we are working hard to make ourselves the focal point for Rhode Island historical information no matter where or by whom it is held.

As always, our board of Trustees and our Staff have contributed to the success of the Society in ways too numerous to count. We owe them a great debt of gratitude, for it is through their efforts that we are able to continue keeping Rhode Island's history available to one and all. They have made my term as president interesting and enjoyable, and as I complete my term I would like to add my personal thanks to all of them for the support they have given me.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Manning', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Robert Manning
RIHS President

Message from the Executive Director



The fiscal year ending June 30, 2010 marked the achievement of several very noteworthy accomplishments for the Rhode Island Historical Society, in fact some of the most important advances in a long time. Perhaps the award of national accreditation from the American Association of Museums was the crowning success of the year: after a process lasting some 2½ years, the RIHS for the first time secured accreditation for the whole organization, including all of its sites and departments. The RIHS can now objectively demonstrate that it is among the finest and most accomplished historical societies in the country, and accreditation has ratified the hard choices and diligent work the organization has expended over the past six years or so to correct and overcome the financial and organizational shortcomings that were once so deeply threatening.

In connection with this advance, the RIHS received a number of important gifts from very generous donors and supporters, allowing the endowment to grow to over \$9 million, twice what it was six years ago. The RIHS, through the hard labor of building an endowment at a time of deep recession, has been able to partially compensate for the severe cuts we have endured in our local and especially state support: in FY 2010 we drew an unprecedented 20% of our operational funds from our endowment: without that endowment growth our prospects would be much less promising.

Under RIHS President Robert Manning and trustees Barbara Thornton and Robert Flanders, the Society completed a new five-year institutional strategic plan. The new plan recognizes the accomplishments of the improved organizational stability achieved under the previous plan, and concentrates on further educational accomplishments, building connections with communities and other historical organizations, and sustaining and advancing the professional and technical gains of recent years. Continuing the rehabilitation of RIHS physical facilities, sustaining the essential need to keep adding to the endowment and to increase revenue, and the vital requirement to sustain collection management advances are also highlighted in the plan.

Under Dr. C. Morgan Grefe, the RIHS Newell D. Goff Education Center made new strides in helping Rhode Island teachers hone their skills in teaching history through a Summer Teachers' Institute. This program was funded by a significant grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Another NEH Summer Institute grant was secured for a second Institute in 2011. At the close of the fiscal year the great news was received that the RIHS, in collaboration with the Lincoln School District and numbers of schools in northern Rhode Island, had been awarded a coveted Teaching American History grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

Through this three-year grant almost \$1 million will be made available for the RIHS to guide northern Rhode Island public schools in improving American history-teaching skills and knowledge

through intensive, structured programs. This is one of the largest and most important education program grants the RIHS has ever been involved with.

The Goff Education Center also published the first guide to the John Brown House to be produced in 25 years, another long and complex effort, made great progress in producing an audio tour for the John Brown House, and worked closely with the Museum of Work and Culture on several initiatives (see below).

The long-running restoration of the John Brown House reached the completion of Phase IV, a \$600,000, two-year project to, for the first time, put humidity control and air-conditioning in the public areas of the John Brown House. A novel geothermal system was installed to reduce energy consumption costs and lessen any negative environmental impact of this complex site improvement. The difficulties of managing this demanding and dislocating undertaking were excellently accomplished by Kirsten Hammerstrom, Director of Collections, and her department's staff.

The Museum of Work and Culture in Woonsocket, under the joint operational management of Anne Conway and Raymond Bacon, completed its first Community Development Block Grant for education, bringing nearly 1,000 local school students to the MOWC. The income from this grant, and a very successful fundraising raffle, plus the commendable work of the Museum of Work and Culture Preservation Foundation in adding to the MOWC's endowment, gave the MOWC one of its best years financially since its opening in 1997. As with the RIHS as a whole, new grants and robust private contributions allowed the museum to recover most of what it lost through the damaging reductions in local and state support over the past two years, and pointed the way to better long-term financial stability. Also at the Museum of Work and Culture, installation began on a new, permanent exhibit, called 'Going to Work: 20th Century Settlers in the Blackstone Valley.' This exhibit intends to expand the museum's educational capacities by examining the history of many ethnic groups, past and present, who have come to live and work in the Blackstone Valley, but have not previously been featured in any of the museum's displays. The exhibit has largely been supported by grants from the National Park Service and the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor. The exhibit will be the most significant new educational installation at the MOWC since the museum opened.

