



**Boca Raton**  
**Historical**  
**Society &**  
**Museum**

Boca Raton Historical Society & Museum  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 11, 2015

“Boca Raton Historical Society & Museum’s Jewish Community Oral History Project”

The Boca Raton Historical Society & Museum, is conducting an oral history project to document greater Boca Raton’s Jewish community, the latter comprising almost half of the local population. We are joined in our efforts by David Katzman, CPA for CBIZ, an accounting consulting firm which is providing funding for our current project. Mr. Katzman is also an active member of our project committee, assisting us with interviewees as well as interviewers for our project. We also thank Lynn University College of International Communication for providing the professional quality studio and production staff.

The Boca Raton Historical Society & Museum was founded in 1972 with the mission to collect, preserve, and present artifacts relating to the history of Boca Raton. The BRHS&M is the steward of 6 historic structures: the 1927 Town Hall, which today serves as the Boca Raton Historical Museum, and the 1930 FEC Railway Depot, home to 4 historic rail cars. BRHS&M brings history to the community through a wide variety of programs, exhibitions, publications, and other outreach services.

The BRHS&M has been the principal collector of local history since the 1970s. Previously, the BRHS&M conducted research, created exhibits, and published documents on various local minority communities, including the African-American community, women’s history, and the Japanese settlement at Yamato. The Jewish Oral History Project will address another important, previously under-documented segment of our local population.

We are currently conducting video interviews of long-time Jewish residents of Boca Raton to document the growth of the Jewish community here, from a family of four people in 1931 to almost half the local population today. The BRHS&M has solicited input from longtime residents and are actively working with Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County and others in identifying priority interviewees.

The interviews are being conducted by two longtime professional interviewers, who are volunteering their time to our project. Ms. Arlene Herson, a member of the BRHS&M board, has a great deal of experience in conducting interviews for radio and television, and brings her years of expertise and technical knowledge to this process. Ms. Sandi Altner is an author and former television news reporter with a strong interest in family and social history. The interviews take place at Lynn University’s College of International Communications studio space with assistance of the studio manager and students.

The videos will be made available on line on YouTube through the Society's website and through future publications and of course available to other appropriate agencies and sites. They will form a valuable documentation for scholars of local history and students of Judaic studies and may be used as the basis for a future documentary film on the topic.

We welcome suggestions and additional funding to grow and disseminate our current project. For additional information, please contact Curator Susan Gillis at the Boca Raton Historical Society & Museum, 561.395.6766 ext. 304 or email [curator@bocahistory.org](mailto:curator@bocahistory.org) .

Interviews completed as of 12.11.2015:

Beck, Patty	COMPLETED	
Eichler, Helene	COMPLETED	
Enselberg, Shirley	COMPLETED	
Gralnick, Bill	COMPLETED	
Herst, Ida	COMPLETED	Available on YouTube
Lyons, Phyllis	COMPLETED	
Podolsky, Barry	COMPLETED	
Podolsky, Susan	COMPLETED	
Rales, Norman	COMPLETED	
Robinson, Charlotte	COMPLETED	Available on YouTube
Singer, Merle and Myra	COMPLETED	Available on YouTube
Siemens, Carole and Richard	COMPLETED	
Turnoff, Cantor Ann	COMPLETED	

The Boca Raton Historical Society & Museum is a non-profit membership organization dedicated to preserving the past to enrich the future. The museum actively promotes historic preservation and education through its history museum, guided tours, and educational programs. For more information or to become a member, go to [www.bocahistory.org](http://www.bocahistory.org), or call 561.395.6766

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