Of course a great range of new activities have marked fiscal year 2010. These include public programs through the Goff Education Center and the library, the continuing essential process of improving collections management and documentation, new issues of *Rhode Island History*, ever-more popular walking tours, and many other programs.

Under Development Director Marlene LeRoy, the 2010 summer concert series was the most successful the Society has ever held, and the rental business of the RIHS has also reached new levels of success, offering attractive, congenial and historical sites for meetings, events, and private celebrations. Charmyne Goodfellow, Director of Finance, has continued to sustain the excellent financial accounting and controls that have been so important towards strengthening the organization and has made the audit process so much more efficient.

Fiscal year 2010 has thus provided a lengthy list of new and valuable accomplishments, advancing the RIHS's historical and educational work in a variety of important directions. We end the year as an even more effective and secure organization than we were the year before, despite the difficulties of the present economic climate and a deep and tenacious recession that has only very slightly loosed its paralyzing grip on our state. Yet our future continues to look bright as we strengthen every aspect of our redoubtable and vital organization.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bernard Fishman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Bernard Fishman
Executive Director

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Rhode Island Historical Society

Statement of Financial Position

June 30th, 2010

ASSETS:	2010	2009
Cash and cash Equivalents:		
Operating	1,004,362	1,924,827
Grant restricted	73,622	324,606
Receivables:		
Grants	20,855	45,983
Contributions	170,963	38,276
Other	9,055	7,851
Inventories	22,711	25,776
Prepaid Expenses	33,214	38,070
Investments, at fair value	8,185,633	5,330,450
Property and Equipment, net	2,734,221	2,369,735
TOTAL	12,254,636	10,105,574
LIABILITIES:		
Accounts payable	56,302	66,650
Accrued liabilities		
Payroll and payroll taxes	54,742	53,597
Other	13,000	15,000
Total Liabilities	124,044	135,247
NET ASSETS:		
Unrestricted:		
General	292,174	396,372
Board Designated	3,746,891	3,283,543
Total	4,039,065	3,679,915
Temporarily Restricted	528,040	832,747
Permanently Restricted	7,563,487	5,457,665
Total net assets	12,130,592	9,970,327
TOTAL	12,254,636	10,105,574

Statement of Activities

June 30th, 2010

	Unrestricted - General	Unrestricted - Board Designated	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE:					
Contributions	396,154		2,500	105,822	504,476
Grants	242,187	129,248	314,206	2,000,000	2,685,641
Bequest income	3,889				3,889
Total Public Support	642,230	129,248	316,706	2,105,822	3,194,006
Revenue:					
Program revenues	25,346				25,346
Membership dues	53,206				53,206
In-kind contributions	100,706				100,706
Admissions income	60,511				60,511
Publications and book sales	1,342				1,342
Administrative fees	19,047				19,047
Investment income, net	523,729	64,548	10,306		598,583
Rental functions income	25,943				25,943
Miscellaneous income	2,449				2,449
Net assets released from restrictions	867,887	(236,168)	(631,719)		-
Total Revenue	1,680,166	(171,620)	(621,413)	-	887,133
Special Events					
Revenue	69,036				69,036
Expense	(19,178)				(19,178)
	49,858				49,858
Total public support and revenue	2,372,254	(42,372)	(304,707)	2,105,822	4,130,997
Expenses:					
Program Services:					
Library services	494,534				494,534
Museum program	331,320				331,320
Woonsocket museum	233,901				233,901
Education program	324,946				324,946
Total program services	1,384,701				1,384,701
Supporting services:					
Development	148,263				148,263
Management and general	437,768				437,768
Total supporting services	586,031				586,031
Total Expenses	1,970,732				1,970,732
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	401,522	(42,372)	(304,707)	2,105,822	2,160,265

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Ms. Ruth Van Dine

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Mr. Edward Walker

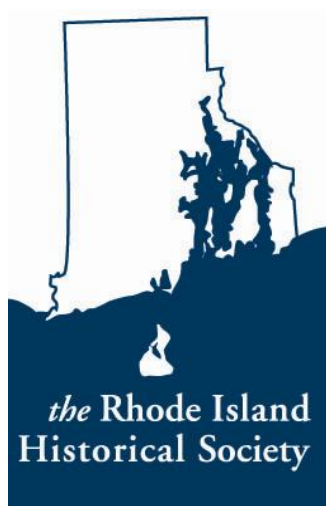
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